

PAW 731

Chapter 731: Common will

Guang Ming Subdistrict Office Hall.

No one said a word after Dong Xuebing's speech.

Everyone knows what Dong Xuebing is going to do. He will evacuate the residents without the City or District Governments' permission. He will do it when he doesn't know if an earthquake is going to happen or not. This is crazy, and this is not as simple as taking responsibility by resigning. If the earthquake did not happen, he would be charged with spreading malicious rumors to incite the people. He will be jailed. He will be spending his life in prison.

But no one dares to say anything now.

Everyone can feel Dong Xuebing's determination from his speech.

Dong Xuebing would rather lose his job and jail to protect his residents.

This is Dong Xuebing's courage and determination.

Everyone registers profound respect for Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing shouted into the microphone. "I am repeating this! This is my decision and has nothing to do with you all! I will bear full responsibility! I need everyone's help now!

I need a lot of help! I know this is a difficult decision for you all! I am also suspended from my duties now! But this is fine! If anyone of you wants to leave, go ahead. No one will blame you."

No one leaves, and the meeting hall remains quiet.

Suddenly, Wang Yuling stood up. "Director! Just give the orders! I will follow your orders!"

Zhou Yanru clenched her teeth and shouted. "Tell me what you want me to do! Our Work Party Office Department will support you!"

Police Station Chief Pang Gang laughed loudly. "I don't know if anyone will leave, but no one from our Police Station will leave! You are right. Our residents might be in danger, and we must be at the frontlines to protect them! It's just bearing the responsibility for this action! If you are not afraid, we are also not afraid of it!"

Why do we catch drug peddles, arms smugglers, robbers, etc.?! It is to protect our residents! Some of our officers had been shot and risked our lives to do that! I dare to say that our Guang Ming Subdistrict Police Station doesn't have any pussies!"

All the Police Officers cheered and supported their Chief.

"Chief Pang is right!"

"We are not afraid either!"

"I had been shot before! Do you think I am scared of being punished?!"

Dong Xuebing's speech ignited the fighting spirit, and Wang Yuling, Zhou Yanru, and Pang Gang took the lead. Many others immediately join in.

“I will do it!”

“Director, we will follow your orders!”

“That’s right! If the District Government disagrees, we will do it ourselves!”

Even Geng Xinke is affected. His blood rushed to his head. “Director, you are treating us as outsiders. I am not a timid person! Count me in! We will evacuate the residents, and we will face the music together!”

Geng Xinke’s men immediately join in.

No one left the meeting hall. All of them remained in their seats.

Dong Xuebing was touched when he saw this. He felt a fire burning inside him and shouted.

“Alright! All of you have proven your mettle!”

Ring... ring... ring.... Dong Xuebing’s phone rang.

Dong Xuebing wanted to hang up, but he stepped back and answered when he saw the number.

“Hello.... It’s me..... Yes..... Ok..... Ok..... I understand..... alright.” Dong Xuebing looks better after hanging up. He took a deep breath and held up his phone. “The District Government had issued an order! They want all Subdistrict Offices to be prepared for disaster relief responses!” Disaster relief is different from evacuating the residents. This is getting the Subdistrict Offices to be ready in the event of a disaster.

The crowd starts to talk about it.

“The District Government wants us to be prepared for disaster relief?! Then why did they suspend Director Dong?!”

“Didn’t you hear what Director said? The order is from the District Government and not the District Party Committee.”

“Ah?! Does that mean it is an order from Mayor Geng?! This.....”

“Wow! It’s a mess now!”

Geng Xinke did not expect his sister to act at this time. She is going against Wang Anshi on this matter!

Things are getting complicated. The residents are worried, the City Leaders are furious, and the District Leaders are going after Dong Xuebing. Now, the District’s No. 1 and No. 2 are waging war!

It’s chaos!

Only Dong Xuebing remains steady. Everyone can panic except for him. He knows Geng Yuehua had changed her mind because of what he said earlier at the Party Committee Meeting. He is touched. He knows an earthquake is going to happen because of his powers. But Geng Yuehua doesn’t have FORWARD, and she doesn’t know what will happen tomorrow. Yet, she orders the Subdistrict Offices to get ready for an earthquake. Nan Shan District’s residents are blessed to have

a leader like her. She had helped him a lot with this order. He can go all out and do what he wants now!

Dong Xuebing decisively gave out orders. "I will assign your roles now. Secretary Geng, you will station in the Subdistrict Office to coordinate all parties. Director Zhou sent the disaster relief supplies we bought to Guang Ming garden, plaza, empty spaces, and build temporary relief centers. Director Wang, you will assist Director Zhou and get manpower from the Neighborhood Committees if you don't have enough people. If the Neighborhood Committees cannot supply enough manpower, get help from volunteers and activate the Party Members! We must set up the relief centers by tomorrow morning!"

"Yes!"

"Yes, Sir!"

Zhou Yanru and Wang Yuling rushed out with a few Neighborhood Committees staff.

Dong Xuebing continues. "Director Yu, Director Meng, print more evacuation notices immediately. We might not evacuate all residents in time. Still, we must evacuate those living in old buildings, factories, and small neighborhoods. I want you all to evacuate all those residents! Work with the Neighborhood Committees and inform all residents about the evacuation. Follow our disaster relief exercise plan!"

"Yes!"

"We will go and do it now!"

"Chief Pang!" Dong Xuebing said. "You are in charge of maintaining law and order. Ensure there are no panics or stampedes. We have one night to do this! Take one step at a time!"

Pang Gang left with his officers.

Dong Xuebing assigned everyone their tasks. "I am saying this again! This is not an exercise! Please do your best!"

Everyone rushed out of the meeting hall.

Everyone in Guang Ming Subdistrict Office has a common will!

Chapter 732: Gangster

Night.

Guang Ming Garden.

The street lamps are lit, and additional lights are put up in the garden. Dong Xuebing is supervising the set up of the temporary disaster relief center.

"Thank you. You all had work hard."

"Director, we are fine."

“We got to do this through the night. This is the time when the residents need us. We will pull it through.”

“We can do this. Eh, Director, you don’t need to help. We can do it.”

“How can I stand here and watch you all work? Oh, there are not enough tents.”

“We had used all the tents we bought previously here. There are not enough tents in the other gardens and plazas.”

“Director Zhou, contact the sports equipment companies and ask them to deliver these supplies over. If we don’t have enough money, put it on credit.”

“Ok. I will call them now.”

“Everyone, do your best. Everyone’s lives depend on us.”

Guang Ming Garden is big, and there’s no high-rise building around. There will be no falling debris or risk of building collapses, and it is the best relief center location. Dozens of tents had been set up in the garden. Some are smaller tents, but the majority are big ones. However, the tents only occupy a small area in the garden center. The progress is too slow, and Dong Xuebing got to help the staff set up tents, carry supplies, set up lights, etc.

After inspecting Guang Ming Garden, Dong Xuebing drove off to other locations.

It’s midnight, and people are still on the streets. Many people are resting by the roadsides and some even set up tents in the open. These people are worried about the earthquake.

“Old Zhou, you are here.”

“That’s right. My whole family is here.”

“I heard the TV had started to stop the rumors. They say there’s no confirmation of an earthquake happening.”

“I don’t dare to take the risk. I would rather spend two days outside than to return home.”

“I think so too. I would rather believe an earthquake is happening than to risk it. Come over. We can stay together. I have a tent.”

Dong Xuebing did not stop these people when he saw them. They had set up tents by low-rise buildings and far from the walls. Even if those buildings collapse, they will be safe. The disaster relief centers cannot accommodate so many people, and some residents got to find safe places themselves. The residents are not fools, and they know where to take shelter.

When Dong Xuebing was about to drive off, he saw a few police cars stopping by the roadside.

The registration plates indicate they are from the District Public Security Bureau.

The police officers descended, and one of them has a beer belly. He is the highest-ranking officer among them. The District Public Security Bureau Deputy Chief.

The officers gathered the residents by the roadside.

One skinny officer shouted. "This is a public space. Who gives you all the permission to sleep here?!"

An old man looks at the officers. "An earthquake is going to hit us. Are you asking us to wait for our death at home?!"

The skinny officer retorted. "Who told you there will be an earthquake?! Don't believe these rumors! Go back immediately!"

A couple with a one-year-old child shouted. "What's wrong with us staying here?! The newspaper had reported that there might be an earthquake."

Deputy Chief Chu steps forward. "People! We had just received news from the District Party Committee that there will not be any earthquakes! I can guarantee it! The Earthquake Administration confirmed there are no indications of any earthquake. You all don't need to worry and go home! Sleeping here will disrupt law and order and the traffic. It will affect our duties to maintain law and order! Go back now!"

The old man retorted. "You all dare to guarantee that there will be no earthquake?! If the Earthquake Administration can predict earthquakes accurately, why did so many people die from the previous major earthquakes?!"

