

Real Man 261

Chapter 261

The knights who had rushed in soon sat down in a circle.

It was nothing much, but they all looked happy.

Looking at them, Yoo-hyun recalled what his driver had said in the past.

-When did you feel the happiest at work? There was a time when an employee came to me and thanked me for always driving safely. That was the most rewarding and satisfying moment for me.

At that time, Yoo-hyun didn't think much of the driver's words.

But he realized something clearly after living a different life.

Money wasn't everything that moved people.

A small gesture of care and recognition could also give a great impression.

It was the same now.

Thanks to a little grease and a bit of sincerity, Yoo-hyun was able to blend in naturally.

The drivers were very talkative, maybe because they were bored of waiting here.

They were all executive drivers, so their words were all high-end information.

"Oh, well, that Kim director is..."

"Really? Wow. That's really bad."

When Yoo-hyun reacted actively, the drivers told him more details.

"More than that, the worst one was the former plant manager. He..."

"Wow. You endured that?"

"No way. I hit him once."

The stories of the uncles were all like that, but there was a bit of bragging mixed in between.

In a fairly friendly atmosphere, Yoo-hyun casually asked.

The other person was Ok Jong-ho, the driver of Lee Tae-ryong, the third director.

"You must have a hard time, Mr. Ok."

"Why?"

“I heard that the third director keeps changing his schedule. That must be tough for you.”

As Yoo-hyun touched on it lightly, Ok Jong-ho poured out his words as if he had a lot to say.

“Wow, there’s someone here who knows how I feel. That director is...”

“I see. You went to Busan last Friday, right?”

“Yeah. Why did he go on Friday evening? I have to buy chicken for my kids.”

“That’s too bad. You had to wait until late at night.”

Yoo-hyun answered with a hint of what he had predicted in his words.

No one knew why Yoo-hyun was saying this.

They just thought it was part of the conversation.

“Ha. Don’t even mention it. I waited until midnight. He said he’s going again this week.”

“He’s going to the Korean restaurant in Busan again this Friday?”

“Huh? How did you know that?”

Ok Jong-ho was surprised by Yoo-hyun’s question.

Yoo-hyun dodged it.

He also mixed some information he had guessed based on his past memory.

“They say that executives usually go to Korean restaurants when they entertain foreign guests.”

“That’s right. He looked like a Japanese guy.”

“I see. Then you just have to wait for dinner time? It seems like he’ll arrive right at dinner time.”

“Yeah. He insisted on 6 o’clock. Damn. What’s his grudge?”

Ok Jong-ho gave Yoo-hyun the information he wanted.

It all matched Yoo-hyun’s expectations.

Yoo-hyun poured soda into a paper cup and handed it to him.

“You’re really having a hard time. I don’t have anything to give you, but have a drink.”

Ok Jong-ho took the paper cup and sighed.

“Sigh. It feels good to have someone listen to me.”

“Thank you for telling me interesting stories.”

“Oh, come on. Thank you. We’re grateful. Come often.”

It wasn’t just Ok Jong-ho.

The drivers who now knew his face and name treated Yoo-hyun kindly.

“Yeah. Come often. Let’s talk anytime.”

“We’re always open here.”

Yoo-hyun thanked them with a grateful heart.

“Thank you. I’ll bring something bigger next time.”

“No need. It’s fun just talking to you. Hahaha.”

“Hahaha.”

The drivers laughed loudly and Yoo-hyun laughed with them.

He came to find Lee Tae-ryong’s traces and made good connections.

Yoo-hyun was very happy.

Friday, which was today, was exactly his first anniversary of joining the company.

Somehow he knew that, and he got messages from various places since morning.

The owner of the longest message among them was Park Seung-woo, the assistant manager.

-My beloved mentee Yoo-hyun, congratulations on your first year of joining...

Park Seung-woo was good at everything, but he needed to learn how to summarize the main points.

If he went to MBA like this, he would suffer terribly there.

-Congratulations on your first year of joining. To be a senior who is not ashamed of you...

Kim Young-gil, the section chief, also sent a long message.

There were traces of his struggle in that message.

He was the type who worried by himself, as usual.

He didn't know what was inside, but he seemed to be moving in a good direction.

Yoo-hyun replied to each one and started his day happily.

The office was busy as always.

Especially as the point of completion of the panel mask production approached, the circuit side was on fire.

Maeng Ki-yong, the senior who was in charge of IC production, re-verified the part he had simulated countless times in case something went wrong.

Lee Jin-mok, the chief who had just sent out the FPCB order, went into the touch circuit configuration work without a break.

Min Su-jin, the senior, also sent out the video board order and coded the program that would go into the video chip with Lee Jin-mok.

Yoo-hyun had no room to join them.

But people who needed to rest had to rest.

He came back to his seat after lunch and immediately put on his bag.

Then Maeng Ki-yong came up to him and asked.

“Where are you going with a half-day off in the afternoon?”

“I'm just going to see my friends.”

“Actually, you know, you're supposed to treat your part to a meal on your first anniversary of joining.”

Maeng Ki-yong tried to tackle Yoo-hyun who was about to leave.

But Yoo-hyun wasn't one to fall for such a cheap trick.

“I know it's your 10th anniversary soon, Mr. Maeng.”

“Hmm.”

“I'll look forward to it. Then I'll be back.”

“You never lose to your seniors, do you?”

Yoo-hyun lifted the corners of his mouth at the mumbling he heard from behind.

He drove the rented car to Busan.

Before he left, he called his friend Oh Min-jae.

“Hey, Minjae, I'm going to crash at your place tonight.”

-Sure. I cleaned up the room for you, so just come over.

“Cleaning? What for? Fine. I’ll bring some delicious food.”

-Call me when you’re near.

“Got it.”

Oh Minjae was a colleague from the same class and team during the group training. He belonged to the home appliance division.

Since there was a home appliance factory in Busan, he lived alone in a house there.

It was exactly where Yoo-hyun was heading.

And they had planned to have a reunion with their peers there tomorrow.

This trip to Busan was very timely for many reasons.

But before that, Yoo-hyun had something to do.

No, someone to meet.

Vroom.

Yoo-hyun’s car quietly ran on the road.

Friday afternoon at 6 p.m. and Busan were very familiar to Yoo-hyun.

It was because he had accompanied Lee Taeryong, the executive director, several times when he had an appointment.

And there was only one place where Lee Taeryong would go for a Korean set meal at this time of day.

Yoo-hyun arrived in front of the restaurant where he had been with him in the past.

The current time was 4:30 p.m.

He had plenty of time, so Yoo-hyun went up to the coffee shop on the second floor across from the restaurant.

He could see the restaurant and the road in front of it clearly from the window seat.

The coffee shop scenery was exactly as Yoo-hyun remembered it.

Yoo-hyun placed his coffee on the table surrounded by glass windows.

Then he took out dark sunglasses from his pocket and put them on. He sat on a high chair and looked down at the outside.

In the dark scenery, his past memories flashed by like a lantern show.

Of course, among them were things related to Lee Taeryong.

-Section Chief Han, do you think office workers can make ends meet with their salary? Never. That's why you have to prepare an alternative, an alternative.

It was what Lee Taeryong, who was a boss from another team when Yoo-hyun was in the group strategy room, said.

Yoo-hyun met many people who were hard to see in the company while working with him.

They all had different personalities, but they had one thing in common.

They all made money for Lee Taeryong.

That's right.

Lee Taeryong was a person who moved only for money.

He also flattered Nam Jongbu and got information from him to speculate for that reason.

What would he think when he was in a pinch?

For example, what method would he choose if he wanted to leak information to defeat his competitor?

Lee Taeryong's actions were clearly drawn in Yoo-hyun's head.

He would never risk himself without compensation to bring down his opponent.

He was a person who had to get money even for such trivial things.

The person he would meet frequently by lying that he had a business trip was obvious.

It was an information broker who bought confidential information with money.

Yoo-hyun learned that such a person actually existed through Lee Taeryong.

And today, here, Yoo-hyun was thinking of meeting an old acquaintance.

"It's time for him to come."

It was exactly 5 p.m. when the clock pointed at it.

A casually dressed man sat near Yoo-hyun.

There was an empty chair between them, but they were close enough to identify each other's faces.

He had droopy eyebrows, round eyes with thick eyelids, and a dark but kind-looking skin. He was a man of gentle impression.

Suddenly, Yoo-hyun's lips twisted viciously.

He got up from his seat and moved to the one next to him.

The man frowned and tried to get up, annoyed by Yoo-hyun's sudden approach.

That's when Yoo-hyun uttered the words that stopped him.

"Danaka Yoshihiro."

"What?"

He asked in awkward Korean, and Yoo-hyun answered in fluent Japanese.

"If you're curious, sit down first."

"..."

Yoo-hyun gestured to the chair, and he reluctantly sat down, hiding his expression.

Yoo-hyun knew Danaka's personality well, so he immediately shook him up.

"Born in 1970, eldest of three siblings. Ah, you're not interested in this, are you?"

"Who are you?"

"Affiliated with Mizumo. Well, that's just a name. I'm a freelancer. A kind of information broker, you could say."

"You..."

"Ah, don't be surprised yet."

Yoo-hyun patted the shoulder of Danaka, who was trembling with fear, and quickly continued his words.

He shouldn't give him time to think at this point.

That way, he could make him move as he wanted.

"Your favorite place is a Japanese restaurant. Your time is Friday at 6 p.m. You have an obsession with arriving an hour earlier than the actual appointment time."

"H-how did you..."

"It's espresso double shot, right?"

Yoo-hyun casually asked at that moment.

“Gasp.”

Danaka was so startled that he dropped his cup.

Clank.

Yoo-hyun swiftly caught the cup and said.

“Hey, why are you acting like this among professionals? What if you break this and attract unnecessary attention?”

“What are you?”

“If you want to know, buy it with money.”

“...”

Yoo-hyun showed a bleak smile at the silent Danaka.

He felt amused in a way.

When he met him with Lee Tae-ryong, the director, in the past, he looked really big like a mountain.

He couldn't read his expression at all.

But the Danaka in front of Yoo-hyun now was different from the past.

He was nothing but an ordinary person who exposed his fear.

Yoo-hyun said to him.

“I don't have much time, so I'll get to the point. You're going to meet Lee Tae-ryong today. Right?”

“...”

“The information is B-grade. Since Apple is involved, maybe B+?”

“H-how did you...”

“You don't have to tell me. It's written all over your face.”

Yoo-hyun said nonchalantly, and Danaka, who couldn't close his mouth in surprise, tried to hide his expression.

It was his rule to manage his expression well no matter what happened.

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He bit his lower lip and opened his mouth.

“Do you have any requests regarding this deal?”

“Don't be silly. Just do as usual. I'm satisfied with just confirming it.”

“I have a feeling that we shouldn’t proceed like this.”

“Hey, we’re already in too deep to quit. I really won’t do anything, okay?”

Yoo-hyun shrugged his shoulders with a playful smile and raised his palms up.

Danaka threw a suspicious question at him.

“Then why are you telling me this?”

He had a reason, but he couldn’t tell him right now.

Yoo-hyun made up a plausible excuse.

“So that you can recognize my value.”

“Do you want to trade with me?”

“Not now, but someday. Give me your business card.”

“...”

Yoo-hyun snapped his fingers and he handed him a business card after a brief silence.

It was a simple card with only his name and number on a white background.

It seemed like nothing special, but only a few people owned this card.

Most of them were key executives of prominent IT companies in Korea, Japan, and China, and Yoo-hyun just joined their ranks.

This would be an important asset for Yoo-hyun in the future.

It was time to wrap things up, so Yoo-hyun looked him in the eye and said firmly.

“Keep this number. I’ll call you later.”

“When will that be?”

“I’ll decide the timing. At least after the deal with Director Lee Taeryong is over.”

“Huh, I can’t understand. Why did you come all the way here...”

“I told you, it’s an investment for the future.”

Danaka could never understand Yoo-hyun’s actions right now.

He had shaken him up badly, and on purpose, Yoo-hyun acted differently from his usual pattern.

Becoming someone incomprehensible to him.

It might sound strange, but that was what Yoo-hyun wanted from today’s meeting.

Danaka asked with a hidden confusion.

“How much can you sell yourself for?”

“Even if you spend all your fortune, you can’t buy me, so stop thinking about that and focus on the current task.”

“Are you sure we can proceed like this?”

“What are you worried about? We’ve eliminated all the risk factors. Why are you so cautious?”

“...”

Of course, Danaka’s eyes seemed to see Yoo-hyun as a risk factor.

But Yoo-hyun was confident that he would soon come to his senses and make a rational judgment.

There was no way this deal would go wrong because of Yoo-hyun’s involvement.

This deal was not that kind of confidential deal.

Yoo-hyun got up from his seat before Danaka realized the reality.

“That’s it, I’m leaving. I have an important appointment.”

“Can you at least tell me your name?”

“Just remember me as Steve.”

“Steve.”

Yoo-hyun showed him the hand holding the card behind his back and walked away.

He felt his burning gaze behind his back.

How would the seed he planted in him grow?

He would soon see an interesting scene.

