

I Became a Villainous Character with a Limited Lifespan

- Episode 1 - 5

Episode 1

“Wow. This is finally completed.”

Seung-hyun threw the cell phone he had been staring at on the bed and made a relieved face.

Although he realized early on that he was gay, due to his timid and cautious personality, Seung-hyun had been quietly living while hiding his identity by reading BL novels, comics, or watching videos.

[Nunnunnanna: What are you doing?]

However, a recent change had come to Seung-hyun. The first person he started chatting with on a gay dating app he had mustered up the courage to join.

[I was just reading a novel.]

[Nunnunnanna: What novel?]

[It's a web novel called 'The Law of Total Amount'. It was completed so I was binge reading it.]

[Nunnunnanna: You're not going to be late for our meeting because of that, right? Haha]

[No. We're meeting in front of Moca Studio at Semo Station at 7, right? I'm all ready. I'm about to head out now.]

[Nunnunnanna: Okay. When you come out, tell me what the story is about too. I'm curious.]

He had hesitated before installing the app, which is usually used to find sex partners or one-night stands, but the first person he matched with turned out to be a pretty decent person.

After about a week of chatting, they found out they lived surprisingly close to each other, and when it had been almost a month since they started chatting, they made plans to actually meet.

'This is my first time meeting another gay person besides myself. Ugh. I'm nervous.'

Seung-hyun was the type to be very mindful of others. Even he himself was aware that his personality was a bit frustrating, but he couldn't help it since he had lived his whole life that way.

'Hey. There can't possibly be any gays near us, right?'

'Fuck. Don't say such creepy things.'

Since he often heard hateful remarks from people who didn't know about his orientation, he naturally became that way. But today was different.

He was going to meet a same-age friend with the same orientation. Seung-hyun put on his outerwear with an excited heart and left the house.

"Hah. It's colder than I thought."

Seung-hyun headed to Semo Station while chatting with Nunnunnanna on his phone. What kind of person would they be? They got along well through chatting. He hoped it would be the same when they met in person.

'Starting with Nunnunnanna, it would be nice if I could gradually meet other people too. If I get a bit more courage, maybe someday I can tell my friends that I'm gay.'

With a pounding heart, Seung-hyun arrived at Semo Station a little earlier than expected.

[Nunnunnanna: I'm working hard to get there now. I think I'll arrive right on time. Where are you?]

There were still about 15 minutes left until the appointed time. Would it be too burdensome if he said he had already arrived? After contemplating for a moment, Seung-hyun replied.

[I have about 3 stops left. I think I'll arrive right on time too, so take your time getting here.]

After sending that reply, Seung-hyun tightly wrapped his scarf and wandered around near the store they had agreed to meet at. It was a bit chilly, but 15 minutes was nothing, he could wait.

“Hey. Is he really from our school?”

“Ah, I’m telling you he is. Have you been living in deception?”

While waiting just one alley away from the meeting place, a group of men around Seung-hyun’s age were smoking nearby.

‘Ah. I picked the wrong spot. I hate the smell of cigarettes.’

Seung-hyun was about to move to a different spot and put his phone in his pocket. But the moment he was about to take a step, he froze at the voice coming from around the corner.

“Yeah, I’m sure. Ahn Seung-hyun from the Korean Literature department. He’s definitely it.”

Seung-hyun blinked in surprise at the sudden mention of his name. The man, unaware that Seung-hyun was around the corner, continued speaking.

“I heard there’s this gay dating app, so I went on it for fun, but it was more interesting than I thought so I was chatting with a few people. And then one of them sent their schedule, and fuck, there was a class with the same name as one of our liberal arts classes.”

“.....!!!”

Seung-hyun recalled when he had carelessly sent his schedule to Nunnunnanna during their conversation. Seung-hyun was so shocked he couldn’t even move, his hands trembling.

“So I casually asked and it was definitely our school. And there was one class he shared with Chan-gyu, so I went to check it out. There was someone using their phone at exactly the same time the replies were coming. It turned out to be him.”

“If this was just a coincidence, I’ll eat my hat.”

“I’m telling you it’s not. Well, we’ll find out in 10 minutes. You didn’t forget about the bet, right? You guys will have to pay for everything today.”

At the sound of their snickering laughter, Seung-hyun stepped back slightly, trembling. He thought he had found a friend he could connect with, who shared something in common, but it was all just his misunderstanding.

“But if it’s true, that’s unexpected. Didn’t he have a pretty good reputation among the girls?”

“Hey, fuck. Then what does that matter? He’s actually...”

Thud. Something seemed to catch on the tip of Seung-hyun’s foot as he was stepping back, making a loud noise behind him. At that sound, a voice saying “What was that?” came from around the corner, and as soon as Seung-hyun sensed someone approaching the alley, he started running.

‘Idiot. I should have just kept reading novels and comics like I used to. I got greedy for no reason.’

He felt like a fool. He really thought he had made a friend. He was happy to have found someone to share a secret he couldn’t tell anyone. But that person was actually just making fun of him.

Now that Nunnunnanna was convinced he was gay, there was no telling when and what kind of rumors would spread. Seung-hyun ran mindlessly, tears streaming down his face.

He didn’t know what to do going forward, but for now, he just wanted to run away.

‘For now, let’s go back home as if nothing happened. What should I reply so it doesn’t seem suspicious? No, the fact that contact suddenly got cut off itself is...’

