

Real Man 421

Chapter 421:

The people who were excitedly planning the picnic just a moment ago had put down their pens for now.

“...”

Yoo-hyun was silent for a while as he organized his thoughts.

Why did these simultaneous incidents happen all of a sudden at this point?

One could be a coincidence, but not three.

Pressure from competitors, audit for nitpicking, leakage of client information.

The only department that could make these things happen at the same time?

The Group Strategy Office.

Then, it was highly likely that they were not aiming for the LCD Business Division.

Yoo-hyun picked up his phone right away.

On the screen was the name of Park Doo Sik, a senior manager in charge of LCD strategy at the Innovation Strategy Office and his close senior.

A moment later, he hung up the phone and came back to Kwon Se-jung, an assistant manager who asked him.

“What’s going on? The office atmosphere is not good.”

“It seems like something has gone wrong, Se-jung. Can you check if we can cancel the picnic reservation?”

“What? It’s hard to do that the day before. There are too many things involved.”

“I know. That’s why we have to move quickly. Check it out first, and gather the people in charge of preparation. I’ll go see the director and come back.”

As Yoo-hyun was about to turn around, Kwon Se-jung asked him.

“Is it irreversible?”

“Yes.”

Kwon Se-jung nodded his head at Yoo-hyun’s serious answer.

“Okay. I’ll get on it right away.”

“Thanks.”

Yoo-hyun got up from his seat and walked toward the TF director’s seat.

His face, which was always bright, was stiff for once.

At the TF director’s seat, the team leaders were already gathered and making a fuss.

Especially for Lee Bon-seok, the team leader who heard the news of the audit, it was like a fire on his feet.

He took this opportunity to pressure Kim Hyun-min, the director, strongly.

“Director, you know that the Group Strategy Office is sending an audit team, right?”

“I heard.”

“We have to respond to the data as well because there is a panel supply issue with the Home Appliances Business Division. It’s not enough even if we work all night.”

Jang Joon Hong, another team leader, was in the same boat.

He protested to Kim Hyun-min as if everything was wrong because of the picnic.

“If we lose Dell, IT is over.”

“I know that too.”

“There’s no time for logo marketing or anything else. We have to go out and clear up the misunderstanding right now. We don’t have time to be distracted by a picnic or something.”

Choi Min-hee, a female team leader, also looked very troubled.

It was unrealistic to have a picnic if they wanted to deal with Il Sung’s attack.

But she knew that Kim Hyun-min was the one who would have the most headache here, so she didn't say anything.

“...”

Kim Hyun-min thought for a moment without answering.

The exact scale of the problem had not been revealed yet.

It was unreasonable to cancel the picnic that was coming up tomorrow.

Besides, he cared very much about the morale of his employees.

‘He’s like Kim Hyun-min.’

Yoo-hyun, who was watching him from behind, empathized with his heart that put his members first.

But now was the time to move quickly.

There would be some bleeding, but that was how they could turn crisis into opportunity.

He made up his mind and approached him.

“Director.”

As soon as he called Kim Hyun-min, Lee Bon-seok turned his head with a scowl on his face.

It was obvious that he would say something about interfering, so Yoo-hyun spoke first before he opened his mouth.

“I canceled the picnic as you instructed.”

“What?”

Lee Bon-seok’s eyes widened and Yoo-hyun added another word.

“I’ll notify the people who prepared for the picnic again and put them right into work.”

Yoo-hyun had burned away the option of having a picnic himself.

Then Kim Hyun-min’s mind became free as well.

He understood Yoo-hyun's intention with their long rapport and quickly matched his pace.

Bang.

He slapped his hand on the desk and stood up with a fierce look in his eyes. He scanned around him.

“Team leaders, please respond to each issue and report your progress. I'll meet with the group leaders and adjust the schedule as soon as possible.”

He had already canceled the picnic ahead of time and took charge of communicating with the difficult group leaders himself.

The team leaders who had been raising their voices until a while ago had no choice but to follow him for now.

“Yes. I understand.”

It was the first time that the hierarchy of TF was established.

After the team leaders left, Yoo-hyun exchanged a few more words with Kim Hyun-min in private.

It was to inform him of the background of what was happening now.

He listened and asked incredulously.

“How did you know all this?”

“I have a close senior in the Innovation Strategy Office, Park Doo Sik, the senior manager.”

“I know, Park Manager. He sent me a message too.”

Yoo-hyun nodded his head and answered.

“Yes. We have to sort it out quickly so that the Innovation Strategy Office can move. We have to take this as an opportunity.”

The Group Strategy Office was aiming for the Innovation Strategy Office.

To be precise, it was a scheme to shake up the position of the newly formed Innovation Strategy Office before it became solidified in each business division.

They had to stop this so that the Innovation Strategy Office could survive, and so could the Innovative Product TF.

Even if that was not the case, the Innovative Product TF had to handle this well.

It would be a test of Kim Hyun-min's leadership.

Yoo-hyun, who was watching him quietly, chuckled.

"I owe you again, don't I?"

"Yes. You owe me another meal."

"Kid. I got it. But what are you going to say to the people who prepared for the picnic? They must be disappointed."

Yoo-hyun answered nonchalantly to his worried question.

"It doesn't matter. You'll be the one who gets scolded anyway."

"What?"

"Don't worry. I'll take care of it."

Yoo-hyun winked and turned around.

Kim Hyun-min's mumbling came from behind Yoo-hyun's back as he walked out.

"I'm glad you're here, or what would I have done?"

He smiled lightly at those words and muttered to himself.

"I'm glad you're here too, Director."

His sincere feelings were contained in those words that sounded light.

Yoo-hyun returned to his seat and quickly explained the situation in a brief manner.

Kwon Se-jung, the assistant manager who was listening, asked in surprise.

"What? The picnic is canceled for sure?"

"Yeah. It's an emergency situation. Did you gather all the people?"

“Yeah. But they don’t know that the picnic is canceled. They just think that the office atmosphere is bad because of the damage.”

“That’s fine, that’s enough. Oh, Jun Sik, can you type this up and summarize it in one page? I’ll show it at the meeting.”

Yoo-hyun handed over the note he had organized while talking with Kim Hyun-min, the director, to Jang Jun Sik.

It contained the current situation and a simple countermeasure.

“Yes. I got it. I’ll do it right away.”

Jang Jun Sik also sensed the serious atmosphere and nodded his head before starting his work.

Kwon Se-jung looked worried and asked.

“Yoo-hyun, what are you going to do this time? The people’s backlash won’t be a joke.”

“What can I do? I have to tell them honestly.”

“What about the cancellation fee?”

“It’s all reserved with the company’s money. Just consider it as a loss, what else?”

Yoo-hyun answered casually and Kwon Se-jung raised his hand to his forehead.

It was quite a hassle because many people were involved.

“Sigh. How am I going to face them?”

“Don’t worry. They’re not people who won’t understand.”

“Still. Their hard work has gone to waste. If I knew this would happen, I wouldn’t have asked them to do more.”

The fact that he was worried about this meant that he had worked hard enough.

Yoo-hyun put his hand on his colleague’s shoulder who had worked hard and said.

“Se-jung, when you go up later, you’ll have to do a lot of things that make people unhappy.”

“I guess so. I know that I can’t listen to everyone’s opinions.”

“Right. Then watch what I do.”

Yoo-hyun winked and Kwon Se-jung's eyes widened.

He had seen Yoo-hyun perform some magic every time this happened.

“Do you have a way this time too?”

“Of course. I’ll tell you what’s the easiest and most effective way to do this.”

Kwon Se-jung blinked his eyes at Yoo-hyun’s confident words.

A moment later, in the 13th floor conference room.

At the place where all TF members below the assistant manager level were gathered, Yoo-hyun uttered a shocking word.

But the answer that came back was completely different from what Kwon Se-jung had worried about.

“What? The director ordered the picnic to be canceled?”

“It must be a very serious matter. The director was smiling and even prepared liquor for us yesterday, but he canceled it.”

“What on earth is going on that made the director step in?”

The people were more worried than disappointed.

How could the result be so different?

Thanks to one word added by the director.

There was no resentment.

Who would resent whom when the director said not to go?

Seeing that scene, Kwon Se-jung chuckled.

-When you have to say something difficult, you have to sell your superior.
Preferably someone who can’t be touched by anyone.

Yoo-hyun did exactly what he said earlier and turned the situation around as promised.

Thanks to that, people easily accepted the cancellation of the picnic.

Kwon Se-jung had been working at the company for quite a while, but he had never seen such a situation before.

He was not saying this because he was his colleague, but he was really amazing.

-It's not a lie. The director wants TF to succeed, and for that we have to cancel the picnic in this situation.

'He's so shameless.'

Kwon Se-jung looked at Yoo-hyun with admiration.

He knew that Yoo-hyun wouldn't stop here by watching his moves so far.

What kind of magic would he perform next?

Kwon Se-jung waited for Yoo-hyun's next words with a pounding heart.

He would see and learn whatever miracle he would create.

As expected by Kwon Se-jung, Yoo-hyun didn't come up on stage just to announce the cancellation of the picnic.

It was to turn this situation, which was obviously a crisis, into an opportunity for reversal.

To do that, he needed to gather the power of everyone here as one.

Jang Jun Sik displayed a report on the screen and Yoo-hyun added an explanation.

"I'll tell you why the director ordered that. First of all, the current situation of mobile is..."

The report had only a few lines of text, but it detailed each team's crisis situation.

It was obvious that it would take a few nights to finish, let alone having a picnic.

The picnic was completely erased from everyone's minds.

Instead, another question arose.

'I haven't heard that from the team?'

‘Why is he telling us this here?’

Buzzing.

The atmosphere became more and more noisy.

Yoo-hyun answered their curiosity before the questions came out.

“Most of you here probably haven’t received this information yet. You must be wondering why I’m telling you this here. There’s a reason.”

“...”

Yoo-hyun cut off his words decisively and the attention went up.

He caught the flow and raised his hand to point at the screen.

“These cases will take a long time to solve within the team. We need to help each other to solve this problem quickly.”

As Yoo-hyun said something that a TF leader would say, a man raised his hand.

It was Yu Seok-won, an assistant manager who was in charge of the picnic food preparation.

“But why are you telling us that?”

“It’s the director’s order.”

“Order?”

“It means that this is not a team matter but a TF-wide matter, and that the staff below the assistant manager level need to step up to deal with this in a short period of time.”

“So what? I’m not arguing, I just don’t understand.”

Yu Seok-won looked serious as he asked and Yoo-hyun pointed at his surroundings and answered.

“Assistant Manager, you’re sitting with the food preparation members right now. It seems like mobile team, IT team, and TV team are all included in there.”

“That’s true. So what? Oh...”

“You’re probably thinking what I’m thinking. The upper levels may not have communication between teams yet, but we’re too well connected. We also know very well that there are 300 skewers in the fridge.”

“Hahaha.”

People laughed at Yoo-hyun’s joke.

