

Real Man 301

Chapter 301

That night, Yoo-hyun had a drink with Shin Kyung Wook, the senior manager, at the hotel bar.

He felt different from when he met him a year ago.

Shin Kyung Wook's eyes were full of trust for Yoo-hyun.

They continued their conversation about Apple from yesterday.

"Apple will be..."

Shin Kyung Wook predicted the future with his usual insight.

With him making his own judgments, Yoo-hyun could also improve.

"Yes, you're right. And..."

"That's right. Then..."

Yoo-hyun and Shin Kyung Wook exchanged words without pause.

They looked more like equal colleagues than a boss and a subordinate.

After talking for a while, Shin Kyung Wook held out his glass.

"You and Kim have worked really hard. Thank you."

"Senior manager, you also worked hard."

"Yes, I know. I'm sorry for making you struggle so much."

Yoo-hyun clinked his glass with Shin Kyung Wook's and said,

"Many people are looking after you, senior manager."

"..."

Shin Kyung Wook quietly emptied his glass.

Then he looked into Yoo-hyun's eyes.

He opened his mouth as if he was probing his inner thoughts.

"I know. That's why I'm not going to avoid it anymore."

"You made a good decision."

It was the only conclusion that Shin Kyung Wook, who had a strong sense of responsibility, could make.

Once he was determined, Yoo-hyun had no hesitation either.

Glug glug.

Yoo-hyun filled his glass and advised him.

“Senior manager, do you remember what I told you before?”

“The word ‘poison’, right?”

“Did I say that?”

“It must be exactly the same.”

Shin Kyung Wook answered with a smile to Yoo-hyun’s question.

His words were light, but he understood Yoo-hyun’s intention precisely.

He proved it by giving the answer that Yoo-hyun wanted.

“I realized it clearly through this incident. I need to make my own allies.”

“Yes, you’re right. You can’t do it alone, senior manager.”

“So I’m going to persuade Im, the vice president, one by one.”

“That’s a good choice.”

Yoo-hyun nodded his head as he saw Shin Kyung Wook taking the initiative.

The reason why Shin Kyung Wook was pushed back in the past was clear.

It was because of his moderate personality that did not bother to make his own side.

It was impossible to compete with Han Kyung Hwee, who had built a solid line without any organization.

But now it was different from the past.

There was still time, and Shin Kyung Wook had made up his mind.

All that was left was to prepare step by step.

Glug glug.

Yoo-hyun looked at Shin Kyung Wook who filled his glass.

His eyes were full of determination and very reliable.

But he didn’t need to relax too much now.

A boiling pot cools down quickly.

With that in mind, Yoo-hyun advised him.

“Senior manager, you don’t have to rush your decision.”

“Are you saying that because I might become a target?”

“That’s one of the reasons.”

“One of the reasons?”

“Yes. If you want to achieve what you want, you have to prepare a lot behind the scenes. I hope you do that first.”

The success of the Apple negotiation had already created a favorable situation for him.

The LCD business unit could feel his influence from afar.

But that was not enough.

He needed to expand his influence not only in other business units but also in various group affiliates.

To do that, he had to move a lot of people behind the scenes.

He should come forward only after convincing them.

Shin Kyung Wook, who read Yoo-hyun’s thoughts, asked in surprise,

“What are you really?”

“What do you mean?”

“How do you know all that?”

To an obvious question, Yoo-hyun answered clearly,

“As you can see, I’m someone who can read even Steve Jobs’ mind.”

“So I should be grateful that someone like you is on my side?”

“Of course. You’re lucky, senior manager.”

“Hahaha. Yes. You’re right. It’s luck, luck.”

Yoo-hyun’s lips curled up as he saw Shin Kyung Wook looking free.

He didn’t look like he had a lot of burden on his shoulders as he did in the past.

Yoo-hyun gave him timely advice as he saw him like that.

“There is still a year and a half left until the iPhone 4 comes out. Please prepare with ease.”

“Then what about you? You’ll have to work hard, right?”

“Why me?”

When Yoo-hyun reacted as if he didn't understand, Shin Kyung Wook tilted his head.

"You must be tired of taking care of things behind the scenes."

"Haha. That's what you or the others should do."

Yoo-hyun tried to back off, and Shin Kyung Wook asked incredulously,

"What? Then what are you going to do?"

"I'm going to take a break now."

Yoo-hyun answered neatly.

There was no reason for him to step in as long as things were on track.

It was enough to just watch over them from a distance.

That was rather beneficial for Shin Kyung Wook to build his organization.

If a young employee was involved in the middle, no matter how good his intention was, there would be rumors.

Shin Kyung Wook, who realized that, shrugged his shoulders.

"Haha. Okay. I hope you can relax more this time."

"Don't I look more relaxed than before?"

"You're better. But you still have some compulsions left."

"Oh. I still need to work on that."

Yoo-hyun chuckled and Shin Kyung Wook made a playful expression.

He never saw that in the past.

"It's not easy to change your personality."

"Then I have to try harder while resting."

"Haha. Then I'll help you with your rest."

Shin Kyung Wook smiled and lifted his glass.

"Thank you for that."

Yoo-hyun accepted his words with a good humor and held out his glass.

Clang.

The two glasses collided.

At the same time, their eyes met with affection.

The business trip was over, but Yoo-hyun planned to stay longer in the US by taking a vacation.

He had arranged his schedule flexibly, so there was no problem.

Of course, he didn't intend to stay at this hotel all the time.

It was time for them to part ways.

Kim Young Gil, the manager, checked out at the hotel lobby and said to Yoo-hyun.

He looked full of regret.

"I want to stay longer, but Eileen is waiting for me."

"Then go and treat her well."

"Are you okay?"

Yoo-hyun nodded at Kim Young Gil's question.

"Yes. I'm going to meet some people and go."

"You did a good job."

Kim Young Gil said kindly and stretched out both arms.

Yoo-hyun hugged him with a smirk and said,

"Manager, you worked hard."

"It's all thanks to you."

"Then you should buy me a lot of food."

"Haha. Of course. See you in Korea."

Kim Young Gil, the manager, laughed and patted Yoo-hyun's back.

Yeo Tae Sik, the executive director, came over and offered his hand.

"Yoo-hyun, you did a great job."

"Then is it your turn now, director?"

"Hahaha. Yes, it is."

Yoo-hyun's words were not just a joke.

A lot depended on Yeo Tae Sik's hands.

The more he worked, the easier the future plans would be.

It was natural that Yoo-hyun's company life would be more comfortable.

It was time to go.

A black sedan was blinking in front of the lobby.

Yeo Tae Sik asked Yoo-hyun,

“Do you really not need a driver, Yoo-hyun?”

“Yes. I don’t want to bother. I’ll drive myself.”

Yoo-hyun’s cool answer made Yeo Tae Sik smile.

“Have a good time and come back.”

“Yes. You too, be careful.”

With Yoo-hyun’s farewell, Yeo Tae Sik turned around.

Kim Young Gil, who had been waving his hand, followed him.

The car that carried them disappeared into the distant road.

A few moments later, a white sports car stopped in front of Yoo-hyun on the roadside.

When Yoo-hyun was wondering if it was possible, the man who got out of the car politely said,

“Hello. Are you Han Yoo-hyun?”

“Yes, I am.”

“This is the car that Richard Shin sent you. Please take the key and...”

The man handed over the car to Yoo-hyun as if it was natural and disappeared.

Yoo-hyun took the key and snorted.

“A sports car doesn’t suit me very well.”

Shin Kyung Wook, the senior manager, seemed to have a prejudice against young people.

Of course, that didn’t mean he was not grateful for his care.

How much did he worry about choosing this car?

He smiled as he imagined that.

Yoo-hyun got into the car with a good mood.

Vroom.

The car slid on the road as he stepped on the accelerator.

The wind that blew in was quite cool.

Yoo-hyun headed to a small building in San Francisco.

There was an Airbnb office in a space without a sign yet.

He parked his car in the parking lot and entered the office on the third floor.

Creak.

As soon as the door opened,

“Yes. Who are... Oh? Steve.”

Joe Gebbia ran over and reached out his hand.

His kind eyes under his horn-rimmed glasses were still the same.

Yoo-hyun grabbed his friend's hand whom he hadn't seen for a long time.

“Long time no see.”

“You should have contacted me. Then I would have cleaned up a bit.”

Joe Gebbia looked around the office with an embarrassed expression.

As he turned his head, he saw papers and work tools flying everywhere.

It looked more like a factory inspection site after working for several nights than a normal office.

Yoo-hyun chuckled and asked,

“Brian said I could come anytime, right?”

“That guy doesn't even clean up.”

Joe Gebbia was about to clean up when Brian Chesky came in through the front door and was surprised to see Yoo-hyun.

“Steve. You finally came.”

“Haha. How have you been?”

“Of course. I'm doing very well thanks to you.”

Brian Chesky showed his unique swagger as he saw Yoo-hyun.

His words were like that, but the situation didn't look so good.

The office was still an office.

It was small but had partitions and a sofa to sit and rest on.

Yoo-hyun sat on the sofa and waited for Brian Chesky's coffee.

Joe Gebbia had been cleaning up around him since then.

He felt awkward sitting still, so Yoo-hyun stopped him.

“Joe, it’s okay. Sit down.”

“No. I can’t show you such a messy place.”

Thud.

Joe Gebbia put a pile of papers on the table and started cleaning again.

Yoo-hyun reached out and flipped through the papers he had piled up.

On top of them was feedback from an investment company.

The red letters were eye-catching:

-Reason for investment disqualification: No investment value due to absurd idea

Swish

As he turned the page, he saw feedback from other investment companies as well

They all had similar opinions and all failed to attract investment

Yoo-hyun remembered the message Brian Chesky sent him a while ago and gave a bitter smile

-Steve, I’ll have some great news by the time you come

He could tell how hard they had worked just by looking at the stacked papers

But the reality was harder than they thought

Yoo-hyun flipped through their business plans one by one

He saw many flaws

At that moment

Brian Chesky, who came back with coffee in both hands, was startled

“Steve, you can’t look at that yet. Joe, what happened?”

“Sorry, Steve. I accidentally showed you some unnecessary documents while cleaning up.”

Both of them tried not to show their shortcomings to Yoo-hyun.

He appreciated their consideration, but he was not a stranger to them anymore.

Yoo-hyun looked at his two friends and said,

“Brian, Joe, sit down for a moment.”

“Uh, okay.”

The two nodded their heads at Yoo-hyun’s sudden seriousness.

Chapter 302

Brian Chesky was the first to speak in response to Yoo-hyun’s request.

“The situation right now is...”

Airbnb was a newly started company.

They had come up with a novel concept of shared accommodation, which inevitably caused friction with the surroundings.

Brian Chesky’s words were full of the countless efforts they had made to overcome that.

Joe Gebbia also chimed in.

“The unexpected problem we faced was...”

Joe Gebbia’s words were similar.

Just listening to their story, it seemed like they had fallen several times.

They spent more money than they thought, and the people were troublesome.

Yet, they managed to move forward little by little.

“So you decided to raise some investment for now?”

