

Real Man 271

Chapter 271

Yoo-hyun recalled the message he had received from Nam Jong Boo yesterday.

-Some company employee asked me to lend him some thugs. He said he wanted to beat you up. I know this is another trap you set up.

Yoo-hyun had called Nam Jong Boo and learned the absurd situation that had happened.

Last night, when Yoo-hyun had ignored countless calls from Lee Tae Ryong, the director.

Cornered, Lee Tae Ryong had lost his mind and sought out Nam Jong Boo.

He even had the audacity to ask him for a favor.

From Nam Jong Boo's perspective, it was like a paper owner asking for a favor from a paper tiger.

Nam Jong Boo was not the type to let that slide.

-So I beat him up. I'll show you the evidence photos. Don't provoke me with such tricks. Got it?

As he growled on the phone, Nam Jong Boo had used his bodyguards to beat up Lee Tae Ryong mercilessly.

He even sent Yoo-hyun the evidence photos as if he was proud of it.

Yoo-hyun was thinking of Lee Tae Ryong's swollen face when Lee Jin Mok, the team leader, spoke.

"Anyway, he's in the hospital now. They say everyone in Team 3 has to go visit him."

"Did he get hurt that badly? Do we have to visit him?"

"I don't know. I heard he's very strict about attendance."

"Really?"

Yoo-hyun asked and Lee Jin Mok nodded.

"Yeah. So I guess all the staff in charge of Team 3 are competing to go first."

"That's unfortunate."

Yoo-hyun casually expressed his feelings and Lee Jin Mok asked curiously.

"Why is that?"

“Nothing.”

“Kid, you’re weird today.”

Lee Jin Mok shook his head and returned to his seat.

Yoo-hyun felt sorry for not Lee Tae Ryong, but the staff who had to visit him during work hours.

Why?

Because they would soon find out that they had wasted their time.

That day, as the end of work approached, a huge rumor swept through the Ulsan factory.

While Yoo-hyun was going to the bathroom, he heard whispers from all directions.

“Lee Tae Ryong messed up big time in the home appliance division...”

“He took a lot of bribes from the suppliers, right?”

“They say he leaked secrets to a Japanese company too.”

They were all talking about Lee Tae Ryong.

There was no reason for such a big rumor to circulate about someone who had just joined the LCD division.

It was as if someone had deliberately spread it.

It wasn’t just bad rumors either.

Inside the bathroom, among the snickers of the crowd, Lee Tae Ryong’s current situation was revealed.

“The ethics committee went to the hospital right away after hearing about Lee Tae Ryong.”

“Wow. Already? They came out as soon as the rumor spread.”

“Yeah. That means there’s something worse than the rumor.”

People who had nothing to do with Lee Tae Ryong lamented his fate.

“Lee Tae Ryong is done for.”

“He got beaten up by thugs and punished by the ethics committee. He’s pretty unlucky.”

“What can you do? He brought it upon himself, right?”

Others’ stories were always light-hearted.

This was Lee Tae Ryong's end.

It was more miserable than his last time, but it didn't make much difference in the end.

He lost everything he had built up in one breath.

And it was by the Han Kyung Hwe members he had followed so eagerly.

No one but Yoo-hyun knew the behind-the-scenes story.

Swoosh.

Yoo-hyun washed his hands with a grim expression on his face at the sink.

He used a lot of water, but he still felt uneasy.

It was the same when he wiped it with a tissue.

Yoo-hyun faced himself in the mirror.

His eyes looked like he knew why.

"It's just one guy I finished off."

A very small murmur came out of Yoo-hyun's mouth that no one could hear.

At that moment, on the 18th floor of Han Sung Tower, in the office of the home appliance division director.

Some of the core members of Han Kyung Hwe were gathered there.

A man with small glasses spoke to Shin Chun Shik, the vice president who was sitting in the seat of honor.

"Vice president, we've taken care of Lee Tae Ryong cleanly."

"Good. There won't be any trouble later, right?"

"No. He didn't have anything to say since Danaka was involved too."

"Woo executive director, how did Lim Jun Pyo react?"

"He fired Lee Tae Ryong as soon as he heard the rumor."

Woo Chang Bum, the executive director with small glasses, answered quickly and Shin Chun Shik tilted his head.

"That's surprising. That softie..."

"Maybe he felt guilty for leaking information."

"I guess so."

Shin Chun Shik nodded his head when it happened.

A man with snow-white hair combed neatly to the side spoke.

“Vice president, we need to pay attention to the LCD division.”

“Yoon executive director, why do you think so?”

“Lee Tae Ryong is not a weak person. He got excited this time because...”

Yoon Joo Tak, the executive director with snow-white hair, tried to explain, but Shin Chun Shik’s expression hardened.

“Don’t bring up that trash talk.”

“Yes. I understand.”

Yoon Joo Tak’s heart sank and he clenched his eyes.

But his expression still showed doubt.

While Han Kyung Hwe was meeting, there was movement on the other side of the globe.

In the strategic marketing office of Han Sung Center’s American branch in the United States.

There, Shin Kyung Wook, the director, was on the phone.

-Lee Tae Ryong’s case is...

Yeo Tae Shik, the executive director, explained the situation involving Lee Tae Ryong and others.

“You’ve done a great job, Yeo executive director.”

-No. It was all according to Yoo-hyun’s plan.

“I can’t believe it.”

-Me neither. I didn’t expect things to go this smoothly.

Shin Kyung Wook was as surprised as Yeo Tae Shik.

The result Yoo-hyun had made was more than he had expected.

Praise came out of Shin Kyung Wook’s mouth naturally.

“He’s amazing. What’s his next plan?”

-Shin director said he has something better in mind.

“Haha. I’m already having a headache because of that.

Shin Kyung Wook, the director, laughed heartily and exchanged a few more words before hanging up the phone.

In front of him was an email from Yoo-hyun.

He read the contents carefully and chuckled.

“Yoo-hyun, what do you want from me?”

The hot rumor about Lee Tae Ryong quickly died down as if nothing had happened.

The person in question was nowhere to be seen, and his office was completely empty.

There was no one who cared enough about his story in such a situation.

Everyone just shrugged it off.

There was one person who was in a vague position.

It was the secretary of Team 3.

She had nothing to do and was bored, so she sent a message to Ju Yoon Ha, the secretary of Team 4.

-Sis, I'm so bored. I have no work at all.

-Take a break. Ko Jun Ho director will be coming soon.

-What? Really? What do I do? He's so scary.

-He's been busy with the Apple demo lately, so he's a bit better.

It was as Ju Yoon Ha had said.

Not long after, Ko Jun Ho director took over Team 3 as well.

Team 3 also had a lot of work piled up.

He received reports from the team leaders of Team 3 and snapped.

“Damn. Lee Tae Ryong, this bastard, did such a poor job.”

“We'll sort it out right away.”

Ham Jong Gil, the senior team leader of Circuit Team 3, answered when Ko Jun Ho director shook his head.

“That's enough. From today on, report to me every evening at 8 o'clock.”

“...Yes. I understand.”

“I have to clear the obstacles before the next person comes.”

“...”

The team leaders shuddered at Ko Jun Ho director’s muttering.

They knew they had opened the gates of hell.

Ko Jun Ho director taking over Team 3 had a positive effect on the prototype team.

Lee Jin Mok, the team leader who was touching the mockup in the inspection room, sighed with relief.

“I feel sorry for Team 3, but it’s so nice not to see him.”

“Why? He didn’t say anything to you, did he?”

Yoo-hyun asked and he shook his head.

“He’s just very oppressive just by being there. You wouldn’t know, Yoo-hyun.”

“I feel oppressed too.”

Then Jung In Wook, the manager, popped his head between them.

“You’re still talking nonsense.”

“Why is that nonsense?”

“How can such a guy care about the Apple demo when he goes to reserve training?”

Jung In Wook asked and Yoo-hyun answered firmly.

“If I postpone it now, it will be overnight training. Of course I have to go.”

“The situation is desperate.”

“You guys are doing fine without me. I haven’t done anything these days.”

“We need you in our team.”

Yoo-hyun replied to Jung In Wook’s insistence and looked him in the eye.

“Then I’ll move my seat. Right next to you, Manager Jung.”

“You don’t listen to a word I say. Go ahead. And don’t come back.”

Jung In Wook panicked when Maeng Ki Yong, the senior engineer, joined in with a smile.

“Yoo-hyun, I’ll switch seats with you.”

“Thank you. I’ll move right away.”

Yoo-hyun answered and Jung In Wook slapped his forehead while the staff in the inspection room laughed.

“Ugh.”

“Hahaha.”

The atmosphere was definitely livelier than before.

“Sigh. This guy...”

On the other hand, Jung In Wook’s sigh deepened.

A few days later, Lim Jun Pyo, the vice president, visited Ulsan Factory 4 in the morning.

It was when Ko Jun Ho director had finished his report in the office of Team 4.

Lim Jun Pyo asked casually.

“How is Yoo-hyun doing?”

“Yes. Of course. He’s been very helpful in this project too...”

“Good. You’re taking good care of him.”

“Thank you.”

Ko Jun Ho director blushed at Lim Jun Pyo’s unexpected compliment.

He had scored a big point with an appropriate explanation.

Then Lim Jun Pyo casually said what he wanted.

“I want to see him once.”

“I’ll contact him right away.”

Ko Jun Ho director spat out an excited voice and picked up his phone.

A moment later, his face twisted.

He came back to his seat and cautiously said.

“Well, vice president, actually...”

“Reserve training? Huh. At this crucial time...”

“It’s only three days of commuting. Should I tell him to come back now?”

Lim Jun Pyo shook his head at Ko Jun Ho director’s question.

“No. I was going to come down again anyway.”

“Yes. I’ll take care of it next time.”

Lim Jun Pyo was coming down again to meet a mere employee?

That meant he had a huge power behind him.

Ko Jun Ho director smiled inwardly, seizing the opportunity.

At that moment.

Yoo-hyun was on a small mountain behind Ulsan Factory 2.

There were a lot of men in military uniforms in this place, which was a training ground for reservists.

They wore the same uniform, but they looked different.

Some had their shirts tucked in their waist and showed their skin, some had one leg up to their knee, and some had their helmets upside down on their messy hair.

There were all kinds of people.

“Please wear your combat uniform and helmet properly.”

The instructors who shouted loudly at the entrance looked pitiful.

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It was not the only thing.

The sergeant who was helping with the identity verification process of the man standing right in front of Yoo-hyun said.

“You can’t wear sneakers.”

“I told you my leg hurts.”

The man who came wearing sneakers instead of combat boots argued with a frown.

The sergeant shook his head firmly.

“Then come back next time.”

“I’m an employee of Ilseong. I’ll file a complaint if you do this.”

“I don’t care if you’re from Ilseong or Hanseong. It’s not allowed.”

“Ah, really, I’m telling you to do it.”

Yoo-hyun spat out a sneer as he watched the quarrel in front of him.

“There are so many idiots.”

It was the first time Yoo-hyun had received training as a reserve soldier in Ulsan.

He thought the atmosphere would be better since it was a place where local workers were, but it was not.

It was more of a mess.

Anyway, Yoo-hyun was planning to stay quiet and leave.

He ignored the noise around him and reminded himself of the proverb that said to be careful of falling leaves.

Yoo-hyun finished his identity verification and received a meal ticket, a number tag, and a unit mark.

“There is a barracks upstairs. You can rest there until the broadcast comes out.”

“Thank you.”

Yoo-hyun thanked the soldier’s guidance and went up the stairs.

He passed by the reserve soldiers scattered around and came to the front of the barracks.

A familiar voice caught Yoo-hyun.

“Oh? Yoo-hyun.”

“Tae Kyung.”

He turned his head and saw Lim Tae Kyung, his colleague from Circuit 3 Team, wearing a military uniform.

He was relatively normal compared to other reserve soldiers.

Lim Tae Kyung smiled broadly and expressed his joy.

“Haha. Yoo-hyun, you came this time too.”

“Of course. If I postpone it this time, I have to go to Dongmicham.”

“Right. That’s why I came here even though I’m busy. I hate staying overnight training to death.”

As Lim Tae Kyung said, reserve soldier training for workers was possible to commute.

But in the past, Yoo-hyun postponed his training and ended up going to stay overnight training.

He was afraid that it would affect his personnel evaluation and made a foolish move.

He didn’t want to do that anymore.

That feeling was expressed naturally.

“I can’t do that either.”

“Haha. Is there anyone else you came with?”

“What do you mean? I just came quietly.”

Yoo-hyun answered and Lim Tae Kyung tried to meddle.

“Really? Wait a minute. I’ll talk to my team leader.”