Chapter 422:

Everyone turned their eyes to the screen, as if they understood the gist of what he said.

Then they started to look over the problems of other teams, one by one.

How many people could move if he suddenly said, “Collaborate with other teams.”?

It would have been impossible in the previous organization.

But the people here were different.

They had communicated closely while preparing for the picnic, and they had some experience of working voluntarily.

They also had less prejudice because they had short careers in the company.

That’s why it wasn’t so hard to unite them as one.

Yoo-hyun threw a stone into the calm lake.

“Mobile needs to make a comparison data of Ilsung OLED and Retina panel to explain to the mobile phone business unit.”

“...”

“Not just a simple report format, but a data that can be released to the media.”

Suddenly, An Ju-gang, an assistant manager from the TV team, raised his hand.

He was the oldest assistant manager here, and he was in charge of the accommodation for the picnic. He opened his mouth.

“We have a media distribution data that compares Ilsung panel and SLC technology in our TV team. I think it would be good to write the comparison content of OLED and Retina based on that.”

The one who received his words was Lee Chan Ho, an assistant manager who was dealing with customer service.

They were both in charge of accommodation, so they had no hesitation in talking.

“Oh? Assistant manager, please give it to me. I’ll buy you a coffee.”

“That’s nothing. I’ll give it to you right away. Haha.”

An Ju-gang’s laughter was the start.

People began to spit out a word or two here and there.

“We had an audit at Ulsan factory a while ago. We have the data that we responded to. I’ll give it to you¹. It might be a similar type.”

Hwang Dong-sik, an assistant manager, stepped forward first, and Kim Young-shin, an assistant manager from the TV team, brightened up.

The two were friends as they were in charge of activities.

“Did you get audited in mobile too? That would be very helpful if you give it to me.”

Cho Mi-ran, an assistant manager who was in charge of drinking, also raised her hand with her marketing skills.

“There was a time when Motorola attacked Dell like this. We blocked it by boldly revealing the panel cost part. I’ll share it with you if you need it.”

“I was thinking that my manager would look for that. Assistant manager, you’re awesome.”

Yang Yoon-soo, who was in charge of food, gave her a thumbs up.

They had different responsibilities, but they had debated several times about alcohol and food combinations, so they were quite close.

Yoo-hyun smiled softly as he watched them and came down from the podium.

‘They’re more diligent than I thought.’

No one noticed that Yoo-hyun hadn’t spoken for a while.

That was proof that they were all focused and sharing their work with each other.

Mobile, IT, TV.

The panel size and customers were different, but their work was not much different.

Rather, they had done a lot of work from different perspectives.

Thanks to that, they could easily get high-quality data that could help them.

Buzzing.

People realized why TF was created with their bodies.

Thump.

As Yoo-hyun walked over, Jang Joon-sik jumped up and handed him the water on the table.

Yoo-hyun drank the water and asked Kwon Se-jung, an assistant manager who was looking at him with a blank expression.

“What? Is there something on my face?”

“Huh? Oh.”

Kwon Se-jung rubbed his arm with goosebumps and answered.

Swoosh.

Jang Joon-sik took back the water and closed the lid while looking at Yoo-hyun.

“Assistant manager, I think I know what collaboration is now.”

“Yeah. Joon-sik, you move too. It will be a big help if you receive and organize the data like you did for the picnic.”

“Yes, assistant manager.”

Jang Joon-sik nodded his head and moved right away.

Yoo-hyun tapped Kwon Se-jung’s shoulder, who was still frozen.

“You’ll have the most work to do in between. I’m counting on you.”

“Yeah. Take a break. I’ll sort it out.”

“That’s nice of you to say.”

Yoo-hyun smiled faintly and stepped back.

Now it was time to watch how well the gears fit together.

While the staff below the assistant manager level were moving quickly,

Kim Hyun-min, a section chief, was facing Lim Joon-pyo, a vice president.

“You canceled the picnic?”

“Yes, vice president.”

“There must be a lot of complaints from the employees. They seemed to be preparing a lot.”

“No, sir. It’s not a very important thing. I thought quick response was essential.”

Lim Joon-pyo, a vice president, tilted his head at Kim Hyun-min’s answer.

The group leaders had just grasped the situation, and the innovation strategy office had not moved for long.

-Vice president, we need the help of the innovation product TF to finish this matter well.

Shin Kyung-wook, an executive director, had personally asked him just a while ago.

But how did Kim Hyun-min make such a quick decision?

He looked calm and confident, even though it was his first time doing such a big project.

He didn’t look like someone who had a low performance evaluation.

“I think I misunderstood you.”

“What do you mean, sir?”

“Never mind. What do you need? I’ll support you fully.”

At Lim Joon-pyo's words, Kim Hyun-min opened his mouth as if he had been waiting.

"If you really mean that, sir..."

"Haha. You never miss a chance, do you?"

Lim Joon-pyo laughed loudly as he saw Kim Hyun-min's cheerful attitude.

The picnic was canceled.

A mammoth-sized typhoon blew into each team.

The atmosphere was tense enough, but the people were tight-lipped.

It was because Lim Joon-pyo, a vice president, brought the group leaders to the 13th floor office.

Lim Joon-pyo looked around the office and spoke with a stern expression.

"Group leaders and team leaders."

"Yes, vice president."

"The authority for this issue response is with Kim Hyun-min, the section chief. Give him all your support."

Lim Joon-pyo declared in front of the entire innovation product TF.

There was no group leader or team leader who could refuse that.

"Yes. We understand."

Lim Joon-pyo didn't stop there and spoke to the employees.

"I know you're disappointed that the picnic was canceled. If we finish this well, I'll treat you big, so cheer up."

"Yes. We understand."

The employees who were standing firmly answered loudly.

The 13th floor office was buzzing.

Lim Joon-pyo, the vice president, held back a few more words.

He also swallowed his criticism of other business units and did not mention any sensitive issues.

He was careful about what he said, in case he got caught.

Lim Joon-pyo's restraint was impressive, but more impressive was Kim Hyun-min's negotiation skills.

He not only persuaded the group leaders and team leaders by moving the vice president, but also boosted the morale of the employees.

This was impossible without intention.

Yoo-hyun gave Kim Hyun-min, who had accomplished his mission well, a thumbs up.

Kim Hyun-min, who met his eyes, smiled awkwardly.

It was a matter that the business director himself stepped in.

The group leaders actively supported Kim Hyun-min.

The team leaders gathered around Kim Hyun-min and decided on the direction of each work.

The part leaders who received the work distribution among the parts sought detailed countermeasures.

They had 24 hours to complete the mission.

They all racked their brains, as they would have to stay up all night even if they had enough time.

It was not an easy task.

As the sun set and the alley darkened,

Yoon Byung-kwan, a deputy manager of the TV team, sat at the team table and complained with a stiff expression.

“The problem is to sort out the audit data of Gimpo factory right away. I've never seen an audit from the group strategy office, so I have a headache.”

“Deputy manager, I don't think you have to worry so much.”

Yoon Byung-kwan looked incredulous at Kim Young-shin's answer.

He was in a situation where he had to be nervous enough, but he was relaxed.

Did he lose a screw while preparing for the picnic?

“Kim, you don’t seem to get it. We have to stay up all night today. We might have to go to Gimpo factory by taxi.”

As Yoon Byung-kwan nagged him, Kim Young-shin answered by showing him the data on the TV.

“What is this? What? Audit report?”

“Yes. It’s from the mobile team. They reported this when they were audited at Ulsan factory last year.”

“You had this?”

Yoon Byung-kwan’s surprise was not over yet.

Jeong Saet-byul, who was usually quiet and passive, handed him a printout and explained.

“Deputy manager, this is from the IT team. I think we can handle the panel negotiation problem with the home appliance business unit like this.”

“Huh. You did well. If we polish this up, we can also sort out the report for the home appliance business unit.”

Yoon Byung-kwan praised him for the first time, and Jeong Saet-byul, who had always been quiet, cheered.

“Yay. I got praised.”

Yoon Byung-kwan flinched at Jeong Saet-byul’s sudden behavior.

Not only the TV team, but also the IT team experienced new changes.

Na Han-eul, a deputy manager of the IT team, was confused as he had a meeting.

“Huh. This data is good. Where did you get it?”

“I got it from the mobile team. They had a lot of similar cases.”

As Lee Jung-min answered, Na Han-eul, who usually ignored him, smiled slightly.

“Lee, you did well. I’ll report it to the team leader right away, so prepare for the presentation.”

He even gave him the planning for reporting to the team leader.

Lee Jung-min would not have received such treatment even if he had worked hard every night.

He held back his smile and answered.

“Yes. I understand. I’ll prepare with Yoon-soo.”

“By the way, where did Yoon-soo go?”

“He went out with Han Yoo-hyun for a while. He probably went to sort out some work.”

As Yoo-hyun’s name came out of Lee Jung-min’s mouth, Na Han-eul’s brow furrowed for a moment.

He didn’t like that name very much, but now was not the time to argue about that.

“Okay. Let’s see you later.”

Na Han-eul moved quickly after saying that.

Meanwhile, the mobile team that had finished sorting out first gathered in a small conference room on the 13th floor.

Kim Jin-yeol, a senior manager who had just joined part 1, blinked his eyes as he looked at the content on the screen.

“You already made a comparison data with Ilsung OLED?”

“How did you get this? I’ve never seen this marketing data before?”

Lim Myung-han, a senior manager who had just joined part 2, also seemed quite surprised.

Lee Chan Ho, who had shown the data, answered.

“I got help from the TV team to sort it out. It’s a format that can be reported to the president, so I don’t think there will be much trouble.”

After Lee Chan Ho, Hwang Dong-sik showed the report he had received from the IT team and received praise.

Then Kwon Se-jung revealed the hidden meaning behind this mission.

“The mobile phone business unit will have no choice but to raise the smartphone panel specs with this opportunity. We need to change the mobile phone business unit’s volume to high-end.”

Choi Min-hee, the team leader who had been listening carefully, smiled.

“Turning a crisis into an opportunity, huh? That’s good.”

“Thank you.”

“You all did well. Let’s reorganize the data we’ve collected. You have to be prepared to stay up all night.”

Choi Min-hee’s words made everyone answer with a spirited attitude.

“Yes. We understand.”

Choi Min-hee, who looked around, tilted her head.

“By the way, where is Han Yoo-hyun? He said he would work overtime earlier.”

“Joon-sik took him out for a while.”

Kwon Se-jung answered cautiously.

He couldn’t say the reason.

At that time,

Yoo-hyun was sitting in a coffee shop located in a food alley near Hansung Tower.

He could see the street lights that lit up the dark alley through the window.

Sip.

He sucked in the cold coffee and felt his head tingling.

Maybe because he added one more shot, it had more caffeine than the coffee shop in the company.

He frowned slightly and Yang Yoon-soo from the IT team asked him carefully.

“Assistant manager, are we okay doing this?”

“Where else can we go? We have to wait until we get grilled by the boss.”

“But everyone is working hard in the office.”

