

I Became a Villainous Character with a Limited Lifespan

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Episode 31

‘Hmm...’

Jae-young thought for a moment while looking at Seung-hyun’s face. The face that seemed to be telling him to answer quickly looked firm at a glance, but Jae-young could see the fear contained in that firmness.

‘Well, you don’t necessarily have to date according to typology, but it could be concerning. Although he says he’s changed, the typology he learned under Chairman Han wouldn’t have completely disappeared.’

There was no need to rush in a situation where there was plenty of time and he himself couldn’t be sure of his feelings. Thinking that, Jae-young said,

“I understand. I’ll keep that in mind.”

It was a bit interesting that it was okay to have a relationship with someone of the same type but not to be a lover, but don’t they say a thousand-mile journey begins with a single step?

Jae-young obediently took a step back. It was an action stemming from the confidence that he could redefine the relationship at any time, but Seung-hyun didn’t know and let out a sigh of relief.

The next day, Seung-hyun went with Jae-young to see a house located in the suburbs. Seung-hyun felt a bit awkward, but thanks to Jae-young treating him as if nothing was different from usual, he was able to act as if nothing happened in no time.

“This house has a pretty garden and a nicely trimmed exterior, so many people come to see it. Usually families come to see it a lot, are you perhaps getting married soon?”

The agent looked at the two and asked. Seung-hyun instantly frowned deeply and said,

“No.”

“If you say it that seriously, you’ll hurt my feelings.”

Jae-young pretended to be hurt. Ignoring Jae-young as if he didn’t see it, Seung-hyun said to the agent,

“I’ll be living alone. This person is just a neighborhood resident.”

“Ah, you’re buying a house to live alone? My, my. That’s great too. It’s quiet and your privacy is ensured.”

The agent, who quickly switched stances, started showing the house. It seems she just asked to figure out what to focus on in her explanation.

“The biggest merit is definitely this garden. The previous owner took good care of it. They had children, so they made a mini pool in the garden and enjoyed it every summer...”

The agent said while looking around the garden. As she said, it was a pretty garden that would only appear in dramas or movies. The terrace was nicely trimmed too, so it seemed like time would pass quite well just by bringing a rocking chair and enjoying the scenery.

“Shall we go inside? The current owner had to urgently leave Korea for a long business trip, so most of the furniture is still here, but they said they’ll clean it up quickly once you move in.”

The two followed the agent into the house. Seung-hyun, who liked the interior filled with a warm feeling despite the lack of lived-in atmosphere, carefully examined the furniture arrangement.

“Is there something you like?”

“I’m thinking of completely redoing the interior. I thought it would be good to refer to it.”

“My, my. That’ll be so refreshing and nice. Natural colors are good too, and the inside also has a slightly luxurious image, so it’s okay to go with a different image too. Like this.”

The agent started enthusiastically explaining about the interior of the house in an exaggerated manner. Passing through the living room, master bedroom,

small rooms the children used, and bathroom, Seung-hyun went up to the second floor.

“Since the location of this house is nice even in this neighborhood, the view is good when you look from the second floor like this. Well, if you find it inconvenient to go back and forth, you can just think of it as a guest room and live only on the first floor.”

The agent explained enthusiastically without resting her mouth for a moment. It was definitely a nice house. The garage I saw coming in had ample space, and it was also closer to Seoul than expected.

“You said your family home is around here?”

“Ah. It would take about 10 minutes, no. About 15 minutes to walk from here.”

Jae-young, who was looking around the house, pointed in one direction beyond the window. Hearing that, the agent exclaimed excitedly.

“My, my. It’s even better if your friend lives nearby. The location is nice here, the house is pretty. And the people living in this neighborhood are all cultured too. Hohoho.”

“Then did you live here when you were young?”

“Yes. The structure is a bit different but... Our house was also two-story. I’m the youngest, so my brothers had already taken all the rooms downstairs, so I used the second floor.”

Jae-young said, shrugging his shoulders. Seung-hyun looked down at the scenery below through the window and asked again.

“I don’t know because I’ve never lived in one. What are the advantages of a two-story house?”

“Hmm. That you can hole up in the house pretending not to hear anything no matter what happens on the first floor? I used to pretend I couldn’t hear my parents calling my name from the front door after causing trouble and going up to the second floor.”

Jae-young chuckled, recalling his childhood. Unlike Jae-young who was reminiscing about happy times, Seung-hyun was recalling a slightly cold old memory.

Before, before coming into this world. There was a time when his family situation was difficult and he briefly rented a room on the second floor of a house.

Of course, it wasn't a luxurious mansion like this, but a place where you had to quietly climb the exterior stairs so as not to disturb the landlord on the first floor, and it was cold with drafts coming in, but even that wasn't using the entire second floor but renting a small room.

The house was too cold in winter, the heating didn't work properly, and the bathroom was shared by the entire second floor so you had to go out to use it.

It couldn't be considered the same two-story house, but he didn't have particularly good memories of two-story houses, but now he really liked this space separated by stairs.

'It's like having two houses.'

It felt exciting even though he had enough money to buy a house in each area if he wanted to. In fact, he had put this house lower on the priority list because he thought living in the city was the best, but after coming to see it in person, he liked it.

"Two-story houses are nice. And this house has good soundproofing, so if you close the windows like this, you can hardly hear the outside noise."