“It’s okay. I’m going to stay quiet and leave.”

He was glad to see him, but he didn’t want to join another team.

There was no point in joining Circuit 3 Team members.

Lim Tae Kyung seemed to understand Yoo-hyun’s mind and nodded his head.

“Okay. Contact me if you’re bored later.”

“Okay. Take care of yourself during training.”

“Yoo-hyun, you too go out safely.”

“Of course.”

Yoo-hyun lightly greeted him and entered the barracks.

There were yellow mats on both sides of the container building.

On the wall side, there were wooden old-fashioned lockers, and in front of them, reserve soldiers in combat uniforms were lying down.

Above their heads, summer blankets with defense patterns were folded.

A snort came out of Yoo-hyun’s mouth as he saw them.

“How come the military doesn’t change?”

At the same time, memories of his military days flashed by like a zoetrope.

It was amazing that this memory remained vivid as if it was engraved on his bones.

Even after 20 years had passed.

He recalled the old memories that he didn’t want to remember while walking.

He passed by the crowded 1st barracks and entered the 2nd barracks.

It was also the same scenery here.

Only there were fewer people.

Yoo-hyun put down his helmet at the place that matched the number he received.

He understood why the reserve soldiers lying down felt so relieved.

If he sat here, he would definitely want to lie down too.

For some reason, he didn't want to take off his heavy combat boots.

It was too annoying to put them on again.

It was then when Yoo-hyun was lying down.

Thud.

A helmet fell next to him with a thud sound

Then a man sat down in front of him

That moment

Yoo-hyun sat up straight

The man said to Yoo-hyun

“I'm sorry. I meant to put it down gently...”

“No. It's okay.”

Yoo-hyun waved his hand and looked at the name on the man's chest.

<Hyun Jin Gun>

It was definitely the name Yoo-hyun remembered.

He wore glasses and looked much younger than before, but his sad eyes were still the same.

Yoo-hyun was very glad to see him.

But he couldn't ask him about his personal information right away.

The only time to ask each other about it was when they were training together casually, eating lunch quickly, and having a frozen snack at the store.

Then they would exchange contacts when they were about to go home.

That was the course of reserve soldier training.

Of course, they would never meet again, but anyway.

So Yoo-hyun asked him the most harmless question.

“Are you from the 6th Corps?”

“Ah, yes.”

“The one in Pocheon?”

“Yes.”

“Haha. I know that place a little bit.”

“...”

Yoo-hyun tried to make a friendly conversation, but Hyun Jin Gun's expression didn't look very comfortable.

He didn't seem to get along well with people even now.

Yoo-hyun wondered if he should get closer to him, but he stopped for now.

He had plenty of time to stick with him since he was the next number.

While Yoo-hyun was lying down, Hyun Jin Gun kept writing something in his notebook.

Yoo-hyun looked at his back and remembered the past.

It was when Yoo-hyun was in the mobile business strategy room.

At that time, Hyun Jin Gun was the president of JK Communication.

He was called a genius engineer and developed a communication chip that surpassed the existing limits and attracted attention from all over the world.

He received supply requests from all over the world, but he chose Hanseong Electronics.

He kicked away billions of won by himself.

Thanks to him, Yoo-hyun saved Hanseong's dying smartphone.

He was able to get promoted faster because of his contribution.

-It's just paying back what I owe you.

That was what Hyun Jin Gun said when Yoo-hyun asked him why he helped him.

Yoo-hyun didn't understand what he meant at all.

He didn't get an answer even when he asked.

He wanted to have a conversation with him over a cup of tea, but Hyun Jin Gun didn't even give him a chance.

Rather, he disappeared from his sight.

After that

Hyun Jin Gun, who disappeared like the wind, appeared as a Google executive.

He also started a new startup in the US

It was a hit and he became a star overnight

Later, he came back to Korea and changed the startup environment from the ground up

He did what politicians couldn't do as a businessman

In a word, he was an amazing person.

Yoo-hyun was always curious and admiring of Hyunjin, who was such a genius.

That genius was right in front of him.

He used to be someone who was hard to talk to, but now he was wearing the same uniform.

He could talk to him anytime he wanted.

Why did he do that back then?

Yoo-hyun wanted to know more about Hyunjin.

He wanted to be friends with him, and if possible, to be with him.

He had never been so greedy for a person before.

In the morning, during the mental education session in the auditorium, Yoo-hyun sat next to Hyunjin.

Even on the hard wooden chair, he had a piece of paper in his hand.

-This video was produced to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the reserve forces, and to enhance the pride and...

Even while the video was playing, he kept writing something.

There were equations, notes, and drawings.

Since he had been sitting next to him all along, Yoo-hyun started a conversation with him quite naturally.

“What are you doing?”

“I don't like being idle.”

“Do you like drawing?”

“It's just something I do. Time is relative, so it flows faster if you stay still.”

“I see.”

He was indeed an owner of extraordinary thoughts.

Yoo-hyun nodded his head and agreed with him.

It was a basic rule of conversation to match the other person's interests.

“So you mean time flows slower if you move?”

“Yes. Time depends on the direction of entropy increase...”

“Oh.”

” And the starting point goes back to the Big Bang...”

As he listened to his words, Yoo-hyun decided to give up on the basics for the first time.

This had nothing to do with his 20 years of company experience.

Instead, Yoo-hyun tried to imitate his actions.

Mirroring was also a very effective way to attract the other person's attention.

“Can you tear me a piece of paper?”

“Tearing paper is also a direction of entropy increase.”

“Yes. Please do that for me.”

“Wait a minute.”

Yoo-hyun managed to get a piece of paper from him.

Meanwhile, the video viewing ended.

Soon after, a retired colonel took the stage and gave a lecture.

-I believe that our country has been able to endure until now because of our reserve forces...

He must have been a person who once ruled the world, but now he was just an old man.

The reserve soldiers who sat on the long wooden chairs nodded off.

The soldiers who stood in between woke them up.

“Please get up.”

“Oh, come on, let me sleep.”

“You can't do that, sir.”

It was a comedy that happened everywhere.

During that time, Yoo-hyun drew a picture on his paper.

He had given up on following Hyunjin from the beginning.

He couldn't tell what he was expressing even when he peeked at it.

At some point, Yoo-hyun's paper captured the scene of the auditorium.

He drew it roughly, but it had a good sense of atmosphere.

The highlight was the expression of the colonel who stood on the stage.

Hyunjin, who had been glancing at Yoo-hyun's drawing, suddenly burst into laughter.

“Puhahaha.”

Then, a soldier behind him came over and said,

“Sir, please be quiet.”

“Oh, I'm sorry.”

Hyunjin apologized and covered his mouth with his hand while shaking his shoulders.

Yoo-hyun had no idea why.

He blinked his eyes and asked,

“Why? Is it weird?”

“No. It's just that your nostrils are so square.”

“...”

He was a friend who had a strange sense of humor.

Was it because of the drawing?

Yoo-hyun got closer to Hyunjin.

Now they talked while walking.

“The course starts with shooting...”

“In my unit, PRI is...”

Of course, it was all about training and military stuff, but at least he took the first step well.

That showed how careful Yoo-hyun was with Hyunjin.

It was because he remembered how he had been rejected every time he tried to talk to him in the past.

He showed great kindness to Yoo-hyun, but he didn't want to talk to him.

It still didn't make sense to him.

At PRI school, an instructor gave instructions for training.

“You all know how to take different shooting positions according to distance, right?”

“Yes.”

“Okay, when I give you a signal, you will change your position accordingly. The louder your voice is, the faster we can finish this training.”

“Yesss.”

The instructor raised his voice at the dragging answers of the trainees.

“Starting from those who are ready, 250 meters away.”

“Lie down and shoot.”

The reserve soldiers took their positions vaguely.

Hyunjin was not much different either.

But when there was an assistant soldier around, things changed.

It was when they had to put a stone on the gun and take a shooting position.

“Sirs, we will do a firing training with a stone on top of the gun.”

“Why do we have to do this? It's annoying.”

The trainees waved their hands at the assistant's words.

“I'll let you rest sooner if you do well.”

“Hey, you do it.”

The other reserve soldiers looked down on the assistant and treated him lightly.

But not Hyunjin.

“Lock the bolt. Load one bullet. Single shot.”

He took his position and repeated the commands as in the FM.

“Fire.”

Tic.

Of course, the stone fell off because he shook, but he still looked serious.

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Yoo-hyun looked at him with a puzzled expression.

It was the same when they practiced disassembling and assembling firearms.

Clack. Clack. Clack. Clack.

Everyone else was doing it casually, just stamping their papers, but Hyunjin did it exactly according to the FM.

He was so diligent that even the instructor tried to stop him.

“Senior, you don’t have to work so hard.”

“No, I have to.”

He used honorifics to the soldiers and worked hard.

But he wasn’t good at it.

He seemed to know the theory well, but his hands were clumsy.

“If you twist the barrel angle by about 14 degrees and insert it...”

Yoo-hyun, who had already finished, reached out to him, who was struggling.

“You have to put this part in and turn it.”

“Oh, right. Thank you.”

Hyunjin thanked Yoo-hyun with an awkward expression.

Yoo-hyun felt strange at his simple gratitude.

It was because he kept seeing his past self in him.

Hyunjin, who received a lunch box and had lunch, brought up his story for the first time.

“I’m working at Ilseong right now...”

“You’re working at Ilseong? Are you an engineer in the communication parts field?”

“How did you know?”

“Just a guess. You said your military specialty was communication earlier.”

Yoo-hyun guessed and Hyunjin laughed.

He had a sense of humor in such unexpected places.

“Hahaha. What does that have to do with anything?”

“It’s kind of related. You said you had a hard time because of a crazy senior in the unit, right?”

“Yes.”

“Don’t you have the same problem at your company?”

“Now that you mention it, I do. Maybe it’s because I’m naive.”

Yoo-hyun had never heard his story directly, nor had he seen his interview.

That’s how much Hyunjin didn’t reveal himself.

But his colleagues had talked about him in interviews.

He was a respectable leader.

So Yoo-hyun could say more confidently.

“No, it’s just bad luck.”

“Is that so?”

“I’m sure of it. I have a good sense of people.”

“Hahaha.”

Hyunjin laughed heartily as Yoo-hyun spoke casually.

They finished their lunch and went around the individual training ground on the mountain.

They had to take theoretical classes on individual combat, first aid, chemical defense, etc. at the 16 courses there.

They all had to stamp their papers to pass, so people followed without complaining.

The places where the military officers were instructors were unusually quiet.

The problem was the places where the soldier assistants taught directly.

“Seniors, hello. This assistant is…”

“Hey, just do it already.”

There was inevitably bullying by the reservists there.

The reservists’ typical arrogance was also there.

Every time that happened, Hyunjin flinched.

Yoo-hyun asked him next to him.

“Do you want me to say something?”

“No, it’s all like that. What can I do?”

Hyunjin shook his head, but he looked uncomfortable.

Yoo-hyun took him in his eyes.

The next course was a little higher up.

They arrived at the first aid training ground where the assistants taught.

“We’ll take a 10-minute break. Please keep your uniforms on even during the break.”

“What bullshit.”

The reservists snorted at the assistant’s words.

Rifles and bulletproof helmets rolled on the floor.

Hyunjin followed the assistant’s words as always.

Yoo-hyun smiled and said with a consistent attitude.

“I’ll go to the bathroom for a bit.”

“Okay. I’ll save your spot.”

“Thank you.”

It was when Yoo-hyun came back from the bathroom.

Buzzing.

Despite being break time, people were gathered at the training ground.

“Ugh.”

The assistant was rolling on the floor holding his stomach.

It was a bad atmosphere and Yoo-hyun quickly looked around.

Two men were facing each other among the crowd of people.

“Cough, cough.”

“Who are you to butt in?”

Yoo-hyun pushed through the crowd and went inside.

Then he saw a man with a shaved head holding someone by the collar.

He was a thug with a shoddy tattoo and a knife scar on his face.

Then he heard a familiar voice coughing.

“But still, you shouldn’t hit an assistant.”

“Shut up. Who are you to lecture me? Get lost.”

Hyunjin was being threatened with his collar grabbed.

It was a situation where he could be scared, but Hyunjin stood up to the thug until the end.

There was no one to stop them.

They might have thought it was none of their business or they might have been intimidated by the thug.

But Yoo-hyun wasn’t like that.

“What are you doing?”

He clenched his teeth and ran toward the thug.

Thud. Thwack.

Before the surprised people could open their mouths, Yoo-hyun flew.

“Huh?”

“Uh, uh...”

Then he turned his body and kicked the thug in the face.

The bottom of Yoo-hyun’s combat boots grazed the thug’s face and hit the tree next to him.