"That's right! We are not leaving!"

"My dog had been barking the whole day. It's abnormal!"

"You all are trying to kill us by asking us to go home!"

"What are you all up to?! Do you all want to see us killed?!"

"Yeah! What's wrong with us staying here?!"

Dong Xuebing's article had convinced these people that an earthquake was coming. Of course, the majority still don't believe it. These families that are spending the night by the roadsides are the ones who are worried. It's not easy to persuade them to go home.

This place is near Guang Ming Garden.

The commotion attracted many Subdistrict Office staff, including Zhou Yanru and Wang Yuling.

"What are you all doing?!" Wang Yuling shouted at the officers.

Zhou Yanru asked. "What is happening?" A middle-aged woman recognized her. "Director Zhou, these police officers are trying to chase us away. They don't allow us to sleep here. An earthquake is coming, and they are not allowing us to take shelter here! They are trying to kill us!"

Deputy Chief Chu narrowed his eyes as he looked at Zhou Yanru. "You are from the Subdistrict Office?! Good! Get your residents back home and stop the panic from spreading! We have received complaints that people are setting up tents and sleeping by the roadside."

Zhou Yanru stares at Deputy Chief Chu. "We received notification from the District Government for earthquake disaster response warning, and the Subdistrict Office had ordered the residents to evacuate their homes." Deputy Chief Chu's rank is much higher, and he shouted back at her.

“Earthquake disaster response warning?! How come we are not informed?! I had just received orders from the District Party Committee and the Public Security Bureau to maintain law and order in the district! Residents are not allowed to sleep here! Since you are from the Subdistrict Office, you should not allow this! Nan Shan District is in chaos now, and you all are making it worse! What are you all up to?! This is disrupting public order! Do you want me to bring you back for questioning?!”

The skinny officer shouts at the residents. “I am repeating this. There are no earthquakes! If you all want to remain here, don’t blame us for this!” He turns to the other officers. “Bring all of them back to the Station!”

“Yes!”

A few officers step forward.

Zhou Yanru and the rest of the Subdistrict Office staff are furious. But before they could say anything, they heard the sound of a car door closing.

Dong Xuebing got out of his car.

Dong Xuebing is mad. These Public Security Bureau officers are counting their death. The earthquake is happening tomorrow, and he has less than twelve hours. Yet these people are creating trouble by forcing the residents back home and arresting the Subdistrict Office staff.

Wang Anshi controls the District Public Security, and these officers are following his orders.

You all had picked the wrong place.

Don’t you all know who I am?! I am Dong Xuebing!

“Director!”

“Director Dong is here!”

The Subdistrict Office staff felt at ease when they saw Dong Xuebing. They know their Director Dong’s way of working after these few months.

Public Security Officers think differently.

Deputy Chief Chu’s eyelids twitched, and his officers are in dazed.

Who is Dong Xuebing?! He is the biggest troublemaker and gangster of the Nan Shan District!

Deputy Chief Chu did not expect to see Dong Xuebing here, but he was ordered to do this.

“Director Dong, these residents are....”

Dong Xuebing can’t be bothered with what he wants to say and interrupts him. “What did you all say earlier?! You all want to arrest our residents?!” Deputy Chief Chu replied. “They are causing a disturbance, and....”

“Disturbance, my ass!” Dong Xuebing points at him. “Who are you to interfere in Guang Ming Subdistrict Office’s business?! Who the f**k are you to arrest my residents?! Go ahead and try arresting someone now! I dare you to do it!”

The residents are shocked. They did not expect their Subdistrict Office Director to be so vulgar. He is the opposite of all government officials.

Guang Ming Subdistrict Office's staffs are also shocked. They did not expect Director Dong to spew vulgarities when he opened his mouth.

Deputy Chief Chu turns pale. He holds the same rank as Dong Xuebing and has heard of the infamous God of Plague. He got mad and stared at Dong Xuebing. "Watch your words!" Dong Xuebing sneered. "This is the way I talk! Bring your men and get out of our Subdistrict! Stop creating more problems for us!"

"Creating problems?!" Deputy Chief Chu shouted. "You all are the ones creating problems for the Public Security Bureau! Don't you know the District Party Committee had ordered to stop the rumors?!"

Dong Xuebing was about to argue when his phone rang.

It's Police Station Chief Pang Gang. "Director, something happened at my side. The Public Security Bureau's Officers arrested our Officer."

Dong Xuebing's face changed. "What?!"

"Their officers are forcing the residents along Guang Ming Road East to return home, and they arrested our officers when we try to stop them. I had stopped their cars."

"Stop them from leaving until I arrive!"

Dong Xuebing's blood is boiling! You all are asking for it!

Chapter 733: Arrest all of them!

Midnight.

Guang Ming Road East.

A group of people surrounds a police car. It is chaotic. Guang Ming Subdistrict Police Station and District Public Security Bureau argue on the road.

"Release them at once!"

"Chief Pang, you all had broken the law!"

"I had broken the law?! Who are you to arrest my men?!"

"You all should be maintaining law and order! Instead, you all are instigating the residents to evacuate!"

"Bullshit! We had received orders to evacuate the residents, and what has it got to do with you all?!"

"Our Public Security Bureau Branch had received orders to arrest the ones disrupting public order and spreading rumors! We have the right to arrest you all!"

The Public Security Bureau had sent two teams to Guang Ming Subdistrict. This team of officers had chased away the residents on the streets, and they were stopped by a Guang Ming Subdistrict Police Station officer. Those Public Security Bureau Officers immediately arrested that officer, and Pang Gang's men quickly stopped them from leaving.

A crowd had formed because of the commotion.

The situation was chaotic, and it got worse now.

Suddenly, a few cars arrived.

Dong Xuebing got out of his car and was furious by what was happening. He knows the Public Security Bureau is targeting his Subdistrict because of what he said earlier at the District Party Committee Meeting. Wang Anshi is going all out to get him.

Other than Dong Xuebing, Deputy Chief Chu and his men and Subdistrict Office's staff arrived in their cars.

"Director!" Pang Gang, arguing with the Public Security Officers, saw Dong Xuebing and quickly went over. "They had arrested Xiao Wang. He is in that car now."

"This is too much! They are being unreasonable!"

"Who are you all to arrest our Officer?!"

Guang Ming Subdistrict Office's staff started scolding.

Dong Xuebing nodded and looked at that police car.

The group of Public Security Bureau saw Deputy Chief Chu and quickly greeted him. "Chief Chu."

Deputy Chief Chu knows this matter cannot be resolved peacefully. He remembers his superior's orders and shouts at the Guang Ming Subdistrict Police Station officers. "Get out of the way! Are you all trying to revolt?! Ah?! Old Pang! What are you all doing?!" He is Pang Gang's superior, and he can issue orders to Guang Ming Subdistrict Police Station. But Pang Gang and he are not on good terms.

Pang Gang scorned. "Chief Chu, you all are the ones who arrested my man. Why are you asking me?!" Deputy Chief Chu looked at Pang Gang coldly. "Your officer is disobeying orders and trying to create public disturbances. He should be arrested! Pang Gang, you are a Public Security Bureau Officer. Don't do stupid things." He said and grabbed a loudhailer from another officer. "Get out of the way! The Public Security Bureau is making an arrest! I want to see who dares to block the police car! Xiao Xu, drive the car back! Old Zheng, continue patrolling the streets with your men. Get all residents back home! I repeat! Don't listen to rumors! There will not be any earthquakes! Go home now!"

Pang Gang's face changed when he saw they were about to drive off. "I want to see who dares to leave!"

Deputy Chief Chu asked sarcastically. "Pang Gang, are you trying to disobey my orders?!" Dong Xuebing walked over slowly. "Deputy Chief Chu, what did you say earlier? Did you say you want to arrest our Police Station Officers and continue to chase our residents back home?"

Deputy Chief Chu firmly replied. "That's right!"

“Ok.” Dong Xuebing clapped to attract everyone’s attention. “Old Peng, bring your men aside and let our residents disperse.”

Pang Gang is shocked. “Director, they....” Zhou Yanru anxiously said. “Director Dong....”

They are bullied, and their staff is arrested. Why is Director Dong asking them to disperse? Why is the God of Plague bowing his head now?!

Pang Gang asked his men took a few steps back unwillingly.

Only Dong Xuebing, Deputy Chief Chu, and his men are around the police car.

Deputy Chief Chu is thrilled when he sees Dong Xuebing giving in. He waved his hand. “Go! Bring him back to our station, and the rest continue with your patrolling!”

Dong Xuebing laughed. “Did I say you all are allowed to leave?!” Many people are shocked. You are the one who asked your men to disperse. Doesn’t that mean you had given up on stopping us?!

“Do you all think you can leave after arresting our Subdistrict Police Station’s Officer?! Deputy Chief Chu, are you kidding me?!”