“Oh, isn’t that Seung-hyun?”

“.....!!”

“What, meeting everyone in a place like this. But... are you crying?”

While standing at a crosswalk, hopping from foot to foot waiting for the signal, someone recognized Seung-hyun and spoke to him. Semo Station was a bustling area not far from the university, so it wouldn’t be strange to run into someone he knew, but the timing was bad.

'The signal...!'

The moment his university friend recognized Seung-hyun and spoke, the crosswalk signal turned green. In his urgency, Seung-hyun started running again without even looking to the side.

"I, I have something urgent to take care of right now."

"Wai-, wait a minute. Seung-hyun. Just a sec...!"

He tried to give a quick greeting and run off, but his friend's face suddenly turned pale. Before he could even question that expression, a strong impact engulfed Seung-hyun's body.

Screeech-!

"Aaahhhhh!"

"Someone got hit by a car!"

"119 (Korean emergency number)! Quickly call 119!"

What was this situation? It hurts. My body feels hot. The weather was definitely cold, but why does my head feel so feverish?

"Seung-hyun, Seung-hyun!"

"Is this 119? This is the crosswalk going towards exit 4 of Semo Station. Someone got hit by a car. There's a lot of blood. Please, come quickly."

He could hear noisy sounds, but the ringing in his head was so loud he couldn't hear well. Seung-hyun blinked slowly and inhaled.

"Cough...!"

"Ahhh!"

But his body, hit by a car and fallen on the asphalt, struggled to even do that, spewing hot liquid from deep inside his stomach. Seung-hyun, belatedly grasping the situation, thought,

'Am I dying? So unfairly. So absurdly.... If I had known it would be like this, I wouldn't have lived caring so much about what others think. I should have at least cursed at Nunnunnanna through chat...'

His body gradually became hotter and heavier. If he had known he would die so absurdly, he wouldn't have lived so diligently. He felt regret, but it was already too late.

"Seung-hyun...!"

Seung-hyun completely closed his eyes and collapsed on the road. His eyes closed, his ears stopped hearing, and next, the heat that had filled his head dissipated as if a fuse had blown.

How much time had passed? As if someone had plugged the severed cord behind Seung-hyun back in, the sound of voices started to be heard.

"Umm... It's a bit difficult to say this."

What was this? A flashback? Seung-hyun blinked blankly. As he heard the sound, his vision suddenly brightened again. A doctor in a white gown was sitting in front of Seung-hyun.

'Did I survive? Is that why I'm in the hospital? But... don't patients usually lie down? Why am I sitting up? And this doesn't look like a hospital room...'

It wasn't easy to grasp the situation. As he looked around the place he was sitting with those stupid eyes, the doctor, who had been tapping the chart with a pen with a troubled expression, met Seung-hyun's eyes as if he had made up his mind.

"It's cancer. With this degree of metastasis... there's essentially no treatment the hospital can provide. Other than prescribing painkillers..."

"...What?"

"6 months to a year at most. I'm sorry."

"...Huh?!"

What kind of nonsensical talk was this? Seung-hyun, who had heard something strange, jumped up from his seat.

Episode 2

“I understand this is shocking news. But this is already the second test, and with this degree of metastasis, we have to consider it definite...”

“No. I mean.”

I’m pretty sure I was in a traffic accident, so how is it cancer? Are you saying I was brought in because of a traffic accident, but it turned out I had cancer cells?

Seung-hyun rolled his eyes back and forth in confusion. The doctor, who had been watching Seung-hyun’s reaction, bowed his head and apologized.

“So-, sorry. Director Han.”

“...Director Han?”

“Pardon?”

“What?”

My name is An Seung-hyun. What do you mean by Director Han? Seung-hyun blinked and muttered.

“Is... the test result wrong?”

“I understand it’s hard to believe... but we also checked thoroughly. It’s your matter, Director Han, so of course we have to confirm it more definitively, right?”

So I’m telling you I’m not Director Han. Seung-hyun was about to say that but suddenly looked down at his hand.

“.....?”

Seung-hyun had a habit of biting his nails. At the peak of it, he had bitten them so much that not only the white part of the nails but even the pink part was all chewed up, so his nail length was noticeably shorter than others.

But the nails Seung-hyun saw now were not short at all, but straight and pretty as if they had never been bitten once. Even if he had been unconscious for a long time due to the accident, could the length of the nail body grow this much?

“For now, I’ll prescribe you some painkillers. If the effect wears off or you need stronger painkillers, please make an appointment anytime.”

As Seung-hyun stared blankly at his nails without answering, the doctor practically shooed him out. Seung-hyun, who came out, walked aimlessly and headed to the bathroom as if possessed.

“...What is this?”

And as soon as he entered the bathroom, Seung-hyun fainted again at the sight of himself reflected in the mirror.

“.....”

“He seems to have been quite shocked. It’s understandable... His health has deteriorated a lot recently, so that must have had an impact too.”

“I understand. It goes without saying... but I hope the director’s condition doesn’t reach anyone else’s ears.”

“Of course. When he regains consciousness, he can return home right away.”

At the sound of people’s voices, Seung-hyun slowly opened his eyes. He raised his hand to check his nails again and saw the same straight and pretty nails.

“Ah, Director.”

Seung-hyun turned his head to look at the man who called him. A man who seemed to be in his late twenties was looking this way.

“I’ll take you straight home. At least for today...”