Crack.

Boom.

A loud noise rang out and pine cones and needles fell.

The thick tree swayed greatly.

It was obviously not a joke power.

People’s faces were filled with shock.

“...”

The thug felt the threat of death for a moment.

He turned his head with a trembling expression and saw a dent in the middle of the tree.

Gulp.

He swallowed his saliva and the man who hit the tree, Yoo-hyun, said with a smirk.

“Oh, I missed.”

“Wha, what...”

The thug was furious because there were people around him.

“Let go of your hand.”

“You bastard.”

He even clenched his fist.

But that was only for a moment.

“Come on, try me.”

“...”

Yoo-hyun smiled and approached him, and the thug unknowingly let go of his hand.

“Let’s be quiet. Or your face will be like that tree.”

Thump.

Yoo-hyun took another step and threatened him.

“Huh, don’t you answer?”

“Yes...”

The thug’s body shrank involuntarily.

It was a pathetic sight.

Then, Hyunjin, who was freed, tended to the fallen assistant.

He was a consistent friend in one thing.

A moment later.

A military officer came after receiving a radio call.

Hyunjin stepped forward and spoke on behalf of the assistant.

“What happened was...”

“That’s not true...”

The thug snapped, but Yoo-hyun gave him a fierce look.

“Shut up, you bastard.”

The other reservists also testified, so the thug had no way out.

His uniform was already defective.

In the end, the thug was dragged away by the officer.

After the situation was settled, the assistant came over and thanked Yoo-hyun.

“Thank you, senior.”

“You should thank him.”

Yoo-hyun pointed with his hand, and the assistant bowed deeply to Hyunjin.

“Thank you. Thank you very much.”

“You did well.”

Hyunjin held the assistant’s hand with a warm smile.

That’s how the incident ended.

It was after the reservist training that day.

Hyunjin said to Yoo-hyun.

“I wish I could do it with you tomorrow, but it’s a shame.”

“Come tomorrow.”

“Haha. I really want to come.”

Hyunjin’s eyes were sincere.

But he had already completed his reservist training hours today.

Yoo-hyun didn’t want to let him go either.

He put his feelings in his smile and said.

“Then how about a drink tonight?”

“Sounds good.”

Hyunjin agreed enthusiastically.

That night.

Yoo-hyun and Hyunjin faced each other at a beer house in Ulsan.

Clang.

They cheered happily and drank beer.

After one or two glasses, they loosened up their tongues as they were the same age.

They shared their worries and troubles.

“The truth is, no matter how much I work at the company...”

He was called a genius, but he was just a part in the company.

Yoo-hyun listened to his troubles and advised him.

“Jingun, that’s because you’re too talented.”

“What talent? Everyone is the same when they enter the company.”

“No way. I guarantee it.”

Yoo-hyun held out his glass and Hyunjin smiled.

He was doing what he had always wanted to do in a roundabout way now.

It was a strange feeling.

They chatted like that until Hyunjin brought up something more personal.

Not his story, but his brother’s story.

“I have a brother...”

“Yeah? He went to the army with that body?”

Yoo-hyun showed a surprised reaction, and Hyunjin gave a bitter smile.

“Yeah. He must have been complexed by his weak body. He insisted on going to the army even after taking a re-examination. I couldn’t stop him.”

“So you were nice to the soldiers?”

“I thought of my brother.”

Yoo-hyun nodded as he listened to Hyunjin’s words.

He could tell how much he cared for his brother.

Then he asked casually without thinking much.

“Which unit is your brother in?”

“The 17th Division.”

“Oh, the Lightning Division?”

“Yeah, that’s right.”

Suddenly, Yoo-hyun’s eyebrows narrowed.

A vague memory from a long time ago came up.

-We have selected additional personnel for the Hansung Humanitarian Award to improve our group's image this time.

Yoo-hyun, who was in the group strategy room, personally selected the personnel for the Hansung Humanitarian Award.

At that time, Yoo-hyun picked mainly people who were making issues on the internet.

One of them was a military explosion victim.

Hyunjinsu.

He had burns all over his body and lost his legs. He was falsely accused of causing the accident.

He fought with the military for a long time and finally proved his innocence.

It wasn't his fault that he caused the accident.

It was entirely due to the negligence of the ammunition depot officer in charge.

Rather, he threw himself toward the explosives to protect his juniors who were about to be discharged.

But the military didn't admit that fact and there was no compensation for any damage either.

This unfair incident became a big issue on the internet.

Yoo-hyun was next to him when he received the Hansung Humanitarian Award in a wheelchair.

He had no memory of seeing Hyunjinsu after that.

That was several years before he met Hyunjin.

-It's just paying back what I owe you.

Yoo-hyun finally understood what Hyunjin meant by his short words.

Chapter 274

It was only now, after nearly 30 years, that the true meaning of those words seeped into Yoo-hyun's heart.

Hyunjin Gun asked him, who was staring blankly.

"Yoo-hyun, what's wrong? Is something bothering you?"

"Jingun."

“Why are you so serious?”

“My brother is almost done with his military service, right?”

“Yeah. He doesn’t have much time left.”

Yoo-hyun nodded as if he had made up his mind after hearing Hyunjin Gun’s answer.

It would be too late once things happened.

It was only natural to stop it if he could.

Just like Hyunjin Gun had paid off his debt in his own way, Yoo-hyun had the same intention.

He spoke to Hyunjin Gun with a serious look in his eyes.

“Hey, this might sound crazy, but listen...”

“What?”

Hyunjin Gun widened his eyes as he heard Yoo-hyun’s explanation.

Regardless, Yoo-hyun spoke earnestly.

“Just trust me and do it once. It’s a win-win situation anyway.”

“Alright, I got it.”

And he pleaded until Hyunjin Gun nodded his head.

The second and third day of the reserve training went smoothly.

Yoo-hyun completed the training by hiding his body as much as possible, following the proverb that even falling leaves should be careful.

That’s when he returned to the company.

From the morning, Go Junho, the senior manager, visited the pre-production team’s office.

His gentle voice rang out in front of the tense team members.

“Mr. Yoo-hyun, did you finish your reserve training well?”

“Yes. Thanks to your care, I did well.”

“Hahaha. Good. You did a good job.”

“Thank you.”

Yoo-hyun was bewildered by the unexpected compliment.

He was kind to Yoo-hyun, but not to this extent.

Even if he cared, there was no reason for him to come to the office from the morning and praise him.

Then, Go Junho, the senior manager, hinted at something.

“Mr. Yoo-hyun, the business director is coming today...”

“Oh, did he want to have a meeting with me?”

Yoo-hyun guessed and Go Junho spoke cheerfully.

“As expected. I thought you would have been contacted separately.”

“...”

Go Junho was smiling brightly.

He seemed to have misunderstood something greatly.

That afternoon.

Yoo-hyun stopped by the business director’s office at the Ulsan factory 1 plant.

Im Junpyo, the vice president, who got up from his seat, greeted Yoo-hyun with a chuckle.

“Nice to see you. We met before, right?”

“Yes. It’s been a while.”

Yoo-hyun shook hands with him and sat down.

Im Junpyo scanned Yoo-hyun with a strange look in his eyes.

He opened his mouth after a brief pause.

“I heard from Ye Vice President.”

“What do you mean?”

“You put a lot of effort into this project.”

It was a word that implied many meanings.

Yoo-hyun pretended not to know and shifted the credit to the team.

“The team members put more effort into it.”

“Haha. As I heard, you are very polite.”

The actions that Yoo-hyun took while on dispatch were somewhat distant from politeness.

Since there was no need to explain a misunderstanding that worked in his favor, Yoo-hyun bowed his head for now.

“Thank you.”

“No. I’m grateful. You ran around barefoot for the company.”

“I just did my job.”

“Hmm...”

Im Junpyo smiled meaningfully at Yoo-hyun’s answer.

He knew everything but didn’t reveal his intentions like a fox.

He waited for a while and then Yoo-hyun opened his mouth first.

“I’m sure you’re curious about Apple’s factory investment.”

“That’s right. That’s probably the most important thing.”

It was the most important thing for Im Junpyo, who was not someone else.

His next year depended on this result.

That was why he looked for Yoo-hyun after hearing Ye Taesik’s words.

Yoo-hyun nodded for now.

“The decision will be made at this demo.”

“In our favor?”

“Yes. Of course.”

“I heard you’ve been right about everything so far. This time too?”

“There’s a high possibility of that.”

“Hahaha. As I heard, you’re very straightforward.”

Im Junpyo laughed loudly as Yoo-hyun answered without hesitation.

He had listened to Ye Taesik’s explanation for a long time and watched Lee Taeryong’s case as well.

He couldn’t see Yoo-hyun as a simple employee.

Yoo-hyun took one more step forward here.

“But there’s something you need to consider first.”

“What is it? Anything. Just say it.”

“I’ll make sure the factory investment happens on the spot. But...”

“What? That could ruin the whole deal.”

Im Junpyo was startled by Yoo-hyun's explanation.

It was a reaction he had expected enough.

For him, who was a contract executive, nothing more than factory investment mattered.

But Yoo-hyun didn't intend to stop here.

"I hope you trust me."

"Did you talk to Shin Senior Manager about this?"

"Yes. I did."

"Huh..."

To be precise, he hadn't said anything up to this point yet.

But Shin Kyungwook, the senior manager, would have predicted it by reading the email Yoo-hyun sent.

Im Junpyo, who was thinking hard, heard Yoo-hyun say.

"And there's one more thing."

"What is it?"

"I'll prepare the media for the demo."

"Apple won't make a media announcement. They're not like that."

"No. They will."

Im Junpyo snorted at Yoo-hyun's meaningful answer.

Yoo-hyun looked him in the eye without avoiding his gaze.

In front of his confident and strong eyes, Im Junpyo eventually nodded his head.

"I got it. Do it that way."

"Thank you."

Yoo-hyun bowed his head deeply.

<Hanseong LCD's ultra-high resolution panel, overwhelming in internal evaluation. Will it capture Apple's heart?>

Another news broke out with the Apple demo right around the corner.

Since it was an unofficial demo, there was no mention of Hanseong's officials.

The content of the report was filled with hearsay.

But the attention was still there.

It wasn't just about the number of views.

There were companies that paid attention to the meeting between Apple and Hanseong through this article.

Sharp and Ilseong were the representatives.

It was possible thanks to Lee Taeryong, the senior manager, who made the deal with a desperate attitude.

To put an end to this situation?

This Apple demo was important.

With this atmosphere and Im Junpyo's support added, Kim Younggil and Yoo-hyun went to and from the Ulsan training center since a few days before the announcement.

They rented a whole classroom to prepare for the presentation.

Kim Young-gil, the manager, displayed his presentation checklist on the screen.

He had prepared questions for every scenario and situation.

He could see how much effort he had put into it.

Still, he felt uneasy and asked Yoo-hyun.

"It looks too complicated when I list them like this."

"I think you have too many questions on the list."

"Maybe I should set specific goals by time and organize them accordingly?"

"That sounds like a good idea, don't you think?"

Yoo-hyun agreed and Kim Young-gil immediately switched to work mode.

It was his dozenth time repeating the process.

But each time, he got closer to the perfect result.

He looked very tired, but he persevered.

Yoo-hyun smiled and quietly stepped out.

He wanted to give him some time to sort things out.

He got a coffee from the vending machine and went outside the training center.

The hot summer had passed and a cool breeze was blowing.

He sat on a bench and enjoyed the view. He felt more relaxed than when he was in the office.

It was easier to think about various things here.

Ring. Ring.

His phone rang. It was a call from the U.S.

He had an idea who it was and answered cheerfully.

“Hello, Mr. Shin.”

-I knew you would call me.

“Well, I was going to call you first, but I waited.”

-Haha. You're still the same.

After exchanging some pleasantries, Shin Kyung-wook, the executive, got to the point.

-You invited John Norman, huh? You must be confident in your design.

“Yes. I'm sure it will work.”

-Well, then make good use of this opportunity. Philip Siller is also coming down.

“Is that so?”

-You sound like you expected that.

“I thought someone higher up would come.”

Yoo-hyun answered calmly and Shin Kyung-wook said something suggestive.

-Or maybe you moved me to do that.

“Thank you for your consideration.”

-No. All I did was put a dot on the picture you drew.

Yoo-hyun didn't know much about Apple's internal affairs either.

But he knew that Shin Kyung-wook's smart response helped him get the picture he wanted.

“Aren't you being too modest?”

-I realized it when I contacted Apple. They were already moving because of the media.

“That's because it was such a big issue.”

-And it felt like you orchestrated that too.

Shin Kyung-wook had a good sense of things.

