

Real Man 161

Chapter 161

During the interview, Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min showed a strong reaction.

“No, how can Ilsung do such a despicable thing? Isn't that right?”

“They are like that.”

“Ha ha! I knew you would understand me, reporter.”

He was a bit outspoken, but the overall atmosphere was smooth.

Reporter Oh Eun-bi also asked about something she was curious about personally.

It was a question about Laura Parker, whom she didn't hear from Yoo-hyun.

She deliberately added some speculative opinions.

“I heard that Laura Parker mentioned the color phone in the interview because of your request, Yoo-hyun?”

“What? Yoo-hyun, did you ask her to do that?”

Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min asked and Yoo-hyun shook his head.

“No. There's no way I would do that.”

“Of course. There's no way. Reporter, he's so handsome and smart that he's close with Laura Parker, but...”

Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min nodded and then Park Seung-woo suddenly interjected.

“He's my mentee.”

“You're too fast. Anyway, he says he's not. There's no reason for him to do that. Right?”

“Yes.”

Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min said as if to confirm, and Yoo-hyun smiled and nodded.

To Reporter Oh Eun-bi's eyes, there were some strange points in their conversation.

It was one thing that the part-timers didn't know, but Yoo-hyun didn't show any sign of doing well.

Shouldn't he brag about it if he did something good?

Not only that.

Yoo-hyun never stepped forward during the interview.

He just listened quietly and gave credit to the part-timers.

It seemed to Reporter Oh Eun-bi that he was considerate of the part-timers.

He, the youngest.

It was so unbelievable that it gave her a headache.

Then, Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min, who had been talking non-stop, said in a serious tone.

“Actually, to tell you the exact history, Yoo-hyun first...”

“Deputy Manager, no. We did it together.”

Yoo-hyun tried to avoid it, but this time it was Chief Choi Min-hee who stepped in.

“When I was struggling because of Hyunil Motors...”

“No. When did I? You did it all, Chief.”

Yoo-hyun escaped again like a mudfish.

But there was another trouble.

Lee Chan-ho, who had a soldier-like posture, gave Yoo-hyun a smile.

“When he made the mock-up, what Yoo-hyun said was...”

“Senior, don’t say that again. You did it, Senior.”

Yoo-hyun waved his hand.

Reporter Oh Eun-bi smiled as she listened quietly.

The seniors also had one mind to praise the youngest.

The junior denied it and pushed the senior.

The seniors pulled him back to the front.

Kim Young-gil said, and Park Seung-woo said.

“You should be praised for doing well.”

“Right. Yoo-hyun, you lack that kind of sentiment.”

It was a scene that could not be seen anywhere.

At some point, Reporter Oh Eun-bi just looked at them.

Yoo-hyun looked at the part-timers sitting next to him with wonder.

They had become close while doing the contest together, but there was some distance between them.

They were not friends, but a relationship with ranks.

But that relationship changed subtly when they came to the German exhibition.

It wasn't just because of the alcohol they drank for three days.

They made mistakes, got sick, got annoyed, laughed and talked.

They shared their emotions in real time as they stuck together, and they became close like school seniors and juniors.

Was that why?

It was more like a chat than an interview.

They joked, teased, said mean things, and sometimes got serious.

It was a sight that she couldn't imagine when she interviewed them before.

The affection that she felt in every word tickled Yoo-hyun's heart.

He smiled involuntarily.

He liked it so much.

Click.

He wished that this moment would not disappear and last forever, like the picture he just took.

After the interview.

Yoo-hyun, who had sent off the part-timers, approached Reporter Oh Eun-bi.

"Is it a bit noisy?"

"It looked good, didn't it? And I also thought that Yoo-hyun was really loved."

"They are very nice people. I owe them a lot."

"From what I hear, you sound like a senior, Yoo-hyun."

"No way."

Senior.

If he looked at it coldly, he was a senior since he worked longer at the company.

He still had a lot of things he wanted to teach in Yoo-hyun's eyes.

As he was thinking that, Reporter Oh Eun-bi asked.

“By the way, what is your identity, Yoo-hyun?”

“I’m a Hansung Electronics employee.”

Yoo-hyun’s answer was simple.

He didn’t need to tell her everything, and strictly speaking, it was also true.

If he was a person who had a clear sense of profit and loss, he wouldn’t ask any more.

Yoo-hyun believed that Reporter Oh Eun-bi was at that level.

And he was right.

“I don’t care if you don’t tell me. I’m sure you’re a helpful person, Yoo-hyun. That’s enough, right?”

“Don’t you think you’re more helpful, reporter?”

“Right? I’m useful, right? So please come to me a lot. Ho ho.”

And now.

Reporter Oh Eun-bi showed him the minimum that he wanted.

What did that mean?

The time to bet was near.

Yoo-hyun had something he wanted to check with her for the last time.

“Just a moment.”

“Yes. Anytime.”

Yoo-hyun picked up his phone and got up from his seat for that reason.

Meanwhile, Reporter Oh Eun-bi muttered to herself.

“What does identity matter? That’s much better than the president’s connections.”

There was no need to check the calculator.

There was no one else in Korea who could make it so easy for her to interview Laura Parker.

Come to think of it, it was also Yoo-hyun who had made Ilsung Electronics look bad at the exhibition hall.

Thanks to him, she had scored two big articles today.

She was thinking about that when she heard Yoo-hyun's voice on the phone.

"What? You found the truck that was carrying Ilsung Electronics' large slim TV?"

Oh Eunbi's ears perked up.

"Why is that truck parked at Jakseon rest area on the 9th highway? Yes. And..."

She quickly took out her notebook and wrote down almost everything he said.

She swallowed hard and asked Yoo-hyun cautiously after he hung up the phone.

"Is that true?"

"What do you mean? Oh, that. I heard it from someone..."

"Who, who did you hear it from?"

Instead of answering, Yoo-hyun put his index finger on his lips and smiled with his eyes.

"It's a secret. Well, I have some urgent business to attend to, so I'll go ahead. It was fun today."

"Yoo-hyun."

And then he was gone.

Oh Eunbi stood there blankly.

The man who had called Laura Parker.

The man who had humbled himself in front of his colleagues.

He wouldn't make such a nonsense.

She didn't know what kind of information it was, but it was credible.

It had to be.

She snapped out of it and picked up her phone.

Then she shouted in a hurry.

"Kang sunbae, where are you?"

Yoo-hyun walked out of the exhibition hall, recalling a news article that had been in his vague memory.

<Ilsung Electronics' stolen exhibition TV, found in a rest area in Germany.>

It was 2008.

A year after the present time, he had found out that Ilsung Electronics' large slim TV, which had been stolen at a European exhibition, had been found.

And not in a special place, but in an abandoned truck.

What was more surprising was that there were two TVs left in the truck.

In the end, the culprit was never caught and it ended up as a happening. He could remember this absurd news because of the repeated news from Geumwook Daily.

“I was right.”

Last night, Yoo-hyun had accessed his faint past memory.

He had borrowed Jang Hyemin’s senior’s rental car and visited the rest area himself.

There he had found a truck that was standing alone in a corner.

Of course, he couldn’t be sure that it was the truck that had carried Ilsung Electronics’ TV.

It was a large size for a quiet rest area, and he had guessed from the fact that it was parked on the outskirts of a large vacant lot.

However, he had gained some confidence when he saw Ilsung Electronics’ business card stuck on the truck’s passenger seat.

What if it wasn’t?

He couldn’t help it.

If Oh Eunbi had moved as Yoo-hyun intended and failed, he would have apologized and compensated her.

Yoo-hyun didn’t want to check the stolen TV.

He wanted to see how actively she moved with such a small clue.

And he was curious how cleverly she solved the homework he had given her.

If she was smart, she would have used the people around her.

And she did.

Yoo-hyun smiled coldly.

Now he was thinking of taking care of the rest.

With not much time left, the scenario would be finalized according to her decision.

Yoo-hyun stopped by the main booth C on the first floor to check the situation and went out to the hallway.

And he used the computer set up in one corner to check the internet news.

<Germany's JS, decides to invest heavily in Korea's LCD equipment company DNTech.>

There was no follow-up article to the news he had checked in the morning.

There weren't many comments either.

Yoo-hyun's eyes caught the name of the press at the end of the article.

Hanse Ilbo.

A press classified as a pro-Hanseong faction, and also connected to the 'Hangolmo' line.

It was a disadvantage that they were not a major company and had weak influence.

And the article they wrote was not that impactful.

That was the definite reason why there was not a single comment.

But not for Yoo-hyun.

Yoo-hyun kept checking the time the article was posted and the progress of the follow-up article.

Through this, he drew the progress and the events that would happen in the future in his head.

Of course, this also included the actions of Lee Kyunghoon, the director.

The most likely time for the follow-up article to come out was tonight.

They would aim for the peak day of the exhibition, as they wanted to get attention.

Then what?

The conclusion would be neat if it was done tomorrow, the day after the news broke.

Yoo-hyun organized his thoughts and walked.

It was when Yoo-hyun passed by the main booth of Hanseong Electronics.

'Huh?'

A woman with a short-cut style passed by Yoo-hyun with a quick step.

It was a fleeting moment, but her face was clearly visible.

Jeong Dahye?

Was it because he was dazed?

Yoo-hyun's body moved half a beat late.

When he turned his head, the woman was already gone.

"Hey."

Yoo-hyun ran forward, breaking through the crowd.

But there was no Jeong Dahye he was looking for.

He quickly turned around, but he couldn't find her.

Did he see wrong?

No.

He was sure he saw her.

But how likely was it that he would meet her by chance in Germany?

The probability was lower than winning the lottery.

It stopped Yoo-hyun's thoughts.

It couldn't be.

He shook his head vigorously.

He seemed to have been too nervous about this job.

His head was dizzy.

"What time is it..."

He barely came to his senses and checked the time.

He still had a lot of things to do to proceed as planned.

At that time.

Jeong Dahye walked through the main exhibition hall with a fast pace.

She had no interest in the flashy exhibits.

One of the employees of Cosmo Cosmetics, her client company, stopped her.

"Dahye, JS seems to be busy. We're fine, so just go."

"Manager, that's not it. I wouldn't have come to Germany if that was the case."

Jeong Dahye came to Germany as the company's representative for the client's consulting.

She was supposed to act as a bridge to learn organic cosmetics technology from JS, a cosmetics specialist company.

If the company had no room, they should have told her sooner.

Then she could have arranged another company.

Now they were making excuses?

No matter how much they were the superior, there was a limit.

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She was angry, but what she couldn't tolerate was that they had wasted her time.

They had been boasting about their LCD business on the news.

But now it seemed like they were completely giving up on the cosmetics side.

"I need to see those people."

"Da-hye..."

Jung Da-hye walked with a determined step.

The Cosmo Cosmetics employee didn't know what to do and just shuffled his feet.

In front of the JS booth at the main booth C.

It was busy with people of various nationalities.

Jung Da-hye handed her business card to the JS guide and asked.

"Can I see Adrian, the head of the department here? I'm an employee of Sprint Company."

"You're not an LCD company."

He took the card and frowned.

"Yes. I'm a consulting company. I'm in charge of cosmetics."

"This is where products related to LCD business are displayed. You'd better ask the company directly about cosmetics."

"Then please let me see Adrian. I heard he's here to support."

It was Adrian, the head of the department at JS, who had suddenly canceled the appointment that day.

He didn't answer the phone when Jung Da-hye asked him to explain why. He didn't reply to her messages either, nor did he arrange another schedule. That was why Jung Da-hye had come all the way here.

"I'm sorry. We have a VIP guest right now and it's hard to respond."

"I just need to see his face."

"I'm sorry."

But the guide kept repeating his refusal like a parrot.

That's when it happened.

She saw a man with a hooked nose and thick eyebrows in the distance. It was Adrian.

He was talking to an oriental man in his middle age. The oriental man had a big spot next to his nose.

Jung Da-hye raised her hand and shouted.

"Mr. Adrian!"

At that moment, the oriental man slowly lifted his head.

A Chinese word came out of his mouth, which had been mumbling.

"Shut up."

That was all he said.

It was a word that Jung Da-hye, who knew some Chinese, could understand.

The power of a trivial word was tremendous.

The guides came out and grabbed Jung Da-hye, and Adrian and the other JS employees bowed their heads in front of the Chinese man.

There was also the representative that she had seen on the JS website.

The customer company employee tried to stop her, but Jung Da-hye had no intention of backing down.

"Da-hye, thank you for trying so hard. We're fine."

"Wait a minute. Adrian, I'm Ellis Jung from Sprint Company. The person you were supposed to meet today."

But Jung Da-hye's shout didn't last long.

The guides dragged her away.

Meanwhile, Yoo-hyun, who had made a phone call somewhere, went up to the second floor corridor.

It was a place where the edge of the exhibition hall stretched out, and where he could see the cross-section of the first floor with the ceiling open.

From where Yoo-hyun stood, he could see half of the main booth C on the first floor.

It didn't matter that he couldn't see it all.

He could see the JS booth vaguely.