His eyes sharpened at the intriguing thought.

Yoo-hyun didn’t need to watch the meeting between Lee Taeryong and Danaka.

He just hoped they would work together smoothly.

What Director Lee Taeryong would leak now?

It was nothing much when it came down to it.

It was just a chance for some Japanese companies that were dying out to play with the media for a while.

That information wouldn't change the core of the matter even if it came out.

Rather, he needed that information to come out at the right time.

That way, he could force Apple's choice.

The reason why Yoo-hyun left Director Lee Taeryong alone was just because of that.

That was when he thought so.

He saw Lee Taeryong's car entering the alley through the side mirror.

He used to sit next to him in that car once.

-When the rabbit hunt is over, the hunting dog is discarded. Of course, I'm not talking about you, Director Han. Haha.

Lee Taeryong's babbling echoed in his ear like a hallucination.

As a subordinate of Han Kyung-hoe, he sacrificed a lot under him.

The reason was only one.

He struggled to climb up somehow.

He made achievements through that struggle.

But what he got in return was his contempt and restraint.

In the end, he threw Yoo-hyun away like a dog.

In the end, only Yoo-hyun survived until the end.

But he lost too much in the process.

He had no choice but to make a wrong decision in the massive layoff incident because of that reason.

It was time to break that chain completely.

Yoo-hyun sneered at Lee Taeryong's car hiding in the alleyway behind him.

"Just finish what you're doing. I'll throw you away like trash then."

Then he stepped on the accelerator pedal.

Vroom.

It was time to push away the dark memories.

Yoo-hyun drove the car to meet someone much more important than Lee Taeryong.

He headed to the house of his friend Oh Min-jae, who lived on the outskirts of Busan.

He welcomed Yoo-hyun, who had left work early and was at home.

“What did you buy this for?”

“I can’t come empty-handed when I haven’t seen you for a long time.”

“I’m glad. Come in.”

Oh Min-jae took the paper bag that Yoo-hyun handed him.

There were a lot of appetizing homemade cookies in it.

“Hey, how did you know I like this?”

“You ate it a lot during the new employee training, you idiot.”

“Puhaha. Sit down.”

He entered the room and greeted Yoo-hyun with a full table.

“Why did you prepare all this?”

“I have to do this much for Yoo-hyun.”

He chuckled and sat down on the floor after unpacking his luggage.

Then Oh Min-jae asked bluntly.

“Yoo-hyun, are you guys okay?”

“What do you mean?”

“Hey, did you know that Director Lee Taeryong, our supervisor, went to the Ulsan factory where you work?”

“Yeah, I know. He’s our next-door supervisor. But why?”

“He’s such a jerk, you know...”

Oh Min-jae, who belonged to the home appliance division, vented his anger about his former supervisor.

Yoo-hyun spat out a laugh at his words.

Trash was trash wherever it went.

And he didn’t want to think about such a guy anymore.

Yoo-hyun waved his hand and picked up a bottle of liquor on the table.

“Come on, let’s stop talking about this and have a drink.”

“Sure. But don’t we have to drink more tomorrow?”

“Today and tomorrow, we can drink both.”

“Good. I’m glad.”

That night, Yoo-hyun had a long chat with his friend Oh Min-jae, whom he hadn’t seen for a long time.

And the next day.

The members of the second class and sixth team of the new employee training course at the Innovation Center in Busan gathered.

They chose the center of the place where most of the members were gathered, since they were scattered here and there, and that was Busan.

Yoo-hyun greeted Seol Gitaek and Kang Changseok, who came from afar.

“Gitaek, you must have had a hard time coming from far away. And you too, Changseok hyung.”

“No, it’s once a year that we meet.”

Seol Gitaek said with a smile, but Kang Changseok’s expression was not so bright.

He felt the sharp eyes of the female colleagues because of his past mistakes.

He couldn’t say anything because he knew he had done something wrong during the training period.

Yoo-hyun pulled his arm and entered the restaurant.

“Come on, hyung, let’s go in. It’s delicious here.”

“Oh, okay.”

The place they entered was a famous intestine restaurant in Busan that Yoo-hyun recommended.

It was objectively better than the intestine restaurant in Ulsan.

Yoo-hyun finished ordering and confidently told his colleagues.

“The intestines here are really good. You won’t regret it.”

“I trust you, oppa. Even if you say you made soy sauce with beans, I believe you.”

“Seolgi, you know that soy sauce is made with beans, right?”

Oh Min-jae said incredulously at Choi Seolgi’s words.

But Choi Seolgi cut off his words sharply.

“Why are you so lacking in empathy? Do you know that you can’t get a girlfriend like that?”

“Hey, I have one.”

Whether Oh Min-jae was angry or not, Jung Dabin was already shaking a bottle of soju.

“Come on, let’s have a drink since we ordered.”

“Don’t we usually drink after the food comes out?”

This time too, Oh Min-jae blinked his eyes as if he couldn’t adapt.

Then Choi Seolgi and Jung Dabin shook him one after another.

“What are you talking about? That’s your hometown way. Geoje is different, very different.”

“Oppa, you’ve lived too innocently. We’ll show you what company drinking is like.”

“What? Why did they become like this when I didn’t see them?”

Oh Min-jae sighed at Choi Seolgi’s endless nagging.

But Yoo-hyun and Seol Gitaek burst into laughter.

“Puhahaha.”

“...”

Kang Changseok just drank water as if he felt awkward in this situation.

Yoo-hyun took care of him.

“Hyung, have a drink.”

“Okay, sure.”

He lifted his glass and Yoo-hyun said to the others.

“I’m so glad to see you all after such a long time. Shall we have a drink?”

“Sure. I’ll let you do the toast first.”

“Thank you very much.”

Yoo-hyun nodded his head exaggeratedly at Choi Seolgi’s words.

He lifted his glass high in the cheerful atmosphere.

“Congratulations on your first anniversary of joining the company. To our first anniversary.”

“To our first anniversary.”

Clank. Clank. Clank.

“The first drink is one shot.”

The first drink was just the beginning.

From then on, a fierce drinking session began under the leadership of Choi Seolgi and Jung Dabin.

They drank soju and beer quickly while grilling intestines.

The next target of the two female colleagues was Kang Changseok.

Choi Seolgi poured soju into his beer glass and urged him incessantly.

“Oppa, when I think about what you did during the training period...”

“I’m sorry about that.”

“It doesn’t matter. One shot.”

“This?”

“Of course.”

At Choi Seolgi’s words, Kang Changseok drank the alcohol like medicine.

As he got drunk, his characteristic bluffing kicked in.

“When I worked with Yoo-hyun...”

“Really? It sounds like a lie.”

“It’s true.”

At Jung Dabin’s question, Kang Changseok nodded his head.

Yoo-hyun was talking with Seol Gitaek and Oh Min-jae at that time.

Then, Choi Seolgi stuck her head out and interrupted.

“Yoo-hyun oppa, did you work with Changseok oppa?”

“Yeah. He helped me a lot.”

“Wow.”

Choi Seolgi made a surprised expression at Yoo-hyun’s answer.

On the other hand, Kang Changseok, whose face was red from the alcohol, lifted his chin and boasted.

“See? I was right.”

Of course, his boasting didn't last long.

Choi Seolgi looked at him with a red face and mocked him.

“Yoo-hyun oppa, be careful. Changseok oppa might stab you in the back.”

“Hey, Choi Seolgi, aren't you being too harsh?”

Kang Changseok flared up at her words.

“Why? Huh? Are you showing your true colors again?”

“Sigh.”

Kang Changseok couldn't stand up to Choi Seolgi at all.

He sighed and kept flipping the intestines.

Choi Seolgi reminded Yoo-hyun again.

“Oppa, you have to remember what Changseok oppa did during the training period.”

“Don't worry. If he stabs me in the back, I'll pay him back ten times.”

“Yes. You have to do that.”

Yoo-hyun assured her and Choi Seolgi finally nodded her head.

It was a serious expression that Yoo-hyun couldn't tell if it was a joke or not.

Kang Changseok was annoyed and continued to grill the intestines.

Yoo-hyun lifted his glass again to avoid awkwardness.

“Come on, let's have a drink. The food is good too.”

That's how the empty bottles piled up, and they each talked about their company life.

They spent most of their day at work, so they had nothing else to talk about.

Jung Dabin told them about her hardships.

“You wouldn't believe what I went through in Geoje...”

Seol Gitaek also grumbled in response.

“I had to deal with TV filming...”

They all complained, but Yoo-hyun saw their pride in their words.

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He knew that he could smile like this because he had gone through a lot of struggles and overcome them.

He felt proud to see his former classmates achieve such great things.

Of course, not everything was praiseworthy.

They also made some pathetic remarks, especially those who had juniors under them.

Oh Min-jae sighed and said.

“I got promoted to deputy manager this time, but you wouldn’t believe how arrogant that kid is...”

Kang Chang-seok was in the same boat.

“I also got a junior in the next department, but he doesn’t listen to me at all...”

Watching them, Yoo-hyun couldn’t help but laugh.

He knew too well how pathetic they were in the beginning.

They were so pitiful that Choi Seul-ki, who was watching them, made a sarcastic comment.

“There’s no junior worse than Chang-seok oppa.”

“Seul-ki, why are you picking on me since a while ago?”

“I only beat one guy.”

“Kkkkkk.”

Everyone chuckled at Choi Seul-ki’s words.

Yoo-hyun, who was laughing with them, suddenly remembered his junior from the past.

‘I wonder if he joined the company this time?’

He was a memorable junior, even though it was a long time ago.

Yoo-hyun lifted his glass alone.

The alcohol tasted quite bitter.

They were chatting away like that.

Jeong Da-bin gestured quietly to Yoo-hyun.

“Oppa, can I talk to you for a minute?”

“Sure.”

Yoo-hyun followed Jeong Da-bin outside.

There were a few plastic chairs in front of the tripe restaurant.

Sitting next to her like this reminded him of the time they talked in Geoje.

He never imagined that Jeong Da-bin would have a connection with Jeong Da-hye back then.

He recalled the absurd moment when he met Jeong Da-hye and smiled unconsciously.

Jeong Da-bin asked bluntly.

“Oppa, do you know how Da-hye is doing?”

“A little bit.”

“How is she?”

“You can find out if you search for her company.”

“Why didn’t you contact her if you’re interested in her?”

Jeong Da-bin pouted her lips and Yoo-hyun said with a smile.

“It’s not like that.”

“Then what is it?”

“There’s something like that.”

“Hey, just tell me.”

Jeong Da-bin poked his ribs and he asked her a meaningful question.

“Did you give her my number by any chance?”

“No. Why would she ask for it?”

“She might ask for it.”

“Why? Is there something going on?”

Jeong Da-bin turned her body sideways and asked him when it happened.

Drrrrr.

The sliding door opened and Kang Chang-seok’s drunken voice came out.

“Hey, Han Yu-hyun, come back in.”

“Geez. He has no sense at all.”

Jeong Da-bin sighed heavily.

Yoo-hyun got up from his seat and said.

“I’ll go. Let’s go, Da-bin. We have to enjoy today.”

“Well, fine. But we’re going to play long.”

“Good.”

Yoo-hyun smiled brightly at Jeong Da-bin’s words.

At that moment.

The Spirit Company in New York was in the middle of its morning work.

A strange man entered the busy office.

He headed towards an Asian woman.

He asked her who was making data frantically.

“Are you Ellis Jeong by any chance?”

“Yes. What can I do for you?”

When Jeong Da-hye turned her head and answered, the man handed her a rose.

“This is a gift for you.”

“Why are you giving this to me?”

She asked with a bewildered expression and the man said in a serious voice.

“It’s from a customer who wants to celebrate your project success.”

“Who is that customer?”

“I can’t tell you that. Well then.”

The man bowed politely to Jeong Da-hye and disappeared suddenly.

“...”

Staring blankly at the situation was not Jeong Da-hye’s style.

She left behind her buzzing colleagues and immediately made a phone call.

The target was the security guard who checked the visitor’s identity.

After several calls, she got a clue.

The order was from Korea, and the name of the orderer was Steve.

She had a hunch about who it was and snorted.

“He acts all manly, but what is this?”

The next morning.

Yoo-hyun, who stayed at Oh Min-jae’s house for another day, came out after getting ready to go home.

It was perfect timing when he got a text from Jeong Da-bin.

-Oppa, you were right. Da-hye asked for your number. Good luck.

She must have been curious about many things, but she was too tired from playing all night and the content was brief.

-Thank you. You’re the best classmate.

He casually replied and went to sit on a bench in a nearby park.

He thought that Jeong Da-hye would not hesitate to call him.

Thud.

It was so like her to ask Jeong Da-bin at this time.

She must have felt sorry for calling him at night and waited until it was morning in Korea.

And that too to her cousin.

Yoo-hyun chuckled and reminisced about the past.

Drrrrr.

As expected, an international call came in.

Yoo-hyun answered the phone with a serious face, hiding his smile.

“Hello, this is Han Yu-hyun.”

-Is this Steve Han?

The voice from the other side was quite chilly.