Deputy Chief Chu suppressed his anger. “What’s the meaning of this?!”

Dong Xuebing looks at them. “I am ordered to set up disaster relief measures and evacuate the residents. But you all are purposely disrupting our work. What the f**k do you think I am doing?! I suspect your identities. We had received reports that a group of people is impersonating Police Officers. They are wearing fake uniforms and driving fake police cars to scam people. Deputy Chief Chu, can you all show your identification card to me first?”

Everyone is stunned and doesn’t understand what Dong Xuebing is up to.

This group of officers is imposters!? This is bullshit! It is Deputy Chief Chu who is leading them!

Zhou Yanru is speechless. “What is Director doing?”

“How do I know?” Pang Gang replied. “When did we receive reports about fake police officers?! Furthermore, how can they don’t have identification cards?!”

Deputy Chief Chu laughed. “You want to see my identification cards?! I have been working in Nan Shan District for more than ten years! How can I be an imposter?” Dong Xuebing extended his hand. “Then show me your identification!”

Deputy Chief Chu is mad, and he reaches into his pocket for his wallet.

To everyone’s surprise, Deputy Chief Chu’s face changed. He touched his pants pockets and back pocket, and they were empty. His wallet, identification card, and wallet are gone!

The surrounding officers quickly check their pockets. All seven officers’ wallets and identification cards are missing!

“My wallet is missing!”

“My identification card is gone!”

“Damn! Where did I drop it?!”

“Did anyone see my Public Security Bureau ID?!”

“Mine’s missing too.”

Everyone is shocked by Deputy Chief Chu and his men’s actions.

Zhou Yanru, Pang Gang, and the rest of the Subdistrict Office’s staff looked at Dong Xuebing in shock. How did he do it?

This is unbelievable!

The Public Security Bureau Officers are panicking and searching their pockets.

They will never find their IDs because Dong Xuebing used STOP and took them away. He has used this trick in Yan Tai County before.

Deputy Chief Chu knew it must be Dong Xuebing. He stared at him and shouted. “Where are our IDs?!”

You still dare to shout at me?! Go f**k yourself!

Dong Xuebing unleashed a kick at Deputy Chief Chu without warning. Bam! He fell backward into the police car and caused a dent in the door.

“Chief Chu!” The skinny officer shouted.

“Chief Chu!” One officer quickly went over to help him up.

Deputy Chief Chu stares at Dong Xuebing in pain. “You dare to assault a Public Security Bureau Officer?!” Dong Xuebing walked over and said. “You all don’t even have IDs. How dare you all say I am assaulting an officer?! I am beating up an imposter, pretending to be a Police Officer!”

“We have our badge numbers. You can verify our identities!”

“It is easy to create fake badge numbers. I want to see your IDs!”

While talking, Dong Xuebing had reached Deputy Chief Chu. He elbowed and pushed an officer blocking him and standing in front of him. Deputy Chief Chu is bent over, holding his stomach in pain. He saw Dong Xuebing and retaliated with a punch. But Dong Xuebing reacted fast and twisted his arm. A loud crack is heard, followed by Deputy Chief Chu’s scream. Dong Xuebing dislocated his arm! Dong Xuebing pulled out the handcuff on him and handcuffed him. He grabbed his collar and threw him towards Pang Gang. “Arrest these people!”

“You dare?!” An officer immediately takes out his baton. His colleagues around him also got into a fighting stance.

Dong Xuebing laughed and walked towards them. “Fine. Try me and see if I dare or not.” Everyone knows about his fighting capabilities. He had fought against a few dozen hooligans armed with knives and poles by himself, and they couldn’t even land a scratch on him! These officers know they are no match for Dong Xuebing. Furthermore, this crazy guy dares to hit their Deputy Chief Chu and scold the District Party Secretary in front of everybody. What else does he not dare to do?

Pang Gang quickly rushed over with his men, and they subdued those Public Security Bureau Officers.

Dong Xuebing waved his hand. “Old Pang, bring these imposters back for investigations! Lock them up. I will bear full responsibility for this matter!” He is on the verge of going into prison and doesn’t mind getting more charges.

Deputy Chief Chu shouted angrily. “Dong Xuebing! You are too bold!”

Dong Xuebing even dares to arrest a Public Security Bureau’s Officer. He is indeed fearless.

Dong Xuebing looks at him. “Oh, you realize this now?! Haha.... I have been bold since young. Bring them back and lock them up!” He doesn’t want them to disrupt his evacuation plans in his Subdistrict.

Many residents and Subdistrict Office’s staff are shocked by Dong Xuebing’s actions.

Dong Xuebing had arrested the Public Security Bureau’s officers! Who would believe a Subdistrict Office Director can behave worse than a hooligan?!

Chapter 734 – Earthquake Part 1 of 3

Next morning.

Only a few hours before the earthquake happens.

Dong Xuebing did not sleep last night and is exhausted. But he is forcing himself to carry on. He is at the disaster relief centers with the rest of the Subdistrict Office Leaders to maintain order.

“Everyone, follow me to the relief center!”

“Don’t rush.... Queue up and keep orderly!”

“Guang Ming Garden is full. Go to the plaza on West Street.”

“Follow this path. Eh! Help that old man! Xiao Liu, carry him on your back!”

“Don’t bring heavy items or electric appliances! Go and take shelter at the relief centers!”

“Is there anyone else left in the neighborhood?! Go and check every household! Make sure there is no one left!”

Dong Xuebing and a dozen Subdistrict Office and Neighborhood Committee staff are outside an old neighborhood built in the 70s. They are evacuating all the residents there. This place was one of the places that turned into rumbles after the earthquake. This is listed in Dong Xuebing’s newspaper from the future. Such old buildings cannot withstand major earthquakes. Dong Xuebing could not afford to leave anyone behind and had ordered everyone to evacuate. Hundreds of residents were evacuated to the various relief centers, and the building was empty.

“Director, everyone had left.”

“Did we miss anyone?”

“No. We checked every household.”

“Alright. Let’s go to the next location! Hurry up!”

Most of the buildings in Guang Ming Subdistrict survived the earthquake and did not collapse. Dong Xuebing only needs to evacuate the worst-hit buildings like this one to prevent casualties. He might achieve zero casualties if everything goes according to his plan.

The residents of these locations must be evacuated, as these buildings might collapse.

Dong Xuebing got into his car for the following location and called Zhou Yanru. "Director Zhou, how is the progress on your side?"

"We are working on it. We had just evacuated a neighborhood."

"What about the other locations?"

"Secretary Geng and Yuling had led a team to evacuate the row of shops and factories along the commercial street. We have ordered the schools to stop classes, and Director Yu is going to the Neighborhood hospitals. The neighborhood clinics and hospitals are ready. Their doctors and ambulances are on standby. When an earthquake hits, the injured will be sent there immediately. Your earthquake drill guideline had asked Liu Xiang Neighborhood's old hospital to shift their equipment and staff to temporary tents outside. They had done that."

"Good. Did you hear anything from the District Government?"

"I did not receive any information from them."

"What about the City? Did other places start evacuating their residents?"

"Your article had caused some residents to leave the city last night. But most of the residents remained, and the City Government did not make any announcements. Oh, I just received information that other than our Subdistrict, Yan Tai County also started evacuating their residents."

Dong Xuebing paused for a second. "Yan Tai County?!"

"Yes. Other than our Subdistrict and Yan Tai County, all other areas are not doing anything about the earthquake."

"Who ordered Yan Tai County's evacuation?"

"I heard it is a female Mayor. She proposed the evacuation this morning during their Party Committee Meeting." Zhou Yanru sounds impressed. "Although the County's Party Secretary objected to the proposal, their Mayor managed to win through the committee members' vote. She even says she will bear full responsibility if anything goes wrong. Now, Yan Tai County had started to move their residents."

"I know."

Dong Xuebing is surprised that Xie Huilan would do this. He thought she would disagree as he tried persuading her over the past few days. She always replies she will think about it. That's why he did not call her yesterday.

Dong Xuebing reached another old residential building. He ordered his men to evacuate the residents and returned to his car to call Xie Huilan.

Ring... ring... ring....

"Huilan, it's me." Dong Xuebing said.

"Haha.... You finally decided to call me."

"I heard you had ordered an evacuation."

Xie Huilan giggled. Her background is very noisy. "This order was given out this morning, and the residents are evacuating. I am directing this operation at the scene."

Dong Xuebing hesitated for a while and said. "You finally believe what I said."

"Believe what you said?"

"That article about an earthquake."

Xie Huilan laughed. "To tell you the truth, I don't believe your article and don't believe an earthquake will happen."

Dong Xuebing is surprised. "Then why did you give an evacuation order?"

Xie Huilan replied. "The trouble you had caused this time is too big, and everyone is targeting you. Haha.... If I don't support you now, who else will support you? Don't forget we are getting married."

