

Yes, It's Me. The Obsessive Side Top

##041 - Read Yes, It's Me. The Obsessive Side Top #041

#041

"Did my darlings have a good time? You must be hungry. I'll make you some food."

Grandmother came in with a face full of smiles, looking like she had fun. I quickly ran over and helped Grandmother set the table for dinner. She fried some zucchini pancakes from the zucchini in a corner next to the pepper field, and when I ate the hot ones she fried right next to me, she gently tapped my cheeks, calling me cute.

Sun Woo saw that and clicked his tongue faintly.

"Ha Jin. You'll eat up all the side dishes at this rate."

"Darling, don't be like that and come here to eat one while it's warm."

Grandmother picked up a zucchini pancake from the plate next to her and offered it to him. I took it instead and held it in front of Sun Woo's mouth, but he unnecessarily opened his mouth wide and put my fingers inside too. I felt his lips brush my fingers, then his tongue tickled my fingertips before pulling away.

He's doing this on purpose, isn't he...?

When I bit my lower lip and glared at him, he smiled leisurely and went outside with the side dishes.

'Damn guy. He was making such a pitiful face until just now.'

After eating dinner full of Grandmother's touch, I told Sun Woo to clean up and went for a short village walk with Grandmother again. As soon as we returned, Grandmother said she was tired and would go to bed early. Sun Woo and I didn't talk much and stayed on the wooden bench until the sun set, then went into the room.

When I came in after washing up, Sun Woo had spread out the blanket and was lying on his side. He was lying down, twisting his body towards the spot that seemed to be left for me. Seeing his actions, I felt a small sigh escape, thinking I would inevitably have to fall asleep trapped in Sun Woo's arms again tonight. I turned off the light and went back to my spot.

After lying down, I took out my cell phone and checked it. There were a bunch of calls and texts accumulated on my phone that I hadn't checked all day. Three from an unknown number and Kim Shin... Still, it's less than usual today. I thought he sure calls

persistently even though I never answer. And there were also calls from Mi-eun and Beom-jun.

Opening my text messages, there was a message from Mi-eun.

[Why aren't you answering the phone ㅍㅍ Let's go camping if you have time!]

And from Beom-jun too.

[Min-ha says to go camping. Let's go together, Ha Jin. Min-ha says she has all the equipment, so just bring yourself.]

"The kids are going camping."

"Huh?"

What, were you looking at the screen together? Well, I guess you can see it even if you just slightly turn your eyes since we're this close.

As soon as I put my phone down, Sun Woo wrapped his arm around my waist.

"I got a message too. Asking to go camping."

"So what did you say?"

"I said I couldn't go. And I told them you couldn't go either."

Then I guess I don't have to reply separately... Wait, but what happens if Sun Woo says I can't go? What's going to happen? They'll probably just think Sun Woo and I are together...

There were also a few messages from Kim Shin, but I didn't look at my phone anymore since they would clearly just be full of nonsense.

I twisted my body to the side as much as possible to avoid Sun Woo. Then Sun Woo snuggled up close behind me. Lying on my side made me even more pressed against his body. His hand holding my waist, his chest felt on my back, and his lower body touching my butt.

Too close.

"Sun Woo. Can you move away a bit?"

It's tiring to say it every time, but Sun Woo is really something for ignoring my request every time.

“This position is comfortable for me.”

“It’s uncomfortable for me though?”

“Bear with it. It’s my room.”

I was momentarily at a loss for words at the tyranny of the room’s owner.

I closed my eyes to cut off unnecessary thoughts. Perhaps because I had done physical labor during the day, my body soon lost strength and my breathing slowed. Just as I was about to fall asleep like that, I felt Sun Woo’s touch.

His hand that had been tickling my back was now groping my waist. I tried to ignore it, but as his touch gradually became bolder, I couldn’t stand it and opened my eyes. I slightly ground my teeth, looking at the wall in front of me.

“You’re not going to sleep?”

“Ha Jin.”

At Sun Woo’s voice suddenly calling out weakly, I stopped moving and focused, feeling his slow breathing behind my back. It felt as if his emotions were being conveyed through my back. They were very heavy, sad, and also desperate.

“Honestly, I’m scared.”

Knowing his feelings, I overlapped my hand on the back of his. And I gently patted it.

“It’s okay. Nothing will happen.”

“...”

Sun Woo buried his face in my back. Feeling sorry for him, I held his hand and pulled it up. And I lightly kissed his palm before pulling away.

“Don’t worry and sleep.”

“Ha Jin.”

Sun Woo’s slow breathing returned to normal, as if my comfort had worked. There was already strength in his voice calling my name. Not long after, his hand reached out towards me again and carefully touched my lips.

“?”

This bastard?

I roughly turned my body back towards Sun Woo, who started doing weird things again after I comforted him. His face, faintly visible, had a playful smile. I was about to furrow my brows and get angry, but I shut my mouth tight when I noticed the moisture in the corners of his eyes.

“Touching you calms me down a bit. Can I?”

At Sun Woo’s words, I softly replied “crazy bastard” and sighed as if telling him to do as he pleased. Sun Woo smiled and fiddled with my lips again. His eyes were moist but he didn’t shed tears in the end. I think Sun Woo would look prettier crying than me.

Even though I knew I shouldn’t accept his touch, I couldn’t refuse.

Although I became wary since his behavior had become very strange since the day we reunited in the countryside, somehow it wasn’t easy to push him away. He’s too pretty to push away.

The next day, Grandmother gathered the things to sell at the market and went to the medicinal herb market with Sun Woo and me in the car. Many elderly people had already set up their stalls in one area of the medicinal herb market. As if everyone had their own spot, Grandmother walked with familiar steps towards an empty spot.

“You kids look around somewhere else for a bit. Grandma will be here selling these.”

“We’ll help you. Let’s sell together.”

“Goodness, it’s cramped. It’s barely enough for me to sit alone. Other people will complain.”

“Still, you’ll be lonely by yourself.”

“What? What’s lonely? These are all my friends here.”

Grandmother brightly smiled and waved her hand wildly. As if telling us to go quickly.

As I hesitated, Sun Woo pulled me towards him.

“Darling, show Jin-i around a bit.”

“Okay. Call me if you need anything. I’ll come right away.”

“Alright, alright. Go on now. Grandma will enjoy her hobby here.”

Grandmother arranged the things to sell with an energetic expression.

As I was being dragged away by Sun Woo, I kept looking back, and Grandmother stopped arranging and lifted her head to wave at me, looking worried.

“This is something Grandmother enjoys. Meeting people and having conversations is what she likes.”

“If she likes dealing with people, should we open a store for Grandmother?”

At my words, Sun Woo let out a small laugh. His expression brightened, as if forgetting about Grandmother’s illness for a moment.

“Grandmother must be happy to have a rich grandson.”

“Money is all I have left.”

Right. Ha Jin is a chaebol heir, so he can’t do that one thing for her? Seeing how he bought this and that for Sun Woo in the webtoon, it seemed like his family didn’t care much about his spending.

The place Sun Woo drove to, saying he would show me around, was a park. The park, not far from the medicinal herb market, was a large forest. At the entrance, there was a large space with several small ponds. Those ponds were full of various lotus flowers. There were well-paved paths to walk around, and quite a few people were walking around since it seemed to be a famous tourist spot.

As I walked looking at the lotus flowers, I felt the gazes of people passing by and got self-conscious for no reason.

“Was the impact of the article that big? I think people recognize me?”

With an uneasy heart, I put on the sunglasses I was holding. I tried to hide my face somehow, but it didn’t seem to have much effect as people still widened their eyes looking at me.

“Not everyone in the world knows your face.”

“Ah, is that so?”

Well, I’m not a celebrity. They might recognize me at the school I attend, but not in a place like this. Still, just in case, I didn’t take off the sunglasses I was wearing.

After looking at the lotus flowers, we walked further in to see the forest. A little past the entrance, there was an old swing in a wide lawn. The kind of swing Chunhyang rode with Hyangdan.

Seeing that reminded me of Jung Woo, who wanted me to serve him. That day, I really thought I had become Chunhyang.

The video I had uploaded as a countermeasure after the firearms violence incident was slowly surfacing from the depths. Of course, it would take more time for it to fully surface.

Passing that place, a lush forest appeared. The forest path was just right for two people to walk side by side. There weren't many people on the forest path, as everyone seemed to be looking at the lotus flowers. The forest path was cool to the point where the hot summer day wasn't felt. The scent of grass and soil refreshed my nose. The dirt path on the ground was soft. Even though it was a clear day, not a single ray of sunlight came in thanks to the densely grown leaves, and the moist air felt nice on my skin.

I thought this is what healing is, but then Sun Woo held my hand. It was peaceful. Damn it.

When I looked at him as if asking what he was doing, he gave a pleasant smile.

"For my sense of stability."

[The Lives of Golden Spoons]

– Ha Jin's prohibited list 10. Voting for survival programs prohibited

└ Everyone has a favorite in their heart.

└└ Ha Jin only needs Sun Woo.

└ Have to send Sun Woo, edit and send him, and send him again to Sun Woo.

└└ Then the votes will be invalidated lol

└└ Send cheers for our Sun Woo too

└ Lol it's cute how he forces the employees to vote with their phones.

└ The prizes for participating in the event are so good!

└└ Right. They even give luxury bags.

└└└ Because Ha Jin is a chaebol heir. Won't you come to your senses?

└ While participating, you might discover some dark history. Ah, I used to like this person...? Why did I?

└└ Wow, this is from experience.

└ How can my baby be at risk of elimination? I need to vote right away.

└ This is Ha Jin's prohibited list. Not your prohibited list, everyone. No overimmersion.

#042

Last night he persistently fiddled with my lips and ended up kissing me, yet he has the nerve to bring up a sense of stability. I clicked my tongue at the guy taking advantage of the fact that I couldn't raise my voice because of Grandma. He acts pitiful and then does whatever he wants.

"Does this give you a sense of stability?"

"It does."

Sun Woo answered firmly. So firmly that I felt embarrassed for even asking the question.

"Okay. I get that. I get it, but. People are looking, you know? Can't you hold back a bit in public places like this?"

"So what if they see? They'll think we're close. You like that, don't you? Us looking close. Grandmother would like it if she saw this. Right?"

"..."

Sun Woo is pretty good with words? He's very persuasive.

As we walked with him holding my hand like that, I suddenly thought of Ha Jin in the webtoon. What kind of expression would Ha Jin have made in this situation? I couldn't even imagine. I couldn't even guess that the bastard would have a happy face. Come to think of it, if we're talking about a ruined character, Ha Jin was worse than Sun Woo.

Whether people came from the opposite side or not, Sun Woo didn't let go of my hand. I could be shameless since I was wearing sunglasses, but Sun Woo exposed his bare face without even changing his expression. I had guessed to some extent that Sun Woo had a stubborn side, but he's really amazing. Admiring his shamelessness, I continued walking along the forest path, my mind emptying and filled with only a refreshing feeling.

"It's nice to walk here."

The forest path was suitable for walking as it only led to flat ground. To think they created an artificial forest a thousand years ago. I was newly amazed by the wisdom of our ancestors.

Sun Woo suddenly stopped walking. Since I was also holding his hand, I stood with him, and he gave me a meaningful smile. There was no one coming from the opposite side at the moment, so I sensed a strange energy.

“Why?”

When I looked at him suspiciously, he suddenly brought his face close to mine and quickly stole a kiss before pulling away. I had a feeling, and I was right.

As if he gains points every time he touches my lips, he rushes to make contact whenever there's a chance.

“Is this also for your sense of stability?”

“You know it well.”

“I feel like I'm being used right now.”

At my words, Sun Woo didn't answer and started walking again. Seeing his back, I had a feeling that tonight wouldn't be easy either. No matter what happens today, I think I either need to sleep next to Grandmother or send Sun Woo to her side. The sleeping area was no different from a battlefield for me.

As we sat on a bench in the middle to rest, my phone rang. When I took out my phone, Sun Woo looked at me as if it was a big deal. Even I felt awkward about answering the phone. I had no memory of answering incoming calls. But I was waiting for a place to contact me.

[Secretary Kim] appeared on the screen of the phone I took out. I got up for a moment and moved away from Sun Woo.

“Yes, Secretary Kim.”

“Young Master Ha Jin. Are you doing well? I heard you're far away.”

“I'm putting into practice what I said about spending time in a quiet countryside.”

“I didn't think you would actually go. Ah, and the thing you asked for has been scheduled.”

“Thank you. It must have been difficult.”

“Not at all. We need to schedule it as quickly as possible, but the director is currently on a medical volunteer trip to Vietnam. He said he'll see you as soon as he returns.”