“Director Han. Seung-hyun Han?”

“Pardon?”

Seung-hyun, who hadn't fully regained his senses yet, mumbled with a dazed mind. He just put his name with that surname since they called him Director Han, but it felt strangely familiar.

"Yes. You're Director Seung-hyun Han... right?"

"Me?"

"Pardon?"

The man standing next to him looked bewildered. The doctor had long since slipped out of the hospital room. But none of that mattered at all.

'If it's Director Seung-hyun Han... that's the name of the villain in 'The Law of Total Amount'.'

The face he encountered in the bathroom earlier was definitely not Seung-hyun's original face. An Seung-hyun had a face that was often described as having a gentle impression, but the face reflected in the mirror had a cat-like impression with slightly upturned eyes.

Not only the eyes were different, but the entire face and physique had completely changed. A slightly higher eye level and a body with lean muscles. No matter how you looked at it, the person himself was different.

Even that alone didn't make sense, but Seung-hyun Han? That he was Seung-hyun Han? It was so absurd that a hollow laugh escaped.

"Ha, haha...."

"...Director."

"Then you must be Seok-hyung."

"For now, it's best for you to go in and rest. I'll make up some excuse for the office, so please just go home and rest for today."

Seeing that he didn't deny it, it seemed to be true. Seung-hyun followed Seok-hyung into the car in a daze.

"Rest. I'll see you again tomorrow."

"....."

As soon as Seung-hyun arrived home and was left alone, he picked up his phone and started checking the situation he was in. Had he really become that Seung-hyun Han? Maybe, just like how his original name was the same as that villain's name, it was simply a case of having the same name. It was a common name to the point where he just thought 'Oh, the name is the same' when reading the novel. It's just a case of having the same name, but those people are all mistaken....

However, after searching through his phone and various places in the room, Seung-hyun had no choice but to accept the fact and sit down. This was clearly the world inside 『The Law of Total Amount』 .

The names of companies popping up here and there and the contact information of characters saved in his phone were proving that fact.

“Ha, haha... It was already unfair that I was about to be outed and ran away only to get into a traffic accident. I must have died on the spot, right? That's why this happened, right?”

Who was Seung-hyun Han? Seung-hyun sat blankly and recalled the contents of the novel he had last read.

『The Law of Total Amount』 . It was a BL novel that Seung-hyun had enjoyed reading quite a bit, following quite typical clichés.

The protagonist 'Tae-sung Han', who was born as the illegitimate child of a chaebol family but was born with the trait of a dominant alpha, rose from the bottom to the position of a director in the chaebol family, despises the traits of alphas and omegas.

To the point where he even considers himself pathetic for the fact that being born as a dominant alpha was the biggest factor in getting him to that position. Then one day, he receives a proposal from Chairman Han, the head of HJ Group and his grandfather.

『It will be a proposal with no downside for you. He's the youngest omega of the RF Group, even if he's a recessive. I heard they cherished and raised him quite a bit in that family, so it wouldn't be bad to marry him.』

To marry Seon-hu Lee, the youngest son and recessive omega of the RF Group. He didn't want to accept a marriage with an omega, but he accepts

that proposal, acknowledging that marriage in a chaebol family is essentially a transaction.

From then on, it was a quite predictable story. Seon-hu, who grew up loved by his family, was a sweet and warm person enough to melt Tae-sung's frozen heart. Although he was born with the easily overlooked trait of a recessive omega, he was also someone who didn't get swayed by people and went his own way.

Although they clashed at first, the two naturally fell in love. However, if love is achieved too easily, it's hard for a novel to unfold in an interesting way.

The character who disrupts the peace of the two in the novel was none other than Seung-hyun Han. He was Tae-sung's cousin and the reason Tae-sung was able to return to the HJ Group.

As a recessive alpha, Seung-hyun was not a grandson favored by Chairman Han. Rather, he was treated with more disdain than his other beta or omega siblings.

Chairman Han, who often spat out things like 'This is why a recessive is worse than half a person. It would have been better if he was an omega, at least we could have quickly arranged an engagement,' eventually brought his illegitimate dominant alpha grandson into the house.

Naturally, Seung-hyun hated Tae-sung to death. He looked down on him as someone who had been wandering outside and came in, constantly picking fights and unable to hide his inferiority complex.

Still, he was a character who tried to act noble in the beginning, but Seung-hyun truly became a villain after being given a terminal diagnosis.

「If I'm going to die no matter what I do, then you shouldn't be happy either. I don't care what happens to me. If I can only bring down Han Tae-sung...」

Thanks to that, the comment section for the chapters featuring Seung-hyun Han always exploded with content like 'Seung-hyun Han, the place you should be is the hospital. Oh, of course, a mental hospital.', 'Hey cancer cells, work harder.', 'Is he really terminally ill? He's always running around energetically.'

“But you’re saying I’m that Seung-hyun Han. The Seung-hyun Han who, if he has a terminal illness, should either stay cooped up at home or can’t even properly harass the main characters while getting painkillers and IV drips....”

Seung-hyun muttered in a dazed voice. His self in reality must have died. He was in so much pain, he bled so much, it didn’t seem like he would have survived.

But now that he’s going to live a new life, couldn’t he have possessed a somewhat normal person? Why did he have to possess a villain out of all the many characters?