The agent started sales without missing the opportunity, seeing that Seung-hyun looked pleased.

"It's perfect for living quietly. And it's good for getting to the road too. Also..."

"I'll sign the contract. When can I move in?"

"Oh my. Really?"

The agent asked back, surprised at Seung-hyun who made a decision in less than 30 minutes after looking around the house, when she thought it would take some time to think.

“Yes. I want to leave my current house as soon as possible.”

“Oh my. You have such circumstances. The owner said he’ll call someone to move the furniture right away if I tell him, but it might take some time to reach him since he’s abroad.”

“Is that so?”

“What time is it there now... Oh my. If I call now, he might pick up. I’ll call right away and ask. Just a moment.”

The agent quickly took out her cell phone to find the house owner’s contact information, as if Seung-hyun might change his mind. As she made the call, the agent went out to the garden for a moment, and Jae-young glanced at Seung-hyun and asked.

“Are you really going with this one?”

“Why. You even came along to tell me to choose this one.”

“That’s true, but I didn’t think you would decide this quickly. It’s a nice house, but I thought you would decide more carefully.”

“I don’t want to waste time thinking.”

Seung-hyun said with sincerity. It was a waste of time to compare this and that.

“That’s unexpected. I thought you would agonize even over which socks to wear.”

“It would be really perfect if there was a swimming pool in the garden too. That’s a bit of a shame.”

Seung-hyun diverted Jae-young’s attention with words that were half joking, half serious. Although the garden was pretty and nice, it would be even better if he could enjoy swimming coolly at home in the summer, so he was a bit disappointed.

“Do you like swimming?”

“...I don’t particularly like swimming, I just like floating in the water. Where people can’t see.”

“Oh my. I was about to be happy thinking we had something in common. We don’t have a private pool at our house or family home, but there is a pool at our family’s vacation home.”

“Really?”

Seung-hyun looked up at Jae-young with a slightly interested face. He had no interest in swimming, but it felt quite good to lie on a tube on the water under the warm sunshine.

Now the weather was getting colder, so it would be difficult, but wouldn’t it be okay around spring? Seung-hyun looked at Jae-young with slightly expectant eyes.

“Where is it?”

“...The US.”

“Ah.”

The US. It would take a full day just to get there, without exaggeration. There’s no way he could go. Seung-hyun showed a slightly disappointed face and withdrew his sparkling gaze.

But Jae-young was still looking down at Seung-hyun. Conscious of his gaze, Seung-hyun looked up at Jae-young again.

“...Do you have something to say?”

“You said sex is something you can do with anyone.”

“...Well, yes. But why are you asking that?”

“Then other things would be even easier.”

Seung-hyun felt that the atmosphere had gotten a bit strange. But it felt like losing somehow to turn and run away here, so he pretended to be nonchalant and asked back.

“For example?”

“For example...”

Jae-young's hand approached Seung-hyun's waist. Seung-hyun was a bit surprised and froze in place, blinking his eyes.

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Startled Seung-hyun tried to take a step back, but he couldn't because of the hand firmly supporting his waist.

‘...From what point?’

Honestly, he did get a bit excited at the mention of a vacation home with a swimming pool. So he did get a bit closer to Jae-young, but if he reacted every time just because he got a little closer, wouldn't he have to stay in this state all day?

So there must be a reason why this man's gaze changed, but Seung-hyun had no idea what that reason was.

Since he had said something, he was a bit hesitant to abruptly push him away. Seung-hyun just looked at Jae-young with startled eyes.

Unlike Seung-hyun who didn't know the reason, Jae-young had quite a clear motivation. A motivation that was trivial enough for Seung-hyun not to notice, but from the perspective of the person seeing, it was etched in his mind.

He was a person who didn't laugh much and had a face that seemed to not care how life went unless there was a special occasion.

But the sight of him coming one step closer with sparkling eyes and meeting gazes at just the mention of a vacation home with a swimming pool looked a bit unfamiliar but very cute.

It was interesting that a person who had the financial means to get whatever he wanted as much as he wanted was making an excited face at just such a trivial thing like a child filled with anticipation.

His gaze was captivated by those eyes, and even after looking down at his hair instead of his eyes, he couldn't take his eyes off for a long time. When the startled eyes looked at him again, it was another unique stimulus.

‘Sleeping together is something that means nothing to me. But if I get a lover, I would have to put meaning even into that trivial act. I hate that.’

He didn't think he said that because he really thought sleeping together was nothing, but it didn't matter anyway.

At least he knew that if he approached using those words as an excuse, he wouldn't be able to back out because he wasn't a person who would feign ignorance about what he said or did.

"For example... something like this."

Jae-young's head lowered a bit. Since the height difference between the two wasn't that big, just by slightly lowering his head, their faces got close enough to almost touch.

Faces that got close enough to feel each other's breath. Seung-hyun, with a surprised heart, couldn't turn his head or take his eyes off Jae-young and just froze still.

'We agreed to do whatever we want. We agreed to do anything except dating, so the reason I went to the bar that day in the first place was to find a partner, anyone...'

If he thought like that, it should definitely be nothing, but the closer the handsome face got, the more he felt his heart racing.

Was there a moment they kissed in that night he sparsely remembered? Seung-hyun traced back his incomplete memory.