Was there a commotion?

He couldn't see well from afar, but the people's movements were not very smooth.

Yoo-hyun took out a small telescope and looked at the JS booth.

The image of the man he remembered was reflected in the round lens.

Wang Hai-feng.

He was the actual owner of JS, who was hiding his identity now.

He was the younger brother of the chairman of BDE (Beijing Display Specialist Company), and a man who had the favor of the Chinese government.

He had secretly revealed himself yesterday.

Seeing him, Yoo-hyun was sure.

The event was today.

Of course, he would never come forward in his position, where he had to hide the fact that he was the real owner of JS.

He just controlled everything from behind.

This was all a scheme to steal the Korean LCD business.

The more he thought about it, the more he sneered.

“What is his China dream?”

China's ambition to become the world's center in the LCD industry.

They chose Hanseong Electronics as their target to achieve that.

A large number of their personnel had already been scattered to JS subsidiaries around the world.

After the personnel, it was the technology.

D&Tech, which would supply the core equipment, was a Trojan horse that would enter Hanseong and steal the technology.

“How meticulous.”

They used a German company and a Hanseong Electronics partner company to avoid being caught.

They also captured some of the Hanseong Electronics people in advance.

They had made efforts simultaneously.

In the past, when this situation was revealed, it was already after everything had been stolen.

They fixed the barn after losing the cow, but it was useless.

A few years later, they were eventually caught up by China.

Soon after.

Wang Hai-feng disappeared from his sight.

Soon after, Lee Kyung-hoon, the head of the department, passed by, and the finance director of the LCD business division also flashed by.

After that, a reporter with a camera followed.

The purpose was clear.

To announce the news of cooperation between Hanseong Electronics and JS.

This announcement was a win-win for Hanseong Electronics.

They could show off their coexistence with small and medium-sized enterprises through D&Tech.

And if they also showed that they received investment from JS, a foreign company?

The government would have to welcome them with open arms.

That meant, in other words, that government officials would also be here.

Yoo-hyun finished preparing to go down.

As expected, the people from the Ministry of Industry started to show up.

Yoo-hyun's eyes fixed on one man.

Jung Woo-hyuk, the head of the department.

He was here.

He remembered his interview and thought that he had been here in the past.

Then, there must be a National Intelligence Service agent somewhere here, hiding his identity.

Who was it?

As a result of observing for two days, there were a few people he suspected.

He could have noticed it if he had observed a little more, but not from here.

The distance was too far, and there were many hidden parts.

He would have to go down and see for himself.

No matter how hard they tried to hide, they couldn't conceal all their actions.

Using the intelligence agency's agents to solve the problem.

That was Yoo-hyun's first scenario.

Beep. Beep.

Then, the name of reporter Oh Eunbi appeared on the phone's LCD screen.

What did it mean that she called him at this point?

"Looks like I can go to the second scenario."

Yoo-hyun pressed the call button with a smirk.

As soon as the call was connected, he heard the excited voice of reporter Oh Eunbi through the receiver.

-Yoo-hyun, it's a jackpot! They were really at the rest area. My senior is calling the police right now...

He didn't need to hear more since he had already expected that.

Yoo-hyun cut her off at the right moment.

"Reporter, can I see you right now?"

-What? Now? Yes, yes. Of course. I'll buy you a meal. You know, it's rare for a reporter to get a free meal. Hahaha.

"I'm fine with the meal. I just want you to interview someone for me."

-Who? You sound like it's someone very important.

"Yes. Someone I admire. He just did a great job."

-Deal.

He really did a great job.

He blew up the deal that was giving everything to China.

From what he had investigated in the past few days, it was Director Lee Kyunghoon who led the negotiation.

In other words, he played a key role in the triangle of JS, DNTech, and Hansung Electronics.

Then, wouldn't he feel wronged right now?

He did everything himself, but the spotlight was on someone else.

He would have been satisfied with the profit if it was any other time, but he was surely greedy now that he was in a hurry.

This was when Yoo-hyun had to step in.

He was going to set the stage for him.

"I'll take care of it for you."

Yoo-hyun didn't answer for a while, and reporter Oh Eunbi asked impatiently.

-Where should we meet? Just tell me.

"Well..."

Yoo-hyun told her the place and hung up the phone.

"Go up higher and see where it ends."

He muttered to himself as he looked down at the exhibition hall on the first floor.

A thick smile formed on Yoo-hyun's lips.

Three men stood with the JS booth as the background.

Click. Click.

"Director, please move a little to the side. Yes, that's good."

The camera captured their images, which didn't look very glamorous, but they were all well-known people.

The tall middle-aged man in the middle was Yu Jaehwan, the CFO of Hansung Electronics' LCD division.

He adjusted his posture and the camera reporter pressed the shutter button again.

Click. Click.

On his left was Kurt Jung, the vice president of JS's LCD material center.

And on his right was Yeokyeongcheol, the president of DNTech.

After the short photo shoot.

A brief press conference took place inside the JS booth.

The three men sat on the single sofa in the center of the booth, and the reporters from the media surrounded them.

It was a common sight during the exhibition period.

A small announcement like this was usually done in front of the company's booth, not in the press conference room.

It would have been weak if it was only DNTech, but JS and Hansung Electronics gave it some weight.

There were many reporters, but not many domestic ones.

JS had selected the media outlets that focused on them.

The progress was in a Q&A format.

First, a German media reporter raised his hand and asked the agreed question.

"JS said that you will make a large investment in DNTech. Does that mean that you will have a deeper relationship with Hansung Electronics?"

The answer was given by Kurt Jung, the vice president of JS, in English, and Yu Jaehwan, the CFO, followed in Korean.

"Yes, that's right. JS decided to exclusively support the new development of LCD materials for Hansung Electronics until the year after next, meaning that we want to strengthen our partnership with them. Right, CFO Yu Jaehwan?"

"Haha! Yes. Thank you for giving us a good offer. We will do our best to create a better partnership in the future."

As soon as Yu Jaehwan finished his words, the interpreter translated them immediately.

Camera flashes went off everywhere.

The words that came out now would soon become short news headlines.

Damn.

Director Lee Kyunghoon, who was watching that, didn't feel so good.

“The bear has the skill, but the king of the west gets all the spotlight.”

He was the one who worked the hardest in the middle.

But the CFO, who didn't know the details well, came out and took all the spotlight.

There was no depth in his answer either.

He just repeated abstract words like a parrot, and the media outlets praised him for that.

He would get a huge profit from the DNTech stake. He also got a lot of money from JS.

But he couldn't see that at this moment.

Director Lee Kyunghoon looked at the reporters around him with envy.

There were few domestic reporters.

No decent media outlets attended, and the reporters didn't ask any questions.

So everything had to go through JS.

And Yu Jaehwan, the CFO, couldn't speak English, so he used Korean.

Everything was disappointing.

If he was the protagonist, couldn't he have made this event more glamorous?

Even the trashy people got interviewed with color phones.

But he, who worked the hardest, didn't get any treatment. That was the reality.

He was marked by the vice chairman in the last incident.

It was a golden opportunity to make up for that, but it disappeared like a bubble.

Director Lee Kyunghoon tried to suppress his boiling heart.

That was when.

Click. Click.

A camera with the logo of Our Daily shook in front of Director Lee Kyunghoon.

The reporter who passed by him went straight into the crowd of reporters.

Then he raised his hand and asked the CFO in English.

“I heard that Hansung played a big role in the relationship between DNTech and JS.”

“Yes, that's right.”

“I also heard that there was someone who did an important role. Who is he?”

“Ah. Haha! Everyone did an important role.”

Yu Jaehwan, the CFO, also gave a simple answer in English.

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It was not a big deal, but his words made Director Lee Kyung-hoon's brow furrow.

They had done everything for them, and they said they all played important roles.

Then, reporter Oh Eun-bi asked a question in Korean.

“Among them, Director Lee Kyung-hoon was the one who showed the most outstanding performance, right?”

“Yes, Director Lee Kyung-hoon worked hard.”

Then, Executive Director Yoo Jae-hwan reluctantly nodded.

“Can we interview you together?”

“Well, there's no harm in that. I'll check it out.”

The interpreter conveyed his opinion to the host in English.

JS realized then that Uri Ilbo was a media outlet that had not been consulted.

But Executive Director Yoo Jae-hwan, who did not know that fact, asked JS for their consent.

JS had no reason to refuse.

They had already put out all the content that could be written as an article.

In the end, reporter Oh Eun-bi's request was accepted.

Some might see this as a coincidence.

But it wasn't.

Yoo-hyun turned his head and gave reporter Oh Eun-bi a wink and a thumbs up.

He didn't know why, but he got a chance.

Director Lee Kyung-hoon, who got the sign, straightened his clothes and walked forward.

That was when.

He turned his head at the sight of someone's gaze from the side, and there was a new recruit from the product planning team.

He nodded and smiled.

‘This is how blatant it is, right?’

Director Lee Kyung-hoon chuckled as he understood the situation.

The new recruit had a hand in it.

He had already confirmed that the reporter and the new recruit were close.

The purpose?

Of course, it was the line.

It meant that he wanted him to grow it properly.

He had to admit that the guy was smart.

‘Well, if you've raised it this much, you should give something back.’

He decided to grow him properly with this opportunity and changed his expression to a satisfied one.

Then he entered the interview seat with a confident stride.

“Today...”

From then on, it was a breeze.

The process of discovering D&Tech, how Hansung supported them during the exhibition, what kind of help they gave during the negotiation with JS, and so on.

The place that seemed to end with a short photo and a snippet interview became rich thanks to his fluent speech.

Was it because of the friendly atmosphere?

At the end, JS Vice President Kurt Jung made a big proposal.

“Haha! On this occasion, I would like to invest 20 billion won in Hansung Electronics from JS and build a liquid crystal material production base in Korea. Will you please consider it?”

“Of course. I'll check it out as soon as I get back to Korea. Haha! Thanks to our director, things are going well.”

“No, it's all thanks to the CFO.”

Executive Director Yoo Jae-hwan had no reason to reject the proposal.

And the ball went back to Director Lee Kyung-hoon.

Click. Click. Click.

At the same time, a camera flash baptism erupted.

Director Lee Kyung-hoon smiled and received the spotlight to his heart's content.

It was the moment when all his merits were recognized.

Until the interview was over, Director Jung Woo-hyuk of the Ministry of Industry did not leave his seat.

He had a look of trying to confirm something.

And two people caught Yoo-hyun's eye.

One with a domestic medium-sized company badge, and one with a Japanese company badge.

Judging by their behavior, they were clearly NIS personnel who had sneaked in.

The international exhibition had the purpose of inter-company exchange as well as exhibition.

The most important thing there was security.

Security in national-based industries like LCD was managed by the Ministry of Industry and the NIS.

That was why they attended the exhibition.

'Is it still just a suspicion stage?'

They seemed to be working hard, but the results wouldn't be good.

They had already failed in the past.

China had done a thorough job.

But.

The situation had changed now.

Everything was going according to Yoo-hyun's design.

He had already crossed the ninth ridge of the scenario.

The result would soon reach them.

Yoo-hyun's lips slowly rose.

After the group interview, reporter Oh Eun-bi went to find Director Lee Kyung-hoon separately.

It was to do a short personal interview.

“Hahaha! Thank you.”

Yoo-hyun looked at Director Lee Kyung-hoon, who was smiling, and thought.

‘What will happen to Executive Director Yoo Jae-hwan?’

When the investigation came out from the Ministry of Industry and the NIS in the past, the one who suffered the most was Executive Director Yoo Jae-hwan.

There was no other reason.

He had said in the interview that he had cooperated with JS and D&Tech as if he had done it himself.

In the end, he was disgraced and ousted without being able to properly appeal his innocence.

It was such a big deal that he couldn’t set foot in the related industries afterwards.

He didn’t know that now, but he seemed to want to stand out more.

He had a slightly stiff expression because of Director Lee Kyung-hoon, who suddenly joined in.

But wouldn’t he sigh with relief later when he remembered this?

It was the same for dozens of large and small companies and hundreds of people in the political and business circles who would be involved in this incident for a year.

They should be very grateful for this moment when they would pass by without knowing anything.

If they ever found out that their necks were hanging here.

That wouldn’t happen, though.

He looked forward to what would happen.

A hot news came out just an hour after the interview was over.

<JS, surprise announcement of 20 billion won investment in Hansung Electronics.>

In fact, 20 billion won was not a big figure for Hansung Electronics.

But it was a catchy material for the public, and it worked well that Uri Ilbo, a major media outlet, wrote an article.

The article had a peculiar feature that the photos of the four people who interviewed were displayed as big as the front door.

It looked comparable to the news that they received 3 trillion won from Apple just by looking at the photo.

Especially, the fact that Director Lee Kyung-hoon was opening his mouth in the photo.

The fact that his interview was added separately in one line.

It was described as if Director Lee Kyung-hoon played a big role in that part.

That evening.

The LCD business division's exhibition-related employees gathered at a Korean restaurant near the exhibition hall.