As Yang Yoon-soo argued, Jang Joon-sik, who was a year older than him, spoke with a stern expression.

“Yoon-soo, you have to trust what the assistant manager says. He’s right.”

“Yes, senior. I understand.”

Jang Joon-sik was usually sharp and meticulous, as he had felt when he was preparing for the picnic.

That’s why Yang Yoon-soo had to be careful in front of him.

There was a time when Jang Joon-sik’s expression softened.

It was when Yoo-hyun was next to him.

Chapter 423:

Yang Yoon-soo glanced at Yoo-hyun, who was drinking coffee.

He had to admit that his presentation skills were no joke.

Of course, he always seemed to slack off and have fun.

But he also had a clever mind that solved the problem of the salted skewers in one go.

‘Who would have thought he would bring them to a pork soup restaurant?’

Yang Yoon-soo wondered and asked Yoo-hyun.

“By the way, why did the restaurant lady grill our skewers for us? I honestly thought it wouldn’t work.”

“She’s a regular customer.”

“Oh, a regular customer.”

Yang Yoon-soo blinked his eyes as he saw Yoo-hyun casually answer.
Jang Joon-sik, who was next to him, added his personal opinion and explained.

“Yoo-hyun is such a good person. He has a lot of popularity. And...”

Yoo-hyun, who was listening, was so dumbfounded that he raised his hand.

“Joon-sik, that’s enough.”

“Yes, sir.”

Jang Joon-sik answered sharply and sparkled his eyes.

Why was he following him like that?

Did he have some dirt on him?

Yang Yoon-soo couldn’t understand this atmosphere at all.

It was the same when they went to the pork soup restaurant after drinking coffee.

At Yoo-hyun’s word, Jang Joon-sik ran to the convenience store to buy snacks.

He looked happy even though it was a bothersome task.

Yang Yoon-soo, who tilted his head, waited in front of the restaurant as Yoo-hyun instructed.

Soon, Yoo-hyun came out carrying a large steamer and Yang Yoon-soo quickly ran over to take it.

“What is this? Ugh.”

It was so heavy and hot that he put it down on the ground first.

When he opened the lid, he saw steaming pork in the rising steam.

There were skewers with sauce on them in the lower compartment.

Pork in a steamer with seasoned skewers?

That alone was enough to surprise him, but more shocking words came from beside him.

“You don’t need money. This is enough for me to give you as a service.”

“Auntie, I can’t come here if you do this. Please take the money for the pork.”

“No need. Let me do something good. Yoo-hyun is so grateful to you and Yeon-hee.”

Yoo-hyun refused, but the restaurant lady insisted on giving it to him.

“Wow.”

How did he treat people so well that he could get it for free and still hear words of gratitude?

-My grandson, a truly great person never shows himself. But people will recognize him. You should follow such a person.

Suddenly, Yang Yoon-soo remembered his grandmother’s words, who raised him while working hard at the restaurant.

Maybe Yoo-hyun was hiding himself on purpose even though he seemed to be having fun?

Maybe he chatted at the coffee shop to ease his junior’s nerves?

‘Could it be that he brought the salted skewers too?’

When his thoughts reached that point, Yang Yoon-soo felt a chill on the back of his head.

Then, Yoo-hyun bowed his head and greeted the restaurant lady.

“Auntie, thank you. I’ll bring a lot of people next time.”

“Okay. Yoo-hyun, come see me with Ye-seul later.”

“Yes. Anytime.”

Yoo-hyun didn’t just say hello, but held the restaurant lady’s hands and smiled brightly.

Yang Yoon-soo, who had no idea about the relationship between Yoo-hyun and the restaurant lady, sparkled his eyes.

He realized that he had completely misunderstood Yoo-hyun until now.

“Grandma was right. There really was someone worth following in the company.”

Yoo-hyun, who said goodbye to the restaurant lady, met Yang Yoon-soo’s eyes.

He had short hair and a fairly solid build, and he gave off an oppressive look.

“Yoon-soo, what are you doing?”

“Sir, just call me Yoon-soo comfortably.”

Yoo-hyun looked him up and down at Yang Yoon-soo’s sudden change of attitude.

‘What’s wrong with this guy?’

He looked and acted like Yeon-tae Lee Moon-jung.

Then Jang Joon-sik came running with snacks in both hands.

They looked heavy, so Yoo-hyun asked him.

"Joon-sik, give me one. I’ll help you."1

“No thank you. I can do it myself.”

Yoo-hyun shrugged his shoulders and looked at Yang Yoon-soo this time.

He was holding up a heavy and hot steamer with a groan.

“Yoon-soo, do you want me to help you?”

“I’m fine too. I can do it myself.”

Yang Yoon-soo answered with a clenched teeth.

“Okay. Then.”

Since they both said they were fine, Yoo-hyun walked leisurely with his hands behind his back.

He didn’t even look back on purpose to not make them feel pressured. He looked really amazing.

Yang Yoon-soo had a perfect bean sprout in his eyes.

Was that why?

Squeak.

The steamer was very heavy and hot, but Yang Yoon-soo had a bright smile on his lips.

On the other hand, Yoo-hyun was humming a song.

He wanted to eat the salted skewers anyway, and he got a good opportunity.

“It would be perfect to drink cocktails with this when we go up.”

That’s how Yoo-hyun enjoyed the rare overtime work.

Before he knew it, the clock pointed to 10 p.m.

Maybe because everyone was having dinner or something, they were hungry.

At that point, the hot pork and salted skewers that were delivered were enough to attract people’s attention.

“Come on, everyone. Eat and work.”

Yang Yoon-soo, who was sweating profusely carrying the steamer, shouted loudly.

People gathered one by one to the table of the mobile team where the steamer was placed.

They wondered what was going on and Lee Jung-min, the deputy head, stretched his head out and made a dumbfounded expression.

“Yoon-soo, what is all this?”

“These are the salted skewers we bought for the picnic. Eat them while they’re hot.”

“Not that, I thought you went to work.”

Lee Jung-min’s words were cut off by exclamations from here and there.

“Wow, this is the first time I’ve eaten skewers in the office.”

“It’s really delicious. Yoon-soo, you did a great job.”

“Right. I thought we had to throw these away, but we get to eat them like this.”

Yang Yoon-soo shrugged his shoulders as he heard the compliments from his seniors.

“But where is Han deputy head?”

“Huh? He went to a meeting with the team leaders a while ago. Why?”

“No.”

Yang Yoon-soo lowered his head and mixed the pork and skewers from two steaming pots.

Then he quietly placed one pot under the table.

Next to it, there were snacks that Jang Joon-shik had already prepared.

As expected.

Yang Yoon-soo nodded his head and vowed to work harder.

Unlike the noisy office, silence flowed inside the 13th floor conference room.

On behalf of the tense team leaders, Kim Hyun-min, the director, opened his mouth.

“The first draft for each team is as I told you.”

“That’s not bad. You can tell that you worked hard.”

Jin Seung-heon, the director of the Innovation Strategy Office, lightly nodded his head. He had worked with Kim Hyun-min in the Home Appliance Business Strategy Team before and was familiar with him.

Kim Hyun-min took advantage of that.

“You can tell that we worked hard? Our staff put a lot of effort into preparing this in a short time.”

“You know that. But you also know that we still have a long way to go, right?”

Late at night.

Maybe because they were dealing with such a sensitive issue, their eyes clashed in the air.

Soon their voices began to rise.

“Then what exactly is the Innovation Strategy Office doing? Are you just taking what we made and reporting it? Why do you have to interfere in the middle?”

Kim Hyun-min challenged him and Jin Seung-heon strongly retorted.

“That’s a bit too much. We’re also waiting while controlling other business units to solve this problem.”

“Instead of waiting, why don’t you support us more?”

“We don’t need the Innovation Product TF if we can do everything ourselves.”

The tension rose sharply, and Kwon Se-jung, who attended as a staff member, shook his legs.

On the other hand, Yoo-hyun looked at them with interest.

Kim Hyun-min seemed to want to use this opportunity to show his leadership in front of the three team leaders.

If he backed down, he might be dragged around by each team, so it was a reasonable choice to stand up strongly.

It was easy to say, but it was a hard decision to make unless he had a strong stomach.

But Kim Hyun-min pushed forward, and the sturdy team leaders began to look at him.

‘He’s amazing.’

Yoo-hyun chuckled and looked at Jin Seung-heon.

His expression gradually hardened.

It was understandable since the Innovation Strategy Office was a new organization.

He had to establish his authority even if he couldn’t lose here.

Who would be stronger?

He wanted to see, but now was not the time to relax.

Yoo-hyun gestured to Park Doo-sik, who met his eyes.

‘Can you step in?’

He smiled and nodded his head.

Park Doo-sik was a competent person.

“Director.”

“What?”

“As Director Jin said, we have our staff out in the mobile and home appliance business units. Executive Shin Kyung-wook is personally blocking the audit at Gimpo factory.”

“...”

He cut into the tense atmosphere and changed it completely.

Like Yoo-hyun did, he also sold his superior well.

“Still, the communication problems between business units should have decreased than before. Director Jin here took care of that a lot.”

And he knew how to take care of his opponent while taking care of his side.

This was also aligned with Yoo-hyun’s behavior of giving what the other wanted first.

“Hmm, why do you say that?”

Thanks to him, Jin Seung-heon backed off and Kim Hyun-min lowered his voice tone.

“The Innovation Strategy Office did speed up the work. But we’re doing a lot of unnecessary things because we’re preparing by ourselves.”

Kwon Se-jung listened attentively.

He started to see Park Doo-sik’s intention as he worked with Yoo-hyun.

‘Does he want to show his expertise here? Will it work?’

As Kwon Se-jung wondered, Park Doo-sik calmly continued.

“I was going to focus more on that part. First of all, for the mobile part...”

He exceeded expectations by far and Kwon Se-jung’s mouth opened wide.

Thanks to Park Doo-sik’s efforts, the meeting ended quickly.

The Innovation Strategy Office decided to take the first results and respond first, and the Innovation Product TF decided to submit the final data by before work if possible.

They planned to use that as a shield against the Group Strategy Office’s attack.

The Innovation Strategy Office helped them as much as they could, so the Innovation Product TF only had to do the minimum preparation.

In other words, the two teams were in a symbiotic relationship where they helped each other.

Park Doo-sik made this point clear and summarized the situation.

“Let’s summarize it like this and meet again in the morning. If you work hard this time, we’ll try to prevent problems in advance from now on.”

“Park, good job. And Director Jin, I apologize for raising my voice earlier.”

Kim Hyun-min, who got up from his seat, took care of Jin Seung-heon.

This flexibility was definitely his strength.

“Haha. I understand your position. We’ll probably see each other a lot from now on.”

“Does that mean there will be more problems? I don’t want that.”

“Haha. No, that’s not what I meant.”

Thanks to him, Jin Seung-heon also finished with a smile.

As they greeted and took care of each other, Yoo-hyun quietly got up from his seat.

