

Real Man 121

Chapter 121

It was nice that he had prepared something for me, but he should have stopped there.

“I don’t have a boyfriend yet, but there is someone I want to date.”

“Really? Someone from work?”

“Um... not yet.”

“What does that mean?”

I just smiled at my mother’s reaction.

I could have lied to her, but I didn’t want to.

“I’ll show you later.”

“Really? You have to show me.”

“Of course.”

When I answered confidently, my mother didn’t press any further and nodded.

“Just bring him over. I’ll treat him like a daughter.”

“He’ll run away if you treat him like you did to Jaehui.”

“Oh, I won’t do that. I’ll treat him like a daughter in a drama. Hohoho.”

My mother laughed at my joke.

Looking back, I realized that I had never properly introduced her to anyone.

There was no formal meeting.

The only time we met face to face was at the wedding hall.

We didn’t even have a reception, so there was no chance to sit down and talk with my mother-in-law.

That was how it was at the wedding, and after that, it was even worse.

We barely kept in touch.

I was such a cruel son.

As I chatted with my mother about this and that, the sun set.

My father hadn’t come home yet.

“I wonder if he’s drinking somewhere again.”

“He’ll be back soon.”

“No. I have a bad feeling. He must have gone somewhere else. You don’t drink much, do you?”

“Of course not.”

I hid my embarrassment and nodded.

I wasn’t the type to avoid alcohol.

Whether it was at a company dinner, or with the gym people, or with my friends.

I enjoyed drinking with them.

Unlike before, I didn’t feel like it was a waste of time.

I rather liked opening up to people over drinks.

While I was talking to my mother about alcohol, my phone vibrated.

It was a message from my father.

‘Mother’s intuition is no joke.’

I quickly put my phone in my pocket and got ready to leave.

Then my mother rolled up her sleeves as if she couldn’t stand it anymore.

“I can’t take this. I’ll call him.”

“No, it’s okay. I have an appointment for dinner anyway. I’ll be back soon.”

“What about dinner? You said you were meeting Hyunsoo tomorrow.”

“I’m meeting another friend. I’ll eat outside and come back.”

“Okay. Be careful.”

My mother trusted everything I said, even if I told her that beans were made from rice cakes.

She looked at me without any doubt.

I held her hand tightly and said,

“I’ll be back soon.”

As soon as I got outside, I checked my father’s message again.

He wanted to have a drink with me.

What was going on?

I didn’t expect him to contact me first, even though he mentioned it on the phone last time.

I walked while thinking of various scenarios.

A few minutes later,

I arrived at the pork soup place that my father had briefly mentioned before.

He said there was an amazing place near his office?

He said that while my mother was scolding him for drinking too much.

I smiled as I remembered how his authority had dropped in front of her.

Thanks to that, the father who had always seemed cold and distant felt closer to me.

My father was standing in front of the pork soup place and said,

“You’re here.”

“You should have gone in first.”

“I just got here too.”

He obviously had been waiting for a long time.

I knew it, but I didn’t say anything.

He wanted to keep his pride in front of his son, even if he lost it in front of his wife.

I had a vague idea of what he felt.

The pork soup was quite tasty.

The spicy broth and the side dishes were clean and simple.

Clank.

I clinked glasses with him and smiled brightly.

My father smiled awkwardly and drank his glass.

I wanted to tell him that my mother was worried about him, but I didn’t say anything.

Instead, I emptied my glass and poured him another one.

We exchanged some words along with the drinks.

Especially about the cancellation of the Woosang Construction contract last time.

We talked a lot about that.

“That place looked really dangerous. People might ask why you didn’t take the contract, but I think you did well listening to me.”

“Thank you, father.”

“Kid. You’re the one who should be thanked.”

But that didn’t mean that the wall between us had completely crumbled down.

When we moved on to more casual topics, sometimes our conversation stalled.

“How do you feel about going hiking tomorrow, father?”

“Well, ahem...”

The silence flowed as the conversation broke off.

Then we drank to fill the awkwardness.

I understood why people liked alcohol so much.

Even trivial words made me happy, and meaningless jokes made me feel closer.

And.

It gave me courage that I didn’t have before.

“Father, do you have any regrets?”

“About what?”

I put down my glass and looked at my father’s face.

I threw out the question that I had buried in my heart for a long time, with the help of alcohol.

“About lending money to your friend.”

“...”

He didn’t ask me how I knew that.

He didn’t ask me how much I knew either.

He just drank his drink calmly.

I stopped him from pouring himself another one and did it for him instead.

After doing that twice, he finally opened his mouth.

“It might sound like a sorry excuse to your mother, you, and Jaehui, but I don’t regret lending him money.”

“Yes, father.”

There was no regret in his eyes, which had been chewing over the past for a short time.

“I owed him a big debt, and I just paid back some of it with money. That’s how I think of it.”

“...”

And there was sincerity in his voice, which he uttered calmly.

“Money can be earned again. I was thinking that I wouldn’t get it back when I lent it to him. It might sound like a lie, but...”

“No.”

It was fine even if it was a lie.

I just wanted to hear my father’s story.

Thud.

He put down his glass and asked me.

“Do you hate me?”

“No. Of course not.”

I looked at him without any hesitation.

He silently filled my glass with alcohol.

He had a regretful expression on his face for a moment, then he opened up to me.

“Do you know what I really regret?”

“I didn’t know... but I think I do now.”

He paused and looked at me, surprised by my answer.

I had never thought that I resembled my father.

But I saw myself in him a while ago.

I lent Kim Hyunsoo money without hesitation and thought it was okay if he didn’t pay me back.

I worried that he might get hurt when I saw him struggling to repay me.

The reason why I came to my hometown and wanted to see him was for Kim Hyunsoo.

Not just because of the huge debt he owed me.

He was a really precious friend.

What would I feel if I lost contact with him because of the money I lent him?

“I regret losing a friend because of money.”

“...”

“And I regret burdening him with guilt.”

My father drank his glass without a word.

He was a person who cared more about people than money or success.

That was why he took care of his employees first when his company went bankrupt.

I used to think that he was pathetic and incompetent for doing that.

But not anymore.

I felt like I could understand his heart.

Whoosh.

When I went outside, the wind blew fiercely.

It felt like autumn had passed by in a flash.

“Hiccup. Don’t tell your mother... that we drank.”

“How can she not know?”

“She’s the kind of person who would believe anything you say. Hehehe.”

I supported my staggering father.

I felt his warmth through his thin clothes.

“It’s cold. Let’s go quickly.”

“What are you talking about? It’s not cold at all. Puhaha.”

He pretended to be strong, but I could see that he was shivering.

He leaned on me when I wrapped my arm around his waist.

We walked close together like that.

We walked in zigzags, but we knew the direction to our destination.

The next morning,

I finished my breakfast and got ready to leave.

“Yoo-hyun, why don’t you rest a bit before you go?”

“I have to meet Hyunsoo.”

“Really? I won’t see you much then.”

“Mother, father is going hiking today.”

“I don’t know. I can’t guarantee that he’ll be able to get up.”

I chuckled and hugged my mother who was grumbling.

She sighed softly as she hugged me back.

“I would scold you for drinking with him if it wasn’t for this.”

“Please forgive me this once.”

“Next time, it won’t be okay. Are you alright? You smell like alcohol.”

“I’m fine. It’s nothing.”

“How can you be so stubborn like your father?”

“I’m his son. I have to take after him. I’ll be back soon.”

I comforted my mother and went outside.

I had somewhere to stop by before meeting Kim Hyunsoo.

Today was the day of the couple’s meeting for my mother’s hiking club.

My father didn’t like mingling with strangers, but he decided to go with her this time with great determination.

-You know how your father is. He’s going to the mountain because he doesn’t want to waste the hiking clothes you bought him. It’s not because of me.

My mother said that, but I had a feeling that my father wanted to get closer to her by using the hiking clothes as an excuse.

I found it very endearing.

He looked much better now than when he was stiff and authoritarian in the past.

I wanted to do something for him as well.

That was why I moved faster than usual.

I stopped by a printing shop, then went to a mart.

I bought a lot of chocolate and drinks there.

It was a little more than the total number of people in the hiking club that my mother told me about.

It was better to have some left over than not enough.

<Gift> Harmony Hiking Club, Han Seungwon, Kim Yeonhee couple

I wrote a note and put it in the box with the gift.

It was a small gift, but it had my heart in it.

I imagined how happy my mother and father would be when they received it.

I hoped they would like it a lot.

Maybe it was because I drank too much soup, but a smile formed on my lips as I packed everything up.

I finished organizing and went to the car center to meet Kim Hyunsoo.

He was working even on Sunday.

He waved his hand at me with black oil on his face, and I felt a pang in my chest.

He greeted me with a bright face.

“You didn’t have to come. Why are you here?”

“I just stopped by.”

“That doesn’t make sense. Sit here and wait.”

“I’m fine.”

He didn’t listen to me.

“Eat something and sober up. How can you drink so much when you have to go up today?”

“Do I smell?”

“Yeah. It’s obvious, isn’t it?”

“I just had a drink because I missed you. Do you want to have one more with me?”

“Are you crazy? I have to work.”

Kim Hyunsoo complained and opened a can.

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I drank with him.

The cold drink felt good going down my throat.

Kim Hyun-soo said casually.

“Hey, if you’re worried, I’ll decline. I’m really fine.”

“I know. You’re fine.”

“But why did you come down when you’re so busy?”

“I missed you.”

“Hey, that’s gross. Why are you like this?”

Yoo-hyun shrugged his shoulders at Kim Hyun-soo’s teasing words.

Seeing him in person, all his worries melted away like snow.

It felt like he had returned to his normal life.

Whoosh.

The wind blew.

Kim Hyun-soo, who had been looking at the distance for a moment, said.

“Yoo-hyun, I’ll pay you back for sure.”

“Do as you please. I don’t care.”

“Okay. Then trust me once.”

“Of course. If I don’t trust you, who will?”

“Ha, this kid is really disgusting today.”

Yoo-hyun laughed at Kim Hyun-soo’s disgusted expression.

At that moment, Yoo-hyun completely let go of his intention to persuade him.

At the same time, he remembered his father’s words.

-The biggest regret I have is that I didn’t trust my friend more.

Maybe he judged Kim Hyun-soo’s actions too much by his own standards.

Even though he decided to think of it as money he didn’t have.

Squeeze.

Instead of speaking, Yoo-hyun tightly held Kim Hyun-soo’s hand sitting next to him.

“You’re gross, dude.”

“You don’t have to be shy.”

“No, I’m not. Why are you so strong?”

“I’ll hug you if you let go.”

Only then did Kim Hyun-soo give up and slump his shoulders.

He felt the warmth from the back of his hand.

Kim Hyun-soo muttered.

“Ha, this kid is really drunk.”

Whether he said it or not, Yoo-hyun stayed still for a while.

He just wanted to do that for him.

On the bus back home.

Just as it was about to depart, he got a call from his mother.

Yoo-hyun answered the phone casually.

“Yes, mom.”

-Oh, my. What happened?

“What’s wrong? Is there a problem?”

-No, how could you think of that? You don’t have any money.

“I didn’t spend much. I just told mom and dad to enjoy hiking.”

-Everyone is going crazy right now. Where did you get such a son? Can you hear me?

He heard the noise around him through the phone.

There were so many voices mixed together that it was hard to understand them properly.

One thing was clear: they were all cheering enthusiastically.

He pictured his mother’s proud expression in his head.

A moment later, his mother said.

-Thank you so much.

“What about dad?”

-He’s overjoyed. He doesn’t like socializing, but he’s very excited right now. He’s leading the conversation.

“That’s good. I’ll send you more next time.”

-Yoo-hyun, thank you. I have to go now. I’ll call you later.

“Okay, mom.”

-Son, I love you.

His mother hung up with her last words.

Yoo-hyun looked at the turned off phone screen for a while.

The voice that he heard briefly through the phone still lingered in his chest.

I love you too, mom.

He regretted not being able to say it right away.

Beep beep.

Then a picture came with a message.

There were his mother and father's affectionate faces in it.

They had drinks and notes in both hands, so someone must have taken it for them.

Yoo-hyun fiddled with the screen and thought.

More in the future.

He wanted to do more for them.

He wanted to feel this happiness more.

His heart raced.

As the weekend ended, the usual routine of the company began again.

Yoo-hyun met Kwon Se-jung after finishing the morning part meeting and walked with him.

Kwon Se-jung looked at the other side of the partition and asked.

"Yoo-hyun, do your team members also do a lot of stocks?"

"They do a little bit."

"Should I do it too? Look at that. It's crazy these days."

He pointed at the monitor screen where a complex graph was displayed.

Then it switched to a work screen right away.

The man sitting in front of the monitor was typing on the keyboard as if he was working hard.

But he was also looking around, which anyone could tell that he was doing stocks with caution.

"That's not how you make money by looking at it."