She was obviously holding a grudge.

Yoo-hyun put a brake on her who was about to attack him.

“Who are you? It’s rude to ask like that out of the blue.”

-Ah, I’m sorry. I’m so busy. I’m Jeong Da-bin’s cousin, Jeong Da-hye.

“Oh, the one I met last time?”

-Yes. That’s right.

Then she spat out with a suppressed voice.

There was no doubt that she had a walnut wrinkle on her chin again.

He kept thinking of her expression and his words were mixed with laughter.

“Haha. How are you doing?”

-Stop beating around the bush. Why did you send me a rose?

“A rose?”

-I'll hang up if you keep playing dumb.

It was time to back off a step.

Yoo-hyun obediently gave her the answer she wanted.

“You said you completed your project, right? I sent it as a congratulatory gift.”

-Are you a stalker?

“I just saw it on your website.”

-So why did you send it?

Of course, he didn't expect her to understand that.

He didn't bother to explain himself.

She wouldn't be able to understand his feelings anyway.

Instead, he acted shamelessly.

“They say it's fate even if we just pass by, but we even had coffee together.”

-So you sent a rose all the way to America?

“Yes. The service is good these days.”

-Is that what you call an excuse?

She snapped, and he slyly probed her sincerity.

“Don't you like a rose?”

-I don't like flowers very much.

He heard her voice pretending not to care and recalled his memory.

-Sir, isn't it customary to give a rose or something to celebrate the project completion?

-That's useless. Something else would be better, wouldn't it?

-No. A rose is enough for me.

-That's surprising.

-I don't know, maybe because of the drama I watched when I was young? I thought it looked so nice.

He teased her based on his memory.

“Really? You look like you're holding a flower in your hand right now.”

-No, no, I'm not.

He heard a moment of panic in her breath.

It was a rather clumsy response for someone who was always meticulous.

He didn't know she had this side of her.

It was polite to pretend not to notice in this situation.

He chuckled and changed the subject.

“But how did you know? It was a secret.”

-How can that be a secret?

“I didn't even leave my name. Oh, maybe you were thinking of me.”

He asked mockingly and she flared up.

-No, I wasn't.

“Haha. But it's nice to hear your voice.”

-Are you kidding me right now?

“No. I'm serious.”

-...

A brief silence followed, mixed with her rough breathing.

He gave her a break and she composed herself.

She sounded calm like the Jeong Da-hye he remembered from the past.

-Anyway, don't ever do this again.

“Oh. You're not expecting it again, are you?”

-Are you going to be shameless until the end?

Of course, she couldn't stay that way for long.

She returned to the new Jeong Da-hye at his playful voice.

He found her adorable and lovely.

His words were filled with laughter naturally.

“Haha. Call me when you come to Korea.”

-I have no reason to go there.

“You’ll come someday. Or I can go there too.”

-I’m hanging up.

Even in an angry situation, she never hung up first.

She always said she would hang up like this.

It was her consideration hidden behind her prickly appearance.

He smiled and said.

“Okay. Take care. Congratulations again.”

-...

The call ended with a lingering feeling.

He looked at the time on the screen and saw that they had talked for quite a while.

For her, who valued time so much, it was a lot of investment in him.

She must have hated getting anything for free.

“You’re still the same.”

He lifted his head with a snort of laughter.

It was a bright and clear day.

And time passed by.

He heard some good news from the company one by one.

Then one day at 4 am.

When everyone was asleep, his phone rang.

Jiiing

It was a group text from Go Seong-cheol senior engineer .

It included a picture of the panel lighting up .

-We secured 20 good products. We will transfer them to IC bonding work after panel gluing is completed .

His words sounded like he was grinning from ear to ear .

He checked the message with his blurry eyes and smiled .

“You worked hard .”

It wasn't just part 2 .

Everyone from the Future Product Research Center and CTO also worked hard to make this panel .

The yield might look low by the number of good products , but it wasn't bad for a start .

The most time-consuming part had gone smoothly .

It was something to celebrate .

But there were people who couldn't see it positively .

At that moment .

Maeng Gi-yong senior engineer , who checked the text , held his forehead .

“Oh , no . The bomb has been passed on .”

He would have preferred it if the panel didn't work .

He knew it was a bad thought , but he couldn't help thinking that way .

Why ?

If the panel worked well but the module didn't , he would have to clean up the mess .

The IC had too many experimental technologies , so he was more anxious .

He couldn't sleep at all .

That morning , Yoo-hyun greeted Maeng Gi-yong senior engineer cheerfully when he came to work .

His face looked unusually dark .

“Maeng senior engineer , did you see the panel picture ?”

“Uh ... yeah .”

“Now we just have to do well .”

“Do you want to die , Yoo-hyun ?”

“Hey , don't be afraid . Come on , let's go attach the IC .”

“Ha ...”

Yoo-hyun grabbed Maeng Gi-yong senior engineer's hand and led him .

He understood how he felt , but nothing would change by being afraid .

Chapter 264

Yoo-hyun received the panel from the new IC and Senior Go Seong-cheol.

Then he loaded the two boxes into Senior Maeng Gi-yong's car.

Senior Maeng Gi-yong drove with a dark expression on his face.

Yoo-hyun, who was sitting next to him, threw his usual positive words.

“It will be fine.”

“Yoo-hyun, do you know what we're going to do?”

“Are we going to attach the IC to the panel?”

“That's right. But this is different from just module work. We're going to stick the IC directly on the glass surface of the panel.”

“You said it's because of the resolution. Why is that?”

“Sigh... Never mind. What's the point of telling you?”

Senior Maeng Gi-yong shook his head as if giving up on Yoo-hyun's answer.

Regardless, Yoo-hyun smiled.

“Don't worry. It will be fine.”

“If it doesn't work, it's really over.”

“Think of this team leader at times like this.”

Yoo-hyun offered a very appropriate alternative to Senior Maeng Gi-yong, who was anxious.

Senior Maeng Gi-yong asked in surprise.

“Jin Mok? Why?”

“If the IC attachment work goes well and we come back, the person who will worry the most is this team leader, right?”

Senior Maeng Gi-yong blinked his eyes at Yoo-hyun's words and nodded his head as if it made sense.

“Well. Yeah. I hope it goes well soon. To tease Jin Mok.”

“Yes. I'll join you.”

“Hahaha.”

Senior Maeng Gi-yong laughed loudly when Yoo-hyun agreed cheekily.

Only then did his stiff shoulders relax a little.

The place where the two went was D&D, an IC attachment company located next to Ulsan 1 Factory.

The company also had an IC attachment line.

However, in the case of this IC, it did not fit the standard size.

As soon as they entered the promised place, an employee came out and greeted Yoo-hyun and Senior Maeng Gi-yong.

“Oh, hello, researchers. I’m Lee Jae-won, senior at D&D.”

“Hello. I’m Senior Maeng Gi-yong.”

“Hello. I’m Han Yoo-hyun.”

When Yoo-hyun finished greeting, Senior Maeng Gi-yong asked Senior Lee Jae-won with a worried expression.

“Senior Lee, please take good care of the IC attachment.”

“Hehe. Don’t worry. Researcher Han Yoo-hyun sent me such detailed data that I’m well prepared.”

Senior Maeng Gi-yong blinked his eyes at Senior Lee Jae-won’s words.

“What data did you...”

“He sent me the IC and panel drawings all at once. He also included the alignment key parts and precautions.”

“Oh...”

While Senior Maeng Gi-yong was still making a flustered expression, Senior Lee Jae-won praised Yoo-hyun again.

“It’s easy for me to do it when you organize it so neatly. Thank you, researcher.”

Actually, it wasn’t something worth praising so much.

It was just that Senior Lee Jae-won was a bit emotional person.

Yoo-hyun turned away from him with a shy smile.

“I didn’t do anything. I just sent Senior Maeng’s data again.”

“Haha. You also updated me on the detailed schedule in real time. Thanks to that, I can respond right away.”

Hearing Senior Lee Jae-won’s words, Senior Maeng Gi-yong put his arm around Yoo-hyun’s shoulder.

Thump.

Then he said with a clear look as if he had come to his senses.

“You did well.”

“It has to go well.”

“It will go well since you did so much for it.”

Yoo-hyun felt the strength in his arm wrapped around his shoulder.

There was a determination in his expression.

The IC attachment work ended sooner than expected.

Senior Lee Jae-won showed them many pictures taken with a microscope.

“I’ll have to test it to know for sure, but I don’t think there are any defects. As you can see, there are no foreign substances either.”

“Yes. It really looks like that.”

Senior Maeng Gi-yong’s eyes sparkled.

He could see that the IC’s fine pins and hundreds of lines inside the panel were precisely aligned.

As if reading Senior Maeng Gi-yong’s thoughts, Senior Lee Jae-won reassured him.

“You said the panel test was done too, right? The IC was also tested individually, so there should be no problem.”

“Thank you.”

“Haha. In my experience, this is as good as done.”

Senior Lee Jae-won definitely knew how to deal with customers.

Regardless of his light words, Yoo-hyun could see that there was no problem with the work.

That meant that the baton had been passed on.

Senior Maeng Gi-yong, who had picked up the box himself, grinned.

“Well, now it’s really Team Leader Kim’s turn.”

“Should I call him?”

“No. I’ll call him.”

“Then I’ll listen.”

Yoo-hyun quickly picked up the box, wanting to see the good show.

There was a big smile on Senior Maeng Gi-yong’s lips as he held his phone.

A moment later.

Yoo-hyun entered the module factory with Team Leader Lee Jin-mok.

On the folding cart, there was a box containing a panel with an IC attached.

Next to it was a small box containing a newly made FPCB.

The work of connecting these two was module work.

And on top of the cart, there was one more box wrapped in a veil.

Team Leader Lee Jin-mok asked with a curious expression.

“Yoo-hyun, are you really going to give this to the module guys?”

“Yes. I’m grateful for their hard work.”

“They won’t take bribes.”

“It’s not a bribe.”

Yoo-hyun answered with a smile, and Team Leader Lee Jin-mok sighed.

“Sigh. Well. It’s not my place to say anything.”

“Why?”

“Just, I’m sorry for bringing you along when you’re busy.”

“What do I have to be busy about?”

Yoo-hyun wasn’t busy.

The ones who worked overtime and suffered every day were the team members, not Yoo-hyun.

Now they all knew how to do their work, so Yoo-hyun had nothing to do.

He was more comfortable than when he was in the product planning team.

Still, Team Leader Lee Jin-mok worried about Yoo-hyun.

“But you just attached the IC and came back.”

“Thanks to that, I got a meal from Senior Maeng. Now it’s your turn, team leader.”

“If it goes well, what’s a meal? I’ll buy you drinks.”

“It will go well.”

Yoo-hyun smiled and entered the module line.

When Yoo-hyun entered the module workshop, the female employees wearing navy blue collar T-shirts came up and greeted Yoo-hyun.

“Oh, Yoo-hyun, hello.”

“Why did you come so long after?”

“Hello. It’s been a while since I had a module.”

As Yoo-hyun greeted them happily, one of the female employees came out and tried to lift the box on the cart.

“Hoho. Is that so? Give it to me.”

“No. I’ll carry it.”

“Oh, you don’t have to. Hoho.”

Yoo-hyun moved the box containing the panel and FPCB among the laughter of the female employees.

Seeing his unfamiliar appearance, Team Leader Lee Jin-mok couldn’t close his mouth.

Yoo-hyun returned after handing over the box and Team Leader Lee Jin-mok asked him.

“What is this? Have you been treated like this every time you did module work?”

“What treatment?”

“Oh, no. But when are you going to give that?”

“Later.”

Yoo-hyun squinted his eyes, and Team Leader Lee Jin-mok made a puzzled expression.

Then a loud noise came from the module line.

The voice belonged to Jo Yujung, the eldest sister among the workers.

“Okay, this is an important panel, so let’s do a good job. Got it?”

“Yes, sister.”

The other female workers answered loudly and moved swiftly.

“Wow...”

Lee Jinmok, the team leader, was speechless at the sight he had never seen before.

This was not the usual tedious module work.

He finally understood why Yoo-hyun always came back smiling after doing the module work.

The module work was finished much faster than expected.

It was thanks to everyone's enthusiastic help.

Jo Yujung handed over the box and said,

“That's it.”

“Thank you so much.”

Yoo-hyun expressed his gratitude and Jo Yujung sobbed.

“Thank you? But this was a bit tough.”

Yoo-hyun knew very well how hard the work was.

He felt grateful to the workers who helped him and unwrapped the box that was covered with a veil.

Inside were two boxes of vitamin drinks.

It was enough for the workers to drink.

“I prepared this for you.”

“Oh, thank you.”

Jo Yujung was surprised and the other female workers gave thumbs up.

“Yoo-hyun is really a man of sense.”

“Hohoho.”

Giving a gift before the work would be burdensome, but giving it after would feel sincere.

That's why the female workers showed very rewarding smiles.

Yoo-hyun thanked them again.

“Thank you so much every time.”

“No, thank you. You're so thoughtful. Just let me know whenever you need help. We'll finish Yoo-hyun's work first.”