The breath from slightly parted lips tickled Seung-hyun's lips. Thump, thump. The sound of his heart that had grown loud enough to not be ignored was dizzily ringing in his head.

'What's the big deal about lips touching once. If I just close my eyes once...'

He felt heat rising to his face. Even though the weather had gotten a bit chilly and the interior without heating was quite cool.

The moment all his senses were focused on Jae-young who had lowered his head.

Click-!

"Wa-wait a minute!"

Startled by the sound, Seung-hyun pushed Jae-young away with all his might. Jae-young, who was pushed back a few steps, barely managed to not fall by putting strength in his legs.

“Fortunately, he wasn’t sleeping yet so I was able to talk to him. He said he’ll call the company right away to clean up the house. He said it will be done within 3 days, and since the company will clean too, you can move in within a week at the latest... Oh my, did you step on something wrong?”

The agent, who had finished the call and returned, alternately looked at the staggering Jae-young and the red-faced Seung-hyun, worrying about the two.

“.....”

“.....”

The agent, who was looking at the two who didn’t answer for a moment, belatedly noticed the strange atmosphere and slightly covered her mouth.

“Oh my. I...”

“No. Nothing happened. Don’t worry about it.”

Seung-hyun quietly grabbed the agent who was trying to go out again. He seemed to know what she was thinking.

“Oh my. No, I’m not that narrow-minded.”

“No. Nothing happened. Then will you contact me as soon as the house is cleaned up?”

Seung-hyun changed the subject, ignoring Jae-young. The agent, who glanced at Jae-young giggling behind her, turned her gaze back to Seung-hyun.

Judging that it was right to follow Seung-hyun’s words anyway since he was the contractor, the agent returned to the point as if nothing had happened.

“The homeowner said he’ll contact the company, and they said they can probably come right away tomorrow or the day after. But just in case, I’ll contact you again once the schedule is set for sure.”

“Yes. Then the contract...”

"The owner's family has already received the power of attorney and all necessary documents in advance, so you can come and sign the contract. That person also lives in this neighborhood, oh my. They just contacted me now."

The agent turned on her cell phone screen to check the message.

"If we set it quickly, he said the time is good tomorrow afternoon at 2 or four days later at 10 in the morning, but tomorrow is probably too tight for you, right? Four days later..."

"No. The sooner the better. Tomorrow is fine too."

"Oh my. Young people are so refreshing."

"That's right. He's a good person because he's refreshing."

Jae-young, who was watching the conversation between Seung-hyun and the agent, chimed in from behind. The agent, who noticed that the two had an ambiguous relationship, laughed hoho and said,

"Oh my. That's right. You must be happy."

"....."

"Then I'll tell him that. Ah, you can look around more, should I give you some space?"

"No, even if we look around, there's no need for you to go out of your way..."

"I'll be outside, so call me when you come out. Hohoho."

The agent, whose thoughts were obvious, went down the stairs. The sound of the door opening and closing was heard again. In the awkward atmosphere, Seung-hyun glanced behind him.

'I should have just come alone. But... I didn't want to seem like I was being swayed.'

If he had known this would happen, it seemed like it would have been better to come alone. But what can be done about what already happened?

"Is it funny?"

“I didn’t say lover.”

“You didn’t deny it either.”

Jae-young raised both hands to appeal his innocence, but he just looked hateful. Seung-hyun let out a small sigh.

‘Forget it. He’s someone I’ll only see a few times and never see again anyway. Whatever he thinks... As long as I do well.’

“Well, to Han Seung-hyun, for whom sex is nothing, this kind of thing would also be nothing, wouldn’t it?”

“Ah, yes. Yes. That’s right.”

But even if he had no lingering feelings, the momentary shame didn’t disappear. Seung-hyun made a slightly displeased face.

“Now that the place to move has been decided in a day, I’ll be free for a few more days. The move will be taken care of by the company anyway.”

“I won’t be very free.”

Seung-hyun answered, glancing at the sofa placed in the living room below the stairs. If he wanted to get rid of most of the black and white furniture and bring in things to his taste, he would have to diligently pick out items from now on.

“The one who’s free is Ju Jae-young, not me, right?”

“I’m free, but what’s good about having a nice friend?”

If someone sees this, they’ll think I’m a person who doesn’t know what a friend is at all. Seung-hyun chuckled.

It’s not that he didn’t have friends, but he was always busy due to his not so affluent life. Thanks to that, rather than friends he could spend a lot of time with and open up to, he just had many people he could call friends to a moderate degree.

But that didn’t mean he didn’t know the definition of a friend or what a typical friendship was like.

“Right?”

But it should be okay to pretend not to know this much. Seung-hyun turned his head without answering Jae-young’s words.

‘If I just keep an appropriate distance like this, his interest will quickly fade away. 1 year. No, now it’ll be less than 1 year at most...’

The man in front of his eyes didn’t seem to have that much patience. Even in the novel, he had no interest in people other than Seon-hu and was very whimsical.

‘Well, even if that kind of interest cools... He’ll really be friends with me then.’

“That’s right. Having a friend is nice.”

Seung-hyun, who thought for a moment, nodded his head. Jae-young, who heard a satisfactory answer, smiled brightly.

“As a friend, can I ask you a favor?”

“What is it?”

“When you go to a bar like last time, take me with you.”

“...Why?”