At that place, Vice President Ahn Joon-hong, the mobile group leader who kept his distance from Director Lee Kyung-hoon, praised him with spitting saliva.

It was the first friendly word he uttered since the color phone incident.

“This team leader is really good at talking. Haha.”

“I learned it all from you, group leader.”

“Hehe! This guy.”

“Come on, the hero of today should make a toast.”

The other executives pushed Director Lee Kyung-hoon forward.

Director Lee Kyung-hoon got up from his seat with a thick smile on his lips.

He felt like he was the star of the place.

The situation he truly wanted was unfolding before his eyes.

He made a cheerful toast.

“To the bright future of Hansung Electronics, cheers!”

“Cheers!”

The people holding glasses shouted loudly.

Among them was Yoo-hyun.

Director Lee Kyung-hoon, who shot a glass full of soju, called Yoo-hyun.

“Haha! Yoo-hyun, come here.”

“Yes, team leader.”

As Yoo-hyun prepared to get up from his seat, Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo whispered with a worried look.

“Are you okay?”

“Yes, I’m fine. We got close.”

“Huh?”

The part members blinked their eyes at Yoo-hyun’s words.

‘Got close?’

‘Does that make sense?’

The Director Lee Kyung-hoon they knew was a person who could never get close.

Chirrrrr.

“Good job.”

As Yoo-hyun received Director Lee Kyung-hoon’s glass, Senior Manager Choi Kang-won of the TV group came over.

He sat between Director Lee Kyung-hoon and Yoo-hyun.

“Oh, my! This team leader, amazing. How did you roast JS so that they gave us exclusivity?”

“Haha! I was just lucky. Oh, senior manager, congratulations. You found Ilsung Electronics TV, right?”

Director Lee Kyung-hoon, who naturally made room for him, filled his glass with alcohol and said.

“Well, I don’t know why I should be congratulated for this... Well, the home appliance business guys are happy.”

Senior Manager Choi Kang-won answered, and people flocked in late.

“Huh. You found it? What do you mean?”

“I’m hearing this for the first time too.”

“Oh, the news hasn’t come out yet, but Ilsung Electronics TV was found. Actually...”

Senior Manager Choi Kang-won kindly answered the questions that came from everywhere.

Everyone except Director Lee Kyung-hoon seemed to not know.

How was the situation progressing now?

Yoo-hyun asked Senior Manager Choi Kang-won quietly after he finished explaining.

“Senior manager, but don’t we have to be nervous if we exhibit?”

“Would we? We handed it over to the police for investigation first. Let’s forget about the depressing talk, and have a drink.”

“Yes. Sounds good.”

“Hahaha! I’ll join you too.”

As Yoo-hyun followed Senior Manager Choi Kang-won and raised his glass, Director Lee Kyung-hoon joined in with a laugh.

Clang.

The glasses clashed and a cheerful sound was heard.

The atmosphere was bright because good things happened one after another.

Of course, it wasn’t as fun as drinking with the part members.

But it couldn’t be helped.

It was the last road of the boss he used to serve, and he had to politely see him off.

It was the proper thing to do, and Yoo-hyun was a subordinate who did his duty.

Everyone was drunk and their words were mixed.

“Why is JS so aggressive?”

“Who are we? Hansung, right? They can’t ignore us, right?”

“Puhaha! Right, right. Anyway, things are going smoothly since D&Tech.”

“Group leader, this has nothing to do with D&Tech.”

“Hehe! Right, right. Come on, let’s have a drink.”

Through those words, Yoo-hyun learned one thing.

The starting point of this incident, which he thought was meticulously organized, was absurdly Director Lee Kyung-hoon’s greed.

He was trying to suppress the D&Tech story as much as possible.

The reason was obvious.

He wanted to monopolize the D&Tech shares.

After satisfying his greed to some extent, wouldn't he inflate the D&Tech shares in the second round?

He was a person who could do that work for a year and still have time left.

He didn't know exactly how he did it, but because of that, many companies and people were involved in the incident.

Of course, it wasn't that big of a scale yet.

The people involved here were the group leader, the purchasing team leader, and the product 1 manager.

The sure thing was that the prosecution would reveal it.

"Puhahahahaha!"

Everyone was drunk and their laughter grew louder.

Senior Manager Choi Kang-won, who was boldly drunk, put his hand on Yoo-hyun's shoulder.

"Vice president, this guy is so good at golf. Let's go to the field once."

"Yeah, yeah, okay, Senior Manager Choi. Let's go. Team leader, set a date."

Vice President Ahn Joon-hong took it again.

Director Lee Kyung-hoon couldn't refuse.

He shouted boldly.

"Sure. Don't worry about money and go. I know a golf course in Berlin that will kill you."

"Ooooh, nice. It's the team leader."

"Of course. I'm sure I can handle the work. Hahaha."

He obviously received a golf treat from D&Tech.

Anyway, he was a meticulous person.

Yoo-hyun chuckled as he smiled.

'I probably won't play golf.'

The incident would be settled before that.

It was after the first round.

The executives, including Director Lee Kyung-hoon, left first, saying they had something to do.

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy director, who saw that, snorted coldly.

“They’re going to the room salon, right?”

Then Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo asked.

“Are there rooms in Germany?”

“Where would they not have something similar?”

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy director, who gave a sharp rebuke to Assistant Manager Park Seung-woo, shouted loudly.

“Come on, let’s start for real now.”

“Sounds good.”

Yoo-hyun gladly agreed to Kim Hyun-min’s words.

They were people he loved being with.

He had no reason to refuse if he was with them.

Chapter 164

At that moment, Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, asked Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager.

“Should we call Senior Jang Hye-min too?”

“Of course. She’s the hero of the color phone project.”

“What about Yoo-hyun’s younger sister?”

“Sure. I met her at the exhibition hall and we agreed to hang out sometime. It worked out well.”

“...”

Yoo-hyun just listened blankly, and Choi Min-hee, the section chief, asked him.

“Yoo-hyun, you’re lucky. Your sister is coming too.”

“I guess so...”

These people had no idea what it was like to drink with Han Jae-hee.

Yoo-hyun felt a moment of dread.

They all gathered at a club-style pub.

In the space where delicious beer, loud music, and dance were combined, Han Jae-hee's presence shone.

"Come on, let's go out and shake it."

"What? Again?"

"Come on, hurry up. If you don't come out, you have to drink all the alcohol here in one shot."

Everyone burst into laughter at Han Jae-hee's remark.

"Hahaha. Yoo-hyun's sister really knows how to have fun."

"Deputy Manager Kim? You're the lucky one."

"One shot. One shot. One shot."

Thanks to her, they had a night of frenzy.

For Han Jae-hee, it would have been better if she had blacked out.

She would never be able to show her face if she remembered what she did.

The next morning.

Han Jae-hee greeted Yoo-hyun with a bright smile.

"Brother, good morning."

"Do you remember what happened yesterday?"

"Yeah. Of course. Why?"

"..."

'You're amazing.'

Clap. Clap. Clap. Clap. Clap.

Yoo-hyun gave her a standing ovation instead of an answer.

It was a sincere applause.

The morning in Germany was chilly.

In contrast to the weather, the internet news was very hot.

The news that was supposed to come out a year later had exploded back in time.

<The stolen exhibition TV of Ilseong Electronics, found at a rest stop in Germany.>

-Is there a gate at that rest stop? How did that get there?

- The TV is still intact. But why don't they exhibit it?
- They're under police request. How can they exhibit it?
- Did Ilseong lie? It seems fishy.
- Then it's not Hanseong's doing?
- Yeah, probably.

The reaction was different from the past because the timing of the news had changed.

Back then, there was no demand for exhibition, and Hanseong's name was not mentioned.

What if they brought that incident that ruined everything a year earlier?

Wouldn't it create a completely different outcome?

'I'll find out when I check.'

Yoo-hyun, who made up his mind, called Oh Eun-bi, the reporter.

Inside a cafe near the exhibition hall.

Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, looked at Yoo-hyun, who was sitting across from her, with a curious eyebrow.

"Why did you ask me to come here? Is it a date?"

"No way."

"Then why? You're not the kind of person who just asks me to have a cup of tea."

"What kind of person am I?"

When Yoo-hyun asked, Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, answered with an exaggerated expression.

"Very, very busy person?"

"Do I look like that?"

"Yes. Why do you go to so many places? I'm curious about your secret, but I don't want to hear it because it seems too complicated."

Yoo-hyun smiled faintly instead of answering.

He had worked hard to catch Lee Kyung-hoon, the director.

He had wasted a lot of his pleasant journey with good people by worrying about useless people.

It was a waste of time, but he couldn't help it.

He had to finish what he started.

“Reporter, I have something to ask you.”

“Me? From you?”

“There's something weird, no matter how I think about it.”

Yoo-hyun handed her a file folder he had prepared on the table.

It had the subsidiaries that JS had invested in.

He had visited some of the nearby places himself, and checked the others by phone.

He had already checked the domestic IT specialist company before he came to the exhibition hall.

Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, glanced at it and asked with a puzzled look.

“What is this?”

“Take a look.”

“Hmm... JS was a pretty big company. They invested in the world.”

Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, muttered to herself as she looked at Yoo-hyun's data.

Yoo-hyun added his specific intention.

“It's only been like this for about a year.”

“Really? They're not just diversifying their business, but investing aggressively.”

“Very aggressively.”

“Yeah. They must have a lot of money.”

Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, tilted her head.

She had a reporter's intuition that something smelled fishy.

How could a company that used to supply cosmetics and small-scale liquid crystal materials invest in such diverse places?

It would make sense if JS was an investment company, but it wasn't.

Yoo-hyun turned a page and said.

“Look at this too.”

“This is...”

Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, frowned and examined the contents.

It showed the relationship between China's BDE and JS.

"JS is a subsidiary of BDE."

"What? Why is a Chinese competitor in Hanseong... Oh, no way?"

"That's right. It's already started."

"No, how is that possible?"

"Yes. It's happening right now."

Yoo-hyun answered with a confident expression.

Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, widened her eyes in disbelief.

Yoo-hyun nodded calmly.

That's when it happened.

A woman's voice came out from behind the partition.

"Boss, it's confirmed that the head of JS is that Chinese."

"..."

They would have ignored it if it was another time, but it was Korean and JS was mentioned.

Yoo-hyun and Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, stopped talking and perked up their ears.

"The Chinese is changing the company's direction while eating the company."

"I felt that way too."

"It's not right to break the promise even if they change the company policy like that."

"Then what do we do?"

"I've contacted another place and set a date. But I'll get compensation from JS for breaking the promise."

"Oh..."

"Don't worry. I'll bite the bullet and get it done."

"Thank you."

The noise mixed with the voice, but it wasn't hard to understand the content.

They already knew that the head of JS was Chinese.

Only the LCD company people didn't know.

Yoo-hyun, who was listening to the story, opened his mouth.

“That’s right.”

“...We have to stop them. But isn’t it too early? There’s no evidence.”

“The brain drain has already started.”

“What?”

“They’re probably scattered among JS’s subsidiaries. Of course, they only have the name, but they’re actually working for BDE.”

“...”

Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, blinked her eyes.

This would surely come back to bite Hanseong Electronics.

They had made a contract with such a company and promised full support.

It was their fault that they couldn’t stop the brain drain.

So she asked.

“What about Hanseong Electronics? Won’t they be affected?”

“I’m not the owner. I’m just a new employee.”

“Oh.”

Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, looked embarrassed and Yoo-hyun spoke again.

“And we have to cut off the rotten parts as soon as possible.”

“Do you have any idea where they are?”

“They probably took a lot of money behind the scenes. There must be someone who invested in JS knowing their true identity.”

Yoo-hyun gave a specific answer to the reporter’s question.

The more she knew, the faster it would be sorted out.

Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, who was listening, said what she guessed.

“Could it be Director Lee Kyung-hoon, whom you interviewed yesterday?”

“Maybe.”

“What? But he’s your respected boss...”

“It’s a pity, but if that’s the truth, there’s nothing we can do about it.”

Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, felt a chill.

Yoo-hyun was smiling at the corner of his mouth when he answered.

She had a feeling that he intended this.

She came to her senses and asked.

“Then what should I do?”

“Do you know Director Jung Woo-hyuk from the Ministry of Industry?”

“Yes, I do.”

“Please deliver this data to him. He’ll probably sort out the facts for you.”

“And then?”

Yoo-hyun revealed his tempting plan to the reporter who nodded and asked.

“If it looks like a good article, I can write it. Isn’t that your job, reporter Oh Eun-bi?”

“Is that so?”

“Shall we get up then?”

Yoo-hyun got up first.

At that moment, Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, quickly grabbed the file folder on the table.

She was about to get up, but she had to stop.

Yoo-hyun, who had passed by the table behind the partition, stopped.

He was staring at one place.

‘Why is he doing that at an empty table?’

Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, wondered, and Yoo-hyun picked up a napkin on the table.

There was a scribble of an X over the JS logo on it.

Below it, a signature that was left as a joke caught Yoo-hyun’s eye.