Jo Yujung winked and said.

Yoo-hyun appreciated her heart and thanked her sincerely once more.

“Yes, thank you.”

On his way back after finishing the work, Lee Jinmok exclaimed again.

“Yoo-hyun, you’re amazing.”

“What are you talking about? It’s just a drink.”

“No, I learned a lot from watching you. It’s not just because you’re handsome that they do well for you.”

“What do you mean by that?”

“You’re awesome. Really awesome, Han Yoo-hyun.”

Clap clap clap clap.

Lee Jinmok clapped his hands embarrassingly.

It was awkward to clap on the street where people passed by.

Yoo-hyun pushed the cart faster.

Inside the inspection room, the whole team was gathered.

Not only that, but also the members of Circuit Team 3 were there.

As soon as Yoo-hyun entered, Jung Inwook, the manager, opened his mouth wide and asked,

‘Did it go well?’

Why are they acting like that?

Yoo-hyun chuckled and said loudly,

“The module work went very well.”

“Oooh, awesome.”

Jung Inwook clenched his fist and Kim Hogul, the chief engineer, nodded his head with his arms crossed.

“Now we just have to turn on the screen.”

“...”

There were two people who looked gloomy among the expectations of everyone.

They were Min Sujin, the senior engineer, and Kim Seondong, the team leader, who took over the baton.

Kim Hogul urged them,

“Come on, let’s do it.”

“Wait a minute. Please be quiet.”

Min Sujin was cold regardless of what the team leader said.

No one dared to say anything about it.

They all knew her sensitive personality.

Min Sujin took a breath and took the module from Yoo-hyun.

“Yoo-hyun, thank you.”

“It’ll be fine.”

“Shh. Don’t say that.”

Min Sujin put her index finger on her mouth and everyone became quiet.

In the silent atmosphere, Min Sujin connected the module FPCB part to the video board connector.

The size of the video board was much smaller than the one used in the last demo.

It was slightly larger than the panel size.

To achieve this, a new video processing chip was used and the programming inside it was also changed.

Click.

As soon as she connected the module to the video board, Maeng Giyong, another senior engineer who had approached Yoo-hyun without him noticing whispered,

“It won’t work at once.”

“Really?”

“Yeah. It usually takes a week to turn on this kind of module.”

“I see.”

Yoo-hyun answered calmly.

To be honest, it was a new programming with no verification panel.

Moreover, the new IC had a new high-speed communication protocol as well.

Min Sujin and Kim Seondong had worked hard to implement this, but Yoo-hyun knew it wasn't easy either.

"I'm turning it on."

Gulp.

Everyone swallowed their saliva at Min Sujin's words.

Kim Seondong, who was sitting in front of the laptop connected to the video board, covered his head with both hands as if he was nervous.

Yoo-hyun couldn't help him with this part either.

Then Min Sujin turned on the power adapter switch.

Tick.

That was the moment.

The panel flickered once and then a clear Windows background logo appeared.

The color was inverted, but the clouds, sky, and part of the mark were clearly visible.

"Phew..."

"Wow."

Min Sujin sighed with relief and the others cheered.

People popped up here and there.

"Awesome. It worked at once."

"Right. I've never seen it turn on properly at once."

"That's amazing, isn't it?"

The people from Team 2, who had seen Team 1 struggle a lot, were also impressed.

The people from Team 3, who were watching from behind, were the same.

"Hold on. I'll bring the director."

Kim Hogul ran out excitedly.

He didn't even think of using his phone.

Chapter 265

Soon after, Executive Go Jun-ho rushed over.

He saw the panel that had just barely displayed the screen and clapped loudly, praising them.

Clap clap clap clap clap.

“Hahaha. Well done.”

“The team members worked hard.”

Senior Kim Ho-geol tried to share the credit with others, but Executive Go Jun-ho patted his shoulder.

“Team Leader Kim, you did a great job too. Are you ready for the demo now?”

“Huh? Sir, that’s...”

Kim Ho-geol stuttered at his sudden words.

“What’s wrong? This looks good enough to do it tomorrow. Don’t you think?”

“...”

No one answered Executive Go Jun-ho’s question.

The atmosphere became silent as a mouse.

Why?

It was a great achievement, but it was far from being ready for a demo.

To do a demo, they would have to pull several all-nighters.

“Why are you so unsure? It looks easy to me.”

“Sir, we still need more time.”

Kim Ho-geol asked for his understanding, but Executive Go Jun-ho tilted his head.

“Why? You did it right away last time.”

“...”

That’s right.

Executive Go Jun-ho was not someone who had done any groundwork.

He had done it too fast this time and last time, so he thought it was normal.

Kim Ho-geol said with a flustered expression.

“This time is different from last time. We have to adjust everything from scratch, and there are still many unresolved issues.”

“So what? Senior Min Su-jin will take care of it. Right?”

Whether they liked it or not, Executive Go Jun-ho was only pushing forward.
Senior Min Su-jin was also confused and mumbled.

“Yes? Ah, yes...”

“Good. I’ll report to the business director right away.”

“Sir, wait...”

“Team Leader Kim, have some confidence. I’ll pay for it, so go have a nice dinner with your team.”

“...”

Dinner or not, they couldn’t even go home at this rate.

Executive Go Jun-ho didn’t seem to know or care about the team members’ feelings. He turned around with a bright smile.

He walked away with his phone in his hand. Behind his back, they heard him talking on the phone.

“Group Leader, yes, yes. We did it. Yes. I’ll call the business director...”

The hot mood instantly cooled down.

Kim Ho-geol coughed and said.

“Ahem. Let’s work a little harder since we’re doing this.”

“Team Leader.”

Senior Min Su-jin let out a single word of scream.

Everyone quietly moved away from her side.

It was best to stay out of the way at times like this.

That day, Yoo-hyun didn’t pick up his bag even after the end-of-work song played.

He ate dinner at the office and stayed at his seat even after the sun set.

People were nervous when Yoo-hyun stayed behind.

Lee Jin-mok, who was passing by, asked him why he was still sitting there.

He looked very anxious.

“Yoo-hyun, why are you still here?”

“Everyone is working hard.”

“Hey, don’t do something you don’t usually do. It makes me itch on the back of my head.”

“Just relax.”

Yoo-hyun was dumbfounded, but it wasn’t just Lee Jin-mok who thought that way.

People flinched whenever Yoo-hyun passed by.

As if Executive Go Jun-ho had come near them, they felt uneasy.

The part leader was no exception.

“Oh, you scared me.”

“Did you do something wrong?”

“No, you just walked by.”

“This is the walkway, you know?”

Yoo-hyun asked with an incredulous expression. Jung In-wook in charge shook his hands frantically.

It didn’t seem like he was doing anything else.

On the monitor was the schedule that Yoo-hyun had made before.

“Anyway, I feel uneasy when you’re here. There’s something about you.”

“That’s weird.”

Yoo-hyun pulled a chair next to him and sat down.

Jung In-wook in charge frowned and said.

“What? Why?”

“Let’s wrap it up soon. We have to work tomorrow too.”

“I was going to send it anyway. Did you come to check on my end-of-work time?”

“That’s too much.”

“It’s not a joke?”

Jung In-wook in charge’s lightness had evolved day by day.

As a result, Yoo-hyun also got used to it gradually.

It was fun to tease him back, but Yoo-hyun didn’t want to waste more time on it.

Yoo-hyun got straight to the point.

“Then I’m hungry. Buy me some rice soup.”

“It’s 11 p.m. now.”

“The rice soup place next door is open 24 hours.”

“What are you so confident about?”

Yoo-hyun presented a perfect logic to his questioning.

“You said you would buy me last time, but you kept postponing it.”

“I was going to buy it, but it got messed up every time.”

“Anyway.”

Yoo-hyun insisted, recalling what the former part leader Lee Nak-pil in charge had said.

-It’s awesome to work overtime and have a bowl of rice soup with a shot of soju. Yoo-hyun, you’ll never understand the life of an engineer.

He didn’t understand or want to understand it back then.

He had never hung out with them like that.

Of course, he didn’t think it was a good direction now either.

But he had felt something recently while working together.

The work of an engineer was completely different from the usual office work.

There were cases where they had to do unreasonable overtime.

And the period was not fixed, so there were cases where they had to work long overtime.

It was hard enough, but when they succeeded, they all shouted with joy.

They were happy as if it was the reward of their lives.

He finally empathized with their feelings.

So he wanted to experience it more deeply.

“Why do you want to eat rice soup?”

“Because I’m hungry.”

Yoo-hyun dodged the question from Jung In-wook in charge.

It was a bit embarrassing to tell him the truth.

Jung In-wook in charge stared at Yoo-hyun and shook his head.

“Fine. Let’s go, go.”

“Yes. Then I’ll call the others.”

“Some people might curse you.”

Yoo-hyun got up quickly and answered cheerfully.

“I’ll sell your name, Mr. Jung.”

“That guy...”

Jung In-wook in charge muttered behind him, but Yoo-hyun moved fast.

When Yoo-hyun spoke actively, most of them followed him quickly.

They hadn’t spent much time together like this.

Besides, there was no reason to refuse when the part leader offered to buy them food.

Lastly, Yoo-hyun looked for Senior Min Su-jin in the review room.

Senior Min Su-jin was sitting in front of the computer with a gloomy expression.

If this went on, she would pass 1 a.m. again.

Yoo-hyun leaned his head in and said.

“Senior Min, let’s go eat some rice soup. The whole part is going.”

“I’ll stay a little longer. You guys enjoy your meal.”

“No. I won’t go unless Senior Min joins us.”

“Yoo-hyun, I have to do this.”

Senior Min Su-jin insisted, but Yoo-hyun wouldn’t back down.

“Work never ends, you know.”

“If I don’t do this, Kim in charge can’t work either. It will mess up everyone’s schedule.”

“Don’t worry. You can postpone it. Mr. Jung will take responsibility.”

“Sigh.”

Senior Min Su-jin sighed as Yoo-hyun persisted.

“Let’s go, Senior Min. I’ll take care of it.”

“Yoo-hyun, you’re killing me.”

Yoo-hyun dragged her along with a pleasant smile. She finally followed him.

Mr. Jung In-wook, who was watching them from behind, clicked his tongue.

“What is he?”

“I know, right?”

Senior Maeng Gi-yong agreed.

Lee Jin-mok in charge, who came out of the factory, stretched and muttered.

“I guess we’ll go home tomorrow again.”

“So what? It’s just a day or two.”

Senior Maeng Gi-yong replied casually.

Kim Seon-dong in charge, who was following them, waved his hands in the air and mumbled.

He seemed to be thinking about something.

Senior Min Su-jin said to Yoo-hyun, who was watching him.

“He’s coding in his head.”

“Really?”

“Kim in charge is a workaholic. He’s waiting for me to finish, so how can I leave?”

“I think I know what you mean.”

Yoo-hyun nodded and looked back.

There were lights on all over the office building.

It was almost midnight, but there were still many people guarding the office.

Mr. Jung In-wook came up next to him and Yoo-hyun said bluntly.

“They’re working hard.”

“They’re just resting when they’re not busy, that’s all.”

He answered lightly.

It was a typical engineer’s answer that Yoo-hyun hadn’t heard for a long time.

They walked for about ten minutes and arrived at the rice soup place next to the factory.

It was late, but the rice soup place was crowded with people.

Looking at their faces, they seemed to be in similar situations.

Yoo-hyun took out some alcohol from the fridge and laid it on the table before the rice soup came out.

Senior Min Su-jin looked at him incredulously and said.

“If you drink like this, you won’t be able to work tomorrow.”

“Just drink moderately. Mr. Jung will take responsibility.”

Yoo-hyun said to the people who were sitting at two tables. Mr. Jung In-wook got angry.

“Hey, why do you keep saying that to me?”

“I heard that you call someone responsible by saying responsibility.”

“Geez, really. You’re dead today.”

“Yes. That’s what I want.”

Mr. Jung In-wook and Yoo-hyun joked with each other and people laughed.

The part atmosphere became quite light.

Was it because of the light mood?

Maybe it was because the rice soup was delicious or because of the alcohol.

After one or two drinks, the table became lively.

They stopped talking about work at first.

Personal stories came and went, and stories about life filled the space.

Senior Maeng Gi-yong emptied his glass and sighed.

“I wonder what’s left after working like this.”

“Right? It’s hard to buy an apartment even if we work our whole lives.”

“I can’t even change my car because of my kid.”

Senior Min Su-jin and Mr. Jung In-wook added a word each.

Then Lee Jin-mok in charge said sarcastically.

“Right? I thought we would make a lot of money working for a big company.”

“We’re all the same as wage earners, what can we do?”

Senior Maeng Gi-yong replied and Mr. Jung In-wook filled his glass and said.

“Well, at least we can open a chicken place with our retirement money.”

The chicken place, the end of the company talk, came out.

But Senior Maeng Gi-yong denied that too.

“That’s not possible either. The rent is too expensive these days.”

“Really? Then what should we do...”

“We should be grateful that we’re not fired.”

“Who knows? If they tell us to leave, we’ll leave.”