"Huilan.... You...."

"Haha.... Are you moved?"

"Yes."

"So, you finally know how good I treated you."

"Yes.... I knew it a long time ago."

"Then you must treat me well in the future. You will do all the household chores after we are married."

Dong Xuebing is amused. "How can you say that? We got to split the work equally."

"Hmph! You don't want to do it?!"

"Yes.... Yes.... I will do whatever you ask me to. I will not let you do any chores after we are married. I will treat you like an Empress." Dong Xuebing joked.

“That’s more like it. Haha.... I am taking a big risk with you. If the higher-ups decided to punish us, we got to switch careers and do business. I hope you are prepared for this.”

Dong Xuebing replied. “Don’t worry. This will not happen.”

“Haha.... You sound quite confident.”

“Since when have I done anything that I am not confident about? I am touched by your support and did not expect you to evacuate Yan Tai County’s residents. But I believe all Yan Tai County residents will be grateful towards you after today.”

Xie Huilan’s support gave Dong Xuebing’s morale a boost.

It’s a blessing for Dong Xuebing to meet Sister Xie.

Chapter 735: Earthquake (2) of 3

The earthquake is happening soon.

Dong Xuebing’s phone rang. It was Wang Yuling. “Director, it’s me. Xiao Wang.”

Dong Xuebing asked. “Have you all evacuated all the residents from those locations?”

“Not.... Not yet.” Wang Yuling replied. “We have some problems here.”

Dong Xuebing’s face changed. “Why are they not evacuated after so long?! I don’t care if you all had to carry the residents or what you do. I want all of them out!”

“Most of the residents have evacuated, except for a low-rise building estate. This is the last location according to your evacuation plan. These houses are old and lack maintenance. They will surely collapse during an earthquake. The residents here refused to move, and we had been persuading them for almost half an hour.”

“Wait there! I am reaching soon.”

Dong Xuebing had expected this situation. He knows not everyone is willing to evacuate their homes. He looks at his watch, and he doesn’t have much time left.

The earthquake is almost here.

Wei An East Estate.

This is an alley of low-rise buildings.

Dong Xuebing drove into the alley and heard people arguing.

An old man is shouting at the Subdistrict Office staff angrily. “Why are you all forcing us to move?! The TV had asked us not to believe the earthquake rumors! Who are you trying to fool?!”

Zhou Yanru patiently replied. “Sir, we have received orders to evacuate the residents. This is for the safety of everyone. Please cooperate with us.”

Wang Yuling added. “Yes. Please leave your house now.”

Old Man Cheng let out a loud hmphe. "We are not leaving! Go away!"

The other residents shouted. "That's right. I think they are trying to trick us into leaving our houses and tear them down!"

"Don't believe them!" Old Man Cheng's son shouted. "I heard other Subdistrict Offices are not evacuating their residents. The earthquake will not happen, or else they would have done something!"

"Yes. They are trying to trick us into leaving and demolish our houses!"

"Old Man Cheng, we will listen to you! We will not move!"

Dong Xuebing walked over. "Director Zhou, what happened?"

Zhou Yanru quickly tells Dong Xuebing what happened.

This place was sold to developers, and the residents were supposed to be evicted. But some of the residents were not happy with the compensations, and they didn't move. These residents demanded more money, and Old Man Cheng was the leader. He had led the remaining residents to create trouble for the developers. They are worried the developers will take over their houses if they leave."

Dong Xuebing looks at the time. "What about the other locations?"

Zhou Yanru replied. "All the residents have evacuated except for this place."

"Call Old Pang over." Dong Xuebing ordered. "Ask him to bring all his men."

Zhou Yanru did not say anything and called Pang Gang.

Dong Xuebing stepped forward and shouted. "I am Guang Ming Subdistrict Office Director, Dong Xuebing! I am in charge of the evacuation."

Old Man Cheng looks at Dong Xuebing. "So, you are Dong Xuebing! I have heard about you!"

Dong Xuebing continued. "I know about your worries. I can guarantee that the developer will not demolish your houses during evacuation. Trust me and trust the government!"

Old Man Cheng shouted. "You are the one who led people to demolish the houses in Liu Xiang Hutong! What can you promise us?!"

Dong Xuebing continued patiently. "Old Man Cheng, we are doing this for everyone's safety. Please believe us. Grab your valuables and leave with us."

"The other Subdistricts are not evacuating their residents. Why must we evacuate?!"

"The Subdistrict Office must be up to something. Don't believe them!"

"We will leave when the eviction compensation is doubled!"

Old Man Cheng and his son led the rest of the residents to protest. They refused to listen to Dong Xuebing.

Both sides enter a stalemate. Pang Gang and his men arrived after ten minutes.

Dong Xuebing looks at his watch again and is anxious. He looks at the stubborn Old Man Cheng, the residents, and the Subdistrict Office staff. Only he knows there's not enough time. The newspaper states the earthquake will hit around 11 am, and it is almost 11 am now!

Dong Xuebing looked at Pang Gang and decided. "We don't have time to wait anymore. These people must leave! Drag them into the cars and bring them to the relief centers!"

Pang Gang gritted his teeth. He went over to the residents with six police officers and seven Subdistrict Office staff to force a dozen residents into their cars.

Old Man Cheng and his son got mad. "What are you all doing!? Stop!"

Pang Gang did not say anything and pulled a teenager towards his car. The teenager shouted and struggled. But Pang Gang is stronger, and the teenager was pushed into a car.

"They are arresting us!"

"Don't touch my son!"

"F**k! Fight it out with them!"

Old Man Cheng is furious. He swings his walking stick towards Dong Xuebing and hits his head.

Dong Xuebing couldn't react in time and almost fell to the ground.

"Ah...."

"Director Dong!"

"You are bleeding!"

Zhou Yanru, Pang Gang, and the rest of the Subdistrict Office staff are shocked.

Old Man Cheng is also shocked. He looks at his walking stick and doesn't know what to do.

Dong Xuebing touched the side of his head, and his palm was covered in blood. Zhou Yanru and the rest rushed over to help, but he waved them off. He had been shot countless times, and such injury is nothing to him. "Carry on! Bring all of them to the space in the garden! Why are you all looking at me?! Hurry!"

Blood is dripping on Dong Xuebing's white shirt, and he looks scary.

Pang Gang and his men are impressed by Dong Xuebing, and they start dragging the residents out of their houses. Most of the residents brought their valuables and left willingly after seeing Pang Gang and his men's aggressiveness. But a few of them, like Old Man Cheng, his son, and his daughter-in-law, are still inciting the residents not to move.

"Hold on!" Old Man Cheng is swinging his walking stick around. "Our houses will be demolished if we leave! They are here to tear down our houses!"

An officer was elbowed in the face by the young man he was dragging. "Let go of me!"

The officer shouted in pain and was injured.

Dong Xuebing shouted. "Don't retaliate! Just pull them out! We don't have time!"

Two officers rushed forward and pulled that young man into the car. He was also handcuffed.

Dong Xuebing looks at the time again and pulls two middle-aged men out of their houses. He was punched and kicked several times, but he ignored it. He dragged them into a police car and shouted to the driver. "Drive!"

A group of residents was forcefully sent away, and the remaining residents were dragged out of their houses.

At the same time.

Nan Shan District Party Committee has an emergency meeting.

District Party Secretary Wang Anshi and many committee members are looking terrible. They had received a piece of shocking news. The Public Security Bureau's Officers, including Deputy Chief Chu, were locked up for impersonating police officers. They were sent to Guang Ming Subdistrict to force the residents to return home. This meeting is held so late because it's chaotic everywhere. Furthermore, who would believe Public Security Bureau's Deputy Chief Chu and his men will be arrested by the local police officers.

The District Public Security Bureau Branch Chief, Wen Wei, is furious. "Guang Ming Subdistrict Office's Dong Xuebing is too much! He even dares to arrest my men! What is he trying to do?!"

District Organization Chief Xue Qingrong said. "He has been suspected, and he is still creating chaos in the Subdistrict! I suggest to fire him now!"

District's Commission for Discipline Inspection Secretary Wu Liang frowned. "I think it is too early to decide about this. Xiao Dong is worried about the earthquake, and that's why he is more overbearing."

Wen Wei shouted. "You call this overbearing?! This guy has no regard for the law!"

"What earthquake are you talking about?!" Xue Qingrong shouted. "Secretary Wu Liang, why are you bringing up the earthquake again?! Are you trying to spread earthquake rumors?!"

Yan Tai County, County Party Committee Building.

Xiang Daofa and Xie Huilan are sitting opposite each other in her office.

"Mayor Xie, I hope you know what you are doing." Xiang Daofa said coldly. "We don't have the City Government's permission to evacuate the residents. You should know the consequences of doing this."

Xie Huilan looks at Xiang Daofa. "The consequences will be severe if there's an earthquake."