A Chinese character ‘다(多)’ made into a half-heart sign.

A cupid arrow pierced diagonally on it.

It was Jeong Da-hye’s signature.

“...”

Yoo-hyun’s head was spinning.

He was right.

The woman he saw yesterday was definitely Jeong Da-hye.

Why didn't he recognize her voice?

No, how could he run into her in Germany?

“Yoo-hyun, what's wrong?”

“Yes. Something important came up. Reporter, I'll go ahead.”

He left the words and moved.

He wanted to check something.

“Yoo-hyun.”

Oh Eun-bi, the reporter's voice echoed behind him.

He ran down and looked around.

There was a large park in front of the exhibition hall, and he saw many people passing by.

But there was no sign of Jeong Da-hye anywhere.

“Jeong Da-hye.”

He shouted in a loud voice, but there was no answer.

She disappeared like smoke.

“...”

He sat on a bench with a hollow feeling and looked at the sky.

He just felt the emotion he had forgotten when he saw her.

He wanted to know if the bond was still connected in this strange land.

He wanted to see her face and make sure it was really Jeong Da-hye.

At that moment, a word struck Yoo-hyun's head.

Timelapse.

There was a timelapse camera installed in front of Hanseong Electronics booth.

There must have been Jeong Da-hye's image on it.

That night.

Yoo-hyun went to his colleague Seol Ki-tae's room.

He was looking at his laptop when he got a call from Oh Eun-bi, the reporter.

-I delivered it to Director Jung Woo-hyuk. Was it as you said? He seemed to know something.

“You did well. Just do me a favor.”

-Where are you, Yoo-hyun? I need to see your face. I have some questions.

“It’s late now, maybe next time.”

Yoo-hyun dodged a bit, but Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, was persistent as a professional.

-Then how about a drink later?

“No, not that. See you tomorrow. I think you’ll have something to contact me first.”

-See you tomorrow then.

“Yes. Have a good night.”

Yoo-hyun hung up the phone and Seol Ki-tae next to him asked.

“Is that the reporter?”

“Yeah. Did you see her too?”

“You said hello to her when you passed by last time. Wow, Yoo-hyun, you’re amazing.”

“What is?”

“No, you get a call from a reporter at night. Are you...”

“Absolutely not.”

Yoo-hyun cut off Seol Ki-tae’s words.

Chapter 165

On the laptop screen, a video that Seol Gitaek had opened was playing.

Yoo-hyun asked to confirm.

“Is this it?”

“Yeah. It’s the full video of the second day taken by the timelapse camera. Take a look.”

“Okay. Thanks.”

“I’ll get some beer.”

It was while Seol Gitaek left his seat for a moment.

Yoo-hyun grabbed the mouse and changed the video angle.
He set a rough playback point and increased the playback speed to four times.
Then he quickly scanned the faces of the people passing by.
Yoo-hyun focused his attention on the video.
And finally, he found the scene he wanted at about 74 percent of the video.
On the paused screen, he saw his own side profile.
He turned the video a little more, and saw a woman passing by his side.
He carefully rewound and fast-forwarded the video to see the woman's face.
She had a short-cut hairstyle, long eyes with slightly drooping ends.
Her figure and height were noticeable even under the office look.
It was Jeong Dahye, the one Yoo-hyun remembered.
It was a long time before he met her, but he couldn't forget her face.
Yoo-hyun made a blank expression, and Seol Gitaek's eyes sparkled.
"Oh, is this the person you were looking for?"
"Yes."
"She's beautiful. Who is she?"
"Someone I have to meet again."
"Someone you like?"
Yoo-hyun just smiled instead of answering.
-The person you're destined to be with is connected by a red thread.
It was exactly what Jeong Dahye had said.
The fate was connected to a place he never expected.
The future was changing, but the connected thread remained the same.
She would return to Korea in the near future.
What would she look like when they met then?
Seol Gitaek handed him a beer, looking at Yoo-hyun who was smiling blankly.
"You silly guy. What are you thinking about that makes you smile like that?"
"Just. I'm happy to be with you."
"Gross. Come on, let's drink."

“Sure. It’s better to drink with a colleague.”

Clang.

The two men’s beer cans clashed.

That night, Yoo-hyun spent a long time in Seol Gitaek’s room.

The taste of drinking with a colleague was quite good.

The next day, from the morning, the atmosphere of the exhibition hall was chaotic.

The D&Tech booth didn’t open at all, and the JS booth also reduced its scale to a minimum display.

For some reason, Lee Kyunghoon’s expression looked very dark.

People murmured at his appearance.

“What’s wrong with Lee Kyunghoon, team leader?”

“Did you see it? His expression was dark.”

“Yeah. Some people from the Ministry of Industry came earlier. They seemed to be having some bad talk.”

“What the hell is going on?”

No one knew the exact information yet.

Except for the two people sitting on the bench.

Oh Eunbi, the reporter, asked Yoo-hyun.

“What do you think will happen?”

“What do you mean?”

“It seems like they were waiting for a long time, since the Ministry of Industry stepped in right away.”

“Yes. They probably knew about it. They’ll be quick to deal with it as much as they prepared.”

“Do you think they’ll be arrested?”

Oh Eunbi muttered to herself.

Yoo-hyun didn’t know the details either.

It was still a cold case, so the crime was weaker than in the past.

But wouldn’t they cut something if they wielded a knife?

Yoo-hyun answered moderately.

“That depends on whether they confess or not. But I don’t think they’ll let it go easily.”

“Of course. You know everything.”

“Don’t be silly. I’m just guessing.”

“Come on, don’t lie.”

Oh Eunbi shook her head.

Behind the two, Park Seungwoo, the assistant, quietly approached.

He was planning to surprise the two who were chatting like siblings.

Then, he heard Oh Eunbi’s voice.

“By the way, you gave me some materials, right? The corruption materials related to Lee Kyunghoon.”

“Ah, yes. What about it?”

‘Lee Kyunghoon?’

Park Seungwoo flinched at Yoo-hyun’s voice that followed.

He turned the corner and hid his body.

He perked up his ears.

The two’s conversation continued.

“Why did you prepare it?”

“Because I knew something was wrong.”

“You did it all by yourself, right? There was a lot of it.”

“Yes. Well, yeah.”

“Why? You had a lot of good seniors in your part, you could have asked for help.”

Park Seungwoo’s eyes wavered for a moment.

He didn’t know exactly what they were talking about, but he knew for sure that his junior had struggled alone.

Then Yoo-hyun opened his mouth again.

“I just didn’t want to bother them while they were working hard.”

“Ho ho. You’re amazing, Yoo-hyun. Um, do you treat your seniors like your juniors?”

“Don’t be ridiculous.”

“Well, maybe not, but that’s how it looks to me.”

“...”

The two’s conversation was not heard well after that.

It wasn’t because their voices got smaller, but because Park Seungwoo’s heart was heavy and it was hard to listen.

Then, someone tapped his back.

Before he turned his head, he heard Choi Minhee, the section chief’s voice.

“Park, what are you doing here?”

“Ah, section chief, nothing.”

“Why? Were you eavesdropping on Yoo-hyun’s conversation?”

“No. Of course not. Come on, let’s go.”

Park Seungwoo smiled awkwardly and turned Choi Minhee to the other side.

Choi Minhee changed direction and said.

“I have to go this way.”

“Go around, go around.”

“Why?”

“Just, just.”

Park Seungwoo kept blocking the way he wanted to go.

Choi Minhee looked at him with a puzzled expression.

That afternoon.

When the exhibition was about to end, Yoo-hyun greeted Park Seungwoo, who was passing by the private room.

“Assistant, where are you going?”

“Huh? Oh, just.”

“Do you want to go together? Are you okay?”

“No. I have some places to stop by.”

He knew he had nowhere special to go, but Park Seungwoo avoided Yoo-hyun.

His expression was still dark.

Yoo-hyun knew roughly why.

-Did Park hear Yoo-hyun and Oh Eunbi's conversation earlier? Did he make a mistake?

It was the answer he heard when he asked Choi Minhee, the section chief, because Park Seungwoo's expression was not good.

He didn't have a serious conversation with Oh Eunbi.

It was fine for anyone to hear.

But there was a remark that bothered him.

He might have felt hurt if he had heard that he did it all by himself without his senior's help.

He was someone who cared for his junior more than anyone else.

What should he do?

He was lost in thought for a moment.

That was when Ichano came over with a fuss.

"Yoo-hyun, did you hear the news?"

"What is it?"

"Lee Kyunghoon, well..."

Before Ichano could finish his sentence, he saw Lee Kyunghoon being dragged out from one side of the hallway.

He was being pulled by two men in suits who held his arms.

Around him, there were employees from the Ministry of Industry and agents from the National Intelligence Service who had changed their clothes.

Lee Kyunghoon shouted as if he was screaming.

"No, I'm telling you. I have nothing to do with it."

"We'll see when we get there."

"Where are you taking me? I told you everything already."

"It's the decision we made after hearing you."

The man's voice was firm and decisive.

People swarmed around the unusual scene.

Buzzing.

Lee Kyunghoon's voice echoed throughout the large hall.

"I don't know anything about it."

He said that and disappeared.

The employees of Hansung Electronics LCD division who saw his back clicked their tongues.

"JS is a Chinese BDE company, right?"

"D&Tech is in cahoots with them, right? So did this team leader bring China in?"

"I checked with the HR team and it's true that China has already poached some of their staff."

"Crazy. How could they do that behind our backs?"

"But who did the digging?"

"They must have investigated from behind."

Rumors began to spread through the mouths of the people.

Yoo-hyun sat on the bench and ignored the buzz.

Was it because everything went according to the plan?

He thought he would feel relieved, but he felt rather calm.

Then Park Seungwoo, who sat next to him, offered him a can of coffee.

It was the coffee he drank once in a while.

He was surprised and looked up at Park Seungwoo.

His face looked complicated.

"Assistant."

"Just. I wanted to drink some cool coffee. Do you like it?"

"Yes, of course. I'll drink it well."

"You always take care of me like this."

He felt the bone in Park Seungwoo's words, but Yoo-hyun pretended not to know.

"What did I do?"

"..."

Park Seungwoo quietly drank his can of coffee.

Yoo-hyun didn't say anything either.

After a moment of silence, Park Seungwoo opened his mouth.

"It was because of that, wasn't it?"

"What do you mean?"

"...I heard it by chance. You talking to Oh, the reporter."

"I see."

"Tell me if you know, why do you suffer alone? I can help you too."

He felt his concern for his junior.

His eyes asked why he carried all the burden by himself.

Yoo-hyun shook his head.

"It's not like that."

"You say that again. Wasn't it because of that you came back late last night?"

"That's really not it."

"Then what?"

Yoo-hyun shook his head more vigorously and was speechless for a moment at Park Seungwoo's question.

It really wasn't, but it was a bit awkward to say.

"That's... because I have someone to look for."

"Who can you look for here?"

Yoo-hyun hesitated for a moment and looked at Park Seungwoo.

He didn't avoid Yoo-hyun's gaze.

Yoo-hyun took the initiative.

"Assistant, do you want to have a drink?"

"Will you tell me now?"

"Yes. That's one thing."

"Anything else?"

"And I have a problem with a woman."

He just wanted to talk to him.

It was a story he hadn't told anyone yet.

Then Park Seungwoo smiled faintly.

“Just the two of us?”

“Deal.”

Yoo-hyun shouted loudly.

That night, inside a bar near the hotel.

Live jazz music filled the place, and Yoo-hyun had a lot of conversations with Park Seungwoo.

“Actually...”

He didn't spill everything.

He briefly summarized the story of Lee Kyunghoon.

He also added a little bit of the story of meeting the woman he liked.

But after talking for a while, he felt a little lighter in his chest.

Park Seungwoo questioned him about Jeong Dahye.

“But if you like her, why don't you think of meeting her?”

“Just. It's not time yet.”

“Really? Do you have something to worry about? In my case...”

It wasn't a good advice to get from Park Seungwoo, who hadn't met a woman yet.

But Yoo-hyun listened to his senior's words.

He was making some light chatter when he got to the point.

It was the part where Yoo-hyun investigated Lee Kyunghoon by himself.

He drank his alcohol and said seriously.

“Yoo-hyun, you should have told me. I might have been able to help you.”

“I'm sorry.”

“No. I'm sorry for being a bad senior.”

“It's not like that.”

What if Yoo-hyun had asked for help?

He would have helped him for sure.

Maybe he could have saved some time investigating other companies.

But he had a reason not to do that.

Yoo-hyun wanted to solve it by himself.

He thought it would make him feel better.

Chapter 166

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, swirled the glass in his hand.

His face was flushed from drinking too much.

He had been silent for a while, but then he blurted out an emotional remark.

“Do you know who the most pathetic senior is?”

“No. Who is it?”

“The senior who only exploits his juniors. The senior who has no strength to take care of even one junior. The senior who only takes from his juniors, even though he knows he’s wrong.”

“...”

Yoo-hyun was silent, and Park Seung-woo asked him another question.