The conversation between Senior Maeng Gi-yong and Mr. Jung In-wook became more and more depressing.

It was then that Lee Jin-mok in charge lifted his glass and changed the mood.

“Hey, why are you talking nonsense? We have to work all night again tomorrow anyway.”

“Yeah. He’s right. Come on, cheers.”

Mr. Jung In-wook also lifted his glass and everyone else did too.

Clang.

Yoo-hyun drank alcohol and took in the new scenery.

It was a normal conversation of everyday life, having rice soup and pork belly in front of them at midnight.

There was nothing special about it.

It was just a common worry that office workers would have.

They weren’t seriously looking for an answer either.

They just needed a conversation to go with their drinks.

This series of events would help them cheer up and work hard again tomorrow.

He didn’t know their feelings.

Yoo-hyun understood that this was the joy of an engineer.

But.

Why did he feel so regretful?

Yoo-hyun smiled bitterly when he was thinking about it.

Senior Maeng Gi-yong poured alcohol into Yoo-hyun’s glass and asked.

“Yoo-hyun, what do you think?”

“About what?”

“What should we do? We can’t just do company work, right?”

He could have jokingly told him to open a chicken place or something.

Or he could have advised him to buy stocks or borrow money to buy an apartment.

Of course, he would have ignored it meaninglessly.

But Yoo-hyun wanted to give him a more realistic answer.

Chapter 266

“Mr. Maeng, can I ask you something that might not fit the mood?”

Yoo-hyun blurted out, and Mr. Maeng Ki Yong made a face.

“What is it? You sound serious.”

“I just want to help a little.”

“Go ahead.”

Mr. Maeng nodded, and the others looked at him.

They wondered what he was going to say.

Yoo-hyun opened his mouth without hesitation.

“I think we should do our job properly first.”

“What do you mean?”

Mr. Maeng blinked, surprised by the unexpected remark.

Yoo-hyun quickly asked him a question.

“Mr. Maeng, do you have anything to write on your resume when you change jobs?”

“Me? Of course. I have the ICs I made.”

Mr. Maeng rolled his eyes, thinking.

He didn't seem to have thought about it much, and he couldn't answer right away.

Yoo-hyun said coldly.

“But you know they can't tell the difference even if you make it up. The ICs are actually made by the vendors.”

“Then I can write about the simulation and the drawing work.”

“You can. But those are not objective either. They can't be verified in the interview.”

“Is that so? Yeah, I guess so. They won’t run the program there.”

“It’s not enough to just work hard and do well.”

They were so busy with the urgent tasks that they didn’t manage their careers.

As a result, after the previous product team collapsed, they were treated poorly by other teams.

Yoo-hyun felt sorry for that.

“Then what should we do?”

He suggested an answer to Mr. Maeng, who asked him.

“We need a result that stands out at a glance.”

“A result that stands out.”

Mr. Maeng was pondering when Mr. Kim Sun Dong intervened with a sparkle in his eyes.

“You mean something like patents or papers, right?”

“Yes. You’re right, Mr. Kim. Those are recognized anywhere in the world. And they bring money too.”

“I don’t know about papers, but we write patents often.”

“Mr. Maeng, one or two patents a year is what everyone does.”

Mr. Kim tackled Mr. Maeng’s words.

He had been silent on other topics, but he was unusually sharp on this one.

There was no hesitation in his voice.

Yoo-hyun joined him.

“You should write more if you’re going to write. The team performance is not good.”

“We’re busy.”

“I know. But you have to do it.”

“Yoo-hyun, our team has so much work to do.”

This time, Ms. Min Su Jin answered.

She was not the only one who thought so.

Everyone here must have felt the same way.

No wonder they all looked at Yoo-hyun.

Yoo-hyun didn't give them an answer, but asked them a question instead.

“What if Mr. Maeng had 100 patents and presented several papers at conferences? Would the company fire him?”

“No, they wouldn't.”

“What about when he switches to another company? Would they reject him?”

“That wouldn't happen either.”

“Then he wouldn't have to worry about retirement. He would have many options.”

“But that's not easy. The conditions are too harsh.”

Mr. Maeng shook his head.

But he seemed to be moved by Yoo-hyun's words, as he had a thoughtful look on his face.

Yoo-hyun hoped they wouldn't just do the work in front of them and end it there.

He wanted them to face the reality of their hardships and deal with them wisely.

This was something they could do by doing their job well.

“How do we do that?”

He spoke with sincerity to Mr. Maeng, who asked him.

“Our team has a better environment for writing patents, don't you think?”

“Why?”

“The ultra-high-resolution panel is the world's first. No one has ever made a panel like this before.”

“That's...”

“It doesn't have to be a patent. If you just go deeper into what you're doing now, you can have the title of world's first in anything you do.”

“...”

It was advice from a junior who was far behind them, and who had no experience as an engineer.

It could have hurt their pride.

But they had to think rationally.

This was like getting free insurance while working.

And now was the best opportunity to prepare for it.

With that in mind, Yoo-hyun said:

“I know you’re all capable enough. I learn a lot from watching you.”

“Capability is nothing.”

Looking at Mr. Maeng, who chuckled bitterly,

Looking at the other part members who were silent and drinking,

Yoo-hyun advised them earnestly.

“So I really hope you do well.”

“...”

“I hope you earn money and build your career while working.”

The rest was up to them.

Yoo-hyun tried to change the heavy atmosphere.

But before he could, Mr. Kim Sun Dong opened his mouth in the silence.

“I, I was lacking a lot. I’ll try harder.”

Then Mr. Maeng laughed sarcastically.

“Sun Dong, you’re doing the best. I’m the lousy one.”

Mr. Lee Jin Mok and Ms. Min Su Jin also added a word or two.

“Ugh... I’ll have to work like crazy from tomorrow.”

“I’m more of a problem than this manager.”

The mood suddenly became too serious.

Yoo-hyun quickly picked up his glass and made a weak sound.

“Oh, I’m sorry for ruining the mood. Please drink up.”

“No, what are you sorry for? You’re not wrong.”

He wished he would just play along, but Maeng Gi Yong, his senior, uttered a depressed voice.

On top of that, Jung In Wook, the team leader, threw an unnecessary tackle.

“Yoo-hyun, you have a meeting with the group leader tomorrow. Why are you drinking so much?”

“Oh, it’s okay. I need some alcohol to speak my mind.”

As Yoo-hyun shook his head, Jung In Wook said bluntly.

“You always say whatever you want.”

It was a natural response to his provocation.

“Still, it’s not easy to badmouth the team leader in front of the group leader.”

“What? What do you have to badmouth me for?”

Jung In Wook, who flared up, was told by Yoo-hyun.

“Then buy me a cup noodle for hangover in the morning.”

“What are you? Haha.”

Not only Jung In Wook, but also the other team members who were listening laughed.

Taking advantage of the slightly brightened mood, Yoo-hyun quickly picked up his glass.

“Come on, let’s have a drink.”

For the next few days, the Advanced Product Team 1 had a stormy time.

Especially Min Su Jin, the senior in charge of the video board, and Kim Seon Dong, the team leader, suffered a lot.

They had dark circles under their eyes as if they hadn’t slept properly.

Their faces were dark, but the panel was bright.

The result was clear.

Go Jun Ho, the executive director who saw the demo, exclaimed.

“Wow, it looks different when you see it like this. It’s not for nothing that it’s ultra-high resolution.”

“Yes. That’s right. Here, if you look at the human skin, you can see the pores.”

Kim Ho Geol, the chief engineer, said with a confident face as he picked up the panel. Go Jun Ho laughed out loud.

“That’s right. This will definitely show the difference when compared.”

“We will show you a comparison at the business director’s demo.”

“Good. Now all we need is touch.”

As Go Jun Ho spat out his words, Kim Ho Geol said with a flustered look.

“Huh? Oh, let’s do the video demo first...”

Of course, it was a sound that didn't reach Go Jun Ho's ears.

He casually ignored it and said what he wanted to say.

“Hehe. Let's do that. It would be great if we could do multi-touch here.”

“...”

For a moment, Lee Jin Mok's face darkened.

It was his job to attach the touch film and connect the touch IC to the FPCB and verify it.

Yoo-hyun poked his side and whispered.

“Don't worry. We won't do touch in this demo.”

“I'm afraid he'll nag me again.”

“Isn't that normal?”

“Sigh.”

As Yoo-hyun quickly agreed, Lee Jin Mok sighed deeper.

Anyway, Go Jun Ho painted a rosy future.

He had a sense of it.

He felt like he knew how much impact this would have when he saw it with his own eyes.

Then, Go Jun Ho's phone rang.

He answered with a smile, but his voice gradually became lower.

“Haha. Yeah, right... What?”

His expression twisted and he suddenly shouted.

“What are those Japanese bastards doing? Hey. Find out and call me back.”

Everyone held their breath at Go Jun Ho's sudden change.

They felt like they would get burned if they made a mistake here.

Only Yoo-hyun smiled among them.

Yoo-hyun muttered quietly.

“The timing is accurate.”

At that moment.

Hansung Tower 14th floor LCD Business Division Business Director's Office.

Lim Jun Pyo, the vice president, took the paper handed by Yeo Tae Sik, the executive director.

The paper had printed the contents of an overseas article that came out a while ago.

<Japan Sharp "Developing ultra-high resolution panel in final stage. Planning to supply to Apple.">

Lim Jun Pyo crumpled up the paper and said,

"Sneaky bastards. They did this at a good timing."

"Don't worry. We'll respond right away."

"Yeo Executive Director, you don't seem to care?"

Lim Jun Pyo asked incredulously at Yeo Tae Sik's calmness.

Yeo Tae Sik recalled what Yoo-hyun had said at the meeting a while ago.

-An article will come out from Japan. I hope you respond aggressively and expand the market.

The words he half-believed came true.

That was why Yeo Tae Sik spoke with confidence.

"Yes. It doesn't matter what Japan says."

"This is different. They leaked the information from inside."

This was also expected.

The young employee not only identified the problem, but also suggested a countermeasure.

Now the rest was up to him.

Yeo Tae Sik opened his mouth with determination.

"Vice President, I have something to tell you."

"What is it?"

"Well..."

"Wh, what? The new executive director?"

Lim Jun Pyo's eyes became as big as lanterns.

Soon after, the overseas article from Japan Sharp was transferred to Korea.

The title was a bit more provocative to suit the Korean situation.

<Japan Sharp “We make ultra-high resolution panel with superior technology than Hansung LCD.”>

The article revealed even the parts that Hansung had hidden.

As soon as the article came out, Hansung reacted aggressively.

They responded very quickly, as if Yeo Tae Sik himself was leading the charge.

<Hansung LCD “Sharp’s words are false. If you are confident, bring your panel. We are ready.”>

From then on, a media war between the two companies began.

Articles came up every day.

The heads of each company came out and openly criticized each other.

<Japan Sharp “Hansung’s technology is just for testing. We can mass-produce with oxide TFT technology.”>

<Hansung LCD “Sharp’s technology is impossible to mass-produce. Don’t make a fuss with unworkable technology.”>

It was an unusual clash in the IT industry, especially in the B2B business that deals with parts.

There was a subtle tension in the company as the situation went on like this.

The Advanced Product Team was at the center of it.

One day, when the articles were fiercely coming up, Yoo-hyun got on the morning commute bus.

As soon as he sat down, he heard the conversation of two employees sitting in front of him.

“The article said it was the panel made by the Advanced Product Team. What that means is...”

“I heard that too. People who saw it said it was awesome.”

“The business director is pushing for it.”

Like this, other people in charge also knew what the Advanced Product Team was making.

The formula of ultra-high resolution panel equals Advanced Product Team was engraved in people’s minds.

‘It’s going well.’

Yoo-hyun lifted his lips as he looked at the moving scenery outside the window.

Chapter 267

That afternoon.

The members of the pre-production team gathered in the conference room.

Kim Ho-geol, the senior engineer who sat at the head of the table, spoke.

“I know there are a lot of rumors going around about our team.”

“...”

He continued to speak to the focused team members.

“I hope you don’t get too swayed by these behind-the-scenes stories. And...”

It was a word that stabilized the shaky atmosphere.

Kim Ho-geol did not stop at words.

He acted according to the situation.

“And, Mr. Go.”

“Yes, team leader.”

“Please explain briefly to the team members what you have summarized about Sharp’s technology.”

“Okay.”

Go Seong-cheol, the senior engineer, straightened his posture and started to explain without any materials.

“Sharp’s oxide TFT method is...”

He hit the key points precisely, so the team members nodded and listened attentively.

They also raised their hands to ask questions.

“So it’s true that it costs less to produce.”

“Yes. But it’s not easy to achieve reliability.”

Go Seong-cheol answered Maeng Gi-yong’s question.

The people who listened to the presentation started to have heated discussions here and there.

“OXIDE is not verified yet...”

“It’s not easy to make new ICs for panels either...”

They were able to have a deep discussion even though it was a different method.

It was because the essence was the same as ultra-high resolution panels.

Thanks to that, curiosity was added to the heavy expressions of the team members.

Some people, like Lee Jin-mok, even had confidence.