“But my senior made 500 in a few days. One of Jung-hyuk’s team members made millions. Everyone seems to be making money.”

As Kwon Se-jung said, there were more people doing stocks lately.

With the spread of HTS (stock trading program), the accessibility increased, and people who made a fortune with KOSDAQ stocks with large fluctuations appeared one after another.

“There are also many people who lost. They just don’t talk about it.”

“Isn’t it rising again these days? Hansung Electronics stock also went up a lot.”

“It’s going to be hard this year.”

After the dot-com bubble burst, the stock market had been steadily rising for about seven years.

Especially recently, people got greedy as it fell for a while due to the US subprime crisis and then rose again.

They only remembered the price that was 2,000 a month ago, not the price that was 500 seven years ago.

They thought it would naturally rise again if it fell, as if by inertia.

Kwon Se-jung, who had no interest in stocks, was tempted.

“Should I try it?”

“Just do as much as you can afford to lose.”

Yoo-hyun advised him moderately.

“Should I? Think of it as money I don’t have?”

“Yeah. If you do, just focus on the blue-chip companies.”

There’s no such thing as money you can afford to lose, but it’s better to experience it once than to be afraid and not do it.

The problem is when you get addicted and impatient, but it’s not a bad economic activity if you do it healthily.

He sent Kwon Se-jung away and returned to his seat.

“Yoo-hyun, look at this.”

“What is it?”

As soon as Yoo-hyun sat down, Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo called him as if he had something urgent.

On the screen he pointed to, there was a post on a bulletin board.

-Awesome information. Miracle Invest's super hit pick!

Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo was excited.

"They said Se-mun Electronics would go up, and today it hit the upper limit. They say it will go up at least five times..."

"Do you believe internet posts?"

It's okay to do stocks within a reasonable range, but it's obvious that you'll get scammed if you're greedy.

"Still. They wrote it professionally. It's not too late, right?"

"Sigh, Assistant Manager, you shouldn't invest by listening to others."

"No, everyone was talking about how good it was here and there."

Maybe Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo relaxed after finishing his report.

He was interested in useless things.

He would have let him experience it, but he couldn't just leave it alone when he knew it was a scam.

"I told you last time not to invest."

"Really? It seems like it will go up..."

Should he have left it alone?

He shook his head at his regretful expression.

It wasn't just Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo.

Buzzing.

Lunchtime at the company cafeteria.

Kim Hyun-min's sigh was mixed with the conversations of the people.

"Did I tell you I sold the subscription right?"

"Really? Did you lose money?"

"No. That's not it. I just broke even. But the next morning, the premium went up again."

"How much?"

Assistant Manager Kim Young-gil perked up his ears and Manager Kim Hyun-min held out one finger.

“A big one.”

Then the part members who were having lunch together exclaimed.

It was understandable that it went up by ten million won overnight.

Manager Kim Hyun-min glanced at Yoo-hyun.

‘I sold it because of what you said.’

He didn’t say anything, but he subtly pressured Yoo-hyun.

“Do you regret it?”

“No? I never regret a choice I made once.”

“I believe you.”

He shook his head vigorously and said no, but he didn’t seem like that at all.

Manager Kim Hyun-min’s weak voice proved it.

“Actually, I don’t have to buy a house right away.”

“You’ll think it was a good thing someday.”

“Well, maybe. Life is like that.”

He spoke calmly, but he flared his nostrils and lowered his eyebrows.

Anyone could see that he was sighing inside.

This is why.

This is why you shouldn’t give investment advice lightly.

Yoo-hyun shook his head and put a spoonful of rice in his mouth.

“Manager, look at that.”

“What is it?”

Assistant Manager Kim Young-gil sitting next to him pointed to the TV on the wall, and people’s eyes moved at the same time.

-Woo-sang Construction declared ‘bankrupt’, fears of domino bankruptcy of construction companies.

There was breaking news on the screen.

“...”

Manager Kim Hyun-min opened his mouth without saying anything.

At that moment, the voices of the people next to him sounded like speakers.

“Those bastards were all corrupt. This subscription was a total scam too.”

“Huh! Then what happens to the people who subscribed to Woo-sang Construction?”

“What do you mean? The construction company went bankrupt, so they went bankrupt too.”

Sloshing.

There were sighs everywhere because such a big company collapsed suddenly.

In between, there was a man who had frozen like ice.

The ice's head slowly turned around.

Then he looked into the eyes of the people he was facing one by one.

Each time, a word came out.

“Wow... Manager Kim would have lost all his money if he wasn't careful.”

The ice's eyebrows lowered and the ice's eyes became crescent-shaped.

“Why not? If it wasn't for Yoo-hyun, I would have gone to the portrait gallery today. The day before yesterday was the day I paid the interim payment.”

“You really have to treat him big time, Manager.”

“...”

The ice had no answer.

The ice moved slowly like slow motion with the words of the part members as background.

His hand went over Yoo-hyun's hand on the table.

The ice lifted his mouth and said.

“Yoo-hyun, you son of a gun.”

“Stop it.”

Yoo-hyun slipped his hand away.

Creaking.

Then the ice got up and turned around the table and came to Yoo-hyun.

Then he suddenly tried to hug him.

“You lucky bastard!”

“Gulp.”

Kim Hyun-min resisted his body, and he knelt down on one knee on the floor and grabbed Yoo-hyun’s hand under the table.

“I told you I did well selling because of what you said.”

“Let go of me and talk.”

“I’m just so grateful.”

Manager Kim Hyun-min blinked his eyes like a gentle lamb, and laughter burst out everywhere.

“Hahahahaha.”

That was the moment.

Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo’s laughter suddenly stopped.

“Ha, ha, ha...”

-Se-mun Electronics president Han Man-sik, arrested for stock manipulation.

Soon after, a small news passed by at the bottom of the screen.

Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo, who stopped laughing, quickly took out his phone.

On the stock window on his phone, blue waves were falling like a waterfall.

“Ha, lower limit.”

Then he looked at Yoo-hyun with a blank expression.

“Huh? Isn’t that where Assistant Manager Park went in?”

“Oh, stocks? The place you’ve been talking about since last time? You said you were going in...”

Then Assistant Manager Kim Young-gil and Lee Chan-ho’s conversation mixed.

Yoo-hyun backed away a little bit.

He tried to pull his hand out, but Manager Kim Hyun-min was holding it with both hands.

He looked like he would have to deal with Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo too.

“Yoo-hyun!”

Wham.

Sure enough, Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo hugged Yoo-hyun.

Oh no!

“Gulp. Let go of me.”

“Thank you so much, my mentee!”

“Our lucky charm!”

Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo and Manager Kim Hyun-min said at the same time in harmony.

One hugged him and one held his hand.

What is this?

Chapter 123

Clang.

As I finished my meal and walked past her, Lee Aerin dropped her spoon on the floor.

She met my eyes and covered her mouth with her hand.

The other female employees followed her and surrounded her, frozen in place.

Their reactions were all the same.

It was lucky that she didn't spill her plate.

Whispers.

I could guess what they were talking about even if I couldn't hear them.

This was going to be a big problem.

“Let go of it already.”

“Why? Let's stay like this for a bit longer.”

“I'm so grateful. So grateful.”

Screech.

I quickly turned my body and got up from my seat.

Then I grabbed my plate and moved away.

I had to get rid of these guys first.

“I'll go ahead.”

“Come with me, Lucky!”

“Mentee!”

Two voices echoed behind my back.

I ignored the sounds and walked fast.

I was so embarrassed that I wanted to die.

That’s why I moved to the opposite side of the cafeteria, where I didn’t know anyone.

As I walked quickly, I heard conversations from various tables in the cafeteria.

Among them, there were some sounds that caught my ears.

“Are those Miracle guys scammers?”

“Do you watch Miracle’s paid broadcast? Kim Hyungjin may be young, but he has a good sense. He’s been right about many things.”

“He’s probably lying about things that have already gone up. If I did that, I would say I made several times more money.”

Was it because of the Semun Electronics news?

There were talks about Miracle Invest everywhere.

My steps slowed down.

“Our team leader said he made 20% because of Miracle’s pick.”

“I heard that too. He just recommended it, not forced us to invest. Kim Hyungjin is a specialist in investing in unlisted companies.”

“Well, if he can predict even the listed stocks, he would be a god.”

Miracle Invest had picked Semun Electronics, which was delisted.

But people still praised Miracle Invest.

This cognitive dissonance was common in the stock market.

They were blinded by the illusion created by money.

That was the moment.

“I wish DNTech would go public soon.”

‘DNTech?’

I heard a name that was strongly engraved in my brain.

“Oh, isn’t that the company that’s going to be our partner?”

“Yeah. Miracle’s Kim Hyungjin said it’s 100% sure. He’s openly saying it on his paid broadcast.”

‘No way...’

I paused and recalled the news that was vividly remembered in my memory.

-The president of DNTech, Yeo Kyungchul, a partner of Hansung Electronics, was arrested and indicted today. The prosecution plans to urgently investigate the senior executives of Hansung Electronics’ LCD division on charges of leaking LCD-based technology to China through DNTech.

About a year later.

The news that I first learned from TV.

A huge scandal where the entire LCD division was investigated by the prosecution.

And.

-I’m Shin Kyungwook, the head of the investigation team who came to the mobile division. I will take over the work while the mobile group leader is vacant. Please focus on your work, everyone.

The incident that led me to meet Shin Kyungwook, my mentor and senior executive.

Was this the beginning?

“...”

Even after I put my plate on the rest area, even after I left the cafeteria door, even after I joined the late part-timers.

I reminisced about the past.

Maybe there was something big hidden behind what I remembered superficially?

My intuition told me so.

I was still lost in thought on the bench in front of the store.

Park Seungwoo, who was next to me, spoke up.

“What are you doing? Your ice cream is going to melt. Do you want me to get you another one?”

“No. I’m fine.”

Right. Let’s focus on reality for now.

It hasn’t happened yet.

Even if I miss something, I can fix it later.

“You don’t like ice cream, do you? Yoo-hyun, drink my coffee. Here, I didn’t touch it with my mouth.”

“Manager Kim, Yoo-hyun likes ice cream. Right?”

“...”

What are they doing?

I looked at Park Seungwoo and Kim Hyunmin, who were sitting on both sides of me.

Their eyes sparkled as if they had tails to waggle any moment.

Choi Minhee, who was watching them, pulled them away.

“What are you doing since earlier? Don’t bother Yoo-hyun.”

“What? We’re taking care of our part-timer.”

“Bothering? We’re taking care of our mentee.”

The two men responded and Choi Minhee sighed deeply.

“Sigh...”

That afternoon, another news shook the company.

-KOSDAQ, KOSPI plummet. Sidecar triggered, followed by breaker!

Starting with the bankruptcy of Woosang Construction, the foreign selling pressure exploded and the stock prices shook.

As some loan companies went bankrupt due to the aftermath of the US subprime crisis, the Nasdaq futures index plunged.

The domestic stock market was a mess at the end of the day.

Normal trading was not possible, and eventually trading was temporarily suspended.

“I’m going crazy!”

“Ha, I shouldn’t have gone in.”

That’s why there were more people smoking on the outdoor terrace on the first floor.

They all had worried faces.

Park Seungwoo rubbed his chest.

He was still shaky, even as he smoked.

“Just tell me. I’ll buy you a meal.”

“You haven’t paid for the last one yet.”

“I wrote it down in the ledger. I’ll take care of you until you get into the coffin.”

“Okay. I’ll charge you interest too.”

There were a lot of people buying meals these days.

But more importantly.

How was Hyunsoo doing?

-It’s okay, buddy. It’s not a big deal and I haven’t lost anything yet. I decided to do it, so I want to try it once.

I decided to trust Kim Hyunsoo, but I was worried.

If he invested in put options, he should have sold them today.

If he got greedy and waited until the expiration date, he could lose a lot of money if the stock went up.

The stock price was bound to go up again.

I fiddled with my phone, wondering whether to call or not.

That’s when it happened.

Beep.

-50 million won deposited to Han Yoo-hyun’s account at Seoul Bank.

It was a message left on my phone.

‘What?’

Before I could even blink, the phone rang.

It was Park Young Hoon’s call.

He blurted out in a frantic voice.

-Hey! Yoo-hyun! You hit the jackpot!

“What are you talking about? Did you send me money?”

-Yeah. Did you get it? Go to the bank and check it out.

“No, what is this money? And why is it so much?”

I didn’t entrust much money to Park Young Hoon.

The stock market was unstable, so I invested in safe assets like gold and dollars. I didn't even make a sell reservation.

There was no way this much money would come in.

But Park Young Hoon's answer was outrageous.

-I sold Hyun Soo's stuff today.

"Kim Hyun Soo?"

-Yeah. Awesome. I sold everything at the peak. The return rate was a whopping 300%. 300%. I achieved twice the target return rate.

"What does that mean?"