No. If there was at least hope that he could turn over a new leaf from now on and live an ordinary life, it would have been okay. But Seung-hyun Han was not that. He was terminally ill. Terminally ill to the point where he couldn’t even survive until the end of the novel.

Seung-hyun’s exit was absurd, if you could call it that. In order to obstruct Tae-sung, he went alone to a villa that Tae-sung and Seon-hu often visited, and suddenly had a seizure and collapsed in pain.

The sedatives and painkillers were in the car, and since he had entered quietly alone, there was no one to call an ambulance. In the end, Seung-hyun died and was only discovered after a few days. Chairman Han, who found out that he had died at Tae-sung’s villa, got angry until the end, calling him a stupid and embarrassing bastard, so even the funeral was held very modestly.

It was a death befitting the evil deeds he had committed, if you could call it that. But that was only satisfying when it was a story about a villain in a novel.

“Even if I don’t wander around places like villas and just stay cooped up at home, I’ve already been given a terminal diagnosis anyway. Then that means I’ll die within a year at most....”

Seung-hyun lowered his head, looking like he was about to cry at any moment. It couldn’t get any worse than this. If he had to think of something fortunate, it would be that since he became terminally ill after already dying, he felt less resentful about why he had to die?

“Are you telling me to check which is better between dying suddenly and dying slowly?”

A dumbfounded voice naturally flowed out. 6 months to 1 year. It was a new life that was too ambiguous to be happy about getting a chance.

“Let’s think positively. Positively about anything....”

The gloom did not go away, but he tried hard to think positively. Because that was Seung-hyun’s habit. If it was a situation he couldn’t escape anyway, it was a kind of defense mechanism to find even the tiniest positive aspect and try to protect his mental state even a little.

“...But if I think of it as a life I was going to die anyway... it’s not bad?”

Seung-hyun, who had been thinking for a moment, raised his head. If someone heard it, they might think, ‘He must have gone crazy from being in such a shocking situation,’ but Seung-hyun was quite sincere.

Episode 3

Of course, the premise is that Seung-hyun’s original body had already died in an accident. If death had been vague, no matter how much he tried to find a positive side, it wouldn’t have been okay.

However, Seung-hyun had died in reality as well. Moreover, it was right before, no, perhaps it was already too late when it was about to be revealed that he was gay.

Seung-hyun was a personality who cared a lot about what others thought. So he had lived without revealing to anyone that he was gay, but this place was a world where being gay was not an issue at all.

The omegaverse world. A world with men, women, and three other genders. A world where not only romance between alphas and omegas, but also romance between other genders was not considered strange.

It could be called a unique taste, but it was just recognized as a difference in taste. Compared to the reality Seung-hyun had lived in, it was a trivial matter.

And Han Seung-hyun was rich. In fact, he didn’t even need to work. It was just that Han Seung-hyun, who wanted to be recognized by his grandfather, was diligently working and maintaining his position, but he was rich enough to play and eat for the rest of his life with just the stocks and real estate he owned.

Well, even if he wasn't the richest person of the century, it means he had enough wealth to be able to spend money like scrap paper for 6 months to a year and still have plenty left over.

"Maybe... it's God's revelation telling me to enjoy the life I couldn't enjoy for a year and then live my next life. Yes. It's God's revelation telling me to do everything I want for just one year before I die, pitying me who died just caring about what others think!"

Seung-hyun clenched his fists as he said that. It might have been God's consideration, telling him to do everything he wanted and reincarnate in a place where he didn't need to hide being gay since he was going to die anyway.

It was a somewhat transcendental positive thought, but it was much better than sinking into despair and being depressed. Seung-hyun tottered over to the bathroom mirror.

"Although it feels very different from my original face... it's definitely a handsome face."

In the novel, Han Seung-hyun was described as a character with a complex about his face. It was because his fervent alpha constitution was disgusting enough, but his face wasn't masculine with thick lines, but rather had a somewhat pretty feeling.

However, it was a face that Seung-hyun quite liked. Pretty and handsome, but not looking too easy, a face that looked a bit unique.

He was going to die anyway, so it was the perfect condition to enjoy the rest of his time without being obsessed with power or status.

Seung-hyun tried to recall if there were any scenes in the novel where 'Han Seung-hyun' was suffering from illness. There were occasional descriptions of him being in pain, but he quickly got better after taking painkillers.

Readers called the painkillers a "cure-all" because of how quickly he recovered and went around well, making Seung-hyun let out a small sigh.

'Of course, it's not that he's not sick at all... but at least he wasn't so sick that he had to stay in the hospital.'

Now that it had come to this, he was really going to live the new year he gained however he wanted. Without caring what others think, while doing some of the things he had always wanted to do.

“...Director.”

“You know the reason, so explain it well. I want to take a break from bothersome things.”

“...Yes. I understand.”

Seok-hyung, the secretary, nodded his head with a heavy face. Even though Seung-hyun said he would step down from his position as director, his attitude was still faithful. Come to think of it, he was the steadfast subordinate who followed Seung-hyun to the end in the novel.

‘Honestly, he wasn’t a character I particularly liked... but at least it’s true that he was sincere to Han Seung-hyun.’

Seung-hyun thought that and looked at Seok-hyung with slightly pitying eyes. Seok-hyung had an even more miserable expression than Seung-hyun.

“The chairman will summon you as soon as he returns from his business trip.”

“When did he say he would return?”

“He will return by plane next Wednesday, so I think the summons will come around Wednesday or Thursday.”