“We are much better, right? We made it ourselves.”

“That’s right. There’s no need to be discouraged.”

Jung In-wook, the manager, encouraged the team members loudly.

It definitely felt like the team was stabilized.

Yoo-hyun nodded his head as he looked at Kim Ho-geol, who held the center.

It seemed like he could trust and leave him with the direction of the ship.

While the team members were moving, Yoo-hyun was not idle either.

Yoo-hyun wanted to make this fight bigger.

It was not enough to be a simple pride match between Korea and Japan.

The public needed to know more easily about this difficult technology.

There was someone who volunteered to do that for him.

Oh Eun-bi, a reporter, called him.

-Mr. Yu, you told me to study something before.

“Yes. I remember.”

-I’m going to make an article out of it. What do you think?

He reacted in a timely manner, so Yoo-hyun had no reason to hesitate.

Rather, he had to push him from behind.

“That sounds good. I think the public will understand it better.”

-As expected. I knew you would understand right away.

“It’s because you have a sense of humor.”

-Ho ho. It sounds good just listening. Okay. I’ll make an article out of this.

“Okay. I’ll contact you if there’s any problem.”

Yoo-hyun nodded his head easily, and Oh Eun-bi spilled out the inside story.

-Actually, Hansung is actively sticking with me and checking it out for me.

It was the effect of Yeo Tae-sik, the vice president, who moved directly.

-Then I'll trust you and do what I can do.

He kept his word that he said a while ago.

He was definitely a quick-acting guy.

There was nothing to refuse from Yoo-hyun's position when he supported him from behind like this.

Yoo-hyun smiled and answered.

"That's good. Fighting."

-Thank you. I'll buy you dinner later.

The next day.

In the midst of fierce media war between Hansung and Sharp, Oh Eun-bi's article came up.

The series of articles fit perfectly with the eyes of ordinary people who were not experts.

She even made an animation video for technical explanation, which showed that the company had strongly supported her.

Sharp did not fall behind and counterattacked.

They made a promotional article against Hansung in a short time.

It was a scene that showed how much Sharp's management had staked their lives on this match.

As Hansung and Sharp fought day by day, people's attention was inevitable.

It was like watching an IT Korea-Japan match. The netizens of both countries quickly spread the articles.

They also spammed comments on articles and relayed foreign reactions in real time.

Was it because of that?

Even articles with professional content were all included in the ranking news.

This interest naturally flowed to experts from various fields as well.

It was a matter that had implications for everything and everything.

Naturally, factions were divided and began to confront each other sharply.

The more they did, the more interest increased.

As the situation flowed around the two companies, Ilseong also joined the fight belatedly.

<Ilseong LCD “Hansung’s OLED hybrid technology is a lie. There is no better display than OLED.”>

But attacking also had an effect when there was someone to take it.

Hansung responded to Ilseong’s article with silence.

Instead, the rebuttal was done by the general public who read the article.

-Is Ilseong a Japanese company? Why are they attacking Hansung?

-Ilseong guys have no sense. Go to Japan.

-Just mass-produce with OLED and talk.

-Do they have any products made properly with OLED?

-No. OLED is just for making Chairman Choi Min-yong.

The board was getting bigger by the day.

It was obvious that even ordinary people felt that way.

Did Apple not know that?

There was no way that would happen.

Apple must have been discussing it internally already.

Three weights of Hansung, Sharp, and Ilseong were already added to the scale.

They had no choice but to choose one of the three different weights.

It was a completely different situation from the past when they forced the companies to choose.

Rather, Apple was being forced to choose now.

The flow was made exactly as Yoo-hyun wanted.

While a fierce media war was going on through the press, they heard the news of the visit of the business director and the group leader.

The schedule was moved up, so the team members looked very nervous.

Yoo-hyun could find the reason from the murmuring voices of the team members.

“The business director is very angry and said he’s coming tomorrow.”

“They say he’s upset because we’re losing to Sharp in technology.”

“Why do we have to do the demo now?”

“It’s going to be a disaster. Sigh...”

Yoo-hyun spoke to Jung In-wook, the manager who was whispering in a low voice.

“Manager Jung, it’ll be fine.”

“How do you know?”

It was obvious without looking.

Even so, there was someone who told Yoo-hyun about the situation in advance.

-The business director will probably test you. Just do as you showed me.

According to Yeo Tae-sik, the vice president, the demo was already a passing score in the business director’s mind.

He had not seen it himself, but he had grasped its level through the report.

His focus was not on the demo, but on the construction of the factory.

And he wanted to check if Yeo Tae-sik’s words were right in the process.

The test that Yoo-hyun received was part of it.

Yoo-hyun hid his inner thoughts and said to Jung In-wook.

“We made a good panel. And everyone worked hard.”

“That’s true. But you never know.”

Yoo-hyun joked with him who looked tense unlike himself.

“You look nervous unlike yourself, Manager Jung?”

“I’m a part leader too. I don’t want to see my team members suffer after working hard.”

Jung In-wook looked serious.

He seemed to have a lot of affection for his team members who had worked hard together.

It was a nice sight, so Yoo-hyun gave him a thumbs up.

“That attitude is enough.”

“Come on.”

“But there’s something that helps, right?”

“Really...”

Jung In-wook bit his tongue at Yoo-hyun’s playful tone.

A faint smile appeared on his face that was stiff with tension.

The next day.

Ulsan 4th factory, 2nd floor conference room.

The demo preparation was in its final stage in the small conference room.

The setting was done, so Yoo-hyun had nothing to help with.

Kim Young-gil, the manager who came on a business trip, asked him outside the conference room door.

“Is the demo ready?”

“Do you want to see it?”

“It would be an honor. It’s a panel that everyone is looking forward to.”

Kim Young-gil’s expression looked much more relaxed than last time.

It was not only because he did not have to present today.

He also worked hard behind the scenes while the pre-production team was busy.

He moved Apple, and prepared strategies by leading sales and marketing teams.

The traces of his efforts showed as confidence.

It was a good sight, so Yoo-hyun smiled and gestured into the conference room.

“I’ll guide you with a special course.”

Yoo-hyun entered the conference room with Kim Young-gil.

There was a demo panel on the table.

It looked much cleaner without having to connect four panels or hang multiple boards.

Kim Young-gil looked at the demo panel and the existing Apple phone panel next to it and said.

“Yoo-hyun, as you said, comparing them like this makes a big difference.”

“The internal evaluation was also good.”

“This quality is like real photos. I can’t tell them apart.”

Kim Young-gil looked closely at the ultra-high resolution panel with his eyes wide open.

Yoo-hyun nodded and said.

“I was thinking of taking pictures of it.”

“With a camera?”

“Yes. I think it will show the difference in resolution between the existing panel and the new panel.”

“That would be good for comparison. You can also distribute it as a press release.”

Kim Young-gil nodded at Yoo-hyun’s suggestion.

Yoo-hyun went one step further.

“It would also be useful for marketing.”

“Good. I’ll go up and tell them. Marketing and sales are also in emergency because of this.”

“Because of the media war?”

“Yeah. It’s so fierce. You guys must be having a hard time too.”

“That’s something for the higher-ups to deal with. We’re fine.”

Kim Young-gil looked around at Yoo-hyun’s words.

He saw Maeng Gi-yong, who was practicing his presentation next to the spec board, with a dark expression on his face.

Lee Jin-mok, who was touching the panel that had already been set up, also did not look bright.

They looked depressed, and Kim Young-gil lowered his voice.

“It doesn’t seem like it...”

“They said they couldn’t sleep last night. They must be tired.”

Yoo-hyun said casually, and Kim Young-gil asked incredulously.

“Are you really strong-hearted?”

“It’ll be fine.”

“The vice president is in a very bad mood. Today’s demo won’t be easy either.”

The vice president's bad mood was not because of the panel.

He heard from Yeo Tae-sik, the vice president, who had leaked the confidential information to Japan.

He couldn't tell the truth because he couldn't, so Yoo-hyun beat around the bush.

"Don't worry about that. He's not the type to say one thing and do another."

"You talk like you know him well."

"Of course. You can tell by looking at him."

"Okay. I hope it goes as you say."

Yoo-hyun smiled at Kim Young-gil, who gave up.

Soon after, Lim Jun-pyo, the vice president, and Yeo Tae-sik, the vice president, took their seats in the conference room.

The participants were similar to the last demo.

On the other hand, the conference room was smaller and the atmosphere was warmer than before.

Lim Jun-pyo, who was looking at the panel in front of him, praised the hard-working employees.

"Good job. It looks good when I see it in person."

Go Jun-ho, the senior manager, answered his words.

"Yes. I didn't feel it when I saw it on paper, but it's very detailed when I see it in person."

"Yeah. If you show it like this, the reaction will be good."

Lim Jun-pyo agreed and Yeo Tae-sik said.

"I agree too. I think it would be good to take pictures as Kim Young-gil suggested and distribute them."

"That's a good idea too. It would be good for the media war."

"Then I'll proceed with that. Manager Kim, please take care of it."

"Yes. I understand."

Kim Young-gil answered the group leader's words and gave Yoo-hyun an apologetic look.

He wanted to pass on the credit, but he couldn't find the timing to say it.

Chapter 268

Yoo-hyun lowered his head and put his index finger on his mouth.

This was not the time to worry about such things.

The meeting seemed fine on the surface, but there was a shadow on the faces of the executives.

Except for Lee Taeryong, the director of the third division.

After a brief demo, Director Go Junho gave a report.

He had already explained about the panel.

He mentioned Sharp's technology, which was a recent issue.

"According to our review, the oxide TFT method that Sharp mentioned..."

"Yeah. So what do you think, Director Go?"

Vice President Lim Junpyo asked, and Director Go Junho answered immediately.

"I think it's impossible to mass-produce it within two years at least."

"But if they do, they will have a clear advantage over us."

"Yes. That's true."

"Apple won't have any reason to invest in a factory. It will be cheaper than that."

"That's also true."

Director Go Junho nodded heavily at the accurate point.

Then, Director Lee Taeryong intervened.

"Vice President, do you think it's meaningful to do an Apple demo at this point?"

"Why?"

"If Apple likes this panel, they might try to invest in Sharp instead."

As soon as Director Lee Taeryong finished his sentence, Vice President Lim Junpyo's eyebrows shot up for a moment.

He quickly hid his expression and looked at Director Lee Taeryong.

"Because they can make the same panel without spending money and cheaper?"

"Yes. That's right."

"So we should keep quiet?"

“It’s for a bigger opportunity. Why waste a good panel?”

“That makes sense.”

Vice President Lim Junpyo nodded with a serious expression.

Yoo-hyun read his doubt about Director Lee Taeryong from his eyes.

He didn’t dig deeper to hide that fact.

He even pretended to be troubled.

“Hmm.”

He thought he was stubborn and rigid, but he had a cunning side too.

Director Lee Taeryong, who had no idea about that, had a victorious expression on his face.

He even smirked at Director Go Junho.

He was always a despicable guy.

Yoo-hyun was thinking that when it happened.

Vice President Lim Junpyo pointed at Yoo-hyun out of nowhere.

“Hey, you, the one with the laptop.”

“Yes, Vice President.”

“What’s your name?”

“Han Yoo-hyun.”

He asked his name even though he already knew it?

It was to avoid the eyes of others.

Yoo-hyun decided to go along with his fox-like rhythm.

“I’m getting old and I want to hear what young people think.”

“What do you mean?”

“What do you think about the Apple demo?”

Everyone’s eyes were on Yoo-hyun at the sudden question.

They expected a bombshell from him, since he was Yoo-hyun.

Yoo-hyun met their expectations without hesitation.

“I think we should move up the Apple demo schedule.”

“What? Move it up?”

“Yes. There’s no reason to delay it here.”

Yoo-hyun said casually, and Director Lee Taeryong cut in.

“If you make one mistake, you might collapse instead.”

“That won’t happen.”

“Do you not know because you’re young?”

Director Lee Taeryong sneered as he spoke.

Vice President Lim Junpyo, who had been hiding his expression, frowned and said.

“Director Lee, don’t you see I’m talking to him?”

“I’m sorry.”

“Let’s respect each other.”

“Yes. I’ll keep that in mind.”

Director Lee Taeryong, who had been smiling faintly, apologized firmly.

He felt the bad atmosphere.

It was clear that he couldn’t ignore the vice president’s rice bowl.

He changed the mood with one word.

Vice President Lim Junpyo asked Yoo-hyun again.

“Are you sure it won’t happen?”

“Yes. I am.”

“What if you can’t finish everything by moving up the schedule?”

“This is enough. Touch and some design changes are just additional elements.”

“...”

Yoo-hyun faced his fierce eyes without flinching.

He was confident that he could handle anything he said.

That confidence radiated from him as charisma.

After looking at Yoo-hyun for a while, Vice President Lim Junpyo called Director Go Junho.

“Director Go.”

“Yes, Vice President.”

“Move up the Apple demo schedule. I’m curious too.”

“I understand. I’ll prepare right away.”

“Make sure you do that.”

Vice President Lim Junpyo nodded at Director Go Junho’s answer.