Yoo-hyun asked, and Brian Chesky answered with a more serious expression.

“Yes. But...”

“That part too...”

Joe Gebbia also added his voice, as if hesitating.

They strangely seemed to be reporting to Yoo-hyun.

Yoo-hyun felt like he had to listen to their story now, or it would be too late.

Their words were long, but the summary was simple.

Airbnb was going through the same hardships as any early-stage startup.

They didn’t make much profit right away, so their cash reserves kept shrinking.

In a difficult situation where they couldn’t promote more boldly, their sales didn’t increase much.

They chose investment as a way to gain market trust and funds, but that wasn’t easy either.

They were getting impatient.

Of course, there were some positive things in the meantime.

“Nathan made a website...”

Yoo-hyun nodded as he heard Brian Chesky’s explanation.

“Brian, I checked it out too. It looked pretty good.”

“He’s got skills.”

An engineer who could turn the two designers’ brilliant imagination into reality joined them.

Nathan Blecharczyk.

He took charge of Airbnb’s system as he did in the past.

Thanks to him, they could at least relax on the system side.

Yoo-hyun pointed out the problems hidden in their words.

“In my opinion...”

He pinpointed the overall improvement points, and the two listened attentively.

Joe Gebbia even took out a notebook and wrote them down.

In the middle of that, Joe Gebbia asked first.

“Steve, I’m going to do as you say, but there’s one problem.”

“Customer management is not working?”

“Yeah. Right. It’s hard to deal with a lot of people. There are problems everywhere.”

It was about strangers sleeping in someone else’s house.

Since the concept of shared accommodation was not established yet, there were bound to be problems.

The more troublesome thing was that it was unpredictable.

Both the hosts and the guests were problematic.

“It must be hard to manage them all.”

“Exactly. We have some terms and conditions, but it’s awkward for us when the hosts suffer losses.”

“Before that, you should...”

Yoo-hyun was about to answer when it happened.

Bang!

The front door opened and a man came in.

He had thick eyebrows and long eyes, and his short hair suited him very well.

He was also a man who had a past connection with Yoo-hyun.

“Nathan, if you’re wondering who’s here...”

As Brian Chesky opened his mouth, Nathan Blecharczyk gasped and said.

“Brian, Emma is here right now.”

“What? Emma?”

Brian Chesky was surprised and got up.

Joe Gebbia was also flustered by his side.

Yoo-hyun wondered what was going on and turned his head. He saw a woman sneering at the entrance.

A woman with a ponytail scanned around fiercely.

Everyone avoided her gaze.

It was not fear, but embarrassment on their faces.

As she was about to yell, Yoo-hyun opened his mouth.

He had already figured out the situation and said it out loud.

“Emma, why don’t you sit down here and talk?”

“Who are you?”

Emma Johnson frowned at the unexpected intervention of a stranger.

Yoo-hyun smiled and said,

“I think I can help you.”

A moment later,

Emma Johnson sat on the sofa opposite Yoo-hyun with her arms crossed.

Joe Gebbia sat next to her, and Nathan Blecharczyk next to Yoo-hyun.

Brian Chesky handed Emma Johnson a coffee and quietly dragged a plastic chair over.

Screech.

In an awkward atmosphere, Yoo-hyun politely said,

“Emma, can I hear your story first?”

Then Emma Johnson began to vent her complaints as if she had been waiting for it.

“No, this time I had a guest who...”

Emma Johnson was an Airbnb host, that is, a homeowner.

She was the third host of Airbnb and had received quite a lot of guests.

The guests were problematic, but so was she. She had a rough personality.

Even without looking at the data, it was obvious that she had a lot of trouble.

Yoo-hyun reacted appropriately to her endless words.

“He was not a guest, but a complete thief.”

“Yes. This is the third time. And he denies stealing anything. It’s crazy. I can’t even install CCTV in my house.”

“You must have suffered a lot.”

Yoo-hyun nodded his head and Emma Johnson gained confidence and went on stronger.

“Don’t even say it. What the hell is Airbnb doing, not screening these guests?”

“I’m sorry. We’ve been neglecting our family too much.”

“Family?”

She asked as if surprised, and Yoo-hyun said,

“Of course. There’s no Airbnb without hosts.”

“Hmm, hmm, right. You know how much I’ve earned for you.”

Emma Johnson was not wrong.

She was one of the oldest hosts, who had been with Airbnb’s history.

She deserved to be treated accordingly.

With that in mind, Yoo-hyun asked,

“By the way, how much is the damage?”

Emma Johnson looked around and said,

“This time it’s 200 dollars, and it’s over 400 dollars if you add up everything so far.”

“Emma, that’s ridiculous...”

Nathan Blecharczyk tried to argue, but Yoo-hyun stopped him.

“Wait a minute. Emma, I’m really sorry.”

Then he took out some money from his wallet and put it on the table.

There were five 100-dollar bills.

“Wh, what is this...”

Emma Johnson’s eyes widened.

Joe Gebbia, who saw that, exclaimed in surprise.

“Steve.”

“Joe.”

Yoo-hyun called Joe Gebbia’s name briefly and put his index finger on his mouth.

He felt Yoo-hyun’s charisma for a moment and closed his mouth.

Brian Chesky and Nathan Blecharczyk were the same.

Yoo-hyun relaxed his expression and said to Emma Johnson,

“Please take this as compensation for your loss.”

“I didn’t come here to get money...”

“Don’t think of it as money, but as our heart.”

“...”

Emma Johnson blinked her eyes silently at Yoo-hyun, who bowed politely to her.

“I’m sorry for causing a lot of trouble to your family. I wasn’t prepared properly.”

“You don’t have to say that...”

Emma Johnson, who was flustered, nodded along.

She had been wild and rough like a mustang, but suddenly she turned into a gentle lamb.

Yoo-hyun saw that and was sure that she didn’t have any bad intentions or complaints against the Airbnb staff.

Judging by her tone, behavior, and reactions, she was likely to be working in a job that involved dealing with people directly.

It was inevitable to have emotional wounds when doing emotional labor all day long with customers.

How would she feel if she had to deal with stress even when she came home?

The mistake of the Airbnb guest had caused her more stress.

And what she needed to soothe that was not money, but recognition.

Her eyes, which were swayed by a few words, proved that Yoo-hyun's guess was true.

Meanwhile, the Airbnb staff were stunned by Emma Johnson's sudden change of attitude.

Then, Emma Johnson asked a question that came to her mind.

"Steve, is that Ferrari on the first floor yours?"

"Yes, it is."

"Then are you an investor?"

"I wouldn't call myself that. I'm just a fan of Airbnb."

Yoo-hyun waved his hand modestly, and Emma Johnson nodded as if she understood the situation.

"I see."

It seemed that there was some misunderstanding in between.

Apart from that, Yoo-hyun continued to talk with Emma Johnson in front of the Airbnb staff.

He hoped that they would find the answer they wanted in this conversation.

"When I first stayed at Brian's house..."

"Hahaha. That was so clumsy."

"Yes, it was. But it was such a great experience. When would I ever stay at a local's house like that?"

"Everyone says that. It's rewarding too."

Emma Johnson nodded as if she agreed.

She, who had come to the office in anger, was also an Airbnb host.

She had accumulated memories with countless guests over time.

Yoo-hyun spoke to her in a serious voice.

“Emma, thanks to you, people get to know the beauty of San Francisco.”

“You don’t have to say that much.”

He didn’t just compliment her, but gave value to her work.

“No, I mean it. You showed people that strangers are not strangers, but friends you haven’t met yet.”

“That’s...”

He sincerely acknowledged what she had done.

“Guests are not strangers, but friends you haven’t met yet. You did that.”

“Th-thank you. I’m embarrassed.”

Yoo-hyun greeted her again as he saw Emma Johnson stuttering.

“No, thank you.”

Yoo-hyun’s actions and words might have seemed over-the-top.

But Emma Johnson looked very touched.

His words had healed her wounds.

Maybe that’s why?

She thanked the other Airbnb staff as well.

“Thank you for giving me this opportunity. I’m also finding vitality these days thanks to Airbnb.”

Brian Chesky, Joe Gebbia, and Nathan Blecharczyk waved their arms at the same time in confusion.

“No, Emma.”

“We’re sorry we couldn’t do better.”

“Don’t say that.”

They cleared up their misunderstandings in a warm atmosphere.

Emma Johnson stood up from her seat and Yoo-hyun said to her.

“Emma, don’t forget that you’re our third family member.”

“Of course. I’m proud to be an early member.”

“We can’t just force pride on our family. We’ll prepare a nice gift for you soon.”

“Can I look forward to it?”

“Of course.”

Yoo-hyun nodded coolly and Emma Johnson smiled and left.

The money on the table was still there.

Yoo-hyun picked up the money and stopped her.

“Emma, you dropped your money.”

“No. I don’t think this is my money.”

“You can take it. You suffered damage.”

Yoo-hyun said again, but Emma Johnson shook her head.

“I just need to be more careful from now on. I’ve made money thanks to Airbnb anyway. I’ll think of it as taking some from there. Well then.”

She left a smile and disappeared.

“...”

The Airbnb staff watched her blankly.

Brian Chesky sat down with a thud and muttered.

“I feel sorry for Emma. I provoked her.”

“Don’t worry about it. She’s nice, but there are really bad hosts out there too.”

Yoo-hyun said casually and Nathan Blecharczyk asked in surprise.

“She’s nice?”

“Isn’t she?”

Yoo-hyun asked back and Nathan Blecharczyk gave a bitter smile.

Then he belatedly reached out his hand.

“It’s an honor to work with such an amazing friend. I’m Nathan.”

They didn’t need much explanation since they knew each other’s existence.

Yoo-hyun grabbed his hand and smiled.

“I’m Steve. I’m honored too.”

That’s how another new connection was made.

Chapter 303

The situation a while ago seemed to have been a big stimulus for the Airbnb staff.

Brian Chesky muttered to himself.

“Hosts are really important. We can’t do without them.”

“Right, Brian. Treating them like family might be more effective than investing more in advertising.”

Joe Gebbia quickly grasped the sincerity in Steve’s words.

“Steve, you mean that the hosts will promote Airbnb themselves?”

“Yeah. That’s right.”

“I agree. Think about Emma’s case...”

Nathan Blecharczyk nodded and brought up the topic of Steve’s conversation with Emma Johnson.

Joe Gebbia found a clue to solve the problem that was hidden in his words.

“If we make them feel like real family, we won’t need any promotion. They will do it for us.”

Brian Chesky accepted his words as the answer.

“Rewards are important, but we also need an event that will make them proud of being part of Airbnb.”

Steve had only thrown a stone.

But they were using the small ripple caused by the stone as a lever to create a product.

“Then, for that part...”

“Yeah. If we change it like that...”

They boldly pointed out the flaws and suggested solutions.

They supplemented the weak parts with endless ideas.

This process was very fast.

It was incomparable to the decision-making speed of large corporations.

“...”

Steve watched them with admiration.

They only needed time to blossom, but they were all gems that would shine anywhere.

In this small and shabby office, they were showing their potential.

After the conversation was somewhat organized, it was time.