“I see... If other people ask why I suddenly resigned.”

“I will keep it a secret.”

Seung-hyun flinched at the loyalty that was a bit burdensome. However, he soon spoke with an indifferent face.

“Tell them it’s bothersome so don’t contact me and think for themselves.”

“Pardon?”

Seung-hyun said that and turned his body to leave the office. He had decided not to care about what others think for the rest of his life, so he didn't feel the need to explain.

The place Seung-hyun headed to after leaving the office was a department store. Entering the store with a slightly pounding heart, an employee who seemed to recognize Seung-hyun's face ran out to greet him.

"Director Han. It's been a while since you visited."

"Ah."

I had heard that the rich get a personal shopper when they go to department stores, but do they really come right away like this even for an unannounced visit? Seung-hyun answered a bit awkwardly.

"Clothes."

"Yes. You're looking for a suit, right? This way..."

"No."

"Ah, then are you looking for comfortable home clothes to wear at home?"

"I just want to look at some clothes to wear out normally."

Seung-hyun swallowed his saliva and spoke. The rich are good at spending money, but I don't know how to spend money in a place like this, but as long as I have a card, it should all work out.

"Normally, please."

The employee looked a bit surprised at Seung-hyun's words. Usually, Seung-hyun didn't look at clothes other than suits much. He only occasionally bought new home clothes. 'Normally', it was a word that didn't suit Han Seung-hyun.

However, the employee soon returned to a professional face as if nothing had happened and guided Seung-hyun around the store.

"Since Director Han prefers a neat style, how about a design like this..."

"No."

I felt a little sorry to cut off the employee's kind words, but Seung-hyun decided to be bold. Listening to an explanation he wouldn't properly hear was practically labor exploitation.

And there was something he really wanted to say. Seung-hyun took a small deep breath to say those words, and the employee swallowed his saliva in tension.

After a moment, Seung-hyun spoke as if he had made up his mind.

"I'll pay for everything from here to here."

"Th-there are clothes with designs that Director Han doesn't usually prefer. Are you sure it's okay?"

"Yes. The items... I think it will be difficult for me to take them all."

"Ah, of course, we will pack them up and send them to your residence."

Wow, I said it myself, but it was really kind of cool. Seung-hyun thought that and left the store with a pounding heart. It was a dream I wanted to try at least once if I had a lot of money, but to think it would come true like this.

When Seung-hyun looked around his house all day yesterday, there were only pajamas, suits, and workout clothes. Thinking that this crazy bastard really wasn't in his right mind in many ways, he recalled a scene from a drama where someone paid for all the clothes like this.

'Yes. Since it's all nonsensical anyway, let's do everything now that it's come to this.'

The bank account balance he found while digging through his cell phone had money that seemed difficult to spend all within a year, no matter how hard he tried. Not only the bank balance, but also the real estate and stocks would be enormous, but it was bothersome to touch them.

After that, Seung-hyun, who repeatedly said "from here to here" at every store he visited, returned home with a satisfied face. Once he got back, he planned to throw away all the suits except for a few and fill the closet with new clothes.

It's not that he bought new clothes simply because he wanted to spend money. There was a place he wanted to go, but he was a bit reluctant to go

wearing a suit, workout clothes, or pajamas, so he needed clothes to wear right away.

'No one will look at me strangely. No one will recognize me either. It'll be fine. What could go wrong?'

Seung-hyun wandered in front of a building wearing clothes he had agonized over choosing all afternoon. Even though he had decided to do everything he wanted, it was still difficult for a person's personality to change completely overnight.

The place he headed to was none other than a gay bar. If it were in reality, he couldn't even imagine setting foot in one for fear of running into someone he knew on the way, but the gay bars in this world were no different from ordinary clubs.

Although he couldn't express it due to his timid personality, Seung-hyun wanted to hang out with people who had the same orientation as him. It was not only because he simply wanted to have friends with something in common, but also because of a very primitive instinct.

He wanted to experience love. When reading novels or comics, he wondered if such love existed in reality, and when watching those kinds of videos, he had expectations of what it would feel like.

"Yes. What's the big deal about this? I've already died once, so what could be scarier?"

After hesitating for a long time, Seung-hyun resolutely entered the building. Since it was a life with a time limit anyway, even if he couldn't date because it would be too much for the other person, sex should be okay as long as there was mutual consent, right?

It was an impulsive decision that came from wanting to try it at least once. And exactly twelve hours later, Seung-hyun deeply regretted his hasty decision.

'...I'm screwed.'

Because the person he saw as soon as he woke up had the same face as one of the characters in the novel he had looked up in advance to avoid confusion.

Episode 4

Twelve hours ago, Seung-hyun boldly entered the gay bar and looked around. Perhaps because it was inside a novel, it felt like there were a lot of handsome men and beautiful women in this world overall.

‘Especially since it’s a BL novel, there are a lot of handsome men...’

Looking around, he awkwardly ordered a drink. Since his original body had a pretty high alcohol tolerance, he downed the drink straight away without checking the alcohol content.

Thinking it would be better to at least warm up his body a little, as he would just squirm awkwardly and leave the seat lonely if he stayed sober. While drinking one glass after another, a sweet scent began to spread from somewhere.

Turning his head to where the scent was coming from, a pretty-looking man was smiling and sending a gaze to Seung-hyun.

“Can I sit with you?”