Xie Huilan had gained complete control of Yan Tai County, and Xiang Daofa didn't have the power to go against her. This morning's voting result had made him realize it. He might look angry, but he is laughing in his heart. He felt Xie Huilan had made a wrong move, which would kill her career.

Earthquake?!

It is impossible!

How can you claim an earthquake is coming because of some dogs barking? You are stupid to gamble your career because of some dogs and cats. Xiang Daofa objected to the evacuation during the meeting. He wants to see how Xie Huilan is going to clean up this mess now.

Chapter 736: Earthquake (3) of 3

Late morning.

Minutes and seconds passed.

Dong Xuebing's heart is pounding, and he is getting more anxious. He quickly ordered his staff to evacuate the residents.

Drip... drip... drip.... Blood is dripping down his forehead.

"Director, you should treat your wound first." Zhou Yanru gave him a towel.

Dong Xuebing waved her off. "Hurry up and evacuate the residents. You all don't need to worry about me."

Dong Xuebing doesn't have time to treat his wound as the earthquake gets closer.

Most of the residents in the alley had been forcefully dragged away. Those that resisted violently were handcuffed, and the elderlies were carried away by the Subdistrict Office staff. Dong Xuebing kept looking at his watch as his men evacuated the residents.

Hurry up!

Faster!

Soon, almost all the residents were evacuated except for Old Man Cheng and his family. He is in his seventies, stubbornly guarding his house with his walking stick. He would swing his walking stick at whoever came close to him. The Subdistrict Office staffs dare not use force on him as they are worried he might be injured. After Pang Gang evacuates the last two households, he looks at Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing asked. "How many more residents are there?"

"Everyone, except for this family, had left." Pang Gang looks at the house in front of them.

Old Man Cheng shouts at them. "I want to see who dares to come near me! Don't even think of forcing my family and me out of our house!"

A few residents tried to persuade him. "Brother Cheng, let's go. They are determined to make us leave. We cannot win."

"That's right. We are at the losing end if we go against them." An old neighbor said.

Dong Xuebing steps forward. "Sir, I am saying this for the last time. The earthquake might happen anytime, and we will not demolish your house. Come with us."

Old Man Cheng stubbornly refused. "Earthquake?! Do you think we are fools?!"

Old Man Cheng's son added. "Everyone can leave, but we will not leave. No one can enter our house!"

Old Man Cheng's daughter-in-law shouted. "It is reported on the news that there will be no earthquakes! Stop lying to us!"

"Director?" Pang Gang looks at Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing waved his hand and shouted angrily. "Bring your men and force them into the car!"

"I dare you!" Old Man Cheng raised his walking stick.

Pang Gang and his men were about to rush forward, and something unexpected happened. There was a loud rumbling sound, and the ground shook. Everyone thought the sky was crashing down on them, and Old Man Cheng and his family fell onto the ground. Those residents who were evacuating couldn't stand up.

Rumble!

An illegally built kitchen of a nearby house collapsed.

Dong Xuebing's face changed.

Zhou Yanru, Pang Gang, and the rest were shocked.

Old Man Cheng turns pale. "Earthquake! It's an earthquake!"

Old Man Cheng's daughter-in-law is scared out of her wits. "Oh my god! It's really an earthquake!"

Everyone starts to panic and scream.

"Ahhh!"

"Earthquake!!!"

"Run! Run for your lives!"

Other than Dong Xuebing, no one, including the Guang Ming Subdistrict Office staff, felt an earthquake would happen. They had evacuated the residents because of Dong Xuebing's speech and thought of it as a precaution. Now, an earthquake had happened.

The earthquake is happening now!

Nan Shan District.

District Party Committee Building's meeting room.

Geng Yuehua said emotionlessly. "I had ordered all the subdistrict offices to be prepared for an earthquake disaster. I am also the one who approved Xiao Dong's order to evacuate the residents. He is right. We cannot ignore the weird behaviors of those animals. Fen Zhou City has a high population, and the casualties will be high if an earthquake really happens. I am prepared to bear the responsibility."

Everyone looked at Geng Yuehua, and they shook their heads in their heart. What is she thinking?

Many of Geng Yuehua's supporters wonder why is she taking such a big risk? Evacuating the residents will get her into trouble.

Wang Anshi coldly said. "Mayor Geng, you must know the consequences of this matter. This is not about you bearing the responsibility. Even the Earthquake Administration and the City Government say earthquakes will not happen. You are...."

Before Wang Anshi could finish, the building shook.

Glasses of water on the table toppled, and the building was shaking.

All the District Party Committee members' faces turned green. A few of them fell off their chairs and struggled to get up.

No one dares to say a word.

Wang Anshi and the rest of the committee members are stunned, and their minds are blank.

Geng Yuehua was shocked too, but she recovered quickly. "Hurry! Save the people!"

Everyone realized that this was an earthquake.

Yan Tai County.

Xiang Daofa looks at Xie Huilan. "I will not say anything since the Party Committee had decided. But I will report this to the City Government. Mayor Xie, your actions have caused heavy losses to our County. I think you should know about the consequences."

"Thank you, Secretary Xiang, for your suggestion." Xie Huilan replied.

After this incident, Xiang Daofa knew Xie Huilan can't remain in Yan Tai County. This is a piece of good news to him. Evacuating the residents is a ridiculous thing to do, and he will not participate in it.

When Xiang Daofa was thinking about this incident, the building shook. Window panels cracked, and flowerpots were smashed to the ground.

Xiang Daofa is shocked. He couldn't believe his eyes. What the hell is going on?!

Xie Huilan also did not expect this to happen. She paused for a second, and she changed into another person. Her aura is like a sharp sword, ready to kill. "Earthquake!"

Xiang Daofa had turned pale, and his blood pressure shot up.

Darn!

The ground shook, and panic spread throughout Fen Zhou City.

Chapter 737: Rescue

Nan Shan District.

Inside Guang Ming Subdistrict's alley.

The ground felt like it was going to split. Loud rumblings came from underground, and the ground was shaking. A low-rise house on the west side collapsed.

It's an earthquake.

Even an idiot knows an earthquake is happening now, at least 7.5 on the Richter scale.

The owner of that collapsed house saw his house collapse. He was one of the few dragged out by Pang Gang and his men a few minutes ago. Tears started flowing from his and his wife's eyes. If Dong Xuebing had not ordered to forcefully dragged them out, they would have been buried under the debris. The irony is they even hit the Police Officers who dragged them out earlier. All the residents were stunned.

It is an earthquake!

The Subdistrict Office did not lie, and they are not using this as an excuse to tear down their houses.

This place is dangerous.

Rumble! Another wall collapsed.

Dong Xuebing steadied himself and shouted. "Hurry! Get out of the alley!"

Zhou Yanru screams. "Hurry and leave this place! Run!"

Everyone regained their senses and started running towards the main road. Everyone knows they need to be in an empty space to be safe.

Pang Gang and his men were about to leave.

The Subdistrict Office staff were also panicking and running out of the alley.

As Dong Xuebing was about to leave, he noticed a few people were standing outside a house. They are Old Man Cheng, his son, and his daughter-in-law.

"Where is my grandson?!" Old Man Cheng shouted. "Where is he?!"

The daughter-in-law screamed. "He is inside the house! I didn't bring him out!"

Old Man Cheng's son was about to shout something when he lost his balance from the earthshaking and fell. He calls out for his son on the ground.

A boy's cries can be heard faintly amid the loud crashes and rumblings inside the house.

Everyone's heart sunk. There's someone in the house!

The surrounding houses are collapsing. These houses are too old and cannot withstand an earthquake at this scale. Whoever enters the house to rescue the boy will most likely be killed. Many of Old Man Cheng's neighbors did not help him. Instead, they continue running out of the alley for safety. Only Zhou Yanru, Pang Gang, and some Police Officers look back. Director Dong is still standing there and is not running.

"Director!" Zhou Yanru shouted. "Come over here!"

"It's dangerous!" Pang Gang shouted.

Crash! Another house's wall collapsed.

Old Man Cheng's son had hurt his foot and could not stand up. His daughter-in-law was shocked, and her legs were trembling. She couldn't even move a step. It was Old Man Cheng, in his seventies, that tried to rush into the house with his walking stick to save his grandson.

Dong Xuebing stopped Old Man Cheng and shouted to Pang Gang. "Bring them out! Hurry!"

Pang Gang and two officers ran over. One of them carried Old Man Cheng on his back, the another carried Old Man Cheng's son, and they started running out of the alley.

"My son! My son is still inside!"

"Let me go in!"

Rumble! Another part of Old Man Cheng's house collapsed.

When everyone was shocked by the collapse, a figure rushed into the house. It's Dong Xuebing.

Zhou Yanru screamed. "Ah!!! Director!"

Old Man Cheng's daughter-in-law is sobbing. "Please save my son! Please...."