-I wanted to take more, but Hyun Soo said to just sell it. Wow. He has a gambler's spirit.

"..."

I was stunned by Park Young Hoon's excited chatter.

300%? How did he do that?

Does the money come in right away if he sells it today?

No, there was something more puzzling.

"Why are you giving it to me?"

-It's the money I borrowed from you.

"...Bro, I got it. Let's talk later."

-Yoo-hyun...

I hung up the phone for now.

I lent Kim Hyun Soo 30 million won.

It was a lot of money, but compared to the debt he owed me, it was rather petty cash.

But.

That money came back as 50 million won after a little over a month.

Does that make sense?

I couldn't believe it.

The next day.

I was in Seoul Bank near Hansung Tower.

I met Eun Jong Ho, the bank clerk who lent me money last time.

“Oh, I remember. You’re the one who borrowed money last month. Did you say you were lending money to a friend?”

“Yes. That’s right.”

“Haha, nice to meet you. What brings you here today?”

Eun Jong Ho’s nosiness and smug smile were still there.

When he becomes a branch manager in the future, he will have arrogance added to his personality.

Well, he has some skills though.

I chuckled as I recalled the past memory and answered him.

“I’m here to pay back the money.”

“Already? It doesn’t seem like a month has passed... Well, okay.”

Eun Jong Ho took my ID card and a paper with my account number and muttered to himself.

“Your friend must have paid you back already...”

“He did.”

“Oh, really? You have a good friend.”

“Yes. A very good friend.”

“It’s none of my business, but did you charge interest? Even between friends, transactions should be thorough.”

Eun Jong Ho smiled slyly at me as he entered my account number on the computer.

-If I may say so, it’s better not to lend money between friends. You might lose both your friend and your money. Is your friend worth that much?

That was his attitude when he lectured me when I borrowed money last time.

His biased view was clearly embedded in his casual remark.

“I did.”

“Oh, how much?”

When I held up two fingers, he nodded as if he understood.

“20 means 0.66% interest per month for 30 million, 8% annual interest. Well, that’s not bad.”

His mental arithmetic skill was still there.

But his standard was wrong.

I shook my head as if it wasn’t him and he corrected himself.

“Oh, 200? That’s a bit too much, wait a minute...”

His eyes shook greatly as he checked my account information through the monitor screen.

“50,000? Is this the money you received with interest?”

“Yes. It just happened.”

“Gasp! Ha, 66% interest per month? How on earth...”

What did he mean by that?

Even loan sharks don’t charge that much.

How did he get that much money by trading?

Something like that?

Of course, I agreed with him.

So I confronted Kim Hyun Soo.

-Come on, if you’re going to pay me back, just pay me back what you borrowed. Where did you get this?

-I borrowed it because you wanted to, so I’m paying it back because I want to.

-Hey, you don’t have to do that. Anyway, I’m not taking it.

I refused to take it, saying I wouldn’t.

Then the words I spat out came back to me.

-Then throw it away.

-...

I lost my words at that.

I had no choice but to do as Kim Hyun Soo wanted.

Because his feelings were clearly conveyed to me.

“What kind of friend is he?”

“A good friend.”

“No, that... Can I borrow some money from you?”

At that moment, Eun Jong Ho uttered an absurd remark from his mouth.

I could feel his sincerity from his anxious expression.

I snorted and answered him.

“Of course not.”

“Then how do you pay back the money...”

“I don’t know. If I knew, I would have done it myself.”

“Ha...”

Eun Jong Ho sighed deeply, forgetting his duty.

Then he tapped the keyboard with a hollow expression.

“I guess I can’t do it...”

He also muttered some useless words.

Chapter 124

How did that guy become the branch manager?

Yoo-hyun pushed aside the rising doubt and took out his phone.

He saw the message that Kim Hyunsu had sent him after their call yesterday.

-Thank you, Yoo-hyun.

Maybe Kim Hyunsu already knew what Yoo-hyun had only realized after 20 years.

That he should be grateful for what he received, and that he should give more to the precious person in his life.

Yoo-hyun was thankful that Kim Hyunsu had shown him that his current resolve, his direction in life, and his vision for the future were not wrong.

That he had pointed out the way that would surely make things better.

That he was his friend.

He was so thankful for that.

“Thank you, Hyunsu.”

He felt happy, even though he owed him a bigger debt.

How wonderful it was to have such a valuable friend to whom he could repay more.

He planned to pay him back with interest over the long years ahead.

A few days later.

The office looked no different from before.

If anything, the atmosphere around Oh Jaehwan, the team leader, had darkened.

It was right when the submission period for the contest had begun.

“Park, come here for a moment.”

“Yes, sir.”

“How many times have I told you not to prepare for the contest like this?”

He called Park Seungwoo more frequently.

And then he grilled him over the contest content, claiming that he had reviewed it belatedly.

The team members frowned at this.

“Why is he doing that?”

“I don’t know.”

Yoo-hyun shrugged at Ichanho’s question, but he knew why.

He was clearly conscious of Kim Hyunmin, the Manager.

Kim Hyunmin’s promotion had been delayed, but they were only a year apart in seniority.

He could become a team leader right away without any problem.

And recently, Kim Hyunmin’s momentum was unstoppable.

The contract with Hyunil Automobiles, the response to the Apple issue, the preparation for the contest.

All the things that were recognized by Jo Chanyoung, the Executive Director, in the product planning team came from the third part.

Of course, this was Yoo-hyun’s perspective.

Oh Jaehwan wasn’t skilled enough in politics to think that far.

But why did he react like this?

It was clear that Lee Kyunghoon, the director, had a hand in it.

From his position of wanting to bring down Jo Chanyoung, this contest matter must have been troublesome.

Then a loud voice came from the team leader's seat.

“What do you mean by going out like this? How are you going to handle it if something goes wrong? Are you going to say it was a lie then?”

“That's not what I meant...”

“What do you mean by that? You have to cut these parts and send them. Write what you can take responsibility for.”

Park Seungwoo looked embarrassed.

Jo Chanyoung had contacted the relevant departments and got new schedules.

Of course, there could be exceptions, but it wasn't unreasonable.

“Park, why are you making that face? This is all for your own good. It's not about how many pages you have. Don't you know how to simplify the core?”

“I'm sorry.”

‘He means to make the core clear.’

But only on the first page.

In Hansung Electronics' reporting culture, more pages meant more power.

It wasn't just Hansung Electronics' problem.

If the content was well organized and there was a lot of it, anyone would think they worked hard.

The problem was the people who would decide whether they passed or failed.

They had to make a good impression from the start with the busy executives of the mobile phone division.

Oh Jaehwan made one last remark.

“Anyway, if you don't take proper action, I won't approve it. So remember that!”

“...Yes. I'll prepare.”

The problem was that he needed the team leader's approval to submit it to the contest.

‘He's so blatant.’

Yoo-hyun bit his tongue.

At the same time, various alternatives came to his mind.

This kind of problem would be solved eventually, but the noise that would happen in the meantime was the issue.

He was still the team leader after all.

He would surely interfere more with his future work.

Then Kim Hyunmin entered the office and walked briskly towards them.

He had already clashed with Oh Jaehwan several times over this matter.

“Are they going at it again?”

As Ichanho said, the team members perked up their ears as if they were expecting something.

Everyone knew that watching a fight was the most fun.

“Sir, this is just going out as it is. Why are you doing this again?”

“Manager, why are you picking on me again? This is our team’s work. I have to take responsibility for it.”

“Hey, the Executive Director confirmed it. He said it was okay. Do you want me to ask him?”

Kim Hyunmin responded in a standard way, unlike his usual light-hearted personality.

Oh Jaehwan’s Achilles’ heel was Jo Chanyoung, the Executive Director.

Since he had approved it, Oh Jaehwan’s words had no power.

Was that why?

Oh Jaehwan became more emotional.

“Oh, really. Manager Kim, you’ve been praised by the Executive Director lately. Aren’t you too arrogant?”

“We’re not kids. Why are you jealous of that?”

“Jealous? You bastard, do you think you can get promoted and take the team leader’s position by doing that?”

When he became emotional, he eventually made a mistake.

He revealed his dark intentions himself, and the atmosphere suddenly sank.

Kim Hyunmin hid his usual smiling face and spoke quietly.

“I don’t need a promotion, and I don’t want the team leader’s position. Just let Park make his own decision.”

-I was crazy. My wife was on her last journey, and I was working overtime then. I didn’t even go home because I was close to getting promoted.

-I never want to force him. That’s not right. I can’t make another person like me.

-In the end, he has to make his own decision. If something goes wrong because he does what his superior tells him to do, how can he bear the resentment?

Yoo-hyun remembered the words that he had uttered with suppressed sadness a while ago.

He always seemed like a joke and light-hearted, but he was heavier than anyone else.

He was like a contrabass that held the center of gravity of the orchestra.

Now he couldn’t hide his true self anymore.

At that, Team Leader Oh Jaehwan lowered his tail slightly.

“...Let’s see what you’ve revised.”

“I’ll just submit it. I’ll take responsibility if there’s any problem.”

Manager Kim Hyunmin seemed determined to wrap things up.

It was the moment when Team Leader Oh’s eyes were darting around.

Ziing.

The phone on his desk rang.

He picked it up as if it was his savior, but his expression couldn’t help but crumple.

It was because of the name that popped up as the caller.

Team Leader Oh turned his body and answered the phone.

“Uh, Mr. Kim. About the panel for Channel Phone. Yeah. Yeah. Right. The report for the Channel meeting? Of course I’m preparing it. Okay. The manager will also attend.”

He could tell who the caller was by the mention of Channel Phone.

It was Kim Sungdeuk, the team leader of Product Planning in the Mobile Business Division.

He was also the person that Yoo Hyun wanted to meet again.

But.

“What? Laura Parker is looking for Yoo Hyun?”

Kim Sungdeuk was rather looking for Yoo Hyun.

Not Shin Chanyong, the manager in charge, but Yoo Hyun, who was nothing more than a new employee.

And it was a request from Laura Parker, the VVIP of the company.

At the same time, everyone’s eyes turned to Yoo Hyun.

A space with a tempting atmosphere.

A cat with white fur, blue eyes, and a proud and haughty expression walked on the golden carpet and suddenly blinked its eyes.

Meow!

Then it ran to the sofa and started to lick the candy on the floor greedily.

Chap chap chap chap chap chap chap.

It didn’t look luxurious at all, but the woman sitting on the sofa only found the cat adorable.

She leaned her body forward and a thick German accent came out of her mouth.

“Spet, is that so delicious?”

The cat, Spet, ignored its owner’s words and focused on eating.

Still, the woman smiled contentedly.

Until recently, it had been unhealthy because it was too picky about food.

But now it had completely changed.

“This candy really suits you.”

Its eating habits had improved completely by eating candy.

-A small gift. I hope you like it.

A few days ago, a neat man from Korea handed her a small box after finishing the meeting.

She threw away all the gifts that the executives gave her behind her back into the trash can.

But she wanted to open the gift she received from him, who was only an employee.

It was because she was curious about the word 'child'.

The only child that Laura Parker called was her cat Spet.

She would have been offended if someone else had said that, but strangely enough, he felt different.

He knew about Spet's existence and kindly wrote down the ingredients of the candy in German.

Even his handwriting was good.

"How did Mr. Han know you would like this?"

His outfit, posture, tone of voice, and German accent were all flawless.

He was a man who didn't bother her at all.

"Or how did he know I'm raising you?"

He seemed to perfectly understand and act according to her taste even though they hadn't met for long.

That was something that even her secretary and Spet's nanny couldn't match.

Meow.

Then Spet looked back and made a noise.

It seemed to respond to Laura Parker's words.

"Are you curious too?"

Meow.

"Yes. I'm curious too. I'll go to Korea and see for myself. I'll buy you more candy there."

Meow!

Spet's expression looked happy and Laura Parker's lips curled up.

She would buy candy for Spet and go see Yoo Hyun.

That was Laura Parker's purpose of going to Korea.

A few days later, in front of Hansung Tower lobby.

Middle-aged men in suits were standing side by side as if waiting for someone.

In the center of them, Hong Ilseop, the head of promotion in Mobile Business Division, grumbled with a joke mixed in his words.

“I don’t understand why he has to come and check himself. Right, Group Leader?”

“Heh heh, maybe he wanted to see for himself.”

“Anyway, please be careful. This is an official visit. He seems to have something in mind.”

An Junghong, executive director of Mobile Group in LCD Business Division, felt embarrassed by Hong Ilseop’s thinning eyesight.

It was because Laura Parker’s official visit request was related to LCD panel schedule.

The head of mobile sales marketing Cho Chanyoung swallowed his saliva nervously next to him.

Creak!

Soon a black limousine arrived and Laura Parker got off gracefully.

“Welcome. Please come this way.”

“Thank you.”

Laura Parker’s calm response followed.

Hong Ilseop personally escorted her to the VIP conference room.

