

Real Man 61

Chapter 61

Manager Choi Kyunghyun squinted his eyes and scanned the screen.

Then he asked Yoo-hyun, who was waiting silently.

“Why did you change the video playback frame rate (the number of still images shown per second) for the year after next? It’s half of what it was before.”

“I changed it because it didn’t seem right.”

“Really? I told you to research the evidence, but you just manipulated it as you pleased.”

Yoo-hyun, who had been listening calmly, asked Shin Chanyong, the senior manager who snorted.

“Manager Shin, do you think the original frame rate was fine?”

“What? Are you trying to trip me?”

“No, I just want to hear your opinion. It seems like you disagree.”

“Of course. TV is already doing 240Hz (sending 240 still images per second) and thinking about 480Hz. Mobile should follow suit.”

Yoo-hyun pressed the screen.

Then the page changed and the TV side’s technical roadmap appeared.

It was as Manager Shin said.

“Yes, I see that the TV technical roadmap is getting faster.”

“So?”

“But I found something strange while researching the data.”

“What is it?”

Manager Choi showed interest as Yoo-hyun spoke.

Yoo-hyun looked at his serious expression and knew that he had hit the core point.

This was the reason why Executive Director Jo Chanyoung had thrown away his report.

“The mobile division’s roadmap doesn’t have any plans to increase the video output frequency of the AP (central processing unit).”

“No, that doesn’t matter. The panel frame rate can be increased regardless of the AP. That reduces the video lag phenomenon. Don’t you know that?”

“Yes, I do.”

“Then why did you change it on your own?”

Manager Shin asked as if he was accusing him, but Manager Choi’s eyes narrowed more and more.

Yoo-hyun switched the data at the right timing.

It was the panel trend data that foreign companies, including Nokia and Motorola, wanted.

It was also a well-known data.

“But if you look here, customers want screen brightness or battery life more than frame rate.”

“So you changed it based on that?”

“I changed it based on the customers.”

As soon as Yoo-hyun finished speaking, Manager Choi remembered the moment when he had reported to Executive Director Jo Chanyoung a while ago.

Executive Director Jo had pointed out that the frame rate was a mess.

Manager Choi had asked him if that was the reason, citing the same reason that Yoo-hyun had just said.

But Executive Director Jo had snapped his tongue instead.

-Tsk tsk, think a little. Isn’t it our duty to suggest trends to customers? Do you think it’s just because of that?

That was the end of his scolding.

Manager Choi couldn’t find the answer.

He still didn’t know what part of his pitch was off.

If he kept going like this, he would be doomed to fail again.

He hardened his face and said to Yoo-hyun.

“Yoo-hyun, your idea has some merit. But it’s also our duty to suggest trends to customers.”

“Manager Choi, there’s no need to listen to me.”

“... Manager Shin, what do you think?”

After giving him a brief pause, Yoo-hyun asked.

He added a slightly tense voice.

Then Manager Shin jumped in eagerly.

“It’s simple. It’s a lack of quality. A lack of quality. If you were planning to change the TRM for such a reason, there would have been no innovation until now.”

“I see.”

“Besides, why did you make the data like this and waste time? The direction was wrong from the start.”

“The direction?”

“Yes. You were wasting your time on something irrelevant. And then you say you’re done? You’re not even close.”

“...”

If Manager Shin had seen Manager Choi’s face right now, he wouldn’t have said that so easily.

Manager Choi realized that he had to correct not just the evidence for the roadmap, but also the wrong part.

And Yoo-hyun had brought him close to that answer.

Manager Shin said it was absurd, but that was what Executive Director Jo wanted.

He just lacked a reason.

Manager Choi asked in case he might have missed something.

“Is this all? Honestly, I can’t change the TRM for such a reason.”

“Yes, it is. That’s why I’m going to explain it to you now. If you look here...”

Yoo-hyun pressed a small box on the screen as if he had been waiting.

At the same time, reports from the development team popped up and a summary data combining them appeared as a chart on one corner.

It was the number of ICs needed when increasing the resolution and frame rate according to the TRM.

“Eight ICs per panel?”

“Yes. It’s an absurd number. TV might be able to split the ICs on the top and bottom, but it’s hard for small mobile panels.”

“No, that’s based on the current standard. You have to calculate the increasing IC integration and communication speed.”

“Yes, I did. So I adjusted it according to the IC roadmap.”

As Manager Shin threw a tackle, Yoo-hyun pressed a button proudly.

It was the information on how much the integration and communication speed would increase according to the IC company’s roadmap.

Most people didn’t pay attention to it, but it was data that the development team had shared before.

At that moment, Manager Choi’s head flashed.

-Manager Choi, think a little. Are you a kid? You should be able to distinguish between what’s possible and what’s not by now.

He finally understood what Executive Director Jo had said to him like a quiz.

It was impossible to increase both the frequency and resolution to that level at the same time.

He brought that to him, so there was no way he could catch Executive Jo’s eye.

“None of the three companies I surveyed had less than four. To attach four ICs to a mobile panel...”

“No, you can’t do that.”

“Manager Choi, there’s also a way to attach them on both sides.”

He looked at Manager Shin like he was just that.

He thought he was good at his job, but he threw a tackle with something that made no sense.

He thought of himself standing in front of Executive Director Jo and felt annoyed.

At the same time, his rough personality that had been hidden for a long time came out.

“Hey, Manager Shin! Why are you so stubborn today?”

“What? What did I do...”

“Think rationally. Do you think customers would want something that’s thicker and hotter?”

“That’s not what I meant...”

“How can you be more short-sighted than a newbie? More than a newbie!”

Yoo-hyun flinched for a moment.

It was to see Manager Shin’s dumbfounded face more clearly.

He didn’t even know why he was being treated like this by his friendly part leader.

He found it very amusing.

Manager Choi, who was very excited, got up from his seat.

Clang.

“That’s enough for the report.”

“Yes, I understand.”

Manager Choi turned his head and looked at Kim Hyunmin, his senior colleague who had entered the company with him.

“Manager Kim, thank you for your help.”

“What, I didn’t do anything. It was this guy who did it.”

He spat out some flattery and pointed at Yoo-hyun with his chin.

Manager Choi looked at Yoo-hyun with a complicated expression.

It was already a known data.

He had simply fit it in, but he had hit the core point.

He was just a newbie.

He suppressed his embarrassed feelings and patted Yoo-hyun’s shoulder.

“Good job.”

“Manager...”

“Manager Shin, come with me for a moment. I need to talk to you.”

And his anger was directed at Manager Shin, who didn’t even know it.

“What are you doing? This is not a training for a newbie...”

“You’re the one who needs more training. Come on.”

“...”

Manager Shin, who had a twisted face, got up and glared at Yoo-hyun.

Yoo-hyun responded with a slight smile.

He had seen something amusing, so he thought he should be generous.

Well, he would be quiet for a while, right?

Yoo-hyun smiled contentedly at Manager Shin, who was walking away.

“...”

Kim Hyunmin, the Manager, looked at Yoo-hyun with a strange expression.

About 30 minutes later?

Just when he felt like having some coffee, Kim Hyunmin came to him.

“Do you want some coffee?”

“Yes. Sure.”

Yoo-hyun followed Kim Hyunmin to the outdoor terrace on the 20th floor.

Whoosh.

A cool breeze that signaled the arrival of autumn blew his hair.

Kim Hyunmin leaned his body on the railing and looked far away.

Yoo-hyun, who was looking at him, also turned his gaze to the same place.

“...”

Silence filled the air for a moment.

It felt like the atmosphere of the drinking party a while ago continued.

Yoo-hyun didn't say anything first.

He wanted to open his heart with his feelings, not his senses, this time.

At least for this person, he wanted to do that.

The wind soothed the awkwardness of having no conversation and Kim Hyunmin opened his mouth.

“It would be nice if I could smoke a cigarette here.”

“Do you smoke?”

“No. I'm just saying. I feel like smoking again after quitting for seven years.”

“...”

He couldn't take his words lightly after knowing the reason why he had to quit smoking as well.

Yoo-hyun calmly waited for his next words.

“Do you know when you prepared that?”

“What do you mean?”

“The report from earlier. You didn’t have much time.”

“Oh, I found it quickly because Assistant Manager Park gave me some data.”

“Don’t lie, kid.”

Kim Hyunmin chuckled and said something absurd.

“I think I know everything.”

“What do you mean?”

“See? I knew you would pretend not to know.”

“...”

What does he know?

He didn’t give him any hint to overthink it.

But why did Kim Hyunmin make such a meaningful expression?

“I thought you were different from the start.”

Yoo-hyun hid his expression and answered.

“What do you mean?”

“It’s amazing. How can a newbie be so calm?”

“...”

Kim Hyunmin turned his body completely toward Yoo-hyun and continued.

“And you seem to have some experience too.”

“You’re too kind.”

“It feels like we’ve known each other for a long time.”

“...”

Could it be?

He didn’t think he had given him any reason to suspect him.

But why did Kim Hyunmin look at him like that?

“I know, buddy.”

“What?”

“Tell me?”

“Yes.”

He couldn't just brush it off as a joke. His expression was not good.

For a moment, Yoo-hyun checked his body language carefully and felt sweat on his hand.

‘He’s not lying.’

The movement of his eyes, the wrinkles around his eyes, the shape of his mouth, his heart rate, the position of his legs.

His body language showed that his words were true.

What is it?

Kim Hyunmin opened his mouth then.

“You...”

“...”

Gulp.

“Were you from psychology department?”

“Huh?”

“So that’s how you know people’s psychology so well?”

“No, that’s not...”

“I see. No wonder I told you everything. You made me more curious about you.”

“Oh...”

Yoo-hyun let out an exclamation and breathed a sigh of relief inside.

Unlike Yoo-hyun’s feelings, Kim Hyunmin had just grasped at straws.

“Is it something like the art of conversation?”

“Yes. Something like that.”

Yoo-hyun responded quickly.

Kim Hyunmin seemed to be completely hooked on Yoo-hyun’s psychology background.

“I studied psychology once too, you know? People’s psychology is...”

“I see.”

Yoo-hyun chuckled at that sight.

‘It was only for a short time...’

He was in psychology department for only two years.

And that was when he was in freshman and sophomore years, so he didn't study properly.

Even if he had learned something, he would have forgotten it all after going to the army.

"Right? Am I right?"

"Yes. You seem right. And that part is..."

"Wow, really? I knew it!"

He felt like he was hitting the mark and rambled on.

Yoo-hyun looked at his brightened face with a good feeling.

Chapter 62

The story returned to normal after a while.

"You're good at your job. You read the Executive Director's mind and prepared only the necessary data."

"I was lucky."

"I'll filter it out for you. Anyway, your major contribution will be helpful in this company since it's all about people."

"I'll keep that in mind."

Yoo-hyun gave a vague answer.

Kim Hyun Min, the Manager, was already hooked on psychology, so there was no point in explaining anything.

"Haha, don't feel too pressured. I don't expect too much from a newbie."

"Of course."

"Kid. You have a humble side. Anyway, be nice to Park Seung Woo. He must be out of his mind right now."

Yoo-hyun knew what he meant.

He didn't mean to go all in when he said he would do a contest as a backup.

He meant to do the PDA project successfully, prepare other backups, and do the contest as well.

That's how Jo Chan Young, the Executive Director, must have understood it.

But he still asked him to help Park Seung Woo?

That was Kim Hyun Min's question.

Yoo-hyun answered confidently.

"Of course."

He had no intention of leaving Park Seung Woo alone to suffer.

If he did, he wouldn't have started this in the first place.

Kim Hyun Min smiled as if he felt Yoo-hyun's determination.

"Haha, I'm looking forward to it. You'll have to run like crazy."

"I'm good at running."

"Haha, kid. You're good at talking."

Was it because they shared a secret?

They felt closer than ever before, even though they had been working together for years.

Kim Hyun Min seemed to feel the same way.

There are things you can only see when you get close.

Yoo-hyun saw a positive attitude and a strong will in Kim Hyun Min.

That was enough for him.

'Thank you.'

Yoo-hyun smiled and Kim Hyun Min put his hand on Yoo-hyun's shoulder.

"But don't slack off on the seminar preparation. You know that, right?"

There was a team seminar as a mandatory course during the OJT training.

It was a task where they had to choose a specific topic and present it in front of their team members and supervisors, and they had to get recognition there to start their real work.

That was the rule of the mobile sales marketing team.

"Of course. Expect a lot from me."

"One answer is amazing. Oh, and you know my style, but don't stay at the company and work for nothing."

He didn't plan to do that anyway.

At times like this, he felt that he and Kim Hyun Min were on the same page.

"I understand."

“Go out with your colleagues and have some fun.”

He already had a meeting with his colleagues planned.

Did he know that too?

As Yoo-hyun was about to answer, Kim Hyun Min cut him off.

“What? Is it already this late? Anyway, I talk a lot of nonsense in front of you.”

“I enjoyed it. Thank you.”

“I should thank you. Let’s do well this time.”

Yoo-hyun shook Kim Hyun Min’s hand.

It was the moment when two people who had walked different paths finally took their first step towards the same direction.

That evening.

The meeting with his colleagues was in full swing at World Beer House near the company.