That’s how the Apple demo was decided.

At that moment, Director Lee Taeryong opened his mouth with an anxious expression.

“Vice President.”

“Why, Director Lee? Do you have something to say?”

“I’ll help with the support too.”

Director Lee Taeryong suddenly changed his attitude, and Vice President Lim Junpyo looked at him carefully.

Then he smiled and gave a meaningful answer.

“That would be nice. We’re on the same boat, aren’t we?”

“Yes. Of course.”

Only then did Director Lee Taeryong’s drooping mouth turn up.

It was after the report to the business manager.

Yoo-hyun cleaned up the demo product with his colleagues.

“Good job.”

Yoo-hyun greeted them, and Lee Jinmok, the team leader, answered with a hoarse voice.

“You too.”

“Are you like that because of the schedule change?”

“Yeah. It’s easy to say, but we don’t even have a mockup yet.”

“I’ll help you.”

“Ha, don’t even talk about it.”

Lee Jinmok sighed and shook his head.

He had been working hard until now, but he had to run again without resting.

Yoo-hyun comforted him.

“I think we can skip the touch part.”

“That’s not the problem. The mockup never fits well at once.”

“Don’t worry. Semi Electronics is pretty good at it.”

“You don’t know something, Yoo-hyun.”

Lee Jinmok dropped his shoulders and carried his luggage out.

Yoo-hyun followed him with a snicker.

Then, he heard Director Lee Taeryong’s scraping voice outside the meeting room.

It seemed that there had been a quarrel once already.

“Senior, I told you clearly. Don’t regret it. Haha.”

“I’m warning you, don’t laugh like that in front of me.”

Director Go Junho growled, and Director Lee Taeryong pretended to be conscious of the surroundings and backed off.

“Wow. People might think we’re on bad terms.”

“...”

Director Go Junho, who clenched his teeth, walked away first.

He was going to see off the business manager and the group leader.

Director Lee Taeryong, who fixed his clothes, muttered to himself with a smirk.

“Stupid bastard. He screwed up.”

His eyes met Yoo-hyun’s, who was leaving the meeting room.

He lifted his mouth and said.

“Are you young? You’re so bold.”

“Thank you for your compliment.”

“You’re a promising kid, aren’t you?”

“I’ll try to live up to your expectations.”

Yoo-hyun answered him firmly, and Director Lee Taeryong’s mouth twisted slightly.

He soon smiled broadly and said.

“You don’t know anything yet, that’s why you can say that. Haha.”

He even winked and walked away leisurely.

He didn't care about a mere employee.

Yoo-hyun chuckled as he watched his back.

Kim Younggil, the manager, came up to him and said.

"It seems that the third division doesn't have a grudge against you."

"I guess so."

"But the third and fourth divisions don't get along well. It must be a headache."

Manager Kim Younggil speculated about the future situation.

He seemed to have some experience.

He appreciated his effort, but his answer was wrong.

Yoo-hyun said bluntly.

"It will be over soon."

"Really? I don't think it will be resolved easily."

The relationship between the two people didn't have to be adjusted by both sides.

It would be much easier if one of them disappeared.

That time was not far away.

Yoo-hyun hid his thoughts and changed the subject.

"Are you going back right away?"

"Yeah. I have some work to do. Too bad. I wanted to have a drink with you."

"Let's see each other after finishing well."

"Yeah. Let's do that."

He had a lot of serious things to talk about with Manager Kim Younggil.

But he told him that it was not the time with his hand.

Clap.

He felt his will from his hand.

"Prepare well this time."

"Yes. I'll look forward to it."

"Then I have to live up to your expectations."

His eyes shone brightly as he faced him.

He looked confident on the outside, but he was struggling to hatch an egg.

Yoo-hyun saw that in his eyes.

Yoo-hyun saw off Manager Kim Younggil and returned to his office.

He sat down and thought.

How should he end things with Director Lee Taeryong?

The conclusion was already decided.

He just needed a scenario to make it interesting.

Various thoughts flashed through his mind.

His phone rang as if it knew what he was thinking.

It was Director Lee Taeryong's number that he had saved in advance.

Yoo-hyun answered the phone cheerfully on purpose.

"Yes, this is Han Yoo-hyun."

"Can I see you for a moment?"

"When should I visit you?"

It was time to have a pleasant conversation with his former boss who had bad karma with him.

Yoo-hyun's mouth curled up long.

That afternoon, in the office of the Ulsan 3rd factory manager.

Yoo-hyun was sitting there.

Across from him was Director Lee Taeryong, who had a deep dimple on his face.

He offered him tea on Yoo-hyun's desk and said.

"I just wanted to see your face. Have a cup of tea."

"Thank you."

"I didn't get to say everything I wanted to say earlier because I didn't have time."

Director Lee Taeryong said with a gentle face.

Of course, he felt differently inside.

Yoo-hyun also hid his expression and reacted appropriately.

"I felt the same way."

“Hehe. We have the same mind. Well, are you enjoying your dispatch life?”

“Yes. The people are nice and fun.”

“That’s how you feel at first.”

“Yes. That’s right.”

Yoo-hyun drank tea without asking more questions.

He felt Director Lee Taeryong’s curious eyes over the teacup.

Yoo-hyun smiled slightly, and he stopped smiling and opened his mouth with a serious look.

He finally got to the point and his smile disappeared from his face completely.

“If you act like you did in the meeting room, your future will be ruined.”

“...”

“Don’t you think your team leader and manager will stay still?”

“What if they don’t?”

“If a dispatched employee causes trouble, they usually ostracize him. You might get unreasonable tasks too.”

“Oh.”

Yoo-hyun listened to his unwelcome warning as if he was paying attention.

He thought he had succeeded, so Director Lee Taeryong went on calmly as if it was someone else’s problem.

“Is that all? In the end, your original team will get a warning, and your personnel evaluation will be ruined.”

“I see.”

“That’s not all. Everyone who was involved with you will also suffer greatly.”

“Why?”

“Why? There’s something called joint responsibility. It works well in our company. Huhu.”

Director Lee Taeryong laughed wickedly and said.

It was a very cheap level of thinking.

Chapter 269

Yoo-hyun matched his pace with his serious expression.

“If things go wrong, you might have to leave the company.”

“It’s not over with that. This industry is small and the rumors will spread to other sectors.”

“Did you do it, sir?”

“Of course not. Why would I?”

“...”

When Yoo-hyun tried to probe him subtly, Director Lee Tae-ryong stepped back.

He was aware of the fact that he could be exposed at any moment.

He was always meticulous in this regard, whether in the past or present.

Director Lee Tae-ryong smiled smugly as he saw Yoo-hyun’s troubled face.

He really treated Yoo-hyun as a mere rookie.

Yoo-hyun nodded and supported him.

“That’s interesting. You’re really experienced.”

“What do you mean?”

“You seem to have more expertise than other managers.”

“Huhu. I’m not comparable to those mere business managers.”

Yoo-hyun crossed his legs and smirked at his arrogant words.

It was time to wrap things up.

As Director Lee Tae-ryong slowly sipped his tea, Yoo-hyun pinpointed his weakness.

“So you leaked the information to Japan?”

“What did you say?”

Then he threw a name that would completely shake him up.

A name that should never be uttered by anyone else.

“Tanaka Yoshihiro.”

“Gasp.”

As soon as that name came out, Director Lee Tae-ryong dropped his teacup.

Clang.

Glass shards scattered on the floor.

Clack.

After a brief silence, the office door opened.

The manager's secretary looked flustered and asked.

"Sir, are you okay?"

"Uh, uh. I'm fine, just go out."

"I'll clean it up for you."

"I said go out."

Director Lee Tae-ryong snapped angrily and clenched his lips.

He felt his legs trembling under the table.

Yoo-hyun pulled his chair closer and whispered.

"There's always a trace when you take money."

"You, you..."

"If you don't believe me, why don't you check it yourself? Oh, right. Tanaka won't answer your call right now."

"..."

As Yoo-hyun revealed his secrets one by one, Director Lee Tae-ryong's face turned pale.

His quivering lips were quite amusing.

Was there any more information to get from him?

No.

Director Lee Tae-ryong would never confess his crimes.

He was still keeping his mouth shut for fear of being caught.

Grunt.

Yoo-hyun got up from his seat without hesitation and said.

"I enjoyed the tea. But the flavor was not so good."

"..."

"Take care of the aftermath. Goodbye."

"..."

Even though Yoo-hyun bowed slightly, he said nothing.

His eyes were still shaking, showing his state of mind.

Clack.

Yoo-hyun opened the door and looked into his office window.

His face was still drained of color, which was quite impressive.

He would live like this for a while.

At least until Tanaka answered his call.

How would the seed of anxiety that Yoo-hyun planted deep in his heart grow in the meantime?

He was looking forward to the process because he knew the outcome.

“Let him suffer a bit.”

Yoo-hyun walked away with a cold smile on his face.

Director Lee Tae-ryong withered day by day.

The fourth division was busy preparing for the Apple demo.

Manager Kim Young-gil moved up the demo schedule as instructed by the business director.

That made everyone work harder.

Everyone was hectic, but there was one person who suffered especially.

It was Kim Seon-dong, who lived in the review booth.

He focused on improving the camera-based correction method that he presented last time.

It was not easy to control individual pixels finely on a ultra-high-resolution panel.

That's why he had to work all night for several days.

As he watched him immersed in programming at his computer, Senior Maeng Gi-yong clicked his tongue.

“That guy is really tough.”

“He seems like a perfectionist.”

Yoo-hyun answered and Senior Maeng Gi-yong nodded.

“He doesn't look like it though.”

“So do you, sir.”

“What? What do you mean by that?”

Senior Maeng Gi-yong was about to flare up when Manager Lee Jin-mok came over with his luggage and greeted him.

“Sir, I’m going on a business trip now.”

“Oh, okay.”

Senior Maeng Gi-yong nodded and Manager Lee Jin-mok winked at Yoo-hyun.

“Yoo-hyun, let’s go.”

“Yes, sir.”

Yoo-hyun replied and squinted at Senior Maeng Gi-yong.

“I’ll be back soon.”

“Yoo-hyun, answer me.”

“What is it?”

“What you said earlier. That I don’t look like it. You mean I’m too handsome and good at work, right?”

“Well...”

Yoo-hyun shrugged his shoulders and turned his body with a meaningful expression.

Then he followed Manager Lee Jin-mok with quick steps.

Behind him, Senior Maeng Gi-yong shouted.

“Hey. Han Yoo-hyun. Am I right?”

Yoo-hyun laughed softly at his ridiculous reaction.

Vroom.

Yoo-hyun and Manager Lee Jin-mok took his car to Seoul.

It was a long distance, so they took a break twice in between.

They arrived at Semi Electronics in Gasan-dong, Seoul, after five hours.

Manager Lee Jin-mok, who was behind the wheel, sighed deeply.

“Next time, let’s just take the train like you said.”

“But thanks to you, we had some delicious food at the rest area.”

“Sigh. Well, I’m glad you enjoyed it.”

Manager Lee Jin-mok shook his head and walked.

He looked worried about the way back.

Deputy Lim Han-seop, who was Yoo-hyun's senior, came out to greet them at the lobby of Semi Electronics.

He exchanged some pleasantries and guided them while telling stories.

"When we did the mockup last time, Yoo-hyun here..."

"Is that so?"

"Yes. Yoo-hyun also came up with the HMOP idea..."

Each time, Manager Lee Jin-mok gave a perfunctory answer.

Then he poked Yoo-hyun's ribs and whispered.

"What did you do to make them so crazy about you?"

"I just have some connections here."

"That's a bit too much."

Deputy Lim Han-seop didn't notice their conversation and kept talking.

They arrived at the meeting room where the demo equipment was set up.

Yoo-hyun looked around and nodded with satisfaction.

"That's true."

Yoo-hyun agreed and nodded his head.

At that moment, a man walked in with confident strides.

The office staff parted like a red sea.

The man's imposing figure came into view.

He was quite well-known in the media, so Manager Lee Jin-mok recognized his face.

Manager Lee Jin-mok bowed his head and greeted him.

"Mr. Yoon, hello."

"Welcome. You came from Ulsan, right?"

"Yes. Thank you for having us."

Manager Lee Jin-mok shook Mr. Yoon Min-han's hand with a nervous expression.

It was like a business director suddenly shaking hands with an employee.

Mr. Yoon Min-han hugged Yoo-hyun with both arms.

“Haha. How long has it been?”

“Yes, sir. How have you been?”

Yoo-hyun greeted him politely, and Mr. Yoon Min-han held his hands tightly and said.

“I really liked the idea you gave me in Europe.”

“That was something Semi Electronics was already doing.”

“No. It was thanks to the color phone mockup you made. That’s how we made the full-touch MP3 player.”

“Even if I didn’t do it, the engineers here would have come up with the idea.”

“You’re so modest. That makes me happy.”

He looked at Yoo-hyun with affection in his eyes.

Manager Lee Jin-mok was astonished to see the president treating an employee like this.

Semi Electronics was a fairly large company.

Mr. Yoon Min-han’s reputation was also impressive.