Seven executives attended.

A total of 15 people, including related employees, attended the meeting to provide customized guidance to Laura Parker.

In the conference room, Laura Parker listened to the concept and main schedule of Channel Phone 2 with a blunt expression throughout.

“Here...”

“Wait a minute.”

Cho Chanyoung, the head of sales marketing, tried to report on the LCD panel schedule, but he was buried by Laura Parker’s snort.

It meant that he should just deliver it according to the schedule since he had already decided to use it.

After a short report.

On the screen, there were three concepts that Channel had proposed and Mobile Business Division had supplemented.

“As you suggested, it is difficult to make it ultra-slim with metal material at the current level. First of all, the battery is a problem and also the heat and weight...”

“So what are you going to do?”

Kim Sungdeuk, the team leader of Mobile Business Division, swallowed his saliva at Laura Parker’s cold words.

‘Why did I have to see the LCD panel mockup then...’

He had successfully regained the Channel Phone 2 contract that was about to be cut off because of the LCD panel schedule, but the aftermath was a problem.

He couldn’t meet Laura Parker’s eyes that had risen as high as possible.

Several meetings had all failed.

This was also a strong message that this was the last time he mobilized all the executives.

If it ended like this?

Not only Kim Sungdeuk, the team leader in charge, but also the executives here and Hansung Electronics’ image would be inevitable.

“We propose direction B. We want to keep the luxury with metal material and attach a QWERTY keyboard in a slide format to soften the thick part emotionally.”

Kim Sungdeuk, who spoke with force in his stomach, waited for Laura Parker’s answer with a tense heart.

Chapter 125

The air in the large conference room became stiff for a few seconds.

It was because they could have quit right then and there.

“Okay. Let’s talk again in two days, same time.”

“Al...right. I’ll prepare better.”

With just one sentence, the meeting that had been going on for over two hours ended in 30 minutes.

Section Chief Kim Sung-deuk bowed his head with a forced smile.

It was not a good atmosphere.

From the current mood, it seemed that the worst situation was only delayed by two days.

Grunt.

It was the moment when Laura Parker got up from her seat.

The people who had been waiting for the opportunity approached her to greet her.

They wanted to build a rapport with Laura Parker, the big shot.

She had a lot of influence as the head of channel marketing.

“It was such an honor today...”

Click clack.

Laura Parker ignored the eyes of admiration that were directed at her and walked out.

Then she asked Kim Sung-deuk, who was still standing on the podium.

“Can you move up the meeting time I requested?”

“The meeting with Mr. Han Yoo-hyun?”

“Yes. That’s right.”

Laura Parker wanted to meet the new employee of the LCD division.

She had many speculations, but she couldn’t confirm them here.

Kim Sung-deuk answered immediately.

“Yes. Of course. I’ll take care of it right away.”

“Oh, don’t contact him. I’ll go where he is now.”

“Really? He should be in his office now.”

“Is that a problem?”

Kim Sung-deuk’s eyes shook violently at the unexpected request.

“Ah... no. Of course not. I’ll check it out for a moment.”

He couldn’t refuse the wish of a VVIP for any reason.

Kim Sung-deuk quickly composed his expression and went to Jo Chan-young, the director.

Jo Chan-young was also flustered.

“Don’t contact him, please.”

Laura Parker even said not to contact him and just go.

That had never happened before.

It was when Jo Chan-young was at a loss for what to do.

An Jun-hong, the executive director, sorted out the situation.

“Let’s do that. Director Jo, go ahead.”

“What? Oh, yes.”

“You’re very kind.”

“No, not at all. Hahaha.”

It was the moment when he burst into a hearty laugh for the first time after being pushed around by the executives of the mobile phone division.

Click clack.

The sound of high heels echoed in the office.

Buzz buzz.

The people behind the partitions stuck their heads out.

“Is that Laura Parker? Wow, she looks just like in the magazine.”

“Really? Awesome. But who’s next to her? She looks like a model I’ve seen somewhere.”

“Wow, I’m nervous. Why did Laura Parker come to the office? Is there a demo?”

“Shh. The group leader is here too.”

Jo Chan-young, who was at the front, led them.

“This way, please.”

Behind him were Laura Parker and her secretary.

An Jun-hong, the executive director, and Section Chief Kim Sung-deuk flanked them on both sides.

Manager Lee Kyung-hoon who joined late, followed at the end of the line.

The people who passed by stopped greeting Jo Chan-young and gasped in surprise.

‘Why on earth did she want to come to the office?’

Whether he liked it or not, Jo Chan-young was nervous.

If she made a fuss about the office condition or the attitude of the employees, it would be over.

If he had known, he would have ordered them to clean up the office and leave their seats.

He was thinking about this and that when he arrived at the product planning team.

But Yoo-hyun was not there.

Laura Parker had told him not to contact him, but he had already told Oh Jae-hwan, the team leader, to get ready.

But he wasn't there!

“Well, wait a minute. I'll find him soon.”

“No. He said he was working today. I'll wait.”

How could he make Laura Parker wait in a corner of the office?

Jo Chan-young moved around with a thoughtful expression on his face.

The team members looked at Laura Parker with curiosity and awe.

Among them was Shin Chan-yong, who was in charge of Channel Phone 2 and knew Laura Parker personally.

But Laura Parker didn't give him a glance.

Jo Chan-young went to Oh Jae-hwan and growled in a low voice.

“What happened?”

“I'm sorry. I told him to find him...”

“To whom!”

Oh Jae-hwan shrank at Jo Chan-young's loud voice.

“To Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo... Ah, Assistant Manager Park. What happened?”

“It seems that Yoo-hyun left his phone on his desk.”

“Oh no...”

Jo Chan-young grabbed his head at Park Seung-woo's words, who quickly came to the team leader's seat.

That's when it happened.

The people who were standing in front of the product planning team split into two like the Red Sea.

And between them, Yoo-hyun walked out of the bathroom.

What?

Yoo-hyun quickly assessed the situation as he felt the ominous atmosphere.

Everyone was looking at him with surprised expressions.

It was as if they had been waiting for him to come here.

As he turned the corner, Yoo-hyun realized why.

Laura Parker was standing between the parted people.

Buzz buzz.

His face burned under the gaze of the astonished people.

Shin Chan-yong, who was flushed with excitement, and Lee Kyung-hoon, who opened his eyes thinly, passed by.

He had a lot of thoughts in his head, but Yoo-hyun walked confidently.

The first one to reach out was Laura Parker.

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Han.”

“Nice to meet you. I wish you had contacted me earlier, then I would have come to see you.”

Yoo-hyun replied in German.

That was the moment.

“Kyaa!”

The voices of the female employees around them were heard.

Then Laura Parker smiled and said.

“Isn’t this what you wanted?”

Laura Parker came to the office and looked for a new employee?

That was comparable to the commander of the US forces in Korea coming into an army unit and looking for a new private.

What kind of attention would the private get in that situation?

“I’ll escort you carefully and politely.”

“Book the conference room right away and text me. Just move for now. I’ll set everything else up.”

“Yes. I understand.”

Executive Director Jo Chanyoung pushed Yoo-hyun from the side, and Kim Sungdeuk, the manager, assisted him like a secretary.

“Isn’t that the new employee from the product planning team?”

“Must be. But why is Laura Parker looking for him?”

“They say he’s good at German.”

“Does that make sense? He must know her.”

“Right? I’m so jealous.”

The people who knew him were naturally surprised.

The people who didn’t know him well also talked endlessly about Yoo-hyun.

As they walked together, Laura Parker asked with a smile in her eyes.

Didn’t you intend to approach me like this?

No.

He had made a connection, but he didn’t expect it to be so drastic.

Thanks to that, his meeting with her was much faster than he had expected.

Yoo-hyun hid his expression and gave a faint smile.

The person in front of him now was different from Laura Parker, the vice president of the channel he remembered 10 years later.

The current Laura Parker was more impulsive and blatant than her now.

Soon after, Yoo-hyun faced Laura Parker in the VIP conference room.

Laura Parker asked bluntly.

“How much did you investigate me?”

“I don’t know what you mean.”

“...”

Yoo-hyun pretended not to know as he saw her blue eyes move as if to scan his mind.

At that moment, Laura Parker's breathing, pulse, and muscle movements became slightly rough.

Their eyes crossed quickly in the air.

As she opened her mouth, Yoo-hyun spoke first.

"It's not an investigation, it's a study."

"A study. That's not a bad expression. Hmm, you even changed your perfume according to the weather. It seems like you studied my taste well this time."

"Thank you for the compliment."

"It is a compliment. You're the first one who made me so curious. I thought about it. What was that feeling of incongruity I felt when we met last time?"

"..."

Yoo-hyun chose silence instead of an answer.

Laura Parker took a sip of the coffee on the table and continued.

"Mr. Han had nothing that bothered me. His tone, his outfit, his eyes, his perfume. They all felt like they matched my taste. You must have studied from my interviews or articles."

"Yes. A little."

He studied a lot.

And analyzed.

As Laura Parker said in her interview, she was sensitive to scents.

He could tell from her way of breathing through her nose rather than her mouth, and from her wrinkling her nose at the faint smell of wood when she entered the VIP room.

As she wrote in her column, she was sensitive to the weather.

She wore light lipstick on cloudy days.

She changed her planned outfit if the weather changed.

The channel also sold earrings that didn't pierce the ears.

And she always wore earrings.

She did it to hide the scars on her ears.

She must have had some trauma related to the scars since she didn't pierce her ears.

He shouldn't touch his ears in front of her.

As he thought, Laura Parker opened her mouth again.

“But that doesn't explain it. Look at you now. The way you look at me, the way you talk to me. I never talked about those things anywhere.”

“Really?”

“Yes. Then how did you know?”

“...”

Her curious eyes scanned Yoo-hyun's face.

If he tensed up and rolled his eyes then, he would be out.

She looked at him with narrowed eyes for a reason. It was a kind of test.

It was her personality.

She believed she could see a lot with her eyes.

He had to keep a relaxed but not arrogant look in his eyes.

1~1.5 meters.

He had to keep a proper distance and gesture lower than his chest like her.

She didn't like anything that bothered her sight when talking to someone.

“The answer is that you saw through me, right?”

“I don't have that kind of ability.”

“No. You're right. I can tell for sure now. You're someone like me.”

-You're someone of the same kind as me.

The words she had said 10 years ago flashed through Yoo-hyun's mind.

Laura Parker was a person with innate intuition.

Her sensual ability to read people showed in her fashion sense, and it was a factor of success as a designer and a marketer.

She knew what they wanted, what they felt.

She literally saw through them.

On the other hand, Yoo-hyun was different from her.

He had good observation skills, but it took him quite a long time to understand the other person properly.

He trained and honed his senses consciously by meeting many people.

He filled in the gaps with the effort to dig up information around him.

He had more than 20 years of experience like that, so he could catch Laura Parker's eye now.

If he had been the new employee of the past?

He wouldn't have even caught her eye.

Laura Parker snapped her chin and asked.

"So tell me now. What do you want from me?"

"It's an honor to meet you like this. I don't want anything more."

"That can't be. Then why did you try to match me?"

Laura Parker's offer?

It would be a lie to say it wasn't tempting.

She was someone he needed in the future.

He needed power to correct external factors, and Laura Parker would be that power.

But not like this.

If he asked for her help here, and owed her, it would be no different from the past relationship.

"I just think you're amazing. That's why I wanted to know more. There's no other reason."

"I don't understand."

Yoo-hyun wanted to get closer to her.

Chapter 126

This time, I wanted to open her heart sincerely.

"Ah, did Schubert like the candy? I heard that Burmese cats like hard things that they can touch with their paws, and they like salmon, so I chose salmon-flavored candy."

"Mr. Han, you seem to know more about my cat than I do."

"You said so in the interview. That you really cherish your cat. So I studied."

"Was that because you thought I was cool?"

"Yes. I was curious about what kind of cat grows under a cool owner. Isn't that natural?"

I wanted to see what kind of power it had when a relationship was formed like that.

It was not just a childish prank.

It was a conviction that I gained while living a different company life.

When I had a human connection, the relationship became so rich that I couldn't recognize it.

Like the relationship with Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo.

I was also becoming that kind of relationship with her.

“Ho ho ho, that's an interesting thing to say.”

“Your smile is beautiful.”

“That compliment is not bad either.”

She smiled for the first time.

We had a personal conversation without any purpose for the first time.

Laura Parker, who slowly got up from her seat, took off her trademark white gloves for the first time.

She reached out her hand and said,

“It seems like I've made a good friend. I'd love to have more conversations if I get a chance.”

“I had such a good time too. Please contact me anytime.”

Yoo-hyun smiled and held her bare hand.

This was also the first time.

-Tell Laura Parker about Channel Phone 2 well.

That was what Kim Sung-deuk said before I talked to Laura Parker.

I didn't keep that promise.

No, I didn't.