Come to think of it, contrary to his determined vow to have sex even if he died, he had completely forgotten about his initial goal since that night.

At Seung-hyun’s question, Jae-young shrugged his shoulders.

“You seem to have no vigilance at all. As a friend, I don’t feel reassured.”

“As a friend, I’ll think about it.”

It was certainly a bit reckless, but people originally come for similar purposes anyway, so what’s the big deal? Seung-hyun gave an ambiguous answer and pushed Jae-young’s back.

“Let’s go out before the agent lady gets any strange ideas.”

“I didn’t even do anything, this is unfair.”

Jae-young pretended to cry, but Seung-hyun didn't even pretend to see it and just pushed Jae-young's back. As they came down to the first floor, Jae-young's cell phone rang in his pocket. Checking the contact, he abruptly stopped in place.

"Something urgent came up, so I think I'll have to go now."

"Well, we're done with everything anyway... Go as you please."

Was it his imagination that his face seemed to frown for a moment after looking at the cell phone screen? Seung-hyun waved his hand nonchalantly, telling him to hurry and go.

Seeing the face that didn't even properly look at him, Jae-young showed an expression of slight displeasure. Jae-young, who was about to leave with his hand on the doorknob, made a face as if he remembered something and turned back to Seung-hyun.

"Do you have something to sa..."

Seung-hyun, who looked up at Jae-young, blinked his eyes in surprise at the warmth that lightly settled and left his cheek in an instant. Jae-young left a word to the dazed-faced Seung-hyun and opened the door.

"Bisous between friends wouldn't be a big deal at all to Seung-hyun, right?"

Leaving a light remark, Jae-young slipped out the open door before Seung-hyun could come to his senses. Left alone, Seung-hyun stared at the door where only cold wind was coming in for a long time.

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It was just a very brief, fleeting touch. Even though he had done much worse things, he felt a little dazed thinking what's the big deal about this tiny thing.

"You said you lived in the US, what's with this bisous..."

Seung-hyun muttered softly. He knew what a bisous was, but he knew it was mainly a European greeting.

So that's just an excuse. An attitude of saying we're just friends in words, but actually doing whatever he wants.

But he didn't dislike that attitude so much. For someone who said he doesn't want a lover, he seemed too greedy, but on the other hand, he started to think this much should be okay.

“.....”

Seung-hyun rubbed his cheek where the lips had very briefly brushed past. His family home was close by, but his current house wasn't around here, so he probably couldn't see him every day. But he knew that no matter what excuse he made, he would persistently come find him.

‘This much... should be okay. At least for now.’

“Oh my. Done looking around? The person who came with you said an urgent matter came up so he had to leave first. Hohoho.”

As Seung-hyun came out, the agent who was waiting covered her mouth and laughed hoho as she spoke to Seung-hyun.

“He said he'll come tomorrow to sign the contract. I'll send you the time and place again by text. My goodness. This is the most refreshingly progressing contract I've ever done. Hoho.”

The agent laughed in a slightly excited voice. He did that only because he didn't want to waste time thinking, but then again, this is something you can only do if you have money.

“It will be a choice you won't regret.”

“I hope so.”

Seung-hyun slowly scanned the place that would become his house starting tomorrow. A two-story house with a pretty garden that seemed to exist only in dreams. It was a bit of a shame that he couldn't live there for long, but it seemed like it would definitely be a good home.

“Why did you suddenly call me?”

“What do you mean why. We haven’t seen each other in a while, what’s wrong with wanting to see your face?”

“Since when were you so eager to see my face?”

Jae-young, who had returned to his family home, grumbled as he entered the house. He doesn’t even care what he does or where he goes around, but he always calls only at times like this and makes a fuss.

“It’s been a long time since I’ve been to my family home too. I thought I’d see your face and chat a bit while I’m at it.”

“Anyone would think you’re my father, not my brother.”

“Even if I was called your father, there wouldn’t be much of a problem with my age.”

“You do have presbyopia.”

Jae-young sat on the sofa with a thud without properly looking at Jaeseong, his eldest brother. If he had known his brother was here, he wouldn’t have come.

As soon as he arrived at his family home, he found his car key and threatened that he didn’t know what he would do with it if he didn’t come back quickly, so he had no choice but to return.

That crazy human would really do as he pleased and more if Jae-young didn’t come back quickly.

“It’s been a while since we’ve seen each other, do you have to act like a child like this?”

“I know what you’re going to say, how can I be happy to see you?”

“If you know, then do well on your own. And you, it’s been several months since Seon-hu got married, and you’re still because of that...”

Jaeseong said with a frown. When they were young, it wasn’t just the parents who thought Seon-hu would naturally become Jae-young’s partner.

“It’s not like that.”

“No matter how close you’ve been since childhood, that’s too much. Seon-hu is not even an Alpha like you, let alone just an Omega, but a Recessive. He’s not a suitable match for you. I know Seon-hu is a good kid, but even if you’re friends...”

“Ah, I said it’s not like that.”

He wasn’t even thinking about Seon-hu. Jae-young waved his hand as if it was bothersome. But the talk about Seon-hu was just the beginning. Jae-young frowned before the nagging started, as if he knew what Jaeseong was going to say.

“You should meet an Omega that suits you well and get married. You know you’re the only one among us siblings who’s not married.”

“Well, that’s because you’re all older.”