I had asked Secretary Kim to receive a proper diagnosis regarding Grandmother's condition.

"Which hospital and what day should I go?"

"Hope Hospital."

Hope Hospital, really.

I'm curious if the webtoon world is really small or if it's structured in a way that the main characters have to be entangled. Hope Hospital is the hospital with the largest scale and best skills in Korea, where the father of the male lead Sin Yeo-un is the director.

As I was dazed for a moment at Secretary Kim's words, he informed me of the schedule again.

"You can visit Hope Hospital in 3 days. The director says he'll accommodate your schedule as much as possible and that any time is fine on the 3rd day after he returns to Korea."

Eunha Group is really amazing. I heard that the basic reservation wait for Hope Hospital is a month, and even using connections, you have to wait a week. When Eunha Group makes a request, the director himself accommodates it.

"Then I'll go on that day."

"Yes, if you let me know when you go, I'll send an employee."

"Okay, thank you."

While answering, my eyes kept going to Sun Woo. He was sitting on the bench, continuously looking at me. When our eyes met, he gave me a comfortable smile. I couldn't believe that good-looking guy was kissing me all the time. I quickly turned my head away from him.

"The article didn't have that big of an impact. There are so many strange incidents that this kind of thing doesn't even become an issue."

Secretary Kim spoke to me as if comforting me. A laugh escaped at his awkward consolation.

We said goodbye to each other and ended the call like that. When I approached Sun Woo, he patted the seat next to him, telling me to sit. Standing instead of sitting next to him, I conveyed the content of the phone call.

"Grandma. Let's go to Seoul and get you properly examined at a big hospital."

As soon as I finished speaking, Sun Woo spread his arms. When I took a step forward, he wrapped his arms around my waist and hugged me. Sun Woo rested his face on my stomach and stayed like that for a long time. As my hand naturally fiddled with Sun Woo's hair, he tightened his arms embracing me even more.

"Don't worry."

At my comfort, Sun Woo slightly lifted his head and looked up at me.

"I'm worried though. I think I might feel a bit better if you kiss me."

He showed a fresh smile that suited the summer forest too well, as if he had shaken off all the sadness from yesterday. With a clear face without a trace of worry, he's spouting nonsense again.

"Let's go see Ok-bun."

Thoroughly ignoring his words, I said what I wanted to say, and Sun Woo stood up with a small smile.

"Let's do it at night."

"Do what?"

"Kiss."

'Author, the male lead has gone crazy!'

We stopped by a nearby cafe, bought cool omija tea, and headed back to the medicinal herb market. Seeing Grandmother happily conversing with a customer among the crowd, a smile unknowingly formed on my lips.

"Ok-bun!"

When I called out to Grandmother with a nasal voice, she turned her head, spotted me, and showed an even brighter smile. Grandmother said something to the customer with a kind face and pointed at me with her hand.

"My grandson's friend. I said you go to the same school, right?"

Seeing Grandmother kindly speaking to the customer, I thought the customer's height was quite tall at a glance. I couldn't see the customer's face because of the crowd. Without looking closely, I approached and handed the tea to Grandmother.

"Why are you back already?"

“I came because I missed you. Have some of this cool drink.”

“Oh, it’s okay. I’m almost done selling, so wait a bit. Let’s buy some fried chicken with Grandma and go home.”

“Okay.”

Grandmother took a sip of the tea and gestured for me to look to the side.

“Jin-i. This student goes to the same school.”

Following Grandmother’s gesture, I finally looked at the customer. The tall guy was smiling at me so brightly that his eyes weren’t visible. With a face that would look quite fierce and cold if he weren’t smiling.

“Kim Shin?”

‘What? How do I run into Kim Shin in a place like this?’

Kim Shin was dressed very comfortably. Wearing a short-sleeved shirt and shorts, he gave the feeling of having just stepped out of his house. His house and this place are 4 hours apart though. My eyes widened at Kim Shin’s appearance.

“Ha Jin. Meeting everyone here, huh?”

Compared to me, who was very surprised, Kim Shin didn’t seem to have much change in emotion. It was the same smile he always showed me.

Well, he always maintained the same appearance, but still. He should be a bit surprised in this situation. It’s an incredible coincidence.

“What brings you here?”

I asked him with wide eyes, as if surprised.

“I’m just traveling alone.”

“Are you doing a nationwide tour?”

“Not that. I’m just going wherever my feet take me.”

Seeing Kim Shin in an unexpected place, I was happy to see him. Grandmother, who had been listening to our conversation, was also surprised.

“You said you were from the same school, but you were friends with our Jin-i?”

“This is Kim Shin, who goes to the same school as me.”

“Yes. I’ve been friends with Ha Jin since we were young.”

“Oh my, how can such a coincidence happen?”

“I know, right? But why did Ha Jin come here?”

“Our Jin-i came to visit Grandma’s house. Right?”

Grandmother answered for me. At Grandmother’s words, I introduced Grandmother to Kim Shin.

“That’s right. Ah, this is Sun Woo’s grandmother.”

“Hmm, Sun Woo?”

“Yeah.”

Kim Shin smiled brightly. Then he bowed to Grandmother and spoke to her very affectionately.

“Can’t I come visit Grandmother’s house too? I’m bored traveling alone during the break. I want to hang out with friends now.”

“Huh? Oh, why not? Of course you can. Aren’t you friends with our darling too?”

“That’s right. I’m really close with Sun Woo. And with Ha Jin too.”

“Then come. If you’re our darling’s friend, you’re a grandson to Grandma too.”

Kim Shin stood up with a big smile. He playfully hugged me and rocked my body slightly from side to side.

“Meeting everyone here, we must be really destined.”

In this dumbfounding situation, I was held by Kim Shin like that for a long time.

Is it because it’s a webtoon? I had a feeling that the connections with people were strangely well-linked. I was even introduced to the hospital of the male lead Sin Yeo-un’s father. Thinking that the encounter with Kim Shin was a characteristic of the webtoon, my surprise subsided a bit.

“Wouldn’t this be considered a match made in heaven?”

I laughed as if dumbfounded at Kim Shin's words while hugging and swaying me, and I separated from him. Grandmother was laughing as if watching a cute little act. Then she looked around as if searching for someone.

"Jin-i. Where's our darling?"

Grandmother was looking for Sun Woo, who was out of sight.

"There was no parking space, so he must be wandering around. I got out first to give you the drink."

"Oh dear, don't go around alone. You'll get lost. Stay close to our darling."

"Yes. I will."

Kim Shin, who had been listening to the conversation, put his hand on my shoulder. Despite his cold face, he smiled prettily at Grandmother.

"Don't worry, Grandmother. I'll take good care of Ha Jin by his side."

At Kim Shin's words, Grandmother laughed and waved her hand.

"Oh, you don't need to do that as a student. Our darling is taking good care of him."

#043

We talked for a long time in front of Grandmother, and she said we were interfering with her business, so we moved to the back. As I watched Grandmother's back talking to customers, many people soon crowded around her. Grandmother seemed to enjoy dealing with people, continuously smiling.

The situation of me and Kim Shin standing side by side, looking at Sun Woo's grandmother, was truly strange. In the original work, there was never a chance to meet Sun Woo's grandmother. Let alone Grandmother, Kim Shin had no connection with Sun Woo either.

"Are you really going to stay at Sun Woo's grandmother's house?"

Seeing him grinning at my question, it seemed he really had that intention.

"Yeah. Let me hang out with you too. I was just wandering around without any plans, so take pity on me."

"I don't have the authority to do that since I'm not the owner of the house."

"Then it's fine since Grandmother gave permission? The owner of the house allowed it."

“ ... ”

It wouldn't be bad for me if Kim Shin came. In my mind, I pictured Sun Woo sleeping in Grandmother's room tonight and Kim Shin and I sharing a room. Thinking I could escape from Sun Woo's arms if that happened, I nodded my head.

When I'm with Sun Woo, I don't know what I might do, getting caught up in the mood. To think I was so weak to pleasure. I wondered if this was also Ha Jin's influence... Sun Woo's handsome face and caring actions were too sweet to lure in an innocent me with no dating experience.

“It should be fine. Sun Woo will probably be okay with it too.”

“Really?”

Kim Shin showed a questioning reaction, then soon smiled meaningfully.

“Wouldn't I be interfering for nothing?”

“What is there to interfere with? Just don't cause trouble and stay quietly.”

Where would there be people to pick fights in a rural village? Moreover, who would dare pick a fight seeing Kim Shin's face? Even with a face that chills you to the bone.

I clicked my tongue at Kim Shin, telling him he was worrying unnecessarily, and saw people crowding in front of Grandmother.

“She'll sell out soon.”

I knelt down next to Grandmother, who looked busy, and helped pack the vegetables into bags. The items sold out in an instant, leaving only empty baskets, and as I tidied up the spot, a few people spoke to me, asking if there was anything left, as if they were disappointed.

After telling them everything was sold out, I turned my gaze to the crowd of people to take a short breather, and in the distance, I saw Sun Woo walking over. Even from a long distance, he stood out, proving he was the protagonist. Sun Woo, who came close, noticed Kim Shin and hesitated for a moment before walking straight to me.

“Sun Woo, it must have been tough parking, right? But we have to leave right away. Everything is sold out, so the business is over.”

“Darling, you're here? Why did you let Jin-i come alone? You should have come together.”

“He got out before I could stop him, saying he had to hurry and see Grandmother.”

“Oh dear, Jin-i. You can’t do that. You don’t even know the way here, it could have been big trouble.”

“I memorized the way when I came earlier. I can go around alone for a distance like this.”

When I answered with a smile, Grandmother still seemed worried and put my hand in Sun Woo’s. It was like pairing us up so we wouldn’t get lost on an elementary school field trip.

I heard Kim Shin’s voice behind me, as if he was holding back laughter.

Feeling awkward for no reason, I pulled my hand out of Sun Woo’s and grabbed Kim Shin’s arm. Kim Shin, standing next to me, still shrugged his shoulders, trying to contain his laughter. When I poked his side as a signal to stop laughing, he stopped and greeted Sun Woo.

“Hey Sun Woo, what a coincidence. Seeing everyone in a place like this.”

Sun Woo looked at Kim Shin with an even colder gaze than when I first greeted him. Just as the air between them was growing heavy, Grandmother lightly hit Sun Woo’s arm.

“Darling, don’t look at your friends like that again.”

“ ... ”

Sun Woo silently picked up the basket under Grandmother. Then Grandmother’s scolding continued.

“Not even greeting them?”

Even at Grandmother’s scolding, Sun Woo just nodded his head. It wasn’t a proper greeting, he slightly lifted his head up and just received the greeting like that. The nod was filled with the meaning ‘I don’t like that you’re here’, making me unnecessarily embarrassed. Sun Woo, being subtly kind while not showing it... Could he be very shy around strangers? Even our first meeting didn’t give a particularly good impression.

Thinking the kid would be fine and soon become friends with him, I lightly pushed Kim Shin’s shoulder with mine as if asking if he was okay, and he had his usual smiling face. Kim Shin’s mental strength seemed extraordinary too. Seeing him grinning like this in front of someone clearly showing dislike.

Grandmother, finding her grandsons simply cute, chuckled and pulled Sun Woo’s arm.

“Oh my, so blunt. Let’s go, darling.”

Sun Woo reluctantly let Grandmother pull his arm and walked ahead. Kim Shin and I followed behind.

“Kim Shin, did you bring your car?”

“Yeah. Is Grandmother’s house far?”

“About 20 minutes from here?”

“Not a close distance then.”

Kim Shin was silent for a moment, then leaned his body against me, being clingy.

“Ha Jin, can’t you guide me there?”

“Ah, you don’t know Grandmother’s house? I’ll give you the address.”

“No, don’t do that, can’t you just tell me from the side?”

It wasn’t a difficult road, and with just a navigation system, you could sufficiently reach Grandmother’s house.

“I brought my car too though?”

“Give it to Sun Woo. Sun Woo drives too.”

“I’ll give you the address, input it and come.”

“Still cold. Be a bit warmer when you meet friends. Both Sun Woo and Ha Jin. Who do I rely on?”

No matter how pitiful he acted with a sly face, it had no effect at all. I handed him the address and approached Grandmother walking ahead. When I walked side by side next to her, Grandmother held my hand tightly and patted it.

“There’s a fried chicken place in front. Should we buy from there?”

“You’re buying fried chicken for me? I really like chicken. Buy a lot, please.”

Kim Shin, who had tagged along at some point, suddenly interjected into the conversation from behind. At his affectionate tone, Grandmother laughed and turned around to hold Kim Shin’s hand. Grandmother seemed to have no intention of walking with a grandson’s friend on each side, so she let go of my hand and waved it, telling me to go back.