“Oh! Yoo-hyun is here!”

“How have you been?”

“Of course. You all look great.”

Yoo-hyun greeted his colleagues who welcomed him and sat down.

It was a meeting of his colleagues who worked at Hanseong Tower.

There were three people from the mobile sales marketing team where Yoo-hyun belonged, as well as people from TV, IT group and staff departments.

The attendance rate was quite high since it was their first meeting.

“It’s nice to see you all. Choose whatever beer you want.”

“Hey, don’t talk like you’re buying it.”

“Can’t I say anything? Yoo-hyun, this one and this one are good.”

“Thank you. I’ll have this one.”

Yoo-hyun picked up a bottle of beer and looked at his colleagues gathered around him.

The noisy atmosphere was very pleasant.

‘It’s new.’

He felt that way for a reason.

In the past, Yoo-hyun never attended any meetings with his colleagues, using his busy schedule as an excuse.

He thought these meetings were unnecessary and didn't help him succeed.

His colleagues were nothing more than competitors he had to step on and pass by.

It was a really narrow-minded and stupid thing to say.

He received a lot of help from his colleagues whom he had ignored.

-What are you worrying about? I have the data that our group organized. I'll send it to you.

-Yoo-hyun, you're a candidate for early promotion. Your English score is a bit weak, so prepare in advance.

-I'll set the budget for you. It's okay. It's a favor from a colleague. You have to respond urgently.

He never went to any meetings, never contacted them first, and never helped them out.

From someone else's point of view, Yoo-hyun's attitude of only looking ahead could have been annoying.

But why did they help him?

-Isn't that what colleagues are for?

Yoo-hyun looked at Seo Chang Woo from the HR team who was sitting across from him.

He was the oldest among the colleagues here, and he often took care of Yoo-hyun.

He even cheered for Yoo-hyun when he moved to Hanseong Group's strategy office where his boss, Park Doo Sik, was.

Yoo-hyun wondered.

Did Seo Chang Woo survive when the LCD business division split off and reduced its staff?

He didn't care at all, so he didn't know what happened.

But he could guess that the staff department's personnel were the first ones to be cut off.

Yoo-hyun smiled bitterly and Seo Chang Woo asked.

“Why? Is the beer not good?”

“No. It’s good.”

“Haha, right? That’s why I want to have the next meeting here too.”

Then Yoon Jae Il from the general affairs team joined in.

“Brother, why don’t we start a business like this with our money? It seems like it would be very successful.”

Swoosh.

Seo Chang Woo pulled Yoon Jae Il’s ID card that was hanging around his neck and said.

“Stop it. How can you talk about starting a business when you still have your heart in the company?”

“Hey, brother. I went through all that trouble to hang an ID card around my neck, so please give me some credit. Jae Il likes the company a lot.”

“He didn’t bring his bag, so he’s just wearing it!”

Byun Jae Seung from the global HRD team also joined in teasing Yoon Jae Il.

“But you don’t take it off. Kid, you really love the company. Look at your wallet. You have a lot of business cards too, right?”

“Is there anyone here who doesn’t have a business card? Are you not Hansung people?”

He took out his wallet and showed off his business cards instead.

It was his first business card that he received a while ago.

They said that, but they were still at an age where they had a lot of passion.

They had pride in Hansung, having gone through a tough job-hunting process.

Yoo-hyun smiled as he lifted the bottle, looking at his fresh-faced colleagues.

“Come on, let’s have a drink together.”

Clank.

The bottles clinked and the conversation continued.

They had things to talk about, since they were colleagues.

They had entered at the same time and were in the same situation, so they could empathize with each other.

“Getting paid doesn’t amount to much. I spent it all in no time.”

“You at least bought a phone and a bag. I paid off my student loans with all of it. Damn. Debt is the enemy, the enemy.”

“That’s true. But don’t you feel like you can breathe a little when you enter the company? Just think about writing resumes. It makes you suffocate.”

“Yeah, right. At least they pay us. I’m saving up to go on a trip abroad.”

“I’m planning to buy a car first. Don’t you think taking on debt will increase your satisfaction with your work life?”

If Yoo-hyun had been in this position in the past, he would have dismissed these as useless talk.

They were neither helpful for the work nor for the promotion.

He would have thought it was a waste of time.

The same went for the complaints about the company.

“What kind of OJT is this? I really don’t have anything to do. Why did they hire me if they’re going to leave me like this?”

“At least you have a mentor. My mentor quit. And the team leader went to another team.”

“Hyung, I’m always running around buying snacks for meetings. Sometimes I even make coffee myself. Have you ever made 20 cups at once?”

“Haha, I’ve carried 20 takeout coffees before. But that’s better. I don’t even smoke, but I don’t know how many times I go to the smoking room a day.”

“Don’t you leave early? I haven’t left before 10 o’clock these days.”

“Hyung, at least you’re working. My team leader takes me to a PC room after work and I have no choice but to go home late. I’ve never played StarCraft before and I’m sitting in a PC room playing WoW.”

Yoo-hyun smiled faintly.

These were not the stories of losers who had given up on life and work.

Rather, they were venting their frustrations because they wanted to improve.

By sharing with each other, they could lighten their burden.

He hadn’t thought of that before.

In a way, his colleagues had more in common with him than his friends.

They were people with similar specs who graduated from similar four-year colleges.

They also had similar work lives, future prospects, interests, and hobbies at the company where they spent more than half of their day.

He didn't realize how much they relied on and helped each other.

Yoo-hyun felt a new appreciation for his colleagues, whom he had regarded as nothing more than competitors.

He suddenly had a thought.

'What if I had kept talking to my colleagues like this?'

Would the loneliness he had hidden behind his success have faded?

Maybe he would have had someone to call when he reached the top.

Yoo-hyun wanted to stay with them for a long time.

And he hoped they would all do well.

That's when Seo Chang Woo asked him.

"Yoo-hyun, what would you do if you were me?"

"The mentor problem?"

"Yeah."

"The team doesn't change just because the team leader changes. And if your mentor left, you must have a new one. Isn't Park Doo Sik your mentor?"

"Huh? How did you know? But he's really strict."

He didn't know how long he would be connected with him, but Park Doo Sik was not someone who would abandon his junior.

He was someone who had the ability to pull him up as long as he did the basics.

"I heard it from a rumor. He's as skilled as he is strict, right?"

"Well, he does talk well."

"They say he values seminars a lot. He might just give you an assignment and leave it at that, but go and report your progress at least once a day."

"Huh? Really? Wait a minute. I have to write this down."

Seo Chang Woo actually took out a notebook from his bag.

How could he not help him when he was so eager?

“Have you ever asked him about OJT yourself?”

“Uh. Now that I think about it...”

“Then go with a plan first.”

“A plan? I don’t have any.”

When Seo Chang Woo hesitated, Yoo-hyun pushed him hard.

“It’s better to go with something you’ve thought about, even if it’s sloppy, than to go empty-handed. Then he’ll probably fix it for you.”

“That makes sense. Okay. I’ll try it.”

As Yoo-hyun’s advice continued, Seo Chang Woo nodded his head repeatedly.

The other colleagues who were listening also showed curiosity.

They all had similar worries.

“How do you know all that?”

Yoo-hyun smiled inwardly.

‘You’ll know if you roll around in the company for 20 years.’

But what came out of his mouth was different.

“I just picked it up here and there.”

As Yoo-hyun dodged the question, Yoon Jae Il chimed in.

“I have a question...”

“What about...”

Yoo-hyun laughed softly and answered their questions.

He didn’t have any trouble giving them advice, since he could tell most of their problems without seeing them.

It would be much better later if he caught them well in the beginning, so Yoo-hyun actively stepped in.

The colleagues also realized that his words were helpful to them and soon became immersed in them.

That’s how the Yoo-hyun counseling center was successfully operated.

It was then that Seo Chang Woo raised his hand and greeted someone.

“Sun Mi! Over here!”

When he turned his head, Jin Sun Mi from the PR team was walking over with a bright smile.

Voices lowered from here and there.

“What’s Sun Mi doing here? Didn’t she hate these kinds of gatherings?”

“I know. I thought she wouldn’t come for sure.”

“Isn’t she here to see Hyun Joon?”

“Really?”

At Kwon Se Jung’s question, Gong Hyun Joon from the TV sales team shrugged his shoulders.

His expression pretended not to care, but his heart was beating nonstop.

Jin Sun Mi was someone.

She was one of the few new female employees in the LCD business unit who boasted overwhelming beauty.

She had beauty, family background, and education.

She had every reason to be arrogant.

She didn’t even spare a glance at Gong Hyun Joon, who had been pining for her.

Chapter 63

It was then.

Jin Sunmi, who approached the table, sat down in an empty seat and greeted Yoo-hyun with a poke.

“Hello. Long time no see, oppa.”

“Huh.”

Everyone’s eyes were drawn to Yoo-hyun when Jin Sunmi, who always added ‘Mr.’ after his name, suddenly called him oppa.

It was enough to surprise the others, especially since she was the haughty and arrogant Jin Sunmi.

Gong Hyunjun, who was too surprised, blinked his eyes and looked at Yoo-hyun and Jin Sunmi alternately.

Yoo-hyun, who had no intention of getting involved in other people’s love affairs, drew a line right away.

“Why are you doing that, Sunmi?”

“Yoo-hyun oppa, don’t be so formal. I’m going to call you oppa comfortably like the other classmates.”

“Oh, really? Why all of a sudden?”

“We’re colleagues, so we should be close.”

Jin Sunmi smiled brightly at the other colleagues.

She looked completely different from before, when she kept her distance.

Yoo-hyun soon laughed at Gong Hyunjun’s sparkling eyes.

He felt the cute feeling of fresh love.

The atmosphere of the drinking party became more lively when the only female colleague among the classmates appeared.

“Come on, we’re all connected by fate, so let’s have a drink together.”

Especially Gong Hyunjun, who had been silent, led the mood and raised it.

But Jin Sunmi’s eyes were always on Yoo-hyun.

“Yoo-hyun oppa, by any chance...”

Jin Sunmi’s words made Seo Changwoo ask in surprise.

“Huh? The one who beat up those bastards was Yoo-hyun?”

“That’s right. Right, Yoo-hyun oppa?”

“It’s just a rumor.”

“That’s not all. There was something else...”

Jin Sunmi pretended to hear Yoo-hyun’s answer and continued to spill out stories.

The story of helping the cleaning lady, the story of gaining the trust of Jo Chanyoung, the executive director, the story of making Go Jaeyoon, the team leader, eat shit, and various stories that happened in the Innovation Center.

He wondered where she had heard such things.

More than that, why was she suddenly telling these stories?

He tried to cut it off politely, but Jin Sunmi didn’t stop.

“Also...”

“Really? That happened too?”

The stories were mixed with various seasonings, and even Kwon Sejung, who often talked with Yoo-hyun, was curious.

How much more would the other new employees be?

It was as if Yoo-hyun was the protagonist of this meeting.

Everyone's attention was focused on him.

"Come on, this time..."

Yoo-hyun tried to sort out the mood at this point.

Jin Sunmi, who was watching Yoo-hyun's mood, suddenly jumped in.

"But do you really not have a girlfriend?"

"No. And I don't plan to meet anyone else for a while."

"Why? Do you have a preference..."

Jin Sunmi made an awkward expression and blinked her eyes.

Yoo-hyun was absurd.

He needed to end this clearly.

"It's not that. I have someone I like. Of course, she's a 'woman'."

"Then why don't you meet her?"

"It's not the right time. Let's stop talking about love."

Yoo-hyun stretched out his palm in front of Jin Sunmi and looked at Seo Changwoo.

He knew better than anyone else that he had to correct the conversation that was too one-sided as the leader of this meeting.

But Seo Changwoo went one step further instead.

"Why hesitate? If you feel that way, you should try it as soon as possible."

"That's right. A brave man wins a beauty."

They were not people who had never experienced love before?

Yoo-hyun was absurd.

Jin Sunmi added another spoonful and stopped Yoo-hyun.

"No. There might be someone better around you."

She even showed anxiety on her face.

She seemed determined to find out no matter what.

‘Why is she doing this?’

Jin Sunmi did not back down even when she received Yoo-hyun’s puzzled look.

The reason why she attended the colleagues meeting?

It was to find out more about Yoo-hyun.

Otherwise, she wouldn’t have wanted to hang out with them.

-Sunmi, you said it was a colleagues meeting? Is Yoo-hyun coming there too?
You’re so lucky.

Jin Sunmi recalled the words of Lee Aerin, who was in charge of the female employee meeting.

The female employee meeting looked easy on the outside, but it was not.

It was a place where only people with status could survive.

If you survive, you will be connected to a huge network.

Every quarter, the female executives of the company gathered for the meeting.

Moreover, the president and the business director did not spare their support for the female employee meeting.

The recent hot issue of the female employee meeting was Yoo-hyun’s story.

Jin Sunmi needed Yoo-hyun’s information to establish her position.

The kind of information that only close people could know.

That’s why Yoo-hyun was on her radar.

“Do you want me to introduce you to someone?”

“No. I’ll meet her later.”

“When? Just be brave now.”

He was cornered more and more.