The meeting itself was not bad.

If he had to score it, maybe 60 points?

It might sound harsh, but to Yoo-hyun's eyes, both organizations were still immature.

They had big leaves but they hadn't grown yet.

Maybe this storm would make them stronger?

As they say, opportunity comes after crisis.

This attack by the Group Strategy Office felt like a good opportunity.

Chapter 424:

As Yoo-hyun was about to leave the conference room, Kwon Se-jung, an assistant manager, grabbed his arm.

Tsk.

"Yoo-hyun, you should say goodbye to everyone. How can you leave first?"

He whispered in a troubled tone. Yoo-hyun answered him.

"Why do I need to butt in when the higher-ups are talking?"

"Hey, you just want to eat the skewers quickly, right?"

"You're quick to notice."

Yoo-hyun winked at him. Kwon Se-jung pleaded with him as he held on.

"Come on, this is the innovation strategy department."

But that was only for a moment.

"Ah, the logo marketing progress? We, the practitioners, know it well."

Kim Hyun-min, the director's voice came from behind. Yoo-hyun patted Kwon Se-jung's shoulder lightly.

"I'll take care of your stuff too. I'm counting on you, Se-jung."

Then he walked away leisurely.

Kwon Se-jung looked at Yoo-hyun's back with a crestfallen expression. He turned his body around.

He greeted the team leaders and the innovation strategy department staff in front of them.

“Hello. I’m Kwon Se-jung, an assistant manager.”

His shoulders, which had been drooping until a while ago, were now straightened up confidently.

Yoo-hyun returned to the office and Yang Yoon-soo greeted him sarcastically.

“I’ve specially wrapped up your portion, sir.”

Why is he acting like this again?

He ignored Yoo-hyun’s puzzled gaze and moved quickly.

He crawled under the table and pulled out a steamer.

Inside it were untouched pork belly and salted skewers.

“Why did you leave so much?”

“I split it in half. Some people went to the conference room, and some haven’t eaten yet.”

“You did well. Thanks to you, I can eat it warm.”

Yang Yoon-soo didn’t seem excited by Yoo-hyun’s compliment. He kept looking around.

As soon as Yoo-hyun turned his gaze away, Yang Yoon-soo quickly picked up a salted skewer.

He wrapped the handle part with a tissue in case the sauce got on his hand. It was impressive.

“Thank you. Aren’t you eating?”

“I ate a lot.”

“Geez.”

Yoo-hyun chuckled and bit into the salted skewer.

The soft and chewy texture and the spicy sauce went well together.

Slurp.

Yang Yoon-soo handed him a drink at the right time.

Yoo-hyun smiled and drank the carbonated drink he gave him.

These kind of sensible responses were hard to see from Jang Joon-sik, who was ignorant.

He looked around the office while drinking the beverage and asked.

“By the way, where’s Saet-byul?”

“She’s in the utility room preparing cocktails.”

There were cocktail ingredients that they had bought in advance for the picnic in the utility room.

Yoo-hyun was planning to drink them, but it was an idea that others wouldn’t easily come up with.

Who came up with such a response?

“Already? Who told her to do that?”

Yoo-hyun asked in surprise. Yang Yoon-soo answered.

“I thought you might be looking for cocktails, sir. Did I do something wrong?”

“No. That’s not it. You did well.”

Yoo-hyun chuckled. Yang Yoon-soo smiled brightly.

“As expected, you know how to take care of people, sir. I’ll get ready right away.”

Take care of people? What does that mean?

Yang Yoon-soo moved before Yoo-hyun could ask him anything.

He ran away quickly while Yoo-hyun laughed dryly.

“It’s nice that he does things on his own.”

He ran into the utility room and said.

“Saet-byul, Han Daeri said it’s okay to make cocktails.”

“Really? I thought he would definitely say no.”

It wasn't because of alcohol.

She could make it without alcohol if she wanted to.

Jeong Saet-byul was worried that she would get scolded for making cocktails in her spare time when she was busy.

"I told you. Han Daeri knows how hard you worked to prepare cocktails."

"That's why. He even showed interest in cocktails. He asked me this and that."

"I knew it."

"I guess I have to show off my skills that I've been hiding for a while."

She lit up her eyes and rolled up her sleeves.

11 p.m.

Salted skewers, pork belly, and various snacks were spread on the table.

The first cleanup was over, and the higher-ups were in a meeting, so they had some peace of mind.

People gathered around the table and enjoyed food while chatting.

Buzzing.

"Hey, these salted skewers are really good."

"What about the pork belly?"

"I'm sorry I couldn't go to the picnic... Huh? Director."

Lee Jeong-min, an assistant manager, stopped talking and blinked his eyes.

Kim Hyun-min, the director who had finished the meeting and came back, was also surprised.

It was common to order food when working overtime, but it was the first time he saw someone bring a steamer that was steaming hot.

What the hell is this?

While Kim Hyun-min hesitated for a moment to figure out the situation, Lee Bon-seok, the team leader, was about to burst out.

"What the hell is this?"

“Team leader.”

Yoo-hyun, who was watching, cut off his words and intervened.

He couldn't let him ruin the mood that deserved praise.

He turned his head to Lee Bon-seok and was about to say something.

“Cocktails are ready.”

A clanging sound came from behind.

At the same time, people's eyes turned to Jeong Saet-byul, who came in with a large tray.

“Cocktails.”

They blinked their eyes at the unexpected appearance.

It was understandable. The things on the tray were definitely cocktails.

And not just one kind.

From mojitos with sliced lemons and basil on top of bubbly soda water, to kahlua milk with black liquid and milk separated in layers.

Various cocktails were placed on it.

“...”

It was a bad timing, but he had no choice.

The more he was in this situation, the more he had to act shamelessly.

Yoo-hyun suddenly clapped his hands and encouraged applause.

“Saet-byul worked really hard to take care of everyone who was working hard. Please give her a round of applause.”

“Clap.”

As Yang Yoon-soo joined in with a loud voice, the sound of applause spread like an infection.

Clap clap clap clap clap.

Yoo-hyun didn't stop there. He took another step forward.

When the situation was awkward, it was best to involve the higher-ups.

“Director, have a drink. Saet-byul made it specially for you.”

“It's non-alcoholic? It's delicious. Thank you, Saet-byul.”

Kim Hyun-min, the director, had a sense of the situation and played along.

Jeong Saet-byul asked with sparkling eyes.

“Really? Is it good?”

“Yeah. I'm serious.”

“Wow. Thank you. I'll make you as much as you want.”

As Jeong Saet-byul showed a bright energy that she hadn't shown before, Kim Hyun-min smiled pleasantly and pulled in the other team leaders.

“Come on, team leaders, have a drink.”

“Oh, yes.”

Lee Bon-seok, the team leader, and Jang Joon-hong, the team leader, nodded their heads for now.

Since Kim Hyun-min had the backing of the business director, they had no choice but to go along with this situation, even if they didn't like it.

He had already eaten once, but it was different when he ate with cocktails.

Yoo-hyun chewed on the salted skewers and checked the atmosphere around him.

Maybe because the higher-ups were mixed in, everyone was quiet.

The awkwardness continued, so Yoo-hyun tried to break the ice.

In this case, it was best to ask what people were most curious about.

“Director, will you let us go home right after we finish our work at dawn?”

“No, the working hours are...”

Lee Bon-seok, the team leader, who was about to flare up instinctively, was stopped by Kim Hyun-min, the director.

“As long as everything is properly organized, we should go right away. I’ll let you go even if it’s dawn.”

“Wow wow wow wow.”

As Kim Hyun-min came out strongly, the people around him reacted at once.

Someone asked a question.

“Do we have to sleep and come in the afternoon?”

“Don’t be ridiculous. If you leave work, you can’t come to the office.”

“Wow. That’s great.”

That was the start.

As Kim Hyun-min opened his heart, people approached him.

Yu Seok-won, an assistant manager from the TV team, was one of them.

“Director, can we have a dinner party?”

“You can have a dinner party anytime. You can fill your stomach with beef every day if you want. Just decide on it.”

“Then I’ll book it right away.”

“That’s right. Yu did a lot of work preparing for food. Of course I have to listen to him.”

“You really remember that. I’ll prepare it fiercely.”

Yu Seok-won clenched his fists and the people who were preparing food with him chuckled.

These small gestures of consideration narrowed the distance between the leader and the members in an instant.

Thanks to that, the walls between ranks also began to crumble.

The color of the former 3rd part that communicated up and down and collaborated sideways was melting into TF as well.

Yoo-hyun could see such changes clearly.

Who would have expected that TF would grow so much because of the sudden cancellation of the picnic and the overnight work?

Yoo-hyun smiled wryly at the ironic situation.

Then Kwon Se-jung called him from behind.

“Yoo-hyun, do you want to get some fresh air?”

“Sure.”

He had no reason to refuse. Yoo-hyun nodded his head.

It was almost midnight. The outdoor terrace on the 20th floor was quiet.

While Kwon Se-jung was on the phone, Yoo-hyun sat on a bench and checked his phone messages.

-The director said you guys are working hard. Thanks to you, we're also getting strength here.

Given the situation, Shin Nyeok Jeonmu was also staying up late.

Yoo-hyun replied right away.

-You're working hard too until late at night. Don't worry about us and go home.

-We're going to finish up here and organize things soon.

-I guess you have to respond right away tomorrow. I'm sorry but we'll finish early and go first.

-Haha. Okay. Hang in there a little more. I'll make sure to take care of the innovation product TF.

-Yes. I'm looking forward to it.

What else is he going to take care of?

Yoo-hyun smiled and put his phone in his pocket.

Whoosh.

He leaned on the railing and felt the cool night breeze.

The night view of Gangnam was quite impressive.

“It’s not bad to work overtime after a long time.”

Yoo-hyun said casually. Kwon Se-jung, who was next to him, nodded his head.

“I know. I used to hate it, but now it’s fun.”

“Because you get to eat a lot of things.”

“Haha. That’s true.”

He shrugged his shoulders and glanced at Yoo-hyun.

He looked like he had a lot to say, but why was he hesitating?

He had a rough idea, so Yoo-hyun asked him bluntly.

“Why? Are you jealous of Park Doo-sik, the deputy director?”

“Huh, how did you know?”

“How did I know? You’ve been shining your eyes since the meeting.”

To Yoo-hyun, it was a normal meeting, but to Kwon Se-jung, it must have looked different.

He had never seen an organization that covered the entire business unit and the client, and even responded to the group strategy room.

It was natural for him, who knew how to see things in three dimensions from a fragmentary fact, to be curious.

Chapter 425:

Kwon Se-jung, the deputy, took a deep breath and opened his mouth.

“It seemed like Director Park was looking at you, Yoo-hyun.”

“Why are you bringing up my story out of the blue?”

“Just. He felt like a wall to me. I don’t know, it felt like he was seeing a scenery that I couldn’t see at all.”

“Geez, that’s an interesting feeling.”

Yoo-hyun smiled faintly, and Kwon Se-jung continued to speak, looking at a distant place.