Verbal help was important, but they needed more practical help than that.

Steve expressed his intention with his words.

“Brian, I’ll support you with a million dollars. It’s not enough, but it should cover the rent you owe here.”

“No, Steve. We can’t accept any more help from you.”

Brian Chesky shook his head, and Joe Gebbia also opposed him.

“You’ve done enough for us today. Thanks to you, I realized why I’m doing Airbnb.”

Steve had only supported them with a thousand dollars last time.

He got 5 percent for that, which was absolutely unreasonable.

Even if he couldn’t help them, it was fair to support them with the amount they had paid for their initial expenses.

Steve said with a bewildered expression.

“Why are you doing this? I’m also a major shareholder with 5 percent.”

“We only gave you 5 percent because we couldn’t give you more.”

Then Brian Chesky, who was always gentle, looked sorry.

He appreciated his intention to help, but business shouldn’t be done like that.

5 percent of the shares were really big.

“You have to focus more on getting investment in the future. Just take it for now.”

Steve insisted strongly, but Brian Chesky made an absurd suggestion.

“No way. Then I’ll give you another 5 percent.”

“What are you talking about? You can’t manage your shares like that if you’re doing business.”

This time Joe Gebbia stepped in.

“Yeah, Steve. Just take it. You’re one of us too.”

Nathan Blecharczyk, who was next to him, also joined in.

“I was honestly skeptical before I met Steve, but now I agree. Steve, I hope you stay with us.”

Steve was at a loss for words, and Brian Chesky easily settled the situation.

“We can lower our shares a little bit and give you 5 percent more. It’s no problem at all. Is that how we’re going to do it?”

“This is ridiculous...”

Steve was speechless for a moment.

As always, Airbnb friends’ decisions were impulsive and fast.

As a result, Steve got 10 percent of the shares.

It sounds like 10 percent, but it will be worth at least 3 trillion won in 10 years.

Maybe even sooner than that.

It was because Steve intervened and reduced their trial and error.

Steve thought about Airbnb’s future for a moment and Brian Chesky said to him.

“Let’s have a drink.”

“Yeah. We didn’t get to drink much last time.”

Joe Gebbia also chimed in.

Steve wanted it very much too.

When would he have a chance to be with these sparkling gems?

As Airbnb grew faster, their positions would also rise faster.

He wanted to have more honest conversations with them before that happened.

But Steve shook his head.

He got up from his seat and said,

“No way. Everyone get up from your seats.”

“Why?”

Brian Chesky asked and Steve mentioned what he saw in the investment report.

“Y Combinator (a Silicon Valley startup investment firm) presentation is next week, right?”

“Yeah.”

“I’ll help you out a bit.”

At Steve’s words, Brian Chesky looked nervous.

This was not on Steve’s schedule.

He came here just to check on his friends' well-being.

He didn't have to intervene.

Even if Steve didn't help them, they would eventually find the answer themselves.

The history of the past proved that.

But Steve's mind changed when he saw their hearts.

He felt like he was getting too much for giving them shares.

This was the least he could do to help them.

Steve checked their business plan first.

He then told Joe Gebbia, who was in charge of the business plan, his thoughts.

"This is..."

"Oh, I got that feedback too."

"Yeah. If you want to fix that part..."

They were smart, but two of them were designers and one was an engineer.

They couldn't keep up with Steve, who had 20 years of experience in the specialized field of business planning.

Joe Gebbia's face brightened as Steve's words continued.

Steve pointed out the problems while listening to the presentation.

"Our Airbnb is..."

Brian Chesky's presentation skills were reliable.

But they had some weaknesses to deal with the persistent attacks of the investors.

"Brian, let's change that part like this. What you need to do is..."

"Ah, I see. You mean to turn staying at someone else's house into a unique experience?"

"Yeah. You can highlight the disadvantages as advantages."

Brian Chesky quickly understood Steve's words.

They all felt like sponges, so Steve enjoyed teaching them.

Steve also gave advice to Nathan Blecharczyk, who became his friend later.

"Nathan, on the website, this part..."

“Okay. You mean to reduce the number of clicks as much as possible.”

“Yeah. And I think it would be better to focus on the California area first. What you need to do is...”

“How about offering a service to take pictures of the houses? I need to reflect that part.”

He also pointed out the improvement points of the website.

Nathan Blecharczyk was really fast.

He composed the screen in an instant with what Steve said.

It was amazing to watch.

That’s how the work that started unexpectedly lasted until night.

That night.

Steve faced Brian Chesky on the outdoor terrace of the office.

It was a very narrow space that could fit only two chairs.

Joe Gebbia was revising the business plan, and Nathan Blecharczyk was busy changing the website.

Brian Chesky handed him a coffee and said,

“Steve, get some sleep. It’s uncomfortable, but you’ll do fine.”

“No. I’ll go in a little bit. The night air is nice, what are you talking about?”

Steve looked at the sky and said, and Brian Chesky, who was looking at the same place, blurted out his sincerity.

“I can see the direction better thanks to you. Thank you.”

“Thank you for what?”

Steve smiled as he recalled the moments he had spent with Brian Chesky in the past.

The words of gratitude he had given him came back after time passed.

It was a very pleasant moment, like a cool breeze.

Zing.

Then, Steve’s phone rang.

He received a text message and said to Brian Chesky,

“I sent the money to your account. It will be there in a few days.”

It wasn't that much money, but Steve hoped it would help them.

Now he was not just a grateful person, but a friend who shared a boat with them.

Then Brian Chesky asked in surprise.

"Now? How did you send it?"

"I have someone who can send it to Korea."

"You have a secretary too?"

"Not a secretary, but something like that."

"Oh, I see."

Steve dodged the question, and Brian Chesky nodded as if he understood.

It seemed like he misunderstood something, but it wasn't a big deal.

At that time.

Park Young-hoon, who was in Korea, had sent money to the account that Steve had asked for earlier.

-Transfer of \$20,000 completed.

At first it was \$10,000, but soon it changed to \$20,000.

To send this money, he sold some of Steve's assets.

But since cash didn't come out right away, he changed some of the cash he was managing into dollars.

He also went to the bank to deal with the international transfer because it was hard to do it by computer.

He finished all that work and Park Young-hoon chuckled.

"I'm his secretary, what?"

Zing.

Then, a text message came to his phone.

-Hyung, thank you. I'll buy you a drink. Definitely with liquor that you like.

Park Young-hoon's eyes widened at the word liquor.

For a moment, his mouth curled up longingly.

"That bastard has some manners after all."

Steve closed his eyes on the folding bed in the corner of Airbnb's office.

It was surprisingly good quality for sleeping.

He felt rather refreshed when he woke up.

“Steve, did you sleep well?”

Brian Chesky asked him as he got up and tidied up his bed.

He looked like he had stayed up all night without sleeping.

“Yeah. Did you stay up all night?”

“Yeah. Hard work pays off. Come here.”

Brian Chesky showed his unique smile and gestured with his hand.

Steve sat down and Brian Chesky quickly brought him coffee.

Then he threw him a question that he had been thinking about all night.

“When I present...”

“That’s good. It would be better if you reflected that part.”

Steve nodded and he smiled broadly.

He was such a positive and passionate man.

Squeak.

Then, the door opened and Joe Gebbia and Nathan Blecharczyk came in with something in both hands.

“What did you buy so much for breakfast?”

At Steve’s question, Brian Chesky said behind them as they put food on the table,

“Airbnb needs breakfast.”

“Did only I sleep?”

Steve asked incredulously and Joe Gebbia apologized as he took out bread from the plastic bag.

“I feel like I made the guest suffer too much.”

“What are you talking about? We’re all hosts.”

Steve shook his head right away.

Nathan Blecharczyk, who flopped down on the sofa, smiled and said,

“That’s right. We’re on the same team.”

“Of course.”

Steve gave him a thumbs up with a smile.

They had a pleasant conversation with a delicious breakfast.

And now it was time to say goodbye.

“Steve, where are you going now?”

“I need to wash up first.”

“Why? Do you have a date or something?”

But the answer that came back was absurd.

Joe Gebbia, who was his close friend, pinpointed that part.

“Hey, do you have to wash up for a date?”

“It could happen.”

The two of them bickered and Nathan Blecharczyk gestured with his hand.

“Go ahead. You can’t go if you get tangled up with these guys.”

“Okay. Take care.”

Steve smiled and greeted him, and he also smiled.

“Yeah. Have a good date.”

Steve was about to turn around.

Brian Chesky, who came to his senses, waved his hand.

“Steve, I’m looking forward to it. I’ll show you a good result.”

“Trust us once.”

Joe Gebbia also added his words.

“Then. Of course. See you again.”

Steve smiled and nodded.

And he shook hands warmly with his friends.

Chapter 304

That afternoon.

Yoo-hyun parked his car at the public parking lot in San Francisco’s Union Square and walked to the meeting place.

He felt nostalgic as he saw the scenery of downtown San Francisco, which he had not visited for a long time.

He remembered the time when he came here on a business trip with Jung Da Hye.

-If there is one place you have to visit when you come here...

At that time, Jung Da Hye used her experience of living in San Francisco to guide Yoo-hyun.

Thanks to her, he enjoyed her help whenever he moved or ate.

But that was all.

Work was his priority, and shopping or sightseeing did not interest him.

Why was he so narrow-minded back then?

Buzzing.

He could have made good memories like the couples who were happily taking pictures on the street, but he failed to do that.

Yoo-hyun chuckled and shook off his thoughts.

"I can do it one by one from now on, right?"

His steps were light as a feather.

At that moment, Jung Da Hye was standing in the center of Union Square.

A large heart-shaped sculpture was behind her.

She sighed among the bustling crowd.

-They say even brushing past someone is fate. It's not easy to see you by chance in another city, so let's have a cup of tea.

It was because of the promise she made with Yoo-hyun a while ago.

She wanted to refuse, but she felt uneasy about the roses she received last time.

She had a personality that could not stand being indebted to anyone, so she had to pay him back somehow.

"Well, it's just a cup of tea, what's the big deal?"

She muttered to herself and nodded her head.

Soon, Jung Da Hye caught Yoo-hyun's eye as he stood in front of the heart sculpture.

She wore jeans, a white T-shirt, and sneakers.

It was a casual outfit that he had never seen her wear before, but her beauty was still the same.

She did not look very happy, maybe because she did not want to come here.

But she was punctual as always.

Yoo-hyun waved his hand first.

“Da Hye.”

She turned her head in surprise at his loud voice.

“What are you doing in this crowd?”

“I’m so happy to see you.”

“Stop it. Don’t act like we’re close.”

Jung Da Hye stretched out her hand and drew a line.

She gave off a defensive vibe.

Yoo-hyun smiled and pointed at the heart sculpture.

“But we’re at a famous spot, let’s take a picture.”

“Why would I take a picture with you?”

“No, I mean, can you take a picture of me?”

Yoo-hyun cheekily handed her his phone, and Jung Da Hye blinked in disbelief.

She had no reason to refuse, so she held up his phone and posed for him.

She even looked serious.

“One, two, three.”

Yoo-hyun made a pose according to her signal.