“I can’t meet her right now.”

“No, why?”

“Why?”

“...”

Everyone was determined to interrogate Yoo-hyun.

‘What is this?’

Yoo-hyun smiled bitterly in front of everyone's eyes.

It was a rare embarrassment for Yoo-hyun, who had always been relaxed even when negotiating with the CEOs of the world's best companies.

Ssssssssssss.

Kwon Sejung, who was next to the bathroom sink, burst into laughter.

"Puhaha, Yoo-hyun, I've never seen you flustered before."

"Haa, why is Sunmi like that?"

"She seems to be interested in you, isn't she?"

"No way."

Yoo-hyun drew a line, but Kwon Sejung was persistent.

"But why don't you have a girlfriend at your level? Because of work?"

"No."

He came back to avoid that.

Kwon Sejung, who didn't know Yoo-hyun's mind, tilted his head.

"Well, you don't seem like the type to cling to work. What is it then? Everyone is curious because of that."

"I told you. I have someone I like."

"The one you saw during the new employee training? Jeong Dabin? There was a rumor that she liked you."

Kwon Sejung went too far and Yoo-hyun frowned.

"No, man."

"Then who?"

"There's a reason for that. You'll find out soon."

It was a situation he couldn't answer.

He would be lucky if he didn't get treated like a crazy person if he said it.

Yoo-hyun, who finished the colleagues meeting, sat on a bench in front of his house park.

The faint drunkenness felt good at night.

He could see the stars in the sky as well.

"It's hard to see stars these days..."

-You look lonely when you chase stars that you can't even see, sir.

He suddenly remembered the words he heard 10 years ago.

She was the woman who made him feel love for the first time.

She was also an attractive woman who made Yoo-hyun stop for a moment, who only looked at success and ran forward.

He liked her boldness.

He also liked her devotion.

Even now, looking back, he had never loved anyone more than her.

-You can't cancel your trip now. You won't be able to book again. Do you know how hard it was to match the schedule...

-Let's go next time. It's a very important project right now.

-It's your mother's anniversary. Don't you have to go down?

-You know I have an important business trip. Let's go next time.

-I think it's time for us to have a baby. I...

-The boss called. I'm busy right now, let's talk later.

Next time, next time, next time...

His wife was always second to his work.

But she never complained or grumbled.

She rather encouraged him and waited for him.

Yoo-hyun always took from her.

At some point, he thought it was okay to do so.

-Can we talk? She's not only my mother, but also your mother-in-law. This might be the last time.

-Don't you know how crazy I am right now? Just handle it yourself.

He spat out cruel and cold words to his wife who was suffering and in pain.

He saw his wife's cold eyes for the first time and they came back to him in the evening breeze.

His heart ached.

Why couldn't he understand her then?

Why couldn't he treat her well when he said he loved her?

There were many reasons, but in the end, the responsibility was on Yoo-hyun.

It was a fact that he became sure of as he saw the changes around him due to his own change.

-I'll make you happy when we get married.

It was a promise that wouldn't have broken if Yoo-hyun had done well, or at least kept the minimum decency.

But there was no way he could see around him when he was drunk with success.

"I think I can really do it now."

He muttered into the air and it spread out.

In the near future, he would naturally meet her.

Then?

He wanted to keep the promise he couldn't keep.

No, he wanted to treat her better than that.

That's what gave meaning to his life again.

Gulp.

He must have been quite drunk.

He spent a rather sentimental time sitting on a bench alone.

Ding.

The elevator door opened and people came in.

The man who was riding in front of Yoo-hyun hit the shoulder of another man who came in and said.

"Kim, how are you doing these days?"

It was a greeting of pleasure that he asked.

It was also part of the greeting that he spat out habitually.

Yoo-hyun smiled as he watched them.

The next answer was predictable.

The question 'Are you okay? You're doing great.' would not be answered by most employees.

"Ouch, sir. I'm dying."

As expected, the man made a miserable face and answered.

This was also part of the greeting that he spat out habitually.

I'm so busy I'm dying. I'm so tired I'm dying. I'm so exhausted I'm dying, etc.

There were many reasons to die, but the feeling was similar.

Was it only these people?

It was when Yoo-hyun arrived at his seat.

He saw a man who looked much more miserable than the one he met in the elevator.

It was Park Seungwoo, the assistant manager who sat next to him.

“Yes. Yes. Ha... Again? This time it's a circuit issue? Yes. Yes. I'll go. I'll check and get back to you.”

Park Seungwoo, who hung up the phone frantically, sighed deeply.

His face turned pale yellow as if he was stressed out to the extreme.

It was because of the continuous PDA panel development issue.

He wasn't an engineer who made it himself.

But as a product planner who bridged development and sales, he had no choice but to be stressed out.

If he didn't respond quickly, he could really miss the PDA launch deadline because of Hansung Electronics.

The pressure from the parts company was no joke.

But what could he do about it right now?

Taking a break is also a way to deal with it.

Yoo-hyun made a gesture of drinking coffee with his hand and Park Seungwoo nodded weakly.

“Yeah. Let's go get some fresh air.”

“I'll buy this time.”

Yoo-hyun shouted cheerfully.

Chapter 64

Park Seung-woo, an assistant manager, came up to the 20th floor outdoor terrace with a paper cup in his hand.

“Did you say you’d buy me a drink? Is this a 200-won vending machine coffee?”

“I’ll save up some money and buy you a proper coffee at the end of the year.”

“Puhaha, you’re really funny, kid.”

Yoo-hyun answered with a good-natured smile, and Park Seung-woo finally burst into laughter.

He felt like his face was getting some color back.

That’s when Park Seung-woo’s complaints began.

“Ah, it’s really no joke. What’s so frustrating is…”

“You must be getting gray hair.”

It wasn’t something he should expect from a new employee.

He must have been so frustrated to say that.

“Phew, I feel a bit better after talking.”

“It’s thanks to me listening well.”

“Haha, look at this guy. He’s getting closer and trying to climb up.”

Park Seung-woo stuck out his tongue and pointed his finger at Yoo-hyun.

He didn’t look annoyed at all.

Rather, he looked at Yoo-hyun with a playful expression.

Yoo-hyun shrugged his shoulders instead of answering, and Park Seung-woo smiled meaningfully.

“No, it won’t work. You have to prepare to go to Ulsan next week.”

“I wanted to go anyway because of the seminar preparation.”

“Oh, you seem to take it lightly. But when you go there, you’ll see how hard the company life is. Aren’t you scared?”

Scared?

There was no reason for him to be.

‘Why would I be? I’ve been here for 20 years.’

Yoo-hyun smiled and said,

“You’ll buy me something delicious when we go there, right?”

“Puhahaha, you’re really funny. Yeah. I know a great tripe restaurant.”

“You’ll have to pay if it’s not good.”

“Puhaha.”

“My fist will hurt.”

Park Seung-woo laughed loudly at Yoo-hyun’s witty reply.

The two of them were closer than anyone who had met just over a month ago.

“In that sense, do you want to go out for lunch today?”

“Ah, I’m sorry. I have a prior appointment today.”

“Oh, a girl?”

Park Seung-woo made a mischievous smile, and Yoo-hyun immediately shook his head.

“No. A colleague.”

Lunchtime.

Yoo-hyun had a meal outside with Min Jeong-hyuk and Kwon Se-jung.

They had a lot of stories to share at the last colleague meeting, so they were quite close.

On their way back, Kwon Se-jung sighed and said,

“Ah, I’m dying. I still haven’t decided on a seminar topic. How about you, Yoo-hyun?”

“I’m just going to do the project that my mentor is doing.”

“Ah, that’s good. That way you can get some help, right?”

“Yeah, sure.”

It wasn’t because he wanted to get some help that he chose the PDA project that Park Seung-woo was doing as his seminar topic.

Yoo-hyun had a reason why he had to do this topic.

“But isn’t that a topic that other seniors know too well?”

“I agree with Se-jung. If you don’t know enough, you’ll get grilled for sure.”

“I’ll have to prepare well then.”

“Be careful. You might collapse from overwork.”

“I’ll win if it comes to stamina.”

Min Jeong-hyuk glanced at Yoo-hyun and sighed.

“I wish the seminar was over soon. Our team already made a bet on how many times I’ll pass.”

“Me too. My mentor doesn’t care but keeps scaring me every day.”

As the two of them worried, the OJT seminar was not easy.

It was conducted for the entire team members, and they received direct evaluations from them.

They had already gone through the process and were doing related work, so they couldn’t lie in front of them.

They had to work hard and barely pass.

If they didn’t pass?

They wouldn’t be recognized as proper team members, let alone repeat the same process until they passed.

They couldn’t help but be nervous about it.

“Yoo-hyun, is there any way?”

“Try this once.”

“What is it? Tell me quickly.”

“Me too, me too.”

“It’s nothing. When you prepare for the seminar...”

As they walked and talked, they were already in front of Hansung Tower.

At the same time.

There was someone who had been standing in the same spot since morning and sweating profusely in front of Hansung Tower.

He was trying to find someone from Hansung Electronics who had a connection with him for sales.

The people he usually contacted didn’t answer the phone for some reason.

He came to find them in person, but he had been wasting his time for hours.

Even the person he had once treated passed by him with an excuse that he was busy.

It’s sad to be a salesperson in a small company.

Then he saw a familiar man in front of his eyes.

He was a junior from college, but what was his name...

“Ah, Han Yoo-hyun!”

He must have just become a new employee by now.

He wouldn't be helpful for sales, but he wanted to chat with his old junior.

He called out to Yoo-hyun, who was about to enter the lobby.

“Yoo-hyun!”

When he turned his head, he saw a strange face waving at him.

An awkward suit, a sweaty shirt, a thick document bag.

He didn't look like someone who worked for Hansung Group by his outfit.

“Who are you?”

“It's me. Lim Han-seop. Inhyun University Business Administration 99.”

He seemed to have heard the name before, but he didn't remember the face.

It was 20 years ago, and he didn't care about his juniors and seniors at school anyway.

Still, Yoo-hyun greeted him first.

“Hello, senior.”

“Yeah. Nice to see you. Are you going to work?”

“Yes. Just a moment.”

The reason for the outsiders in front of Hansung Tower was obvious.

He could tell by their anxious and desperate expressions.

He didn't remember his senior very well, but he wanted to hear his story anyway.

Yoo-hyun asked his colleagues for permission first.

“You go ahead. I'll talk for a while and go.”

“Okay. Thanks for the talk today.”

Yoo-hyun sent Min Jeong-hyuk and Kwon Se-jung away and approached Lim Han-seop.

He looked tired from standing outside for a long time.

His face was full of exhaustion.

“Senior, do you want to go inside and talk?”

“Huh? Really?”

Lim Han-seop brightened up immediately.

It wasn't easy for an outsider to enter Hansung Tower.

If he tried hard enough, he could get in, but he would soon be caught by the security guards.

But if he knew someone who worked there, he could easily enter the customer meeting room on the first floor lobby.

Inside the customer meeting room.

Yoo-hyun handed Lim Han-seop a vending machine coffee that he had personally picked out.

Lim Han-seop smiled faintly and said,

“I should have bought it...”

“No. I'm your junior.”

“Still...”

Lim Han-seop looked uncomfortable.

He kept looking around and checking on Yoo-hyun.

Yoo-hyun already knew the answer.

‘It's because of the name Hansung.’

He hadn't heard it yet, but Lim Han-seop must have wanted to capture Hansung as a customer at all costs.

Not only that, but most companies wanted to work with big companies like Hansung.

It made money and career.

That's why Lim Han-seop showed a desperate look even to his unfamiliar junior.

Yoo-hyun faced Lim Han-seop with a smile.

If it had been in the past, he would have ignored him even if he knew him.

But he didn't want to do that now.

He wanted to at least listen to him.

If this was fate, then it was fate.

Im Han-seop seemed to want to show his friendship with Yoo-hyun, as he brought up stories from their school life.

Most of them were vague, but there were some parts that he vaguely remembered.

“Do you remember when we were in the same group for the business class presentation? I made the materials for you, and you did the presentation. The others didn’t help at all.”

“Oh...”

“It was so satisfying when you removed their names from the group at the last presentation. Hahaha.”

Then he remembered Im Han-seop.

He was the only one who helped Yoo-hyun in the group project that had six members.

If it wasn’t for him, he wouldn’t have gotten first place.

“Oh, I remember. Thank you for that.”

“It was nothing. You did everything. Haha.”

As Yoo-hyun agreed with him, Im Han-seop seemed to relax and talk more comfortably.

He naturally moved on to talk about his work life, which showed that he wasn’t slacking off in his social life either.

Yoo-hyun looked at the business card he gave him.

-Im Han-seop, Sales Team, Semi Electronics.

“Semi Electronics?”

“Yeah. Do you know it? It’s a small company, but it’s pretty good in the electronic component field. They’re also making systems these days.”

“Yes. I know.”

He knew very well.

His friend Kang Jun-ki had just got a job there a few days ago.

A few years later, they became a partner company of Hanseong Electronics, and grew quite big.

They even went public on KOSDAQ.

Ziing.

Then, Yoo-hyun's phone rang.

It was a message from Park Seung-woo, asking him to book a meeting room.