“That’s true, but... when I was your age, and Jaehun and Jaeyeon too, we were already married. Not just married. Jaehun already had two kids then.”

“That family had twins.”

“Anyway, it’s two.”

Jae-young let out a small sigh at Jaeseong’s forced logic. He knew he was slowly reaching the marriageable age, but Jae-young was tired of his whole family being so obsessed with his marriage as if it was their duty.

“You need to get married and have kids. The whole family will die of happiness if it’s your child.”

“What, you want me to meet just anyone on the street and get married? When it was time to talk about prospective family, you chased Seon-hu out like that.”

“Honestly, no matter how good our relationship is with the RF family, you’re too good to marry a Recessive Omega. It’s difficult for Recessives to get pregnant.”

Although less than others, Jae-young’s family also had discriminatory thoughts about typology. Moreover, with the added affection for Jae-young, the youngest, they had a strong feeling of “our youngest should naturally go to

a better person". So they used to openly show Seon-hu's family that there was no way Jae-young and Seon-hu would ever be together.

Maybe that's why he felt more drawn to Seon-hu. But regardless of how the past was, now they were completely mistaken.

"Forget it. If you're going to talk about that, I'm going in."

"I'll return your car key after dinner, so at least eat dinner before you go. Jaeyeon said she's coming as soon as she finishes work after hearing you're here."

"We're unnecessarily close."

Jae-young ruffled his hair with a small annoyance. Thinking of Tae-sung and Seung-hyun, who are not just cousins but enemies, Jae-young's family was a unique case.

In the first place, relationships like Tae-sung and Seung-hyun were more common. In front of money, family and blood ties are all meaningless, and they only see each other as rivals.

It would be unpleasant to live being unable to relax your guard coldly, but being interfered with this much was also unpleasant to Jae-young in another sense.

"I wasn't trying to take away what you were going to return to, I wasn't trying to make you work. Is it that hard to just say marry a good person..."

"Ah, I get it. I get it, so please just stop."

Jae-young, who finally pretended to cover his ears, blocked Jaeseong's nagging. It's good to care, but this was indeed interference beyond concern.

"I'll do well on my own, so please just leave me alone."

"If I left you alone until now, I've been considerate enough. Even Seon-hu is married, even if it's second-hand..."

"Ah, don't say something terrible like that."

"Why, do you have someone you're dating? Then think... what. Do you really have someone?"

Jae-young flinched at the mention of someone he's dating as he was about to go up to his room. Jaeseong, who didn't miss the momentary suspicion, shouted behind Jae-young's back.

"What? Do you really have something?"

"Don't talk nonsense. What would I have?"

"Don't do that and tell me. Jae-young. Ju Jae-young!"

It was a tone that still treated him like a middle or high school student, even at his age. But it wasn't simply because of that reason that he ignored Jaeseong's words.

He was still just friends with Seung-hyun. He thought "still", but Jae-young knew better than anyone how bothersome his family was.

'They made a fuss just because he's a Recessive Omega, if they find out he's a Recessive Alpha... He'll probably run away immediately if they bother him. Absolutely not.'

Jae-young didn't consider typology to be that important. Rather, he was a bit tired of the typology talk.

It was also because he was tired of his family constantly talking about his youngest nephew and grandson, and he didn't like that his relationship with Seon-hu became awkward just because of that.

He was the person he liked, but before that, he was also his closest friend in his entire life. But they couldn't be together because of just one thing, typology. Just because he was a Recessive.

'What's the big deal about that measly thing.'

But he also thought being with another Alpha might be a bit biologically unpleasant. Because the pheromones between Alphas are often felt as unpleasant. But perhaps because he was a Recessive, Seung-hyun's pheromones that were felt as slightly stinging only bothered him to the level of provoking Jae-young's curiosity.

It wasn't a sweet and stimulating scent like an Omega's, but the slightly stinging feeling that made his skin tingle wasn't bad either.

“Come to think of it... Director Han Tae-sung thinks we’re dating.”

He thought he might be spreading rumors, but perhaps because he thought of him as someone who had completely left the company, there were no such movements.

“If we really become like that... I’d like it though.”

It was clear that he wasn’t uninterested, but what was the reason he allowed every single action but said no to the name of a lover? Jae-young recalled Seung-hyun’s cheek that his lips had touched.

It was a light touch, no different from a greeting, but the sight of him being startled and blinking his eyes looked quite cute. Enough to make him want to play such tricks again.

“If only he hadn’t called for no reason, we could have at least eaten dinner together. Anyway, I’m telling you he’s no help in your life. No help.”

Jae-young grumbled and looked at the place that would become Seung-hyun’s new house through the window. It wasn’t a visible distance, but the fact that Seung-hyun would come to a place he could see from the window of his room in his family home was something he liked.

“I shouldn’t leave my car key at home from now on.”

Jae-young muttered like that and lightly tapped on the window. The setting sun was shining in a dazzling vermilion color.

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Seung-hyun’s move happened quickly. It didn’t take long for the contract to be made and for the landlord to vacate the house, and since there was no need to sell or clean up the old house, filling it with things was an even easier task.

“Money is really the best.”

It was only a few months ago that he trembled just ordering delivery food, but now several zeros had disappeared from his economic sense.

“My house...”