He put his fists together in front of his chest with his thumb and index finger sticking out.

It was a pose that looked like any other tourist, with a smile on his lips.

Snap.

She handed him back his phone and casually asked him.

“What were you doing with your fingers?”

“Oh, this? It’s a heart.”

“A heart?”

“Look.”

Yoo-hyun casually approached her and crossed his index and thumb fingers to make a small heart shape.

Jung Da Hye snorted in disbelief.

“That’s not a heart.”

“You don’t know the trend. This pose will be very popular later.”

“Whatever. Let’s just have some tea and get it over with.”

Jung Da Hye lowered her head and walked ahead of him.

Yoo-hyun followed her and said,

“What should I do? I’m so hungry because I didn’t eat lunch.”

“What? I thought you wanted to have tea.”

“Tea is for dessert.”

Jung Da Hye was about to argue back when Yoo-hyun changed the subject.

“Oh, there’s a place that’s famous for pasta over there.”

Jung Da Hye answered according to the changed topic as if she was dragged by Yoo-hyun’s pace.

“That place is fully booked.”

“It’s okay. I have a reservation.”

“What?”

“We have to hurry. The time is almost up. You didn’t eat either, right?”

Yoo-hyun pushed Jung Da Hye quickly.

For a moment, wrinkles formed on her chin like walnuts.

It was proof that she had been patient for quite a while.

She gave a hollow laugh and asked coldly,

“Why are you so pushy?”

“Should I cancel?”

Yoo-hyun obediently said, and Jung Da Hye frowned.

“You said the time is almost up. If you cancel now, you’ll cause trouble.”

“You’re right. Then let’s go.”

“...”

In the end, Jung Da Hye had no choice but to follow Yoo-hyun, who had the upper hand.

A little later, Yoo-hyun sat at the corner window seat of the pasta restaurant.

It was a restaurant with a sea atmosphere, and it was crowded with people.

Yoo-hyun said to Jung Da Hye, who sat across from him,

“They say the shrimp pasta here is good. What do you want to order?”

He asked as if he expected her to order something.

Jung Da Hye, who was still debating whether to eat or not, answered first.

“I’ll take care of it myself.”

She felt like she was being dragged by the man across from her.

Yoo-hyun smiled and raised his hand.

“Okay. I got it.”

Then, a waiter came by.

“Are you ready to order?”

“Yes, I’ll have the rose shrimp pasta. Add basil and grated cheese. And you, Da Hye?”

Yoo-hyun quickly ordered.

Jung Da Hye hesitated for a moment.

It was exactly the same order as her style.

She slowly nodded her head.

“Same for me.”

“Okay. How about the side dishes?”

The waiter continued to ask, and Yoo-hyun perfectly reflected Jung Da Hye’s preferences again.

“One shrimp fry, and raspberry ade with finely crushed ice. What do you want for your drink, Da Hye?”

Jung Da Hye snorted in disbelief.

She hated the feeling of being dragged along so much that she wanted to answer the opposite.

But in the end, she had no choice but to nod her head.

It would be absurd not to drink raspberry ade here.

“Same for me.”

After the waiter left, Jung Da Hye asked him suspiciously.

“Is this really your first time here?”

It was ridiculous that Yoo-hyun asked her to meet him, saying he didn't know San Francisco well and wanted her to introduce him.

Yoo-hyun evaded cheekily.

“Why?”

“Well, you ordered like you've been here several times.”

“It's the internet age. Of course, I did some research.”

“...”

Jung Da Hye made a dumbfounded expression, and Yoo-hyun showed her a coupon from his wallet.

“I also have a discount coupon here.”

“Where did you get this?”

“Let's go to the next building and have some dessert after we finish eating. I have a discount coupon there too.”

Yoo-hyun went one step further, and Jung Da Hye came to her senses.

She drew a line again.

She showed her will not to be dragged along anymore.

“No. Just the meal.”

“Banana cheese cake with extra cheese on top is so delicious, you know?”

Yoo-hyun's question made Jung Da Hye's pupils tremble for a moment.

It was her life dessert that she had said with her own mouth.

But Jung Da Hye shook her head with a firm patience.

“No. You came a long way, so I'll pay for the meal and end it.”

The meal was delicious as expected.

Jung Da Hye was not talkative, but she could not hide the smile that leaked out when she ate.

She still had the habit of swinging her arms whenever she ate something delicious.

She said with an awkward expression after eating for a while.

“Well, it tastes good.”

“Yes. Eat a lot.”

Yoo-hyun pushed the plate with shrimp fry in front of her.

He remembered what she had said here in the past.

-The shrimp pasta here is so good. It's amazing when you add basil and cheese powder to the pasta. And what about the shrimp fry?

She must be thinking the same thing while eating now.

He felt happy just by looking at her eating so well.

His mother's words came to his mind.

I'm full just by watching you eat.

Yoo-hyun felt like he understood what that meant now.

He was happy because Jung Da Hye seemed happy.

It was a small but important feeling that he had never felt before.

Yoo-hyun was enjoying his small happiness when it happened.

A loud laughter came from the next table.

“Hahaha.”

He turned his head and saw a bald white man with some muscles.

Other people also glanced at him, but he didn't care at all.

He laughed even louder as if he wanted them to leave the restaurant.

“Puhahaha.”

There are trashy people like this everywhere.

Then, Yoo-hyun and the man's eyes met as he shook his head in disgust.

The man flashed his eyes as if he had found prey.

He pulled his eyelids sideways and said,

“Hey, yellow monkey.”

Everyone at the other tables saw it too.

Yoo-hyun snorted in disbelief, and Jung Da Hye sitting across from him comforted him.

“Just ignore him.”

Yoo-hyun didn’t want to ruin the mood either.

But then, another word came from the side.

“Ho ho. Sexy monkey girl. Come here.”

The mockery thrown at Jung Da Hye with a lewd smile broke Yoo-hyun’s patience.

He glared at the guy fiercely.

“If you say one more word, you’re dead.”

“...”

A strong aura spread from Yoo-hyun’s eyes.

The man flinched and looked around nervously.

Then he scowled and got up.

“What? You’re picking a fight with me, you freak?”

Yoo-hyun had seen many guys like this before.

They were scumbags who would stick to him until the end if he let them be.

He needed to cut them off right away from the start.

“Stop making trouble here and follow me out.”

He got up from his seat and gestured him to follow him

Buzzing

It was a tense situation between Yoo-hyun and the man.

Then, the manager who was managing the other side of the restaurant came running at the waiter’s urgent request.

She was a woman with a ponytail and a fierce look in her eyes.

“Excuse me.”

She stretched out her arm and tried to intervene in the situation right away.

At that moment, she saw Yoo-hyun and her eyes widened.

“Steve?”

Yoo-hyun was also surprised to see her.

It was Emma Johnson, whom he had seen at the Airbnb office yesterday.

He thought she would be doing some people-related work, but he didn't know she was working here.

He was happy to see her for a moment, but he looked at the man across from him and said,

“Emma, I'll handle this. I can't stand this.”

Then, the people at the other tables shouted one by one.

They all directed their voices at the man who was confronting Yoo-hyun.

“This guy started it with racist remarks.”

“No matter what, you shouldn't say such low-level things.”

“Please kick him out.”

They were people with proper conscience.

Of course, not all foreigners were racist.

There was trash everywhere.

Emma Johnson heard more stories from the waiter.

She glared at the man and snapped.

“Get out of here. Racism is not acceptable for any reason.”

“What? Why should I go? Kick those monkeys out.”

The man snapped back as he got angry.

Emma Johnson's face turned red with anger and she raised her middle finger at him.

“Fuck you. Get lost. You bastard.”

The restaurant went silent for a moment at her tremendous force.

Even Yoo-hyun was taken aback.

Chapter 305

I think I understood perfectly why the Airbnb family was stunned by Emma Johnson yesterday.

“...”

When the flustered man was stammering, the employees next to him also surrounded the man.

“This is not a place for you to be. Get out of here right now.”

“Why do I have to get out?”

When the man argued again, Emma Johnson’s thunderous roar fell.

“Get lost.”

With that one word, the situation was neatly resolved.

Clap clap clap clap clap.

The customers next to them applauded.

Whoo~

There was also someone who whistled.

At that moment, a smile appeared on Emma Johnson’s face, which had been fierce beyond measure.

She spoke to Yoo-hyun in a very tender voice.

It was a perfect change of attitude.

“Steve, I’m so sorry. Sometimes there are trash like that.”

“No. Thank you. Thanks to you, I can finish my meal.”

“Thank you for understanding.”

Emma Johnson thanked Yoo-hyun.

Then she apologized to Jung Da-hye and went back.

There was an awkward air on the table.

Jung Da-hye, who had been silent for a while, opened her mouth.

“That wasn’t a good way to solve it.”

“I can’t just sit still and listen to that.”

“That’s true, but there’s nothing to gain from fighting. What are you going to do with winning?”

Yoo-hyun listened to Jung Da-hye’s words and recalled his past memories.

In a similar situation, Yoo-hyun had uttered the same opinion as her.

-Let it go. There’s no reason to get involved with those guys and ruin your reputation.

In the past, Yoo-hyun was the one who avoided it for his own sake.

It wasn't a bad decision.

But he didn't want to do that now.

He had no reason to pretend to be calm while watching his loved one being ridiculed.

Was that why?

A different word came out of Yoo-hyun's mouth than in the past.

"I'm not trying to win. I'm trying to protect."

"..."

"Oh, don't worry. I would have won even if I fought."

Yoo-hyun smiled brightly and joked.

But Jung Da-hye's stiff expression did not loosen.

She didn't say a word until the meal was over.

She still hated leaving food, so she cleaned her plate.

Yoo-hyun did the same.

Jung Da-hye opened her mouth after finishing her meal.

"As I said before, I'll pay for the meal."

It was a word that she would wrap up today's meeting.

Knowing her stubbornness, Yoo-hyun agreed first.

"Yes. Let's do that."

Jung Da-hye called an employee for payment after hearing Yoo-hyun's answer.

Then the manager came instead of the employee.

Emma Johnson spoke to Jung Da-hye, who handed over the bill and cash on the table.

"I'm so sorry for the inconvenience earlier. I won't take this food money."

"What? No, no. I ate it very deliciously. Please take it."

Jung Da-hye waved her hand in surprise, but Emma Johnson was adamant.

"No. It's okay."

Jung Da-hye was not someone who wanted such a freebie.

She thought she had to pay back what she owed.

She chose another way instead.

“Then take this as a tip. Thank you for your service today.”

“It’s okay. We caused such a nuisance, and it doesn’t make sense to take money.”

Emma Johnson shook her head even then.

Her tone was gentle, but her strong eyes gave a feeling that she would never accept it.

“But still...”

Emma Johnson smiled brightly at Yoo-hyun behind Jung Da-hye who was flustered.

“Steve, have a nice date with your girlfriend.”

“Yes. I will. Thank you for today.”

“Huh?”

Jung Da-hye made an incredulous expression at Yoo-hyun’s too natural answer.

Whether or not, Emma Johnson and Yoo-hyun said goodbye.