I knew she would end up doing Channel Phone 2 even if I didn't say anything.

How did I know?

If she had thought of giving up on Laura Parker's style, she wouldn't have dragged me like this.

It was a conclusion that I could make because I knew her better than anyone else.

Two days later.

As Yoo-hyun expected, Laura Parker confirmed the concept of Channel Phone 2.

She listened to Han Sung Electronics' opinion.

Thanks to that, there were some benefits for Yoo-hyun.

The biggest one was the relationship with Kim Sung-deuk.

“The last contest you entered. I looked at it. The content was good.”

“Thank you.”

“The documents passed internally and were delivered to the judges.”

He brought up the contest story without me having to say anything first.

He saved me one step of the process that I had to go through.

“Really? I worked hard. I hope the judging goes well.”

“That's not something I can do anything about.”

“Of course. It's not even a contest. There won't be any omissions or anything like that, right?”

The first internal document check is done by the product planning team itself.

After that, the first document review is done by multiple team leaders and experts in parallel.

There is less room for someone's intervention once the judging begins.

Besides, the idea writer and team name are anonymized, so it has some discrimination power.

Yoo-hyun believed that he had enough chances to win if he just played fair without taking off the LCD business unit sticker.

He was proud that he had put in several times more effort than others in the contest.

“Of course. Don't worry about that. Anyway, thank you. You talked well to Laura Parker.”

“Don't mention it. Thank you for caring.”

“Me too. Please take care of me.”

“Please take care of me too.”

Yoo-hyun held out his hand that Kim Sung-deuk offered him.

This kind of moderate misunderstanding was not bad.

Thanks to that, things went smoothly.

On the other hand, there were also some disadvantages for Yoo-hyun.

Laura Parker’s sensational connection might seem useful on the surface.

But that was only when someone wanted to give something to Laura Parker somehow.

Yoo-hyun didn’t have any such ambition to make a fake line with her.

In this case, he was more likely to get jealous and envious from other people.

The protruding stone gets hit by justice.

He might accidentally hurt people who work with him by splashing fragments.

Therefore, this part needed to be blocked in advance.

Many people came with curious eyes.

Most of them were people who had no interest in Yoo-hyun before.

Yoo-hyun pretended not to know much.

“How did you get to know Laura Parker?”

“I guess she was glad that I spoke German.”

“Really? Does that make sense for her to come to the office?”

“She said she just thought of me and contacted me once. She seems like a strange person.”

“Well, she was always weird.”

He said he didn’t have much to talk about.

He blamed himself for his lack of ability.

“What did you talk about?”

“I would have been friends if I knew something, but I couldn’t, so I just exchanged greetings.”

“It would have been a good opportunity.”

“I know. When everyone is so interested, I should have done better.”

“No. The opportunity will come again.”

“Thank you. I’ll work harder.”

When he drew the line with modesty, people agreed.

They knew there was nothing to gain and left on their own.

It was hot for a while, but it was eventually dismissed as a fluke.

It was like a strange and lucky day for a new employee who spoke German well.

There were still people who were curious, but this too would be solved by time.

The problem was people like Lee Kyung-hoon.

He didn’t even think of a new employee as an enemy, but Yoo-hyun came up on his radar.

That was why he called Yoo-hyun to his seat.

“Sit comfortably.”

“Yes. Thank you.”

“Let me get straight to the point. Come to the sales team and show me your will. I’ll talk to Oh team leader well.”

“What do you mean?”

Fortunately, he still looked down on Yoo-hyun’s level.

So he was making such a low-level attempt to persuade me.

“You’ve experienced it, so you should know. There’s nothing you can do in the product planning team.”

“I’m still learning.”

“Do you have to experience it to know? You say you plan, but honestly, you’re just copying the competitors. And most of that is just tailored to what the clients want.”

“...”

“But the sales team made 2 trillion won in sales last year with such products. That’s the power of the sales team.”

He disparaged the product planning team with his words cut off at both ends.

He blatantly praised the sales team.

This was also because he still saw me as a rookie.

I was really lucky.

“Thank you for your words, but I want to stay in the team right now.”

“Why? Do you think I’m lying?”

“No. I think you’re right.”

“Then why? Don’t you want to succeed? Don’t you see the meaning of me saying this directly?”

What if he had judged me properly?

It wouldn’t have been easy for me to get out of this place.

“I just like what I’m doing now.”

“What can’t you do in the sales team that you can do in the product planning team? Frankly, the sales team does everything for you.”

“I like the people I work with. I’m satisfied with my current life.”

“Are you still a rookie? You don’t know what an opportunity is.”

“I’m sorry. I have a lot of shortcomings.”

Right now, I had to get out of his sight as much as possible since the balance of power was not right.

“Heh heh, there’s nothing to be sorry about. Hmm... You’re not hoping for the contest, are you?”

“The contest? Oh... I worked hard on that too. It would be nice if I got in.”

I had to pretend not to know even if he suddenly revealed his intentions.

It’s too late to avoid the body after the shower.

He was a person who could make it rain in a clear sky if he wanted to.

“Really? Huhu. Don’t expect it, it won’t happen.”

“Yes. I’m not expecting it. If I don’t make it, I’ll try harder next time.”

“Heh heh, yeah. A new employee should have that kind of spirit. Well, I don’t know if there will be a next time.”

As I received Lee Kyung-hoon’s meaningful gaze, I got up from my seat.

“Then I’ll go back.”

“Do that.”

His laughter came from behind me.

“Heh heh heh heh.”

At his mocking sound, I recalled the memories of when I was with him.

-Just follow me like this. Don't mind the losers' eyes. They're useless lowlifes.

In order to line up behind him who became my boss, I abandoned the people in my team.

-I've devoted myself to the company, so they should give me this much. Did you think of living on your salary for your whole life? If so, I'm disappointed.

In order to get the crumbs that fell from him who had the next group leader position in front of him, I turned a blind eye to his corruption.

Lee Kyung-hoon was one of the people who stood out in my memory.

Of course, in a very bad way.

He always looked down and sneered at people like he did now.

He didn't care about the company's or organization's benefits.

He only thought from his own center.

He was an extremely selfish being who held everything in his hands and ran rampant.

So there was no way he could make a proper decision.

In the end, the damage went all over to the employees.

I still think about it.

If Lee Kyung-hoon wasn't there?

At least there wouldn't have been any problems like falling behind the competitors due to ridiculous decisions, or projects failing because of corrupt companies, or being fired for raising a flag.

Even if my company life was messed up by Kwon Se-jung, I wouldn't have died.

Trudge trudge.

When his laughter died down, I clenched my fist.

I'll pay you back soon.

I won't let it go easily.

I'm going to carve it out for sure.

Yoo-hyun's eyes flashed.

A few days later.

Cell phone business unit product planning team office.

Kim Sung-deuk smiled as he looked at the text message on his phone.

“What are you thanking me for?”

It was a message from a new employee in LCD business unit who Laura Parker had visited before.

He thanked me for taking care of him for the contest matter.

‘Well, it’s good to buy some favor.’

He said he had no connection with Laura Parker, but he did.

There was definitely a strong connection between them.

Even though he was an employee, he was worth getting close to.

Yoo-hyun.

He also remembered his name clearly.

“Shall we check it out?”

Kim Sung-deuk checked the email shared by the team.

-2007 Second Half Next Generation Contest Judging List

The email contained 150 selected ideas.

It was the remaining ideas after filtering out of a total of 587 ideas.

As he checked the content, Kim Sung-deuk tilted his head.

He then asked Jung Eun-hee, who was in charge of the contest.

“Jung, is this all?”

“Yes. I’m going to report this to the team leader.”

“That’s weird. There was one from LCD business unit last time. A budget full-touch phone or something? Anyway, I don’t see it.”

“If you don’t see it, it must have been dropped.”

Kim Sung-deuk frowned at Jung Eun-hee’s words.

“Really? I remember it had a high internal score.”

“Just a moment.”

Jung Eun-hee checked the entire list and answered after seeing the check mark written in the remarks column.

“Oh, this one. Assistant Manager Nam told me to drop it.”

“Why? Look at this. The basic score is good. This should go to the judging, right?”

“Well, yes. But he said it had no business value? And the schedule didn’t match, so he said it was unrealistic and told me to take it out.”

“Why did Assistant Manager Nam...”

-It’s not even a contest. There won’t be any omissions or anything like that, right?

Kim Sung-deuk’s head flashed with Yoo-hyun’s words from LCD business unit.

Could he have predicted this and said it?

No. That can’t be.

He was the one who asked to meet first, and he was the one who brought up the contest.

There was nothing else to say.

‘Please check again.’

His eyes that seemed to plead remained like an afterimage.

Chapter 127

I was still bothered by the same reason.

“Is there anything else that Nam cut besides this?”

“No. There isn’t.”

‘Nothing?’

Some thoughts flashed through Kim Sung-deuk’s head.

He nodded and said to Jung Eun-hee.

“Then upload this too. I’ll tell Nam about it.”

“Okay. It’s not hard to upload.”

“Thanks.”

Beep.

Yoo-hyun’s phone rang.

-Thank you. The internal score for the contest was good, so you can look forward to the evaluation results.^^

This old man was now sending emoticons.

Yoo-hyun smiled at Kim Sung-deuk's message.

It wasn't bad to be friends with him.

Kim Sung-deuk was a decent person in Yoo-hyun's experience.

He was not greedy and had skills.

More importantly, he was not a person who spoke lightly.

The fact that he mentioned the evaluation meant that he had already checked it.

'Did Lee Kyung-hoon not play any tricks?'

Yoo-hyun was most worried about the internal evaluation that they did themselves.

That was when the external influence was most likely to affect them.

If Yoo-hyun were Lee Kyung-hoon, he would have used his connections to make him fail at that point.

The reason why he met Kim Sung-deuk and talked about the contest was also because of that.

'Or, did Kim Sung-deuk do something in advance and pretend not to?'

Anyway, the important thing was that he got into the evaluation.

From Yoo-hyun's perspective, he had to prepare for the second evaluation now.

If he passed the first one, then Lee Kyung-hoon's real interference would start then.

He couldn't expect him to be careless like now.

It was when Yoo-hyun was thinking.

Park Seung-woo caught Kim Hyun-min, who was passing by, and nagged him to practice again.

"Come on, boss. Just listen to my presentation once."

"Hey, hey, enough. Presentation is a matter of life and death. Just pass the first round and do it."

"Then it will be too late. The early bird catches the worm, right?"

Yoo-hyun chuckled at the sight.

Seeing him pouring out his passion, he felt like his efforts behind the scenes were not in vain.

“You’re not a bird, you’re a pig.”

“Boss! That’s a reportable offense. You insulted your subordinate.”

“Shut up. Go ahead and report me, bastard.”

“Hey, boss. Don’t go and listen to me.”

“No. I’m annoyed.”

Well, it seemed a bit overdone.

But more than that, his habit of getting too excited was not good for presenting.

Should he correct him again?

He felt like taking care of Park Seung-woo as he watched him fussing around.

He felt like he was looking at his son who was left at the water’s edge.

Then Choi Min-hee came over and asked him.

“Don’t those two look like kids?”

“Yeah.”

“Well, they’re childish, but they make the atmosphere better.”

“Yeah. I feel good too because of them.”

“Yeah?”

Choi Min-hee looked at Yoo-hyun with a burdensome gaze again.

She had been like this since the Hyunil Motors case.

Yoo-hyun changed the subject.

“How are things going these days?”

“It went well with the mid-term report, and the panel is being developed well too. It’s thanks to Navitime being so proactive. No, should I say it’s thanks to you?”

But what came back was praise again.

It was nice to hear it once or twice, but it was burdensome when she kept saying it.

“What did I do?”

“What do you mean? The other day, Navitime’s president said he wanted to see you again.”

“Really?”

Yoo-hyun asked calmly, but Choi Min-hee didn't back off easily.

“Yeah. He asked me to make some time for him. You're amazing. Meeting Laura Parker and roasting Navitime's president.”

“It's purely luck.”

“Well, if you say so, I won't say anything more. But I have some sense too.”

Choi Min-hee winked at him with one eye.

Was that really Choi Min-hee who used to be so cold?

She had changed too much.

She had become too expressive for her own good.

Even more than Park Seung-woo.

“It's amazing when I think about it. Everything changed since you came. Kim getting more confident too.”

“Oh...”

“And Lee focusing on his work too. Well, Park changing is obvious.”

“...”

He wished she would stop there.

“It's all thanks to you.”

“...Thank you.”

Yoo-hyun eventually bowed his head and closed his eyes tightly.

It wasn't because he felt bad.

He had always wanted to earn the respect of his colleagues when he started working again.

“They probably all know, right? They just don't say it.”

“Haha...”

Yoo-hyun just laughed.

They don't say it?

There was no way.

Of course, it was because of the investment advice, but Kim Hyun-min and Park Seung-woo treated him so kindly that it was embarrassing.