“Yoo-hyun, do you want me to be that kind of senior?”

“No.”

Yoo-hyun parted his lips with difficulty.

At the same time, he recalled the actions he had done, saying he would look after him.

Maybe he had been too narrow-minded?

As if to agree, Park Seung-woo uttered a self-reproachful voice.

“Actually, I have no right to say this.”

“No, you do.”

“No. I just... I want to get closer to you. As a human being, I mean.”

“Me too.”

Yoo-hyun answered honestly, and Park Seung-woo’s eyes sparkled.

“Good. Then give me a chance. Don’t suffer alone.”

“Okay, I will.”

“Please do.”

At Park Seung-woo's words, Yoo-hyun fell into deep thought.

The conclusion was one.

He didn't know how to receive sometimes.

He still had a lot to learn.

Yoo-hyun spoke as if he had made up his mind.

"Assistant manager."

"What?"

"I'm still lacking a lot."

"Pfft. Kid, what are you lacking? You're overflowing."

Park Seung-woo said, and Yoo-hyun shook his head slightly.

"No. Please teach me a lot."

"Okay. I'll be your mentor for sure. Look forward to it."

"Yes. Thank you."

He wanted to learn more.

He would fill in the gaps.

Clang.

The sound of glasses clinking and smiles on their lips.

The remaining schedule?

The exhibition was successful, and he finished what he wanted to do.

All that was left was to have a good time.

He also went on a trip with his colleagues that he had postponed.

There were quite a few places to go around Berlin.

Park Seung-woo and Kim Young-gil, who were looking around, said in turn.

"This is the Berlin Wall."

"There's not much to see here."

"But it's a living history. This wall is..."

Yoo-hyun told them the information he knew every time.

He felt like a guide, but he had his own fun remembering the old memories.

He went to the Berlin Wall and had tea at a famous cafe nearby.

He took in the scenery and went around by subway.

Yoo-hyun was in charge of the guidance all the time.

“This is Gendarmenmarkt. That’s the German Dome, that’s the French Dome...”

“Wow, that’s cool.”

The colleagues took pictures one after another.

They were more passionate than at the exhibition.

It felt like a group trip.

There were so many places to see around that it was nice to walk around.

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, who was looking at the price list, asked Yoo-hyun’s suggestion.

“Shall we go here?”

“I think it would be good to go inside the Berlin Dome.”

“The entrance fee is 7 euros?”

“Yes. It’s worth it.”

“No. Should I say I’m a student? Then it’s 5 euros.”

“You don’t look like it, deputy manager.”

Yoo-hyun cut off his absurd remark.

He looked around the Berlin Dome and saw the Berlin cityscape from the roof.

And he took a group photo in front of the square.

Snap.

The background was so cool that the picture came out amazing.

Yoo-hyun and his colleagues sat on a bench by the road and chatted while drinking takeout coffee.

Then, Choi Min-hee, the manager, exclaimed.

“Wow, Berlin is really nice.”

“Where shall we go next?”

“Anywhere. There’s a lot to see here by walking.”

She answered with a relaxed expression when Yoo-hyun asked.

Park Seung-woo and Kim Hyun-min joined in.

“The subway is well done, too.”

“I told you, listening to Yoo-hyun is right.”

That’s when it happened.

Vroom.

A flashy sports car stopped on the road.

Inside, there were two women wearing sunglasses.

Jang Hye-min, the senior, lowered her sunglasses to her nose and asked in a loud voice.

“What are you doing here?”

“We’re resting because the scenery is nice.”

“Oh, I see.”

“Come here and rest with us. Oh, is it hard to park?”

Kim Hyun-min gestured and said as if he was teasing.

She shrugged her shoulders and put her sunglasses back on.

“I came to Germany to have fun on the autobahn. I’ll rest in Korea.”

“Everyone, have a good time. Oppa, bye~”

It was the moment when Han Jae-hee waved her hand with a bright smile.

Vroom.

The car sped away with a roar.

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, looked enviously at the receding car.

“...I should have rented one.”

“Really, how can you be so consistent?”

Choi Min-hee, the manager, bit her tongue.

The others just giggled.

That was the end of the long business trip.

After an 11-hour flight.

Yoo-hyun arrived at Incheon Airport and had a simple dinner with his colleagues before parting.

“Good job, everyone.”

As Yoo-hyun greeted them, Choi Min-hee looked around and said.

“You all did well.”

Kim Hyun-min also waved his hand with a smile.

They all said their final goodbye.

“Have a good weekend, and see you next week.”

“Yes. Take care.”

They had been together for a short time, but they had grown close.

They waved their hands continuously as they went their separate ways.

Yoo-hyun also raised his hand once more with a regretful heart.

“Take care.”

“Stop it already.”

Kim Hyun-min grumbled at Yoo-hyun’s laughter.

He had chosen to attend the exhibition to get rid of Lee Kyung-hoon, the director.

He had achieved his goal, but he didn’t feel much.

Rather, he smiled at the unforgettable memories he had made with his colleagues.

“Well done, Han Yoo-hyun.”

Yoo-hyun praised himself for his choice and got on the express bus.

An hour by bus.

And 20 minutes by foot.

Yoo-hyun barely arrived home with two large suitcases.

It was already past midnight.

As he got off the elevator and stood in front of the door, his mother’s phone call came at the right time.

“Mom, why aren’t you sleeping?”

-Did you arrive well?

“Yes. I just arrived. Did you stay up waiting for me?”

-Well, kind of. I’m glad. Jae-hee also arrived safely.

“I got her message too.”

-That's good. You must be tired, so rest well.

Click.

Yoo-hyun pressed the password and entered the house. He looked down at the trunk and said.

“Mom, I bought you a gift.”

-Oh, oh. Anyone would think you called me because of that. But what is it?

A fierce reaction came from the other side of the phone.

“Haha. I'll tell you later.”

-Yoo-hyun... Hmm, okay. Can I look forward to it?

“Yes, probably.”

Yoo-hyun hung up the phone with a smile.

Maybe it was because of his mother's bright voice.

His tired body felt a bit refreshed.

Click.

The living room light turned on and his phone rang again.

Beep.

It was a message from Seol Ki-tae.

-I thought you might need this picture, so I sent it.

Yoo-hyun smiled at the message.

“Such a thoughtful kid.”

Seol Ki-tae sent a picture along with the text.

It was a side view of young Jung Da-hye taken by a timelapse camera.

-They say your soulmate is connected by a red thread.

He remembered what she had said.

When the time comes, they will meet.

He was determined to show his best self then.

Yoo-hyun's lips curled up.

Yoo-hyun, who slept all day, went to the gym first thing the next day.

There were quite a few people at the gym on the weekend.

Yoo-hyun opened his suitcase and handed out shampoo to Kang Dong-sik, who he saw first.

“They say this German shampoo is really good.”

“Shampoo? There’s some at the gym, why bother?”

He wiped his sweat and asked with a tick.

“This is not just shampoo, it’s anti-hair loss shampoo.”

“I’m already dying of hair loss, who are you trying to feed?”

“You have to protect the remaining hair.”

Kang Dong-sik lost his words at Yoo-hyun’s cold answer.

“...”

“Puhahaha.”

The gym people burst into laughter.

Yoo-hyun ignored Kang Dong-sik’s grumbling and handed out shampoo to each person.

“Did you buy this for all the gym members?”

“Yes. I thought you all might need it.”

Kang Dong-sik finally looked at the trunk on the floor.

It was full of blue shampoo.

It was a huge volume at a glance.

He appreciated the effort of coming to the gym on purpose on the weekend.

He pursed his lips and said.

“Well, you worked hard. I’ll use it well.”

“Haha. Why are you acting so out of character, brother?”

“Hey, am I not good at speaking politely?”

“Are you?”

Yoo-hyun blinked his eyes and asked, and Kang Dong-sik flared up.

“I’m not using this.”

The people laughed again and thanked him.

“Puhahaha.”

“Thank you, Yoo-hyun.”

“I’m glad you like it.”

Yoo-hyun also greeted the people with a smile on his face.

It was a very warm scene, unlike the aggressive gym members.

Yoo-hyun, who gave out the gifts happily, met his friend Kang Jun-ki in Seoul.

He gave him a German toothpaste set.

Kang Jun-ki made a loud noise as he took the gift.

“What, is that all you got from the trunk?”

“This is German-made. You only need a little bit to brush your teeth. Isn’t it amazing?”

“Amazing, toothpaste is toothpaste.”

“Give one to So-hyun. This is popular among women.”

Yoo-hyun said, and Kang Jun-ki snorted.

“Hey, who likes toothpaste as a gift?”

“Really, how can you not know women’s hearts?”

Yoo-hyun’s words made Kang Jun-ki flinch.

He remembered his friend’s appearance at Hansung Tower, receiving the eyes of the female employees.

“Really? Well, I see your female employees...”

“Why?”

“No. Thank you.”

Kang Jun-ki nodded his head in the end.

Yoo-hyun was satisfied with his expression and said.

“There’s one more thing.”

“What is it?”

Yoo-hyun raised his hand and pretended to drink, and Kang Jun-ki asked in surprise.

“Huh? Kid, did you buy liquor? How old is it?”

“You can look forward to it.”

“Wow.”

“Let’s open it when Hyun-soo and Jun-seok come up.”

“Deal.”

Kang Jun-ki smiled for once.

Yoo-hyun returned home and opened the large trunk in the house.

The trunk was filled with all kinds of items like a jumble.

But it was still neatly organized.

‘I’ll give toothpaste to Hyun-soo and Jun-seok too.’

He sorted them out one by one.

‘I’ll give hand cream to Eun-ah, and gummy bear set to Ye-seul.’

He wrapped them separately.

‘I’ll give cold tea to the aunt at the soup restaurant.’

He also left a simple note.

It was the same for the people at work.

They might be small gifts, but Yoo-hyun put his heart into each one.

What would they need?

He picked out the gifts with a fluttering heart, thinking of the recipients.

What would their reaction be?

They would like it, right?

He imagined their expressions when they received them and smiled happily.

This whole process was a joy to Yoo-hyun.

He had never felt this way before when he had no occasion to buy gifts.

Chapter 167

Time flew by as he was wrapping up the gifts.

There were only a few left.

Rustle. Rustle.

Yoo-hyun put the handbag he had taken out next to him in a box and wrapped it with wrapping paper.

It was a gift for his mother.

He had chosen it while thinking of his mother, who always carried an eco-bag.

He was sure his mother would like the small and cute handbag, according to her taste.

He could already picture his mother running around with joy.

The problem was his father's gift.

There was a bottle of liquor in front of Yoo-hyun.

His father would welcome it with open arms, but his mother would try to stop him.

Even though his father's liver health had recovered, his mother was adamant.

He might end up in Han Jae-hee's mouth if he was careless.

"It's fine as long as he doesn't get caught, right?"

After a moment of hesitation, Yoo-hyun made the most reasonable decision.

That's how he finished wrapping all the gifts.

Monday, the day dawned.

Yoo-hyun arrived at the office early in the morning and took care of the cleaning lady first.

"Here, drink this. It's good for your body."

"Oh, thank you. You're always so kind to me."

"It's cheap. I saw you had a cold last time."

"Thank you so much."

The cleaning lady looked very touched.

She wasn't the only one who liked it.

Yoo-hyun also handed out gifts to his team members.

"It's effervescent vitamin. It's better than taking pills."

"Thanks."

Most of them reacted well.

His colleagues liked it too, especially the female staff.

"Yoo-hyun, thank you so much."

"It's nothing."

“No, really. I really wanted this. Thank you.”

He felt embarrassed to give such a trivial gift when they liked it so much.

Effervescent vitamin was hard to get in Korea, and it was several times more expensive than in the local market.

Maybe that’s why the female staff liked it.

‘Should I have bought more?’

He thought.

Yoo-hyun told Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, about this.

“The vitamin was well received.”

“Yeah? Who?”

“Ae-rin, Mi-ran sunbae...”

That’s when Choi Min-hee, the section chief, cut in.

“That’s because Yoo-hyun gave it to them.”

“Well. They were all gloomy when I gave it to them.”

She said firmly, and Park Seung-woo, who was next to her, nodded.

Choi Min-hee winked at Yoo-hyun.

“See?”

“Come on, no way.”

“Of course. Park, tell him.”

Yoo-hyun chuckled as Choi Min-hee pressed on.

Park Seung-woo blinked and asked.

“What?”

“Don’t they act indifferent when you give it to them?”

“Section chief, it’s not that bad...”

“No. It’s true.”

Yoo-hyun laughed off their jokes.

They were always fun people.

But why did Park Seung-woo look so gloomy?

He suddenly remembered the time they drank together in Germany.

He had confided his personal story to him and made a promise.

To talk to each other honestly.

It seemed like it was Yoo-hyun's turn to listen.

It was when Choi Min-hee was about to say something angrily.

“Anyway. It's not a joke. They like it because Yoo-hyun gave it to them.”

“Thank you for saying that.”

“Annoying. That's not what I mean...”

He winked at Park Seung-woo, who was talking to him.