Maybe because of the common denominator of Airbnb, they looked quite close.

“Have a good time. And please come again next time.”

“Emma, you too. Then I’ll go.”

Yoo-hyun left a smile and went out of the building.

She followed him with an astonished look on her face and Yoo-hyun spoke to her.

“It seems like you didn’t pay for the meal?”

“...”

He asked her casually with a good-natured look at her incredulous face.

“I have a place I want to go, can’t we just go there?”

She hated being in debt by nature, so the direction of choice was decided.

Jung Da-hye sighed and checked her watch.

Then she said briefly.

“One hour. No more than that.”

“That should be fine.”

Yoo-hyun smiled brightly.

Meanwhile, an employee in the restaurant asked the manager.

“Manager, didn’t the man pay earlier?”

“Yeah. He paid. You also got a tip.”

“Then why did you say you wouldn’t take the money? Oh. Did the man deliberately...”

The employee who was asking clapped his hands as if he realized it late.

Emma Johnson smiled gently, which she didn’t usually show.

“Yeah. He’s being considerate of his girlfriend. Isn’t he really sensible?”

Her eyes turned to the couple standing side by side outside the window.

The place Yoo-hyun wanted to go with Jung Da-hye was the Golden Gate Bridge.

The Golden Gate Bridge was a bridge that was called the symbol of San Francisco, and it was a place that many tourists visited.

Yoo-hyun didn’t have any particular thoughts about what to do there.

-Manager, don’t you want to go for a drive on the Golden Gate Bridge? I think it would be really refreshing to feel the cool breeze there.

He wanted to fulfill her wish that he couldn’t accept in the past with a busy excuse.

He wanted to spend his last day in San Francisco like that.

Yoo-hyun left Jung Da-hye, who was on the phone, and went into the parking lot.

He came out in a car and saw her back waiting outside the parking lot.

She was still on the phone.

It was when Yoo-hyun was settling the parking fee at the entrance of the parking lot.

A motorcycle passed by her.

“Ahh!”

Her scream and the motorcycle disappeared at a fast speed.

Yoo-hyun stepped on the accelerator in surprise.

He parked his car in front of her and said.

“Da-hye. Are you okay?”

“Yes. I’m fine. Whew, whew. I’m fine.”

She quickly calmed her emotions with her unique breathing.

She didn’t seem to be hurt by Yoo-hyun’s eyes either.

But her handbag that she was holding was gone.

She was pickpocketed, but she didn’t show it.

She always calmly judged the situation, but Yoo-hyun wasn’t.

“Get in.”

Yoo-hyun quickly gestured.

He drove quickly after putting Jung Da-hye in the passenger seat.

Vroom vroom vroom.

Jung Da-hye asked in surprise at Yoo-hyun who was driving fast.

“Why are you driving so fast?”

“Driving should be bold.”

“If it’s because of my handbag, don’t worry. It’s not expensive.”

She had lost her handbag before.

She was calm then, too, and Yoo-hyun didn’t care much.

He only found out later that she had lost a photo of her family memories and was having a hard time.

At that time, Yoo-hyun didn’t do anything for her.

He wanted to make a different choice this time.

“No. I just like speed.”

Yoo-hyun sped up casually.

“...”

“Don’t worry. I’ll take you safely.”

Yoo-hyun smiled outwardly and muttered inwardly.

‘You’re dead.’

Vroom vroom vroom.

The sports car had a good output.

Soon, Yoo-hyun was able to find the motorcycle that was running ahead.

Jung Da-hye asked in surprise at Yoo-hyun who was driving fast.

“It’s okay. Really.”

“I know. I’ll just follow him for now.”

“No, you said you wanted to go to the Golden Gate Bridge.”

“I changed my mind. The Oakland Bridge is much better.”

The motorcycle was heading towards the Oakland Bridge.

Jung Da-hye made an incredulous expression at Yoo-hyun’s words.

Whether or not, Yoo-hyun sped up.

It was a big road and there weren’t many cars, so it wasn’t hard to follow the motorcycle.

The sports car was good enough.

Instead, when he opened the passenger window, the wind came in a bit strong.

Yoo-hyun apologized to Jung Da-hye and shouted.

“Hey. Give me the handbag.”

His words were buried by the loud wind, but his presence was clearly revealed.

The pickpocket glanced at Yoo-hyun and ran faster.

It was still in Yoo-hyun’s palm.

He didn’t cling to him roughly, but it was enough to pressure him.

The length of the Oakland Bridge was 13.5 kilometers.

There was enough distance, so Yoo-hyun thought he would keep teasing him like this.

It was the best solution for him to give up.

But as the motorcycle ran next to the passenger seat, Jung Da-hye looked anxious.

She held the safety bar tightly with her hand.

Bang bang bang.

The motorcycle moved around trying to get away.

Yoo-hyun blocked him persistently.

“Fuck you.”

Finally, the pickpocket threw Jung Da-hye’s handbag towards the sea.

Whoosh.

The flying handbag caught on a rebar that caught the bridge railing.

Creak creak creak creak creak creak creak creak creak creak creak creak
creak creak creak creak creak creak creak

Yoo-hyun stopped his car on the shoulder of the road.

Jung Da-hye said in surprise.

“Yoo-hyun, it’s dangerous.”

“I’ll just get some fresh air for a moment.”

There were often people who parked their cars and rested on the shoulder of the Oakland Bridge.

So parking the car itself was not a problem.

The handbag was also the same.

If it had fallen into the sea, he would have had to think about it, but it was still hanging safely.

He just had to reach out and get it. There was no reason to be afraid of such a thing.

He approached the railing and put his hand between the rebars.

He saw that the handbag was barely hanging on.

If the wind blew once, it would have fallen into the sea 50 meters below for sure.

Yoo-hyun picked up the handbag and sighed with relief.

Fortunately, there was no big problem with the appearance of the handbag either.

It was when Yoo-hyun came back with his handbag.

Jung Da-hye was standing next to the car.

Her expression looked complicated.

“Here you go.”

When Yoo-hyun handed over the handbag, she took it without a word.

“...”

In an awkward atmosphere, Yoo-hyun handed over his phone.

Then he smiled brightly and asked.

“Can you take one picture for me?”

“Ha.”

She gave a hollow laugh and took his phone.

Then she posed more seriously than before to take a picture.

She said as she looked at Yoo-hyun making a heart with his fingers.

“One, two, three.”

Snap snap snap snap snap snap snap snap snap snap snap snap snap snap snap snap snap snap snap

His picture was taken with the long bridge connecting San Francisco and Oakland as the background.

Yoo-hyun wanted to finish his schedule like this.

He saw that her expression looked complicated enough.

But she surprised him with an unexpected word.

“Do you want to have a cup of coffee?”

“Sure.”

He wasn't the one to refuse that.

Chapter 306

Yoo-hyun moved to a cafe near Jung Da Hye's accommodation.

When he arrived at the cafe, it was already an hour past the time Jung Da Hye had mentioned.

She had given up her time for him.

He knew it was not an easy decision for her.

Was it because she liked him?

That was definitely not the case.

But it was not a hostile feeling either.

Yoo-hyun did not think too much and kept his mind light.

He was happy just to be with her more.

She, who had been drinking coffee silently, spoke with a calm expression.

“Thank you for the handbag.”

“I heard enough thanks from you earlier.”

“But you were too reckless.”

“I heard that too.”

He had already been scolded several times, so Yoo-hyun answered casually.

He hoped she would not take it too seriously.

Seeing Yoo-hyun, Jung Da Hye sighed.

Her chin, which had wrinkles under her pursed lips, showed.

He was testing her patience hard.

Yoo-hyun said bluntly to her.

“But thanks to that, I found the handbag.”

“It was not worth the risk.”

There was worry in Jung Da Hye’s sharp words.

Yoo-hyun countered with an answer that reflected his current values.

“I would have regretted it if I didn’t act. I don’t want to leave such regrets in this life.”

“So you almost fought?”

This time, Jung Da Hye brought up what happened at the restaurant.

She was the type who never backed down once an argument started.

But this was not a situation where they were competing for work.

Rather, it felt similar to when lovers bickered.

Unlike his past attitude of ignoring her, Yoo-hyun gladly confronted her.

“At least I didn’t have to hear any more mockery. If I hadn’t, they would have been persistent.”

“You were lucky. In a different situation, you could have gotten hurt for nothing.”

“That luck came because I acted.”

“If you didn’t act, you wouldn’t have needed luck in the first place.”

“Are you sure about that?”

At Yoo-hyun's question, Jung Da Hye quickly expressed her thoughts.

Her words were fast but clear, and they stuck in Yoo-hyun's ears.

“Yes. I...”

“I disagree. That's...”

Yoo-hyun also did not back down and answered.

They revealed their thoughts without holding back and argued fiercely.

It might have looked like they were fighting from the outside.

But this was not a fight to win or lose.

There was only a wish for the other person in their words, and there was no malice at all.

Their conversation lasted until the coffee cooled down.

Jung Da Hye, who had been heated up for a while, sighed.

“Let's stop. It's not worth getting excited over.”

“I'm having fun.”

“What?”

When Jung Da Hye asked incredulously, Yoo-hyun said with a good-natured smile.

“Don't people get closer by fighting?”

It was not just a casual remark, but his sincere feeling.

Thanks to that, he could know more clearly what he didn't know about her in the past.

More than anything, he enjoyed talking with her.

It was high-level and interesting.

There was no way Jung Da Hye didn't feel the same emotion as Yoo-hyun did.

She wrinkled her chin again and spat out in a stiff voice.

She seemed to be trying to push him away on purpose.

“No. We just confirmed how different we are.”

“People who are different tend to get along better. Even magnets stick better with N and S poles.”

At Yoo-hyun's witty reply, Jung Da Hye gave a hollow laugh.

"Ha. Are you always so easygoing about everything?"

"Do you know what ilche-yusim-jo is?"

When Yoo-hyun leaned forward and asked with a grin, Jung Da Hye chuckled.

"You must be happy, being able to relax your mind like that."

"Yes. Everything depends on how you think. Don't be too anxious about things."

"I never thought about our relationship."

Jung Da Hye misinterpreted Yoo-hyun's pace and said something irrelevant.

He didn't miss that.

Yoo-hyun teased her heart playfully.

"Haha. Our relationship? Are you already thinking that far?"

"No way."

"Then I'll think about it too. It's not an easy problem."

Yoo-hyun pretended to be serious while saying that.

Jung Da Hye drank the cold coffee as if she was burning inside.

"Let's stop. It's late."

Then she got up from her seat.

It was already dark outside.

That meant they had a long conversation for a long time.

Yoo-hyun reached out his hand to her who got up.

"If you ever need someone to fight with, call me anytime."

For a moment, wrinkles appeared on Jung Da Hye's chin again.

"Enough."

She hesitated for a moment, but turned her body sharply.

But she didn't forget to tidy up her seat.

Yoo-hyun smiled as he watched her.

He didn't say a single sweet word, but he felt warm in his chest.

That night, Yoo-hyun spent his last schedule at a hotel near San Francisco airport.

He wanted to spend the last time quietly.