The house Seung-hyun had been living in until recently was indeed his house, but it was the original Seung-hyun's house, not his own. Rather than a house where people live, it felt more like a model house with an odd feeling, so it was even harder to get attached to it.

After moving, he even felt like he could start everything anew. I should never let those annoying people know my new address.

"It's a bit of a waste considering I won't even live here for a full year..."

Whenever good things happened, contrasting emotions arose. One was pure joy, and the other was a feeling of wastefulness.

I shouldn't feel it's a waste. I should think of it as borrowing something that wasn't mine from the beginning anyway. Although that's what he thought, he couldn't help but feel it was a waste.

Those things were increasing one by one. Not giving affection doesn't work out the way you think it will.

Just as the beginning and end of life don't go as one pleases, the middle isn't going to flow as one wants either.

"Whatever. Let's just...go for a walk."

The ahjumma would start working from the day after tomorrow. He needed something to eat right away, and since he had nothing to do, Seung-hyun thought he should go out for a bit to look around the neighborhood.

"I should pull a cart."

There was no need to deliberately go out and buy something, but he wanted to look around here and there for the first time in a while. Seung-hyun went out in light clothing and headed to the mart.

"Two days will be enough, so there's no need to buy a lot. Hmm. Then..."

The luxury he could enjoy at the mart was pretty much the same everywhere, but still, being able to buy anything without calculating money was quite appealing. Seung-hyun started wandering around, half-leaning on the cart.

'I don't know how to cook much...but there are so many good recipes on the Internet. Trying something new is also...'

The refrigerator would be empty anyway. As he picked up whatever he could get his hands on, quite a large amount of items were in the cart.

‘On days like this, I should have a can of beer, but since I can’t drink alcohol, I’ll at least have a soft drink...’

“Ah!”

Seung-hyun, who was blankly turning the head of the cart, bumped into someone turning the corner. The surprised Seung-hyun reached out his hand to the person who fell.

“Are you okay?”

“Ah, yes.”

“I’m sorry. I didn’t see properly.”

“No, it’s okay. I was walking lost in thought too.”

Fortunately, it didn’t seem like he fell hard. The man, who quickly got up from his spot, smiled and said it was okay.

‘Most people here have above average looks...but even among them, he really stands out.’

Seung-hyun looked at the man’s face for a moment. He had noticeably pretty and handsome features. He had seen many good-looking men, but it was the first time seeing a pretty man.

‘At first glance, he’s an omega, isn’t he...’

“Excuse me, is there something on my face?”

“Ah, no. That...just a moment.”

When he stared for a long time without knowing it was rude, the man seemed uncomfortable and asked if there was something on his face. The flustered Seung-hyun waved his hand.

“Ah, you look a bit like someone I know.”

“Really? Hmm. I also had a strange feeling that I had seen you somewhere before.”

Saying he looked like someone he knew was a lie to get out of the situation, but instead, the man said he also felt like he had seen someone who looked like Seung-hyun and stared intently at his face.

“Hmm, maybe it’s just a feeling...I can’t remember well.”

But that was short-lived. Perhaps there was no one that came to mind even when he tried to recall, the man soon put on a nonchalant face and took a step back from Seung-hyun.

“If I had seen someone this handsome, there’s no way I would forget. Haha. Or maybe I saw you in passing a few times? Have you lived here for a long time?”

“No. I moved here yesterday.”

“Ah. Wrong again.”

The man smiled a little embarrassedly. He seemed bright and sociable at a glance.

“You must have lived nearby for a long time.”

“I have lived here for a long time. Not now, but...I still come often. My parents are here too.”

He seemed to be a college student or a new employee who had recently become independent. Seung-hyun spoke to the man who had a young-looking face.

“I see. I haven’t been here many times yet, but it seems like a nice place.”

“May I ask which neighborhood you moved to?”

The man was extremely sociable, and Seung-hyun didn’t mind the small talk for the first time in a while. Before they knew it, the two were pulling their carts side by side as if they were companions.

“I moved to ○○-dong.”

“Wow. That’s where my family home is too. It’s a great place to live. The park is well-maintained, so it’s nice for walks, and the scenery is good. Oh, and if you walk a bit out of the residential complex, there are many shops too.”

The man chattered endlessly. It was to the point where one would wonder what he had to say so much to someone he had only met for a few minutes, but somehow that behavior didn’t feel annoying or irritating.

He had the feeling of a model of someone who grew up being loved. Just listening to his story made one feel bright energy, the kind of person whose chattering small talk feels comfortable.

Seung-hyun didn’t particularly want to ask his name, phone number, and become close, but walking together for a bit wasn’t so bad. Thinking that way, Seung-hyun picked up a drink.

“You seem to like it, but since you live apart from your family now, you must miss home.”

“It’s a bit like that...but it’s okay. Well, it’s not like I live that far away, and I can come whenever I want to. What’s the big deal.”

The man shrugged and said. Well, if you have a good relationship with your family, you can come whenever you want, so it doesn’t matter. Seung-hyun, who had put all the items in the cart, said to the man,

“It was fun talking. I think I need to go pay now.”

“Ah, right. I had things to buy too. I forgot while talking. I enjoyed the conversation too.”

The man also seemed to think of Seung-hyun only as a momentary conversation partner and didn’t appear to have any other interest in him. The moment the man was about to turn around with his cart, Seung-hyun was startled by a sudden stinging pain and tightly grasped the cart handle.