Im Han-seop quickly opened his mouth.

"Ah, I should go. I took too long."

"No, not at all. We haven't even talked properly yet."

"Well..."

"Can I hear more? Maybe there's something I can help you with later."

"Oh! That, that would be nice."

Im Han-seop hesitated, but nodded vigorously at Yoo-hyun's words.

He felt sorry for asking his junior for a favor, but he was grateful that he offered to talk first.

He looked at Im Han-seop and asked him.

"What time are you staying until today?"

"Today? I was planning to stay until evening."

"Do you want to have dinner with me then? I know a place that makes good rice soup."

"Of course, that's fine. Just call me anytime. I'll wait."

"Okay. See you later."

It wasn't out of pity that he said that.

He was someone he couldn't take care of in school, so he wanted to help him if he could.

Besides, it was where Kang Jun-ki worked, so maybe he could help his friend as well if he did well there.

'It's not a hard thing to do.'

Yoo-hyun smiled brightly at Im Han-seop, who was smiling back, and went back to his office.

And that evening.

Yoo-hyun met Im Han-seop at the rice soup restaurant as promised.

He must have been tired from running around all day, but his smile was warm and pleasant.

He saw a glimpse of Park Seung-woo in his face.

Yoo-hyun ate his rice and listened to his explanation carefully.

“This is what...”

As he laid out the product portfolio, Im Han-seop felt a strange feeling.

Talking in front of Yoo-hyun made him strangely fluent in his speech.

He even felt like he was doing something very important.

He realized later that it was because Yoo-hyun was listening attentively to him.

He reacted to every word he said, and even threw him topics that could lead to his next words naturally.

It wasn't something that would help him as a new employee, but he cared for him as if it was his own business.

‘I thought he was selfish...’

Yoo-hyun seemed to be the type who only cared about his own grades in school.

He didn't interact with other seniors or juniors, and seemed to only focus on getting a job.

But maybe he had misunderstood Yoo-hyun all along.

Im Han-seop opened his mouth with that feeling in mind.

“I'm sorry.”

“What?”

“It's nothing. Just a moment.”

He drank his warm soup with a shot of alcohol, and loosened his tie and stuffed it into his bag.

Then he smiled sheepishly at Yoo-hyun.

He wanted to tell him something sincere, not about the product.

“I feel suffocated sometimes.”

“It can be awkward.”

“Actually, I haven't been wearing suits for long. I moved to sales earlier this year.”

“Is that so?”

Im Han-seop said he had been working in development for the first two years after joining Semi Electronics.

It wasn't an easy thing for a humanities major who had never handled electronic components properly.

"They said I couldn't do sales or marketing without knowing the basics. You know how it is. Small companies have blurry boundaries."

"That's what they say."

But he adapted by learning programming and other things he didn't know, for the sake of looking further ahead.

"It definitely helped. I got a good position in the company. But when I actually tried to do sales, I felt lost."

"In what way?"

Semi Electronics was a company that started as a component material company.

Chapter 65

Many of the products made by Hansung Electronics use parts from Semi Electronics.

But the problem was that the parts were so basic that the competition was fierce, and they didn't make much money.

So the president of Semi Electronics changed the company's business model to a comprehensive electronics company.

They not only produced parts, but also products such as MP3, PMP.

"You know how hard it is to enter that market as a latecomer, right? We have the technology, but our brand name is weak, so who would buy our stuff?"

"It must be tough."

"Yeah. Especially since ApplePod came out, even the domestic companies that were doing well are on the verge of closing down. It's hard."

"I heard about it."

Yoo-hyun nodded.

The reason why Semi Electronics survived was because of the electronic billboard system they made in the meantime.

Especially last year, they received a large order from a public organization.

But that was also temporary.

“The president knows that there is a limit to selling directly to consumers.”

“You’re right.”

Yoo-hyun nodded, but Lim Han-seop frowned as if he had a headache.

“So do you know what his conclusion was? Selling our products to Hansung or Ilseong. Hahaha. Isn’t that funny?”

“It is funny.”

“No, it’s very funny. Trying to sell something to a company that does better than us. But what’s even funnier is that we don’t have a decent item yet. And he just sent me out to find one.”

Lim Han-seop drank soju and sighed.

He said that, but he didn’t come out without a decent item.

Yoo-hyun looked over the Semi Electronics product portfolio that he had handed over again.

It looked like they put a lot of effort into it.

Inside the thick portfolio, there were Semi Electronics’ history and the parts and products they made.

They definitely did too much for their size.

There were also many unnecessary parts.

But it wasn’t hopeless.

It meant that they had the basic technology.

If they wanted to, Semi Electronics had the technology to make cell phones easily.

They probably knew that they wouldn’t make it in marketing, so they didn’t do it.

As he thought, Lim Han-seop’s cheerful voice was heard.

“Hahaha, thank you. I feel much better after talking to you. Just think of it as a poor senior’s complaint.”

“No, I enjoyed listening to you. Especially this part is good.”

Lim Han-seop’s eyes widened when he saw where Yoo-hyun pointed his finger.

“Touch?”

“I like the vision of being able to produce and supply not only parts but also modules.”

“Oh... You’re interested in this part because you’re in mobile panel. But it’s hard. You know. They don’t use new company parts. Even if we try to break through with this, it doesn’t work.”

“But touch is a growing trend, so maybe there will be a chance?”

“That’s true.”

With the advent of smartphones, touch panels took off.

There was a limit to foreign companies, so the impact fell on domestic new companies as well.

He wasn’t sure if he remembered correctly, but it was likely that Semi Electronics became a partner of Hansung Electronics because of touch parts.

‘And they make electronic billboards, MP3s, PMPs...’

It wasn’t concrete yet, but he thought he could help in other ways as well.

To be precise, he would be in a position to get help from them.

‘Not bad.’

That was Yoo-hyun’s conclusion.

The employees below might have complaints, but the president of Semi Electronics looked like he had competence.

He proved that he had a broad vision by pursuing constant change.

He had enough financial power to withstand such a large scale.

He also had business skills to get orders from public companies.

Despite that, Yoo-hyun had no way to help Lim Han-seop at this point.

“I’m sorry I can’t help you right away.”

“No, no. Don’t say that. You helped me a lot. Thanks to you, I also learned what LCD business division wants.”

“I’ll introduce you next time if I get a chance.”

“Don’t do that. If you do that as a newbie, you’ll get on your seniors’ nerves.”

Lim Han-seop was genuinely worried about Yoo-hyun.

How can he use someone who is so soft-hearted in sales?

Yoo-hyun asked carefully.

“Senior, didn’t Semi Electronics hire new employees this time?”

“Oh, they did. Do you know anyone?”

“My friend got hired. His name is Kang Joon-ki.”

“Really? He joined Gasan-dong branch, right? If he came in this time, he must be in development.”

“I guess so.”

Lim Han-seop’s eyes widened when he heard Yoo-hyun’s words.

He lightly tapped his chest.

“I’ll take good care of him if he’s your friend.”

“No, please make him suffer a lot when you see him.”

“I’ll have to work him hard. Don’t worry, that’s my specialty. Hahaha.”

Lim Han-seop laughed and drank.

He didn’t have any intention of burdening him.

He just hoped that Kang Joon-ki would have a good senior too.

Like Yoo-hyun had Park Seung-woo.

When the sun set, the remaining alcohol was gone.

“I was so happy to see you today. Thank you so much.”

“I had fun too. Let’s see each other often.”

“Can I do that? Kid. Even your words are helpful. I’ll find that Kang Joon-ki guy and raise him well.”

“Thank you.”

Lim Han-seop poured out his feelings in a drunken state.

“You’re going to do well, Yoo-hyun. I think you’ll go up very high.”

“Don’t say that. I don’t have that kind of ambition.”

Go up high?

No way.

That wasn’t the life Yoo-hyun wanted.

“I have a sense of these things.”

“...”

Yoo-hyun couldn't answer Lim Han-seop's words.

At some point, people who Yoo-hyun didn't even notice appeared around him.

New relationships that had never been filled before appeared.

Park Seung-woo, Kim Hyun-min, and his colleagues were all the same.

He felt that he was getting along with people he had never met before.

What would the top look like with them?

He suddenly wondered.

A few days later,

Park Seung-woo and Yoo-hyun were sitting side by side on a train heading to Ulsan.

“I can't believe we're going on a business trip together. I didn't think that stuffy team leader would allow it.”

“Manager Kim helped a lot, right?”

“He helped. He just nagged him a lot. Anyway, he's weird too.”

“Why?”

“He didn't care before, but now he acts like it's his own business.”

Manager Kim Hyun-min did help.

Of course, even if he hadn't, Team Leader Oh Jae-hwan would have allowed Yoo-hyun's business trip.

It wasn't just a trip, but a way to prepare for the seminar.

Yoo-hyun made an excuse to help Park Seung-woo with his work.

Yoo-hyun asked Park Seung-woo, who was grumbling about Kim Hyun-min manager.

“Do you hate it?”

“Of course not. I like it. It's just that you've changed so much. You know what they say, when someone changes a lot, it's time to go.”

“Hey, that's not true.”

If that was true, Yoo-hyun would have gone to the other world several times already.

-Park, I don't care if you can't do your work, but you have to buy a souvenir from your trip. Got it?

Yoo-hyun suddenly remembered what Manager Kim Hyun-min had said before the trip.

His work style had changed, but his playful personality was still the same.

Yoo-hyun asked him casually.

"Where are you going to buy the souvenir?"

"I don't know. Who would buy walnut cookies for someone who takes a train? I'll just buy something from anywhere."

He didn't say he wouldn't buy anything.

Yoo-hyun thought of Manager Kim Hyun-min and Park Seung-woo's bickering and chuckled.

What a funny bunch.

Maybe that's why he felt more attached to them.

Then Park Seung-woo suddenly asked as if he remembered something.

"Hey, do you have plans tonight?"

"Yes, I have a friend here."

"That's too bad. I wanted to have a drink with you tonight."

"Me too. Let's drink when we finish the trip and go back."

Yoo-hyun made an excuse.

The trip was for one night and two days.

They had to stay at an accommodation for one night.

They couldn't find a place to stay with their travel expenses, so they had no choice but to stay at a motel.

It was ridiculous to book two motel rooms for two men.

It was lucky if they could use the money left over from staying at a cheap inn to drink.

He was close with Park Seung-woo, but he didn't want to do that.

He might not have minded if he didn't have any plans, but Ha Jun-seok had said he would put him to sleep first.

Clatter clatter.

Yoo-hyun talked with Park Seung-woo against the background of the train noise.

“Yoo-hyun...”

“You’re amazing.”

It was amazing that they had something to talk about even after a few hours.

Park Seung-woo was very talkative, but he was also surprised that he could naturally respond to him.

Before he knew it, they arrived in Ulsan.

Ching ching.

As the train door opened, the scenery of Ulsan Station unfolded before his eyes.

Yoo-hyun felt a new emotion as he stepped on the ground.

Was it 18 years ago?

He used to come and go here as if it was his home.

He even lived here for a year during his dispatch period.

There were many things that happened during that period.

“Are you nervous? Are you scared already?”

“Of course not. Why would I be scared when you’re here?”

“Hahaha, right. Just follow me well.”

It wasn’t hard to find Hansung Electronics LCD factory in Ulsan.

There were many signs because many people stayed there.

The problem was that unlike Gimpo, where all the factories were in one complex, six factories were scattered in different locations.

If they weren’t careful, they could go to the wrong place.

The place Yoo-hyun was going today was Ulsan 2 Factory.

It wasn’t where he usually stayed, but he remembered coming here a few times to meet the people in the quality department.

Soon after, Park Seung-woo entered the entrance of 2 Factory and asked.

“What do you want to do? I’m going to greet some people first. Do you want to come with me?”

He knew what Park Seung-woo meant by greeting.

He wanted to say hello to the people and managers who would attend the meeting this afternoon.

It was a good way to ease the atmosphere before a rough meeting.

There was no reason for Yoo-hyun to join him there.

“No, I’ll stay here if that’s okay.”

“Okay. The atmosphere is not so good right now anyway. If you go this way, there’s a lounge. Just hang out there. I’ll call you around lunchtime.”

“Okay. Have a good time.”

Park Seung-woo tapped Yoo-hyun’s shoulder and went inside the first floor office.

Yoo-hyun chose the stairs instead of the lounge.

He wanted to meet someone.

It would be nice to find an old connection, but Yoo-hyun mostly stayed at 6 Factory.

Of course, he didn’t have any deep connections here either.

Instead, there was a new connection that he had to take care of.

Yoo-hyun went up to the second floor and looked around the office.

There were no partitions, and the desks were bigger.

It was called an office.

It was a place for the development department, so there were various measuring and power equipment on the desk.

Compared to Hansung Tower, where they had to wear suits, the people in the factory office were very casual.

Then, he saw a man in a gray hoodie shouting at his junior employees who were pulling a folding cart.

“Hey! Hurry up and move. We don’t have time!”

The atmosphere was so free that the tone was rough.

It felt like it was normal to shout in the office.

-Mobile Development Planning Team

Yoo-hyun walked to the corner and stopped when he saw the team sign.