Yoo-hyun sat on a chair on the outdoor terrace in light clothes.

The night view of San Francisco spread out in the distance.

Union Square where he met Jung Da Hye, Oakland Bridge where he drove, came into his eyes one by one.

The moments he spent with her came to his mind in the fragrant coffee aroma.

She still liked delicious things and was still sharp.

She had the same personality that couldn't buy what she owed.

"Her delicate nature is still the same."

Yoo-hyun smiled as he recalled the last conversation he had with her.

She was sharp and hard on the outside, but not on the inside.

She was constantly tightening herself to hide her fragile side.

He couldn't comfort her in that part in the past.

But not anymore.

He had a chance, and Yoo-hyun was determined to fix it.

At the same time.

Jung Da Hye, who was sitting on the sofa in her accommodation, held her handbag tightly.

It was not very cheap, but it was not worth risking danger for it.

"What is this?"

She still couldn't understand the man she met in the afternoon.

He was too reckless and absurd.

He was too different from her, who was cold and rational.

Yet strangely, he kept bothering her.

Why was that?

She was thinking for a moment when it happened.

Thud.

A wallet fell from her handbag.

When she picked up the open wallet, a photo inside it stuck out a little.

She took out the photo and looked at it.

It was a family photo she hadn't seen in a long time.

"At least I saved this photo."

Jung Da Hye's expression was wistful as she looked at the photo.

The next day.

As Yoo-hyun entered the San Francisco airport, someone waved his hand at him.

He recognized the man with sunglasses right away and chuckled.

"You didn't have to come to see me off."

"I won't see you for a while, so I couldn't do that."

Shin Kyung Wook, the director, smiled and replied.

He didn't do anything special for coming.

They enjoyed a leisurely cup of coffee and chatted casually.

"What did you do in San Francisco..."

"Hehe. Did you? I was..."

These small moments were very happy for Yoo-hyun.

Time passed quickly, and the airport speaker announced.

-Passengers boarding flight KE0025 to Korea, please...

Yoo-hyun got up from his seat and shook hands with Shin Kyung Wook.

"Take care, and see you soon."

"Sure. And thank you."

"For what?"

When Yoo-hyun asked, Shin Kyung Wook said with an affectionate look.

"For being a good colleague."

"..."

His words from the mouth of his respected boss pierced Yoo-hyun's heart.

A relationship he could never have dreamed of in the past was unfolding before his eyes.

And those words gave him a meaning to stay with him in the future.

Yoo-hyun said sincerely.

“I’m a person who believes that I have to keep my faith with my colleagues.”

“So am I.”

The two men’s hands tightened.

They exchanged smiles filled with trust.

After finishing his schedule in San Francisco and returning to Korea, Yoo-hyun took a day off to rest.

Thanks to Kang Jun Ki, who lent him his house and came home late from work, it was possible.

When he woke up in the morning, there was food on the small table.

He picked up the post-it next to the food.

-Lucky kid who plays, eats, and sleeps. Just eat something for breakfast.

It was a message left by Kang Jun Ki, who left for work early in the morning.

He was envious that Yoo-hyun didn’t have to go to work until today.

He said that, but the food he prepared was quite nice.

Yoo-hyun laughed softly and picked up a spoon.

“That guy will get married and be loved.”

Thanks to that, the morning he started anew was quite solid.

He had some room now that he had finished a big job.

Yoo-hyun sat at a cafe and replied to each of the messages that had piled up.

He also finished contacting those he had postponed.

There were so many places to contact that it took quite some time to finish the work.

The next place Yoo-hyun headed to was Number One Gym.

He had some opportunities, but he couldn’t stop by because he was busy.

The gym people could have been disappointed.

That was why he brought boxes of red ginseng in both hands.

Creak.

The moment he opened the door and entered the gym,

People were sitting on the floor in a circle eating something.

It was not mealtime, so Yoo-hyun tilted his head.

Then, the gym owner raised his hand when he saw Yoo-hyun.

“Oh, did Yoo-hyun come?”

“Yes. Hello.”

Yoo-hyun greeted him and the gym owner nodded and resumed his chopstick work.

Everyone acted as if they were not surprised by Yoo-hyun’s arrival.

They treated him like someone they met yesterday.

It felt like this was typical of the gym, and Yoo-hyun smiled lightly and said,

“I’m back.”

“Yeah. Come and eat with us.”

The gym owner casually accepted his words, and Yoo-hyun put down the red ginseng boxes next to him.

The gym owner, who was a red ginseng maniac, saw that and said indifferently,

“Why did you buy this?”

“Just thought it would be good for everyone.”

“That’s nice too, but nothing beats rice.”

Then Yoo-hyun noticed familiar containers in his eyes.

They were side dish containers from his mother’s store.

There were huge containers stacked up next to them.

Kang Dong Sik, who was chewing on his mouth, said,

“We don’t eat delivery food anymore. It only makes us fat and ruins our stomachs.”

“That’s right. You have to take care of your diet if you want to exercise.”

Oh Jung Wook also chimed in, and Yoo-hyun asked curiously as he sat down next to them,

“Shouldn’t it be better without seasoning then?”

“No. It’s not tasty without it. It’s just right.”

“I see.”

Yoo-hyun nodded for now at the answer that seemed out of sync somehow.

Eating like this would make them gain weight no matter what.

It was the same principle as elephants maintaining their large size by eating only grass.

No wonder Oh Jung Wook’s belly looked bigger than before.

Yoo-hyun sent him a worried look when the gym owner gestured with his chin.

“If you’re not going to eat, warm up your body. Let me see how much your skills have dropped.”

“Yes. I understand.”

Yoo-hyun nodded and went to the dressing room to change his clothes.

Then, a man who came out of the dressing room brushed past Yoo-hyun.

He was short and had a gentle face, and he bowed his head to Yoo-hyun.

“Hello.”

“Hello.”

Yoo-hyun also bowed his head in response to the polite attitude of the man.

He seemed to be a new member.

Chapter 307

When Yoo-hyun came out after changing his clothes, the meal was already cleared away.

And on the ring, there was the man he had seen earlier.

The gym manager gave Yoo-hyun a playful smile and said,

“You know it’s our tradition that the youngest tests the newbies, right?”

“Am I a newbie?”

“Of course. You’ve been away for so long, you have to reset as a newbie. If you don’t pass here, you’ll be the youngest again, Yoo-hyun.”

The gym manager handed him a pair of gloves with a forced tone.

Yoo-hyun took the thick gloves and chuckled.

“Got it.”

“As expected. I knew you would accept. Let’s go up.”

The gym manager smiled and gestured toward the ring.

Yoo-hyun climbed up without hesitation.

He didn’t expect to have a match, but this was what he wanted.

He also wanted to sweat heavily after a long time.

The gym manager who joined him on the ring said,

“Your opponent’s name is Lee Jangwoo. Jangwoo, when did you join?”

The gym manager turned his head to Lee Jangwoo, who gave a short answer.

“It’s been two months.”

“I see. This is Han Yoo-hyun. You’ve seen him in the article before, right?”

“Yes. I did.”

Lee Jangwoo’s eyes sparkled at the mention of the article.

Yoo-hyun gave a hollow laugh at the sudden reference to the article.

Regardless, the gym manager went on to intimidate him.

“Right. He’s the fearsome guy who took down three thugs with one flying kick.”

“I know.”

“He’s your senior who’s testing you right now. You can go easy on him, can’t you?”

The gym manager used some strange logic to provoke his fighting spirit.

It was a ridiculous scene, but Lee Jangwoo was serious.

His voice even became stronger.

“I can’t.”

“Okay.”

Bang.

The gym manager slapped Lee Jangwoo’s back and smiled at Yoo-hyun.

“Yoo-hyun, don’t be a newbie again.”

“I won’t.”

Yoo-hyun calmly answered and put on his gloves.

The soft feeling was not bad.

Was it because of the gym manager's stimulation?

He felt a fierce aura from Lee Jangwoo, who looked docile.

Yoo-hyun adjusted his posture and stared at his opponent with a serious look.

He was short and sturdy, a typical infighter style.

His stance was quite stable for a two-month experience.

Especially his calf muscles were impressive.

Ding.

It was the moment when the bell rang.

Wham.

Lee Jangwoo charged like a bull with his body lowered.

His momentum was no joke.

He was so fast that even Yoo-hyun had to back off.

Swish.

He didn't miss Yoo-hyun and threw his fist at him.

Lee Jangwoo's one-sided attack continued for a while.

Kim Taesoo, who was watching with an interesting expression, said to the gym manager,

"Why didn't you tell Yoo-hyun the passing criteria for the test?"

"The one where he has to survive one round? What's the point of telling him that?"

The gym manager answered indifferently, and Oh Jeongwook chimed in.

"Yoo-hyun is a guy who took a half-year break. Jangwoo is above pro level."

Then Kang Dongshik next to him shook his head.

"Yoo-hyun can't lose. He beat me too."

"Brother, Jangwoo is better than you..."

As Kang Dongshik glared at Oh Jeongwook's words, it was then that

The gym manager gestured toward the ring and said,

"No need to worry. Yoo-hyun is still alive."

Shriek.

Yoo-hyun dodged Lee Jangwoo's fist by moving sideways.

At first, he ran around the whole ring to avoid him, but the gap gradually narrowed.

At some point, he stuck close to Lee Jangwoo and spun around him.

Shoo, shoo.

He also avoided all his attacks.

Yoo-hyun had been on the ring for half a year, but he had been training regularly during that time.

Especially in Ulsan, he increased his running distance every morning.

It was like filling in the gap of the gym with extra training.

Thanks to that, Yoo-hyun's feet were extremely light.

Thump thump thump.

Lee Jangwoo tried to tackle him with his lower body as if he couldn't take it anymore.

Yoo-hyun dodged by turning his body and landed a counterpunch on his face accurately

Thud

Then he kicked his side hard as he lost his balance

"Cough."

He could have fallen down, but Lee Jangwoo held on

He didn't just hold on, he charged again

Balance, willpower, speed, he had nothing missing

Yoo-hyun didn't back off, but slightly dodged and threw a punch right away

Thwack

It was a completely different sight from the past when he was busy avoiding

He had that much experience in real fights

He caught many thugs and knocked down Nam Jongbu's bodyguards

His mind for attack itself was different from before

That aggressiveness showed in every move without holding back

Shriek

Yoo-hyun charged at Lee Jangwoo who was rushing at him

Then they exchanged punches in a completely close space

He dodged by a hair and hit hard again

Thump thump thump thump

The winner of the fierce battle was Yoo-hyun

“Cough”

Lee Jangwoo’s body was pushed back by Yoo-hyun’s attack and his posture was lowered

Yoo-hyun stepped forward to deliver the final blow, but it was then that

“Stop. That’s enough.”

The gym manager raised his hand and Yoo-hyun stopped.

“Huff, huff.”

Then he breathed heavily for the first time in a long time.

The gym members who saw him clicked their tongues.

“Jangwoo couldn’t last one round.”

“What the hell is Yoo-hyun? Did he go through hell training or something?”

“How can he do that?”