Kim Young-gil said he was fine, but he kept trying to buy him food.

Lee Chan-ho also took care of him from time to time.

He was already loved too much.

Did Choi Min-hee know his feelings or not? She came closer to him.

“Thank you.”

“...”

Don't do that. He really wanted to say he was fine, but his mouth wouldn't open.

It was because he felt like she would express more if he did.

Then Yoo-hyun's savior appeared.

“Hey, Choi. Don't open your eyes so wide. You're scaring Yoo-hyun.”

“Boss! What are you saying?”

“You're married, you know.”

“Oh, come on. Come here.”

“No thanks.”

Kim Hyun-min had no intention of coming.

He ignored Choi Min-hee, who had become venomous, and passed by her.

“Stay there.”

“No.”

Kim Hyun-min, who had no chance, walked away quickly as if he was sounding an alarm.

Choi Min-hee suddenly started running.

It was a sudden chase that unfolded in the office hallway.

Yoo-hyun spat out a snort at the absurd situation.

Choi Min-hee said that the atmosphere in the part was lively because of Park Seung-woo and Kim Hyun-min.

But in Yoo-hyun's opinion, Choi Min-hee's own change had a bigger share in making the atmosphere lively.

Who would have known that she would become such a good talker who expressed herself well?

Then Park Seung-woo came over and asked him.

“They look so immature, right?”

“...”

It wasn't something Park Seung-woo should say, even if it was someone else.

Yoo-hyun just shook his head instead of answering.

Beep.

Yoo-hyun's phone rang.

It was his mother's call.

His mother, Kim Yeon-hee, was at the front of the bus.

People of her age surrounded her.

Kim Yeon-hee asked.

“Will it be okay?”

“Why are you worried? My smart son is coming.”

“I'm just afraid I might bother him.”

She was really concerned.

But the reactions around her were only annoying.

“Oh my, Yeon-hee. You're lucky to have that as your worry. I have to worry about my son who can't get a job and whines all the time.”

“I'm so jealous. I wish my son worked in a place like that.”

“I saw him in person and he's so handsome. And his personality is so nice too. I envy you, Yeon-hee.”

“Didn't you say your son bought you this hiking outfit? When will my son ever do that?”

Did she say something wrong?

She always received envy whenever Yoo-hyun was mentioned.

Kim Yeon-hee tried to hide her expression and said.

“Then I'll go ahead. Be careful on your way down.”

“Have a good time.”

She received greetings from the hiking group members who came by bus from Seoul and headed to Hansung Tower.

When she arrived at Hansung Tower.

Under the tall building, she looked at the people in suits moving around. They all looked like her son.

As she was about to call him with her phone, she heard a voice calling her from somewhere.

“Mom, you came early.”

“You told me to come when you call. How long have you been waiting?”

“I just came out too.”

“Isn’t it before your quitting time? I’ll wait for you at the coffee shop in front of here.”

“No, it’s okay. I got permission.”

He got permission?

Was that easy?

Kim Yeon-hee felt burdened for a moment, when a big man appeared behind Yoo-hyun and said.

“Hello, ma’am. I’m Yoo-hyun’s mentor, Park Seung-woo.”

“Huh? Mr. Park.”

Another man appeared next to Yoo-hyun, who was surprised.

“I’m Yoo-hyun’s part leader, Kim Hyun-min.”

“Why are you here...”

“What do you mean why? It’s natural to take care of our part member’s mother who came here.”

Kim Yeon-hee hid her surprised expression and quickly greeted them.

“Hello. I’ve heard a lot about you.”

“What did he say?”

Kim Hyun-min seemed to be a witty person.

He asked with a smile.

“Boss, please!”

His son looked embarrassed and his face turned red.

Was he like this at work?

Kim Yeon-hee answered pleasantly.

“He said he met really good seniors and he’s having a lot of fun working here.”

“Hahaha, of course. That’s true.”

The two laughed as if they were in sync.

She bowed her head with gratitude.

“Thank you for taking good care of him.”

“We’re more grateful. We owe a lot to Yoo-hyun.”

“You have a really good son.”

Kim Yeon-hee thought they were just saying that for her son’s sake.

She had no idea that Yoo-hyun had saved them from losing big money in real estate and stock investments, or that he had helped a lot with the part work.

She felt like her son was very loved at work.

She was sincerely glad.

That was when.

“Hello, ma’am. I’m Yoo-hyun’s colleague, Lee Ae-rin.”

A pretty female employee came over and greeted her next to the two men.

Her bright smile was beautiful like a flower.

More female employees came over and greeted her.

“Hello.”

“Mom, hello.”

How could they all be so kind?

They pushed each other’s shoulders and looked very close.

As Kim Yeon-hee greeted each one of them, Yoo-hyun pulled her arm.

“Mom, let’s go. I’ll go ahead.”

“I’m fine...”

“No. They have work to do too.”

“Thank you all so much. I’ll repay you later.”

Kim Yeon-hee turned her head and greeted them as she was dragged away.

They were all really nice people.

They came out and took care of her like this.

“Sigh...”

As Yoo-hyun sighed, Kim Yeon-hee teased him.

“Yoo-hyun, is the person you said you liked among them?”

“No. There isn’t.”

“They’re all so pretty? I like them too...”

“Mom, I’ll show you later. Have you eaten yet?”

Yoo-hyun changed the subject, but Kim Yeon-hee kept turning her head to look at the company.

Kim Yeon-hee was more curious about her son’s work life.

She wanted to know what he ate and what food he liked.

“Hmm. Should we eat here?”

“Here? You can eat near home.”

“No. I’m curious. Didn’t you say there’s a good rice soup place here?”

Yoo-hyun answered without much thought to his mother’s question.

“Yes... You can go this way.”

“Wow. This place is nice. Hahaha.”

Yoo-hyun glanced at his mother who was humming as she walked.

He felt good seeing her in a good mood.

Had he ever spent time like this with his mother before?

Definitely not.

He never met her in front of the company, let alone go home with her.

“Ah, Jae-hee seems to be very busy these days?”

“She needs to be busy.”

“Haha, I guess so.”

He had never talked about his sister like this either.

“Did dad cut down on drinking?”

“Don’t even say that. My stomach is bursting, really...”

“He must be stressed.”

“Is it because of my son? Or my daughter asking for money? When did we ever have a comfortable day like this, really.”

He had never had a pleasant conversation about his father either.

Chapter 128

Yoo-hyun had never fit in with his family, and his mother had always found him difficult.

But things were different now.

Swish.

His mother casually linked arms with him, and flashed a playful smile.

The look of worry that she always had was gone.

And then.

-Is this Mr. Han Yoo-hyun? Ms. Kim Yeonhee has been hospitalized due to an accident. She is looking for her son. Can you come here?

He never thought that the contact he received after a long time would be a death notice, just like that day in the past.

Come to think of it, the first place he visited after returning from his mother’s funeral was the soup restaurant.

He wanted to feel his mother’s scent from the restaurant owner.

But when he visited the place after a long time, it was completely demolished due to redevelopment.

Yoo-hyun regretted a lot then.

He regretted not taking care of his mother’s last moments, pushing for redevelopment despite the residents’ opposition, and not being able to see the restaurant owner who had always taken good care of him again.

He didn’t realize then that he was losing his precious connections one by one because he only looked ahead and ran.

Creak.

As the door opened, a familiar voice greeted him.

“Oh, Yoo-hyun. You came early today.”

“Yes. I came with my mother today.”

It was the moment when Yoo-hyun introduced his mother to the restaurant owner.

“Mother, this is the aunt I told you about.”

“No way, you are?”

“Huh? You!”

The restaurant owner and his mother pointed at each other at the same time.

Then they exclaimed with shocked expressions.

“Kim Yeonhee?”

“Lee Okbun?”

“...”

Even Yoo-hyun, who had faster judgment than anyone else, took a few seconds to understand the situation.

He blinked his eyes and looked back and forth between the two people.

Whoosh.

“How long has it been! Sob.”

“I’m so glad to see you.”

The two people hugged each other.

An unbelievable thing happened before his eyes.

The two people who sat across the table smiled brightly.

“I can’t believe it.”

“This kid. Hohoho.”

Soon, the glasses were emptied one after another.

His mother was already on her second drink, and the restaurant owner didn’t seem to care about her business as she kept clinking glasses with her.

They must be really happy to see each other.

His mother and the restaurant owner were classmates in middle and high school.

They even met a few times after they got married.

It was when Yoo-hyun was very young.

“I knew it when I saw Yoo-hyun. I felt so close to him. Why didn’t I remember his name?”

“I can’t remember your youngest daughter’s name either. What was it?”

“Yeseul.”

“Right, Yeseul. She was toddling around when Yoo-hyun saw her.”

In that old story, his mother recalled her friend’s youngest daughter, Jeong Yeseul.

The restaurant owner also remembered Yoo-hyun from when he was a little kid.

“I remember. Yoo-hyun used to hug Yeseul and stuff. He was so pretty back then.”

“Yeah. It was really a long time ago. It’s been 20 years.”

“Yeah, time flies by.”

Yoo-hyun listened quietly to their conversation.

He suddenly thought of something.

If today hadn’t happened, would they have ever remembered this?

Maybe they would have never remembered it.

“By the way, did Yoo-hyun introduce Yeseul’s tutor to her?”

“Oh, did he? Is Yeseul old enough to get tutoring?”

“What are you talking about? Yeseul is in her senior year of high school. Senior year.”

But even if today hadn’t happened, his connection with the restaurant owner would have existed.

The same goes for his connection with Jeong Yeseul, who had grown up so much.

The current connection was flowing like water, separate from the past.

“Really? How did the baby grow up so fast? Time really flies by. Right?”

“Yeah. It’s amazing. What’s more amazing is that I met you again like this.”

And today.

The past connection and the current connection met and became a new connection.

It was a miraculous thing, as the restaurant owner said.

“It’s thanks to Yoo-hyun. If it wasn’t for him, I wouldn’t have thought of coming here.”

“You said you wanted to come, mother.”

“I have a good intuition. Hoho.”

His mother smiled at Yoo-hyun.

Yoo-hyun also smiled.

He still felt like it was just yesterday when there was not a single blade of grass around him, only barrenness.

That’s how deeply his life at that time was ingrained in his body.

But he knows it’s not like that now.

He has his mother who smiles at him next to him, and the restaurant owner who warmly takes care of him.

Not only them, but also the connections he had missed in the past were spinning around him like satellites, making his life richer.

Chirp. Chirp.

Yoo-hyun filled his mother’s empty glass with alcohol and lifted his own glass.

“I guess we meet again after going around.”

“Oh, Yoo-hyun speaks so nicely.”

“He’s my son.”

It was a bit embarrassing, but he wanted to say it.

He said it because he had lost this precious connection before, and because he had regretted it so much.

Like this, he came back 20 years and met again.

No, he came back 20 years and that’s why the previous 20 years continued to today.

It was the result of Yoo-hyun’s choice to live a different life.

“Shall we toast?”

Yoo-hyun intended to keep this feeling for the future.

“Hoho, sure.”

“Okay, cheers.”

No matter what happens.

Clang. Clang.

The sound of three glasses clinking was as cheerful as laughter.

A few days later.

At the office, Yoo Hyun checked the email he received from his younger sister, Han Jae Hee.

It was a new draft.

She had learned from the experts and produced a much better result than before.

It looked almost good enough to be used as a product.

Yoo Hyun shared his thoughts over the phone.

“This one is much better, but...”

-What? You want me to fix it again?

“I think it could use some more polishing. But if you don’t agree, we can stop here.”

-...Where do I fix it?

Yoo Hyun calmly gave his order to the irritated Han Jae Hee.

“The background color and the icon color are too similar, so they don’t stand out. So lower the icon transparency a bit.”

-And then?

“The clock and the alarm icons are too alike, right? Make them distinct.”

-...

Even when Han Jae Hee was silent, Yoo Hyun asked for more.

“Oh, I’ll send you a different font for the text, so change that, and also the image...”

-Sigh... Just send me an email. I’m hanging up.

Han Jae Hee had changed.

She used to curse or hang up without a word, but now she was much softer.

She didn't even say to stop.

She seemed to accept and resign herself to his demands, knowing that they wouldn't work.

He didn't say it out loud, but she seemed to know to some extent.

She must have felt that her skills had improved by repetition.

Everyone had the desire to do better.

Yoo Hyun immediately called another place.

It was his friend Kang Joon Ki, who was in charge of the semi-electronics mockup.

He had been calling him often lately, so he didn't even ask how he was and just spoke roughly.

-Why again? What do you want me to do?

“What do you mean, what do I want you to do? You're working for Chan Ho sunbae.”

-Fine. Cut the crap and tell me what you want.

“Do you have any engineers who can develop a mobile platform for phones?”

Yoo Hyun's question changed Kang Joon Ki's voice.