“Ugh...”

This felt similar to last time when the seizure came on suddenly. The medicine would calm it down quickly if he took it, but the problem was that the bag containing the medicine was now completely buried under the items packed in the cart.

‘Of all times...’

“Excuse me, are you okay?”

The man, who was about to turn around and leave, turned back in surprise. Fortunately, there were many people nearby. Since it was still a level of pain where he could speak, Seung-hyun barely opened his mouth without being able to lift his head.

“In the bag...the pill bottle. Please...”

“Here, just a moment.”

The man opened the bag with trembling hands in surprise and took out the pill bottle. The man, who opened the water bottle in his own cart and handed it over with the medicine, supported Seung-hyun.

“Are you alright?”

“Should we call 119?”

“Customer. Are you okay?”

As he almost collapsed to the floor, people nearby as well as employees approached and worried about Seung-hyun. Seung-hyun, who suddenly became the center of attention, smiled awkwardly.

“I’m...fine. This happens for a bit and goes away.”

“Are you sure you’re okay? An ambulance...”

“It’s okay. I know why it happens.”

After taking the medicine, the pain gradually subsided. It wasn’t to the point of being completely fine, but at least he could walk on his own.

It felt like he was getting a bit used to it as it was the second time. Seung-hyun grabbed his dizzy head and got up from the floor. Rather than the pain, the embarrassment came first.

‘I should really put it in my pocket and carry it around from now on. At this rate, I really can’t do anything.’

It seemed like it would be difficult to come back here for a while. Seung-hyun said with a face covered in cold sweat,

“I’m really okay. Don’t worry about it.”

As he had read in the novel, the medicine worked quickly, and Seung-hyun was able to act as if nothing had happened again. It looked more precarious to the onlookers than to the person himself.

“It looks like it’ll be hard for you to move that, so I’ll at least help you with it. I’d feel uncomfortable letting you go like this.”

The man who had been by his side until then made a call somewhere and spoke to Seung-hyun again. No matter how abnormal Seung-hyun’s physical condition was, the man had a small and slender build.

Seung-hyun wanted to refuse the offer as he felt uncomfortable receiving help from someone much smaller than himself, but a man in a suit who approached soon relieved the unnecessary worry.

“Young master. Do you need anything else?”

“No. Please pay and send it to the main house. It won’t take long to return, so tell Mom and Dad not to worry.”

“Understood.”

“Yes. Thank you as always, Secretary Kim.”

Seung-hyun blankly looked at the man who skillfully commanded others. He knew the neighborhood was wealthy, but still.

“Then there won’t be any problems now, right?”

The man said with a bright smile. Indeed, he had an air of someone who grew up being loved and cherished.

Episode 35

There was no need to go this far. It was somewhat burdensome help, but Seung-hyun had missed the timing to flatly refuse.

“Ah, but will you be able to drive and go?”

“I’m really fine. You don’t need to help me to this extent.”

Seung-hyun said with an embarrassed face. The man’s employee had already loaded all the luggage. This alone was more than enough help, but the man still had a face full of worry.

“But your face is still pale. What if you get into an accident.”

They were only at the level of bumping into each other and exchanging apologies, but he was a person overflowing with warmth. However, it was slowly becoming burdensome now.

The kindness one could receive from someone they would meet once and never see again was just right up to now. No, it was a bit excessive even now.

“I’m really fine. The medicine makes me okay quickly. And I don’t like leaving my car to others.”

“Ah, I see. That could be the case.”

The man finally nodded his head. Perhaps he also thought it was a bit much, as the man said with a belated embarrassed face,

“I’m sorry. I must have been quite startled too. It’s not even my business, but I was unnecessarily worried.”

“No, it’s understandable to be surprised if that happens in front of you. Thank you for your kindness.”

When he politely refused, the man nodded his head with a regretful expression. Seung-hyun barely held back a sigh that almost escaped and started the engine. He was a bit tired, but it wasn’t to an unbearable degree.

It was a distance that took 5 minutes at most anyway. If it really didn’t seem possible, it would be more comfortable to call a substitute driver rather than receiving that much help from a stranger.

“You said you’re okay, but... make sure to go to the hospital.”

The man added one more word, worrying about Seung-hyun until the end. Although it was a bit burdensome, he thought the man was a good person.

“Haa.”

A little later, Seung-hyun, who had returned home, immediately threw himself on the sofa. He was tired. It seemed he really needed to put sedatives in his pocket from now on.

Not knowing when and where the pain would come was more unsettling than he had thought. It was more so the second time.

“It was just one time I forgot because of the move, but it’s uncanny.”

The prescribed medicine that he had to take every day, not the sedatives he received for emergency use, had run out. He realized that two days’ worth was missing only after arriving at the new house, perhaps having dropped it somewhere while packing.

He thought it would be fine since he was going to the hospital again the day after tomorrow anyway, but thanks to this, he had made up his mind to never have such a complacent thought again.

Last time, fortunately, the medicine was nearby, and today, there were many people around, but he couldn’t guarantee that such luck would continue forever.

“Still, it was fortunate that the person next to me was a good person.”

Although he was a good person to the point of being a bit burdensome.

“Ah, I should have asked for his number. I sent him away without even repaying him for his help.”