On the other hand, the gym manager who came up to the ring had a flush on his face.

He handed him a drink and said,

“As expected, you’re the real senior, Yoo-hyun.”

“Well, Jangwoo is really good for two months, don’t you think?”

“Huh? Oh, yeah, sure.”

The gym manager stuttered as Lee Jangwoo approached and bowed his waist.

“Huff, huff. Senior, I learned a lot. You’re amazing.”

“Nah. I’m a newbie here too.”

“Really?”

“Yeah. The other seniors are much better.”

Lee Jangwoo's expression looked complicated at Yoo-hyun's words.

"So you were holding back on me. I didn't even know..."

He bowed his waist toward the gym members and muttered.

"Thank you for your consideration, seniors."

"..."

The gym seniors fell silent for a moment.

There were not many people who could face Lee Jangwoo here.

The gym manager quickly resolved the situation.

"Yoo-hyun, come to my room for a moment."

"Yes. Okay."

Yoo-hyun wiped his sweat and answered.

A few minutes later, in the gym manager's office.

The gym manager pushed the documents on the table forward and said,

"Yoo-hyun, you just need to sign here."

"Manager, I told you I'm not going to the tournament. And I'm on a business trip at that time."

"You can take one day off. You still have a few months left."

"Still. I'm really not interested."

It was true that Yoo-hyun had worked out intensely at the gym, but the tournament was a different story.

That was for people who had real dreams and ran for them.

For Yoo-hyun, martial arts was just a hobby.

The gym manager seemed to know Yoo-hyun's thoughts and changed his approach.

"We have a quota for the gym. If you don't go, someone else can't go either."

"There are other people."

"Pros can't go. And we can't just send anyone."

Yoo-hyun sighed at the gym manager's persistent pleading.

He could see through his lies, but he couldn't refuse when he went this far.

He had to do his duty as he had received a lot of help.

“I might lose in the first round, you know.”

“That’s fine. You’re just filling in the numbers.”

“Yes. Fine.”

In the end, Yoo-hyun signed.

The corner of the gym manager’s mouth curled up.

Yoo-hyun spent the rest of his time leisurely after sweating at the gym.

And the next day, Yoo-hyun got on his way to work for a change.

He had agreed to go to Hansung Tower for this week to follow up on the Apple product review.

He didn’t have much to do, so his steps were very light on his way to work.

Of course, his hands were full of gifts.

Yoo-hyun arrived at work and put the paper bag with gifts on his desk.

The desk full of paper bags contrasted sharply with the empty seat next to him.

“He cleaned up nicely.”

Yoo-hyun looked at Park Seungwoo’s empty seat for a moment and turned his head.

He saw something inside his slightly open desk drawer.

Rattle

He opened the drawer and a letter envelope and a wrapped box popped out.

Yoo-hyun sat down and opened the letter envelope.

-To my beloved mentee Yoo-hyun

Yoo-hyun, your life mentor is leaving for a long journey for MBA

I will be an example for you...

It was a long letter written in several pages

And he wrote it by hand with care

He could see that he had struggled for a long time with it

He couldn’t help but smile at the thought of him

“I told you to relax and do it casually”

Maybe it was his nature to be passionate that he couldn't change easily

Yoo-hyun opened the gift box next to him

There was a fairly expensive fountain pen inside

He didn't have any use for it, but he appreciated his heart

Yoo-hyun was holding the fountain pen and recalling the moments he had with Park Seungwoo when

Choi Minhee, the assistant manager, came over and greeted him first

"You're here, Yoo-hyun"

"Yes, manager. I'm back alive"

Yoo-hyun got up from his seat and greeted her warmly

She saw the letter on his desk and asked casually

"Don't you miss Park?"

"What's there to miss?"

Yoo-hyun shrugged as if nothing happened

Kim Hyunmin, the team leader who was behind him, jumped in

"Yoo-hyun is right. Why bother about someone who's gone?"

Yoo-hyun took out a chocolate from the paper bag and handed it to him

"That's right. It's good to have one less mouth, right?"

"Oh my, what is this?"

Choi Minhee was surprised as she took the chocolate

Kim Hyunmin laughed loudly

"Hahaha. He's not just one mouth. He's like two or three mouths"

Yoo-hyun followed up at that timing

"Team leader, then why don't you buy us lunch today to celebrate?"

"How did the story go that way?"

Choi Minhee caught the ball that Yoo-hyun rolled

"That's great. Let's talk about the photo shoot while we eat"

"Why are you doing this too, Choi assistant manager?"

Kim Younggil, who came behind him, joined in with good timing

“Then I’ll meet Yoo-hyun and our client and match our lunch time”

“Yeah. What can I not buy? Let’s go”

In the end, the goal was decided by Kim Hyunmin’s sigh

Yoo-hyun raised his thumb right away

“As expected, team leader”

“You’re worse than Park”

Kim Hyunmin stuck out his tongue at Yoo-hyun

Yoo-hyun handed out chocolates to his team members and sat down

He was going to relax, but there was something that bothered him right away

Tap tap tap tap

It was when Yoo-hyun was typing fast on his laptop

Kim Younggil, who came behind him, said

“Yoo-hyun, it’s time to go to the client’s office”

“Yes. Just a second. I’m done”

He sent the email and closed his laptop and got up

Kim Younggil stuck out his tongue at Yoo-hyun

“What are you doing so hard?”

“I just had something to check”

“Really? I thought you were working hard because you looked so distracted”

“What work do I have here? I’m just going to relax and go”

Kim Younggil smiled at Yoo-hyun’s words

“Of course you should”

“Then let’s go”

Yoo-hyun smiled and gestured forward

Chapter 308

At that moment, in New York, USA.

Park Seung-woo, an assistant manager, was sitting alone in his accommodation, looking at the night view.

He had expected it to be not so pleasant, but it was lonelier than he thought.

He didn't know what to do first.

Everything was awkward.

He kept thinking of the bustling and cozy office and sighed involuntarily.

"Sigh..."

He couldn't give up so soon after coming so far.

He slapped his cheek and tried to wake himself up. He turned on his laptop screen.

Then, he saw a new shining email.

It was from Yoo-hyun.

-Things to pay attention to when doing MBA...

It was a long email, listing the things to pay attention to when doing MBA.

It was a living experience that was hard to find on the internet.

Park Seung-woo's heart was touched by the email.

It was because of the care of his junior.

"My son. You told me to do it casually..."

He couldn't take his eyes off the email for a long time.

Inside the sales and marketing office on the 12th floor of Hanseong Tower.

Yoo-hyun was there, facing Jo Chan-young, a senior manager.

Jo Chan-young had a very good expression.

He didn't just have a good expression, he kept laughing.

"Hahaha. It's so nice to meet the heroes of reversal."

"Thank you."

"And what you guys did really well..."

The praise kept pouring out.

It was time to stop, but he kept talking.

It was almost unbelievable.

Yoo-hyun looked at Kim Young-gil, a section chief, and he shrugged his shoulders.

A little later, on the outdoor terrace on the 20th floor.

Yoo-hyun, who was leaning on the railing and drinking coffee, said to Kim Young-gil.

“When I came back from my business trip last week...”

Kim Young-gil, who had returned to work a few days earlier than Yoo-hyun, had been called around everywhere.

It was a business trip that had attracted a lot of attention from the upper management.

The presentation was positive, but there was no immediate result in hand.

Maybe that's why?

At first, he only heard some perfunctory compliments, and soon they faded away.

But the situation completely reversed the day before yesterday.

Kim Young-gil made a grand gesture and explained the situation at that time.

“Then, the business director came down and praised us a lot.”

“In front of the manager?”

“Yes. The manager also got a lot of praise. He openly praised us.”

Yoo-hyun could imagine how Jo Chan-young's expression would have been without seeing it.

He must have been in a good mood as if he had mania.

“That's good.”

“You should have received such praise when you were here.”

Kim Young-gil made a regretful expression and Yoo-hyun replied with a good humor.

“I'd rather have something more direct than praise.”

“That's right. The business director also mentioned that. There will be good news soon.”

“I'll keep my expectations low.”

Kim Young-gil smiled at Yoo-hyun's answer.

It was a smile that they had built after overcoming a difficult situation. It looked very light.

Kim Young-gil, who was smiling happily, suddenly asked.

“Oh, by the way, the group leader also said something.”

“What did he say?”

“He asked me to keep it a secret that I met Shin Sung-wook senior manager.”

“Did he?”

“Yes. He asked me more earnestly this time.”

It was an unusual behavior for Yeotae-sik executive director who was cautious.

Kim Young-gil might not understand it, so Yoo-hyun asked casually.

“Aren’t you curious why he did that?”

“No, I guess there must be an important reason. I just want to see Shin senior manager again.”

“Why?”

“I felt it while preparing together this time. I’m still not up to his standards.”

“You did well enough.”

“No. I want to work harder and show him a more impressive performance next time.”

Kim Young-gil focused on his inner self rather than political issues.

He revealed his shortcomings without hesitation and tried to improve himself more.

He didn’t look like his past self who hid in his own cave because of fear.

Kim Young-gil, who spread his wings wide, was very positive and proactive.

Yoo-hyun gave him sincere encouragement to such a senior.

“That’s really cool.”

“It’s just words for now.”

Kim Young-gil shrugged his shoulders and Yoo-hyun said to him.

“There will be an opportunity soon.”

“Do you think I’ll see him in Korea?”

“Probably.”

Yoo-hyun nodded his head and answered.

It won’t be for a while.

But that time wasn't too far away.

Yoo-hyun had lunch with his colleagues and gave gifts to even those he was glad to see.

Everyone reacted well.

They all thanked Yoo-hyun and had a pleasant conversation.

But one of his old friends who met him after a long time didn't look so good.

Inside the customer meeting room on the first floor.

Yoo-hyun asked Kwon Se-jung, who was sitting with drooping shoulders.

"Why? What's wrong?"

"He must have been scolded by Seong chief again."

Min Jeong-hyuk answered instead and Kwon Se-jung shook his head.

"No, it's not that."

"Then what is it?"

"Sigh. It's a bit hard to say with my mouth."

He sighed and Kwon Se-jung told them what had happened.

It was a fairly long story with a junior involved.

Min Jeong-hyuk, who roughly knew the content, asked in surprise.

"Jun-sik did that again?"

"Yes. Don't even ask. Ah, Yoo-hyun, you don't know."

Kwon Se-jung shook his head as if he was in trouble.

I don't know?

That was absolutely not true.

But Yoo-hyun hid his inner thoughts and pretended to be curious.

"I've been away. But from what I hear, it doesn't seem like he did anything wrong?"

"You don't know because you haven't experienced it. I've never seen such an ignorant guy in my life."

"Why?"

"Just do what you're told, why do you have to know everything?"

Kwon Se-jung complained and Min Jeong-hyuk joined in.

“I heard he talks back to the upper management when they say something?”

“That’s right. Seong chief was so angry because of Jun-sik that I got scolded more.”

The two of them took turns talking bad about their junior.

It was a rare sight in a company where people were busy cursing their bosses.

It was when the three of them finished their chat and came out.