-Huh? Why do you ask that all of a sudden? How would I know?

“Well, if you don't know, I'll call Im sunbae.”

-No, no. I'll find out. Customer requests should be responded to promptly.

Click.

Hey, the customer request wasn't over yet.

Yoo Hyun chuckled at the hung-up phone.

He used to hesitate at first, but now he jumped at any work.

He was stimulated by the last meeting at Han Sung Tower and had been proactive since then.

Thanks to that, he got praised at the company and gained a reputation.

This series of events would surely make him grow more.

That was enough.

It wasn't just the two of them who changed.

Many people around them changed.

There was one person who changed the most among them.

That person over there.

Yoo Hyun turned his head and saw Manager Kim Hyun-min approaching with big strides.

He grabbed Yoo Hyun's hand.

"Yoo Hyun, let's go."

"Exhibition meeting?"

"Exactly. You were thinking about it too. The thread follows where the needle goes."

Why?

As he sighed inwardly, Lee Chan Ho next to him spoke up.

"Manager, I can go instead."

"Nah, you stay here and work. No need to go and get pressured."

"But I feel like you're pushing yourself too hard because of me."

"No. Stay here. It's hard to get rid of Byun gwa-jang if you join. Yoo Hyun is still on OJT, so I'm taking him with me. He needs to gain some experience."

Nope.

He was clearly just taking him along.

Not only this time, but Manager Kim Hyun-min also took Yoo Hyun with him to other meetings.

"Huh? Yoo Hyun, you look unhappy. You finished all your OJT assignments. Why did you finish so fast?"

"You said to finish quickly and go comfortably."

"Hmm. This is an extension of that. Do you have anything else to do?"

"I still have to sort out the mockup images."

He understood his intention well enough, but Yoo Hyun had something else to do.

He had to prepare for Lee Kyung Hoon director's sabotage after passing the contest.

It wasn't urgent, but he didn't have any reason to attend the meeting either.

"Come on, it only takes a few minutes. You don't know how the contest results will turn out. Right, Park daeri?"

"..."

Manager Kim Hyun-min turned his head sharply and called Park Seung Woo daeri .

But he was silent.

He had his face buried in the monitor since morning.

"That guy is really serious... Anyway, let's go."

"I don't have anything to do there."

The reason why he dragged him to the meeting was obvious.

"I'm bored if I go alone."

"That's a convincing reason."

"Kid. You only learned weird things from your mentor."

Yoo Hyun looked at Manager Kim Hyun-min's smiling face and thought.

'Anyone would think he's teaching the new employee the meeting atmosphere for OJT.'

But no.

He was just bored and took care of Yoo Hyun.

The reason why he could say that with confidence was shown in the meeting room.

Manager Kim Hyun-min spoke bluntly in front of the staff preparing for the European exhibition.

"Why do we have to do that? We already finished verifying the mobile panel display list."

"Manager, that's not it. We have to arrange the exhibition hall, and book the trip for the development team. There's a lot of work."

"Why does Chan Ho have to do that? He doesn't have to, so don't tell him to."

He slammed them down.

His posture, sitting crookedly, and his attitude, twirling his pen while talking, were not educational at all.

Byun Jin Woo gwa-jang 's face across from him turned red and blue.

“We’re preparing together, aren’t we? Chan Ho is also in charge.”

“Byun gwa-jang , speak properly. Who called the development team one by one and secured and verified the panel display list? Wasn’t it Chan Ho?”

“That’s what the product planning team was supposed to do.”

“Yeah. So you should praise him for doing well, not pile more work on him.”

Yoo Hyun didn’t tackle Manager Kim Hyun-min’s meeting.

He had his own style, having experienced it.

“This is not something one person can do...”

“Oh, so you guys ate something delicious with the exhibition preparation support money?”

He had the guts to bring up such a sore point without hesitation.

“What? That was originally...”

“Anyway, Chan Ho is done with his work, so Byun gwa-jang , you do the rest. Why are you making that face? Do you want me to do it?”

“...”

He didn’t hesitate to push them with his rank when words didn’t work.

“And if you have any chores, don’t tell Chan Ho to do them. Use your team people. If you really want to use him, come to our team.”

“Manager, if you keep doing this, I’ll have to talk to our team leader.”

“Go ahead. Then I’ll go now.”

“...”

He didn’t even blink at the other’s threat that wasn’t a threat.

Chapter 129

Stagnant for nearly eight years.

The Assistant Manager was a ruthless person.

“Hey, make sure you share the subsidy money fairly. Or else I’ll tell the manager. Assistant Manager Byun is so stingy, stealing money from his juniors.”

“Assistant Manager, that’s not true.”

“Yoo-hyun, let’s go.”

Yoo-hyun nodded and followed Kim Hyun Min, the Manager.

The atmosphere in the conference room was completely ruined.

Kim Hyun Min smirked as he walked down the hallway.

“Kids. They won’t mess with Chan Ho anymore.”

You mean they’ll hold a grudge against him?

Yoo-hyun didn’t dare to say it out loud.

“Yes. You did a good job.”

“Right. You learned something from this meeting, didn’t you?”

“Don’t let the nasty bastard get away with it, right?”

“Wow, you’re right.”

Kim Hyun Min liked Yoo-hyun’s joke.

Yoo-hyun chuckled and gave him a thumbs up.

He stood up for his colleagues after all.

It was worth praising.

Being a shield for his team members and eliminating external unreasonable factors, making them focus on their work, was an important virtue of a leader.

He was a bit rough and crude, but he was showing more of a leader’s qualities.

Of course, he sometimes crossed the line, but today was fine.

Assistant Manager Byun Jin Woo, who was at fault, couldn’t make things worse anyway.

More importantly, his actions had a great effect on bringing the third team members closer together.

This was what the third team needed most, when they were scattered like grains of sand.

It was all because he stepped forward and made things happen.

At first, he seemed awkward with the change, but now he looked confident.

He didn’t show it, but he had a strong sense of responsibility.

He protected the third team members from the manager’s scolding, the other team members’ questions, and the other teams’ tackles.

As long as he was in charge, the third team would stick together more firmly.

Yoo-hyun smiled brightly as he followed Kim Hyun Min's back.

At that moment, Kim Hyun Min turned his head sharply.

“What are you doing? Hurry up.”

“I'm coming.”

Yoo-hyun answered quickly.

The meeting that Yoo-hyun attended with Kim Hyun Min lasted about 30 minutes.

But even after they came back from the meeting, there was no change in Park Seung Woo's attitude.

He still had a blank expression on his face and stuck his nose to the monitor as before the meeting.

Kim Hyun Min, who had acted like a leader for a moment, looked at Park Seung Woo with contempt.

“Park, are you still doing that?”

“I think the announcement will be soon.”

“Do you think clicking on the email will make it come? You might fail even if you pass. Come on. Let's go smoke.”

“No. I'll take a break today.”

How desperate was he to refuse Kim Hyun Min's offer?

Come to think of it, he skipped his usual cigarette time after lunch.

“Deputy Park, do you want some coffee?”

“No. I'm fine.”

He shook his head at Yoo-hyun's offer of coffee.

This was the first time this happened.

Tap tap tap.

Park Seung Woo brought his laptop to the weekly team report and kept checking his email.

He looked very nervous with dark circles under his eyes and shaking legs.

He even repeated the same thing while Team Leader Oh Jae Hwan was talking.

Kim Hyun Min muttered in a low voice as he watched him from the side.

“That crazy bastard.”

He would have taken it as a joke normally, but this time he agreed with him.

He definitely went too far.

“Jo, prepare your TRM (Technical Roadmap) report for your manager and update the Nokia volume agreed with the sales team. And...”

Team Leader Oh Jae Hwan was talking in the middle of it.

“Pfft.”

Kim Young Gil, who was usually calm, reacted to Kim Hyun Min’s words three beats late.

It was a funny situation.

But it wasn’t a good timing.

Sure enough, Team Leader Oh Jae Hwan’s eyes sharpened at once.

“Third team, what are you doing? If you want to have a party, go outside!”

“I’m s-sorry.”

Kim Young Gil quickly bowed his head, but the frozen atmosphere didn’t melt easily.

From Team Leader Oh Jae Hwan’s perspective, the third team was nothing but an eyesore.

They were busy preparing for some contest or something.

He wanted to say something, but he couldn’t because they had finished the Hyundai Motors and Apple projects well.

And Kim Hyun Min annoyed him more than anything else.

He could only vent his frustration inwardly.

“Geez, what a bunch of losers...”

Team Leader Oh Jae Hwan muttered disdainfully, and some nodded in agreement.

The third team had a free-spirited atmosphere and they were sticking together lately, which made them envious.

Of course, they also made a lot of enemies.

Especially the other team leaders or Assistant managers and above tried to please the team leader by antagonizing the third team.

Either way, Kim Hyun Min kicked Park Seung Woo's calf and told him to stop looking.

Park Seung Woo stared at the monitor regardless of whether he agreed or not.

Team Leader Oh Jae Hwan glared at him.

"Park, what's so funny? Let me know."

"..."

"Today's the contest result day, right? Park is so distracted waiting for that."

"Kim, did I ask you?"

Team Leader Oh Jae Hwan went that far, but Park Seung Woo didn't answer.

The atmosphere cooled rapidly.

"The contest can go to hell. I didn't like it from the start when you did something that wouldn't work. How can we do a contest from the mobile phone division?"

Team Leader Oh Jae Hwan belittled them blatantly.

"Where did you get that nonsense backup plan? Tsk tsk tsk."

"..."

Then there was a snicker from here and there.

Even so, Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo had no answer.

He just moved his mouse.

Why is he like that?

I decided to put my thoughts aside for now. I had to avoid this situation first and see what happens later.

It was when Yoo-hyun stepped up to change the mood.

"Uh, uh."

Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo's mouth twitched.

His eyes widened, his mouth slowly opened, and his head tilted back.

Bang.

"Ouch!"

Then his chair fell backwards.

If Yoo-hyun hadn't caught him quickly, Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo's head might have hit the floor.

"Hey, are you crazy?"

Kim Hyun-min, the Manager, looked incredulous as he snapped at him.

Grunt.

Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo got up from his seat and said.

"To, passed. I passed the contest."

"What?"

"I passed the first round!"

At the place where everyone gathered.

Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo raised his hands awkwardly and shouted.

Out of hundreds of ideas, only 20 were selected for the first round of the contest.

If you pass the first round, you can get support from the mobile phone business unit to make a product.

Through this, a decent initial product was made.

What if you pass the second round presentation?

Not only will the product be launched immediately, but the proposer's name will be on it.

The huge prize money was a bonus.

Was it because of that?

Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo's embarrassment was brief.

That day, Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo received a lot of congratulations.

The rumor spread to other teams.

Even Jo Chan-young, the senior manager, gave him a warm smile that he had never seen before.

"Well done. I knew you could do it. Hehehe."

"Thank you, sir."

Even Oh Jae-hwan, the team leader who didn't like this situation, hid his dislike and approached him.

And he subtly emphasized his own merit.

“See? It worked because you did what I prepared.”

“Yes, team leader. I won’t forget it.”

Anyway, Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo was very happy.

His mood exploded when he saw his lovely mentee.

“Yoo-hyun! It’s thanks to you.”

“Come on, it’s all thanks to you, deputy. I just helped a little bit.”

“You lucky kid.”

Yoo-hyun stepped back, but Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo insisted on hugging him.

A man and a tight hug were not welcome.

Yoo-hyun dodged his body sensibly, and Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo hugged Kim Hyun-min, the Assistant Manager who was behind him.

Wham.

“Thank you, Assistant Manager.”

“Why are you so gross?”

“Because I’m happy.”

“Just get away from me.”

Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo rubbed his head against his chest, and Kim Hyun-min looked disgusted.

Was he that happy?

Yoo-hyun still smiled as he watched Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo shake his head.

It was only the first round pass, but it was his first achievement that he started with his own will and made it happen.

He expressed his joy with a very bright smile.

But he couldn’t be happy all the time.

There would be more difficulties waiting for him in the second round presentation.

It wouldn’t be a problem if he was evaluated by his skills.

His efforts so far were not enough to fall behind any competitors.

The problem was Director Lee Kyung-hoon.

He wouldn't stay still like this.

He had to move somehow.

The point was to catch him and prepare in advance.

To make a card to pull out at the decisive moment.

And to make him self-destruct in the end.

That was what Yoo-hyun had to focus on from now on.

It was when Yoo-hyun sat down and thought about it.

Team leader Oh Jae-hwan passed by behind him.

He walked away with a troubled expression on his face.

There was only one person who could make him panic at this point.

Yoo-hyun followed him at a distance.

His body disappeared into the partition of the sales team leader seat.

Fortunately, there was no one in the sales team.

If there were, they would have received an unpleasant look from him.

More than that, because there was no one in the team, Director Lee Kyung-hoon in the team leader seat could talk as much as he wanted.