With Grandmother's gesture, I naturally ended up walking side by side with Sun Woo as I went to the back.

"Right, what's your name?"

"I'm Kim Shin, Grandmother."

"Oh my, Shin-nie and Shin-nie."

"Yes. Shin-nie is hungry, Grandmother."

Kim Shin, who turned his head sideways towards Grandmother, had his fierce face gone somewhere and was smiling like an innocent little lamb again. Kim Shin, who glanced back once, held Grandmother's hand tightly and walked ahead like that.

"Sun Woo. What should I do, Grandmother is so popular? You must feel like your grandmother is being taken away."

"I feel a bit lonely."

Sun Woo spoke as if indifferent and held out his hand to me, spreading it.

"I'm lonely, so hold it."

He does this whenever there's a chance. Instead of holding his hand, I tried to hit it, but Sun Woo swiftly grabbed my hand with good reflexes. When I showed a surprised face at the protagonist's good athletic abilities, Sun Woo's expression slightly softened.

The two whole chickens Grandmother bought were quickly devoured by three grown men. It felt like the money Grandmother had worked hard to earn had vanished in vain.

"Oh my, you eat well. Eating so heartily."

Grandmother, saying she didn't like fried food much, only ate one wing and kept watching us eat. Feeling mushy, I hugged Grandmother. She naturally embraced me tightly in her arms as I suddenly clung to her.

"It was the most delicious fried chicken I've ever eaten."

"That place is really good, right?"

"I think it's delicious because the person who bought it is special."

Grandmother laughed loudly at my cuteness. Feeling good in her embrace, I quietly nestled in her arms, and saw Kim Shin across from me, his mouth wide open with a

very shocked expression. Seeing him making a stupid face I wanted to tease, erasing his usual smiling face, I was startled and froze as a thought suddenly occurred to me.

I had momentarily forgotten that he was a close friend who had seen Ha Jin since childhood. Recalling that fact, embarrassment belatedly rushed over me. Ha Jin wouldn't do this. I shouldn't be cursing that Sun Woo had gone crazy. Ha Jin himself was already out of character.

Slipping out of Grandmother's arms, I looked at Kim Shin, and in that short time, he had erased his surprised face and was smiling again, his eyes not visible.

Well, people have this side and that side. What does it matter if I'm not the past Ha Jin? I decided not to be embarrassed anymore.

"Should Grandma make you darlings something delicious?"

"What are you going to make?"

Kim Shin was already stuck close to Grandmother's side, paying attention to her every action and word, reacting promptly. He used to cling to me like that, but it was the first time I saw Kim Shin doing that to someone else, so I found it amusing.

"Have you tried grilling pork belly on a pot lid?"

"No. That's been appearing a lot on TV these days, right? People who went camping were eating like that."

"Oh my, is that so? We've been eating like that for a long time."

"You're going to make that for us?"

"Yes. Grandma will make it for you."

"I'll help you."

Grandmother also seemed to like Kim Shin, who was being attentive, and laughed as she got up from her seat. Kim Shin immediately followed Grandmother, saying he would prepare together, and went into the kitchen.

I also got up and was clearing the wooden bench for dinner when Sun Woo approached me.

Sun Woo reached out his arm and stroked my cheek, then brought his fingers to my lips and brushed them. Startled, I quickly glanced towards the kitchen.

'Are you crazy?! Even if it's Grandmother, Kim Shin is here!'

Huh? When did I conclude that it's okay to show affection in front of Grandmother?

Fortunately, Kim Shin, who had gone into the kitchen, was not seen at all.

"What are you doing?"

When I asked, Sun Woo showed a faint smile on his face.

"It was on your mouth."

"Tell me that with words."

"It's more convenient for me to see it and remove it rather than explaining."

After finishing his words, Sun Woo licked the finger that had brushed my lips with his tongue. The reddish tongue moved in front of my eyes as if seducing me and disappeared. Feeling tense for no reason, I swallowed my dry saliva, and Sun Woo laughed under his breath and tapped my cheek once.

Despite doing something strange, Sun Woo confidently straightened his shoulders and headed to the kitchen. Since he had committed the act and left in an instant, I had to stand alone and fiddle with my lips forlornly.

At this rate, I might be the one to pounce on Sun Woo first. No matter what happens today, I must sleep apart from Sun Woo.

#044

Grandmother entrusted me with lighting the fire in the brazier.

As I was fanning to light a fire after putting in dry firewood, Grandmother was next to me, telling me this and that.

"Jin-i. If you shake it too hard, the fire will go out."

Doing it hard wasn't always good. I stopped fanning, having shaken my arm to the point of breaking.

"Then should I do it slowly?"

"You have to coax it gently."

I started moving the fan I had been shaking violently in a light, fluttering motion.

When it got hot enough, we greased the pot lid and put black pig pork belly on top. With a sizzling sound, the meat cooked and the fat flowed to the center, gathering in one place.

Just looking at that was enough to make my mouth water, but Grandmother didn't stop there and put well-fermented kimchi on top, chopping it with scissors. The kimchi cooked, making a sound like frying something.

"Why don't restaurants do this great thing?"

Kim Shin spoke in an excited voice as if he had discovered something amazing.

"Some restaurants do it. They call it pot lid pork belly."

"What, Ha Jin, you knew? Did you go without telling me? When?"

"I didn't go, I just know from hearing about it."

"Hmm, let's go together when we think of this after going up to Seoul."

Saying that, Kim Shin immediately clung to Grandmother's side and asked her this and that, as if he didn't need to hear my answer.

"Grandmother, do you often eat like this?"

"I do eat it often. I can't eat like this alone."

"Then make it for us like this whenever we come."

"Oh my, alright, alright. Shin-nie has good affability, just like Jin-i."

"That's because we've been really close friends since we were young. Don't people who are together start to resemble each other?"

"Is that so? Friends are good. Friends since childhood are forever friends."

For some reason, the words "forever friends" gave me goosebumps. Do I have to be with Kim Shin forever? I alternated my gaze between Grandmother and Kim Shin, then turned to Sun Woo. He had a nonchalant face, and perhaps sensing my gaze, he looked at me. And he smiled very calmly.

"Now you look a bit lonely?"

"A little?"

As Sun Woo said, I felt a bit like Grandmother had been taken away by Kim Shin.

“You’re being childish.”

When I glared at him, dumbfounded by his words, he lightly flicked the tip of my nose with his finger. It was an action that treated me like a child, as he said. As the smiling Sun Woo approached closer, my body’s senses became extremely sensitive, as if it was a learned effect.

“I’ll accept all your clinginess, so try being clingy once. It would be cute.”

I internally replied that there was no way I would ever do that. What’s cute about a grown man? To avoid Sun Woo, I also went to Grandmother’s side and sat on a small chair.

After finishing dinner, Sun Woo finally threw a question at Kim Shin.

“Aren’t you going to leave now?”

Sun Woo seemed puzzled by Kim Shin, who didn’t leave even after the sun had completely set. He didn’t say a word to Kim Shin, and the first thing he finally says is that. If it were me, I would feel sad, but Kim Shin didn’t seem to be affected at all.

“I’m going to stay here for a few days. It’s so nice here. Grandmother is nice too. Wow, it’s been so long since I breathed this fresh air.”

Kim Shin, who took a deep breath with a refreshed face, sat on the wooden bench, tilted his head back, and looked up at the sky. Sun Woo had an expressionless face. On the outside, he seemed to have no particular thoughts about Kim Shin staying, but the content of what he said next clearly seemed like he wanted Kim Shin to leave.

“There are no rooms left though.”

“What? You’re not kicking me out because there’s no room, are you?”

Kim Shin slyly pulled his body towards where Grandmother was sitting and sat next to her.

“Grandmother, you’ll let me sleep here, right? You can’t chase me out.”

“Darling, why wouldn’t there be a room? If darling sleeps with me, and Jin-i and Shin-nie sleep together, it’ll work out.”

‘Nice, Grandmother!’

I inwardly cheered at Grandmother’s Solomon-like solution.

“Yeah, that would work.”

Kim Shin grinned and laughed, while Sun Woo quietly looked at me and held his breath. I don't know why he's shooting arrows of blame at me. I can see his displeasure a bit, but I also nodded my head, feeling happy.

"That would be best. Three people in that room would be too much."

"It's been a while since I slept together with Ha Jin, huh? When we were young, we often slept together in my bed. You used to cling to me, saying you didn't want to go home. You were really cute."

Young Ha Jin was indeed cute.

Sun Woo sat there silently with a cold face. Who would think he's the male lead seeing a face like that?

Sun Woo, who seemed to be thinking about something, opened his mouth with a furrowed brow.

"I think it would be fine for the three of us to sleep together."

"Oh my, darling, why would you three huge guys cram in there to sleep? Darling can sleep with Grandma."

Grandmother said that and took off the stems of the strawberries she had bought at the market and put them on a plate. I reached out to pick up a strawberry, but Sun Woo snatched the one my hand was heading towards. Is he picking a fight now? My eyes naturally narrowed, and as I moved to pick up another one, a strawberry was pushed into my mouth. Dumbfounded by Sun Woo's hand forcefully trying to put the strawberry in my mouth, I had no choice but to eat it. He was using enough force to crush the strawberry if I didn't open my mouth.

"What?"

"You said you don't have hands, Ha Jin. So I fed you."

When I asked while chewing the strawberry, Sun Woo replied with a face devoid of any hint of laughter.

If I didn't have hands, he should have fed me when we were eating fried chicken or pork belly earlier too. Why is he doing this only now? As I couldn't erase my dumbfoundedness, Sun Woo picked up another strawberry. I had a bad feeling, and indeed, his hand was heading towards my mouth again.

"I have hands. I'll eat with my own hands."

I turned my head to avoid the strawberry coming towards me again, and Sun Woo withdrew his hand and put the strawberry into his own mouth.

What, why did his mood suddenly turn bad, and why is he taking it out on me again? Kim Shin was laughing with a face that seemed to find it hilarious.

While Kim Shin went to wash up, Sun Woo came into the room and helped spread out the bedding. Lastly, when placing the pillows, he puts two of them far apart. Still dissatisfied, he was pushing one pillow as if he would stuff it into the wall.

“At this rate, the pillow will go through the wall into the next room.”

When I put the pillow back in a proper position, Sun Woo grabbed my arm.

“Will it be okay? Sleeping with Kim Shin, just the two of you? I think it would be better for us to sleep together with Grandmother in her room.”

“It would be too much for three people to sleep there too. Plus, you said Grandmother is a light sleeper. If I go too, it would be uncomfortable for Grandmother.”

“I can’t feel at ease.”

“Is this a tiger’s den? Is Kim Shin a tiger?”

Speaking of which, the image of a tiger suited Kim Shin well. Things like his sharp eyes and fierce energy. Then, the door clicked open and Kim Shin came in. He seemed to have heard the whole conversation from outside, trying to hold back his laughter, but laughter kept escaping his mouth.

“Sun Woo. What are you so worried about? If someone hears, they might think I’m going to eat Ha Jin.”

“...”

“Well, Ha Jin might taste good if I ate him. But I want to live with our Ha Jin for a long, long time. So I don’t think I could even lay a finger on him?”

“This country house isn’t soundproof.”

Why is he bringing up soundproofing? I looked at Sun Woo as if he was talking nonsense. Kim Shin must have felt the same way, as he finally burst into loud laughter. I guess Kim Shin’s sense of humor matches Sun Woo’s.

“Ahaha... Sun Woo is a completely funny character. Ha Jin, how did you get Sun Woo to care for you like this? It’s so funny, I’m tearing up.”

Kim Shin made an exaggerated gesture and wiped his eyes with his fingers. There were no tears on his fingers at all. Kim Shin kept snickering and laughing.

“Who would eat a kid at Grandmother’s house?”

“...”

“Ah, was someone thinking of eating?”

Kim Shin sat down, still smiling leisurely.

“I’m tired, so I’ll sleep first. Sun Woo, if you have more warnings for Ha Jin, tell him.”

As if appealing that he was an upright citizen, Kim Shin lay down and even turned his back to me.

“Sun Woo.”

I called Sun Woo’s name and conveyed with my eyes that there’s no way Kim Shin would do what he had done.

Sun Woo stared blankly at Kim Shin’s back, then brushed my lips once and mouthed the words “scream” so Kim Shin wouldn’t hear, then left the room.

Thinking he was crazy, I turned off the light and lay down, thinking at least he didn’t kiss me here.