His calm words were directed not to the outside, but to his own inner self.

“To be honest, I sneered when Director Park went to the Innovation Strategy Office. ‘What does the HR team know?’, something like that arrogant thought.”

“Do you think he’s doing well after moving to the Innovation Strategy Office?”

“I know it’s not.”

“Then?”

“But if I go there, I might be able to catch a glimpse of the scenery that Director Park sees.”

Yoo-hyun shrugged his shoulders at the typical answer.

“Haha. You’re worrying about something useless. Just finish what you’re doing now.”

“I guess it’s not a place for me, right?”

Kwon Se-jung said in a weak voice, as if he misunderstood Yoo-hyun’s words.

Yoo-hyun was someone who thought that Kwon Se-jung was more suited for the Innovation Strategy Office than anyone else.

His political sense and three-dimensional vision were perfect for an organization that dealt with all-round problems.

However, he still lacked a foundation.

“Don’t be silly. What I mean is, if you finish what you’re doing well, you’ll have much better opportunities. I guarantee it.”

“How do you know that?”

“You know how. Don’t you trust me?”

Kwon Se-jung shook his head vigorously at Yoo-hyun’s question.

“No. I trust you 120 percent.”

“That’s a good number. Then trust me and give it a try.”

“Okay. Watch me.”

“Watch what? You have to do it yourself.”

Yoo-hyun shrugged it off and Kwon Se-jung chuckled.

“Haha. Yeah. You have some fun.”

“You’re finally making some sense.”

Yoo-hyun smiled brightly and looked at the distant scenery.

It looked more splendid today, perhaps because he was with a colleague who understood him.

It was past midnight.

The conference room of the Group Strategy Office on the 32nd floor of Hansung Tower.

A man in there, which was set up as a 24-hour situation room, opened his mouth with a grim expression.

“Did the audit report from the Home Appliances Division already come out?”

“Yes, sir. As you can see, the content is quite detailed. And the Mobile Division has sent a unanimous rebuttal article to the press.”

Audit report, an article draft that went to Wooree Daily.

That alone was enough to make his head hurt, but there was something else on his subordinate’s monitor.

Shim Byeong-jik, the deputy director, touched his throbbing forehead and asked.

“What are you looking at now?”

“It’s a complaint that came in through an information company. Maybe they had another deal, but Dell seems to be backing off too.”

“Huh. Did the Innovation Strategy Office do this much? In such a short time?”

It had been only a few hours since their plan was ruined.

It was impossible to make all these materials and respond in that time.

The subordinate opened his mouth cautiously.

“Maybe they were waiting for it?”

“Do you mean someone leaked our internal opinions?”

“That’s the only explanation I can think of.”

If this went wrong, someone would have to pay for it.

Shim Byeong-jik looked into his subordinate’s eyes as if to confirm.

“Did Director Kwon plan everything by himself?”

“Yes. That’s right.”

The subordinate nodded, understanding his meaning.

Meanwhile, the atmosphere of the 13th floor office, which had been briefly excited, quickly subsided.

Tap tap tap.

The sound of typing started by someone spread like an infection.

Meetings were held here and there, and the team leaders who received reports made their own materials.

People asked and answered questions as they crossed over partitions.

It would have been enough for anyone to complain if they worked this hard at dawn, but rather they seemed more focused.

Kwon Se-jung, who was next to Yoo-hyun, was especially diligent.

Maybe he was inspired by Director Park Doo-sik, but he didn’t just stick to his mobile team work but also took care of other teams carefully.

And he even cared about Yoo-hyun.

Kwon Se-jung, who was running around frantically, asked Yoo-hyun to do something.

“Yoo-hyun, don’t worry and rest. I’ll take care of this.”

“Yeah. Do whatever you want. I’m not worried at all.”

Yoo-hyun waved his hand at his passionate colleague.

He had nothing to worry about in the first place.

The Innovative Product TF was already on track.

Now was the time to relax and have a cocktail.

Swoosh.

Yoo-hyun took a sip of the super-simple cocktail he made as Jung Saet-byul taught him earlier.

The sticky and sweet sensation of Kahlua syrup and the smoothness of milk were excellent.

“It would be perfect if I mixed some vodka.”

He wanted to rip open the liquor in the pantry, but he couldn't do that.

He swallowed his regret and put a fish-shaped bun that Jang Jun-sik gave him in his mouth.

He had been eating a lot of things lately, so his mouth was always empty.

Munch munch.

Yoo-hyun enjoyed the sweet flavor in his mouth and glanced at the monitor screen.

He had already checked the first response progress report sent by Director Park Doo-sik, so he didn't have to worry about anything else.

Rather, another news caught Yoo-hyun's eye.

“Now it feels real.”

Lee Jang-woo's title match, which he had been anxious about, became a reality.

If it had been like before, he would have just cheered for him, but now it was different.

-Brother, I really want to win. Please help me once.

It was because Lee Jang-woo asked him for help.

The director also asked him seriously, so Yoo-hyun decided to become Lee Jang-woo's temporary coach.

For a while, he had no choice but to care for his beloved junior.

'I don't have much to help though.'

Yoo-hyun was caught up in his thoughts for a moment.

Maybe it was because he drank too much caffeine, but he wasn't sleepy.

Time passed, and one by one, the results came out.

Yoo-hyun opened his eyes, which had been half-closed, at the noisy sound.

"Yawn."

He stretched and got up from his seat, and saw Lee Jungmin, an assistant manager from the IT team, talking over the partition.

"Dell sent an email saying they're dropping the complaint and going back to the original plan."

"Wow, really? How did that happen? Did our response already go out?"

Na Hanul, a deputy manager, brightened up at his words, and Lee Jungmin added his opinion.

"Yes, it seems so. I think the higher-ups took care of it."

"The Innovation Strategy Office is amazing. Well done. I'll report to the team leader, so you can take a break."

"I owe the Mobile Team a favor. I'll help them out with some work."

At Lee Jungmin's unexpected words, Na Hanul hesitated for a moment and then nodded.

It was true that they had received a lot of help from the Mobile Team when organizing the data.

"Okay, do that."

"Yes, sir."

Lee Jungmin answered and returned to his seat with a bright face.

Was he that happy to help out with work?

Yoo-hyun felt that the TF operation would go better than he had expected.

6:30 a.m.

Finally, all the data was organized and delivered to the Innovation Strategy Office.

If it had been like before, they would have had to stay for group leader reports, business unit responses, etc., but now there was no reason to do that.

Everything was delegated to the Innovation Strategy Office.

Kim Hyun-min, the head of the Innovation Strategy Office, who had finished the final meeting with them, gathered the TF staff who were exhausted from fatigue.

“Thank you all for working hard to meet the tight schedule until late at night.”

“Thank you for your hard work.”

No matter how much they endured with their willpower, it was not easy to stay up all night.

They all looked very tired.

Yoo-hyun raised his hand before any unnecessary words came out.

“Sir, can we go home now?”

“Well...”

Kim Hyun-min hesitated at Yoo-hyun’s words.

He wasn’t going to ask them to eat something together, was he?

He understood that he was worried about his subordinates’ stomachs, but this was not the time for that.

“Sleep comes first. Sir, let’s go.”

Yoo-hyun emphasized again, and Kim Hyun-min shouted with an embarrassed expression.

“Let’s all go home. Try to forget about work and get some rest. Oh, and you can come in tomorrow afternoon.”

“Woohoo!”

Cheers erupted everywhere at once.

They might have been unhappy that the picnic was canceled, but they forgot about that and looked happy.

It wasn’t because they paid a high price for it.

A very small kindness united people’s hearts and made them happy.

Moving the hearts of office workers was very simple.

While the members of the Innovative Product TF were sleeping soundly after staying up all night,

The Innovation Strategy Office and the Group Strategy Office were waging a small war.

First of all, Hansung Electronics countered Ilsung Electronics’ news right away.

It was only a day later and there were so many detailed supporting data that people also took Hansung Electronics’ side.

The PR team of the mobile phone business unit received praise from the business unit head for their quick response.

Thanks to this, the status of the Innovation Strategy Office that helped them behind the scenes rose even higher.

It wasn’t over yet.

The sudden audit of Kimpo Factory by the Group Strategy Office was eventually canceled.

Shin Nyeongwook, an executive director, pushed in supporting data and even moved Shin Myeongho, vice president.

Since they had a weak reason in the first place, the Group Strategy Office couldn’t hold on any longer.

Some executives from the home appliance business unit who were stuck in between were in trouble.

It was the same for leaking information to customer companies.

When the Innovation Strategy Office moved quickly and caught their tail, the Group Strategy Office ran away by cutting off their tail.

The quick response completely tied up the Group Strategy Office so that they couldn't even take any follow-up measures.

In the end, all three events ended with a decisive victory for the Innovation Strategy Office.

With this as an opportunity, the Innovation Strategy Office firmly established its position within the organization.

What about the internal situation of the Group Strategy Office?

Yoo-hyun heard about it the next day in the afternoon.

In a conference room on the opposite side of the outdoor terrace on the 20th floor,

Park Doo-sik, a deputy manager, spoke with a rather tired expression.

“It seems that they think it was a complete failure internally in the Group Strategy Office. I thought they would fight back, but they're rather quiet.”

“They can't do anything. The vice president stepped in. They have a weak reason.”

“Yeah. It must be a headache for them. They got caught in so many things this time.”

“Someone will take responsibility. Have you heard anything?”

This was what Yoo-hyun was curious about.

It was customary in the Group Strategy Office that there was always a price to pay for failure.

Who would take the blame?

He thought of the people he had worked with in the past, and a familiar name came to his ears.

“Do you know Kwon Seonghoe, the manager? The one who led sending you to Yeontae-ri.”

“Of course. I know him well. We used to talk on the phone sometimes.”

“Yeah. He seems to be transferred to the Gangwon-do branch.”

Gangwon-do branch?

There were hardly any office workers there, where the home appliance business unit factory was located.

It was practically exile, just like when Yoo-hyun went to Yeontae-ri.

There was no way that proud guy could stand it.

“I see. It’s a shame, but there’s nothing we can do.”

“You don’t look sorry at all?”

“Of course not. I was quite fond of him.”

Yoo-hyun said as if he meant it, and Park Doo-sik shrugged his shoulders for a moment.

Then he calmed down and continued.

“Anyway, thanks to the TF’s active help, we finished everything quickly and well. I feel like we’re on track too.”

Thanks to the Innovative Product TF, the Innovation Strategy Office got a free vaccine.

Chapter 428:

As expected, a man came over and sat down on the spot, grabbing a bottle of liquor.

He was Ha Mu-gon, the manager of the IT team, and his face looked quite drunk already.

“Ha Daeri, you’re lucky. You get a lot of love from your juniors, a lot.”

His mouth spat out bitter words.

He didn’t like Yoo-hyun from the start.

He was annoyed by his flashy actions, and he hated seeing him having fun with the staff below the manager level under the pretext of preparing for the retreat.