"Old Pang, bring everyone to safety." Dong Xuebing shouted from inside of the house. "I will save the child!"

Pang Gang's eyes turned red, and he shouted, "Go! Run!"

Zhou Yanru turned to run back to the house. "Director is still inside! Hurry! We need to save him!"

"Stop Director Zhou and drag her out!" Pang Gang's voice is hoarse from shouting.

Two officers immediately grabbed Zhou Yanru by her arms and carried her out of the alley.

The ground had been shaking for more than twenty seconds. Most major earthquakes averaged around thirty seconds in their first wave. The few seconds had changed the whole alley.

Five out of ten houses had collapsed.

The house Dong Xuebing ran into was barely holding on, and many Subdistrict Office staffs were worried.

Dong Xuebing had run into the house, and he heard a child crying in a room on the east. He immediately rushes towards that room. Although Old Man Cheng was scolded and injured, he could not let a child die before him. As the Subdistrict Office Director, he needs to protect his residents. He cannot let anyone die before him.

I got to save that kid!

This is the only thought in Dong Xuebing's mind.

Dong Xuebing jumped into the eastern building, and it was a mess. Furniture toppled over.

"Is there anyone here?!" Dong Xuebing shouted.

No one answered, but Dong Xuebing could hear cries inside a room.

Dong Xuebing ran towards that room and saw a boy around five years old, hiding under a table, crying.

Dong Xuebing is overjoyed, and something happened when he was about to get closer.

The first wave was about to end, and the old house could not hold up any longer. A loud crash sounded on top of Dong Xuebing.

The roof is falling, and the walls have collapsed.

Dong Xuebing and that boy are about to get crushed!

Dong Xuebing immediately shouts STOP in his heart.

Time stopped!

The roof tiles, dust, and other debris hung less than fifty centimeters above Dong Xuebing.

Dong Xuebing felt a cold chill down his spine. He rushed inside to carry the boy and jumped out of the room through a collapsed part of the wall.

STOP deactivated.

Time resumed.

A cloud of dust blocked everyone's view. A loud crash followed, and the eastern building came crumbling down.

The small boy did not know what had happened. His hands are wrapped around Dong Xuebing's neck, and his head is buried in his chest. He is crying and doesn't dare to open his eyes.

Dong Xuebing patted the boy's head. "Don't worry. You are safe now."

"Sob... sob.... I am going to die!"

"No. You won't. I will bring you to your parents."

"Really?!" The boy opens his eyes and looks at Dong Xuebing.

"Yes. I don't lie." Dong Xuebing carried the boy. He did not let down his guard as he walked quickly out of the compound.

The first wave of tremors is over, and the earth stops shaking.

Most of the buildings in the alley had collapsed. This is the power of a natural disaster, and no one can go against it. The situation here should represent most parts of Fen Zhou City. Dong Xuebing's heart sunk. He is worried about his Subdistrict's residents, women, and family members. He carried the boy and ran out of the alley.

More than a hundred people had gathered in an empty space outside the alley.

These people are the ones who escaped earlier. Zhou Yanru, Pang Gang, Old Man Cheng, and the rest of the residents looked at their houses.

Suddenly, Old Man Cheng's house disappeared behind a cloud of dust.

Old Man Cheng's daughter-in-law turns pale and falls to the ground, crying.

Old Man Cheng almost fainted.

"The house had collapsed!"

"My son is still inside!"

"Director Dong!"

"Ah!!!" Many people started shouting.

A few moments passed, and a man walked out from the dust. That man's forehead and shirt had bloodstains, but his footsteps were steady. He is walking out of the alley, carrying a small boy.

"Look!" A few residents saw it and gasped.

"Someone is coming out."

"It is Director Dong and the boy!"

"He had saved that boy!"

Old Man Cheng's daughter-in-law rushed towards Dong Xuebing and carried her son in her arms.

"Xiao Hu! Xiao Hu! I'm sorry! I shouldn't have left you in the room! Sob... sob...."

"Mum!" The small boy cried. "I was so scared."

"Sorry.... I'm sorry!"

Old Man Cheng and his son had rushed over. He saw his grandson safe and sound, and he turned to Dong Xuebing. He looked at the wound caused by him on Dong Xuebing's forehead and grabbed his hands. He was crying as he thanked him. "Thank you... Thank you so much!"

Dong Xuebing was pleased when he saw them. "That's what I should do."

"I am sorry." Old Man Cheng apologized. The Subdistrict Office tried to save them, and he refused their help. He even hit the Subdistrict Office Director. The person he hit was the one who risked his life to save his grandson. No words can describe this feeling.

Many of the residents were moved to tears.

Chapter 738: Temporary Rescue Team

Outside of the alley.

Subdistrict Office's staffs had surrounded Dong Xuebing.

"Director, how are you feeling?" Zhou Yanru asked anxiously. "Are you hurt?"

Dong Xuebing took a deep breath. "I am fine. What is the situation now? Are there any injured?"

Zhou Yanru replied uneasily. "We can't contact the District Government or the Subdistrict Office. The phone lines had been cut, and we don't know about their situation."

"Are there any more residents in the alley?"

"Everyone had been evacuated, and the last few residents are here." Pang Gang replied.

"Yes. I asked the residents earlier, and everyone is here."

"Good." Dong Xuebing is relieved. They had evacuated everyone in time. He looked at the anxious Subdistrict Office's staff and announced.

“Listen up! The earthquake had happened, which was only the first wave of tremors. There will be more earthquakes later. I know all of you are worried about your families. Those who are worried about your families can leave now. I won’t force you all to stay. Those who had sent their families to the disaster relief centers can stay. The residents need us to save them!”

The Subdistrict Office’s staffs were shocked. No one had expected Director Dong to allow them to leave.

Pang Gang is looking terrible. “Director, the phone lines and other forms of communication had been cut, and we don’t know when the rescue teams will arrive. We can only rely on ourselves to save the residents.”

An officer added. “That’s right. We cannot leave now.”

A Staff Member, who is worried for his family’s safety, gritted his teeth. “We will save the residents first.”

“Bullshit!” Dong Xuebing looks at them coldly. “Are your families not our residents?! If you all cannot protect your families, don’t talk to me about saving others!” He did not force everyone to stay with him. “I am repeating this! Those who are worried about your families leave now! Bring your families to safety first, before coming back!”

Zhou Yanru looked at a staff beside her. “Xiao Wang, your wife, and son, stay in Liu Xiang Estate. Go and check on them first.”

“But I....” Xiao Wang’s eyes turned red.

“Just go.” Zhou Yanru said.

Xiao Wang bit his lips and looked at Dong Xuebing. “Thank you, Director. I will come back after I check on my son!” He turned and ran off.

Another few staff left.

Dong Xuebing nodded and started giving orders to the rest of his men. “Director Zhou, this place is not safe. You and your Staff Members will bring these residents to the relief centers. You must ensure their safety.”

Zhou Yanru stood at attention. “Yes!” She turned to the residents and shouted. “Everybody! Follow me!”

Many of the residents exchanged looks, and a few young men stepped forward. “Director Dong, we can help too.”

“Count me in!”

“Me too! We will help to save others!”

About six to seven residents stepped forward. They were rescued by the Subdistrict Office’s staff earlier.

Dong Xuebing is moved by these people. He shouted. "Alright! You all can follow the rest of the residents to the relief centers and help those you all met on the way."

Zhou Yanru quickly brought the residents away. There are more than one hundred of them.

Only Dong Xuebing, Pang Gang, and four other Police Officers remained.

The roads were blocked by debris, and they couldn't drive on them.

Dong Xuebing looked at the damage around him and felt his anger building up inside him.

"Let's go!" Dong Xuebing looked at his remaining men. "The west side's damage should be more serious. We will make our way there and try to save as many residents as we can along the way."

Pang Gang quickly followed. "We only got six people. I'm afraid..."

Dong Xuebing did not say anything as he knew there could do nothing much. But he can't contact the District Government and cannot gather enough people now.

A few residents are panicking on the streets.

Pang Gang shouted at them. "Go to Guang Ming Gardens now! Don't move about and stay away from buildings. Go to the relief centers and wait for help!"

The residents heard Pang Gang and did as they were told.

A woman screamed. "Help! Someone, please help!"

Dong Xuebing looked over and saw a woman crying on her knees. She is digging into a pile of debris from a collapsed shop with her bare hands.

Dong Xuebing and his men rushed over. "What happened?"

The woman saw them and cried. "Please save my husband. He is buried inside."

The shop did not collapse entirely, and they could hear a man's weak cries inside. That man is still alive.

"Old Pang!" Dong Xuebing ordered. "Go to the other side."

"Yes."

The person inside can escape if they can move the massive piece of collapsed wall.

When Dong Xuebing and his men tried to lift the wall, they realized it was too heavy.