The feeling was completely different from lying down with Sun Woo. It felt unfamiliar and a bit uncomfortable to be lying in the same room as Kim Shin. Even when Sun Woo was close, it didn’t feel strange.

As I lay still, looking at the ceiling, Kim Shin, who had been lying on his side, turned his body and lay straight, making the sound of rustling blankets. Strangely on edge, I focused on that sound. When Kim Shin’s quietly exhaled breaths started to feel comfortable, he spoke to me.

“Sun Woo really cherishes our Ha Jin a lot, huh? I alone am enough to cherish Ha Jin. Don’t you think?”

“I don’t need either of you.”

“It’s a big deal that Ha Jin has gotten used to my care. It seems like he doesn’t know how to be wary of people.”

“I’m being sufficiently wary.”

"I know. Our Ha Jin's wariness. It's a solid iron wall. But these days, that iron wall seems to have lowered, and I think I can climb over it soon. Can I climb over?"

"No. Stay where you are."

"Where I am? Staying in that spot is what I do best. When will Ha Jin look back at me?"

Kim Shin continued talking like that, lying straight without even looking at me.

"Lying like this reminds me of when we were young. Ha Jin was so cute, I wanted to put you in my pocket and carry you around. You were short too. You looked a year younger than me. When did you grow up like this? Our Ha Jin is all grown up."

"If someone hears, they'll think you raised me."

"I did raise you. Our cute Ha Jin."

"Kim Shin. Aren't you tired?"

"Nope, not at all."

But he told Sun Woo he was tired.

"Ha Jin, aren't you curious if Sun Woo will come running if you make a noise?"

I had a feeling he would come running 100%. I just had that premonition. But I didn't bother conveying my thoughts to Kim Shin.

"Sleep."

At my brief words, Kim Shin laughed as if deflated.

"Good night, Ha Jin. I won't eat you, so don't worry."

Ignoring Kim Shin, who was saying strange things, I closed my eyes. Contrary to my worries that I might not fall asleep easily with Kim Shin next to me, fortunately, I quickly drifted off to sleep.

Something was brushing against my neck. A warm sensation touched my nape and repeatedly lifted off. At the ticklish feeling, I slightly trembled, and the thing touching me disappeared. Then it brushed against my neck again. Finally waking up from sleep, I quietly opened my eyes. In a hazy state of drowsiness, I turned my eyes towards my nape, and I saw something pulling away.

Blinking a few times, something started to become visible in the darkness. That thing, with its head turned towards me from a slight distance, was...

Kim Shin.

#045

In the midst of being startled, my unconscious mind made me close my mouth, knowing I shouldn't scream.

What should I be thinking in this situation? I suddenly woke up to a strange sensation, and Kim Shin's head was moving around my neck area. Kim Shin acts as if nothing happened, but I clearly saw his head in my drowsy state.

"Ha Jin, why are you awake?"

I looked at Kim Shin, who spoke quietly as if coaxing me. In the darkness, I could faintly see the outline of Kim Shin's face. I couldn't accurately make out his expression, but hearing his voice, I could picture him holding back a smile.

"Go back to sleep."

He spoke affectionately in a whisper-like voice. But there was something I needed to confirm with Kim Shin before going back to sleep.

"You coming next to me just now."

"Ah, it's nothing."

Kim Shin answered, cutting off my words. He still whispered softly. As I continued to look at him with suspicion, Kim Shin let out a soft laugh.

"You're really out of it when you sleep. I ended up waking you."

My eyes, accustomed to the darkness, made out Kim Shin's expression. He made eye contact with me and showed his typical sly smile. I raised my hand and brushed my neck. Something got caught on my fingertips. There was a small bump as if a mosquito bite had formed.

"There was a mosquito on your neck, so I killed it. I was checking if our Ha Jin got bitten by a mosquito."

Listening to Kim Shin's words, the bumpy part seemed a bit itchy.

"Did you get bitten?"

"Yeah. I got bitten. Properly."

"What were you doing instead of sleeping that you caught a mosquito on my neck?"

"I woke up from the mosquito buzzing. I thought I should catch it, but the mosquito dared to go to our Ha Jin's neck. I tried to catch it really carefully so as not to wake you. Taking care of Ha Jin without making it obvious is my job, but this time I made it obvious, huh?"

Kim Shin showed a brittle smile and closed his eyes again. Come to think of it, there's no way Kim Shin would do the same thing as Sun Woo. And there's no way Kim Shin would have such intentions. In the webtoon, Kim Shin was just Ha Jin's close friend and helper, nothing more. I grew unnecessarily suspicious of people because Sun Woo kept acting strange.

"Sun Woo might come. Let's stop talking and sleep, Ha Jin."

"Okay."

"Then should we hold hands as we sleep, as a sign of good night?"

"..."

"Just kidding. Good night, Ha Jin. I caught the mosquito, so you won't get bitten anymore."

I couldn't hear the buzzing of mosquitoes in my ear, so his words seemed true. I closed my eyes again with a comfortable mind. Although it was an unfamiliar feeling, sleeping with Kim Shin like this wasn't bad either. At least it felt much more reassuring than sleeping with Sun Woo.

Kim Shin even catches mosquitoes for me. What a remarkable guy.

"What's this?"

"Huh?"

"On your neck. This."

Sun Woo seemed to have entered the room as soon as the sun rose. When I opened my eyes, Kim Shin was nowhere to be seen, and there was Sun Woo waking me up for no reason. In a half-asleep state, the clock I vaguely saw seemed to have just passed 6 AM. What kind of humiliation is this from the early morning breeze?

"Sun Woo. I'm going to sleep a bit more."

I pulled the blanket up and covered my head. But Sun Woo lightly pulled the blanket down. Seeing his hand heading towards my neck, I even felt a chilling sensation, wondering if he was going to strangle me. That's how angry Sun Woo looked.

“Tell me what this is.”

“What is it that you keep telling me to say it?”

“This mark on your neck.”

“Ah, that.”

I tried to kindly explain to Sun Woo. It seemed like he would understand and stop forcibly waking me up if I did. However, as if he had no intention of listening to me, Sun Woo bit my neck as it was.

“Mmph!”

Startled, I covered my mouth with my hand. Sun Woo strongly sucked on my nape. I pressed one hand firmly over my mouth and frantically waved the other hand, trying to shake off the 188cm Sun Woo mosquito sucking on my neck.

“Hey, Sun Woo.”

I spoke softly, trying to avoid him, but it wasn't easy to escape from being pinned underneath. I should learn self-defense, not receive PT. After biting and sucking for a long time like that, Sun Woo finally pulled away on his own, not budging at my resistance. My nape, torn by him, hurt.

“What are you doing...?”

I don't even have the energy to get angry. I spoke with no strength in my voice and rubbed my neck with my hand.

“Why are you sucking on a mosquito bite? Were you trying to apply your saliva? Isn't that a bit excessive for that?”

“A mosquito, you say?”

“I got bitten by a mosquito last night. On my neck.”

“A mosquito, you say? Then you should have said so.”

“I was trying to say it, but you just ignored me and bit my neck...”

Damn it. Sun Woo's moist saliva is on my hand. Even in this situation, I was still not fully awake, so I brought the blanket Sun Woo had pulled down and covered myself again. As I closed my eyes, something warm embraced me from behind. Sun Woo had lain down next to me in the position he had been sleeping with me these past few days. Hugging me tightly without any gaps.

“I think Kim Shin might come.”

“So what if he comes?”

“I don’t know. I’m. Sleeping.”

Sun Woo seems to have no shame at all. As if I had also assimilated to him, I decided to just sleep regardless of whether Kim Shin would be surprised to see this. Wow, it’s comfortable once I give up.

In my half-asleep state, I think I heard Kim Shin bursting into laughter.

“Ha Jin. I’m having so much fun with this.”

Kim Shin was excited like a kid going on a picnic, swinging the silver kettle in his hand back and forth as he walked. His light steps bounced as if dancing. Grandmother said she would make loach stew, so we were on our way to catch loaches. Kim Shin was genuinely enjoying going to catch loaches. As I walked holding a cone-shaped net, I thought about the kettle Kim Shin was swinging. Why would we need a kettle to catch loaches?

“Sun Woo. What’s the kettle for?”

“It’s a container to put the loaches in.”

“Why put them in a kettle?”

“If you put them in a regular container, they might jump out and escape.”

“Ah.”

So there was such a deep meaning. Honestly, I found it a bit fun too, just like Kim Shin. I never had this kind of experience because my grandparents passed away early. Even in the military, only a very few people went for civil support, and when I was selected, it was for festival sites. People wanted to go for civil support in rural areas because you could get boiled pork and lots of delicious food.

Becoming Ha Jin, I get to experience all sorts of things.

The place Sun Woo guided us to as the loach catching spot was where ditches were dug between rice fields. The water was knee-deep, and the width was just right for two people to walk side by side.

Since we were wearing shorts, it seemed like our clothes wouldn’t get wet at this water level. To catch the loaches, the three of us went into the water under Sun Woo’s guidance.

“Kim Shin. Hold the net and stay there. We’ll drive them in.”

“I just stay still?”

“Don’t move and stay still.”

Kim Shin held the net firmly, saying he would carry out the instructions well. Sun Woo and I tried to walk in the direction of the water flow to drive the loaches. We were about to walk with some distance in front of Kim Shin, but Sun Woo suddenly held my hand.

“To match our pace.”

I wasn’t sure if that was right or wrong, so it was awkward to let go of his hand. Since he would know best about life here, I should follow Sun Woo, but strangely, he seemed to have ill intentions. As we walked holding hands, Kim Shin, who was waiting still in front, suddenly raised his voice.

“What? If you’re doing it like that, I want to do the driving with Ha Jin. Sun Woo, let’s switch.”

“We need to drive well, so beginners can’t do it.”

“Then Ha Jin can hold the net. Sun Woo. Let’s hold hands.”

“...”

Sun Woo ignored Kim Shin’s words and walked silently.

“Sun Woo. I want to hold hands with you too. Should we interlock fingers? I really like interlocking fingers. Sun Woo, can’t you give me some attention too? I’m someone who’s really starved for attention.”

“Be quiet.”

Sun Woo walked up to Kim Shin and spoke coldly, then lifted the net. I wondered if they would get caught with this, but there were a few loaches in the net.

“They really got caught?”

“Right, Ha Jin? It’s fascinating.”

I brought the kettle I had left outside the ditch, and Sun Woo took out the loaches with his hands and put them in the kettle. Kim Shin tried to catch some too, but he caught a loach with his hand, got startled, and threw the loach he had caught with difficulty far away while screaming.

“Ack. What, it’s slippery.”

“What? We didn’t catch many. Kim Shin. Go pick up the one you threw.”

“Ugh, Ha Jin. I can’t touch loaches.”

“If you’re going to throw them, at least throw them into the net.”

“Don’t do that, Ha Jin. The feeling is really weird. It’s super slippery.”

“It’s slippery because it’s a loach.”

“Ah, is that so?”

Kim Shin laughed as if he had just now realized the meaning of the name “loach” while making a dumb face. After all, Kim Shin had a sloppy side that didn’t match his appearance. It’s a waste of his cold handsome face.

“Ha Jin. You hold the net this time.”

Kim Shin held out the net after taking out all the loaches. As I took the net and got into position, Kim Shin held Sun Woo’s hand.

“Let go.”

Sun Woo couldn’t pull his hand out and was only giving verbal warnings with a murderous look, perhaps because Kim Shin had held it with force.

“Sun Woo. My heart is pounding like crazy from holding your hand.”

“Mine is pounding too. My blood is slowly boiling.”

“Hey, you said we need to match our pace.”

Kim Shin and Sun Woo bickered as they walked, and it was funny, so I laughed. Kim Shin smiled back at me, while Sun Woo had a constipated expression as Kim Shin held his hand. You reap what you sow. Compared to when he was driving with me, Sun Woo walked more than twice as fast. Kim Shin followed Sun Woo, running rather than walking, still not letting go of his hand. I lifted the net as they arrived in an instant, and there were incomparably more loaches caught than before.

“I think this position is perfect for us. Sun Woo, we click well together, don’t we?”

“I guess you two are a good match.”

Sun Woo threw off Kim Shin's hand as if in a bad mood and put the loaches caught in the net back into the kettle.

"Should we go again?"

Kim Shin stretched out his arm and held it out to Sun Woo. He clenched and unclenched his hand, asking Sun Woo to hold him quickly, but Sun Woo only rolled up the net.

"This much is enough."

"Already? Ah, I want to do more."

"We only need to catch enough to eat."

"That's true. But holding your hand was unexpectedly nice, Sun Woo."