‘How about a cup of coffee?’

“Ahem, Yoo-hyun, I have something to tell you.”

“What is it?”

“Shall we talk over a cup of coffee?”

He got the hint, but his tone was too unnatural.

Choi Min-hee, who had her arm around him, said suspiciously.

“You two seem to be hanging out a lot lately.”

“We're mentor and mentee. Yoo-hyun still has a lot to learn from me.”

“Right. It's the other way around.”

“Hey, section chief, enough with the jokes. Hahaha.”

Park Seung-woo laughed awkwardly and dragged Yoo-hyun by the arm.

They had to get out before Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, came.

The outdoor terrace on the 20th floor.

Yoo-hyun held a paper cup filled with coffee and stood side by side with Park Seung-woo.

The Gangnam skyline was spread out in front of them.

It was a perfect place to talk, as there was no one around because of the cold weather.

“What's up?”

“Hey, actually, I...”

Park Seung-woo whispered secretly, and Yoo-hyun perked up his ears.

“Pfft.”

But the content was so absurd that Yoo-hyun spat out the coffee he was drinking.

“Hey, gross.”

“No, when did you find out?”

“The announcement came out. I need to date someone too.”

Park Seung-woo had looked into the company’s matchmaking program.

Every year, at the end of the year, a famous marriage information company, Juo, organized a group meeting with unmarried women from other companies.

He was determined to go there.

Yoo-hyun glanced at Park Seung-woo. He was sincere, judging by his expression.

He was a good and attractive person, but he lacked social skills.

He looked awkward when dealing with other female employees.

His outdated outfit, his facial expression, and his eye contact were also problematic.

He had more than one or two things to change if he wanted to do it right.

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager who had no idea what Yu-hyun was thinking, smiled slyly.

“Hehe, but if you join me, it would be a huge hit, right?”

“Why me?”

“Why? We’re going to a blind date, we should go together.”

“...”

Yu-hyun blinked in disbelief, and Park Seung-woo raised his voice.

“You should look around a bit, not just think about one woman. You have to enjoy life.”

“Didn’t you say you were going?”

“Of course. I’m serious. This kind of opportunity is rare.”

Park Seung-woo shrugged as if it was obvious, and Yu-hyun asked him.

“Assistant manager, are you sure I can go?”

“Why? You’re old enough.”

“That’s not what I mean, I mean, can I really go with you?”

“Huh? What do you mean...”

“How about I dress up nicely and stand right next to you?”

“...”

Park Seung-woo felt a chill at Yu-hyun’s repeated question.

He imagined the young and handsome Yu-hyun standing there.

What if he, Park Seung-woo, stood next to Yu-hyun?

He would be treated like a squid, that was obvious.

Park Seung-woo waved his hand hastily.

“No, no. I’d better go alone.”

“I think so too.”

“Haha. Yeah. It’s better than you going.”

Yu-hyun agreed with that.

But he was uneasy about sending Park Seung-woo alone.

He was not a bad person.

He had potential if he polished a few things.

Yu-hyun hoped that his senior, whom he liked, would do well.

He made up his mind and called Park Seung-woo.

“Then come here for a moment. I have an idea.”

“Really?”

Park Seung-woo fluttered his ears and approached Yu-hyun.

He looked very excited.

Yu-hyun coached Park Seung-woo sincerely, and Park Seung-woo nodded his head repeatedly.

“First, when you meet the other person, how to start...”

“Wow, that’s good.”

“Yes. And presence is important...”

Yu-hyun had negotiated with countless people, even though he had never seen a blind date.

As long as the other person was human, Yu-hyun's advice would work.

Park Seung-woo exclaimed after listening to Yu-hyun's story for quite a long time.

"Wow... that's good?"

"Of course. It's certain."

"But how can I look like your advice? They all work for good companies, so business cards won't work."

"Of course. What I mean is, to make a good first impression, you should pay attention to your appearance, your tone of voice, and your posture..."

Yu-hyun answered sincerely.

He raised the level of his answer, thinking that Park Seung-woo understood enough.

He was in the middle of his passionate speech.

Park Seung-woo muttered to himself.

"The award for the contest hasn't come out yet."

"What do you mean?"

A question mark popped up in Yu-hyun's head.

The award for the contest suddenly popped up.

Then Park Seung-woo clapped his hands and said.

"Oh, by the way, did our interview article come out in the newspaper?"

"Why?"

"Our Daily is pretty famous, right? I can just show them the interview article."

"During a blind date?"

"Yeah. Wow... doesn't it look awesome?"

Ugh.

Yu-hyun put his hand on his forehead.

He felt like he had to start over from the beginning.

A few days passed.

Yu-hyun's mother, Kim Yeon-hee, looked especially grim today.

She bit her lower lip hard, as if she was holding back her frustration.

Lee Kyung-ran, who ran a donut shop next to Kim Yeon-hee's side dish shop, asked.

"Yeon-hee, what's wrong? You look unhappy."

"Not unhappy. Just, you know, whatever."

Kim Yeon-hee covered her mouth and answered.

She casually put a newspaper on her lap after a moment of hesitation.

Lee Kyung-ran asked curiously.

"What's that newspaper?"

"I found it on my way."

"Let me see."

Rumble.

Lee Kyung-ran pulled her chair close and opened the newspaper in front of Kim Yeon-hee.

"Let's see..."

Kim Yeon-hee swallowed her saliva and watched Lee Kyung-ran's expression.

Lee Kyung-ran's finger stopped at one place as she scanned the newspaper.

It was an interview section, filled with a full-page feature.

It wasn't because of the dense text or the colorful pictures.

It wasn't because of the name Hansung Electronics.

"Is this... Yu-hyun?"

"Huh? What?"

Lee Kyung-ran's eyes widened at Kim Yeon-hee's reaction.

"Right? Yeon-hee's son Yu-hyun. The handsome guy who came here last time, right?"

"Huh. Why is he here?"

Lee Kyung-ran slapped Kim Yeon-hee's shoulder lightly.

"What? Yeon-hee, you should be very happy about this."

“Really?”

“Yeah. Look. He looks like a solo model in this picture below. Wow... he looks really cool when I look at him like this.”

“Nah, that’s not that much.”

“No, no. People, come here.”

Lee Kyung-ran stood up and called the other shop owners around.

People gathered one by one.

Lee Kyung-ran showed them the newspaper as if it was her own business.

“Look, this newspaper has Yeon-hee’s son...”

“Where, where?”

The response from the surroundings was hot.

“Oh, my. Oh, my. He came here last time.”

“Wow. Yeon-hee’s son really made it to the newspaper?”

“He must have developed something amazing.”

“I’m so jealous.”

Kim Yeon-hee’s chest felt hot at the too hot reaction.

But what can I do? It was so good.

“No, it’s not that.”

Still, Kim Yeon-hee bit her lower lip hard and waved her hand.

She bit so hard that blood came out.

Her smile, which seemed to have tears in it, looked very happy.

A break room set up in a brick factory.

There, Yu-hyun’s father, Han Seung-won, was on the phone.

“Yeah. I got it.”

All the answers started with ‘yeah’, and the employees who were watching him looked incredulous.

But Han Seung-won, the president, answered bluntly.

-Dad, you like Valentine’s Day, right?

“Yeah. Right.”

-Let's drink together when I go down. I'll hide it well and go.

"Yeah. Let's see when you come down."

-Yes. Dad, be careful on your way home.

"Yeah. Go home."

It was after the call ended.

Chapter 168

An Se-hoon, the deputy manager who had worked with him for a long time, picked up the newspaper that was placed on President Han Seung-won's lap.

He pointed at the picture in the newspaper with one hand and exclaimed.

"Did you just talk to Yoo-hyun who's in here?"

"Hehe, yes."

"Wow. Our president, you're so funny."

"What, you punk."

"No, you were bragging about your son like crazy while looking at the picture just before, but why did you act so polite when you talked to him?"

"When did I brag? I just saw that the article came out."

President Han Seung-won felt wronged.

Of course, he was happy that his son's article came out, but he never showed it off in front of his employees.

It was the employee who brought the newspaper and opened the page where his son's picture was printed.

All President Han Seung-won did was slightly lift the corners of his mouth.

But the employees still jeered at him.

"Ugh..."

He knew it was a joke, but there was one person who was mean.

It was An Se-hoon, the deputy manager who had been with him longer than his son.

"I'm very happy too, since I raised Yoo-hyun when he was young. But this is not how you brag."

"An deputy manager, do you want to keep pushing me like this?"

“You’re pretending not to know again. You probably left the newspaper on purpose where it can be seen.”

He didn’t know when to stop once he started nagging.

He kept talking even though it was enough.

“Let’s take advantage of Yoo-hyun’s success. Hey, can you get us a contract from Hanseong Construction?”

“Hey, how can a rookie who has nothing to do with it do that?”

“President, this is the time to take advantage of your luck. Well, what do you think?”

“This guy until the end.”

“Haha. I’m kidding, kidding.”

President Han Seung-won got angry and got up from his seat.

Then An Se-hoon stepped back.

He turned his head and looked at the employees and said with authority.

“Listen up.”

Then the employees’ faces became tense.

“Yes, sir.”

Then President Han Seung-won’s mouth curled up.

“Let’s finish up quickly today... How about a dinner?”

“...”

The employees who were looking around with blank expressions shouted belatedly.

“Wow. Yes, please.”

Han Jae-hee was sitting on the campus bench blankly.

The week she spent in Germany felt like a dream.

The glamorous exhibition hall, the expensive open car, the luxurious hotel, the delicious food and drinks, and the time she spent with good people still lingered in her head.

She worked like crazy for a while, but that too became a good memory.

“Can I go again?”

She was muttering to herself with her chin resting on her hand.

Lim Ye-jin, a classmate from the same department, sat down next to her.

“Where are you going?”

“Huh? Just.”

“Hey, have you seen this?”

She handed her a newspaper.

Her brother’s face was printed in the newspaper.

She had seen it several times already because her mother kept talking about it.

“I did.”

“Your brother is really cool. Does he have a girlfriend?”

“Huh? Girlfriend?”

She realized that she had never heard of her brother’s love life.

She might have done it when she was drunk, but she couldn’t remember because the film was cut off every time.

“I don’t know.”

“Hey, can you introduce me to him?”

“You have a boyfriend.”

“That’s just a friend.”

“Ugh, no.”

Han Jae-hee drew a clear line.

Lim Ye-jin crossed her arms and pouted.

“Why? You’re so protective of your brother these days, aren’t you?”

“When did I do that?”

“When did you do that? You used to never talk about your brother, but now you have him in your mouth every day.”

“Did I?”

She realized that she had become very close to her brother at some point.

She suddenly thought of something and took out her phone.

There were no recent messages.

She was annoyed when he gave her work, but she felt disappointed when he didn't contact her.

Then Lim Ye-jin said something as if she remembered.

“Oh, Woo-chan senior is coming here.”

“What? Yang Woo-chan?”

“Yeah. The senior you said was handsome and rich before.”

“When did I say that?”

As Han Jae-hee turned pale, a word that stuck in her ear came to mind.

-Don't ever date Yang. He's not a person who can help you. Got it?

She was bothered by her brother's words that she dismissed as a joke.

Was that why?

Han Jae-hee felt a instinctive repulsion and got up from her seat.

“I'm going first.”

“Hey, he'll be here soon.”

“I don't have anything to see.”

Han Jae-hee shook her head firmly.

She decided to listen to her brother this time.

Yoo-hyun was walking the busy commute as usual.

He had his phone in one hand.

He heard the voice of reporter Oh Eun-bi on the phone.

-Thank you for the interview. I put the best picture of you on it.

“Thank you.”

-Ah, stingy. Normally, only CEOs get color pictures for articles. Do you know how hard I worked for that...

“...”

Yoo-hyun took the phone away from his ear for a moment.

He had heard the same thing over and over again since the article came out a week ago.

The reporter with a good sense stopped talking and asked.

-Yoo-hyun?

“Yes, reporter, thank you.”

-So let's have a meal. I'll pay. I even gave you an interview, and this is probably the first time a reporter gets a free meal.

“Yes. I'll set a date. Let's do it next time.”

-Hoho. Okay, I got it. Good day~

He looked at the hung up phone and chuckled.

He didn't expect to be connected to the picky reporter like this.

She was a bit talkative and annoying, but it wasn't bad to get close to her.

He would need her help soon.

He needed to maintain a proper relationship with her for that.

He was thinking about this and that and arrived at the office.

He wondered what was going on, but Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager who usually came in the latest, was already in his seat.

“What's going on?”

“I was curious about Park's blind date result, so I couldn't sleep.”

“Really?”

Yoo-hyun spat out a laugh in disbelief.

Soon after, Choi Min-hee, the manager, Kim Young-gil, the deputy, and Lee Chan-ho arrived.

“Do you know the result?”

“How was the blind date?”

“Did the deputy come?”

The words from the three people's mouths were all directed at one person.

They were all eagerly waiting for the result of Park Seung-woo's blind date last weekend.