The wall is too thick and heavy. Without professional rescue equipment, there's no way for them to move the wall.

The woman cried louder. "Da Wei! Please hold on! The Subdistrict Office's staff are here to save you."

The cries for help from inside the shop become softer. That man is getting weak.

Dong Xuebing let go of the wall. "We can't move it!"

Pang Gang is covered in sweat. "We don't have enough men. We need to get more people to help."

Suddenly, a family of three men and one woman ran past them.

Dong Xuebing quickly shouted at them. "Hey! Come over and help us! There's someone buried inside! Help us remove this wall!"

That family looks at Dong Xuebing and continues running.

"F**k!" Pang Gang and his men cursed.

The woman covered her face in despair. "Da Wei!"

What should I do?!

What can I do now?!

Dong Xuebing is anxious and angry. "Old Pang, our Police Station is two streets away, right? You all continue to talk to Da Wei while I try to get help."

Pang Gang replied. "Everyone should have gone to the relief centers. There might not be anyone around."

"Just continue to take to Da Wei and ask him to hang on. I will see what I can do."

The roads are blocked by abundant cars, trishaws, and collapsed buildings. It is impossible to drive in this situation. Dong Xuebing looked around and saw a bicycle by the roadside. He immediately jumps on it and rides towards the Police Station.

Hurry!

I must get that guy out!

Guang Ming Subdistrict Office is the only place prepared for this earthquake. It is also one of the two areas that had evacuated its residents. That's why there are almost no people on the streets. Most of the residents had been transferred to the relief centers.

Dong Xuebing used all his strength to speed towards the Police Station.

Suddenly, Dong Xuebing saw a group of men in police uniform looking around anxiously by the roadside.

Those policemen are not from the local Police Station. They are from are Deputy Chief Chu and his men from the District Public Security Bureau Branch. They had been locked up by Dong Xuebing yesterday and were released before the earthquake.

"Chief Chu!" Dong Xuebing shouted.

Deputy Chief Chu and his men saw Dong Xuebing riding a bicycle.

Dong Xuebing quickly apologized. "I was forced to lock you all up yesterday. I'm sorry."

Chief Chu looked at Dong Xuebing and sighed. "Let's not talk about it. Why are you here? Why are you not at the relief centers?"

"A few of us are trying to save a resident trapped under the debris. We need help."

Dong Xuebing looks at them, thinking of asking them for help.

Deputy Chief Chu waved his hand. "Director Dong, don't need to say anything more. Let's go and save him first."

The few officers behind Deputy Chief Chu immediately pick up the roadsides' abandoned bicycles. Two minutes later, Dong Xuebing, Deputy Chief Chu, and his men arrived at the collapsed shop. Pang Gang and his men were surprised to see the District Public Security Bureau Branch officers. But this is an emergency, and they did not say anything. They all gathered around that piece of collapsed wall and worked together to lift it.

“One... two... lift!”

“One... two... lift!”

A loud crash and the piece of wall was finally moved aside.

Dong Xuebing cheered and stuck his body under the debris to look for that man. He pulled a bleeding man slowly out from under the debris.

“Da Wei!” The woman cried as she hugged her husband.

The man patted his wife’s back weakly and looked at Dong Xuebing and other rescuers gratefully. “Thank you.”

The woman kneeled and bowed to express her gratefulness. “Thank you... thank you... thank you.”

Deputy Chief Chu quickly helped her up. “Don’t bow to us.” He turns to his men. “Xiao Zhou, help them to the nearest hospital to get treatment. Can you do it by yourself?”

“Leave it to me!” Xiao Zhou shouted.

Dong Xuebing and the rest were exhausted after saving that man. Everyone is covered in dirt and panting. Both sides looked at each other, and it seemed their grudges last night had disappeared. No one mentioned yesterday’s arrest again.

The District Public Security Bureau Branch’s officers are not angry with Dong Xuebing. The situation would be worse if Dong Xuebing did not stop chasing the residents off the streets. Arresting them was saving them from making this terrible mistake. The residents might not escape in time, and countless of them would be dead.

Chapter 739: District Party Committee Building is on fire

Noon.

Outside of Guang Ming Garden.

The autumn wind blew up clouds of dust from the collapsed buildings. The Subdistrict had become ruined, and it looks at a movie scene.

Buildings had collapsed, and people were crying everywhere.

Dong Xuebing felt heartache as he walked towards Guang Ming Garden with Deputy Chief Chu and his men. They were carrying some injured residents they rescued along the way.

They had walked along the road towards the west and saved more than a dozen residents they met. Some residents didn’t know where to go, and Dong Xuebing directed them to the nearest relief center. They improvised stretchers to carry the injured residents who couldn’t walk. They carried

some on their backs towards Guang Ming Gardens. This is the Subdistrict Office's temporary command center.

The garden is full of people.

Most residents don't have tents, and they are in a daze on the ground.

Suddenly, the Guang Ming Subdistrict Office's staff cheered.

"It's Director Dong!"

"Director is back!"

"Director, are you alright?!"

Their leader was back, and all of them rushed over to him.

Dong Xuebing put down the improvised stretcher and orders. "Bring the injured in, and get the doctors! There are a few more injured residents at the back! Go and help them!"

Pang Gang, Deputy Chief Chu, and their men passed the injured to the staff.

The staff quickly helped those injured into a tent for treatment.

A staff had informed the Subdistrict Office's Leaders, and Geng Xinke, Zhou Yanru, and Yu Rongfeng rushed out of a tent.

Geng Xinke was shocked when Dong Xuebing was covered in dirt and blood. "You are injured! Hurry and help Director inside for treatment!"

"I am fine." Dong Xuebing replied. "Tell me about the situation now. How many casualties are there?"

Geng Xinke sighed and reported. "There is no phone signal. My men had run to the other relief centers to find out the situation. We have a few hundred injured residents, and thirty to forty have serious injuries."

"Are there any dead?"

"We did not discover anyone that had passed away during the earthquake yet. It's all thanks to our preventive measures."

Dong Xuebing is relieved. "How is the rescue progressing?"

"I had sent our men out to search for survivors." Geng Xinke points to his back.

"About one-fifth of our residents are here, and the rest were sent to the various relief centers. We don't know how many residents remained in their homes, but it should not be many. Some residents had sought refuge in underground parking lots and other places. Our men had brought loudhailers with them, and they will bring them to safety once they find any survivors. But we lack manpower equipment and don't have the experience of disaster search and rescue. They had to dig and clear the debris with their bare hands. Some of them were injured during the rescue."

This is an emergency.

Dong Xuebing looked at them and said firmly. "We can't wait for the rescue party now. We must act first and overcome whatever difficulties along the way."

"Yes." Geng Xinke nodded.

"Do we have enough food and water?" Dong Xuebing asked.

"No. Although we had prepared before the earthquake, we don't have enough to feed many people."

Dong Xuebing looks terrible. "How long can our food supplies last?"

"Five days at most."

"We got to think of a solution. We must have sufficient food and water."

The more Dong Xuebing understands the situation, the more terrible he looks. They lack food, water, lifesaving equipment, manpower, and medical staff. There are too many injured, and they can't contact outside. Some residents are missing, and they are searching for them. They faced too many problems. But he knows they had tried their best. The earthquake prevention and mitigation awareness campaign, procurement of disaster relief supplies, and evacuation of the residents before the earthquake happens. The other Subdistrict Offices should be facing more problems than him.

Dong Xuebing looks at the time. It's been more than an hour since the earthquake.

Dong Xuebing forced himself to calm down and gave out the orders to his men. He sent three more temporary search parties to look for survivors. These search party members are from the Subdistrict Office's staff and volunteer from the residents. He needs more people to join the rescue efforts as life is more precious than anything else.

After giving the orders, Dong Xuebing left Guang Ming Gardens for the following relief center.

An open plaza.

More than two thousand residents had gathered in this open plaza. This number is much lesser than Guang Ming Gardens, but they are densely packed. The open plaza is not big, and that's the most residents it can accommodate. Dong Xuebing can see everyone crowding together from a distance. He spotted Deputy Director Wang Yuling among the residents. Her face is red from shouting into a loudhailer.

"Don't push, and don't panic!"

"Yuling!" Dong Xuebing walked over.

"Ah... Director Dong!" Wang Yuling quickly puts down the loudhailer. "Why are you so badly injured?"

"I knocked my head accidentally, and I am fine. Tell me about the situation here."

Wang Yuling is in charge of this relief center, and she gave Dong Xuebing a brief report of the number of injured and rescue effort progress.

Dong Xuebing is relieved. The situation is not as bad as he thinks.

As both of them were talking, a Subdistrict Office's staff ran over anxiously from a tent. "Director Wang! Something happened in the District Government! Director Dong!"

Dong Xuebing is shocked. "What happened?!"

The staff took a few deep breaths to calm down.

Wang Yuling anxiously asked. "Hurry and tell us what's going on!"