What? Did Kim Shin fall for Sun Woo or something? I examined Kim Shin with a strange feeling. Since he always smiled slyly, it was hard to grasp his intentions. Sun Woo went up the ditch first as if he found it bothersome, and Kim Shin kept making unnecessary remarks and clinging to him. I guess their sense of humor matches well too. In the webtoon, Sun Woo made two big-shot men totally devoted to him.

Lost in thought, I made a misstep as I got on the ditch and fell backwards. In the moment of surprise, my body was completely submerged in the water up to my knees.

At the same time, two men approached me with startled faces and reached out their hands to me. I looked at the two hands held out to me as I lay there fallen.

[The Lives of Golden Spoons]

– Ha Jin's prohibited list 11. Using the toilet prohibited

└ You guys are really

└└ Think about it. Ha Jin sitting on the toilet to poop

└└└ Ah, just thinking about it is disgusting.

└└└ Lol, when you give an example, it hits hard. We should prohibit it

└ If he doesn't go to the bathroom... How does he live? No butthole?

└└ He doesn't have one.

└└ Why would a saint have one?

LLL The world is harsh. Are you going to erase our Ha Jin's body too? Lol

LL No lol. He can poop, but using the toilet is prohibited lol

LLLL Crazy lol. Then what, dig a hole in the ground and poop?

LLLL Lolololol. Just let him use the toilet! This is even more disgusting lol

L Ha Jin cat theory.

LL Lol. He needs to poop and cover it with sand

LL Let's change the sand frequently

L Fuck! He doesn't poop!

L Lol, so funny lol. As expected, prohibiting things without substance is the best.

#046

In the end, I got up on my own without grabbing anyone's hand. As I raised my body, water flowed down like laundry that had been dipped and taken out. I thought I wouldn't get wet wearing shorts, but I got completely soaked from falling over.

"Are you okay?"

Sun Woo asked with concern and got on the ditch first, pulling me up to make it easy for me to get up. Kim Shin quietly looked at the hand he had held out and soon followed. Kim Shin's expression, which had stiffened perhaps from being startled by me falling into the water, turned back to a grin after getting out of the ditch.

"Ha Jin is still careless as ever. I can't take my eyes off you for even a moment because of this."

"I just stumbled and fell. More importantly, I need to wring out my clothes."

Water kept dripping from my stretched clothes, and I couldn't stay like this. As I grabbed the hem of my top to wring out the water, Kim Shin turned his head to the side. Finding Kim Shin's behavior suddenly being modest unlike him strange, Sun Woo does something even weirder. Is he taking off his clothes too? It's really hard to keep up with Sun Woo's thoughts.

"Sun Woo. Why are you?"

"Take it off."

Hey, saying that here will cause a misunderstanding. I was already in the middle of grabbing and lifting my clothes anyway. I took off my clothes without stopping, and Sun Woo put his clothes around my neck and took my clothes in his hand. He wrung out the water tightly and roughly hung it on his body.

“I can wear it though.”

As I put on the clothes Sun Woo hung around my neck, I smelled his signature soap scent. The clothes got slightly wet from the remaining water on my body, but it was still much better than wearing wet clothes. Although I was startled by Sun Woo’s actions, I felt a small touch of gratitude towards him for changing clothes with me in consideration of me. As we were changing clothes with each other, Kim Shin, who had been looking away, fumbled with something.

“Kim Shin, what are you doing now?”

Kim Shin brought his hands to his waist and was pulling his pants halfway down. Unintentionally seeing his underwear, I frowned. What is he really doing? Kim Shin spoke with a shy expression.

“Well, since Sun Woo gave his top, I was going to give my bottom.”

“...Are you crazy?”

I think the webtoon has definitely taken a turn towards comedy.

Grandmother saw me wet and scolded Sun Woo, asking how this happened. He was simply dumbfounded by the sudden scolding. Sun Woo isn’t even my guardian. And I’m not young enough to be protected either.

“Darling, you didn’t take good care of Jin-i.”

“I fell on my own. Sun Woo even changed clothes with me because I got wet.”

“Oh my, still. Darling should have taken good care of you.”

“I’m fine.”

“Jin-i. I’ll turn on the hot water, so go wash up quickly.”

Grandmother turned on the boiler like that and headed to the faucet with the loaches we caught, and Kim Shin followed behind her like a baby duck. Thinking that Kim Shin follows Grandmother well, my heart ached for no reason. With so many people who love her, I hoped Grandmother would live happily for a long, long time.

After washing up feeling great with hot water gushing out, I saw Kim Shin sitting on the wooden bench with a completely dead face. Seeing his pale white face, I asked Sun Woo who happened to be next to him.

“What happened to Kim Shin?”

Sun Woo laughed faintly.

“He saw the loaches being salted and became like that.”

Well, it probably wasn't a pleasant sight to see.

“The precious young master must have been very shocked.”

“You're talking as if it's not you. It's a good thing you didn't see it either.”

Sun Woo put his hand on my head and ruffled it roughly. Is it because I soaked in hot water? I felt my face getting hot. I turned my head to the side at the strange feeling, and Sun Woo's hand fell off. Then I feel disappointed again. What's wrong with me? Feeling uncomfortable being next to Sun Woo for no reason, I approached Kim Shin.

“Are you okay?”

When I asked Kim Shin, who was sitting as if he had lost everything in the world, with concern, his eyes drooped pitifully and he showed me a rained-on puppy expression.

“Ha Jin. Humans are the cruelest in the world.”

“You realized that now?”

“My startled heart won't calm down. Comfort me a bit, Ha Jin.”

Kim Shin got up and stretched out his arms towards me. He probably doesn't think I'll hug him, it's just Kim Shin's usual playfulness. As I was thinking he would act pitiful again, Sun Woo suddenly appeared and hugged Kim Shin.

‘What are you two doing...?’

Watching the strange scene, I sighed in disbelief. The two of them seem to have gotten quite close since the loach catching.

“Our kind Sun Woo.”

Even with a dead expression, his mouth is still alive. Kim Shin put his arms around Sun Woo and hugged him tightly. Sun Woo also hugged him with force as if competing, and the two of them stayed attached like that for a while, unable to even breathe.

“Oh my, how disgusting, you punks!”

Grandmother, who discovered the two of them like that, approached them and mercilessly struck their backs with her hand. I knew it was playful since she was laughing, but her touch was strong. The sound of slapping from Grandmother’s hand was very loud. Only then did the two separate. Kim Shin must have been quite hurt, as he rubbed his back with his hand.

“Oh my, I’m dying from the heat, what are you two doing? You grown-ups are so disgusting!”

Grandmother separated the two so they couldn’t stick together again and went into the kitchen.

“Ha Jin. Did we look disgusting to you too?”

“Yeah.”

“Then it would have been good if you had hugged me.”

“Kim Shin. Should I hug you again?”

Sun Woo asked coldly. His words contained the meaning of comforting him kindly.

“I think my ribs might shatter?”

“I’ll hug you whenever you want.”

“Sun Woo, I like your forcefulness. But can I decline a bit?”

“Go ahead.”

“Thanks.”

The two of them really seem to have become a comedy duo at some point. It’s much more fun like this. The webtoon.

Kim Shin ended up not being able to eat the loach stew. Even though we had a hard time catching them and Grandmother cooked it with care. The loach stew had the loaches ground up, making them unrecognizable, but Kim Shin couldn’t even look at it, having blurry eyes as if he had morning sickness. His face is really wasted.

“Oh my, Shin-nie. Try eating even a bite. It will be delicious if you try it.”

“Grandmother. I’m sorry. I’m... a weak human being.”

“Oh, it’s okay. Then should I boil you some nurungji (scorched rice)?”

“I eat rice well even without soup.”

“Grandma feels bad for you.”

“I love you, Grandmother.”

At the sudden love confession, Grandmother laughed and picked out fish bones and put them in Kim Shin’s rice bowl. Kim Shin made a very touched expression and took a big spoonful and ate it blessed. As I was blankly watching that, a piece of fish was placed in my rice bowl too. Sun Woo had picked out the flesh and put it on for me.

“I’ll take care of you.”

“ ... ”

Kim Shin saw that from across the table and closed his eyes tightly, seeming to hold back laughter.

“I’ll eat it myself.”

I refused, saying that, but Sun Woo kept picking out fish flesh and putting it in my rice bowl the whole time I was eating. Honestly, it was convenient to have the fish flesh picked out for me, so I didn’t refuse anymore.

“That was originally my role.”

Kim Shin said that and smiled brightly at Sun Woo.

“That was when I wasn’t here.”

“Ah, that’s true.”

“Now I’ll take care of it.”

“Wow, did I become unemployed? Ha Jin. Don’t abandon me. I’m still helpful to you, right? It feels a bit sad, like our Ha Jin is leaving my embrace.”

Kim Shin said that and looked sullen, then made eye contact with me and smiled bitterly. Since he was good at joking around, I thought it was an expression he made up, but at the same time, I wondered if his feelings were really hurt. Well, it makes sense to feel left out when your friend who you thought was closest to you gets another best friend. He’s the guy who even catches mosquitoes for me while I sleep. Knowing that Kim Shin sincerely cares for Ha Jin, seeing him make that expression made me feel uneasy too.

“Who’s abandoning who?”

With those words, Kim Shin smiled brightly, and rice was pushed into my mouth. I accepted the rice, thinking that Sun Woo’s action meant to quietly shut up and just eat. He really has a quick temper.

After finishing the meal, Grandmother told us to go next door and give them some loach stew. Sun Woo asked me to go together for a task he could do alone. What’s the point of two people going to deliver a pot of loach stew? As I wasn’t answering, Grandmother told us to go together. In the end, I had to leave the house with Sun Woo.

On the way, Sun Woo persistently examined my nape.

“Why?”

Thinking there might be something on it, I rubbed it with my hand, and Sun Woo smiled brightly.

“I like that my mark is left.”

I guess it left a scar from biting and sucking so much. I frown deeply, but the smile on Sun Woo’s lips doesn’t disappear.

“Sun Woo, you should listen to people until the end. I said a mosquito bit me. What misunderstanding did you have on your own to bite someone?”

No. Is it okay to bite like this even if it was a misunderstanding? I feel dizzy, unable to pinpoint what to scold him for.

“I have weak patience. Then you shouldn’t have made this kind of mark from the beginning.”

“Do I have to be mindful of mosquitoes sucking my blood while I sleep?”

“You’re too defenseless when you sleep.”

“...”

“It won’t work today. I’ll have to sleep with you.”

“The three of us sleeping together? It’s cramped.”

“Being cramped is better than being concerned.”

“We’re going back to Seoul after today anyway.”

“So bear with it for one day.”

Sun Woo’s persuasion skills are really no joke. There was no way to win against him. No matter how I tried to persuade him this way or that, he wouldn’t listen and only put forth what he wanted to say. As we were bickering like that, we soon arrived at the neighbor’s house. Entering the house without a gate, the first thing that greeted us was a shiny black sedan. The sedan, which seemed newly purchased, was the best model among domestic cars.

“Grandmother is cool. Nice car.”

Sun Woo’s expression wasn’t good looking at the car. I thought it was because Ok-bun didn’t have a car, but someone must have heard us, and the front door of the house opened and someone came out. The person who opened the door and came out was a man with the vibe of an ordinary office worker in his 30s. He saw us and approached with a big smile. And standing in front of Sun Woo, he greeted him as if he knew him.

“Isn’t it Sun Woo? The pride of our village. The genius Sun Woo. Long time no see?”

#047

“Is Grandmother not here?”

“She went to the village community center. But Sun Woo. How can you still not greet your hyung even after seeing me? It’s been an extremely long time. I think this is the first time I’m seeing you since you were in high school. Is this your friend next to you?”

“Yes.”

“Hello.”

“Yeah. Wow, are you a celebrity? How can a person look like this? No, is this the same person?”

Sun Woo seemed to dislike continuing the conversation with him and blocked me as I was about to answer, holding out the pot. The other person was expressing his joy with his whole body, in contrast to Sun Woo’s behavior.

“What’s this?”

The person who took the pot asked with wide-open eyes.

“It’s loach stew. Grandmother told us to give it to you. Then we’ll get going.”

“Ah, wait a moment, just a moment. I’ll give you one of the watermelons our grandmother brought today.”

He quickly went into the small storage next to the house and brought out a watermelon the size of a human head. Ignoring Sun Woo's hand reaching out to take it, he held it in his arms and stood next to us.

"What's this? They say birds of a feather flock together. Sun Woo, even your friend is as handsome as you? I'm jealous, dude."

He didn't seem to have any intention of handing over the watermelon, saying that, and gestured forward with his head.

"Let's go. I'll also greet Grandmother while I'm at it."