He read the big picture from afar.

Yoo-hyun pretended not to know and asked.

“Do you think so?”

-Haha. Honestly, I can't believe it. But that's the only explanation I can think of.

“Sometimes things happen that can't be explained.”

-Then show me some unexplainable results.

Shin Kyung-wook challenged him and Yoo-hyun replied confidently.

“I'll probably see you in the U.S. soon.”

-Really? You might need my help then.

Shin Kyung-wook caught on right away.

It was fun talking to him.

“Yes. I'll ask for your favor then.”

Yoo-hyun hung up and smiled.

The board was set in a way that he couldn't lose.

He got up from his seat and went back to the classroom.

He saw Kim Young-gil practicing his presentation through a small window below.

He didn't seem to take a break at all. He didn't know how to quit either.

Squeak.

Kim Young-gil stopped his presentation when Yoo-hyun entered and showed him the revised content on the screen.

The structure of the report had changed completely in a short time.

“This looks better now. What do you think?”

“It's perfect, don't you think?”

“It's easier to connect the points when I focus on the goals.”

“I'm glad to hear that.”

Yoo-hyun brightened up and Kim Young-gil smiled faintly.

He seemed more confident than before.

He was different from last time when he was dragged around by others.

Now he started to use Yoo-hyun as a resource.

“There’s one thing that bothers me though. The factory investment part...”

“In my opinion, that part...”

Yoo-hyun actively gave his feedback as Kim Young-gil approached him.

“Don’t you think it’s too aggressive?”

“I think we have to be.”

“Okay. I’ll write a scenario for that.”

Kim Young-gil quickly caught Yoo-hyun’s words.

He didn’t just follow him blindly. He visualized the situation in his head.

Yoo-hyun watched him and confirmed his thoughts.

He had already broken out of his shell.

All he had to do was spread his wings.

This presentation would be the place for that.

That afternoon, Yoo-hyun called Oh Eun-bi, the reporter, to fit the last piece of the puzzle.

-You might be able to interview Apple? Really?

“It’s a possibility, you know.”

-Wow. That’s enough for me. I’ll head to Ulsan right away.

“I appreciate it if you do.”

-Of course.

She was excited by the mere possibility.

She trusted Yoo-hyun that much.

Yoo-hyun also kept her on a leash.

“What are you talking about? You’re helping me a lot.”

-Hoho. I get it. I’ll be on standby. Good luck with the demo.

“Thank you. Drive safely.”

Yoo-hyun hung up and grinned.

Chapter 275

They needed to strike a powerful blow in the already heated public opinion war.

Reporter Oh Eun-bi was the one who would play that role.

Now, everything was ready.

Time passed and finally, it was the day of Apple's announcement.

Jo Chan-young, the executive in charge of mobile sales and marketing, came to the Ulsan 4th factory in the morning.

Kim Young-gil, the manager who was in charge of the presentation today, was with him.

Inside the office of Go Jun-ho, the executive on the second floor of the 4th factory.

Jo Chan-young, Yoo-hyun, and Kim Young-gil sat side by side across from Go Jun-ho.

Go Jun-ho greeted Jo Chan-young.

"Jo, you look happy."

"Of course I'm happy. I came to see you."

"Haha. This guy, he's still good at flattering."

While the two were chatting and laughing, Yoo-hyun quietly asked Kim Young-gil, who was sitting next to him.

"Manager Kim, you don't look so bright."

"You try riding in our executive's car for four hours."

"You must have had a hard time."

Kim Young-gil strongly agreed with Yoo-hyun's words.

"Yeah. That's why our team leader couldn't come even if he wanted to."

"I can imagine."

"Hehe. Right?"

"Yes. It couldn't be helped."

Could Kim Hyun-min endure Jo Chan-young's nagging for four hours?

It was impossible for his personality.

But it would have been fun to watch if they were together.

Yoo-hyun chuckled as he imagined it.

Jo Chan-young stretched his head toward Yoo-hyun.

"Yoo-hyun, if you have something funny to say, why don't you share it?"

“We were just discussing how to proceed with the presentation today.”

Yoo-hyun answered promptly, and Go Jun-ho intervened with a chuckle.

“Haha. You’re always too diligent.”

“Yoo-hyun is doing well, isn’t he?”

Jo Chan-young asked Go Jun-ho subtly, surprised by his praise.

Go Jun-ho answered without hesitation.

“Of course. He’s doing well. He’s very impressive.”

“I see.”

“Not just impressive. In my opinion, this project wouldn’t have happened without Yoo-hyun.”

Maybe it was because of Lim Jun-pyo’s influence, but Go Jun-ho was too over-the-top.

It was so embarrassing that his face felt hot.

Yoo-hyun bowed his head with an awkward expression.

“No, sir. It’s thanks to the team members who did better than me.”

“No. You did really well.”

He said no, but Go Jun-ho singled out Yoo-hyun.

Jo Chan-young, who didn’t know the situation behind it, was quite surprised by Go Jun-ho’s compliment.

He glanced at Yoo-hyun and recalled the time when he proposed the project.

-I heard that the differentiation point that LCD can offer compared to OLED is resolution. I hope this project will proceed.

It was Yoo-hyun who brought up the idea that he opposed by insisting on OLED.

He went on a dispatch and saved the project from a crisis.

He heard countless times from Kim Hyun-min about how he changed the advance product team and persuaded the business director.

He was doubtful even when he saw and heard it.

But listening to Go Jun-ho’s words, it was all true.

He did what was hard to do even as an executive as an employee.

He had no choice but to say that he was amazing.

Jo Chan-young patted Yoo-hyun's shoulder and smiled.

"You're lucky, Yoo-hyun? Go doesn't usually praise anyone like that."

"I'm grateful."

It was not a place to say anything else, so Yoo-hyun expressed his gratitude appropriately.

Go Jun-ho laughed and said,

"Haha. Jo, you're not someone who recommends anyone either."

"I just told the truth."

"So did I."

Yoo-hyun finally understood why Go Jun-ho acted like that when he first came on dispatch.

At that time, Go Jun-ho took good care of him thanks to Jo Chan-young's recommendation.

He thought there was another reason, but he didn't know Jo Chan-young had stepped in personally.

It was only right to return what he received.

Yoo-hyun thanked Jo Chan-young with gratitude.

"Sir, thank you."

"Thank you for what? You did well."

Jo Chan-young smiled kindly at Yoo-hyun.

After a warm conversation for a while,

It was getting close to time, so Go Jun-ho brought up the most important agenda item.

"Manager Kim, how are you feeling?"

"Good."

"That's good. You must be under a lot of pressure, but a lot depends on you."

"I know. I'll make sure to get a good result."

Kim Young-gil answered with a tense posture.

Go Jun-ho got up from his seat and reached out to Kim Young-gil.

“Today, I’m counting on you.”

“Yes, sir.”

Kim Young-gil’s eyes were very serious as he shook hands.

Go Jun-ho’s hand moved to Yoo-hyun.

“Yoo-hyun, I’m counting on you too.”

“Yes, sir.”

“Can I expect more than that?”

He said that, aware of Yoo-hyun’s ambition to show more than expected results.

“Yes. Of course.”

Yoo-hyun answered confidently as always.

That afternoon, the scheduled demo time approached.

The multi-vision on the ceiling of the Ulsan 4th factory lobby displayed a large welcome message in English.

-We sincerely welcome Apple’s visit.

Lim Jun-pyo, the vice president, and Yeo Tae-sik, the executive director, waited for Apple’s visit in the lobby.

It was not a common sight for the two key executives of the LCD business division to stand in the lobby and wait for someone.

That’s how important today’s Apple demo was for Hanseong LCD business division.

And the Apple executive who visited today was also a very important person.

Soon after.

Black sedans entered the Ulsan 4th factory.

They passed through the gate without going through the checkpoint.

Snap.

The security guard at the gate saluted with a stiff posture.

It was a respectful behavior as if the core executives of the Ulsan factory had come.

Soon after, the cars stopped in front of the lobby.

Clank.

The door opened and Apple employees started to get off.

The first one to appear was a man in a suit with a wide forehead, short hair, and round eyes.

His name was Mark Horison.

He was Apple's display chief and a big shot in the LCD industry.

He was also the one who had given Kim Young-gil a hard time in the past.

He ran quickly and opened the door of the car behind him.

A man in a gray shirt and jeans got out of that car.

He had white hair swept back and a big nose that stood out.

He was Philip Schiller, Apple's marketing chief.

He was a person who received Steve Jobs' favor and was expected to be Apple's vice president in the future.

It was very rare for him to visit a Korean LCD company in person.

When Yoo-hyun was in charge of Apple business, he couldn't even meet him.

He only got to know him after Yoo-hyun rose to a high position.

Yoo-hyun saw his face from the stairs of the lobby.

Then, Lim Jun-pyo approached Philip Schiller and greeted him.

"Hello. Thank you for coming all this way."

"Ha ha. Thank you for the warm welcome."

Philip Siller greeted Jun-pyo Lim, the vice president, with a hearty smile.

Mark Harrison was taken care of by Tae-sik Yeo, the executive director.

Then more Apple employees got off.

There were quite a lot of people attending, probably because it was an important demo.

Among them, two people caught Yoo-hyun's attention.

They were John Norman and David Crew, whom he had met in San Francisco a while ago.

As expected of a designer and a hardware engineer, they were very lightly dressed.

They looked relaxed, as if they had just come out of a neighborhood bar.

Yoo-hyun and Young-gil Kim, the manager, greeted them as they came down the stairs.

“Long time no see, John, David.”

“Oh. Steve, nice to see you.”

John Norman, who wore a white T-shirt and spiked his blond hair up, smiled and shook Yoo-hyun’s hand.

And David Crew, who was short and wore glasses, greeted Young-gil Kim.

“Daniel, long time no see.”

“We only exchanged emails until now. Nice to meet you.”

“Ha ha ha. I thought you were only stiff in emails, but you’re like this here too.”

David Crew laughed when Young-gil Kim greeted him curtly.

John Norman pointed at Yoo-hyun with a playful expression.

“Look at Steve. He’s so relaxed.”

“It’s a good day.”

Yoo-hyun replied with a good-natured tone.

“Oh, I’m looking forward to it.”

“You won’t be disappointed.”

Yoo-hyun winked and John Norman laughed.

“Ha ha ha. I was already excited to come here.”

The atmosphere was too lively and the eyes of the people gathered in the lobby were drawn to Yoo-hyun.

In-wook Jung, the team leader, couldn’t close his mouth.

“What is that crazy guy doing?”

“They look very close. How can he do that?”

Gi-yong Maeng, the senior engineer, shook his head as if he couldn’t understand.

Everyone else felt the same way.

Philip Siller turned his head at the buzzing sound.

He chuckled when he saw John Norman chatting happily.

John Norman raised his hand slightly toward him.

They had a big age difference, but they seemed to have a close relationship.

Yoo-hyun smiled inwardly at the sight.

The Apple employees followed Jun-ho Go, the senior director, who led the front line to the conference room.

Philip Siller was accompanied by Jun-pyo Lim, the vice president, and Mark Harrison by Tae-sik Yeo, the executive director.

Chan-young Jo, the senior director, intervened from time to time to interpret when they had trouble with English.

Then John Norman and David Crew followed Yoo-hyun and Young-gil Kim.

John Norman looked around the lobby and said,

“This is my first time at an LCD factory.”

“It doesn’t look like much from the outside, does it?”

“But it’s quite large, isn’t it?”

“If you have a chance later, I’ll show you around the inside of the factory.”

“Oh. That sounds good.”

John Norman accepted Yoo-hyun’s offer with a smile.

Not only John Norman but also David Crew was their first time at an LCD company.

In fact, it was unprecedented for designers and engineers to come all the way here.

But why did they attend?

Of course, Young-gil Kim’s constant communication with them had an influence.

But more importantly, they were the key players who would lead the next Apple.

They might look like the most insignificant among the employees who attended today by their age, appearance, or behavior.

But not in Yoo-hyun’s eyes.

They were the key members who would decide today’s outcome.

On the table in the conference room were demo panels neatly arranged.

The basic was to compare and experience mockup panels and existing Apple panels.

They also separated those with mockups and those without mockups.

They also differentiated mockups by color and matched internal image themes for each color.

There were quite a lot of things to see with various combinations even though there was only one type of panel.

Jun-ho Go, the senior director, spoke to the Apple employees who entered the conference room.

“There are panels on the table. The details will be explained by the staff next to them.”

As he said that, some of the pre-product team members were standing by to explain.

They all looked nervous because they were weak in English.

Mark Harrison looked around the inside of the conference room and said to Tae-sik Yeo,

“You are well prepared.”