Yoo-hyun pretended to touch the printer in the hallway and listened to his voice.

“Oh team leader! You'll be pushed by Deputy Kim if you stay still like this. Do you mean to do that?”

“I'm sorry.”

“Move now. You're done if you pass the contest. Why don't you know that?”

“...”

“You have to pull it out somehow. How do you do that...”

As expected, Director Lee Kyung-hoon was moving Team leader Oh Jae-hwan from behind.

The funny thing was that he was a talker.

He was the most impatient one, but he blamed Team leader Oh Jae-hwan.

Team leader Oh Jae-hwan, who couldn't say anything in front of him, was also a problem.

In the end, whoever came up, he would be dragged around.

'Is this all he can do?'

Yoo-hyun smirked at that moment.

"Yeah. Make a scene. Use that as an excuse to screw him over. Can't you? Do you want me to help you?"

"..."

"Just get some evidence. I'll finish it with the route I know."

"Thank you for your words, but I'll take care of this part myself."

Team leader Oh Jae-hwan's mood changed subtly.

They couldn't see their faces, but it looked like he was waving a flag at Director Lee Kyung-hoon.

There was something that triggered him for sure.

"Oh team leader! This is all for you."

"I'm a bad guy, but I can't do anything cowardly."

"Are you kidding? You'll have to fall to the ground and lose everything before you come to your senses."

"I'm sorry."

Team leader Oh Jae-hwan bowed his waist and walked out.

"Hey! Oh Jae-hwan!"

Soon after, Director Lee Kyung-hoon's shout burst out.

Team leader Oh Jae-hwan paused, but didn't look back.

His face was so pale that he looked scared, but he moved his feet.

Did he have such a backbone?

It was fortunate.

He was just a timid opportunist, not a trash.

He had enough pride not to do anything cowardly.

That's why it was fortunate.

"Damn!"

Director Lee Kyung-hoon's annoyed voice rang out from behind the partition. Yoo-hyun ignored his voice lightly and looked at Team leader Oh Jae-hwan's back.

At least today, his back looked big.

Chapter 130

A few days later, in the evening.

Director Lee Kyung-hoon was in a bar with a luxurious atmosphere.

"Why does our team leader look so gloomy?"

"Did I look that way?"

"Haha, you have worries written all over your forehead. What's wrong?"

"You can't fool your eyes, brother."

Director Lee Kyung-hoon handed a drink in a fine porcelain cup to his companion.

Senior Researcher Go Joon-gil, the team leader of the next-generation product development team of the mobile phone business division (equivalent to director level), took the cup.

He was also a member of Han-gol-mo, and he was on friendly terms with Director Lee Kyung-hoon.

"Wow, you're calling me brother. It must be something important."

"It's not that. It's just that there's something bothering me."

"What is it? Tell me."

"Our idea for the contest passed."

"Really? I think I saw that... But why?"

Director Lee Kyung-hoon looked embarrassed at Senior Researcher Go Joon-gil's question.

"It's an unrealistic idea that we threw out without thinking, but it got through."

"Oh no. That happens sometimes."

"Yes. I know your team is applying too, and I feel like I'm burdening you..."

"Oh, you want me to withdraw?"

Senior Researcher Go Joon-gil, who had emptied his cup, asked as if he understood.

Director Lee Kyung-hoon poured more drinks and spoke as if it wasn't his business.

The more desperate he seemed, the bigger the price he had to pay.

"It's not that, but the group leader is worried too. If we pass the second round, we have to make a real product, but we don't have the resources for that."

"Haha, that would be bad. What can I do?"

"Do you need to invest manpower in something that's impossible? You don't have the capacity either."

"I guess so. So?"

Senior Researcher Go Joon-gil nodded calmly.

He never asked any specific questions.

He just waited for Director Lee Kyung-hoon to say what he wanted.

"There's an investment opportunity in an equipment company. It's called D&Tech, and they're going to go public soon. They have a lot of potential. Of course, I secured your spot for sure."

Chirp.

As soon as the answer came out, Senior Researcher Go Joon-gil picked up the bottle and filled Director Lee Kyung-hoon's cup.

Then he raised his cup.

"It's probably not a good idea to invest manpower in something that has no chance, right?"

"You're absolutely right."

Clang.

"Haha, you always make sense, brother. The drink is so sweet."

"Isn't it more fun to be together?"

Senior Researcher Go Joon-gil clinked his cup with Director Lee Kyung-hoon's cup, who smiled.

The productization consulting for the first round contest winners began.

The organizer was the product planning team of the mobile phone business division, but the actual work was done by the next-generation product development team of the mobile phone business division.

The consulting place was also the Hanseong Electronics Sindorim Campus where the next-generation product development team of the mobile phone business division was located.

The consulting was done separately for each case, so the dates were different.

It was a few days after it started.

Finally, it was Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo's turn.

Yoo-hyun, Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo, and Lee Chan-ho were standing in front of the Sindorim Campus building.

Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo spoke with a stiff voice.

"Chan-ho, why are you shaking so much?"

"You seem more nervous than me, sir."

Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo and Lee Chan-ho poked each other's shoulders for no reason.

"Yoo-hyun, what do you think? Who looks more nervous?"

"I think you both look the same."

"No way. I'm not nervous."

Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo said no, but his face was flushed.

He looked tense to anyone who saw him.

It was understandable.

From Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo's point of view, it was a moment when his idea could be productized right in front of his eyes.

He had only been in charge of LCD panels until now.

He naturally wanted to make a mobile phone, the final product that reaches consumers' hands.

It would be hard to get this opportunity again even if he worked hard all his life.

'It won't be easy.'

Yoo-hyun wasn't nervous at all, but he couldn't relax either.

The mobile phone business division would be less interested in the LCD business division's idea.

He had to step up for fair competition.

His rank was low, and the people he met were unfamiliar.

How should he deal with a situation where he couldn't voice his opinion?

Yoo-hyun simulated dozens of situations in his head.

That's when it happened.

Assistant Manager Jung Eun-hee of the product planning team of the mobile phone business division came down to the first floor meeting room.

She was the contest manager who contacted him about the meeting, and Yoo-hyun had already checked her face through the internal contact network.

"Are you Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo? You can go up to the fifth floor."

"Yes. I understand."

Click clack.

As Assistant Manager Jung Eun-hee walked in a neat outfit, Lee Chan-ho and Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo whispered behind her.

"She's in the same product planning team, but she looks different, doesn't she?"

"The mobile phone business division looks more impressive. Right, Yoo-hyun?"

They both looked a bit relieved, which was a relief, but Yoo-hyun didn't want to answer that question.

He had something to do now.

He walked ahead without saying a word and pushed the box he was holding next to Assistant Manager Jung Eun-hee forward.

Assistant Manager Jung Eun-hee, who was walking forward, glanced at it once, tilted her head, and looked at it again.

There was an unexpected item in the open box.

"Huh? What is this? A phone mockup?"

"Yes. We made it ourselves, in case it would help with the meeting."

"Oh, you made it yourself. Can I see it?"

"Of course."

Assistant Manager Jung Eun-hee touched the mockup as if she was looking at a precious toy.

"Huh? You made it like a real phone. Wait? Does this touch work?"

"Yes. If you press this, a touch test program will pop up."

“Wow, this is nice.”

As expected, she exclaimed.

Yoo-hyun didn't make a proper mockup using Semi Electronics and Han Jae-hee for nothing.

He wouldn't have invested so much time if he was going to use it for a report.

When I planned this mockup, I already had the final product in mind.

It meant that it would be appealing enough to the people in the mobile phone division.

However.

There was a problem if I revealed this mockup that I made myself at this meeting.

The next-generation product development team, who would support the production of the mobile phone prototype, might misunderstand it as an invasion of their territory.

They would say that if I could make it so well, I should do it myself.

That's why the role of Jung Eun-hee, the assistant manager, was important.

The rumors heard through a third party had the power to break down the barriers and make people follow the majority opinion.

Yoo-hyun's thought was exactly right.

Jung Eun-hee, who entered the conference room, started to brag as if she had seen something amazing.

“Manager, look at this. Didn't they make it really well?”

“Huh? Really? Did they do this in the LCD division?”

“Wow, it looks like a real phone. Kim Manager, come and see.”

Thanks to her, the people in the mobile phone division's product planning team, who were in charge of today's meeting, showed great interest.

That interest spread to the engineers of the next-generation product development team even before the meeting started.

“They paid a lot of attention to the details. The icons and this look like they designed them from scratch.”

“Which company did this? Semi Electronics? How did they implement it without an OS?”

“They made it with firmware only. They worked with images. It must have been a lot of hard work.”

Since they were pure engineers, they were more curious than asking why they made such a thing.

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, and Lee Chan-ho were busy.

They had to answer the pouring questions.

When it was a brief lull, Kang Chang-seok, Yoo-hyun’s colleague from the mobile phone division’s next-generation product development team, asked Yoo-hyun.

“You made it well. How did you do it?”

“The company made it well for us.”

“Really? Anyway, the seniors liked it. Actually, your team was the fifth one today.”

His face was full of fatigue.

The other team members were the same.

“Your team members must be tired too.”

“Tired. The schedule is short and we have to make multiple products at the same time.”

“I guess so.”

“It’s okay for products with design teams attached, but we have to plan almost everything for others. They don’t like it when we say we can’t do something.”

“They would feel bad if they can’t do what others can.”

Yoo-hyun had roughly expected that.

It was impossible to make all 20 ideas from the contest into products in one team.

So they divided what they could and couldn’t make in a short period of time before the second screening.

They gave out the product feasibility and schedule for what they couldn’t make.

It sounded plausible in name only, but here, ideas that couldn’t be made into products were unlikely to win in the contest.

It meant that they were harder to make into products than other ideas without a doubt.

In that sense, this meeting was important enough to decide whether they would pass or fail in the second screening.

Kang Chang-seok showed a positive response.

“But yours seems possible. The design is simple and you have all the internal images ready. Actually, I think you can just send it as it is.”

“But still, an LCD panel mockup and a mobile phone product mockup are different.”

“Are they? Well, I think we can make something similar by tuning the touch phone we made for testing.”

It was the effect of Yoo-hyun presenting the mockup first.

He showed them the final shape of the product and cut off the middle process.

It had to look easier than other products relatively.

“I’m sure you’ve prepared really well since you made me think so. The other seniors wouldn’t say anything either.”

“Thank you. I hope it goes well.”

Yoo-hyun calmly expressed his opinion.

Soon after, the head of the mobile phone division’s next-generation product development team joined them.

Park Seung-woo gave a presentation in a solemn atmosphere.

Since they had already seen the mockup, the practitioners were quite focused on the presentation content.

There were questions from here and there during the presentation, and the feedback was good.

One of the members of the mobile phone division’s product planning team asked.

“Did you check the schedule for the next-generation mobile phone product?”

“Yes. I did.”

“That’s amazing. It’s not something you can easily find out from the LCD division.”

-My colleague is a researcher in the next-generation product development team. So I got his schedule and thought about including this content. After all, it’s important to have a final product schedule for a contest.

Park Seung-woo, who smiled at Yoo-hyun, answered confidently.

“I cross-checked through various routes. It was also a big effect to refer to last year’s development schedule.”

“Hmm, that’s good.”

“Detailed and meticulous. The concept is good. And above all, this price seems really good.”

“It’s very simple but unique. Isn’t the color phone naming good?”

“Yes. I can see that you paid attention to every detail.”

The product planning team members opened a review meeting with short answers.

The atmosphere looked as good as it could be.

Yoo-hyun looked at their faces and confirmed the positive trend.

But among them, only Go Jun-gil, the senior researcher and the team leader of the next-generation product development team, who was the oldest participant in this meeting, didn’t look happy.

He looked full of complaints.

Yoo-hyun’s brow furrowed as he saw him from behind.

Go Jun-gil, who was listening with his arms crossed and a sullen posture, stopped Park Seung-woo.

“So you’re saying you can get the LCD panel on this schedule?”

“Yes. I suggested the idea with a concept that uses the existing process.”

“So you’re assuming that the panels that used the existing process line won’t be produced.”

“Of course. But I expect that the supply will fall short of the forecast next year...”

“Hey, let’s not make unrealistic predictions. I’ve never seen LCD panel’s predictions right.”

He was polite but there was a knife hidden in his words.

Anyone who had been eating company food for years would know.

Go Jun-gil was openly criticizing Park Seung-woo’s idea.

He deliberately recalled negative memories from the past and applied them to this case.

“The other products have a lot of time left, so I’ll let it go. But this product’s target is the first quarter of next year. It’s too fast even if it’s fast.”

“That’s...”

“I know. Of course you can make it if you want to. But will it be a proper product if you make it hastily?”

He pushed the product schedule that had nothing to do with the mockup.

“I’m not thinking of making it hastily.”

“No. I don’t think so. Even if it works, I doubt there will be much demand for touch phones. What do other people think?”

He even made a conclusion without even judging.