He leaned his head forward and looked for someone.

Where Yoo-hyun's eyes stopped, there was Jung Hyun-woo, his junior and colleague, who was bowing his head in front of his senior.

"What did I tell you? I told you to order quickly."

"I asked you to wait a little..."

"What? Hey, Jung Hyun-woo. When did I say that?"

"Back then..."

Jung Hyun-woo tried to speak, but his opponent got even angrier.

Chapter 66

"Even so, you should have come and asked me. Do you think the problem will be solved if you just sit there and do nothing?"

"I-I'm sorry."

"Sorry is not enough. Get it done right away. Submit the approval and make sure the goods arrive by this week!"

"Yes, sir."

Jung Hyun-woo looked dejected.

He said yes, but his face showed that he had no clue.

He sat down and buried his head in his hands.

A deep sigh was heard.

'That poor guy.'

Yoo-hyun approached him and tapped his shoulder.

"Why don't you take a break if your head hurts?"

Jung Hyun-woo lifted his head and was startled to see him.

"Oh? Hyung! You came early."

"Are you free now?"

"Yes. Of course. I'll show you around."

Jung Hyun-woo quickly got up from his seat.

Yoo-hyun went with him to the lounge on the first floor.

There was a lounge on the second floor too, but he wanted to avoid running into Jung Hyun-woo's senior.

It would be awkward to be in the lounge during work hours.

Yoo-hyun greeted him lightly.

“How have you been?”

“Ugh, I’m dying.”

“Is it hard?”

Jung Hyun-woo seemed to have become a company employee now.

He always had the word ‘dying’ on his lips.

“But I get paid a lot for what I do. It’s all thanks to you, hyung.”

“What was that about earlier?”

“Did you hear?”

“I heard some of it.”

“It’s just... It’s all my fault.”

He listened quietly and found out that Jung Hyun-woo was in charge of buying office supplies for the team from this month.

There was a problem in the middle and the approval was delayed by a week.

The team leader found out about it and asked the previous office supply manager, and the situation got worse.

“There was a laptop stand that the team leader ordered among the office supplies.”

“That’s it?”

“He’s a bit narrow-minded.”

Jung Hyun-woo looked around and whispered in a low voice.

A bit narrow-minded was an understatement.

He was very narrow-minded.

“Isn’t the approval done by the team leader?”

“Yes. But the problem is...”

“Is it because of the approval from the MRO (purchasing agency) staff?”

“Huh? Have you ever bought office supplies before?”

“I know a little bit.”

It was just office supplies, but there were many steps to go through to buy them with the team budget.

The first step was the team leader's approval, and the second step was the MRO staff's approval.

Once approved, the MRO company would review the quotation and then ship the goods.

Since it was not personal money but team money, the process was complicated.

There needed to be a person in charge of collecting and verifying the approval amount and validity in between.

The problem was that there were not many MRO staffs.

There were so many teams that they had a lot of work, and they had no reason to hurry up, so their approval was slow.

Jung Hyun-woo almost complained as he spoke.

"It takes a week for them to approve. But they said they need it by this week, so it's difficult."

"Is your name on the approval?"

"Yes."

"Hold on."

Yoo-hyun took out his phone and Jung Hyun-woo hurriedly stopped him.

"Hyung, you don't have to help me. I called them several times, but they didn't listen."

"Just wait and see."

He knew well.

Even if the team leader contacted them directly, it was common for them to delay their approval.

But Yoo-hyun had someone who could solve this problem easily.

The phone rang and soon a young woman's voice answered.

It was Kim Eun-young, who was in charge of office supplies in Yoo-hyun's team.

"This is Han Yu-hyun."

-I heard you went to Ulsan. What's up?

"Senior, actually..."

After hearing Yoo-hyun's story, Kim Eun-young replied.

-Okay. I'll call them right away. This is how I pay back my debt from last time.

"Thank you. I'll buy you dinner."

-That would be even better. Hohoho.

After hanging up, Jung Hyun-woo blinked his eyes and asked.

"Who was that?"

"My team senior."

"What's her rank..."

"Employee."

"What?"

It was unbelievable.

How could an employee call an MRO staff who wouldn't budge even for a team leader and make them speed up the approval?

If he was in the opposite position, Yoo-hyun would have had a hard time understanding it too.

If he didn't know Kim Eun-young well, that is.

-If you need any office supplies, just let me know. I'll make them buy it for you right away.

-How? Doesn't it take a long time for the approval?

-Hoho, don't worry. The staff is my 'classmate'.

It would sound ridiculous to anyone who heard it, but sometimes that ridiculous connection was more powerful than an executive.

Like right now.

Beep.

It was not even five minutes later.

Yoo-hyun showed the text message he received to Jung Hyun-woo.

Jung Hyun-woo exclaimed with a shocked expression.

"What? The approval is already done?"

"Go up and check."

"Okay, just a moment."

He was so surprised that he acted right away.

If not, he would have said it was a lie, because it was such an absurd situation.

Thump thump.

Yoo-hyun slowly went up to the second floor.

“What? The approval is already done? How is that possible?”

Next to him was a senior who was dumbfounded after hearing the story.

“Well, what happened was...”

Jung Hyun-woo explained and the senior still looked confused.

It seemed that they needed some time, so Yoo-hyun gave them some space.

-I'll go ahead and see you later.

As soon as Yoo-hyun sent the message, Jung Hyun-woo replied.

-Hyung, thank you so much. I'll see you before you leave♥

He felt a bit burdened by the heart emoji.

But he felt good to see him happy.

Yoo-hyun sent a thank-you message to Kim Eun-young.

-Senior, you were awesome.

-You know you still have to buy me a meal, right?

He chuckled at the quick reply.

He suddenly thought.

What if he was his past self in this situation?

He wouldn't have been able to solve it easily no matter how capable he was.

But this time, the problem was resolved in an unbelievably simple way.

Thanks to the connected relationships around him that made the answer naturally flow like water.

“How did this happen?”

It was amazing.

He met Park Seung-woo again and his face didn't look very bright.

He had been going around greeting people and got more scolding than he expected.

Not because he did anything wrong, but because he was from the product planning team and his rank was assistant manager.

“Are you okay?”

“What? Why? I’m fine. I’m in great condition. Hahaha.”

“...”

Then why did he slump his shoulders?

“Let’s eat.”

He forced a smile and then walked ahead with a serious face.

He still seemed to have some energy left.

That’s how lunchtime passed, and Yoo-hyun followed Park Seung-woo to the conference room.

It was a fairly large conference room, as the team leaders from each team were attending.

Maybe that’s why there were wired microphones connected to each table.

Yoo-hyun sat at the front right seat and set up his laptop.

30 minutes before the meeting.

Park Seung-woo was nervous and kept drinking the water that was placed in the conference room.

He had already emptied almost a bottle of water.

He checked his speech nervously and Yoo-hyun asked him.

“Should I send a notice by text?”

“Yeah, do that. Send it to everyone on the email list.”

“Are the circuit team leader and the panel team leader also attending?”

“Yeah. They said they would come in person. Sigh.”

Park Seung-woo sighed.

He could see what was going to happen by looking at the list of attendees.

Why did the circuit and panel development team leaders decide to attend without notice?

It meant that they wanted to lead the meeting in their direction.

How could Park Seung-woo’s proposal be accepted in front of them?

He would be lucky if they didn’t pressure him too much.

Yoo-hyun opened his laptop and connected it to the projector, then opened the file he received by email.

Then, a report appeared on the large screen on the wall.

It listed the issues of the LCD panel for HDP-A3, which was currently developed.

Darkness on the top of the panel, screen flickering, circuit component overheating, etc.

These were all issues that occurred during the product suitability verification process, which was the development event.

They had to be solved in order for the product to be produced properly, so it was a sensitive matter.

The problem was who would take responsibility for them.

Yoo-hyun pretended not to know and asked an irrelevant question.

“Do I just summarize the meeting content?”

“Yeah. See this summary page?”

“Yes.”

“Just check the person in charge and the schedule from this part after the meeting. I’ll handle the progress, so just summarize it for me.”

Yoo-hyun nodded at Park Seung-woo’s words.

“What if there is any additional content?”

“Just add it to this item below and fill in the content. It probably won’t happen though.”

Really? It seems like there will be a lot of additional content.

Yoo-hyun asked casually.

“By the way, will this be reported to the group leader later?”

“It might be necessary. Don’t worry. I’ll polish it up before I go.”

He nodded and looked at the table he had summarized on the last page.

It listed each problem item that had come up so far.

There were also columns for countermeasures, responsible departments, and deadlines.

Park Seung-woo’s job today was simple.

He had to come up with countermeasures for the issues that had been raised so far and fill in the blanks accordingly.

Of course, it wouldn't be smooth sailing.

'The two development teams are blaming product planning.'

The reason for this sudden trip request was because of that.

How could he make them take responsibility in this situation?

It was not an easy task.

Yoo-hyun glanced at Park Seung-woo.

He tried to calm himself down while repeating his presentation content.

He deserved praise for doing his best without giving up.

If it had been like before, he would have been scolded a lot even after mediating.

Yoo-hyun raised his hand over his laptop and his eyes sparkled.

3 p.m.

Around when the time hit exactly, people started coming into the conference room one by one.

Park Seung-woo and Yoo-hyun stood up and greeted them, but those who came in just nodded their heads briefly.

The circuit and panel development team leaders and part leaders.

The quality department staff and production line staff.

People with at least assistant manager rank filled up the conference room.

"Everyone is busy, so let's start right away."

The circuit team leader didn't seem to care about Yoo-hyun, who he saw for the first time, and didn't even look at him.

Park Seung-woo turned on the microphone button on his desk and spoke.

"Thank you for coming despite your busy schedule. HDP3 is currently undergoing a development event to meet the production schedule of next March, and there are seven issues that have been identified so far. I will collect the opinions from the field and finalize the countermeasures. And..."

He was nervous, but he tried to stay composed.

His voice tone was stable and his eye contact was not bad.

But the problem was the listener.

The circuit team leader, who was fiddling with his crossed legs, interrupted him.

“So? What’s the product planning team’s opinion?”

“I’ll tell you after I confirm the issues accurately.”

“You should have seen it after I sent you the data. The planning is a mess, that’s why this is happening. You guys only know how to hold a pen. Tsk tsk.”

The conference room’s atmosphere became heavy with his deliberate sarcasm and insults.

Chapter 67

There was no one on Park Seung-woo’s side here.

“...I will support whatever I can.”

“Keep going.”

“Yes. First, let me tell you about the issues that have arisen so far from the circuit team, which is in charge of the project.”

Lee Jung-hoe, the leader of the circuit team and a senior researcher (equivalent to assistant manager), took over the baton.

“The issue of IC overheating that was raised in the first high-temperature evaluation. If we come up with a cooling solution, the thickness will inevitably increase. This is a problem that occurred because we tried to meet the higher specs than initially planned within the same schedule. This was also reported as a potential problem in the initial report.”

He was not lying.

The direct cause of the problem was that the panel structure had changed at the last minute.

And it was the circuit team’s fault for not designing properly according to the changed structure.

But his aim was at the product planning team, which set the initial specs.

Then, the panel team mentioned the screen flickering and darkness issues.

“I will talk about the panel screen flickering issue. According to our analysis, it was because of the hasty schedule...”

The conclusion was not much different from the circuit team.

The process line was also the same.

They mentioned the problems of decreased production rate and yield per unit time, and ended up blaming the product planning team.

‘You guys set an unreasonable schedule.’

‘It’s because you set an absurd spec from the product planning stage that this mess happened.’

‘We worked hard. You should take responsibility for what you did.’

They did not say it directly, but their words were all alike.

They must have started the project with smiles, but when problems arose, they sneaked away their faults to other departments.

They shielded themselves by saying they were never wrong.

Looking at the current situation, it could be summarized in one word.

Departmental egoism.

He felt like he knew why only the touch part had been reported as a problem so far.

It was because it could be passed on to the contractor’s problem.

If they had to do that part themselves, they would have done it this way too.

“What are you going to do, assistant manager?”

The circuit team leader asked in a low voice, as if growling.

‘Change the spec or schedule now, even if it’s late.’

His eyes seemed to say that.

If there was a problem with meeting the spec at the event, there were two ways to solve it.

Either fix the product to meet the spec, or change the spec itself.

If he was responsible for the product, he should have come up with an improvement plan first.

But the circuit team leader was pushing for the latter.

He wanted to keep the product as it is and force Park Seung-woo to change the spec.

Park Seung-woo did not back down easily either.

“No. But you know that we can’t easily change the spec that has been set.”

“Who said to change the main spec? Just tweak some problematic parts a little bit.”

“That’s...”

“How frustrating. Then do you want to give up like this?”

“...”

It was almost a threat.

The temperature, brightness, and frame frequency that were problematic could be adjusted according to certain conditions.

For example, lower the brightness when the temperature rises, or lower the frequency in some sections to prevent flickering, etc.

They could use such tricks.

They did not negotiate those things as spec conditions.

But documenting them was another problem.

“That’s why I said it wouldn’t work from the beginning. You guys were the ones who said let’s try it first. You said we had to meet the deadline no matter what and that’s why this mess happened!”