He had been holding back, so he filled his beer glass with soju.

Yoo-hyun, who saw that, moved his hand under the table and answered with a good-natured tone.

“It’s all thanks to Ha Manager’s support.”

“Geez, you’re good at talking. That’s why you get a lot of love from the director too. Come on, drink.”

Thud.

Ha Mu-gon pushed his beer glass forward and curled his lips.

Yoo-hyun understood and sympathized with his dissatisfaction.

Not only him, but other managers and deputy managers also looked unhappy.

It was a natural thing, and there was no reason to fight, so Yoo-hyun accepted his offer without refusing.

Of course, his hand was holding a beer glass filled with water by now.

Gulp gulp.

He leisurely emptied his glass and handed it to him.

“I can’t just take it. I’ll offer you a drink too.”

As Yoo-hyun picked up the soju bottle, Ha Mu-gon’s face turned red and he said.

“Are you trying to screw me over?”

“Of course not. If you can’t drink, you don’t have to. It’s not mandatory, is it?”

Yoo-hyun answered calmly and poured the liquor, and Ha Mu-gon snapped at him.

“Hey, follow me.”

Then Jeong Saet-byul came over with a cocktail shaker in her hand.

She seemed to be in a good mood after receiving some compliments.

“Oh my. Manager, you have to drink a penalty drink for talking about work at a drinking party, a penalty drink.”

“What are you talking about?”

She shrugged off his words and picked up the half-filled beer glass that Yoo-hyun had poured.

Then she turned the cocktail shaker upside down and sprayed it into the beer glass.

Squeak.

The vodka that went on top of the soju bubbled up and spilled over the beer glass.

It looked like a very strong drink.

Jeong Saet-byul pushed the glass towards Ha Mu-gon and shouted.

“Ta-da. This is a new menu made with soju and vodka.”

“What? Why are you doing this?”

“Hey, Manager, don’t be so timid and drink like a man.”

Jeong Saet-byul was not trying to make him uncomfortable at all.

She was just acting as she pleased because she was in a good mood.

“One shot. One shot.”

She clapped her hands and incited him, and people who didn’t know the situation cheered him on with laughter.

“Yeah. Ha Manager, drink it coolly.”

“Try it. It’ll make you buzz. Hahaha.”

Ha Mu-gon's face turned red and blue in an instant.

He couldn't just avoid it because there were many eyes watching him.

He finally closed his eyes and emptied his glass.

"Cough."

He barely drank it and made a grimace.

"How is it? Delicious, right? Right?"

She asked innocently, even though he looked very upset.

Yang Yoon-soo, a junior from the same team, added more fuel to the fire.

He handed him a hangover remedy that he had prepared in advance and flattered him.

"Manager, you're amazing. You must have a stomach ache. Please take this. I prepared it specially for you."

Click.

"Ha."

Ha Mu-gon was dizzy from the two people's unexpected actions and the alcohol that rose up quickly.

He couldn't handle this situation anymore and got up from his seat.

Yoo-hyun chuckled at that sight.

It was no big deal to roast one manager when two fourth-dimensional people got together.

Choi Min-hee, the team leader, also found that sight very impressive and came over to Yoo-hyun and said.

"They look just like Ha Daeri when they're together."

"No way."

Yoo-hyun frowned and Choi Min-hee laughed softly.

“Well. You’re still unbeatable. You even made Go Jae-yoon Deputy Manager lose his mind.”

“I think you’re misunderstanding something big time.”

Yoo-hyun clinked his glass with Choi Min-hee’s glass that she offered him and she asked him with a playful expression.

“But what are you going to do about Junsik now?”

“What do you mean?”

“They look like they’re going to overshadow Junsik now.”

“No way. Nothing beats the original.”

Yoo-hyun shook his head right away.

His words were proven in no time.

It was when Yoo-hyun and Choi Min-hee looked at Jang Junsik, who was sitting at the next table.

Park Guk-byeong, the deputy manager of the TV team, whose face was flushed with alcohol, sat down at Jang Junsik’s table.

He had just joined the TV team and he was the type who nagged a lot whenever he opened his mouth.

“What, how can you grill beef like this?”

Jang Junsik, who was holding the tongs, bowed his head.

“I’ll grill it hard.”

“No, no. There are rules for grilling beef. Don’t you know? Front for 10 seconds, back for 10 seconds.”

Jang Junsik’s eyebrows twitched at the mention of rules, and Kwon Se-jung, the deputy manager next to him, tried to smooth things over.

“Hahaha. Deputy Manager, you’re so funny.”

“Do you want me to tell you a really funny story?”

“Yes. Please tell me.”

As soon as Kwon Se-jung reluctantly answered, Park Guk-byeong scanned the people sitting at the table and asked.

“Do you know why it’s hard to raise sheep in our country?”

“Why is that?”

“Because sheep have to pay income tax too. Hahaha.”

Park Guk-byeong spat out the answer and laughed while holding his stomach.

“...”

People’s faces darkened at his insensitive joke.

Then, Jang Junsik retorted with a stiff expression.

“That’s not true. They are tax-exempt agricultural products and are not subject to taxation. You’re mistaken.”

“Wow.”

The people who were watching gasped, and Manager Park Guk-byeong stammered in confusion.

“No, I mean, sheep don’t pay income tax...”

But Jang Jun-sik was like a wall.

“It’s not taxable. I know well because my grandmother raised sheep.”

“What, what did you say?”

“Hahaha. Manager Park, your old man jokes don’t work.”

Then, Manager Yoon Byeong-gwan, who was next to him, laughed loudly.

Thanks to him, the people who were dumbfounded also shrugged their shoulders.

In the end, Manager Park Guk-byeong, whose face turned red, left with the excuse of going to the bathroom.

Yoo-hyun, who saw that, said to Team Leader Choi Min-hee.

“I was right, right?”

“You were right, you were. Jun-sik is unbeatable.”

Team Leader Choi Min-hee still chuckled and slapped the floor with her palm.

Then, Deputy Director Kim Hyun-min came over and sat down next to her.

“What’s so funny?”

“Jun-sik did something again.”

Deputy Director Kim Hyun-min nodded his head at Team Leader Choi Min-hee’s words.

“As expected, we have a lot of funny guys in our TF. How did you gather them?”

“You’re the best among them.”

Yoo-hyun raised his thumb, and Deputy Director Kim Hyun-min growled with a playful expression.

“What did you say? Come on, follow me. Let’s have a neck-grabbing contest.”

“That’s a good idea. Let’s do that.”

Yoo-hyun smiled and agreed.

Yoo-hyun, who went out behind the restaurant, sat on a bench placed on the wall of the building.

Come to think of it, he always sat like this and talked with Deputy Director Kim Hyun-min.

He remembered the conversations he had with him when he went to Ulsan on a business trip and when he went to Yeontae-ri.

Every time, Deputy Director Kim Hyun-min comforted Yoo-hyun with his unique wit and warm words.

Then he suddenly blurted out something absurd.

“It’s an honor to sit side by side with the man invited by Steve Jobs.”

“Hey, what are you talking about?”

“It’s amazing. Has Apple ever invited an employee directly? This is something that only Steve Jobs can do.”

Deputy Director Kim Hyun-min was exaggerating the contact from Apple the other day.

Of course he was overinterpreting it, but Yoo-hyun didn't bother to tell him.

Instead, he answered casually.

“Then please take good care of me.”

“I do everything you ask me to do.”

“Like what?”

“Make me in charge of the integration plan, make me in charge of the picnic, make me in charge of the exhibition. Oh? They're all hard things?”

Deputy Director Kim Hyun-min folded his fingers one by one and looked away awkwardly.

He glanced at Yoo-hyun and said with a sheepish expression.

“Well, I'll just have to do better from now on, right?”

“Yes. Then let me see how you do it.”

“Okay. So don't go anywhere else again.”

“What do you mean?”

“Did you wander around a lot? If you say you're going again, I'll go to Yeontae-ri instead of you.”

Deputy Director Kim Hyun-min growled as if threatening him, and Yoo-hyun pointed out the flaw logically.

“Yeontae-ri is not a place where you can go if you want to. The competition rate there has gone up a lot.”

“So are you saying I'm not qualified?”

“You have to take a precision test. From what I see, it's close.”

Deputy Director Kim Hyun-min stuck out his tongue at Yoo-hyun's serious expression.

“Sigh. This kid, can’t you lose a word?”

“I must have learned from my senior rascal.”

“Haha. Well done, you learned well.”

Deputy Director Kim Hyun-min laughed and shrugged his shoulders.

Maybe it was because of the warm evening breeze or the pleasant conversation, but Deputy Director Kim Hyun-min’s face looked much more relaxed.

Yoo-hyun also enjoyed talking with him very much.

They chatted for a while without noticing the time passing by.

It was then.

Whoosh.

Deputy Director Kim Hyun-min carried his feelings for Yoo-hyun on the wind that blew in.

“How can I be good to you?”

“Just buy me something delicious.”

Yoo-hyun answered nonchalantly as he looked at Deputy Director Kim Hyun-min who sparkled his eyes.

“Haha. Then do you want to go to Paju with me this Saturday? I know an awesome restaurant there.”

“Hey, what are we going to do there as two men?”

“What’s wrong with that? You don’t have a girlfriend yet.”

“I’ll have one soon. And I’m really busy this weekend.”

Yoo-hyun flatly refused, and Deputy Director Kim Hyun-min leaned in and urged him.

“What? Do you have a chance? What is it?”

“You’re already helping me enough.”

He had made him in charge of the exhibition, and he had also assigned him the right staff.

Thanks to that, he had enough preparation to meet Jeong Da-hye again.

Deputy Director Kim Hyun-min blinked his eyes as if he didn't understand.

“What do you mean?”

“There's something like that.”

Yoo-hyun smiled and shrugged his shoulders.

The warm evening air felt very pleasant.

The Innovative Product TF had changed after the emergency issue response.

Thanks to the short but impactful time they spent together, the new members quickly blended into the organization.

That change was also easy to find within the mobile team.

“Deputy Kwon, you did a good job with the data organization. You have a good vision.”

Deputy Kwon Se-jung became more proactive with the compliment from Kim Jin-yeol, the newly joined senior manager.

“Thank you. I have some updated data, do you want me to upload it?”

“Sure. Let's do that.”

The two filled the gap that Yoo-hyun left when he stepped back from the work for a while.

The second part also had Lim Myeong-hwan, the newly joined senior manager, who took the lead well.

Thanks to him, Senior Manager Yu Hye-mi was able to speed up her steps with less burden.

Meanwhile, Yoo-hyun led the Starlight Team and prepared for the exhibition.

To be precise, it was not Yoo-hyun but Jang Jun-sik who led his two juniors well.

Jang Jun-sik, who was carrying a laptop bag, greeted Yoo-hyun.

“Deputy, I'm going to Ulsan on a business trip to check on the mobile exhibition panel.”