“Yes. We worked hard.”

Mark Harrison seemed more focused on the scenery inside the conference room than on the demo.

The wall of the conference room was full of prints.

They printed out how they were produced and what processes they went through and decorated them on the wall.

It reminded him of a poster presentation for a paper with many images and texts filling the inside of the conference room.

He paid attention to the numbers that were densely filled, as befitting an LCD expert.

But Apple’s young friends were not interested in that at all.

Chapter 276

John Norman exclaimed loudly as he saw the ultra-high-resolution panel on the table.

“Wow. David, look at this.”

“It’s amazing. It looks like a real photo.”

“The mockup is even more amazing. I think this is better than my design.”

“How did they make the inside of the mockup?”

David Crew asked John Norman when it happened.

Maeng Giyong, the senior engineer, tried to guide them, but he couldn't interrupt their fast conversation.

Yoo-hyun, who was standing behind, stepped forward and said.

“The separated panels are displayed on the side table.”

“Ah, thank you, Steve.”

David Crew thanked him and went to the side table to touch the panel with the mockup removed.

Yoo-hyun added a word appropriately.

“This is a prototype, so there are bulky parts of IC and board. This will be improved in the next version as shown in the post attached to the front.”

As David Crew answered, John Norman cut in.

“That's not important. What's important is that it's beautiful.”

He seemed to be already fascinated by the ultra-high-resolution panel.

It was a panel that had attracted a lot of attention even when it was a shabby mockup with a low-quality setting.

It was natural that this panel, which was much better than before, caught people's eyes.

Moreover, they added Apple's sensibility to the mockup and arranged the internal images appropriately.

They had to please the designer, especially John Norman, who led Apple's innovative design.

John Norman enjoyed the demo product while talking endlessly with David Crew.

“Wow, the themes are different for each color. That's art.”

“I know. We should apply this part to our side.”

“And this design part is...”

“More than that, how did they do this with one IC...”

As their conversation got longer, Mark Horison coughed to set the mood.

“John, we should move on...”

“Just a minute. Let me see a little more.”

But John Norman shook his head firmly.

Seeing Mark Horison’s blank expression, Philip Siller smiled.

“Let them be. They are the talents who will lead Apple’s future.”

“Yes. I understand.”

Meanwhile, Junpyo Lim, the vice president, skillfully handled the conversation with Philip Siller.

“From today’s report...”

“Yes. That’s how we should proceed...”

Yoo-hyun smiled as he felt the positive energy around him.

The game was already tilted.

It was after the demo that was as free as a college exhibition.

Only Apple’s personnel and Hansung’s team leaders and above attended the meeting.

Of course, Kim Younggil, the manager who presented, and Yoo-hyun who helped him were also there.

Go Junho, the executive director who guided them today, smiled and thanked them.

“Thank you for enjoying our demo today.”

Then John Norman raised his hand and said loudly.

“It’s wonderful. I’m already hooked. We have to do this.”

“Ahem. John, wait a minute.”

Mark Horison coughed and stopped him, but John Norman shook his head.

“Mark, you don’t have to be so stiff. We have to admit when something is good.”

“I get it, so be quiet for a while.”

Mark Horison put his index finger on his lips and said.

Philip Siller, who had been smiling all along, added a word.

“Mark is right. John, I hope you respect each other’s business areas.”

“Yes, I understand.”

Then John Norman quickly lowered his tail.

It was a glimpse of Philip Siller's presence.

In that atmosphere, Kim Younggil stood on the podium.

He seemed nervous as his legs were shaking.

It was something he and Yoo-hyun had practiced countless times together.

They drew all kinds of scenarios and responded accordingly.

They prepared thoroughly enough.

There was no way it wouldn't work.

Yoo-hyun winked at Kim Younggil and gave him a thumbs up.

He chuckled and took a breath.

His eyes sparkled as if his trembling had stopped.

Click.

As Yoo-hyun pressed the laptop button, the presentation material appeared on the screen.

The presentation content itself was brief.

“Our ultra-high-resolution panel is...”

Since they had already agreed and developed it beforehand, there was nothing to go deep into the inside part.

It was time to decide something more important.

Mark Horison asked sharply.

“The price is the problem after all.”

“Yes. The price is one thing, but we also need to increase the absolute quantity to supply for iPhone 4.”

Kim Younggil pointed out the problem without any exaggeration.

Mark Horison maintained an aggressive attitude as if he knew it already.

“That sounds like Hansung can't do it?”

“No. Hansung plans to apply an idea of reducing masks to secure panel production.”

“That still seems hard to keep up with the expected sales of iPhone 4.”

Mark Horison continued to ask sharp questions.

Philip Siller just sat and listened.

As the tension increased, Junpyo Lim's brow narrowed.

Yetaesik, the executive director, and Gomunho, the executive director, were the same.

Was it because Apple's offensive was strong?

No.

This was a scenario they had prepared in advance.

They were more alert to what Kim Younggil was about to say.

Kim Younggil said as he had practiced.

"There is one effective way."

"What is it?"

"If we increase the factory, we can solve the productivity and price problems."

"Is Hansung planning to invest in the factory?"

Mark Horison asked as if he didn't know.

Yoo-hyun saw that he was deliberately hiding his cards.

Philip Siller, who was just listening, was the same.

They couldn't have not known the problem that even ordinary people knew through articles.

But they came this far, meaning they had their own measures.

In other words, they had already planned to invest in a factory.

Kim Young-gil, the manager who caught Yoo-hyun's gaze, boldly spoke up.

"Yes, we plan to invest."

"When?"

"By November this year, we have to start digging if we want to catch up with the iPhone 4 launch."

He answered in a question-and-answer style, and Mark Harrison asked.

"Can you catch up with that launch?"

"That depends on the decision of the higher-ups. To expedite that decision, we need confirmation from Apple that they will use Hansung LCD."

Apple couldn't say that they would use Hansung LCD right away.

It meant guaranteeing the volume and price of the panels, but the timing was too early.

Mark Harrison had no choice but to resist from his perspective.

“Huh. We can’t make a decision in such an uncertain situation.”

“We are in the same situation. We can’t make a decision without Apple’s confirmation.”

Both of them pushed back the matter of factory investment.

They knew that there was no reason to lose first in this situation.

Mark Harrison, who got a sign from Philip Siller, changed his strategy.

“Objectively speaking, we can collaborate with Ilseong, who has many OLED factories.”

“I know that Ilseong is all-in on OLED.”

“That’s something we can negotiate.”

“It won’t be easy.”

Kim Young-gil shook his head, and Mark Harrison showed a more relaxed expression.

“There is another way. Sharp came up with a good idea.”

“The idea of producing high-resolution panels in large quantities at LCD factories.”

“Yes, you know well.”

“Of course. I’ve reviewed it, but it’s not easy.”

“But Sharp said they could do it. Well, then here’s a question.”

Mark Harrison put a brake on the conversation.

It also meant that he was going to play his trump card.

“...”

Kim Young-gil swallowed his dry saliva nervously, and Mark Harrison smiled mischievously with curiosity.

“Do we have to wait anxiously for Hansung’s panels? Or is it better to contact Ilseong or Sharp and choose the best one?”

The question that everyone expected came out of Mark Harrison’s mouth.

As expected, Apple was a thorough profit group.

They didn't have to stick to Hansung as the dominant party.

It was advantageous for them to dip their feet in various companies and choose the best one among them.

But there was something that Mark Harrison didn't consider.

Yoo-hyun nodded at Kim Young-gil.

Kim Young-gil recalled what Yoo-hyun had said a while ago.

-When you bet, you have to go beyond the range of your opponent's prediction. That's how you win.

He had already prepared enough and told the higher-ups that he would do so.

He couldn't back down here after going through that process?

There was no such thing.

Kim Young-gil clenched his fist and boldly said.

"I respect Apple's position enough."

"Then you understand that the answer is the latter."

"Yes. That's right."

"I see."

Mark Harrison smiled and tried to pass the baton to Philip Siller.

Now Philip Siller would pretend to give Hansung a chance with a friendly smile.

He would bring up the matter of factory investment that everyone here wanted.

Of course, there would be extremely unfavorable conditions for Hansung attached to it.

It had already happened in the past.

He didn't want to let that happen again.

Kim Young-gil opened his mouth before Yoo-hyun gave him a sign.

"However, only if the other companies are really able to produce them."

Mark Harrison opened his mouth again as he whispered to Philip Siller.

"I told you that earlier."

"That's just an assumption. But I think there is no company other than Hansung that can mass-produce them by the time iPhone 4 comes out."

“How do you know that?”

“That’s not important. What’s important is that if Hansung doesn’t build a factory by November this year, Hansung won’t be able to respond to iPhone 4 either.”

“...”

Everyone was silent at Kim Young-gil’s bold provocation.

The situation seemed reversed as if the roles of G and E had changed.

Even Mark Harrison was flustered by this unexpected cliffhanger tactic.

It was Apple’s trademark strategy after all.

He regained his composure and tried to fight back again.

John Norman, who had been listening to the meeting distractedly while fiddling with the mockup, snapped.

“Mark, we have to make this panel no matter what.”

“John, wait a minute.”

“No way. We can’t use any other panel. We have to go with this one.”

“Ha...”

Mark Harrison looked embarrassed.

Then, Philip Siller, who had been silent all along, spoke.

“We hope you understand that we can’t promise to supply the panels for Hansung to build a factory right now.”

“Yes, I understand.”

“But we also understand Hansung’s position, so how about this? We invest in the factory and get the panels produced there at a low price.”

The volume guarantee and the factory investment were different.

The volume guarantee meant paying a deposit and getting only those panels.

On the other hand, the factory investment meant that Apple could get any panel produced at the factory at a low price.

It was not a loss for Apple.

And that amount of money was not a big deal for Apple.

At Philip Siller’s casual remark, Lim Jun-pyo, the vice president, raised his eyebrows.

He thought he had caught the fish he wanted.

But Yoo-hyun shook his head at Kim Young-gil.

It was a scenario they had already agreed on.

Kim Young-gil responded to Yoo-hyun's gaze.

"That sounds like a good idea. However."

"However?"

"We want to proceed with the investment, but we want to decide on the details in November, not now."

The atmosphere in the meeting room stirred at Kim Young-gil's sudden remark.

"Sigh."

Lim Jun-pyo sighed and buried his head in his hands.

He knew it already, but it still hurt his heart.

He felt like he was letting go of a fish he had already caught.

Chapter 277

Philip Siller asked with a puzzled look.

"Why?"

"By investing in the factory, Apple will secure a large supply of Hansung panels."

"That's right."

"But if other companies can produce panels at Hansung's level, Apple's investment might become a loss depending on the conditions."

"That's possible. But didn't you say that other companies can't do it?"

"I was just thinking from Apple's perspective."

Philip Siller narrowed his eyes at Kim Young-gil's words.

It was obvious that he didn't think that way at all.

But he also guessed why he was delaying the deal by bringing up Apple.

Philip Siller snorted and said.

"So you want to see the status of other companies in November and decide on the details? And build the factory in the meantime?"

"Yes. It's better to build the factory as soon as possible to secure the supply with stability."

“But I think it will be hard to decide on the details even then.”

It was natural to think like Philip Siller.

It was only possible to compare when other panels were ready.

November was a tight schedule for other companies that didn't have any products yet.

Kim Young-gil boldly said what he had prepared.

“How about this?”

“What?”

“In November, Ilseong, Hansung, and Sharp will hold a panel evaluation meeting for Apple Phone 4 at the same time. In the U.S.”

“That's not easy for other companies to respond to.”

“Didn't they say they could do it through the media?”

Philip Siller's eyebrows twitched at Kim Young-gil's words.

It was true that the panel companies had aggressively responded and said they could do it.

And if they held an evaluation meeting using the current issue, it would also help a lot with Apple Phone's promotion.

It was an offer that the Apple marketing manager couldn't refuse.

“What if the companies are not ready?”

“You can judge based on their preparedness. It's better than having no criteria at all.”

If the companies were ready and brought better panels than Hansung, he could lower the price of Hansung panels through a contract.

If they were not ready, but had high potential, that would also be a condition to lower the price.

If they had no potential at all, he could just give Hansung favorable conditions.

He could get back at least the factory investment money anyway.

“...”

Yoo-hyun knew that the result was decided by looking at Philip Siller's silence.

It was a condition that Apple couldn't refuse.

Philip Siller nodded as if agreeing with Yoo-hyun's thoughts.

“Okay. Let’s try to proceed like that.”

“Thank you.”

“I’ll check on the evaluation meeting part first.”

“Yes. I’ll prepare accordingly.”

Kim Young-gil nodded his head.