It would have been good to repay him somehow, but he was so out of it that he sent the man away without asking for his name or contact information. Even when sending him off, Seung-hyun’s desire to return quickly was so great that he felt uncomfortable for treating the person who helped him coldly.

But it was already over. Since he said his family home was nearby, maybe they would run into each other by chance someday. Thinking that way, Seung-hyun got up from his seat. His condition had improved enough to get up now.

Tomorrow was the day Jae-young had made a big fuss, saying he would come to the new house. Saying that of course there should be a housewarming party since they were friends, he had arbitrarily set the schedule on his own, and the reason it wasn't particularly annoying was probably because humans are creatures of adaptation.

"With a guest coming, I can't be slouching like this."

Seung-hyun abruptly got up from his seat and started moving his body. When staying still, only unnecessary thoughts came to mind. At times like this, he had to do something.

Seung-hyun started walking around the still unfamiliar house. Since only the visible areas had been filled so far, there were quite a few empty spaces.

How to fill here, and how to make there. Doing simulations as if playing a game was quite fun.

In reality, it wasn't possible for furniture to appear with a poof and fill a room in a day, but since he had funds that seemed unreal even for game money, the product list on the shopping app looked like an inventory list.

Pondering over the interior of a room he wouldn't even use and thinking about this and that, time passed quickly. Before he knew it, the sun had completely set and it was dark outside. It was the first night staying in this house.

It was quite an eventful first day. He realized once again that life had to be lived with tension, and he also met someone who made him quite envious.

Someone who seemed to have only been loved while growing up. Someone who could pass on the kindness they received to others. The reason the nameless man came to Seung-hyun's mind again was probably because the first night in a new place evoked quite a bit of emotion.

The reason he kept coming to mind, envious of someone who could live like that until now and in the future.

"Ah, right. The hospital... I think I need to go right away tomorrow. What should I say?"

Seung-hyun, who had been thinking meaningless thoughts for a moment, recalled an important matter and held his forehead. He had to think about his own tomorrow first, not someone else's life.

Living the life of a wealthy unemployed person, which is everyone's dream, unexpected schedules only came up on days when he had plans. Since Professor Kim would see him even after work hours if he contacted her, moving up the hospital appointment was easy, but the promise with Jae-young was the problem.

It seemed the time would be awkward if he went and came back, and he would surely ask what the matter was, so what should he answer? Seung-hyun became immersed in worry, thinking of a few plausible excuses.

Using family as an excuse wouldn't work since he already knew Seung-hyun had cut ties and left, and if he vaguely said it was a health issue, it was obvious he would ask exactly what part was sick.

If he gave a trivial excuse, he would pout his lips childishly, asking if it was because Seung-hyun didn't really want to meet. He would surely pretend to cry, saying he was disappointed.

"No. Why am I worrying about that?"

Seung-hyun, who had been worrying for a while, suddenly wondered why he was worrying about that. Of course, postponing an appointment the day before wasn't good manners, but if he said he had an urgent situation, shouldn't a friend understand at least once?

No matter how much his lips protruded or how disappointed he was, there was no obligation to explain in detail exactly what part was sick in order to appease him.

What kind of great relationship were they anyway? Seung-hyun shook his head to come to his senses. He must have been too immersed in sentimentality.

Although he was a fun person, he was someone Seung-hyun shouldn't think of as more than that. No, it applied to anyone, not just Jae-young.

It was excessively selfish for someone who might not even be able to see a season pass to form deep human relationships. At least that's what Seung-hyun thought.

Just moderately, to the extent that even after disappearing, they could be sad for only a few days and return to reality. That degree of selfishness was enough.

Seung-hyun picked up his cell phone and sent a text message to Professor Kim asking if it was possible to change the appointment. When he said he had lost the medicine, she replied without a long explanation, asking if he could visit around 4:30 tomorrow.

4:30 was quite an awkward time. Between lunch and dinner. Since Jae-young said he would come around lunchtime to show him around the neighborhood, he would probably arrive earlier than that time even at the latest.

Seung-hyun sent a reply to Professor Kim saying he understood and opened the messenger window with Jae-young. What should he say to start? It would be better to just say the main point right away.

[I'm sorry to say this suddenly, but I don't think I'll be home tomorrow.] 8:48 PM

Was that too direct? Seung-hyun pondered for a moment and added a word.

[Something came up that I have to go to. I'm sorry.] 8:50 PM

The moment he put up a new speech bubble, the 1 disappeared. Seung-hyun, who somehow felt awkward to check the reply right away, quickly exited the chat window and pulled down the top bar.

1 minute felt like 10 minutes. He clearly saw that it was read, so why wasn't the reply coming right away? Did a reply require that much consideration? Seung-hyun raised and lowered the unchanging top bar, waiting for a reply.

It took exactly 3 minutes for the reply to come. He didn't know what Jae-young was thinking during that short time, but Seung-hyun felt an unknown heart-pounding and raised and lowered the top bar dozens of times.

However, after the long-awaited reply came, Seung-hyun became truly curious about what Jae-young had been thinking during those 3 minutes.

He thought he would pretend to be upset or persistently ask what the matter was. Or maybe he was really annoyed and deliberately replied slowly.

But the meaning of the reply that came after that ambiguous 3 minutes was quite clear, making it even more questionable.

[Ju Jae-young: Are you sick somewhere?] 8:53 PM