“Okay. Jun-sik, go and see and hear a lot. Yoon-su and Saet-byul, learn a lot from your senior.”

Yoo-hyun asked the three people who were standing in a row, and they all bowed their heads.

“Yes. Thank you.”

They were so passionate and diligent that Yoo-hyun didn't have much to do with them.

After sending off his juniors, Yoo-hyun returned to his seat and slumped down on his chair.

Thud.

He just relaxed his body a little bit, but wary eyes came from behind the partition.

It seemed like they were trying hard to find something to catch him on.

Chapter 429:

Yoo-hyun knew very well that the other team leaders and managers still had complaints about him.

He wanted to sort out the traffic jam, but he had no strength, time, or energy to do so.

He was exhausted from working out at the gym until late even on weekdays.

Yoo-hyun slumped on his chair and frowned at the desk calendar.

“This will be over by Saturday.”

That Saturday.

Lee Young-nam was sitting on the sofa in Yeontae's bokdeokbang and answering a phone call.

“Haha. Yes, sir. Of course we have to help each other. Yes. Please come in.”

He hung up the phone with a cheerful laugh and Bae Yong-hwan, who was sitting across from him, asked casually.

“What did the factory manager say?”

“What do you mean? He said he would support our village again. Everyone is crazy about making connections with the crown prince.”

“Haha. Thanks to the crown prince taking care of our village, we’re having a good time.”

The rumor that the crown prince had visited Yeontae and drank with the village head had already spread to the Mokpo factory.

And when the Innovation Strategy Office issued a guideline for supporting Yeontae factory, it became a fact that the crown prince was taking care of Yeontae.

Lee Young-nam nodded his head seriously.

“That’s what educated people should do. Didn’t we throw a feast for the crown prince?”

“We did make him drink a lot.”

“Hmm.”

Lee Young-nam coughed and quickly changed the subject.

“Anyway. This is all thanks to Han Joo-im.”

“Yes. That’s right. I wonder how he’s doing.”

“Me too. He must have run out of makgeolli by now.”

Lee Young-nam was thinking of Yoo-hyun when it happened.

Bang.

The door opened and Bae Yong-seok ran in breathlessly.

“Village head. Huff huff.”

“What’s wrong? Is there a war?”

“He, he’s on TV right now. Han Joo-im.”

“What?”

The eyes of everyone in the bokdeokbang widened.

At that moment.

Yoo-hyun was standing in front of the door of entrance number 2 of Sangam Gymnasium.

“The challenger will enter now.”

Following the signal of the staff, the door opened wide and Yoo-hyun stepped inside.

As soon as he entered the arena, he felt the change in the air.

Buzzing.

The audience filled all around created an overwhelming atmosphere with their presence alone.

The cameras installed everywhere, the octagonal ring placed in the center of the arena, and the announcer’s voice that never stopped confirmed that this was the final stage that was about to begin.

Yoo-hyun lifted his head and slowly looked around.

The atmosphere of the arena was definitely heavy because it was a title match.

Even the gym owner, who had watched several matches of officials, had to swallow his saliva.

“Gym owner, you’re not nervous, are you?”

Yoo-hyun asked as he saw him next to him and he shook his head right away.

“Of course not. You’re the one who should be nervous.”

“It looks fun.”

Yoo-hyun said calmly and the gym owner glared at him.

Soon after, the announcer’s voice echoed through the microphone.

“The challenger for this title match is Lee Jang-woo from Number One Gymnasium, with a height of 166 centimeters and a weight of 68 kilograms, and...”

The screen on the electronic board on the ceiling in the center of the arena flickered.

There were four large electronic boards arranged on four sides and Lee Jang-woo's profile popped up on them.

Lee Jang-woo, who was standing in front of him, was catching his breath.

Yoo-hyun patted his back to ease his tension and encouraged him.

“Jang-woo, just think about what you've done so far.”

“Yes, sir.”

Lee Jang-woo answered firmly and clenched his fists.

A flame of desire for victory burned brightly in his big eyes like a gentle person.

Yoo-hyun faced his will contained in the flame.

-It's true that I have a personal grudge against Kim Chun-sik.

He said that a friend who had cared for Lee Jang-woo in the past had given up his dream of becoming a fighter because of Kim Chun-sik's violence.

If this was the only reason why Lee Jang-woo wanted to be a champion, Yoo-hyun would not have helped him so much.

-But I don't want to fight him because of that. I want to go out into the world as soon as possible and test myself.

Lee Jang-woo talked about his dream, not revenge, and that's why he decided to help him.

Of course, he also had a big ambition to have a new experience through him.

Yoo-hyun hugged Lee Jang-woo and patted his back.

“This is not the end, but the beginning. Let's tie the first knot well.”

“Yes. I'll do my best.”

Lee Jang-woo, who brightened his eyes, entered the ring.

Kim Chun-sik, who entered the ring after him, provoked Lee Jang-woo from the start.

He drew the audience's attention and cursed at him with a glare.

He even showed no manners by tapping Lee Jang-woo's cheek with his fist when they met.

"That bastard."

The gym owner was furious, but Lee Jang-woo did not lose his concentration.

He could tell how serious he was by looking at his eyes.

This was a good start.

A total of five rounds.

Five minutes per round.

The bell rang to signal the beginning of the final match and Yoo-hyun shouted loudly.

"Jang-woo. Keep the pace as you practiced."

The game proceeded as Yoo-hyun expected.

Lee Jang-woo lowered his posture and drove him to the corner as he practiced.

He endured the punches that poured out endlessly with his body and pushed Kim Chun-sik stubbornly like a rhinoceros.

Thud. Thud. Thud.

Then he slowly inflicted damage on his abdomen.

It was inefficient to hit one for every ten he received, but soon it was Kim Chun-sik who was cornered and flustered.

But then it happened.

Thump.

"Ugh."

A dull sound suddenly rang out and silence fell over the arena.

The gym owner jumped up and shouted.

“Referee. Headbutt. That’s a headbutt. It’s a foul.”

Blood flowed from Lee Jang-woo’s right eye socket, which was swaying from the headbutt.

Kim Chun-sik immediately rushed in and attacked the torn area relentlessly.

Thud.

Lee Jang-woo blocked it firmly with his guard, but it was not enough to stop Kim Chun-sik’s fierce attack.

He didn’t just punch him, he also stabbed his wound with a viciousness.

In the meantime, the referee signaled the game to continue with his hand.

“Hey. That was intentional. Intentional.”

The gym owner shouted and Oh Jung-wook ran in, but it was useless.

Soon the floor was stained with Lee Jang-woo’s blood.

Ding ding ding.

The second round ended in confusion.

“Doctor.”

Yoo-hyun brought the doctor and quickly entered the ring.

Drip. Drip. Drip.

Yoo-hyun wiped off the blood that covered Lee Jang-woo’s face with a wet towel.

The doctor opened Lee Jang-woo’s eyes and checked his pupils, then applied a hemostatic agent to his torn eye socket.

“It won’t last long. It will tear as soon as it touches.”

“Isn’t there a way to delay it a little longer?”

The doctor shook his head at the gym owner’s question.

“There’s no way unless you stitch it up. It’s a very weak spot that got torn.”

“Damn it.”

The situation was not good enough for the gym owner to swear.

His right eye was completely closed because it was so swollen.

He had already lost too much blood, and the worst situation was that one side of his vision was blocked.

Especially since his opponent was Kim Chun-sik, who knew how to attack his weaknesses persistently, there was no possibility of victory.

That's why Lee Jang-woo, who always looked forward bravely, lowered his head and gasped for breath.

His eyes, which used to sparkle brightly, became dull.

Yoo-hyun remembered one thing at that moment.

-Are you feeling wronged? That's just an excuse for losers. If you didn't want to feel wronged, you should have won.

-A missed opportunity never comes back. You have to choose whether to give up everything or run with a determination to die.

The words he had learned with his body for the last 20 years filled his head.

Of course, he didn't think that the life he had lived for success was right, and he didn't want to repeat it either.

But he didn't want to deny the effort and mindset he had back then either.

Lee Jang-woo had to endure if he really wanted it.

If he wanted to get closer to his dream faster, he had to do more than endure and win.

Shake shake shake.

Lee Jang-woo's gloves on his knees trembled.

It seemed like his will, which did not answer the words of the gym owner and Oh Jung-wook, was conveyed from his blood-stained gloves.

Yoo-hyun turned his head and looked at Kim Chun-sik.

He was already raising his hands as if he had won and inducing the audience's response.

He looked strong on the outside, but his feet were clearly heavy.

The probability was low, but there was definitely a possibility of a reversal.

“Jang-woo, do you want to win?”

“Yes, sir. But.”

There wasn't much time left for a break.

There was no time to drag on, so Yoo-hyun cut off Lee Jang-woo's words.

“Then get up right now.”

“Yoo-hyun, let him rest a little bit.”

Oh Jung-wook tried to stop him, but Yoo-hyun's eyes were still on Lee Jang-woo's face, which was lowered.

Lee Jang-woo lifted his head.

He looked at him as if asking if he could do it and Yoo-hyun tapped his shoulder.

Tap tap.

“Jang-woo, you can do it. Do you trust me?”

“Yes. Sir.”

Lee Jang-woo answered without confidence as he clenched his fists.

He used to say that he would run again even if he ran out of breath during practice, but now he hesitated.

It was because he was consumed by fear.

Yoo-hyun put both palms on Lee Jang-woo's face and moved closer to him.

At a distance where he could hear his breathing, Yoo-hyun looked into Lee Jang-woo's eyes and pleaded sincerely.

“What about your dream? You said you wanted to go higher faster. You said you really wanted to win now. Then try it.”

“...”

Lee Jang-woo bit his lip but couldn't give a confident answer.

The staff shouted loudly.

“Everyone except the players get out. The third round will begin.”

“I'll be... back.”

Yoo-hyun pushed Lee Jang-woo who couldn't come to his senses until the end.

“Did you lie? Was it just a hobby that you dragged me into?”

“No.”

Lee Jang-woo still hesitated and a harsh word came out of Yoo-hyun's mouth.

“Get a grip. If you want to give up, just give up.”

“No.”

“Then listen to me. It's your foot. Your left foot. Just look at your left foot and endure. And come back after winning. Did you hear me?”

The referee came over to sort out the situation.

Yoo-hyun slapped Lee Jang-woo's back with all his strength.

Slap.

He hit him so hard that Lee Jang-woo's back bent back.

“Ouch.”

The people who saw it opened their mouths and the cameraman blinked in surprise.

Lee Jang-woo looked at Yoo-hyun with a mixture of shock and pain on his face.

Yoo-hyun pointed at Kim Chun-sik and shouted.

“Lee Jang-woo, go and finish that cowardly bastard.”

“Yes. I'll finish him.”

Only then did Lee Jang-woo's eyes sparkle again.

Yoo-hyun's palm was clearly visible on Lee Jang-woo's back as he went to the center of the ring.

The third round had just begun.

There was no chance of winning by decision if he lasted until the fifth round.