Sun Woo avoided his gaze and sighed.

"Alright."

It was strange to see Sun Woo showing his original personality. This was exactly the feeling I got when I first saw him. Then at some point, he started taking good care of me, and it turned excessive and he started acting weird. Thinking that I had opened the cold lock on Sun Woo's heart like this, I felt a bit proud in one way. How did I open it? When I thought about it, all I could remember was drunkenly kissing him and telling him to sleep together while sleep-talking. If you put it that way, you could say I gained Sun Woo's heart with my body. ...Damn it.

"Ah! This car?"

He made an abrupt remark, pointing to his car parked in the yard. No one even asked, but he suddenly tried to explain about his car. I'm not even curious though?

"I bought it to commemorate my salary increase this year."

Because he stopped to explain the car, I had no choice but to look at him, and Sun Woo sighed as if it was starting again.

"Ah, is that so?"

I reacted to his boasting. It's not polite to say nothing when someone is talking. Sun Woo may have thrown manners out the window, but I'm still a person who learned etiquette, so I smiled kindly. I could feel Sun Woo looking at me dissatisfied, twitching his lips, but I looked at the person bragging about his car with a friendly smile. It's understandable to want to show off when you get a new car.

"I thought I might have overdone it a bit. But I'll earn much more in the future. An employee at a large company should drive a car like this at least, don't you think?"

"Wow, so you work at a large company?"

"I get scouted by several places, and somehow the company found out and raised my salary."

"You must be very capable."

"Hahaha. I'm somewhat like that. If the company wants to keep me, they have to let me stay. What can I do? You guys will also have to graduate and get a job. If you need anything, ask me. I may look like this, but I'm an employee at a large company, you know? You can't meet someone like me anywhere else. You guys."

"Ah, yes."

"If you're Sun Woo's friend, do you also go to A University by any chance?"

"Yes."

"Getting into a good university isn't everything. After graduating, the university is just one line of spec, you know?"

I do know that, but he seemed to have a tendency to subtly look down on people. It was the top university in Korea, so it wasn't something to be lumped together as just one line of spec.

"What's important is knowing how much you can discipline yourself. In my days..."

Wow, I actually get to hear "in my days". Seeing someone say that was so fascinating that my eyes must have been sparkling, because he continued talking with even more excitement.

"I showed my good sides to my seniors and built connections. I also chose my friends carefully and only kept those who could be helpful to me by my side. I realized life doesn't just get better by existing. You get back as much as you put in the effort yourself. So you should also choose your friends carefully."

He said that to me and glanced at Sun Woo. What does he want me to do, really? I can see why Sun Woo is ignoring him. The person had a style of endlessly boasting. His story continued even while walking. Since Sun Woo didn't answer, he kept directing his words to me who was responding, and it felt like my energy was being drained rapidly. Sun Woo, if you knew this person was like this, you should have given me a little hint too. I want to cover the mouth of my past self who kept answering to be polite.

"You shouldn't just live life recklessly. Take this advice from a senior in life to heart."

"Ah. Yes."

“Don’t get envious looking at my car and thoughtlessly buy a car when you don’t even have the ability, putting on only a flashy exterior. These days, there’s a term called ‘car poor’, right? They’re really out of their minds, don’t you think? How can they drive a car when they don’t even have money? I heard there are young kids who live in monthly rentals but drive foreign cars.”

“I guess there are people like that.”

“You guys should never do that. There are kids trembling because they don’t even have money for gas, so why are they buying a car? They should save that money and spend it on something more substantial. It took me 5 years to buy that car too. But compared to others, that’s still very fast, you know?”

“I don’t know. If that’s fast.”

“Oh my, our little ones, really. If there’s anything you don’t know, ask me. I’ll teach you very well. It’s nice to have a life senior, isn’t it?”

I don’t think I’ll ever ask him anything. Perhaps his mouth was itching to talk, because as soon as he found someone to listen, he poured out words like a flood. To the point where I wanted to snatch the watermelon from his arm and tell him to get going.

Enduring his noise pollution, we arrived and entered Grandmother’s front gate.

“Why are you so late?”

Kim Shin ran to me with a grin. At the appearance of an unfamiliar person, Kim Shin asked with his eyes as if asking who he was.

“I think he’s the grandson of the neighbor’s grandmother.”

I spoke quietly so only he could hear.

“Really?”

“He came along to greet.”

“But why is he doing that over there? Not coming in?”

When I looked back, he was looking at the two cars parked in the yard with a surprised face, alternating between them. It was Kim Shin’s car and mine.

“Sun Woo. What are these cars? They’re not your cars, right? Right?”

He asked Sun Woo with a glaring gaze, and that gaze seemed to contain the meaning that it absolutely couldn’t be his. Come to think of it, this person seems to have an

inferiority complex towards Sun Woo. That's why he was desperately appealing about himself.

Everyone earns money when they go out into society, but he packaged it as if it was his own heroic tale. He wanted to talk about how he was better than Sun Woo in any way possible, to the point where it was pitiful. And of course his circumstances would be more affluent than Sun Woo's. How can a second-year university student and a 5-year working adult be the same?

"They're my cars though?"

At Kim Shin's words, he looked at Kim Shin and then at the car again, making a dumbfounded sound.

"Car poor?"

"What's that? Car poor?"

Kim Shin tilted his head as if he had heard that term for the first time in his life. The premise that car poor people drive cars worth billions was wrong to begin with. Grandmother, who came out at the commotion, welcomed him.

"Oh my, when did you come? Did you come to hang out at Grandma's house?"

"Ah, hello. Grandmother."

"Yes. You have a good physique."

"..."

He hesitated and handed the watermelon to Sun Woo, then awkwardly greeted and left the yard. His back looked miserable, drooping as if he had been hit hard by reality.

"What's car poor that he's talking about?"

Kim Shin asked me, curious about that term.

"Well. It's a word you'll never hear in your life."

At night, Sun Woo ended up coming into the room, saying he would sleep together. Seeing the three pillows placed without any gaps, it felt like my breath was caught in my throat. With this, three large men would have no choice but to lie down stuck close together to the point of feeling each other's body heat.

Now the only thing left was who would sleep in the middle. Sleeping in the middle seemed like it would be really uncomfortable... Unexpectedly, the owner of the middle spot was easily decided. Sun Woo volunteered to sleep in the middle.

Kim Shin didn't seem to have much interest in the sleeping arrangement, saying okay and carefully examining my neck. Then his hand stroked my nape. Of course, Sun Woo stopped him right away, but he was still showing his typical sly smile.

"Ha Jin. Are the countryside mosquitoes strong? It's turned really red."

"Is that so? It was itchy earlier, so I scratched it."

"Really? It'll leave a scar. Don't touch it anymore."

"Okay."

Damn it, Sun Woo. You left a proper mark.

As expected, it was cramped and uncomfortable with the three of us lying down. I tried sticking to the wall as much as possible, but it was still narrow. It seemed even more so because Sun Woo was stuck right next to me... I slightly lifted my head to look towards Kim Shin's side, and it was very spacious. When Kim Shin's eyes met mine as he looked at the empty space next to him, he smiled as if it was absurd.

"I didn't know Sun Woo would be so considerate of me. Look at him sticking to Ha Jin as much as possible in case I feel uncomfortable because it's cramped. I'm completely touched."

"Sun Woo. I think you can move to the side a bit."

Even when I pushed Sun Woo with my body, he didn't budge at all. Rather, it looked like I was rubbing against him, so I stopped pushing. If we divided the room in half, Sun Woo and I were crammed into one half, while Kim Shin was using the other half very leisurely. Even when I expressed dissatisfaction with the inefficient use of space, Sun Woo remained silent.

"There shouldn't be any mosquitoes today. Ha Jin's skin is clean, so marks like that show up well."

"There won't be mosquitoes. Sun Woo lit a mosquito coil earlier."

"I guess so."

Kim Shin smiled brightly and closed his eyes. I also lowered my head, and when I closed my eyes lying down, Sun Woo's arm wrapped around my body. Thick veins popped up on my forehead, but I just stayed still. Sun Woo wasn't someone who would

listen to me anyway, and even if I screamed here, it would only make my throat hurt. He might even do something worse out of spite. Sun Woo was more than capable of that.

I thought I would fall asleep trapped in Sun Woo's touch, but I heard Kim Shin's voice along with a rustling sound.

"Ah, there's something I didn't mention."

Kim Shin, who laughed softly, continued.

"I'm a light sleeper. Sun Woo."

His voice, laced with laughter, had dropped lower.

#048

"Is that so?" Sun Woo agreed as if it wasn't a big deal. "I've been a light sleeper since I was young, so I woke up easily even at small noises."

"I see." Sun Woo smiled at me as if he found it amusing, but I just found it creepy. It seemed like nonsense would come out of Sun Woo's mouth. I felt like I had to cover that mouth right away. I slowly raised my hand to try to cover his mouth, but Sun Woo noticed like a ghost and grabbed my hand so I couldn't move it. I was trying to timidly pull my hand out when his face came close to me.

"Ha Jin will have to keep his voice down. Can you endure it?" My body trembled at Sun Woo's whisper in my ear. This crazy bastard. Endure what? And why do you keep telling me to be quiet. Let's keep our voices alive.

"...Let's sleep, guys." I muttered weakly and lifted my now free hand to pull on Sun Woo's collar. When I faced Sun Woo, he smiled, stretching his lips in a way that properly bewitches people.

'Please let's sleep,' I mouthed the words and Sun Woo stuck out his lips. When I glared at him with narrowed eyes, he also spoke with his mouth.

'If you do it for me.' Then he puckered his lips and stuck them out again. Looking at the lips he stuck out to me like a tempting fruit, my mouth went dry on its own. Contrary to my body's honest reaction, I wondered in my head if I had to go this far.

I gently bit my lower lip and brought my face close to him. I just wanted to do it once and sleep comfortably. Just as our lips were about to touch, at that very moment –

"Ha Jin."

“Uh, huh?” Startled by Kim Shin calling me, I pulled my face away from Sun Woo’s, fluttering, before our lips touched by a sheet of paper. The sound of the blanket being pulled and my startled voice sounded strange enough for anyone to be suspicious. My heart pounded as if I had been caught doing something useless. This is crazy. I was so bewitched by Sun Woo that I forgot Kim Shin was there and almost clashed lips.

“What time are you going to Seoul tomorrow?”

“Uh, I’ll get ready when I wake up and go in the morning.”

“I wanted to hang out more here. It’s a shame. We’ll have a chance to come play again later, right?”

“...Probably?”

“Okay. Good night.” Fortunately, Kim Shin didn’t seem to notice anything strange, and it quieted down again after those words.

Pressing my still not calmed heart with my hand, Sun Woo grabbed my chin and turned me toward him.

‘Don’t,’ ignoring my silent cry, Sun Woo put his lips on mine and pulled away. Fortunately, there was no strange sound, so I let out a sigh of relief in secret. His hand brushed my neck once and fell away. And he mouthed something, but I tried hard to ignore it with my eyes tightly closed.

But even with my eyes closed, Sun Woo’s face kept coming to mind. In my head, it was like a video playing, with Sun Woo talking to me, even making sounds.

‘I’ll make it again before it disappears.’ Is he really crazy?

* * *

I brought up going to a big hospital in Seoul to Grandmother a few days ago, before going to the countryside market. After telling Grandmother we should get tested again, I kept fiddling with my hands out of anxiety. Grandmother neither agreed nor refused, and just quietly looked at me and Sun Woo.

‘Do you kids have any lingering attachments?’ At Grandmother’s words, we both said nothing. Then Grandmother took one of each of our hands and brought them together. She rubbed our joined hands with her small hands.

‘You have to make sure there are no lingering attachments. That’s what this time is for, isn’t it?’ Grandmother said that while agreeing to go to the hospital. With a liberated smile that seemed to show no more lingering attachments to life...

* * *

The way up to Seoul was both exciting and scary. A sense of anticipation and loss, like before scratching a lottery ticket, mix together to create an abnormal feeling. I was afraid that if I had vain hopes and it turned out not to be the case, it would be hard to handle the aftermath. But I was still clinging to a thread of hope. Grandmother was still sitting peacefully smiling in the back seat. And next to her was Sun Woo, with a kind face, staying steadily in his place.

Perhaps because my head was complicated, I couldn't speed up. I drove so slowly with the thought of getting there safely that it took over 5 hours to arrive in Seoul, unlike on the way down.

When we arrived at the hospital's main entrance, Grandmother let out a small exclamation of admiration. "The hospital is really big." Grandmother's voice cleared the heavy air that had settled in the car.

"The most skilled person here will see you, Grandma."