“...”

When the circuit team leader spat out his saliva and yelled, silence flowed in the meeting room.

Yoo Hyun sneered inwardly at his sight.

‘Anyone would think he has nothing to do with it.’

If he was leading a project team, he should have at least shown some responsibility.

He was talking like it was someone else’s business now.

The circuit team leader’s gaze suddenly turned around.

“What do you think, panel team leader? Can you fix your panel?”

“No way. There’s no way to meet the schedule.”

The panel team leader exchanged glances with the circuit team leader and shrugged his shoulders at Park Seung-woo.

Did they really think it would be okay if this product went out like this?

How would they handle it if something went wrong?

They could block it with a hoe now, but they wouldn't be able to block it with phlegm later.

There was no way they didn't know that.

The circuit and panel teams were like that because their team leaders were like that, but the process and quality teams should have stopped them.

It was their role to organize and take responsibility for the event.

But no one objected.

That meant that the agreement had already been reached up to their superiors.

What was the reason they were willing to take the risk?

Opinions continued to come and go, and Park Seung-woo's face grew darker.

At this rate, he would have to write not only the report that the development team had to do, but also the countermeasure report in the product planning team.

The cause of the problem was clearly somewhere else.

But Park Seung-woo was being pressured to take the blame.

If this ended like this, their mistakes would be buried.

Instead, Park Seung-woo would only suffer in the middle and not get any proper results.

Yoo Hyun's eyes flashed.

'That won't do.'

He had to abandon the PDA project as soon as possible, even for that reason.

He had to tie up this problem first.

Yoo Hyun looked at the circuit team leader who was smiling slyly and the panel team leader who was nodding his head leisurely.

Why were they so eager to do that?

Why did they persuade other team members in advance and lead the meeting like that?

What was their reason?

"Well, we've had a long meeting. So..."

The circuit team leader was about to wrap up when Yoo Hyun said.

“Assistant Manager Park, you’re going to report this directly to the group leader today, right?”

“Yoo Hyun.”

Park Seung-woo was startled by Yoo Hyun’s words and pointed at the microphone, giving him a hint.

“Oh, I’m sorry. I didn’t turn off the microphone.”

“Ahem.”

“Hmm.”

Yoo Hyun did not miss the momentary flustered expressions of the team leaders.

The reason why his words about reporting to the group leader shook their pupils was obvious.

They wanted to hide this problem behind them.

The report they gave to the group leader should not be about the problems that occurred at the event.

It should be about how smoothly the product production was going on.

Definitely.

Why?

Because it was right before Hansung Electronics’ personnel season.

At that moment, in a VIP meeting room on the 15th floor of Hansung Tower.

Two men were facing each other in a meeting room where no one could see inside from outside.

They were Shin Chan-yong, a senior manager, and Lee Kyung-hoon, a director of the sales team.

“Really? executive director Jo mentioned a backup plan for HPDA3 during the interview?”

“Yes. I just thought about it, but it seems like the manager has it in mind.”

“Tsk, tsk, the manager is swayed by useless words. What do you think, Mr. Shin?”

Mr. Shin Chanyong glanced at Mr. Lee Kyunghoon’s face.

He knew Mr. Lee Kyunghoon’s personality well.

He never did a project that wouldn't work.

He also gave the credit to Mr. Cho Chanyoung for the PDA project, even though he brought it.

And now he wants to take this project?

Mr. Shin Chanyoung wanted to follow Mr. Lee Kyunghoon, who was a sure ally of Donga Line, rather than Mr. Cho Chanyoung, who was an outsider.

Mr. Cho Chanyoung would be pushed out and he would be the next manager.

"I'm trying to keep my distance as you told me, sir."

"Good. I won't stop you if you really want to do it. But the situation there is not good right now. There are too many issues that are not reported."

"Is that so?"

Mr. Lee Kyunghoon was someone.

He was following the line of the mobile group leader.

He had access to a lot of information from the many lines connected below him.

It was incomparable to Mr. Jo Chanyoung.

He got the gist of it from Mr. Lee Kyunghoon's words.

The panel had a lot of problems that made it hard to pass the development event.

It was not just a touch issue as they knew.

"Who are Mr. Kang and Mr. Park? They are full of ambition to become managers and they never admit their mistakes. Then what? In the end, product planning has to clean up their mess."

"Mr. Park already went down to Ulsan."

"Hahaha, he must have brought back a lot of work. Mr. Jo will nag him a lot. It's a project that still needs a lot of time to mature."

He was right.

If he said he would do Channel Phone 2 as a backup now, there was a high chance that Mr. Park Seungwoo's work would be his share.

He was not a fool to make that choice knowing that.

"I should never touch it then."

“Mr. Shin, there is no such thing as never. If you think it’s ready later, you should take it.”

‘That won’t happen.’

Mr. Shin Chanyong didn’t hear the last murmur of Mr. Lee Kyunghoon and nodded his head as if he understood.

There was never a time when they failed, even if they delayed the schedule.

The history of LCD division was built like that until now.

This time was no different.

After going through a hard process in the middle, they would eventually come out to the world.

Then he could take what was done and get the results without any effort.

The process didn’t matter as long as the outcome was good.

He smiled at the corner of his mouth and Mr. Lee Kyunghoon asked him.

“So, is that all you have to say?”

“No, sir. Here, this.”

Mr. Shin Chanyong took out a small box from his pocket and handed it to Mr. Lee Kyunghoon.

The box had a clear logo of a luxury brand on it.

Mr. Lee Kyunghoon’s smile appeared on his lips.

“I got one for your wife who might like it.”

“What are you doing? Hahaha.”

It was a luxury brand among luxury brands.

Even the smallest wallet cost over a million won.

Mr. Shin Chanyong felt bitter inside, but he thought it was worth it for his future investment.

As long as he could secure Mr. Lee Kyunghoon’s line.

“I trust you, sir.”

“Good. Do your best, Mr. Shin. I’ll be watching you.”

That’s how he played hard to get?

He always did this.

He pretended to offer him Donga Line, but when he approached him, he pulled back.

As if this was not enough for him.

‘Make him say he will pull me in someday.’

Mr. Shin Chanyong hid his feelings and smiled.

Then he got up from his seat and bowed 90 degrees to him.

“Thank you very much. I’ll do my best!”

30 minutes before work ended.

He had to finish the meeting before the end-of-work music played.

Yoo-hyun straightened his posture and spoke into the microphone.

“Then I’ll summarize the contents of today’s meeting.”

He clicked the mouse button and the screen showed the opinions of each team that came out today.

The opinion of the panel team leader who said there was no way, and the opinion of the circuit team leader who said to change the specs, were summarized and written.

There was no alternative from other teams for this issue.

The person in charge of all issues was Mr. Park Seungwoo.

The development team leader sighed at that.

“Ha, this is...”

He thought it was too conscienceless even for himself.

“Please let me know if there is anything wrong. This is a report for the group leader, so it would be a problem if the team’s opinion is wrong.”

“...”

There was a big difference between what they said at the meeting and what went out as an official document.

If this was reported to the group leader as it was?

It would show that they were trying to shift the blame.

It would also have a negative impact on the upcoming personnel changes.

Mr. Park Seungwoo was also flustered.

He turned off the microphone and asked Yoo-hyun in a low voice.

“Why did you summarize it like this?”

“You told me to write down anything that was added, so I reflected it.”

“But still, this is...”

While Mr. Park Seungwoo hesitated, the panel team leader said in a heavy voice.

“This seems to have some misunderstandings?”

“I’m sorry. I may have misunderstood and not written some parts correctly. Please tell me and I’ll correct it right away.”

“Hmm.”

Yoo-hyun smoothed it out a bit, but there was nothing wrong with what he said.

They were all words that came out of their mouths.

They pushed him to do it and he wrote that he would do it properly.

Of course, it was also a plan that Yoo-hyun made to make them eat shit.

Chapter 68

The circuit team leader immediately showed a displeased expression.

“Park, how can you summarize it like this? Didn’t we agree on everything in the middle?”

“...”

Did we agree?

If he went back like this, wouldn’t he have to reorganize it by himself?

Park Seung-woo looked at Yoo-hyun.

He had a lot of thoughts when he saw the embarrassed expression of his junior.

If he backed down now, he would be nothing but a senior who couldn’t take responsibility for his junior’s mistake.

In fact, it was amazing that the newbie organized it so diligently.

Nod.

It was only a moment, but Yoo-hyun nodded his head.

‘He’s not dead yet. That’s a relief.’

Right. He had to act as a senior and handle this situation.

Park Seung-woo clenched his weakened heart and brightened his eyes.

“I’m sorry, sir. As I said, I will correct the wrong parts by item here.”

“What?”

“First, the first item is the heat issue. The heat spec will be none for all circuit panels.”

There was silence at Park Seung-woo’s words.

“...”

“Should I summarize it as the product planning team being in charge and I will renegotiate the spec with HP?”

“Do you really want to report this to the group leader? Are you kidding me right now?”

“No. But...”

Park Seung-woo bit his lower lip.

In fact, the group leader’s report was scheduled.

It wasn’t this material right now, but if he wanted to, he could do it.

‘Let’s do it.’

Park Seung-woo was also a man with a temper.

He felt too humiliated to be treated like this.

He put his feelings into his words.

“If we have to fix the spec, I will report it to the group leader and negotiate with the customer formally.”

“Are you a newbie? Have you done this once or twice? Why are you making it so hard!”

The circuit team leader shouted harshly, but Park Seung-woo, who had made up his mind, did not back down.

“I’m sorry. It’s because it’s such an important project.”

“...”

“Please understand.”

He didn’t back down, but rather resisted.

Yoo-hyun was surprised by the unexpected sight.

In fact, Park Seung-woo could have backed down here and it wouldn't have mattered.

The fact that he provoked him was enough to achieve the first goal.

He could just drag on time and move on to the next one.

But thanks to Park Seung-woo's active intervention, the plan changed.

There was no need to go back anymore and the work was easily resolved.

You're doing well.

Yoo-hyun clapped inwardly.

Now.

He regained his composure and looked at the circuit team leader with a fierce expression.

His eyes were moving non-stop even though he was angry.

That meant he had a lot of thoughts.

The poor person had no choice but to move first.

'5, 4, 3, 2, 1.'

When Yoo-hyun counted down in his mind, the circuit team leader opened his mouth to his subordinate.

"manager lee, how long does it take to revise IC?"

"Three months."

At manager lee words, the circuit team leader asked again.

"Not the whole revision, but can't you do anything about the heat part?"

"I'll check."

"manager go, can you skip the high temperature part and do other events first? Calculate when we need to get IC in."

"Yes. I got it."

The circuit team leader tapped his finger on the desk and organized his thoughts.

"Sigh... Park, we'll come up with a solution from our side for now. Let's do another meeting later."

"Yes, sir."

It was a simple answer from Park Seung-woo.

That was it.

Yoo-hyun reflected the circuit team leader's opinion and added the circuit team to the response department.

Why did he talk nonsense for two hours when he could do this?

Of course he knew why.

IC revision meant making the chip again.

It sounded easy, but depending on the case, tens of millions of won could be wasted.

Money was money, but it was also a problem that he had to take responsibility for delaying the schedule.

In the end, the circuit team leader decided to take a small responsibility for IC revision to avoid taking responsibility for delaying the entire schedule.

He judged that this was relatively less than other issues.

When the circuit team leader stepped up, the panel team leader couldn't stay still either.

"manager og, don't you have the data for reviewing panel mask modification?"

"Yes. I have it."

"Give it to Park. Park, please handle the image quality issue first from the panel team."

"I got it."

Yoo-hyun smiled inwardly as he listened to the story.

He didn't say anything even though he had already investigated it?

That was the start.

The process team and the quality team also suggested opinions that they could bear.

Of course, Park Seung-woo didn't just sit still either.

"As you know, the image quality setting value is flexible among the contents negotiated with HP. As you said, I will not just follow the existing method and create a new standard value that suits the new PDA."

"Let me know the result quickly. We have to respond too."

“Yes, sir.”

On the screen, there was only one page left with Yoo-hyun’s organized content. It was much simpler and clearer than before.

Park Seung-woo left his last comment.

“Then I will send you the minutes with this content. Thank you for your hard work during this long meeting.”

It was over now.

Grrr. Grrr.

Park Seung-woo bowed his head at the sharp gaze of the team leaders who got up from their seats.

He breathed out a breath he had been holding for a long time after a while.

“Phew.”

“Good job, sir.”

“Huh? Oh. You too.”

Park Seung-woo’s head turned white.

It was such a hectic time that he didn’t even know how it passed.

His hands were soaked with sweat.

Then, Lee Jung-hoe, the project leader of the circuit team, called Park Seung-woo.

“Park.”

“Yes, sir.”

“Park, did you make up your mind today?”

“What? No.”

Lee Jung-hoe smiled at Park Seung-woo’s words.

“What do you mean no? You deliberately cut off the development team’s opinions. Well, it wasn’t bad. It’s easier for me when you do that in front of the team leaders.”

“What do you mean...”

“Don’t pretend. But who is that guy? I’ve never seen him before.”

Park Seung-woo turned his head following Lee Jung-hoe’s gaze.