He had to end it in this round somehow.

Thud. Thud. Thud thud thud.

Kim Chun-sik drove Lee Jang-woo to the corner with a light attack.

Lee Jang-woo kept crouching and Kim Chun-sik raised both hands to get the audience's response.

The criticism that had arisen when he headbutted him had subsided by now.

People forgot about the small incident and responded with cheers to Kim Chun-sik's flashy performance.

“Woahhhhh.”

Kim Chun-sik came out like that because his lower body strength hadn't returned yet.

Thud.

Kim Chun-sik's fist hit the wounded area and blood splattered.

But even as his head swayed, Lee Jang-woo did not lose his focus.

Thump.

A heavy sensation was felt at the end of Lee Jang-woo's fist.

He felt the sensation at the end of his fist and pushed his opponent back.

Lee Jang-woo ran like a bull with his posture lowered.

Clank.

Kim Chun-sik was grabbed by the waist and hit the ring with his back before he could even panic.

He quickly raised his guard, but his arms became numb every time he was hit by Lee Jang-woo's fist.

Chapter 430:

Thump. Thump. Thump.

Lee Jang-woo's fists started to gain speed and power.

His relentless and solid attacks broke through Kim Chun-sik's defense line.

The crowd reacted wildly.

“Go. Go. Go. Go.”

The cheers from the audience were like a compass for Lee Jang-woo.

He couldn't see anything, but he kept swinging his fists.

Drip. Drip.

Blood was splattered on the floor, but Lee Jang-woo didn't stop.

Bang.

When his fist hit the octagonal ring, Kim Chun-sik was already on the ground.

The referee rushed in and raised both hands above his head.

Whistle.

The referee blew the whistle, and the crowd erupted in applause.

“Woahhhhhhh.”

The announcer jumped up from his seat and shouted loudly.

“Amazing. Lee Jang-woo, with a powerful finish, finally gets the champion belt.”

The audience was boiling with excitement at this historic moment.

All the cameras were focused on Lee Jang-woo in the ring.

Creak.

The ring door opened and Yoo-hyun ran in.

“Huff. Huff. Huff.”

Lee Jang-woo, who was breathing heavily with a stunned expression, lifted his head and barely saw Yoo-hyun.

“Senior.”

“You did well. Really well.”

“Thank you.”

Lee Jang-woo’s back trembled slightly.

Slap.

“Ow.”

Yoo-hyun slapped his back again and smiled brightly.

“Don’t make a weak sound as a champion. Greet the audience first.”

“You go first, senior.”

Lee Jang-woo bowed respectfully to Yoo-hyun first.

Then he raised his clenched fist and thanked the audience for their support.

“Lee Jang-woo. Lee Jang-woo. Lee Jang-woo...”

The cheers celebrated the birth of a new champion.

No expert had predicted that Lee Jang-woo would lift the champion belt.

Even the people from Number One Gym didn’t easily think that Lee Jang-woo could beat Kim Chun-sik.

If they were like that, it was natural that the public didn’t expect Lee Jang-woo’s victory either.

The more unexpected the reversal, the more vividly it remained in people’s memories.

Right after the match ended.

As if to prove it, Lee Jang-woo’s name rose to the top of the real-time search keywords on a famous portal site.

Considering that even the famous Kim Chun-sik had never ranked in the real-time search keywords, it was a tremendous achievement.

It was proof that the public was paying attention to Lee Jang-woo’s three-letter name.

But there was an out-of-place keyword right below it.

-Back Smashing

This keyword, which was more unexpected than Lee Jang-woo's victory, made Yoo-hyun uncomfortable.

That evening.

When the excitement of the match had subsided a bit, Yoo-hyun received a phone call from Shim Hyun-ji, his niece from Yeontae Village.

"Brother, that was really awesome. How can you hit someone so hard?"

Yoo-hyun chuckled at Shim Hyun-ji's blunt words that came out of nowhere.

"What do you mean by hitting hard? I just patted my junior's back."

"Hey, don't be silly. Your palm looked much more painful than your fist. The village is going crazy saying you should be the champion."

"What kind of nonsense is that?"

Yoo-hyun asked incredulously, and got an even more unbelievable answer.

"It's true. Mr. Lee said you could be a champion if you ate eels, and he went to catch some eels right now."

"So that's why he called me earlier and said something about energy."

"Yes. And Uncle is looking for some herbal medicine right now."

"..."

Yoo-hyun lost his words for a moment.

Should he stop them now?

Yoo-hyun thought for a while and shook his head.

He knew very well that they were the kind of people who would send more if he stopped them.

Click.

After exchanging a few more words, Yoo-hyun ended his call with Shim Hyun-ji.

Then he looked through the list of calls he had received so far.

Most of the people he had met in Yeontae Village had contacted him, as if they had watched it together as a group.

Among them was a message from Kim Seung-mi, the wife of Choi Jeong-bok who had given Yoo-hyun some advice.

-Doryeon-nim, you have a lot of fun experiences. I was touched when you hugged your junior after winning.

As she said, he had a rather fun experience.

Yoo-hyun smiled faintly and checked another message from Park Young-hoon, his colleague from the gym.

-Your video of hitting Jang-woo's back is uploaded. It's crazy. Go and see it.

Yoo-hyun sat in front of the computer and accessed the online video site that Park Young-hoon had told him.

He didn't even have to look for the video, as it was prominently displayed on the main screen.

This video contained a short clip of Yoo-hyun hitting Lee Jang-woo's back and yelling.

It wasn't the main content of the match, and the playback time was short, but this video had as many views as Lee Jang-woo's match highlight video.

As there was a lot of interest, there were also a lot of comments.

-That must have hurt. Lee Jang-woo totally jumped up.

-Look at the clear palm print. It must have bruised.

-Is spanking the answer to waking up? Lee Jang-woo's eyes changed after getting hit.

-He didn't even blink when he got hit by Kim Chun-sik, but his eyes rolled back when he got hit by the coach.

-The coach is stronger than Kim Chun-sik, that's academic consensus.

Yoo-hyun laughed as he read the comments.

But he couldn't say anything because of Lee Jang-woo's expression that he saw in the video.

"He really looks hurt."

Yoo-hyun felt a slight guilt for Lee Jang-woo, but the views of the video kept rising.

This rate increased even more when Lee Jang-woo's interview was posted on the portal site.

It might have sounded boring and bland in the past, but the situation made the person.

Lee Jang-woo's words as a champion had that much impact.

-Who is the senior who made Lee Jang-woo a champion?

A comment that indirectly mentioned Yoo-hyun came up on the main page, and the sympathy count skyrocketed.

The phone calls kept coming for Yoo-hyun as the situation unfolded.

It got to the point where he even received an interview request from reporter Kim Yeon-guk.

Eventually, he got a call from his mother, who didn't watch TV or use the internet.

-Yoo-hyun, how can you hit your junior so hard?

"Mom, I told you. I wasn't fighting with my junior, I was cheering for him."

-If you were cheering, why did you hit him?

"When they do martial arts, there's a break time in between..."

Yoo-hyun patiently explained to his mother.

She finally seemed to understand and laughed.

-Ho ho ho. I thought you had a match with your junior, because the donut shop owner Kyung-ran was making such a fuss on the phone.

“I don’t do that. It hurts when I get hit.”

-Right. Don’t do it even if you run out of money. I’ll give you some.

“Ha ha. It’s nice to have a rich mother.”

Yoo-hyun laughed heartily at his mother’s generous words.

Even late at night, the contacts didn’t stop.

He knew they were thinking of him, but it was quite a hassle to check them all.

Even now, his phone on the bedside table was ringing.

Ring.

“Ugh. Who is it this time?”

He was tempted to turn off his phone for a while, but he checked the incoming message.

-Senior, I was able to win thanks to you. Thank you for leading me, who is lacking. Senior, I respect you.

Yoo-hyun put down his phone and smiled.

“That’s enough.”

Lee Jang-woo’s sincerity conveyed in plain words touched Yoo-hyun’s heart.

How many times would a salaryman go to a martial arts final as a coach?

How many times would he hit the champion’s back and get a bow of gratitude from the champion?

At least there was none in Hansung Electronics.

Monday morning.

Yoo-hyun arrived at the company and casually turned his head.

Whoosh.

The people behind the partitions quickly hid their heads.

They all seemed to avoid Yoo-hyun.

Was it because of the back smashing?

He didn't see any reason to avoid him like that, so Yoo-hyun was puzzled.

His question was answered by Kwon Se-jung, who sat next to him.

“Yoo-hyun, is it true that the gangsters in Ulsan called you brother? I heard you got on a gangster limousine too.”

“What are you talking about?”

“It's your rumor, man. That's what...”

Kwon Se-jung mentioned the rumor about Yoo-hyun that had spread secretly.

It had some basis, but it was all exaggerated.

“But why did that story come up all of a sudden?”

“It matters. The IT team managers were huddled together before you came. They looked like they were scared of you.”

“What? Hey, make sense.”

“It's true.”

“Or what?”

Yoo-hyun leaned his face forward as he asked angrily.

Then Kwon Se-jung flinched and shrank his body.

“Gasp. Or are you going to hit my back too?”

“Do you want me to hit you once and make you snap out of it?”

“No. I'd rather die.”

Kwon Se-jung wrapped his arms around his body and shook his head vigorously at Yoo-hyun's joke.

It must have been an overreaction for fun, but his action was a bit too much.

“Ugh. You're no fun. Let's stop.”

Yoo-hyun waved his hand and turned his body away.

At that moment, he met eyes with Jang Jun-sik, who quickly turned his head away.

Then he pulled his chair closer and tapped on the keyboard.

Tap tap tap.

What's wrong with him?

Yoo-hyun snorted.

That afternoon in the small conference room on the 13th floor.

Yoo-hyun attended a meeting to coordinate the exhibition issues with the IT development department.

Ha Mu-gon, who always glared at Yoo-hyun with bad eyes, kept avoiding eye contact and spoke.

“I've already contacted the development department. I've handed over the contact number and detailed procedures to Yoon Soo.”

Unlike before, his content was also very positive.

Yang Yoon-soo sensed the situation and quickly replied.

“When I contacted them, they said we could see the prototype of the wide panel. This is all thanks to Ha manager who worked hard for us.”

“Manager, thank you. I was worried that Yoon-soo might be ignored because he's an employee.”

Yoo-hyun also thanked him, and Ha Mu-gon smiled awkwardly.

“We're in the same room, so of course I have to help.”

He looked very nervous and careful.

Yoo-hyun, who had received a lot of help, thanked him again.

“I'll make a good result with your support.”

That's when it happened.

A big fly landed on Ha Mu-gon's nose.

He didn't even notice it and smiled awkwardly.

“Ha ha. Yeah. Let’s have a good relationship with each other.”

If he left it like that, the fly might go into his mouth, so Yoo-hyun quickly reached out his hand.

“Manager, there’s a fly right now.”

Whoosh.

As Yoo-hyun’s fist approached, Ha Mu-gon was startled.