"Is that so? Thanks to our Jin-i, I'll even get to meet the most famous doctor."

When I parked the car, a staff member who had come out in advance approached and opened the rear door. He must have heard in advance, as he carefully received Grandmother. Before getting out of the car, Sun Woo called me.

"Ha Jin. What about you?"

"I'm... trembling somehow."

"I see. Don't worry and wait. I'll call."

"Okay."

"If you're anxious, contact me. I'll come get you right away."

"I have to look after Grandmother."

"You're important too." Sun Woo got back in the car, stuck his head out from the back seat, and kissed my cheek.

"Much better to look at." Sun Woo laughed as if my surprised face was funny and got out of the car. Then, watching him immediately follow Grandmother, I stroked my cheek. It really brought me to my senses.

Our protagonist is definitely crazy...

After Sun Woo and Grandmother disappeared into the hospital building, I let out a deep sigh I had been holding back. Then I drove the car to the parking lot. Since I had nowhere else to go, I turned off the engine and sat still in the car, but I felt suffocated and my heart was troubled. In the end, I got out of the car, but I was at a loss as to where to go. Not wanting to stray too far from the hospital, I found a café on the first floor.

As I blankly stared outside while sipping lemonade, I saw a familiar face passing by.

“Huh?” It was definitely the man who had been hit and left my father’s office. He was walking with a cast on his right arm. Seeing his injured appearance, why did my father immediately come to mind? I had a suspicion that my father might be involved in his injury.

‘They say first impressions are important for people.’ Seeing him, a sense of kinship seeped in. What on earth was his story that he was beaten by a corporate Chairman? I followed his steps with my eyes. Fatigue could be felt in his steps as he walked slowly, as if tired. When he disappeared from view, my heart felt heavy again.

How many hours had passed? Several cups of drinks were placed in front of me. The bright outdoor scenery had somehow darkened. I kept looking at my phone that wasn’t ringing.

As I was staring blankly at my phone like that, someone gently stroked my cheek. Turning my head at the warm and soft touch, Sun Woo was standing there with a faint smile.

“You waited well without crying?”

“Is the examination over?”

“It ended a while ago. I’m on my way back after taking care of Grandmother’s hospitalization and seeing her settled.”

“Why hospitalization?”

“The test results aren’t all out yet. It seems we can know accurately when all the results are out.”

“What about Grandmother?”

“She’s watching the drama she always watches in the hospital room.” At those words, the gloom disappeared and laughter came out naturally. How can Grandmother be so calm even though it’s her own matter? Thinking it’s just like Grandmother, my heart felt a little lighter.

“Let’s eat.”

“Did Grandmother eat?”

“She ate what they provide at the hospital. It seemed perfect for you to eat. They said it comes out well without being stimulating?”

“Should I get some hospital food too?”

“Sure.”

Sun Woo and I had a simple dinner at a gimbap restaurant near the hospital. Following Sun Woo to Grandmother’s hospital room, the place we arrived at was the VIP-only room on the very top floor. I was grateful that Secretary Kim seemed to have taken care of it carefully.

Looking at the nameplate that said Kim Ok-bun in front of the hospital room door, I try to forcibly raise the corners of my mouth.

“Ok-bun.” Calling Grandmother in a cheerful voice, I opened the door and entered, and a bright and stylish space that didn’t feel like a hospital room appeared. In the spacious room, there was a sofa, a table, and a wide hospital bed. Grandmother, who was leaning on the bed, was in the middle of a conversation with someone. The person in a white gown with another doctor beside him turned his head.

‘Sin Yeo-un’s father.’ He smiled at me with a face that looked just like Sin Yeo-un from the webtoon. The protagonist’s family, incomparably more harmonious than Ha Jin’s family.

The father, who was the hospital director, was of such excellent character that he went on medical volunteer work from time to time, and he was devoted to his family despite being busy. The mother was also a capable music professor full of love. Sin Yeo-un, who received proper love and grew up under such parents. He was truly the epitome of a golden-spoon man. That damn Ha Jin had no corner to lean on compared to him.

“Hello.”

“Ha Jin. It’s been so long. You’ve already grown this much?” The hospital director greeted me with a very pleased face. As the protagonist’s father, he often appeared in the webtoon. Whether looking at how he treats Sin Yeo-un or his current appearance, he was a really good adult.

‘Are they acquaintances? Well, since the fathers are in the highest positions in their respective fields, they must be connected.’

“It’s been a while.”

“You’re looking more and more like actress Baek Su-ah. Many people say that, right?”

“...Yes.” I resembled my mother a lot in appearance. Even without affection, looking at our faces, we were undoubtedly family.

“When you were little, you were so tiny that I wondered when you’d grow tall, but you grew even taller than me?”

“...I’ve grown a lot, right? Thank you for accepting the request even though you’re busy.”

“If it’s Ha Jin’s request, I have to accept anything.”

“Please take good care of our grandmother.”

“Yes.” The hospital director turned his body back to Grandmother and spoke kindly.

“Grandmother, don’t worry. I’ll do my best for you.”

“Oh my, doctor, you must be working hard.”

“You must be tired from the tests today, so rest well. There’s nothing difficult anymore, you just have to wait. Don’t worry too much and stay comfortably. You have to tell me right away if there’s anything uncomfortable.”

“Of course. I should. Doctor.” The hospital director patted Sun Woo’s shoulder once and turned to me again.

“Ha Jin, since it’s been a while, if you have a moment, shall we have some tea together?”

“Yes.” My body tensed up. What was he trying to say? I was about to follow the hospital director out of the room when Sun Woo approached and pulled my hand. He seemed to have something to say and was deliberately making a scary face.

“Don’t cry when I’m not there.”

“...Ha...” I shook my head in disbelief. I wondered what he was talking about so seriously, but it was nonsense.

* * *

When I went to the hospital director’s room, he personally brewed green tea for me. I was so nervous that even the hot summer air turned chilly when it touched me. I sat at the table and wrapped my hands around the mug filled with warm green tea. The mug’s warmth at least helped calm my heart.

“Is she your friend’s grandmother?”

“Ah, yes.”

“You two must be very close?”

“Yes. She’s like a close grandmother to me.”

“I see...” The hospital director trailed off. It felt like depending on what came out of his mouth, the path to hell or heaven would open. My gaze lingered on his mouth. The hospital director, who had been hesitating, opened his mouth as if he had made up his mind.

“Ha Jin. Grandmother. She has kidney cancer.” At the same time as those words, my heart dropped with a thud.

#049

“Ah...” I opened my mouth to say something but my breathing stopped. My head spun and my ears rang. Only after my body shook a few times did I start hearing properly again.

“Ha Jin. Breathe in. Try breathing slowly.” The hospital director was already by my side. He was trying to help my breathing and get me to come to my senses.

“I’m okay...” Honestly, it didn’t feel real. I just felt like I was on some play’s stage. Is this really happening to me right now? I was filled with questions. So why? Why did Grandmother get cancer? I can’t change the webtoon’s story?

“Then... if I ask the author to change the setting, can she live?” In the end, nonsensical words spilled out of my mouth. Even though the hospital director couldn’t understand what I was saying, he continued to help my breathing with a kind smile as if he understood. He instructed me to inhale first and then try exhaling again. Following his words unconsciously, it seemed like I was coming to my senses a little.

“Will you be okay? For me to keep talking?”

“Yes... please go on.” My eyes were empty, even though I was looking somewhere. I was worried about Grandmother but also about Sun Woo. Is everything going according to the webtoon after all? My heart beat slowly as if it had stopped. As everything felt futile, it seemed like the world in front of my eyes was turning black and white like the webtoon world.

“First, we need all the test results to know for sure, but the abdominal CT shows a tumor located in the kidney. The size is small. But it’s definitely kidney cancer. And I brought her previous medical records.”

“ ... ”

“It was recorded that bone metastasis was suspected. If that’s the case, it would be untreatable.” Every word that came out of the hospital director’s mouth stabbed at my tender skin. My eyelids trembled and I closed my eyes. Even if I tried to look away, it was reality. Despite my closed eyes, the hospital director’s voice kept coming. His lips were only conveying bad news about Grandmother’s illness.

“Ah!” At the hospital director’s sudden exclamation, I opened my eyes and he had an extremely apologetic look.

“I got the order of my words wrong.”

“Yes?”

“This habit from teaching kids remained, so I spoke in order step by step.” My slow heartbeat started to find its place again. Even though the hospital director hadn’t mentioned it yet, my head was already filled with hopeful messages. The time it took for the hospital director to open his mouth again felt way too slow. With a nervous heart, I clenched my fists tightly.

“To cut to the conclusion, it’s not bone metastasis. From what I see, even in the worst case, it’s stage 2 kidney cancer. It will become clear when all the test results are out. But I can promise you one thing, Ha Jin. Grandmother’s illness is treatable.”

“Really?”

“Have you ever seen me lie? When Ha Jin got shots as a kid, I honestly told you it would hurt, right? You cried more after hearing that, though.” At those words, the tears I had barely been holding back flowed out. Even if I tried to hold them back because the hospital director was giving me good news, they wouldn’t stop as if broken. I tried clenching my fists tighter but it had no effect.

As I suddenly burst into tears, the director moved quickly in a fluster and pulled out tissues to hand to me. He gave me so many that my hands were full of tissues. A few tissues that fell out of my hands fluttered to the floor.

“You were a crybaby when you were little too. Still the same. It was understandable to misunderstand it as bone metastasis. Grandmother is old, after all, so that doctor wrote for her to go to a big hospital for a more accurate examination. Didn’t Grandmother tell you? That she needs to get tested again?”

I shook my head.

"That was a close call. If we had left it untreated, it would have metastasized and become untreatable. It's fortunate that you didn't give up and came here. Ha Jin. It's really fortunate."

"...Thank you." I barely managed to squeeze out words of gratitude through the tears. As I closed my eyes with endlessly flowing tears, the hospital director put his hand on my back and comforted me.

"Ha Jin. Seeing you cry, you're exactly the same as when you were little. When you first came to the hospital, you turned pale and called me a monster. You were so tiny and pretty, so when I told you to come closer, you called me a monster. But you were cute even when crying, so I ended up taking off my doctor's gown and examining you." The hospital director, who was patting my back with his big hand, let out a small laugh.

"What do I do if you're prettier in my eyes than our Yeo-un? Ha Jin? Whether then or now, you're so pretty." The hospital director stayed by my side and kept comforting me kindly until my tears stopped.

Only after crying for a long time did I belatedly feel embarrassed. When I should be grateful that Grandmother can get treatment, I was shedding tears. On top of that, I was even receiving comfort.

I drank the cold tea on the table for no reason. Sniffing as I drank, the hospital director sitting across from me smiled brightly. At that, I also raised the corners of my trembling lips and smiled back at him.

"Your eyes are advertising to the whole neighborhood that you cried a lot. There's a mirror over there, so take a look before you leave."

"Yes..."

"Are you doing well in college? If you take care of your friend's grandmother to this extent, it seems like you're doing well. Our Yeo-un will probably get into A University next year too. When he enrolls, you'll have to look after him a lot, Ha Jin."

Now that I think about it, I know that the protagonist Sin Yeo-un will enter the pre-med department at A University. Only half a year left. I weakly put the mug down on the table.

"Did you tell this to Grandmother's grandson Sun Woo too?"

"Not yet. Since the results aren't out yet. I'm telling you in advance because you seem very worried, Ha Jin."

"The results... won't change, right?"

"Of course. You can't trust me?"

"That's not it."

"Still, don't tell your friend yet. If you tell the patient and guardian something uncertain and it turns out not to be the case, the sense of loss is beyond words. The results will come out quickly, so I'll tell them then."

"...Okay." I feel sorry for Sun Woo, but that seems right. Because there's a tiny 1% chance the hospital director's judgment could be wrong. Though that shouldn't happen...

"But if you go with that face, your friend will think negatively, Ha Jin." The hospital director's words made sense. It was the perfect face for Sun Woo to misunderstand. I was worried about my reddened eyes. How long would it take for them to settle down? As I was thinking that, the hospital director glanced at his watch and tapped the table to divert my attention. When I raised my head and looked at the hospital director, he smiled mischievously.

"Shall we go eat at my house today, Ha Jin? To see Yeo-un too. You haven't seen Yeo-un, right? He's my son."

"Ah, it's okay. I just ate dinner."

"Really? That's too bad. I should have told you in advance. But aren't you hungry? You must be exhausted after crying so much."

"I'm fine."

"Hahaha, I'm hitting on Ha Jin too much because it reminds me of old times. You're not going straight to the hospital room, right?"

"Yes. I think it's better to just go home."