There was Yoo-hyun, who was organizing his laptop.

“He’s a newbie who joined under me. His name is Han Yoo-hyun.”

“What? A newbie? Not an experienced one?”

“Yes. Why?”

“Huh... Are you really a newbie?”

Lee Jung-hoe was stunned.

He had no problem organizing the meeting content, or taking notes of the content.

He felt like he led the content summary with just the text that quickly typed on the screen without saying a word.

That was something he couldn’t do without understanding the whole context.

Park Seung-woo looked at Lee Jung-hoe’s expression and finally started to think clearly.

He thought he was busy because he was nervous, but when he finished, everything was too well resolved.

Did he intend all that?

‘No way...’

Yoo-hyun smiled lightly at Park Seung-woo, who looked at him.

He liked Park Seung-woo’s actions today.

He didn’t back down in a sudden situation and didn’t waver until the end.

He definitely changed from when he reported to Jo Chan-young executive director.

He changed.

For a moment, he saw his past struggling face on his face.

And he remembered what manager Shin Chan-yong said with a smile.

-Why are you holding onto something that won’t work? Let the stupid ones do that, and do something that will work.

To him, Park Seung-woo was nothing but a fool who tried hard to hold onto something that wouldn’t work.

In fact, Park Seung-woo managed to make it to the panel, but he suffered a lot in the process.

And his entire year's work was ruined when PDA failed.

And Shin Chan-yong manager took all the blame for it later.

-You don't need to eat something that's not ripe. If you eat something that's well cooked, you won't get sick. This is know-how. Remember that.

Remember my ass.

He did dirty things and attached all kinds of flattery.

This time was the same.

If PDA seemed to succeed, he would come and grab a spoon then.

Yeah. I'll cook it well for you, so go ahead and take it and eat it.

You'll find out later if it's poison or medicine.

Yoo-hyun gritted his teeth inwardly.

It was after finishing the meeting.

Yoo-hyun had dinner with Park Seung-woo at the tripe restaurant they had talked about before.

The days were short enough that it was dark when they finished eating.

"Good job today. Have fun with your friend."

"Yes. Thank you for the meal. Don't drink too much."

"Puhaha, are you worried about me, kid?"

Park Seung-woo shrugged his shoulders and paused for a moment.

-A newbie? Not an experienced one?

He remembered the surprised face of Lee Jung-hoe, the project leader, a while ago.

He had many questions in his head.

He gave him a pen right when he got a phone call.

He gave him a fatigue recovery drink when he got scolded by the team leader.

There were more than one or two things that helped him among the words he threw in between.

And this time, organizing the meeting was amazing too.

'If it were me, I would have stuttered even connecting the laptop.'

He might have made a mistake in reserving the meeting room or sending notifications to the participants.

Park Seung-woo looked at Yoo-hyun with a complicated expression as he recalled his rookie days.

There seemed to be something about this guy, but he didn't know what it was.

He couldn't hold back his curiosity and was about to open his mouth when Yoo-hyun called Park Seung-woo first.

"Oh, sir."

"Huh? Why?"

"Thank you so much earlier. I was so nervous that I couldn't turn off the mic and I think I didn't summarize the meeting content well."

Yoo-hyun scratched his head and Park Seung-woo waved his hands vigorously.

"What? No, no. That's not a mistake."

"And you were amazing. I was shaking with nervousness even after preparing all night for the meeting, but you said everything properly in front of the team leaders."

"That, that's..."

Park Seung-woo was flustered for a moment.

Yoo-hyun seemed to have waited and said the next words.

"You were so cool. I really want to learn a lot from you."

"Hey! Why are you flattering me all of a sudden?"

His face turned red with embarrassment and Park Seung-woo raised his voice.

Then Yoo-hyun smiled and said.

"Is this enough to repay you for buying me a meal?"

"What?"

"Hahaha, I'll go now. Have a good time."

"Hey!"

Yoo-hyun bent his waist and moved quickly.

Park Seung-woo looked at Yoo-hyun's back and muttered.

“Prepared all night...”

It was an effort he would never have done in the past.

Park Seung-woo felt like he knew why Yoo-hyun was more sensible than others.

His passion and thorough preparation for the work were the foundation.

“That guy.”

Yoo-hyun’s figure had already disappeared.

But Park Seung-woo’s head didn’t turn for a long time.

Yoo-hyun arrived at a housing complex in Ulsan and quickly took out his phone.

“I’m here.”

-Wait a minute!

Thump thump thump.

As soon as he called, he heard a thumping sound.

Soon, the front door opened and Ha Jun-seok’s face appeared in pajama pants and slippers.

He looked quite free-spirited, seeing his hometown friend after a long time.

Ha Jun-seok sounded really happy.

“You worked hard coming from far away.”

“Yeah. Did Ulsan have a place like this?”

“Hahaha, I had a hard time finding it.”

The six Hamsung factories around were either inside the factory complex or next to the new city.

Chapter 69

Yoo-hyun had lived in Ulsan for a year, but he didn’t even know that there was such an old housing complex.

The transportation was inconvenient and he had to walk quite a bit to get to the hilltop.

Was it worth the trouble to find such a place?

He asked that question and Ha Jun Seok quickly answered.

“It was my dream to live in a rooftop room. Huh? But why did you bring so much stuff?”

“It’s yours.”

“Hey, come on.”

Ha Jun Seok took the tissue and flower pot that Yoo-hyun brought and climbed up the stairs quickly.

On the roof of the two-story house, there was a rooftop room.

Under the dim light, there were clothes hanging on the laundry line, a green-painted floor, and a cracked clay-colored floor.

It was exactly the kind of rooftop room scene that you would see in a drama.

Ha Jun Seok leaned his body on a pole by the railing and said.

“How is it? Isn’t the view amazing?”

Amazing my ass.

It was too dark to see anything.

The only thing visible was the street lights scattered here and there.

“Whatever. Let’s eat this.”

“Wow, what’s with the pig’s feet? Nice. Pig’s feet go well with soju.”

Yoo-hyun unpacked his luggage in the eight-pyeong rooftop room and came out to the floor wearing the training suit that Ha Jun Seok gave him.

There were pig’s feet that Yoo-hyun bought, dried snacks that were in Ha Jun Seok’s house, and soju and beer.

On top of that, there was a song playing from a small speaker that he picked up somewhere.

Ha Jun Seok chattered excitedly.

“Isn’t the atmosphere great? Hehe.”

“Oh my, you’re awesome.”

“I have a good taste in music. You like it? Remember these guys. They’re called Girls’ Generation. They just debuted and they’re really pretty.”

“What does being pretty have to do with music?”

“It matters, man. They’re going to be a hit. Just watch.”

Ha Jun Seok lifted his head confidently.

He looked quite funny, but he had to admit that he had a good sense of music.

Yoo-hyun chuckled and poured alcohol into an empty soju glass.

Drinking on the rooftop was quite atmospheric.

With delicious snacks and mood added, the two men clinked their paper cups and drank.

“Ahh, this is so good. Don’t you think?”

“Yeah. It’s nice.”

Ha Jun Seok had never lived in another region from the time he was born until he graduated from college.

As he said, he always lived with his parents.

“Somebody said to me. Everyone else is going up to get a job, but you’re going down. It’s true, though. There are construction companies in our area, too.”

“That’s true.”

He didn’t choose Ulsan because there was a particularly good company there.

He just wanted to go to a different region, and there was a company that matched his level in Ulsan.

“Haha, isn’t that funny?”

“What’s so funny? You look good, what.”

“Really?”

“Of course. I’m serious. Come on, have a drink.”

But now it was different.

He realized that a life that only chased money or success wasn’t necessarily desirable.

Maybe it was better to live like him, enjoying the present.

In a cheerful atmosphere, Yoo-hyun and Ha Jun Seok talked about various things.

How their work life was, how their daily life was, how their family situation was, and so on.

“Is Jae Hee doing well?”

“Why? Are you interested?”

“Puhahaha, can’t I ask? I’m just saying. Just... Ouch, it’s annoying. The alcohol is getting to me.”

Ha Jun Seok seemed embarrassed for some reason and lay down on the floor.

Yoo-hyun also laughed and pushed aside the empty soju bottles and lay down with him.

Whoosh.

The wind blowing in made the background sound instead of the turned-off speaker.

It felt good to just lie still.

They were looking at the night sky where the stars were not even visible when Ha Jun Seok opened his mouth.

“Yoo-hyun.”

“Hmm?”

“I’m sorry.”

Did he drink too much and get drunk?

It was an awkward atmosphere, so Yoo-hyun casually spat out a word.

“What are you talking about?”

“No, just...”

“Spit it out. I won’t hit you.”

Yoo-hyun tilted his head.

His friend’s voice trailed off as if he was really serious about what he was going to say.

Come to think of it, this was the first time they drank together.

“Haha, I really wanted to do this. You know. It’s my first time living alone.”

“I know. You stayed in your hometown until college.”

“So someone said to me. Everyone else is going up to get a job, but you’re going down. It’s true, though. There are construction companies in our area, too.”

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How their work life was, how their daily life was, how their family situation was, and so on.

“Remember that time? When we were in elementary school, no, it was national school. Hahaha.”

“What about that time?”

Yoo-hyun waited for Ha Jun Seok’s words that hesitated.

The vibration of the wooden floor from the back of his head seemed to show his friend’s feelings.

“That time you lost your black motor. Actually, I took it.”

“What’s that?”

“Kekeke, I knew you wouldn’t remember. We were in sixth grade, right? Mini cars were popular then. We always raced after school.”

“Did we?”

Ha Jun Seok looked at the sky as Yoo-hyun tilted his head.

“We did. We competed to see whose motor was better.”

“That’s childish.”

“It was very serious then. But then you bought an expensive black motor one day. I was so jealous of that.”

“...”

Yoo-hyun blinked his eyes.

He really had no idea what he was talking about.

It was natural that he didn’t remember something that happened 23 years ago.

Even if he did remember, it wouldn't make any difference.

It wasn't a special event or anything. How important could a mini car be?

But it seemed that it wasn't like that for Ha Jun Seok.

"So I wanted to borrow it for a while, you know? But somehow I ended up taking it home without taking it out of my pocket."

"Kid."

"I wanted to tell you sooner, but I couldn't. I couldn't return it or use it and I left it on my desk for 10 years."

It was amazing.

It was a strange feeling to hear someone tell him a story from his forgotten past.

Maybe he felt that way because it was something that definitely happened, even though he didn't remember it.

Yoo-hyun asked.

"Did I cry when I lost it?"

"No way. You didn't say anything. You acted like you never lost it. Maybe you knew. You were that kind of guy."

"..."

As Yoo-hyun fell silent, Ha Jun Seok's voice rose again.

"Hahaha, do you remember? We stole an adult video?"

"You did that too?"

"Kukuku, you really don't remember, do you? I still remember it vividly. How nervous I was back then. My heart was pounding so hard."

"You were like a thief."

Yoo-hyun said with a poke, and Soja Ha Jun Seok glared at him.

"No, I wasn't. I returned it after watching it, didn't I?"

"Well, that was nice of you."

"I still can't believe it when I think about it. Who would have thought to steal a video and then go back and put it in the case again?"

"Haha."

It was a funny situation, now that he thought about it.

Why did he do that?

Ha Jun Seok gave him the answer.

“Actually, it was me who suggested stealing it. I was so nervous the whole time I watched the movie. I felt like the video store owner would come running any minute.”

“Really?”

“Yeah. I was very anxious even after the movie ended. But then you went to return it by yourself.”

Yoo-hyun exclaimed at the faint memory that came to him.

“Ah...”

“It must have been because of me. I was too scared. I was really grateful to you then.”

“You’re grateful for everything.”

“Kuhaha, right? Anyway, yeah. Ah... It feels good. To say what I wanted to say.”

Yoo-hyun turned his head slightly and looked at him.

Ha Jun Seok was still looking at the sky.

He couldn’t see him clearly in the dark, but he somehow knew what kind of expression he was making.

He must be making that characteristic nose wrinkle that he always did when he said something awkward.

Speaking of which, the rooftop room and the past stories.

It was a good time.

After that, Ha Jun Seok kept telling Yoo-hyun stories from their childhood that he didn’t remember at all.

His voice made the black ink in his head gradually fade away.

“Do you remember when you got angry at Lee Yong Oh for stealing your side dish and we got beaten up badly?”

“Kukuku, I remember that. It was so unfair.”

“But do you remember when you secretly threw a ball at the back of his head and hit him? I thought you would become a pitcher later. Kukuku.”

“Puhahaha, did you?”

Yoo-hyun laughed out loud and Ha Jun Seok snickered.

“Do you remember when you held out until the end when we got beaten up by the student leader? You got hit until your butt burst. I got hit because of you too.”

“Ah... Kuku. Sorry.”

“It’s okay.”

Ha Jun Seok waved his hand.

Yoo-hyun slowly faced his younger self.

He was timid and stubborn.

He was fragile, sensitive, and shy.

And he always had friends by his side.

“Ah... It’s so good.”

“The rooftop room is the best, right?”

“Seriously. It’s amazing.”

Maybe he had been trying to restore his broken friendship all this time.