"The radio reported that our District Party Committee Building had caught fire. Many District Leaders and Staff are trapped in the building. The rescue party and fire engines can't reach them because of the road conditions."

"What?!" Wang Yuling's face changed. Her Uncle, Wang Anshi, is working there.

Dong Xuebing takes a deep breath and jumps to his feet. His heart is pounding furiously, and he got a bad feeling.

The leaders should be evacuated first if the building catches fire.

What will Geng Yuehua do? Will she leave or rescue her staff first?

Dong Xuebing's face slowly turns pale. He felt Mayor Geng would not leave until all her staff was saved. She should be one of those trapped in the building.

Damn it!

Chapter 740: Geng Yuehua in danger

Open plaza.

The situation is tense.

Wang Yuling anxiously asked. "Director, what should we do now?"

Dong Xuebing is more anxious than her, but he remains calm. "Our Subdistrict is prepared for this disaster, and our casualties should be the lowest in the City. Yuling, I need you to organize a rescue team with our extra manpower to go to the District and other Subdistricts. Also, inform Guang Ming Garden's Secretary Geng and Director Zhou to do the same. We will extend our rescue efforts to the whole Nan Shan District."

"Then what about you?"

"I will go to the District Party Committee Building."

"But Director, we..."

Dong Xuebing did not say anything and rode his bicycle towards the District Party Committee Building. He had made arrangements in his Subdistrict from the information he got from the 'future' newspaper. Still, the newspaper did not state the situation in other areas. He thought the District Party Committee would have contingency plans for disasters, and Geng Yuehua would be safe there. He did not expect the District Party Committee Building to be on fire. He would have

dragged Geng Yuehua out from the District Party Committee Building before the earthquake if he knew about it. It is too late to think about these now.

Geng Yuehua....

You must be safe!

Wait for me! I am on my way there!

Dong Xuebing's subordinates are not around, and he can show his uneasiness and worries. He rode out of Guang Ming Subdistrict towards the District. He got to navigate through cracks and abandon vehicles on the roads. He even got to get off his bike and carry it over a 1-meter-deep crack on the road.

Debris was everywhere.

This is the first time Dong Xuebing left his Subdistrict after the earthquake.

He is devastated by what he saw.

Bodies are lying by the roadsides, and puddles of blood are seeping out from the debris.

Survivors are crying besides their dead family members, and some are sitting by the side in a daze.

Dong Xuebing stopped his bike and shouted. "Go to your Subdistrict's relief centers or empty spaces! It is dangerous to remain here! Hurry up! Another tremor might happen soon!" He is shocked by the destruction he saw and feels lucky his Subdistrict still has not found anyone dead. Other than Guang Ming Subdistrict, the situation in other areas should be like this. Bodies are everywhere, and his Subdistrict should do all they can to help other Subdistricts.

The nearer Dong Xuebing got to the District Party Committee Building, and he saw more bodies.

Some bodies lie at the foot of a building, and advertising boards crush some. Blood is also dripping out from abandoned vehicles.

Dong Xuebing is worried and frustrated when he thinks of Geng Yuehua. She is in danger now, and he wondered if she is still alive. He sped up and used all his strength to ride his bike towards the District Party Committee Building.

District Party Committee Building.

A raging fire engulfed the District Party Committee Building, and people shouted and screamed outside.

"Hurry! Put out the fire!"

"We can't! The fire is too big!"

"Where is the fire department?!"

"They are five kilometers away! The roads are blocked, and their vehicles can't pass!"

Part of the District Party Committee Building had collapsed, and the building is leaning to its side. All the windows were smashed, and the fire had reached the third story. Black smoke is coming out from the windows, and the fire is spreading rapidly.

Outside of the District Party Committee Building.

District Party Secretary Wang Anshi, Executive Deputy Mayor Shen Fei, and other leaders are standing there with dozens of District Party Committee staff.

Shen Fei had just run out from the building, and his face was covered with soot. "Mayor Geng is still inside! We got to save her!"

Wang Anshi shouted furiously. "Why didn't you bring Mayor Geng out with you all?!"

Some of Ma Jian's hair was burnt away by the fire. She replied. "I did not see Mayor Geng when I was coming out, and it's too late when we discover she is still in the building."

"How many people are inside?" Wang Anshi asked.

"There should be slightly more than a dozen people trapped inside. If we include the ones going in to rescue them, there should be more than twenty people."

"Call the fire department and get them to come over as soon as possible!" Wang Anshi shouted.

Everyone is looking at the District Party Committee Building anxiously.

Most of the staff had escaped from the building during the earthquake. The District Party Committee Building's structure had barely withstood the earthquake, and it almost collapsed. The remaining staff was trapped inside the building, and Wang Anshi and Geng Yuehua immediately ordered a rescue team to save them. Despite objections, Geng Yuehua, Ma Jian, and Shen Fei joined in the rescue. They carried the injured staff out slowly, and an explosion happened in one of the rooms on the ground floor. Fire quickly spread across the floor, and Shen Fei, Ma Jian, and other rescuers quickly pulled the survivors out of the building. But when they are outside, they realize Geng Yuehua is missing. She might have gone upstairs, and the fire is too big for them to enter. The fire spreads quickly, and no one can enter the building to save her.

The fire is getting bigger.

Anyone who goes in now will be burned alive.

No one can do anything except watch the fire spread to the upper floors.

Dong Xuebing arrived and saw many bodies on the ground outside the building. They had been dead for some time, and he had met some of them before. They are the District Government's Staff Members. A group of injured staff is resting in an open space away from the building. They are taken care of by the surviving staff. These people have broken arms and legs, and the fire badly burned some.

Dong Xuebing threw his bike and rushed over anxiously. "Where are the rest that was trapped inside? Who else is inside?!"

Everyone saw Dong Xuebing and had complicated feelings.

But everyone knows this is not the time to talk about other things.

Secretary Ma is crying. "More than twenty people, including Mayor Geng, are still in the building."

"Where is the fire department?!"

“The roads are blocked!”

Dong Xuebing’s face changed as he looked at the raging fire.

Geng Yuehua is still inside!

At this time, Geng Xinke and two Guang Ming Subdistrict Office staff arrived on bicycles.

“Where’s my sister?! Where is she?!” He had heard the news on the radio and rushed here.

Ma Jian looks at Geng Xinke and points to the burning office building.

The building is five stories, and the stairs had collapsed from the fire.

“Sis!” Geng Xinke shouted, and his legs gave way. The two Guang Ming Subdistrict Office staff quickly supported him.

Everyone is feeling bad. Mayor Geng had risked her life to rescue others during the earthquake. She earned everyone, including those from the Wang Faction, respect. Even Wang Anshi doesn’t want anything bad to happen to her.

But the fire department can’t reach the District Party Committee Building, and they don’t have the equipment to put out the fire.

When everyone was feeling helpless, Dong Xuebing ran towards the burning building.

Shen Fei is shocked. “Xiao Dong!”

“Dong Xuebing!” District’s Commission for Discipline Inspection Secretary Wu Liang shouted.

“Director Dong!” Everyone knows it is impossible to save Geng Yuehua and the rest from the building.

Dong Xuebing ignored their cries and ran to the front of the building. He looked at the smoke coming out from a window and jumped through it. The fire was too big, and half of his shirt was burned away immediately.

“STOP!”

The fire froze.

The flames hovered in mid-air.

Dong Xuebing is worried for Geng Yuehua, and he runs towards the stairs.

But to his horror, the stairs had collapsed, and there was no way for Dong Xuebing to go upstairs.

Dong Xuebing couldn’t find another way to go upstairs and deactivated STOP. He shouted in an area that was not burning. “Mayor Geng! Mayor Geng!”

No one replied.

The only reply Dong Xuebing got was the thick black smoke and flickering flames.

Dong Xuebing could not hold on anymore. He had breathed in the smoke and was getting giddy. He covered his head and jumped from the same window.

“Xiao Dong had come out!”

“Come back here!”

“It is too dangerous to go in!”

People shouted at Dong Xuebing.

But Dong Xuebing is not leaving. He looked at the burning building and felt his heart shattered.

Yuehua!!!

Suddenly, a survivor shouted.

“Look! Upstairs!”

“There are people on the rooftop!”

“It’s Mayor Geng!”

“The rest of the staff are with her! It’s them!”

“They are alive!”

Dong Xuebing heard it and quickly ran a few steps back. He looked up and saw Geng Yuehua holding on to an injured staff on the rooftop, looking at them. A few staffs are with her, and the female staff is crying and shouting for help.

“Save us!”

“The fire is reaching us soon!”

“Help!”

Geng Yuehua did not say anything. She looked at the people beneath her feet and closed her eyes slowly.

Ma Jian, Wang Anshi, and the rest are relieved to know they are still alive. This is a piece of good news. But how are they going to save them?!