“Yes, well... do as you wish.”

The man who approached Seung-hyun, swirling a glass of alcohol, naturally sat next to him. The man, who smiled prettily, said to Seung-hyun.

“This is your first time in a place like this, right?”

“How did you...”

“People who come for the first time give off a vibe. First of all, your outfit seems oddly carefully chosen.”

Even though he had deliberately dressed a bit casually because a suit seemed too much, it still showed. Seung-hyun flinched slightly.

“And you’re just drinking awkwardly. You’re an alpha, right?”

“Ah, yes.”

Seung-hyun awkwardly nodded and downed another drink. The man sitting next to him looked Seung-hyun up and down.

‘Judging by his reaction to pheromones, he’s at least an alpha, and his clothes and watch are all expensive. They’re all new this season...’

Although Seung-hyun didn’t know, this bar was famous for being quite selective of its customers. As it was a place where many people who had been filtered in came, a considerable number of people in here were judging others this way and that.

“How old are you?”

“Twenty-f... no, twenty-nine.”

“I thought we’d be only a year or two apart at most. I’m twenty-five.”

The man said with a grin. The man, who naturally ordered the next round while sitting next to Seung-hyun, introduced himself.

“I’m Ahn Youngha. You can call me hyung, right?”

“Yes, well... do as you’re comfortable.”

“It’s a bit surprising that this is your first time in a place like this at twenty-nine. It’s not that there aren’t people your age or that they’re rare, but it’s rare for a first-timer.”

Youngha said, making a pretty eye smile. Seung-hyun, who was insensitive to this kind of thing, awkwardly smiled without even realizing that he was being hit on.

“It just happened to turn out this way while living.”

“What made you interested in coming here?”

I came to find someone to spend the night with. Seung-hyun, who was a bit hesitant to say he came with the purpose of a one-night stand, pondered for a moment and said.

“Until now, I lived worrying about what others thought, so I wondered if I could come to a place like this... But now, I decided to just act as my heart desires.”

“Eh, don’t call it a place like this. It’s not that big of a deal, does it need such a resolution?”

When I tried to package it nicely, Youngha laughed and lightly tapped Seung-hyun's shoulder. Seung-hyun, who didn't even notice that he was a bit tipsy due to being nervous, downed another drink.

"What others think... now it doesn't matter what happens..."

"Hey, hyung. Aren't you drinking too fast?"

"It's fine. I'm not a lightweight..."

Seung-hyun ignored Youngha's dissuasion, saying that. But there was one thing Seung-hyun overlooked.

The only thing he had in common with the Seung-hyun in the novel was the two letters of his name, his body was completely different. Therefore, his alcohol tolerance that he knew and his current alcohol tolerance were not the same.

"Hic."

"Hyung. You said you're good at drinking. It's not a small amount, but... you're completely wasted."

"It's strange... I usually don't get drunk with this much..."

Seung-hyun grabbed his spinning head and mumbled. He was sure he could drink several times this amount and still be fine. Seung-hyun nodded, as if he would slam his head on the table.

"Ha."

At that moment, an unpleasant sensation was felt behind Seung-hyun's back. It wasn't a sensation only Seung-hyun felt.

"Excuse me, do you have some business..."

"It really is Director Han Seung-hyun. I didn't expect to see you in a place like this."

A voice he heard for the first time. But a somewhat familiar face. Seung-hyun lifted his hazy head and carefully examined the man's face.

"Mm... you..."

“The person who said he’d bring in the construction project and ran around everywhere except when sleeping. What brings you to a place like this?”

“Who was it again?”

“...What?”

The man laughed in disbelief at Seung-hyun’s words. The atmosphere was so chilly that Youngha, who was sitting next to him, slipped away, but the danger wasn’t felt at all by the heavily drunk Seung-hyun.

“You’re asking who I am?”

“I’m sure I saw you, it’s a face I saw somewhere... mm, where did I see you...”

Seung-hyun tilted his head constantly with a flushed red face.

‘There’s no way I wouldn’t remember such a handsome man if I saw him somewhere. Why does he seem familiar but I can’t remember who he is.’

“Ha, haha. Well... I guess that’s possible. I wouldn’t be that important of a person to you, Director. But this is quite shocking. Or are you purposely doing this to upset me?”

The man laughed as if he was a bit angry, running his hand through his hair. A strong pheromone that made the skin tingle was blasted at Seung-hyun, but Seung-hyun, who wasn’t used to pheromones yet, just looked up at the man quietly, not knowing it was a threat.

“If I saw... such a handsome man somewhere... there’s no way I’d forget.”

“.....?”

“It’s strange... such a handsome man.”

Seung-hyun, who spit out what he was thinking due to being drunk, slowly blinked and looked at the man as if appraising him. The man finally realized Seung-hyun’s attitude wasn’t a joke and laughed.

“Why on earth did you come here?”

“Is there... any special reason to come to a gay bar?”

“That’s true, but it’s not a place that suits you, Director Han. Well. It would be the same whether it was a gay bar or any club or pub.”

“Why?”

Seung-hyun asked, tilting his head. His eyes, which had risen due to the alcohol that made his mind hazy, were now slightly drooping.

“Because you’re a person who’s obsessed with work to a chilling degree, aren’t you? The type to die with work in hand. Plus, you seem like the type who would never do anything that could be criticized even if it killed you.”

“Haha.”