He enjoyed being with them, but there was a 20-year gap in their experiences.

He tried harder to be nice to them because he felt sorry for the past, and he tried harder to fit in with them to please them.

He made phone calls that he didn’t want to make, and he took the initiative to help them with their jobs.

He thought that by doing so, he would gradually get closer and become true friends.

‘That wasn’t it.’

They had different interests, different places they belonged to, and different places they lived in now, but they shared old memories.

They grew up together through their immature childhood.

No matter what they looked like now, the past didn’t change, and the time they spent with their friends couldn’t have changed either.

He didn’t know that and built a wall and kept a distance by himself.

Swish.

He turned his head and saw Ha Jun Seok's profile.

Not the wrinkled face of a 40-year-old, but the short-haired face of his childhood overlaid on his face.

It was the face of his friend that was in the eyes of young Yoo-hyun, who thought he had forgotten.

As if his appearance felt different, he also felt that the distance that was not visible was suddenly pulled closer.

Then Ha Jun Seok turned his head.

"Ahem."

He met his eyes and coughed awkwardly as if he was embarrassed. He got up from his seat.

"Do you want to sober up?"

"I'm not drunk."

You're not drunk. Your face is red.

"Then have a drink with me."

"Cool."

The glasses were filled, and the conversation continued with memories as a side dish.

Yoo-hyun felt thankful for the long night.

The next day.

Park Seung Woo, the assistant manager he met in the morning, looked like he had lost his soul.

He said he was going to drink with his classmates in Ulsan, and he must have really drunk a lot.

His eyes were still red even though it was morning.

Of course, Yoo-hyun wasn't in a good condition either.

Park Seung Woo looked at him with pity and asked.

"Why do you look like that?"

"I drank too much because I met an old friend. Ugh, my head."

He wasn't pretending.

He was so absorbed in the conversation with Ha Jun Seok yesterday that he drank without thinking.

He usually didn't skip running in the morning.

But today, he was too busy getting up and coming to work.

"Kuku, you're more human-like now. I have a headache too. We have some time left, do you want to go to a sauna?"

"Is that okay?"

"We have some time left, what's wrong with that? We're on a business trip, we should have some freedom."

"..."

Park Seung Woo, who was already a few steps ahead, turned around and gestured to him.

"What are you doing? Come on."

Well, yeah, what's wrong with that?

He was right, there were days like this.

Yoo-hyun smiled wryly and answered.

"Yes. I'm coming."

After finishing the sauna and having bean sprout soup for hangover cure, Park Seung Woo glanced at Yoo-hyun.

He seemed to have something to say, but he kept looking around.

Yoo-hyun asked.

"Assistant manager, are you okay?"

"Yeah, sure. I'm fine. Hahaha. Should we get up?"

He laughed awkwardly like that, making it more weird.

"Yes. I'll pay for this."

"No, no. I'll pay for it. Um, I have to pay for it."

He waved his hand too much and said that.

"Sigh."

Yoo-hyun let out a small sigh as he watched Park Seung Woo go to the cashier.

He thought he knew why he was acting like this.

Chapter 70

He still vividly remembered the expression on his face when he opened his mouth wide in the sauna.

-You, you...

-Ah, my body? I've been working out lately.

-Huh? Oh, oh... I see.

He looked away at the distant mountains after scanning Yoo-hyun's body up and down.

He also sighed from time to time.

He even avoided eye contact when he spoke.

It felt like he was seeing him right after the incident with the delinquent.

Even Yoo-hyun could tell that his body was much better than before.

He ran in the morning and worked out at the gym in the evening, training his body.

He also ate well, so he had a high muscle mass compared to his body fat.

He wasn't a pro, but his muscles were quite visible.

It was no wonder that Park Seungwoo, who only saw pot-bellied office workers, was surprised.

Park Seungwoo came out of the restaurant and sat on a bench, smoking a cigarette while Yoo-hyun went to buy a drink.

"Phew..."

There were definitely things in the world that couldn't be done by effort alone.

The feeling of defeat when facing such reality was not easy to shake off.

The body could be made by exercise.

'But...'

Park Seungwoo sighed deeply as he recalled Yoo-hyun's body in the sauna.

"Ha."

11 a.m.

Yoo-hyun entered the 3rd factory, which was connected to the 2nd factory, with Park Seungwoo.

It was to check the development event line for HPDA3.

At the entrance, Son Minhan, the deputy of the process team, was waiting for them.

He was also Park Seungwoo's colleague and said with a smirk.

"What are you doing here in a suit?"

"Just curious."

Park Seungwoo came to the line because of Yoo-hyun.

Son Minhan, who was introducing the line, asked him.

"You must have been in a lot of trouble. Are you okay?"

"Yeah. It's all settled. But how is it? Do you think it will pass the event?"

"Well. There are a lot of problems here and there. Maybe, what's reported is only a fraction?"

"Hmm, I see."

Yoo-hyun nodded his head and walked beside Park Seungwoo, looking around.

Dozens of modularized panels moved on the conveyor belt.

People in work clothes inspected the panels with screens and checked for defects.

Elsewhere, panels that filled one wall flickered red, blue, and green screens in turn.

'It's been a while.'

He saw the scene that he had occasionally seen when he was dispatched in the past.

His blurry memories came back to him bit by bit.

-What's the point of wearing a suit if you don't go to the line? You have to follow our team rules when you come here.

The team leader had made him do a lot of things when he was dispatched.

He soldered, experimented, searched for parts, and worked on modules.

He was a scapegoat when curses flew, but he learned a lot thanks to that.

He realized that sitting at a desk and fighting with numbers was different from being on site.

Looking back, it was a good experience.

It helped him achieve great results, and he couldn't deny that it was very helpful for his career.

“What are you doing?”

Yoo-hyun came back to reality at Park Seungwoo's question.

“Oh, I'm just curious.”

“Haha, it's understandable to be curious when you see the line for the first time. Do you want to see more?”

“No. I think it's okay to go.”

“Will it help you prepare for the seminar? You can't take pictures of the site, so I'll get some for you later.”

“Thank you.”

Yoo-hyun answered dryly.

He said goodbye to Son Minhan and left the line.

Yoo-hyun came out of the company and glanced at the gray car parked on the roadside.

It was a common car that could be seen anywhere.

Except for the trays stacked on the trunk with panels in them.

Vroom.

He heard the sound of the engine starting.

The two men in the driver's seat and the passenger seat had already buckled their seat belts.

‘What? Are they going to leave like that?’

They seemed oblivious.

If they drove like that, the trays would spill and broken panels would scatter on the street.

Yoo-hyun was not so cruel as to leave someone's mistake alone just because he didn't know them.

In a split second, he ran forward and knocked on the closed window.

“Excuse me.”

The window opened and a man's face appeared.

“Yes? What is it?”

Yoo-hyun flinched for a moment.

It was because he was someone who was etched in his memory.

His face was the same even after time had passed.

He must have been old-eyed from the start.

“Uh, there are trays on your trunk.”

The man looked back through the rearview mirror at Yoo-hyun’s words and yelled at the driver’s seat.

“Hey! Kim Seondong, you crazy bastard. Why didn’t you put the trays in?”

“Oops! I’m sorry, sir. I’ll do it right away.”

Clang.

Kim Seondong, who was in the driver’s seat, ran to the trunk and the man in the passenger seat got out of the car and opened the door.

He shouted at Kim Seondong, who was trying to open the trunk door in a hurry.

“Get a grip, man! You’ll spill them!”

“I’m sorry.”

Kim Seondong was flustered.

The man then politely greeted Yoo-hyun.

“Haah... Ah, I’m sorry. And thank you very much.”

“No, I just saw it passing by.”

“You almost caused a big accident. Thank you...”

Bang!

“Hey! You bastard! Don’t close it so hard, you’ll break the panels!”

“I’m sorry.”

A man who was angry, and another man who was cowering in front of him.

The two men overlapped with Yoo-hyun’s memory.

They were exactly the same as before.

After the gray car passed by, Park Seungwoo clicked his tongue.

“Geez, no wonder they get scolded.”

“Do you know them?”

“Of course. They’re from the 4th Product Team. I worked with them briefly last time. Geez, thinking about how hard it was then...”

“They’re not very good?”

“They seem to have some skills, but they need to listen to orders. Even their supervisor can’t control them there.”

That makes sense.

That team itself was not ordinary.

“They look like troublemakers, don’t they?”

“Hahaha, you should try working with them.”

He still had a long way to go before his dispatch, but he had a feeling that he might meet them sooner.

No, he had to make it happen.

When he arrived home from his business trip, it was already dark night.

Yoo-hyun put down his laptop bag and took off his jacket, hanging it on a hanger.

He was about to tidy up the rest of his clothes when his phone vibrated.

Beep.

-Are you home? Good job. Sleep well and see you tomorrow.

Yoo-hyun smiled at Park Seungwoo’s text.

He immediately opened the notebook on his desk.

There were the short-term plans for the next three months that he had planned, listed by items.

What would Park Seungwoo’s expression be like when all these items were filled with circles?

What kind of reaction would he show when he achieved what he had worked for?

Yoo-hyun was genuinely curious.

Saturday afternoon.

Yoo-hyun stopped by the gym at the director’s request.

He wanted to loosen up his body since he hadn’t been able to exercise lately due to frequent dinners and business trips.

But he never dreamed that his opponent would be Kim Taesoo, a pro.

“I don’t think I’m ready for your level yet.”

“It’s okay. Just think of it as warming up and try it once.”

Just warming up?

Yoo-hyun looked at Kim Taesoo, who was facing him on the ring.

His body shuddered at the fierce aura.

He flashed back to the scene where he knocked out his opponent in the first round of his pro debut match.

The serious look in his eyes now was no less than that of then.

He wasn’t joking around on the ring right now.

“You can stop whenever you want. I just have something to test, that’s all.”

“Do I help you?”

“Yes. Taesoo needs your help right now.”

“...”

At the director’s words, Yoo-hyun tapped his gloved hands lightly.

The feeling at the end of his fist was not bad.

Regardless of the outcome, Yoo-hyun wanted to confirm it.

How much he had grown compared to when he first came to the gym.

As he made up his mind, his nervousness subsided as if it were a lie.

Thump. Thump.

His heart was beating calmly.

The spirit of challenge that had been dormant in Yoo-hyun’s body stimulated him.

‘Yes. Let’s do this!’

Yoo-hyun decided and said with a glint in his eyes.

“Director, let’s go.”

“Kid, you’re fearless. Alright. Let’s do this.”

The director nodded and stepped out of the ring.

Ding.

The bell rang and the practice match began.

The director watched their movements from outside the ring.

Yoo-hyun's skills had improved a lot recently, but he was only half-baked.

He hadn't taught him how to kick properly yet.

There was no way he could compete with Kim Taesoo at that level.

But there was a reason why the director called Yoo-hyun in a hurry.

Swoosh!

Suddenly, Kim Taesoo's long arm flew at Yoo-hyun.

His combination of punches and kicks hit Yoo-hyun.

But Yoo-hyun dodged them all.

"Huh, wow. I'm amazed every time I see it."

The director exclaimed as he saw it.

Yoo-hyun's style was exactly like Kim Taesoo's next opponent.

The opponent, who came from an outboxer background, was good at fast reaction and distance control.

He used his feet to circle the ring and manage the match, just like Yoo-hyun now.

It was perfect for draining Kim Taesoo's stamina, who had a large build.

But Kim Taesoo had a countermeasure for that.

Swoosh!

You can't avoid it forever.

He cornered Yoo-hyun and threw a flurry of punches.

Yoo-hyun blocked the unavoidable fists with his guard, but he soon reached his limit.

As if to prove it, Yoo-hyun's guard was gradually lowering.

Swoosh!

Yoo-hyun tilted his head back in an instant, predicting Kim Taesoo's movement that he saw for a moment.

The fist that grazed his nose created a fierce wind.

It was thrilling, but he felt more excitement than fear.

'I can see it.'

He could see it more clearly than before.

He could now dodge his body by just the right distance.

Punches and kicks.

He had countless combinations of patterns in his head.

Of course, knowing them didn't mean he could win.

He had to hit at least once, but if he moved rashly, he would fall into Kim Taesoo's trap.

He couldn't win.

But he could definitely hit him once.

For that, Yoo-hyun set a trap.

Thud!

“Ugh.”

Kim Taesoo's favorite right hook grazed Yoo-hyun's guard.

It was a strong fist that hurt even when it grazed.

But Yoo-hyun endured it and deliberately made a gap.

Like a snake twisting its tail and waiting for its prey, he lowered his guard little by little.

So that Kim Taesoo could misunderstand.

Thud thud thud thud thwack!

Kim Taesoo, who had cornered Yoo-hyun, threw another combination.

Then Yoo-hyun's left hand came down further.

‘Got him!’

It was when Yoo-hyun's chin was exposed above his guard.

Kim Taesoo faked to the left and threw a right hook.

He eased up a bit because he shouldn't hit too hard even on the headgear.

At that moment, Yoo-hyun's figure disappeared like an afterimage.

‘What?’

Thud!

And the strange sound in his ear.

It was the moment when Yoo-hyun's left hit his face precisely.