Vice President Lim Jun-pyo had a face that went through hell and heaven.

He had a big smile on his mouth now.

It was after the presentation.

Philip Siller left his seat for a while to make a phone call with Mark Horison.

The Apple employees, including John Norman, were still fascinated by the demo panels.

Vice President Lim Jun-pyo came forward and took care of Kim Young-gil.

“Haha. You did well.”

“Yoo-hyun here helped a lot.”

Vice President Lim Jun-pyo grabbed Yoo-hyun’s hand and said.

“Hehe. It worked out as you said.”

“I’m glad.”

“You did really well. What can I do for you?”

“The team members worked hard.”

“Of course I have to take care of them. Well, anyway.”

Vice President Lim Jun-pyo looked very happy.

He was glad that the factory investment deal that had been stuck was progressing.

He didn’t care about the details of the factory contract.

He was a contract executive who didn’t think about the distant future.

Yoo-hyun understood his feelings well.

But there was still something to do.

He said to him who was smiling brightly.

“Vice President, as I told you before, we need to deal with the media.”

“It doesn’t seem like a good atmosphere for an interview?”

“It will be necessary for Apple now.”

“Why?”

“If we get help from the media, it will be easier to hold the evaluation meeting.”

When Vice President Lim Jun-pyo looked puzzled at Yoo-hyun’s words, Philip Siller came back after finishing his call and said.

“The upper management is also positive about the factory investment.”

“Oh, that’s good. Haha. Thank you for your good suggestion.”

Vice President Lim Jun-pyo smiled.

But Philip Siller’s expression was not so bright.

“Yes. But the evaluation meeting is a problem.”

“Why?”

“It’s because of the schedule.”

Vice President Lim Jun-pyo blinked his eyes and looked at Yoo-hyun when he heard Philip Siller’s words.

It was because what he had just said came out of the young employee’s mouth.

He hesitated for a moment and opened his mouth.

“Then how about using the media? What I mean is...”

“That sounds like a good idea, don’t you think?”

Philip Siller gave a positive response right away.

Mark Horison, who was next to him, also nodded his head.

“Then it will also help our image. It’s a bit burdensome to ask the companies directly.”

“Is that so?”

When Vice President Lim Jun-pyo asked, Philip Siller gave an affirmative and worried answer.

“Yes. I think it would be better to have an article written in Korea...”

Vice President Lim Jun-pyo glanced at Yoo-hyun and said to Philip Siller.

“There is a media outlet called Our Daily, which is the most famous one in Korea.”

“Can you connect with them?”

“Yes. They are waiting for me in Ulsan because I have some business there.”

“You are doing me a lot of favors.”

“It’s something I have to do. Haha.”

Vice President Lim Jun-pyo laughed and gestured to Yoo-hyun.

He meant to contact him quickly.

Yoo-hyun nodded and left.

He saw that and chuckled.

It was because everything went smoothly as Yoo-hyun had said.

Yoo-hyun wasn’t the only one who was surprised by him.

A moment later, John Norman, who was touching the mockup, asked Kim Young-gil.

“Daniel, can we take this with us?”

“Oh, Steve here will answer that for you.”

Kim Young-gil passed the baton and Yoo-hyun answered.

“I’m sorry, but we have security issues, so we can’t give you the panel.”

“That’s too bad.”

“But we will distribute the comparison photos.”

“Yes. That would be nice.”

John Norman looked disappointed.

Then Yoo-hyun casually brought up something that would interest him.

“And we can give you the mockup and the internal design, but...”

“Oh? Really? That’s more important to me than the panel. I love these designs.”

He looked at John Norman eagerly and teased him.

“But we bought these through a company.”

“Of course you have to pay for the design. I can pay you as much as you want.”

“Ah, then I’ll check with our manager about that.”

“Okay. Please do.”

The mockup and design didn't matter to the company if they went to Apple.

But Yoo-hyun couldn't make that decision alone.

There was still some part of the company's assets involved.

Yoo-hyun asked Go Jun-ho for his opinion.

“Manager, John Norman...”

“It's not impossible. But we paid for the mockup. We have rights too.”

“I'll consult with Semiconductors about that.”

As Yoo-hyun answered, Go Jun-ho continued.

“And the internal design is...”

He paused and looked at Yoo-hyun with a strange eye.

“Did you anticipate this and not pay your sister for the design?”

“Of course not.”

“Well... Since we didn't sign a contract with your sister, we can give her design to Apple.”

“Yes. Then I'll proceed like that.”

He nodded his head and Go Jun-ho looked at him curiously.

In the meantime, Yoo-hyun went back to John Norman with a happy face.

And he shook hands with him as if he was pleased.

Go Jun-ho watched them blankly.

He muttered to himself without knowing it.

“No way.”

Apple didn't leave right after the presentation.

They enjoyed the dinner prepared by Vice President Lim Jun-pyo and had an interview with Our Daily.

Vice President Lim Jun-pyo stayed with them until all the processes were over.

He couldn't leave before other people when he was there.

It was late at night when everything was over.

Yoo-hyun didn't go home after finishing his hectic schedule.

Instead, he met Kim Young-gil at a bar in Ulsan city center.

He poured him a drink and asked.

“You could have taken Jo Manager’s car. It would have been more comfortable.”

“No no. It’s better to stay up all night and take the morning train.”

Kim Young-gil laughed and held out his glass.

Clang.

It was their time alone after a long time.

Kim Young-gil said with nostalgia.

“I remember when we went to San Francisco.”

“Yes. It was nice then.”

“It was thanks to you.”

“It was thanks to Jang Hye-min senior.”

He smiled and drank his alcohol.

He lowered his voice and said.

“I learned a lot from you there.”

“No. You did it yourself.”

“It was thanks to you that I followed Shin Kyung-wook manager and made connections with Apple employees.”

“...”

Kim Young-gil looked at Yoo-hyun.

It was different from the past when he avoided Yoo-hyun’s eyes.

He faced Yoo-hyun directly.

“It was thanks to you that I could do this project too.”

“We did it together.”

“It was thanks to you that I could do well in the presentation too.”

“You did it yourself.”

“I got praised by people too.”

“Because you did well.”

He emptied his glass every time he spoke.

And every time, he gave credit to Yoo-hyun.

He had a long smile on his face as if he had a pleasant imagination.

“That stiff Mark Horison gave me a thumbs up. I felt so good then.”

“You deserved it. You were awesome today.”

“Yeah, yeah.”

He emptied another glass and looked at Yoo-hyun intently.

He grabbed Yoo-hyun’s hand, who had always worked alone.

His sincerity was conveyed through the warmth of his hand.

Yoo-hyun felt awkward and changed the subject.

“Manager, you seem drunk.”

“Yeah. Thanks to you, I can get drunk like this happily.”

“Come on, have a drink.”

Clang.

He held out his glass and called Yoo-hyun.

“Yoo-hyun.”

“Yes, manager.”

“Why are you so good to me?”

His past self overlapped with his warm eyes.

When he had everything and Yoo-hyun was mistaken, he looked at Yoo-hyun.

-Kwon Se-jung died.

There was indifference in his eyes.

Another past Kim Young-gil flashed by.

When he used people and Yoo-hyun was successful, he looked at Yoo-hyun.

-Why are you here when you’re so capable?

There was self-reproach in his eyes.

In an instant.

The moments he had spent with Kim Young-gil passed by like a panorama in Yoo-hyun’s head.

He never blamed Yoo-hyun.

He didn't envy or resent him.

He lifted up his poor junior even when he lost everything he had built up.

Was he sorry for him?

Was that why he was good to him?

No.

Chapter 278

Yoo-hyun spoke sincerely.

"I like you, Manager Kim, because you always do your best in everything."

"No, you would have done better if you did it."

"That wouldn't have been possible."

"Come on, I know that much."

If it was just about the presentation, maybe that was true.

But if Yoo-hyun had focused on the presentation, he wouldn't have had time to look around.

Thanks to Manager Kim's excellent performance, Yoo-hyun was able to do something else.

"Manager Kim, you are doing really well."

"...I did improve a lot thanks to you."

"No, you spread your wings by yourself."

"I still have a long way to go."

Manager Kim emptied his glass and blamed himself.

It would be nice if he could just let it go like Deputy Manager Park, but he was not that kind of person.

He was the type who whipped himself until he was satisfied.

Yoo-hyun changed his approach and planted a goal in him.

"Do you think you are lacking, Manager Kim?"

"Yes, a lot."

"Then show it in the November presentation."

At Yoo-hyun's words, he stopped drinking his glass.

“November, huh.”

“That’s in the U.S. It’s different from now.”

“Right. We’ll be competing with Sharp and Ilseong.”

“You might even have to present directly in front of Steve Jobs.”

Yoo-hyun raised the scale, and Manager Kim’s hand trembled.

He even gave a nervous laugh as he thought about it.

“That’s no joke, right?”

“After that presentation, you will be the first and the best in Hansung.”

“...”

“The opponent is Steve Jobs.”

Yoo-hyun told him the truth without exaggeration.

At some point, Manager Kim’s trembling stopped.

He blinked his eyes and asked.

“I have to pour everything out then, right?”

“Yes. You have to run with full power.”

“It’s not the time for this then.”

“Yes. That’s right.”

Manager Kim was already preparing to run.

He had a good attitude, but it was time to rest for a while.

Yoo-hyun lifted his glass and said.

“Manager Kim, just enjoy today.”

“You’re something else.”

“We still have plenty of time left.”

Manager Kim gave a bitter smile and lifted his glass.

Clang.

The two glasses collided.

The second half of 2008.

The iPhone craze began to sweep the world.

<iPhone 2 with App Store, speeding up in the North American market.>

<iPhone growth soaring. Smartphone market potential exceeds experts' expectations.>

<iPhone confirmed to land in Korea next year. The smartphone storm is coming.>

Even though it was not released in Korea yet, people's interest increased day by day.

It was not because of the overseas reviews.

The reason could be found in the following article and its comments.

<iPod Touch, expected to cause a sensation as soon as it launches in Korea.>

-I tried iPod Touch, and it's awesome. Multi-touch is a whole new world.

-iPod Touch and iPhone are the same, right? But why isn't it released in Korea?

-iPhone supports Wi-Fi. You can use the internet for free with Wi-Fi.

-Tsk tsk. The telecom companies and phone sellers should be kicked out.

People belatedly realized what iPhone was like through iPod Touch.

That experience spread quickly.

People criticized the domestic phones that were different from iPhone.

The more they did, the more people waited for iPhone.

iPhone became a formula for success in people's minds. That was also the point that Yoo-hyun predicted accurately.

At that time, news that caught people's attention came up.

<Apple confirms to invest in Hansung Electronics' iPhone panel production plant.>

The article was not very faithful to its content, but comments poured out like water.

-Awesome. Did Hansung beat Sharp?

-I knew it would happen. Hansung panel is super hit.

-Victory over Japan. Congratulations congratulations.

The news had more impact because they were waging a media war.

Sharp's executives who were all-in on high-resolution panels were flustered.

Ilseong also tried to counter Hansung who suddenly came out strong.

There was a gap in time and another news came up.

It was an article that Yoo-hyun sent out through reporter Oh Eun Bi at the intended time.

<Apple's Philip Schiller "Next-generation iPhone panel not decided yet. Suggests official evaluation meeting in November.">

If it was any other time, the aftermath of this article might not have been so great.

But the series of events raised the attention level of the next iPhone panel as high as possible.

On top of that, Hansung released an article as a nail in the coffin.

<Hansung LCD "High-resolution panel, it has to be Hansung. You will find out at this evaluation meeting.">

When that news spread quickly.

A conference room at Sharp's headquarters in Japan.

The vice president in charge of mobile LCD pleaded with the executives in front of him.

"Damn it. Run away from here? Is that what you call a word?"

"But the risk is high."

The vice president raised his voice toward the worried development center manager.

"Who told you to mass-produce? You just have to make it at a demo level."

"But..."

"Why are you so scared? You said you could do it before."

"..."

Not only the development center manager, but everyone who participated in the meeting was silent.

That was because it was a media play to shake Hansung.

The vice president knew it too, but he couldn't just sit back and watch.

"The stakes are so high and you want to run away? Do you think the customers will stay still?"

“I’m sorry.”

“Just do it. You have to do it.”

The vice president stood up from his seat and yelled angrily.

“Yes, sir.”

The executives who were trembling with fear bowed their heads at the same time.

That promise soon exploded as a counterattack article against Hansung.

<Japan’s Sharp “We are already prepared. We will show a result that can’t be compared with Hansung LCD.”>

Yoo-hyun, who was reading the article on the internet in his office, chuckled.

“They must be on fire.”

There are some things that you can know without experiencing them.