"Okay. Shall I give you a ride?"

"...It's alright."

"Do I still look like a monster to you? I'm getting competitive because you keep refusing?" The hospital director joked with me in a way that wasn't burdensome. How nice would it be to have a father like him? I suddenly envied Sin Yeo-un for no reason.

"I brought my car. I can just take my car."

"Alright. Drive safely. If you really don't think you can, call a substitute driver."

“Okay.”

“Then, Ha Jin. Let’s see each other often.”

“Thank you.”

“It’s my job. I’ll have to make sure Ha Jin has no reason to cry anymore.” The hospital director’s words put me at ease. Only then could I smile properly. I bowed goodbye to the hospital director who was waving at me, and headed to the parking lot. I thought about contacting Sun Woo, but I just wanted to send him a text when I got home. If I called him here, I felt like I would somehow get caught by Sun Woo.

When I arrived at the parking lot and took out my car key to unlock it, the car’s headlights blinked briefly with a beep. And I naturally turned my body after discovering Sun Woo standing next to it. Why is Sun Woo in the parking lot?

“Ha Jin. Come here.” Ah, not now. I stopped walking and hesitated, and he called me again from behind.

“Come here. Ha Jin.” It was just the order of the words switched, but it felt quite different. At that kind voice calling me, I finally turned around. As I approached again, I bowed my head deeply. Sun Woo opened the driver’s seat door of the unlocked car and told me to get in the passenger seat.

“It will be hard for you to drive.” Without answering, I just got into the passenger seat. Sun Woo’s hand reached out from the driver’s seat, held my head, and pulled me towards him. My face, which had been bowing the whole time, faced him for the first time. His eyes examined me persistently. His gaze lingered on my eyes for a long time.

“I told you to only cry in front of me. You’re not listening, Ha Jin.”

“It’s not like I promised that.” I answered curtly at his forced words. I don’t need anyone’s permission to cry. It’s my body.

“I expected this from the moment I sent you.”

“ ... ”

“Are you done crying?” Sun Woo gently caressed my flushed eyes.

“Ha Jin. Did you show this face to the hospital director too?”

“What are you talking about?” Really, what are you saying? Why is Sun Woo so obsessed with me crying? When people get emotional, they cry and stuff.

“Then should you be punished? Or not?” My eyes moved left and right. Should I be punished? The moment I was contemplating, I was startled.

‘What am I thinking right now? Why would I be punished?’ I was being swept here and there like a buoy on the sea by the waves called Sun Woo.

“Don’t say weird things.”

“Why are you crying in front of others? It’s upsetting. I told you to only cry in front of me.” At Sun Woo’s nonsensical words disguised as kind words, I pushed the hand on my face towards the steering wheel, and Sun Woo laughed briefly and immediately started driving. When we arrived in front of the house, my heart was oddly pounding. Not knowing what I was expecting, my lips were dry and I kept wetting them with my tongue.

“The punishment.” Sun Woo spoke slowly after turning off the engine and turned his gaze to me. I was looking at him only with a sidelong glance while unfastening my seat belt.

‘Damn, even if my sealed desire awakens, it’s presumptuous... What are you expecting from Sun Woo?’

“Shall we do that on the bed?” At Sun Woo’s words, the seat belt slipped out of my loosened hand and retracted back to its place.

#050

“Huh?”

“You need to be punished, Ha Jin.”

“Why?” I asked as if it was unfair. As if enjoying my confusion, Sun Woo smiled and leaned in close. As a result, Sun Woo’s face, which I got to see right in front of me, was fatal enough to make my heart pound. Each of his facial features is a work of art. Well, the author must have drawn the protagonist with the most care.

“Then before being properly punished, try kissing first. If you do well, I’ll go easy on you.”

“Do what? Kiss?” Admiring his face, I quickly pulled back at the sudden ordeal.

“If you don’t want it to be hard on the bed. Try doing it well.” When Sun Woo closed his eyes, I swallowed dry saliva. Maybe it’s because I cried a lot, but I feel thirsty. If I press my lips against those moist lips...

“This is crazy. Crazy.” Slapping my lips with my hand, I erased the thoughts.

My hand, which was hitting my lips that were feeling thirsty for no reason, was caught by Sun Woo. Sun Woo, who at some point opened his eyes and was examining me, smiled with the corners of his mouth stretched.

“Why are you hitting yourself? You’ll get scolded a lot later.” Sun Woo moved his body a little more, coming close enough for my lips and his lips to touch. Sun Woo’s languidly open eyes under my face looked maddeningly lewd.

Watching him trying to kiss, I unconsciously opened my mouth and slightly stuck out my tongue. I thought our tongues would entwine right away, but Sun Woo was just smiling with his eyes gently closed. In an instant, my face flushed hot. Thinking that he’s laughing at me readily accepting the kiss, I want to hide in a mouse hole.

“I wonder if you’ll have the energy to cry in bed after crying so much.” With those words, Sun Woo immediately pounced and his lips touched mine.

“Mmph.” I stupidly got my hopes up and then gave up, but the excitement boiled up in an instant at the sudden kiss. Seeing his slightly closed eyes, it felt like my heart was being squeezed tightly. His kiss was affectionate yet salacious at the same time. He indulged as if bestowing mercy if I came closer after teasing me just enough. Sun Woo’s hand slid down my arm and grabbed both of my wrists. His warm fingers pushed my fingers away and soon lightly brushed my palms. Frowning at the stinging pain, Sun Woo’s mouth pulled away.

“Haa...” A sigh of regret burst out.

“Are you doing this to hold back tears?” Following Sun Woo’s gaze as he spoke sympathetically, I looked down and saw scratches from fingernail marks on my palm. I guess I clenched my fists a bit hard in front of the hospital director to not cry. I didn’t even notice, but when did Sun Woo discover it? He spread my fingers and examined them. Soon his tongue licked my palm.

“Eek.” I try to pull my hand away from the stinging pain, but the more I do, the harder Sun Woo pulls it towards him.

“Still, you shouldn’t make wounds like this.” Sun Woo’s head lowered and licked my other palm as well.

“Stop it.” My protest seems to be automatically filtered to Sun Woo. Sun Woo didn’t stop licking my palms.

“I need to apply ointment. What are you trying to do by putting saliva on it?” The stinging sensation has now dulled too. As the pain disappears, what comes is pleasure. Just from licking my palms. The temperature inside my body is slowly rising. Afraid that moans would come out from the excitement, I bit my lips. Then when I reached my limit, I pulled my hand away with all my might.

I quickly pushed his face away and got out of the car. The hot, tropical night-like heat didn't leave my face that doesn't usually feel the heat well. Cupping my cheeks with my hands, I peeked down and saw that thing boasting its grand presence with a very ominous force.

'Ack! He must have clearly seen it, right?' Embarrassed to see his face, I was hesitating when Sun Woo got out of the car and held out the car key to me. Receiving it in a fluster, Sun Woo stood maintaining a certain distance. I was curious about his expression, but I couldn't raise my head.

"What are you doing? Not going in?"

"Ah, I should go in." As I turned my steps towards the front door, hesitating, Sun Woo didn't follow. Turning my head in wonder, Sun Woo's expression looked very bright. As if something good happened.

"...You're not coming?"

Even though my question wasn't funny, Sun Woo let out a small laugh.

"To be punished?"

"...What punishment."

"Go in, Ha Jin. Don't make people change their minds for no reason."

"I go in alone? What about you?"

"I... need to go to Grandmother."

"..."

'What? Why am I feeling disappointed?' When Sun Woo said he's just leaving, I was about to shake off my disappointed look and go in, but the car key in my hand caught my eye. Looking back, I saw Sun Woo still smiling in the same spot.

"Sun Woo. Take the car."

"It's fine. I can take a taxi."

"But the car is more comfortable."

"If I take the car, how will you come tomorrow?"

"I... can take a taxi, right?" Either way, it was a matter of who takes the taxi. Sun Woo looked at me with a bright face but also a murderous gaze.

"I don't like it."

What does he suddenly not like?

"I don't like you being in an enclosed space with someone else."

"..."

Goodness, I must be crazy. Kissing such a twisted guy and liking it enough to get hard. Shaking my head, I quickly ran into the house. As I heard the front door lock click, my legs went weak. Collapsing and crouching down on the spot, the quiet house felt awkward.

I already miss the bustling life at Grandmother's house.

"It's... fortunate that I can go to Grandmother's house again." A crumbling sense of relief flowed out.

* * *

People dressed to the nines were exchanging greetings with elegant smiles.

'It seems more like a fashion show venue than a charity event.' I need to go see Grandmother, but at the request of Secretary Kim, who knows I came up to Seoul, I attended a charity event hosted by the Eunha Group. With this hospital matter too, Secretary Kim earnestly asked, so I came out of gratitude, but I think I came to the wrong place after all. I feel like I'm too ignorant of this world. I should have looked into how they turn a famous gallery in Seoul into an event hall.

Amidst the formally dressed people, my presence particularly stood out. It was because I was just wearing a cotton t-shirt and slacks. It was a great relief that I brought long pants instead of shorts, thinking it might be a bit much.

"Young master Ha Jin. You've arrived? You should have called."

"I just got here." Secretary Kim looked at my outfit and smiled without a word.

"It looks just right for your age."

"Should I go change?"

"Why, when it's good that you stand out? Just stay."

Then someone suddenly interjected into the conversation.

“Not even an ugly duckling.” The person speaking softly enough for only us nearby to hear was my father. As always, he was in a perfectly immaculate state without a single dishevelment. His hair was neatly pushed back, fully revealing his handsome face without a single flaw. He looks dashing. Though his inside is a total mess.

“I thought being one-of-a-kind would sound good?”

With what courage, I talked back on an impulse of welling emotions. There was a slight calculation that he wouldn't hit me since there are many people. That was my timid rebellion. My answer must have been unexpected, as my father raised his eyebrows. His expression was still gentle, but... Feeling that subtle difference, the corners of my lips slightly went up. Honestly, my father's agitation was refreshing.

“Cut the nonsense.” He spoke so only I could hear and smiled softly at the people around. At his two-faced attitude, I slightly stepped back, and he took a step forward by that much.

“I got a call from Director Sin yesterday. Saying he met you.”

Frowning, I bit my lower lip. Surely he's not taking issue with Grandmother's hospital matter, right?

“I don't know what you cooked up, but he praised you quite a bit.”

“...”

“Looks like you changed how you use that pretty face of yours? Instead of trashy behavior, now you're acting innocent? Saying you're just like when you were little. Director Sin has no eye.” My father eventually snorted and looked me up and down with sunken eyes.

“A pathetic kid who can't even make a request to block one article.”

“I may be like that because I'm young. But aren't you a heartless person who doesn't step up to block one article for me, Father?”

“What?”

“...”

The atmosphere froze in an instant. As if forgetting there were many people, my father hardened his expression. Only after Secretary Kim coughed once next to us did he put on the gentle mask again and pressed his forehead hard with his clenched fist.

“Ha Jin. How dare... you crawl up?”

Secretary Kim quickly intervened so I couldn't open my mouth.

"Chairman. The mayor has arrived."

"See you soon?"

My father muttered coldly and walked towards the entrance. Following his gaze, I see him shaking hands and exchanging greetings amicably with the mayor, whom I often saw on the news.

"Young master Ha Jin!" What made me avert my gaze was Secretary Kim's shout.

"Ouch. You startled me. Why are you yelling close to my ear?"

"That's... because that way I can deliver a warning message to you without attracting attention from others, young master."

"Yees. I understood fully." As I was tapping my ear with my hand because it felt muffled, Secretary Kim sighed.

"Why do you keep doing that to the Chairman? Even if you rebel against that son of a... you never talked back before."

"I guess I grew some balls."

"...It's not time yet."

"For what?" Secretary Kim spoke with a face heavily drooping like a wet cotton ball.

"You can't win a single game of rock-paper-scissors against the Chairman. It's like hitting a rock with an egg."

"So what? Even if I shatter against the rock, I'm satisfied if I left behind a lingering sensation."

Secretary Kim closed his eyes tight as if my answer made him dizzy.

[The Lives of the Golden Spoons]

-Ha Jin's Forbidden List 12. Turn signals forbidden

└ You'll get fined, teacher.

└ Oh my, this is a bit...

└ I can't allow this, even if you're my favorite.

└ LOL Everyone's strict when it comes to driving.

└ Think about urgently having to go pick up your boo but waiting for left turn with blinker on! It's definitely forbidden LOL

└└ Not pick up, but catch X

└└ Ah, I'm having an internal conflict.

└ These people gloss over all the trashy behavior with blurry eyes LOL But this they say is not allowed. What's the standard? LOL