They dragged their chairs and gathered around Park Seung-woo's seat.

Yoo-hyun, who was next to him, naturally joined the group.

As they chatted, the work time was approaching.

Soon after, Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, asked anxiously.

“When is Park coming?”

“Right. He’s late.”

Kim Young-gil, the deputy, checked the time and answered.

The other part members also waited nervously.

No one was worried about Park Seung-woo’s health.

They were worried about something else.

Choi Min-hee, the manager, asked bluntly.

“Was it a car accident?”

“That wouldn’t be it.”

Yoo-hyun answered, and Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager who was next to him, shook his head.

“Yoo-hyun, face the reality.”

“...”

The people had already decided.

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager who was worried, spoke and Lee Chan-ho added.

“Is he not coming because of the sorrow of breaking up?”

“Don’t you have to get an after to break up?”

“Hey, he’s the top talent in the company, but what if he broke up from the start?”

Kim Young-gil, the deputy, asked incredulously and Lee Chan-ho nodded.

“Isn’t that possible?”

“That’s right.”

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, agreed with a serious expression.

They had the same mind, except for Yoo-hyun.

They judged that it would be hard for Park Seung-woo, who had no sense, to survive in a group blind date.

But Yoo-hyun believed he could do it.

Park Seung-woo’s strength was his humanistic side that attracted people.

If he could convey his sincerity, the other person would have no choice but to fall for him.

What was lacking?

He was a little clueless, but that could be changed by changing a few habits.

He would have had enough chances if he followed the advice.

Yoo-hyun nodded.

Yoo-hyun and the part members had different thoughts.

At the exact moment when the work time was over, Park Seung-woo showed up.

He saw the part members waiting and walked quickly.

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, raised his hand and called him.

“Park.”

“Yes, sir.”

“Come to the conference room right away.”

“Yes? Oh, yes.”

Then he got up from his seat and turned his back.

At the same time, the other part members also got up from their seats as promised.

Park Seung-woo hung his jumper behind the chair and asked Yoo-hyun, who was left.

“What’s going on?”

“You’ll see when you go.”

“Is it serious?”

“A little.”

It wasn’t a little.

There was nothing more serious and important than this in the part.

When they arrived at the conference room, the part members were already in their seats.

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, snapped his fingers and pointed out Park Seung-woo’s seat.

Yoo-hyun sat in the corner and looked around.

They weren't even promised, but they all became like interrogators.

What's so serious?

He chuckled.

It was the 3rd part that got along well in a strange place after going to Germany.

Park Seung-woo asked cautiously.

"Me... what's going on?"

"It's about the blind date on Saturday."

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, answered Park Seung-woo's bewildered question.

Then Park Seung-woo relaxed his shoulders and shrugged.

"Oh, that."

"That? Did it go well?"

The part members' eyes widened at the unexpected sight.

It wasn't the defeated expression they expected.

He even gave a confident answer.

"It was easy."

"Wow."

"Really?"

The atmosphere completely reversed with that one shot.

It was enough for Choi Min-hee, the manager who didn't usually step up, to step up.

She asked in a hurry.

"Tell me how you did it. I'm so curious."

"Where should I start?"

Park Seung-woo, who took the lead, looked around leisurely.

"From the beginning to the end, all of it."

"Ah, it's a bit long... Well, okay."

The part members exchanged quick glances at his appearance.

'Is he for real?'

‘He looks real, doesn’t he?’

‘Wow.’

Now they all believed in Park Seung-woo’s success.

Yoo-hyun didn’t doubt his success either.

His body language and his story showed that it was true.

Park Seung-woo coughed once and opened his mouth.

“First of all, we all gathered in a big hall. There were 20 employees from Yurim Cosmetics. To be more specific...”

“Oh, was the place Baekje Hotel?”

Park Seung-woo nodded casually at Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager’s surprised question.

“Yes. They also gave us a hotel meal voucher if we succeeded as a couple.”

“Wow, that’s awesome.”

The people reacted strongly to Park Seung-woo’s every word.

The most enthusiastic person in front of him was Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager.

He reacted actively to Park Seung-woo’s words.

Park Seung-woo exaggerated his gestures and said.

“It’s 20 to 20, but there were a lot of people.”

“I bet.”

“First, there was a first talk. We covered our faces with something like a tent, and when we got a signal, we could face each other for 30 seconds. There...”

As the long explanation continued, Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, swallowed his saliva and asked.

Chapter 169

“Did you do well?”

“The atmosphere wasn’t bad. It was just a stage to check the first impression, so I didn’t feel any pressure. The next part was more important.”

“The next part?”

As Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, asked impatiently, Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, crossed his legs leisurely and held up two fingers.

“There was a second round of in-depth talk. In the first round, we wrote down the names of the people we liked, and then we had a five-minute conversation with the ones who matched.”

“So? Who picked you, Park?”

“Of course. I got a lot of votes.”

“Wow, really? So what happened?”

“I said exactly what I prepared. And they seemed to like it, right?”

“What did you say? Tell me.”

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, leaned his face forward.

Soon, the faces of the other part members were all around Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager.

Among them was Yoo-hyun’s face.

It was such a lively story that they naturally sympathized with him as they listened.

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, waved his hand as if mocking their expectations.

“Hey, I can’t tell you by myself. There’s no one to talk to.”

“Someone to talk to?”

“Yes. I need someone to respond if I want to explain.”

That action made them more impatient.

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, gestured to Choi Min-hee, the section chief.

“Choi, why don’t you play the role of the other person?”

“Me?”

“Who else? Me? It would ruin the immersion.”

Choi Min-hee, the section chief, looked up and down at Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager.

She thought it was not a good idea.

She eventually turned her chair and faced Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager.

“Is this okay?”

“You have to greet first.”

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, who usually found Choi Min-hee, the section chief, the most difficult, showed a strict face as if he were a movie director.

Choi Min-hee, the section chief, reluctantly complied with his words.

“...Hello. I’m Choi Min-hee from Yurim Cosmetics.”

“Choi, you sound a bit stiff, don’t you?”

As soon as Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, tackled her, Choi Min-hee, the section chief, snapped at him.

“Be quiet.”

“Hmm.”

Of course, Choi Min-hee, the section chief’s fierce eyes immediately subdued him.

She took a slow breath and then put her hands on her knees modestly.

Then she smiled and said.

“I’m Choi Min-hee from Yurim Cosmetics. Nice to meet you.”

“Pfft.”

Her voice, which was about two tones higher, made everyone laugh.

Yoo-hyun also laughed as he saw her.

But Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, was serious.

He looked around at the people and said as if he were teaching them.

“First of all, you have to win their favor with a special compliment. Look.”

Then he went straight into action.

“Nice to meet you. I’m Park Seung-woo. You have a V-line jawline, Min-hee?”

“Huh?”

Choi Min-hee, the section chief’s eyes widened at the sudden weird joke.

“It’s the sharpest V I’ve ever seen. Your hand must be cut. Haha.”

“Ugh.”

She was completely disgusted by Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager’s laughter.

The other part members clicked their tongues.

“...”

Yoo-hyun felt like he had been hit in the back of his head with a hammer.

-You have to give a specific and special compliment, not just a compliment. A general compliment is something that everyone does there, so it doesn't work. It might even look like flattery.

As the saying goes, praise makes even a whale dance, it is the easiest and fastest way to win someone's favor.

In this kind of group blind date, where the opportunity to speak is limited, praise was essential.

But as he said, he had to give a specific and special compliment.

That way, he could leave a good impression on the other person.

Is that hard?

Yoo-hyun couldn't understand Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager.

He said he knew and answered that he was confident.

Yoo-hyun felt a creepy feeling for a moment.

‘He didn't do everything like this, did he?’

As expected, the unfortunate prediction never missed.

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, said excitedly.

“I'll tell you my hobby first. I like hiking. Bukhansan is really nice.”

“...”

“It's hard to climb, but if you have the equipment, you can climb it too, Min-hee. Do you want to go with me later?”

Instead of empathizing with the other person's story, he tried to lead the conversation, and the result was absurd.

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, was just talking to himself.

Choi Min-hee, the section chief, yawned naturally.

And the result of picking out words from the other person's speech and agreeing with them was even more ridiculous.

He caught the tail of the words that Choi Min-hee, the section chief, sincerely spat out.

“What’s hard? The company is a bit busy except for...”

“Are you very busy?”

“Yes. A little.”

“How much is a little?”

“...What are you saying. What do you want me to do.”

Choi Min-hee, the section chief, finally exploded.

“...”

Yoo-hyun lost his words.

He couldn’t believe that it went well with the nonsense he showed.

The other part members were the same.

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, asked incredulously.

“Park, is this real? How can this work when you do it like this?”

“It’s real. I got two hotel meal vouchers.”

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, took out the meal vouchers from his wallet as if he was wronged.

Choi Min-hee, the section chief, asked in surprise.

“Why do you have that, Park?”

“Huh? The woman told me to keep it.”

“Hey, did you get the phone number?”

“Yes, of course. I got a few more besides her.”

“Really? You became a couple and got other women’s numbers?”

“Yes. They all got multiple phone numbers.”

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, held out his phone and showed the phone numbers he registered yesterday.

There were two more phone numbers besides Lim Hyun-mi, who became his couple.

Lee Chan-ho, who couldn’t stand it, stepped up.

“Then call that number.”

“Hey, I don’t want to contact someone I’m not going to meet.”

“No, just try it once. You can say you pressed it by mistake.”

“Oh, come on, we have work to do...”

As Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, urged him, Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, finally pressed the call button.

The conference room was quiet as if they wanted to hear even a small voice.

And soon, a voice came from the receiver.

-This number does not exist. Please call again.

“...”

No one could open their mouths at that sound.

Choi Min-hee, the section chief, quietly licked her tongue and shook her head.

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, who was embarrassed, immediately pressed the number below.

“I’ll try another number.”

-This number does not exist...

But the result was no different.

Thud.

Silence hung over the conference room.

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, let out a hollow laugh in the awkward silence.

“Hahaha.”

“Well, at least one of them connected, right?”

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, stammered as he was flustered, and Choi Min-hee, the section chief, asked.

“Really? Did it connect?”

“Yes. Look. There’s a text message, too.”

It was a reply saying that she did well to Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager’s question of how it went.

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, pointed out.

“What about the after? You had the meeting on Saturday, so you must have met on Sunday.”

“Oh, she said she had work on Sunday.”

“Then when are you going to meet again? Today?”

“She works late on weekdays... Yurim Cosmetics must be tough.”

That couldn't be true.

Yurim Cosmetics was a company that always ranked among the top in terms of being a good place to work.

Choi Min-hee, the section chief, couldn't help but close her eyes.

Instead, Kim Young-gil, the assistant manager, asked.

“That could happen. Then you'll meet on the weekend, right?”

“She said she had to go to her hometown on the weekend.”

“...”

No one could open their mouths at Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager's words.

If it were someone else, they would have just ignored him.

But the 3rd part was different, as they were close to each other.

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, patted Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager's back first.

Choi Min-hee, the section chief, Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, and Lee Chan-ho cheered him up in turn.

“Cheer up.”

“There are plenty of women.”

“Life is long. It's the age of a hundred.”

“Assistant manager, you can do it.”

“...”

Yoo-hyun couldn't open his mouth.

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, was annoyed by the constant pitiful looks.

Then he turned the arrow to Kim Young-gil, the assistant manager.

“Why are you all doing this to me? Kim, you don't have a girlfriend either, do you?”

“Me?”

“Yes, assistant manager. Aren’t we comrades?”

Thud.

Then Kim Young-gil, the assistant manager, casually put his phone on the table.

His expression was surprisingly calm.

He even showed a slight confidence by lifting the corners of his mouth.

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, picked up his phone without thinking.

“What’s wrong with you?”

“Check it out.”

As he pressed the button, the dim screen lit up.

At the same time, a gasp came out of Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager’s mouth.

“Huh? Wow.”

Thump thump.

He was so surprised that he fell back on his chair.

“What is it?”

“What’s wrong with you?”

At that moment, people gathered around to see the phone screen.

They didn’t care about Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, who fell.

They all had a stunned look on their faces.

“Blonde?”

“Could it be...”

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, also came closer in surprise.

On the screen, there was a picture of a blonde white woman and Kim Young-gil, the assistant manager, with their arms linked.

It was even the phone background.

Everyone’s eyes were on Kim Young-gil, the assistant manager.

“Haha. It just happened that way.”

“What? How, how did you do it?”

“Thanks to Yoo-hyun.”

As Kim Young-gil, the assistant manager, nodded, Yoo-hyun blinked his eyes. He didn't remember introducing him to a white woman.

"Yoo-hyun introduced me to an English teacher."

"I know. James."

"Yes. He introduced me to this woman. It just happened that we've been... Hehe."

As Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager, agreed, Kim Young-gil, the assistant manager, explained the details.

Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager's eyes turned to Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager.

"I see. Then only Park..."

"Park, I'm sorry."

Kim Young-gil, the assistant manager, scratched his head.

Then everyone looked at Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, with a pitying look.