How could he care for a mere employee like that?

He had never seen such a case before.

His surprise didn’t end there.

Soon after, they entered the meeting room where the demo equipment was set up.

Yoo-hyun took out a panel from the box he brought.

“Here’s the panel.”

“Okay. Let me try it on.”

Kang Jun-ki, who had been in frequent contact with Manager Lee Jin-mok, took the panel and connected it to the mockup.

His playful expression was gone and he looked serious.

Snap.

The messy FPCB and video board fit perfectly into the mockup.

The video board that protruded from the mockup edge covered it neatly.

That made the panel look smaller than when it was alone.

It was a marvelous combination.

Even though they had tested the panel before, it was rare to fit it in one go.

And the design was also sleek like a high-end phone.

Manager Lee Jin-mok exclaimed involuntarily.

“Wow, this is amazing.”

“...”

But the reaction around him was strange.

Everyone opened their eyes wide and focused on it.

Yoo-hyun pointed out a flaw in that atmosphere.

“The seam here seems a bit loose.”

“Yoo-hyun, this is fine...”

It was a rude response to the people who worked hard, so Manager Lee Jin-mok tried to stop him.

But the Semi Electronics staff agreed with him.

“We need to change this part. How’s the schedule?”

“How long will it take?”

“It will take at least three days since we have to send it to the vendor.”

“Then let’s reflect it in the revision. And...”

Yoo-hyun skillfully went over the progress and changes of the mockup.

The engineers who looked experienced took notes of what he said.

He had never seen such a scene in any mockup company before.

-Yoo-hyun is really tough. He’s so picky that our engineers are scared of him.

Manager Lee Jin-mok recalled what Kang Jun-ki had said on the phone.

He thought it was just a joke at that time.

But it wasn’t.

Yoo-hyun, who wasn’t even an engineer, was doing real ‘work’ here.

Rather, what he had done so far felt like a mere imitation.

His pride wasn’t hurt, but his fist clenched tightly.

Then, as Yoo-hyun finished talking about the first phase of changes, an engineer asked him.

“So we’ll change the paint and button parts for the first phase. How about the touch part for the second phase?”

“Oh, our manager knows about that part well.”

Yoo-hyun passed the baton naturally, and Manager Lee Jin-mok started explaining.

“Yes. The touch part is...”

His eyes were different from before. They sparkled brightly.

He didn’t take the mockup lightly anymore.

Yoo-hyun smiled slightly at his change.

He could tell that he was stimulated by him.

As Manager Lee Jin-mok led the discussion vigorously, Kang Jun-ki sneaked up next to Yoo-hyun and whispered to him.

“He sounded so casual on the phone, but he’s different now.”

“Yeah. He has a lot of experience and skill.”

Yoo-hyun’s words were not a lie.

In terms of expertise, he could never match Manager Lee Jin-mok.

He just had a narrow vision because he was bound by conventions, and Yoo-hyun made him realize that.

Chapter 270

Yoo-hyun asked Kang Jun Ki, who looked incredulous next to him.

“You must have invested a lot of manpower in this mockup, right?”

“The boss told me to do it. What can I do? I’m doing something that doesn’t pay well.”

“Don’t worry. You’ll get a big reward soon.”

“Why? Do you have something up your sleeve?”

Kang Jun Ki asked with a curious look in his eyes, and Yoo-hyun gave him a meaningful smile.

“I do. Just wait a little longer.”

The next day.

Ulsan 3rd Factory, 2nd floor, review room.

The people who saw the mockup there were impressed.

They all said in unison.

“It looks completely different when you see it like this.”

It was only the initial version with just the case attached, but the mockup was so elaborate.

It was different from the crude mockups made by the existing LCD panel companies.

They had made dozens of mockups before.

That’s why they were more shocked.

Go Jun Ho, the executive who touched the mockup, exclaimed.

“This is like a real Apple phone, isn’t it?”

“Yes. The material even looks more luxurious.”

Kim Ho Geol, the senior engineer, agreed and he laughed and praised him.

“Haha. Very good. Did this junior engineer do this?”

“Yes. He worked hard.”

Kim Ho Geol nodded his head again.

Then, Lee Jin Mok, the junior engineer who stepped forward, opened his mouth.

“I didn’t do it alone. I did it with Yoo-hyun.”

“Really?”

“Yes. He paid more attention to the design part.”

Hearing Lee Jin Mok’s words, Go Jun Ho smiled as if he expected it.

He was an employee who had already moved the business director’s heart.

The group leader even gave him special instructions.

There was no room to doubt his background or skills.

Yoo-hyun waved his hand at the look of misunderstanding.

He appreciated their kindness, but he had to separate work and personal matters clearly.

“He did it. I just managed the schedule.”

“I only did the driving.”

“He did the professional consultation.”

“No. You also made the internal image to match the exterior color.”

Go Jun Ho, who was listening to their conversation, widened his eyes.

He heard a word that was unexpected.

“You also worked on the internal image yourself?”

“No, my sister did it.”

“Your sister?”

It wasn't just Go Jun Ho who was surprised.

The eyes of the people around them were all focused on Yoo-hyun.

It seemed like he needed a long explanation, so Yoo-hyun said in a simple way that they could understand.

“She also worked on the color phone.”

“Really? Where does your sister work?”

“She's a college student now, and a scholarship student at Hansung Design Center.”

“Oh, then she's an expert.”

“Not really.”

Yoo-hyun tried to avoid it, but Go Jun Ho shook his head.

He had been doing Apple business for a long time.

He understood the design that Apple required better than anyone else in the development department.

The design in front of him matched that perfectly.

“No way. It looks like you did everything from the icon work to give it an Apple phone feel.”

“That's true.”

Go Jun Ho pressed the mockup button and flipped through the images as he spoke.

“Not only that, but it seems like you also worked on the demo images yourself.”

“I needed to emphasize the ultra-high resolution.”

“Yeah. Easier said than done. This kind of image work costs a lot of money.”

“I paid her some allowance separately.”

“She worked hard for you. You shouldn’t do that to her.”

Yoo-hyun’s casual answer made Go Jun Ho shake his head firmly.

He then called Kim Ho Geol, the senior engineer.

“Kim team leader.”

“Yes, sir.”

“There are companies that do high-resolution image work, right?”

“Yes. There are.”

“Pay them according to their rates.”

“Yes. I’ll check on that.”

Kim Ho Geol answered crisply.

Hearing his answer, Go Jun Ho looked at Yoo-hyun and raised his eyebrows.

He seemed to be asking for praise as if he had done well.

He was grateful for his care, but Yoo-hyun shook his head.

“Sir, can we do that after the Apple demo is over?”

“Why? Do you have any reason?”

“I just want to focus on the demo for now.”

“Huh. You can do both at the same time.”

Go Jun Ho said and Yoo-hyun responded gently.

“Please. My sister is busy right now too.”

“You shouldn’t care too much about work only.”

“That’s not it. Please just this once.”

Yoo-hyun insisted, and Go Jun Ho nodded reluctantly.

“Fine. Let’s do that.”

“Thank you.”

He looked at Yoo-hyun, who smiled brightly, and clicked his tongue.

“I wish you would accept something like this...”

He knew Go Jun Ho’s intention to take care of him a little more.

But not now.

The right time to settle accounts was after the Apple demo.

Many things would change then.

Yoo-hyun smiled meaningfully.

At that moment.

Lee Tae Ryong, the executive, was holding his phone with a serious expression.

His skin was dark from living a restless and anxious life.

He had run out of patience and confronted Danaka.

“Danaka, did our deal leak out?”

-Are you doubting me now?

“I’m screwed. Do you think I’m going to die alone?”

-Tae Ryong, the money is already gone. Why would I ruin the deal?

Danaka seemed to have expected it and spoke calmly.

But Lee Tae Ryong was not in a calm state.

“Haha. You’ve been trying to trap me from the beginning, haven’t you?”

-You’re paranoid. If you don’t trust me, the deal is over.

“What...”

-Please don’t regret it.

Click.

The phone was hung up before Lee Tae Ryong could get angry.

“Danaka. Danaka.”

He desperately called him again, but there was no way to connect.

He realized too late that he had made a big mistake, but he couldn’t collect the spilled water.

“Damn it. That bastard Han Yoo-hyun.”

His anger, which had nowhere to go, was directed at Yoo-hyun.

When Yoo-hyun returned to his seat, his phone rang happily.

It was Lee Tae Ryong’s call.

He had been hiding for a while and suddenly called him for an obvious reason.

“He must have messed up.”

Yoo-hyun chuckled and hung up the phone.

He then took out Danaka’s business card from his wallet.

The numbers engraved on the card showed the time when he could call Danaka.

It was the perfect time to call him now.

Thump thump.

Yoo-hyun walked to a quiet hallway with a phone for Nam Jong Bu.

He called Danaka in a quiet place.

Danaka opened his mouth right away, as if he had no reason to get a call from an unknown number.

-Steve?

“You have a good sense. I thought the deal would be settled by now.”

-Huh. You’re really pushing your luck.

Yoo-hyun sensed that Lee Tae Ryong, the executive, had talked to him as he heard Danaka’s voice.

That meant that Danaka’s phone number would change.

The deal was broken, after all.

Yoo-hyun quickly guessed.

“You don’t have to be surprised. I just contacted you because I thought you would change your number.”

-What’s your relationship with Tae Ryong?

“Does it matter?”

-How much do you know?

“I don’t have to tell you that either.”

-Then there’s no deal between us.

“That’s what you say to someone who wants to deal with you.”

Danaka’s breathing became deeper as Yoo-hyun’s voice continued.

He felt his anxiety through the phone.

-...Why did you call me?

“Don’t you need to know the changing number? Leave it here before you change it.”

-...

Yoo-hyun read his thoughts in the silence.

Danaka was a person who moved only for profit.

And the source of his profit was trust with his customers.

But his deal was suddenly broken.

In this situation, what was his choice?

There was no other way than cutting off his tail boldly.

And when cutting off his tail, it was an unwritten rule in this industry to cut it off at once.

Yoo-hyun knew it was obvious, so he tried to hang up the phone.

“See you next time.”

-Wait, Steve. Just one question.

“No. You can only ask questions when I allow you.”

Click.

Yoo-hyun left only his words and pressed the end call button.

Of course, he immediately took out the battery.

In the process, Yoo-hyun suddenly felt a déjà vu.

-In the end, Tae Ryong ruined all the deals. I see. I’ll contact you again later.

In the past, when Lee Tae Ryong, his former boss, tried to abandon him.

He also talked to Danaka then.

Of course, the situation was different, but the purpose was the same.

And the result would be the same too.

“Let’s finish this soon.”

Yoo-hyun’s lips curled up slightly.

Of course, he wasn’t going to let Danaka go either.

“I’ll send you straight to hell.”

Lee Tae Ryong’s scenario of going to the edge of the cliff was already set.

The first step was that his mistake was revealed to other Han Kyung Hwe members who were connected with Danaka quickly.

The second step was that Han Kyung Hwe members kicked him out.

In other words, his ending was losing everything by being abandoned by Han Kyung Hwe.

There was almost no chance for him, who was the weakest in Han Kyung Hwe, to survive.

It was like that in the past, and Yoo-hyun thought it would be like that this time too.

And he could see the result as soon as tomorrow.

But then,

An unexpected scenario intervened.

The next morning,

For some reason, Yoo-hyun's expression was not very bright when he came to work at the company.

Maybe because of that,

Kim Sun Dong, who had worked hard all night, comforted Yoo-hyun instead.

"Yoo-hyun, do you have any worries?"

"No. Oh, here."

Yoo-hyun took out an energy drink from his bag and handed it to him.

Kim Sun Dong blinked his eyes at that.

"You gave me one last time too."

"You're working hard for the demo."

"I'm not the only one..."

"Thanks to you, everything is going well. You also came up with a lot of patent ideas while you were busy. Everyone is grateful."

"Th-thank you. I should buy you something..."

Kim Sun Dong nodded his head awkwardly with his unique tone of voice.

Yoo-hyun smiled brightly and replied.

"Buy me a meal next time."

“Okay. I’ll definitely buy you one.”

Kim Sun Dong showed a determined look and Yoo-hyun gave him a thumbs up.

Things were going well like this.

Thanks to Kim Sun Dong and other staff who did more than their roles,

But why did he feel bitter?

Yoo-hyun was lost in thought as he sat down.

Then,

Buzz buzz.

A buzz spread around the circuit 3 team members.

Soon after,

Lee Jin Mok, who heard the rumor, came to Yoo-hyun and made a fuss.

“Yoo-hyun, big news, big news.”

“What is it?”

“It’s Lee Tae Ryong, the executive. Well, he was assaulted last night...”

“I see.”

Lee Jin Mok, who was babbling, stopped at Yoo-hyun’s perfunctory answer.

He then asked with a puzzled expression.

“Hey, are you close with Lee Tae Ryong?”

“Of course not.”

“Then aren’t you surprised?”

“I’m surprised. And bitter.”

“Bitter? Why?”

“Just because.”

Yoo-hyun couldn’t answer his question.