Sharp’s situation right now was like that.

Yoo-hyun read Sharp’s fear from the article that was written long-windedly.

They said they were confident, but the details were all about possibilities.

It was obvious that they were responding out of necessity.

Ilseong’s situation was even more hilarious.

<Ilseong “OLED panel’s quality is supreme than high-resolution. We will prove it.”>

As if Ilseong was the only one who pushed OLED instead of high-resolution.

They tried to make high-resolution panels, but they couldn’t say it because the Crown Prince project was in progress.

But they couldn’t miss the Apple evaluation meeting either.

That would be admitting that they were behind Hansung and Sharp.

So they came up with OLED as a last resort.

They might have a chance in the future, but at the current level, Apple wouldn’t bite it.

Of course, the engineers all knew that fact.

Yoo-hyun felt sorry for Ilseong’s employees for no reason.

That was when.

Senior Maeng Gi Yong, who stuck his head next to Yoo-hyun, asked.

“Why do you look so pitiful?”

“Just because.”

When Yoo-hyun dodged the question, Senior Maeng pointed at the monitor screen and said.

“They’re really having an evaluation meeting.”

“That’s right.”

“But aren’t we too advantageous?”

“Why?”

At Yoo-hyun’s question, Senior Maeng gave a realistic answer.

“We already made it. The other companies haven’t even come out yet.”

“Do you think they won’t do it?”

“Is it easy? The schedule is too tight...”

Senior Maeng was not the only one who thought so.

Everyone here was an engineer.

They knew what technology could and couldn’t do from experience.

That confidence showed on their faces.

That’s why they didn’t look nervous even though they faced such an important evaluation meeting.

It was a very desirable sight.

That afternoon, in the middle conference room.

Senior Kim Ho Gul said to the team members who gathered.

“First of all, I want us to focus on what we have to do. To commercialize this panel, we need to...”

He set the tone well in case they became complacent.

He listed the problems from a product perspective and derived improvement items.

Senior Kim Ho Gul clearly had a long-term vision.

He could do that because he had technical expertise and diverse experience as a foundation.

Yoo-hyun felt Senior Kim Ho Gul's strength again.

“Let's share the ideas we prepared today.”

Following Senior Kim Ho Gul's words, the team members shared their ideas.

Senior Go Seong Cheol, the leader of Preceding Product Team 2, presented first.

“As a way to improve the panel yield, we can...”

Senior Maeng also came up with an improvement plan.

“To reduce the IC size, we can remove unnecessary parts and...”

The other team members also gave their ideas one by one.

“The improvement point in my part is...”

“My idea is...”

There was a clear direction, so no one deviated from it.

They all pedaled by themselves and moved forward.

They did well by themselves even without Yoo-hyun now.

Senior Min Su Jin looked at Yoo-hyun blankly and said.

“Yoo-hyun, you don't flip over meetings these days.”

“Did I do that?”

“Oh, look at him pretending not to know. Don't you see people still care about you?”

“They must like me too much.”

When Yoo-hyun said that with a good-natured tone, Senior Min burst into laughter.

“Hohohoho.”

She bowed her head low at the sudden attention of people around her.

“I'm sorry.”

Her face turned red as she always looked cold.

It was an unexpected sight for Yoo-hyun, who chuckled softly.

That was when.

The speaker in the office announced something.

-According to the business director's order, pizza is being distributed to each team. Please come down to the cafeteria on the first floor if you are in charge of your team.

Everyone looked startled at that moment.

It was not time to be dazed like this.

The early bird catches the worm.

Vroom.

"I'll get it."

Yoo-hyun got up, and Deputy Lee Jin Mok, who followed him, said.

"Let's go together."

"Yes. Let's do that."

Yoo-hyun moved first as he answered.

Soon, a few more people joined them.

A little later.

Pizza and cola were piled up on the team table.

It was the best brand pizza in the neighborhood, and there was a lot of it.

Deputy Lee Jin Mok smiled and said.

"The business director must be in a good mood. He sent this to all the factories in Ulsan."

"That's right. He also gave us a bonus for the team."

Deputy Jung In Wook said that, and Senior Maeng blinked his eyes and jumped in.

"Really?"

"Ask the team leader."

Senior Kim Ho Gul, who was listening, shook his head helplessly.

"Jung Deputy ruined it."

"Well, what can I say. I think the group leader also took care of us."

"Oh."

The people who heard Deputy Jung's words exclaimed.

Everyone's faces were full of pride.

Yoo-hyun saw that and thought of Vice President Lim Jun Pyo's bright expression a while ago.

He had a reason to be happy.

All the shackles that held him were gone.

What would he be doing now?

Maybe he was shouting loudly in front of the finance director.

Chapter 279

At that moment, in the office of the home appliance business director on the 18th floor of Hansung Tower.

Vice President Shin Cheon-sik laughed sarcastically after hearing the report.

“Heh. Did Im Jun-pyo yell at the finance director?”

Executive Director Yoon Ju-tak, who had swept his white hair to the side, answered with a stiff expression.

“Yes. I received a report that he left a while ago.”

“Tsk tsk. The LCD division is going downhill.”

“The situation is not good. The link between the LCD division and ours is too weak.”

It was as Yoon Ju-tak said.

Vice President Im Jun-pyo, who was sent away with a pack of luggage, came back to life, and Executive Director Lee Tae-ryong, who was sent to take over the LCD division, was kicked out.

Everything went wrong because of these two unexpected events.

Vice President Shin Cheon-sik said with a serious expression.

“That can't happen. We have to build our power before the chairman succession process begins.”

“I have a plan in mind.”

“What is it?”

“That is...”

Vice President Shin Cheon-sik laughed loudly after hearing Yoon Ju-tak's story.

“Heh. You’re amazing, Yoon. If that happens, we can shake both the phone and LCD divisions at once.”

“Yes. We have more than half of the other divisions under our control.”

“Okay. Go ahead with that plan.”

Vice President Shin Cheon-sik’s mouth curled up.

While a conspiracy was being formed from afar, the office was peaceful.

Yoo-hyun was enjoying such a peaceful life.

Then he received a long-awaited phone call.

He got up from his seat and answered the phone while walking down the hallway.

“Jin-geon.”

-Sorry. I was so busy that I couldn’t contact you.

“No. You must have been very busy.”

Fortunately, Hyun Jin-geon’s voice didn’t sound too bad.

Yoo-hyun was curious about how things went, but he waited first.

Then Hyun Jin-geon explained what had happened.

-What happened was...

He filed a complaint with the Ministry of Defense after hearing Yoo-hyun’s words.

He said there was a problem with the ammunition depot of the 17th Division.

He didn’t stop there. He called the unit, and when that didn’t work, he went there himself.

-A team of investigators came out.

“That’s amazing. It must have been hard.”

-No. They weren’t unreasonable people.

Hyun Jin-geon answered casually, but Yoo-hyun knew it wasn’t true.

How could they listen to an outsider, who had nothing to do with them, pointing out their problems?

It didn’t make sense.

There must have been a lot of effort and hard work from Hyun Jin-geon.

Hyun Jin-geon spoke first, so Yoo-hyun asked him what he was curious about.

“Did the investigation team admit there was a problem?”

-No, they didn't.

“Of course. Even if there was a problem, they wouldn't say it.”

-Right. I heard the result from my brother.

“Did they fix it?”

-It seems like the problem was serious. So they completely reorganized the ammunition depot.

“Ha. That's great.”

Yoo-hyun sighed with relief without realizing it.

He had been anxious since he told Hyun Jin-geon.

Hyun Jin-geon also spat out his shaky voice with a thrill.

-Yeah. If what you said was true and there was an explosion in the ammunition depot, it would have been terrible...

“Still, be careful. Tell your brother to watch out for falling leaves.”

-I got it. I should do that.

Hyun Jin-geon called Yoo-hyun out loud.

-Yoo-hyun.

“Hmm?”

-Thank you so much for caring about me.

It was what Yoo-hyun wanted to say to him, but he heard it from him instead.

It felt like he had paid off some of his debt that had accumulated for a long time.

“Don't thank me. You did all the work.”

-No. It's thanks to you.

“Stop it. Buy me a drink later.”

Yoo-hyun said with a smile, and Hyun Jin-geon said in a serious voice.

-Yoo-hyun, if you ever need anything from me, just ask me.

“What?”

-Just because. I want to do anything for you.

Yoo-hyun knew his style better than anyone else.

He was someone who would do anything if he said so.

Yoo-hyun recalled his old memories and joked with him.

“Can you do anything for me if I ask you to throw away billions of won?”

-No. Not that. A few hundred million won is okay though.

He was someone who could joke like that too.

Yoo-hyun laughed and said.

“Haha. Okay. I promise.”

-Sure.

“Okay. Remember that I’m the type who takes everything.”

-Don’t worry. I’m the type who likes to be a sucker.

“Puhahaha.”

Yoo-hyun laughed for a long time with him, exchanging jokes.

It was the moment when an old acquaintance who had been grateful to him became a precious friend.

Hyun Jin-geon’s work was not the only thing that went well.

Good things happened here and there.

There was one place that hit the jackpot.

It was Semi Electronics.

The interview of John Norman, who attended the US Design Forum, was the beginning.

<Apple Designer “I got inspiration for the next Apple phone design from the mockup of Korean Semi Electronics.”>

It was a time when anything with Apple’s name would cause a stir.

The impact of the news that broke out of nowhere was not small.

He was able to hear the situation through a phone call from Lim Han-seop, an assistant manager.

His excited voice echoed through Yoo-hyun’s phone speaker.

-I never imagined that our entire product sales would surge because of an irrelevant mockup.

“That’s how influential Apple is.”

-Yoo-hyun, you’re right. The president was singing praises for making the mockup.

As he listened to Lim Han-seop’s words, Yoo-hyun imagined the atmosphere at Semi Electronics.

It must have been festive there, just like at Hansung.

It was a good thing that the company he worked with was doing well.

“That’s great. It means Semi Electronics did a good job.”

-It’s just a slightly enlarged version of the color phone design, what’s so great about it?

“Don’t you think the engineers will be disappointed if you say that?”

-Still, I wonder if it’s worth being praised by Apple.

“You should accept what they give you. What’s wrong with that?”

-You’re right. Haha.

Lim Han-seop laughed heartily, feeling good.

Then he expressed his gratitude to Yoo-hyun.

-Thank you. It’s all thanks to you.

“I don’t deserve your thanks. It was our manager who took care of it.”

It wasn’t just a polite remark.

Semi Electronics bought the mockup from Hansung.

They couldn’t sell it to Apple without Hansung’s permission.

In that process, the one who made the decision was Executive Director Go Jun-ho.

Lim Han-seop answered on the spot.

-I already contacted him.

“You did well.”

-When are you coming to Seoul, Yoo-hyun? I’ll treat you well.

He was feeling generous, even though he didn’t get much out of it.

Feeling his senior’s sincerity, Yoo-hyun agreed right away.

“Can I look forward to it?”

-Of course. I'll make a reservation with Jun-gi.

“Okay. Sounds good.”

Yoo-hyun happily answered and hung up the phone.

He leaned back on his chair and thought.

Why did John Norman do that interview?

The mockup made by Semi Electronics was not much different from the color phone mockup, as Lim Han-seop said.

It was possible to make it light by using stainless steel material because it was a post-processing.

That kind of design must have been abundant at Apple.

-The most important thing for a designer is inspiration. Anything that gives inspiration has value.

Yoo-hyun recalled what John Norman, the chief designer of Apple in the distant future, had said.

He paid a huge price for anything that gave him inspiration, no matter how trivial it was.

There were countless stories like that.

He bought the mockup from Semi Electronics and praised it because it gave him inspiration.

For that reason, he also bought the mockup interior design made by Han Jae-hee.

No, he tried to buy it.

That evening.

When he got home, Yoo-hyun received a phone call from Han Jae-hee and was dumbfounded.

“Why are you telling me this now?”

-I thought it was spam for sure.

“Ha, really. Forward me the email.”

-Okay. Just a second.

A moment later, Yoo-hyun sat at his desk and looked at the email that Han Jae-
hee had sent him.

It was an email that John Norman had sent himself with an offer.

“I told you I would send an email from Apple.”

-I didn't know that.

“How could you not know? There's a big logo at the bottom of the email.”

Yoo-hyun asked incredulously.

Then Han Jae-hee spat out an absurd remark.

-They should have written 'Apple' in the title. I don't read English emails.

“Can't you speak English?”

-Yeah.

Yoo-hyun blinked his eyes at his simple answer.

“I see. So that's why.”

-So what's in it?

“They want to buy your design.”

-Really? Why would they buy that?

“They must like it.”