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, backed away and denied reality.

Yoo-hyun stepped up, thinking that Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager's mind would go crazy.

"It won't be..."

"Assistant manager, let's get some fresh air for a while."

"Okay, fine."

Yoo-hyun lifted Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, up and said to Kim Hyun-min, the deputy manager.

"Deputy manager, I'll be back in a bit."

"Okay. Yoo-hyun, you take care of him."

"Yes."

He wasn't saying that because he was worried about Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager.

Their interest was already elsewhere.

Buzzing.

A bright atmosphere was created behind them.

“Kim, show me again.”

“That’s really amazing.”

“...”

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, walked out without a word.

His footsteps were moving slowly, and his back looked lonely.

He was quiet until he got off the elevator.

He took out a cigarette when he got to the smoking area on the first floor.

Yoo-hyun asked him as he lit the cigarette.

“Are you okay?”

“Of course, I’m okay. Why? Do you think I’m down?”

“No. Of course not.”

“Right. Hyun-mi was fine. She was a nice person.”

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, tried to smile.

He still thought that he and Lim Hyun-mi, who became his couple, were doing well.

Yoo-hyun thought the failure rate was about 99 percent.

In other words, it meant that there was a 1 percent chance.

One percent was a much higher possibility than the LCD business unit winning the phone business unit contest.

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, was the one who did it.

Yoo-hyun hoped for it.

But that hope couldn’t last any longer.

It was because of the message that came soon after.

Beep.

“Look. The message just came.”

“Really?”

Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager, who was holding his phone, shared the screen with Yoo-hyun as soon as he saw the name Lim Hyun-mi.

Chapter 170

The two people's expressions, which had been bright for a moment, gradually hardened as time passed.

-I've thought about it, and I think we should just stay as good friends. Enjoy the buffet with someone else who's nice.

It was a particularly cold day.

The cigarette pack that Deputy Park Seung-woo had been full of became empty in one sitting.

Deputy Park Seung-woo and Yoo-hyun just looked up at the sky.

The sky was very clear.

When Yoo-hyun returned to his seat, the surroundings were very noisy.

People were gathered around Deputy Kim Young-gil's seat, and in the center was Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min.

"...Really, that's true."

"Wow."

"So, you see, Deputy Kim..."

They were engrossed in gossip like a quack doctor, and even the other part members joined in.

"Puhahaha."

Soon, laughter erupted everywhere.

Team Leader Oh Jae-hwan, who couldn't stand it, came over and yelled.

"Deputy Manager Kim, why are you making such a fuss since earlier?"

"Team Leader, Deputy Kim has a girlfriend. And she's a foreigner. Isn't that big news? Hehe."

Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min laughed and took Team Leader Oh Jae-hwan's words, and the team members scattered with a sense of the situation.

They expected trouble to happen soon.

As expected, Team Leader Oh Jae-hwan exploded with anger.

"Are you kidding me? Why are you talking about dating at work? Is this a playground?"

"Hey, how can you date at a playground? Deputy Kim, did you meet Eileen at the playground too?"

“...Yes.”

Deputy Kim Young-gil, who was watching the situation, answered, and Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min quickly bowed his head.

“Oh, really? I’m sorry, Team Leader. I didn’t know that.”

“This is really unbelievable.”

This time, Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min crossed the line a little.

Yoo-hyun tried to step in, but it was an awkward situation to do so.

He knew that too, so he stopped right there.

“I was too excited. I’m sorry.”

“Sorry?”

“I’ll be careful from now on.”

But Team Leader Oh Jae-hwan was not going to back down.

He whipped up a fire with a rough scolding.

His eyes were even bloodshot.

“Deputy Manager Kim, I really didn’t want to say this, but you...”

This was enough for more than 10 minutes of nagging.

“Are you trying to kill someone?”

A hoarse voice came in.

Team Leader Oh Jae-hwan’s fire died down like a lie.

“...Sir, Director.”

At the same time, the people who were standing up turned their bodies and greeted him.

“Hello.”

“Hehe. Yeah.”

Director Jo Chan-young, who had greeted them, stood in front of Team Leader Oh Jae-hwan.

“Team Leader Oh, aren’t you too sensitive?”

“Well, Deputy Manager Kim...”

“Come on, it’s the end of the year. You should know how to loosen up a bit. Deputy Manager Kim is good at managing that aspect, right?”

His attitude changed 180 degrees from when he used to scold Team Leader Oh Jae-hwan and him together.

He suddenly sided with Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min.

Team Leader Oh Jae-hwan felt dizzy and bowed his head.

“Director, I’m sorry.”

Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min, who was next to him, rubbed Team Leader Oh Jae-hwan’s wound.

“Hey, Team Leader, you don’t have to be sorry. It’s Deputy Kim Young-gil’s fault for dating.”

“Hehe. Deputy Manager Kim, you’re witty. That’s why the 3rd part has such a good atmosphere.”

Despite that, Director Jo Chan-young seemed to be in a good mood.

He even praised Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min, who was full of mischief.

That’s when it happened.

Director Jo Chan-young turned his body and spread his arms wide.

Deputy Park Seung-woo, who was walking over, flinched and bowed his head.

“Oh, there’s Deputy Park too. Our hero of victory.”

“Th, thank you, Director.”

“Hahaha. The Product Planning Team is great. You’re doing well.”

He hugged Deputy Park Seung-woo hard, and then laughed heartily and disappeared.

The people who were gathered looked at Team Leader Oh Jae-hwan with rolling eyes.

In a situation where Director Jo Chan-young praised the team, his only choice was to compromise.

“Anyway, let’s do well.”

“Yes. I’ll be careful. I’m sorry, Team Leader.”

“...”

When Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min stepped back, Team Leader Oh Jae-hwan silently returned to his seat.

Yoo-hyun looked at him and smiled faintly.

‘That’s how you do it.’

A sharp stone meets its match.

When he was in the back, he could bump into anything like his personality, but now the situation has changed.

Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min had become a person who was noticed by the upper management.

His promotion, which had been lagging behind, followed suit.

He had a good chance of taking the team leader position.

Then he should know how to step back a little.

For the sake of the team members, at least.

The office was quiet soon.

Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min said he had more to say and took Deputy Kim Young-gil with him.

“Man, I have nothing more to say.”

“No, no. Let’s just have a cup of coffee. I’ll buy.”

“I’ll go too.”

Employee Lee Chan-ho also sneaked into the group.

Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee, who saw that, shook her head.

“Why are they so interested in other people’s love lives?”

“Right.”

Deputy Park Seung-woo agreed, and she covered her mouth with her hand.

“Deputy Park, I’m sorry. I must have hurt your feelings.”

“No, you didn’t.”

“Sigh...”

Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee let out a sigh mixed with regret.

It wasn’t this bad when the Hyunil Automobile case went wrong.

Yoo-hyun held back the laughter that came out as he watched her, who was delicately balancing seriousness and jokes.

It was such a pitiful situation, but his mouth kept twitching.

The more he did, the louder Deputy Park Seung-woo's voice became.

"Really, I'm fine. Honestly, the blind date was just for fun."

"Yeah. I know. Deputy Park, cheer up."

"Deputy Chief, I'm not."

"Stop it. It hurts me to see you like that."

"Really, if you keep doing that, I'll get twisted."

Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee's joke crossed the line a little, and Deputy Park Seung-woo flared up.

That's when it happened.

Deputy Chief Shin Chan-yong, who was on the other side of the partition, got up from his seat and shouted.

"Hey, you guys, shut up."

"..."

The office atmosphere turned cold in an instant.

Deputy Park Seung-woo's voice wasn't that loud.

But he was just being spiteful.

He was quiet when Deputy Manager Kim Hyun-min was there, but when he was gone, he showed his bad personality.

How can a person be so childish?

Yoo-hyun spat out a laugh and got up from his seat.

He was going to teach him a lesson.

That's when it happened.

"I'm sorry..."

"Don't do it."

Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee got up and stopped Deputy Park Seung-woo, who was about to bow his head.

Then she looked at Deputy Chief Shin Chan-yong with a cold gaze.

"Call me by my name, Deputy Shin. What's with the 'you guys'?"

"Deputy Chief Choi, don't be so arrogant. You don't know anything either."

“Deputy Shin, you’re so lucky to have so many skills. You’re doing well these days, aren’t you?”

It was a trivial remark, but Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee’s smirk made it more effective.

Even Yoo-hyun could see that she was mocking him with her eyes.

“Damn it.”

Crash.

Deputy Shin Chan-yong, who couldn’t hold back his anger, pushed his chair and stormed out of his seat.

The other part members glanced at him, and sighed with relief when he was gone.

They looked uncomfortable with him being next to them.

It was a scene that proved how Deputy Shin Chan-yong’s position had shrunk.

Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee, who dragged her chair over, said.

“Don’t mind him. He’s just jealous of you, Deputy Park.”

“No, I’m not.”

“What do you mean, no? You can’t be too nice. That’s why women... Ah, never mind.”

“...”

Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee, who lowered her head, changed the topic.

“Deputy Shin is sensitive right now because of HP.”

“Why?”

Yoo-hyun asked casually, and Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee looked around and whispered.

“You know about the HPDA3 yield problem, right? He had a hard time at the Ulsan factory because of that.”

“He’s not an engineer, is he?”

Yoo-hyun pretended not to know, and Deputy Park Seung-woo answered.

Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee agreed with him.

“I used to go down there every day to speed up the schedule, but what. Deputy Shin must have done the same.”

“Deputy Park is right. Deputy Shin must have been frustrated. He had to produce results, but no one was moving.”

“Is it still not fixed?”

“Come here.”

Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee gestured as she answered Yoo-hyun’s question.

She leaned her upper body, and Yoo-hyun and Deputy Park Seung-woo, who pulled their chairs closer, perked up their ears.

“They have to do a product event, but everyone is going crazy for color phones. The line is full and totally delayed.”

“Then what?”

Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee turned her answer to Deputy Park Seung-woo.

“What do you think Deputy Park would have done?”

“I would have tried my best.”

“Right. Deputy Park is very passionate. Deputy Shin wasn’t like that, you know? But this time, he ran around even at dawn. Did he get some late passion?”

Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee said, tilting her head slightly as if she didn’t understand.

Yoo-hyun knew the reason.

‘The MBA who made a deal with the director must have been on his mind.’

But this was also a thing of the past.

He was sure that he had lost it.

Not only the water, but also the MBA was likely to be taken away by Deputy Park Seung-woo.

Yoo-hyun looked at Deputy Park Seung-woo, who was focused, without knowing anything.

Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee continued.

“Well, the funny thing is, HP reduced the volume a lot while he was barely making it. They also postponed the schedule.”

“I don’t remember hearing that before.”

Deputy Park Seung-woo looked puzzled, and Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee asked in surprise.

“You didn’t hear it even though you’re the person in charge?”

“No.”

“Well. Deputy Park was busy. Everyone was whispering, so I barely heard it. They said there was a problem with their product. What was it...”

Yoo-hyun finished the sentence.

“It must be because of the ODD (1.5-inch optical disk drive).”

“Oh? That sounds right. How did you know, Yoo-hyun?”

“I saw it on the news. They also said there was a problem with the OS.”

“Oh, of course. Who’s your mentor?”

Deputy Park Seung-woo pointed to Yoo-hyun with his hand, and then pointed to himself.

It was a sign that Yoo-hyun was his mentee.

Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee ignored him lightly and said.

“Anyway, he worked so hard, but the schedule fell behind. What can he do? He has nothing to do. And it was the performance evaluation season then.”

“When we went to Germany, right?”

Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee answered Yoo-hyun’s question and looked at Deputy Park Seung-woo.

“Yeah. His evaluation might be low. Well, Deputy Park’s will be good.”

“No, it won’t.”

Deputy Park Seung-woo quickly humbled himself, and Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee shook her head.

“No. Deputy Park did well. Besides the contest prize, he might get another prize from the group.”

“We did it together.”

“But the main one was Deputy Park. You did well.”

“Geez... I didn’t do anything...”

Deputy Park Seung-woo looked at Yoo-hyun and scratched the back of his head. He felt embarrassed no matter how he thought about it.

The color phones were so interesting to the vice president that the development departments took care of everything.

The group leader led the project himself, so there was nothing to worry about.

Still, he got all the praise and rewards.

Things went too well.

‘That’s right.’

Yoo-hyun looked at Deputy Park Seung-woo with a faint smile.

That’s why Deputy Shin Chan-yong and Deputy Park Seung-woo’s positions had completely changed.

Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee tapped Deputy Park Seung-woo’s shoulder.

“You did well, Deputy Park.”

“Thank you.”

“But don’t get too drunk.”

“Drunk? I haven’t touched a drink lately.”

Deputy Park Seung-woo waved his hand with round eyes. Deputy Chief Choi Min-hee said with a very serious look.

“Then you were sober when you saw the blind date like that?”

“...Deputy Chief.”

While the two were bickering, Yoo-hyun got up from his seat.

He saw Deputy Shin Chan-yong’s desk, which was messed up.