Well, that was accurate. The actual Han Seung-hyun in the novel didn’t step down from his director position until the moment he died, and tried to interfere with the protagonists.

‘But I have no intention of living and dying like that. If I’m going to die anyway, I should live for myself.’

“I decided to... quit all that now. What does work even matter... I’ll just do what I want to my heart’s content. First of all...”

Seung-hyun said that while staring intently at the man. What would it feel like to sleep with a man like that? A faint pheromone leaked out from Seung-hyun as he vacantly looked at him.

“...Aha.”

The man made a face as if he realized something from that faint pheromone. He seemed flustered for a moment, then soon grinned at Seung-hyun and took a step closer.

“So that was your taste?”

What taste does that taste refer to? Seung-hyun just nodded, slightly mesmerized by the man’s handsome face and soft smile.

“I don’t have that taste, but well, if it’s you, Director...”

The man looked Seung-hyun up and down for a moment, then held out his hand to him. What does this mean? After pondering for a bit, Seung-hyun grabbed that hand, thinking whatever.

“Let’s go together.”

‘Going together from a place like this would mean that, right? Mm. It should be fine since he’s handsome... When would I get a chance to do it with someone like this again.’

He couldn’t think properly with a mind heavily drunk on alcohol. Seung-hyun vacantly looked down at their joined hands and left the bar with him.

The morning he woke up with a splitting headache. Seung-hyun was pulling at his hair, remembering who that familiar-faced man was. How could he have forgotten this when he tried so hard to memorize it so he wouldn’t make a mistake?

“Ju Jae-young... It’s Ju Jae-young.”

While the housekeeper was organizing clothes yesterday, he searched and looked up photos of the main characters in the novel. He checked over and over so he absolutely wouldn’t get involved. He must have been considerably drunk and the bar was dark, so he couldn’t properly recognize him.

‘Still, how could I not recognize Ju Jae-young? Not some other character, but the childhood friend of the main lead and the sub-male lead of the novel...!’

Even so, how could he get involved with Ju Jae-young of all people? Seung-hyun tapped his head, which wasn’t fully sober and checked his body.

An aching waist, bruises here and there on his body. And above all, the pain felt in a place that was difficult to mention.

‘...Let’s run away for now.’

Thinking he needed to get out of here first, he carefully lifted the blanket and put one foot out. However, before he could fully take out his other leg, a large hand grabbed Seung-hyun’s wrist tightly.

“Where are you going?”

“Ahhh!”

Ju Jae-young, who had woken up at some point, was slowly blinking and looking up at Seung-hyun.

Episode 5

“Ju, Ju, Ju Jae-young.”

“Yes, that’s me.”

Unlike Seung-hyun who couldn’t even speak properly due to his bewilderment, Jae-young looked completely unfazed. No, he even looked very satisfied.

Seeing that face, the events of last night flashed through Seung-hyun’s mind like a panorama. The memories that felt like a zoetrope made his face turn extremely pale.

“About last night... I mean, what happened last night...”

“You’re not going to say you don’t remember, right? After ravishing me so enthusiastically.”

“Wh-what are you talking about? If anything, I was the one who was ravished...!”

“See, you remember it well.”

Seung-hyun felt like he would lose his mind with the way Jae-young dizzily switched between informal and formal speech. Even though he decided not to care about other people’s gazes or opinions, this was a different matter.

‘I didn’t want to get involved with a character from the novel...’

“I didn’t know our Director Han had this kind of secret.”

His smiling face was so pretty yet so annoying to look at. Seung-hyun strongly pulled his caught wrist out and got off the bed. He hurriedly picked up his clothes and put them on, his guard raised high.

“I had a great time yesterday. As for how it was for you, Director... I don’t think I need to ask.”

“...I think I drank too much yesterday. I guess I exceeded my limit since it’s been a while.”

“Yes, it definitely seemed that way. You even left such passionate marks on my back while begging me not to stop.”

“Y-you... No, Ju Jae-young. Please shut that mouth of yours.”

At Jae-young’s words, the events of last night that he had tried to bury deep in his mind resurfaced again, making Seung-hyun blush and turn his head.

He wanted to pounce and cover Jae-young’s mouth right away. If possible, he wanted to cover up the nail marks on his exposed back too.

“Your reaction is amusing, Director Han Seung-hyun.”

“This situation may be amusing to you, but it’s not for me.”

“Why? Didn’t you say you wanted to sleep with a handsome man? Even if he was an alpha.”

“...Don’t read too much into what I said when I was too drunk to even recognize who you were. I hope you can forget about today.”

“Why? Did I not perform well? I don’t think that’s the case though.”

“Please, shut that mouth...”

Seung-hyun bit his innocent lips and spoke. Honestly, if you ask whether it was good or bad – it was good. Since they were both alphas, he couldn’t feel the dizzying sensation of pheromones intertwining, but pheromones were still unfamiliar to Seung-hyun anyway. Those things really didn’t matter at all.

Only the warmth of another person that he felt up close for the first time, the thrilling sensations that awakened him even in his hazy mind, and the memory of embracing Jae-young’s back with all his strength remained vaguely in his slightly blurred recollection.

“Wouldn’t this be quite a shocking story if other people found out?”

“.....”

“It seems like a secret you have to hide somehow, Director. I think we have a lot to talk about.”

‘No wonder he looked excessively pleased, he must have thought he got some dirt on me.’