-How much do they want to pay? They're not going to pay more than a million
won, are they?

The price negotiation hadn't been done yet, but it would be at least 100 times
more than that.

Yoo-hyun chuckled and said.

“Should I reply for you?”

-Yeah. I'll give you my address and password.

“Can you give me that so easily?”

-It doesn't matter. I can make another email account if I need to.

“...Okay. Send me a text message. I'll also tell you where the design files are.”

“Okay.”

Han Jae-hee answered coolly.

A little later, Yoo-hyun logged into the portal site with Han Jae-hee's ID and checked his email account.

There was +999 next to the unread mail icon.

Yoo-hyun snorted.

"He manages his email like his room."

It was amazing how he had exchanged emails with Yoo-hyun in this state.

Regardless of that, he had to deal with the backlog of work.

Yoo-hyun first checked John Norman's email and wrote a reply right away.

They had already agreed on everything, so there was no need to bargain any more.

-Dear John Norman, first of all, thank you for your interest in...

He sent all the design files along with his thanks.

He had accumulated a lot of work while working on the color phone, so the file size was also large.

It was not just the quantity that mattered.

He had gained experience through the color phone, and he had also learned from Senior Engineer Jang Hye-min, so the quality was not bad either.

John Norman must have liked it.

Click.

It was right after Yoo-hyun sent the email.

The inbox flashed and a new email came in.

He wouldn't have cared if it was something else, but the title had his mother's store name on it.

"Internet cafe?"

Yoo-hyun clicked on the link in the email.

Then an internet cafe that Han Jae-hee had made appeared on the monitor screen.

It was not just a simple cafe.

There were promotional images of his mother's store all over the screen.

There were also individual product and purchase guide pages.

He had decorated it like a real online store.

Yoo-hyun picked up the phone.

“Jae-hee.”

-What? Are you going to nag me for not reading Apple’s email again?

“No. I took care of that.”

-Then?

“Did you make an online store for mom’s store?”

-Ah, did you see it? I did a good job, right?

Yoo-hyun hesitated at Han Jae-hee’s bright voice.

He couldn’t understand his behavior.

“Well. You did a good job. But...”

-What? You told me to make promotional images.

“Yeah. That’s why I’m surprised.”

-What’s so surprising?

“When I asked you to do that, you were annoyed and grumpy, but now you’re making an internet cafe. Isn’t that weird?”

That wasn’t the only weird thing.

To decorate it like that, he had to go to the market and take pictures of everything himself.

His sister, who hated moving because she was lazy, would never do that.

Chapter 280

Han Jae-hee blurted out to Yoo-hyun, who was suspicious of her.

-Think of it as filial piety.

“Are you kidding?”

-It’s true, okay?

“It doesn’t seem like it...”

-Come on, it is. I listened to your advice and looked into making a website. Then I made an internet cafe with the money I earned.

It was a plausible story, but the other person was Han Jae-hee.

She would never have such a righteous thought.

Then, something flashed in Yoo-hyun's mind.

"Did you design the internet cafe for a school project?"

-Huh.

"I knew it..."

-No, no. It was just a side thing.

Why did he feel relieved by Han Jae-hee's evasive words?

He finally felt like she was his real sister.

Yoo-hyun nodded and said.

"I get it. I appreciate your intention."

-Don't tell mom. I'm going to say this is a birthday present for her.

"You're such a filial daughter."

-Of course. Where else can you find a filial daughter like me?

Yoo-hyun chuckled at Han Jae-hee's confident words.

He hung up the phone after that.

Yoo-hyun checked out the internet cafe that his sister made.

He unknowingly let out his true feelings as he looked at it.

"She did a good job, though."

Whatever the reason, Han Jae-hee was trying hard for their mother's store.

She spent a lot of time and produced a good quality product.

He couldn't just sit still as her brother.

It was during lunchtime at the cafeteria on the first floor of the Ulsan factory.

Maeng Ki-yong, his senior, who was sitting across from him, asked Yoo-hyun, who seemed lost in thought.

"Yoo-hyun, are you having a hard time?"

"No. I was just thinking about something."

"What?"

"What kind of side dish is a good side dish?"

Yoo-hyun gave an unexpected answer, and Maeng Ki-yong burst into laughter.

"Puhaha. What are you talking about?"

“I was wondering what kind of side dish would be popular and easy to make.”

“Are you going to quit your job and open a side dish store? They all go bankrupt.”

“No. My mother runs a side dish store.”

“Oh, I see...”

Maeng Ki-yong’s attitude suddenly softened at the mention of his mother.

He looked sorry even though he didn’t say anything wrong.

The word mother had such a powerful force.

Yoo-hyun smiled and explained the situation.

“I’m trying to change the menu of my mother’s store...”

“Diet side dishes?”

“Yes. There’s a diet boom these days. Don’t you think it’s a good idea?”

“That’s not bad. Hmm.”

Maybe it was because of his guilt from before, but Maeng Ki-yong looked very serious.

He seemed to think too hard, so Yoo-hyun asked him casually.

“Do you have any good ideas?”

“I don’t have any, but I can introduce you to an expert.”

“There’s such a person?”

Yoo-hyun asked in surprise, and Maeng Ki-yong nodded right away.

“Yeah, there is. A diet expert.”

That evening.

After finishing his work, Yoo-hyun went to a cafe with Maeng Ki-yong.

It was an open-air cafe located in a quiet place away from the city center.

Yoo-hyun exclaimed.

“This is where you had your date.”

“Yeah. I had to find all kinds of places so we wouldn’t get caught.”

“You always leave separately after work.”

“Of course. That’s the essence of office romance.”

Maeng Ki-yong grinned as he said that.

It was then that Jeong Ah-reum, the team leader of part 2, showed up.

“Hello.”

Yoo-hyun stood up and greeted her, but she waved her hand.

“Don’t be so formal. Sit down, sit down.”

“Yes. Okay.”

Jeong Ah-reum sat down and immediately snapped at Maeng Ki-yong next to her.

“Why did you order cake when you know I’m on a diet?”

“I didn’t order it. Yoo-hyun did.”

Maeng Ki-yong made an innocent face, and Yoo-hyun quickly answered.

“Well, I thought I should treat you something since I’m asking for your help.”

Jeong Ah-reum shook her head as she looked at him.

“I appreciate your kindness, but I don’t eat cake. It’s the biggest enemy of dieting.”

He ordered two pieces just in case, but he couldn’t help it if she didn’t like it.

“Yes. I understand.”

“Thank you for understanding.”

Jeong Ah-reum smiled and got straight to the point.

She was always in a hurry like when she worked.

“You said you were thinking about diet side dishes, right?”

“Yes. That’s right.”

“In my opinion...”

As he listened to her, Yoo-hyun unconsciously took out a notebook and a pen from his bag.

There was not a single thing that he could ignore.

“Sea snails?”

“Yes. Chicken breast, eggs, and sea snails are all good.”

“But they have seasoning in them.”

“There’s a low-salt diet plan. How it works is...”

“I see.”

Yoo-hyun kept nodding and admiring.

He could clearly see why Maeng Ki-yong called Jeong Ah-reum an expert.

She didn’t do 10 years of dieting for nothing.

She poured out high-quality information as soon as he touched her.

Maeng Ki-yong, his senior, was just drinking coffee, unable to butt in.

Jeong Ah-reum, the team leader, spoke with a gleam in her eyes.

“There’s something more important than the side dishes themselves.”

“What is it?”

“How you package them.”

“How do you do that?”

At Yoo-hyun’s question, Jeong Ah-reum explained in detail again.

“Of course, you have to include words like low-salt or low-calorie in the name of the side dishes, and it’s better to write what ingredients are in them on the surface of the container.”

“Ah, that would definitely increase the trustworthiness.”

“Yes. Give me your notebook.”

She even wrote down some examples for him.

Yoo-hyun admired the drawings and explanations she made.

She was not just a diet expert by words.

She was at a level where she should get a degree somewhere.

“Thank you. It looks much cleaner and nicer when you display the calories like this.”

“Right. And here...”

Jeong Ah-reum kept talking and ate a spoonful of cake from time to time.

It seemed to be her habit when she was focused.

She was really focused, as the two pieces of cake were almost gone.

Out of the three spoons, only one had cake on it.

At that moment, Yoo-hyun’s eyes met with Maeng Ki-yong’s.

He shook his head quickly.

It meant not to say anything.

When Jeong Ah-reum finished her explanation, Yoo-hyun gave her a thumbs up.

“You’re amazing. I was so impressed.”

“Don’t mention it. I just picked up a lot of things from doing dieting for a long time. Hoho.”

“I’ll treat you big later.”

“As long as it’s not food.”

“Yes. Of course.”

Yoo-hyun turned his eyes away from the empty plates and smiled.

He could guess why she had been dieting for 10 years.

Of course, he could never say that out loud.

After parting with Yoo-hyun, Jeong Ah-reum said to Maeng Ki-yong, who was walking next to her on the street.

“Yoo-hyun is such a nice person.”

“I told you, he’s a good guy.”

“I feel sorry for him.”

Maeng Ki-yong asked her why she said that out of the blue.

“Why?”

“My colleague asked me to take good care of him, but I feel like I haven’t done much for him.”

“You mean Yu Hye-mi from the sales team?”

“Yeah. It’s not going well for her.”

Maeng Ki-yong seemed to understand how she felt.

They were in different parts and had different tasks, and there were also conflicts.

It must have been hard to take care of him even if she wanted to.

“I’m taking good care of him. Don’t worry.”

He said calmly, and Jeong Ah-reum pouted her lips.

“What do you mean? You’re only getting more help from him.”

“That’s not true.”

“Then stop saying that and help him out a bit this time.”

“How?”

She looked at Maeng Ki-yong with blinking eyes and said.

“How? Well...”

“Ah, that’s good. As expected.”

He clapped his hands after hearing her explanation.

A smile appeared on his face.

Yoo-hyun organized what Jeong Ah-reum had told him.

He searched the internet and made recipes based on that.

He got help from experts on how to package and design them.

There were many things he could do online.

He supported his mother from afar in that way.

His mother also tried harder as her son and daughter actively helped her out.

But there were limits.

She didn’t know much about computers.

She didn’t have a clear concept of online sales either.

He called his anxious mother and said.

“Mom, you don’t have to worry. When someone orders, you’ll get a text message with their address. All you have to do is send the side dishes to that address.”

His voice echoed softly in the office hallway after the end-of-work song rang in the office.

-They came by from the delivery company. Did you send them?

“Yes. They specialize in market vendors. Did you talk well?”

He asked, and his mother answered nervously.

-They said they would take them if I contacted them. They said they would come twice a day, in the morning and afternoon.

“Then it’ll be easier.”

-But I don’t know if this will work out well.

“Sending the packages?”

-No. I wonder if there are really people who order them.

Yoo-hyun reassured his worried mother.

“What if it doesn’t work out? It’s not like you’re losing money, so don’t worry.”

-But I hope it goes well anyway.

She had said she didn’t expect anything at first.

But now she seemed to have some ambition.

Yoo-hyun held back his laughter and said.

“Yes. It will go well.”

-Okay. When are you coming?

“I was going to go see you anyway. I want to see your new store too.”

-Tell me again what you told me last time.

“Yes. I will. See you soon.”

He hung up the phone with a smile.

He had something to do in his hometown anyway.

It would be nice to stop by and sort things out.

His work at the company was going smoothly.

Of course, it was smooth from Yoo-hyun’s perspective, not for others.

Everyone was busy moving to apply the improved items.

Anyway, since it was going well, Yoo-hyun could take a break easily.

The day before he took a vacation, after the end-of-work song rang in the office.

He greeted his team leader and part leader, and said goodbye to Maeng Ki-yong as well.

“Maeng senior, I’ll be back soon.”

“You’re going to your mother’s side dish store, right?”

“Yes. I want to see how it’s going.”

“It’ll go well. You put a lot of effort into it.”

He thanked him for his words of encouragement.

Of course, the target was Jeong Ah-reum, the diet expert.

“By the way, I’m really grateful to Jeong team leader.”

“What about me?”

“Of course, I’m grateful to you too.”

At Yoo-hyun’s perfunctory answer, Maeng Ki-yong raised his eyebrows.

“Is that all you have to say?”

“What do you mean?”

“Hasn’t she responded yet?”

Maeng Ki-yong made a puzzled remark and tilted his head.

“What are you talking about?”

Yoo-hyun asked in confusion, and he waved his hand.

“Never mind. Nothing.”

“Okay. See you later.”

“Yeah. Have a good trip.”

Yoo-hyun left the office after saying goodbye to Maeng Ki-yong.

He felt relaxed as his work was going smoothly.