Seung-hyun let out a small empty laugh. After all, Han Seung-hyun was the villain of this world, and he didn’t have good relationships with most of the main characters, so it was only natural. His mind that had been in a mess due to the shock was starting to calm down.

“I don’t particularly want to let others know about this either...”

“Go ahead and talk.”

“...What?”

Jae-young’s face that had been smiling leisurely lost its smile at Seung-hyun’s composed attitude. Seung-hyun spoke again nonchalantly.

“I said go ahead and talk. Spread rumors everywhere. I don’t care.”

“...Are you still drunk?”

“No, I’m perfectly sober.”

His stomach hurt and his head felt like it would split, but his mind was clear. Yes, the milk had already been spilled anyway. It was only a matter of time before the characters heard about the change in his attitude, it was just the order that changed a little.

“I don’t know what kind of rumors you want to spread, but go ahead.”

“Are you serious? You know how conservative Chairman Han is. If he hears that you slept with an alpha...”

“I’ve decided to quit the company. I’ve decided not to care about the succession structure anymore.”

“...Was I the one who got drunk instead of you?”

Jae-young muttered as if his soul had left his body. The shock was evident on his face. It was only natural, since the Han Seung-hyun he knew wasn't like this.

But Seung-hyun didn't care what kind of person Han Seung-hyun had been until now, or what others thought of his actions. Seung-hyun finally picked up his coat that was a little further away and put it on.

"Excuse me. I'll get going now. Don't contact me again."

After saying that, Seung-hyun left Jae-young's house without hesitation. Honestly, he wasn't as calm as he appeared. He just didn't want to show Jae-young his wretched state any longer.

"Wait...!"

He heard Jae-young's voice trying to stop him from behind, but Seung-hyun left his room without looking back. For now, he just wanted to go home.

"Haa..."

The first place Seung-hyun headed to after taking a taxi and returning home was none other than the bathroom. He had been barely holding back the urge to throw up everything in his stomach, which felt unwell as if he would puke at any moment.

Only then did he realize that there was no way the original Han Seung-hyun's alcohol tolerance would be the same as his own, and he regretted it, but it was too late. The liquor he had downed without any snacks poured over the toilet bowl, and Seung-hyun got up from the floor, wiping his mouth.

"I used to be fine with this much before. I guess I can't drink excessively anymore."

Moreover, since he had gloriously created a dark history claiming it was his last in life, he thought it would be better not to drink alcohol at all in the future. Seung-hyun threw the clothes heavily scented with Jae-young's pheromones into the trash can and threw himself onto the bed.

"I did check off one thing on my life's bucket list... but I also created a dark history along with it. I don't know what to say about this."

Seung-hyun lay face down on the bed as if he were dead. He intended to fall asleep again, but it didn't go as planned. His stomach still hurt, and yesterday's events kept coming back to his mind.

'Ah, there...'

'I won't run away, so... huff... please let go of this. I can't breathe.'

"Ahhh!"

In the end, Seung-hyun pulled at his hair and punched the blanket, rolling around on the bed. Why did he have to get involved with Ju Jae-young of all people?

Ju Jae-young was the childhood friend of the novel's male lead Seon-hu and the sub-male lead of this novel. He was also a character as popular as the main couple.

Jae-young had been inseparable with Seon-hu since childhood. Their relationship was a little deeper than ordinary friends.

The relationship between their families was also good, and since he heard he was likely to present as an alpha while Seon-hu was likely to be an omega, he naturally thought Seon-hu was the only one for him.

Moreover, the elders of both families linked them together since they were young as if it was only natural. They were essentially in an engaged relationship. However, things changed when Seon-hu unexpectedly presented as a non-dynamic in high school, contrary to expectations.

The relationship between the two families was still good, but their relationship couldn't be the same as before. Jae-young's family subtly expressed their inner thoughts that he, as a dominant alpha, should naturally be matched with a dominant omega. Then, Jae-young's father made a remark that he should at least be with a regular omega, which became the catalyst.

Seon-hu's family, irritated by those words, started arguing if Jae-young was the only decent alpha in the world, and their engagement ended up being broken off.

However, Jae-young still liked Seon-hu. He couldn't understand that their dynamics had torn them apart. Ignoring all the meddling from his family, he stayed by Seon-hu's side without getting engaged to anyone else.

But Seon-hu ended up marrying Tae-sung, and Jae-young thought Seon-hu was forced into an unwanted marriage, so he was displeased with Tae-sung. However, there were times when even Jae-young unhesitantly took Tae-sung's side – when dealing with Han Seung-hyun.

He disliked Han Seung-hyun as much as Tae-sung did, and he was a character who had bad blood with Han Seung-hyun. By now, Han Seung-hyun would have already scattered some obstacles in Tae-sung and Seon-hu's path...

“He must hate me, but he still slept with me even though he was sober.”

Seung-hyun muttered with a long sigh. Can someone go that far for a friend? Anyway, he was an amazing person.

I should never get involved with him again. Seung-hyun thought as he rubbed his still aching stomach. The pain didn't seem to subside easily, and it didn't feel like it was just because of a hangover. It was a moment when he needed the power of medicine.

He poured the medicine he got from the hospital into his mouth and returned to bed. If he slept deeply like this and woke up, wouldn't the pain subside a little?

With that thought, Seung-hyun closed his eyes. And when he opened his eyes after waking up from sleep...

“.....?”

He was back at the hospital.