A man who was in front of the lobby reception desk looked at Yoo-hyun’s group.

He was a man who looked like a new employee with his stiff posture.

He looked rather stern because of his thick eyebrows and long eyes without double eyelids.

He bowed his head politely.

“Hello, Kwon Se-jung senior.”

“Yes, Jun-sik.”

Kwon Se-jung greeted him formally.

Jang Jun-sik, who hesitated for a moment, approached him with a troubled expression.

“I...”

“What is it again?”

“I’m sorry, but I learned that the customer meeting room is not a resting space for the staff.”

He spoke cautiously, but it was clear that he was challenging his senior.

Kwon Se-jung, who felt humiliated in front of his peers, raised his voice.

“What did you say?”

“Please let me know if there is something I don’t know.”

He should have backed off by now, but Jang Jun-sik stood his ground.

He was ignorant, to say the least, and he lacked flexibility.

‘Kid. He’s still the same.’

Yoo-hyun chuckled and pulled Kwon Se-jung’s arm and said.

“Se-jung, let’s go. He’s not wrong.”

“No, but...”

“It’s okay. Jun-sik, see you later.”

Jang Jun-sik, who recognized Yoo-hyun as his senior by looking at the surroundings, bowed his head.

“Yes. Please go ahead, senior.”

Then he walked away with steady steps.

He looked stiff even in his walk.

“I, I...”

Kwon Se-jung grabbed his neck and Min Jeong-hyuk stuck out his tongue.

“Wow, he’s really stubborn.”

“Yoo-hyun, you saw it? If he comes under you, you’ll go crazy.”

It was true as Kwon Se-jung said in the past.

Jang Jun-sik, who moved from the marketing team to the product planning team, didn’t get along with Yoo-hyun at all.

That’s why Yoo-hyun was quite mean to him.

But this time it might be different.

“I don’t know.”

Yoo-hyun shrugged his shoulders as he watched Jang Jun-sik’s back.

Yoo-hyun went to the 11th floor this time.

There were many people he was glad to see in this place where the staff departments were gathered.

He took care of his colleagues from the general affairs team, HRD team, PR team and his junior Jo Eun-ah and moved to the personnel team.

There was someone he really wanted to meet here.

Yoo-hyun exchanged a few words with his personnel team colleague Seo Chang-woo and approached Park Doo-sik, a section chief.

He was sitting at his desk and looking at some documents.

He still had a sharp look in his round and kind face.

Yoo-hyun greeted him warmly with his former boss who had shared many memories with him in the past.

“Section chief, hello. I’m Han Yu-hyun.”

“Oh. I know. Long time no see.”

Park Doo-sik recognized Yoo-hyun and replied.

Yoo-hyun secretly handed him a chocolate.

“It’s cold these days. Have some sweets.”

“Why are you giving this to me?”

He blinked his eyes at Yoo-hyun’s gift and Yoo-hyun said to him.

“You picked me at the interview.”

“Hey, that’s because you did well.”

“Just take it. It’s my heart.”

Considering the help he had received from him in the past and would receive from him in the future, this was far from enough.

But he didn’t know that and Park Doo-sik put down the documents he was holding and said.

“I can’t just take it. Do you want some coffee?”

“Yes. That would be nice.”

It was exactly what he wanted, so Yoo-hyun gladly agreed.

Park Doo-sik was someone who had a connection with Yoo-hyun through Shin Sung-wook senior manager.

When Yoo-hyun moved to the group strategy office, he worked with him and taught him a lot of things.

They were all advice that became blood and flesh for him, and thanks to them, Yoo-hyun was able to grow.

He was a skilled person.

He was also someone he wanted to work with very much.

Yoo-hyun looked for him to make a connection in advance.

And there was something he wanted to check.

At the rest area on the 10th floor, Yoo-hyun faced Park Doo-sik, his former boss.

He scanned Yoo-hyun with his unique sparkling eyes.

It was just like when he taught Yoo-hyun how to observe things.

Yoo-hyun received his gaze with a relaxed smile.

Park Doo-sik admired Yoo-hyun who had no flaws at all.

“Yu-hyun is very special.”

“Why?”

“You don’t look like an employee at all.”

“Is that a compliment?”

Yoo-hyun asked with a good humor and he nodded his head and mentioned the past events.

“Of course. It’s a compliment. You were different from the interview anyway.”

“Aren’t you exaggerating?”

“No. I still remember it vividly. It was impressive.”

“I’m embarrassed.”

“That’s not all. You’re doing well at work, aren’t you?”

Yoo-hyun wondered why he kept praising him.

No matter how impressive he was, their connection was not yet strong.

He knew Park Doo-sik was not the type of person who was generous with compliments.

Yoo-hyun hid his thoughts and joked.

“I should have given you a bigger gift.”

“It’s not just a word. I’ve never seen a career like yours.”

Then, a word that caught Yoo-hyun’s ears popped out of Park Doo-sik’s mouth.

Even if he was in the personnel team, he had no reason to browse the personnel records as a hobby.

If he praised him so much, there was a high chance that he was looking for him from a high place.

It was something he wanted to confirm anyway, so Yoo-hyun glanced at him.

“Did the group strategy office look for me?”

“Huh? Did they already tell you?”

Yoo-hyun’s guess made Park Doo-sik fall for it.

Chapter 309

The rhetoric he had learned from Manager Park Doo-sik backfired on him.

Yoo-hyun answered him evasively, just as he had taught him.

“It’s not exactly that, but it’s similar.”

“I see. This will be a great opportunity for you, Yoo-hyun.”

“Is that so?”

“Of course. Going to the Group Strategy Office is a very good way to advance your career.”

From his words, it seemed that there were already various rumors going around behind him.

Yoo-hyun quickly reviewed the past series of events.

He had done a lot of things that stood out, but the meeting with Vice President Hyun Ki-joong was the decisive factor.

If the report had gone through the Development Center Director, Vice President Yoon Joo-tak would have likely intervened.

Yoo-hyun clenched his teeth inwardly as he recalled his former boss who had been a bad blood.

“Thank you for your kind words, Manager.”

Of course, he did not lose his smile in front of Manager Park Doo-sik.

At that moment, at the Group Strategy Office.

Vice President Yoon Joo-tak, who had examined Yoo-hyun’s personnel record, tilted his head.

Contrary to his expectations, Yoo-hyun’s personnel record was too ordinary.

His qualifications were not worth mentioning, and he did not even have any connections in the back.

What was more puzzling was his output.

He had done too much work for an employee.

The number of rewards he received was also hard to count.

His recent moves were even more unbelievable.

The clash with Senior Manager Lee Tae-ryong, the meeting with Vice President Hyun Ki-joong, and the Apple product review.

It was impossible unless he had strongly gained the trust of Vice President Lim Joon-pyo.

How did an employee manage to surpass Vice President Lim Joon-pyo, who was stubborn and ignorant?

“There must be something.”

Whatever the reason, it was worth checking out if he had this much potential.

He made up his mind and pressed the button on the phone on his desk.

-Yes, Group Director.

He spoke to the secretary's voice that came through.

“Tell Song Senior Manager to come in.”

-Yes. I understand.

He rested his chin on his hands with his fingers crossed and muttered softly.

“He might be a quite reliable ally.”

That night.

After a light workout, Yoo-hyun stopped by a bar with his army senior Park Young-hoon.

As promised, he bought him a bottle of whiskey.

When Yoo-hyun poured him a drink in an empty glass with ice and handed it to him, he smiled brightly.

“As expected, you are a decent guy, Yoo-hyun.”

“You worked hard, hyung.”

“Haha. It's nice that the customer appreciates it.”

“Think of it as an honor that a VIP customer appreciates it.”

Yoo-hyun smiled and clinked glasses with him.

It had been a long time since they met, but there was no awkwardness.

The stories that had happened while they were apart flowed out smoothly.

There was affection in every word they said.

In the middle of that, Park Young-hoon suddenly said.

“The money you sent to the US must have arrived by now.”

“I guess so.”

Yoo-hyun nodded his head, and Park Young-hoon looked at him and said.

There was worry in his eyes.

“Yoo-hyun, I know why you invested, but don’t put any more money in.”

“Why?”

“Some of my seniors also invested blindly in Silicon Valley companies and went bankrupt.”

Yoo-hyun chuckled at Park Young-hoon’s concern.

“Don’t worry. It’s a good place.”

“They all say that. Did you get any investment from a venture capital there?”

“No. Not yet.”

“Well, they wouldn’t need your money if they were such a company.”

Park Young-hoon smiled bitterly and gulped down his drink.

Yoo-hyun understood Park Young-hoon’s concern very well.

If he were in his position, he would have dissuaded him too.

But Park Young-hoon trusted Yoo-hyun and followed him right away.

He was grateful for that and tried to fill up his glass.

“Here, have a drink...”

Ring ring ring

Then the phone rang.

“Hyung, wait a minute. I’ll take this call and come back.”

“Okay. I got it.”

It seemed like the call would take quite a while, so Yoo-hyun moved to another seat first.

He sat down at an empty table in the corner of the bar and pressed the receive button.

At the same time, Brian Chesky’s voice rang out loudly.

-Steve. Why did you send 20 thousand dollars?

He asked accusingly, and Yoo-hyun replied casually.

“You said two dollars is lucky. So I sent it.”

-Ah, so that's what it was...

"Why?"

-That's why we got lucky.

"What happened?"

His voice sounded unusual, so Yoo-hyun asked again.

Then Brian Chesky lowered his tone and set the mood.

-We announced it today. And...

"And?"

-We passed right away. Steve, it's thanks to you.

Brian Chesky's voice filled with joy echoed.

He didn't have to see him to know what kind of expression he had.

It was what he expected, so Yoo-hyun said calmly.

"Congratulations."

-Aren't you surprised? We finally became Y Combinator members.

"I'm surprised. You're amazing."

-Yeah. This is really amazing.

In fact, he was not very surprised by the investment.

It was something that would happen sooner or later.

But it was fortunate that the connection was with Y Combinator.

They were venture capital experts who could pull Airbnb better than anyone else.

That meant that Yoo-hyun's help was not needed anymore.

That made him feel more sorry.

He had gotten a stake that would soon be worth a lot for nothing.

He expressed his feelings and said.

"I don't know if I should send more money."

-No way. We don't have to worry about money anymore. So I'll show you a really cool result, just like you said.

"Okay. Let me know if you need my help."

-Hahaha. Thanks.

Brian Chesky hung up the phone with a big laugh.

Park Young-hoon asked him curiously as he returned to Yoo-hyun.

There was a bright smile on Yoo-hyun's face.

"What's up with that happy mood?"

"I had some good news."

"Then you should buy more drinks."

Yoo-hyun answered coolly to Park Young-hoon's playful question.

"Sure. Anytime. Let's open another bottle of whiskey."

He felt like he could buy all the drinks here if he wanted to.

It was not because he had made a lot of money.

It was because he was looking forward to seeing his friends fly high with their sparkling passion.

He was thrilled to be able to watch them from the side.

Park Young-hoon, who had no idea why, smiled broadly.

"Oh, awesome. That's good."

"Come on, have a drink."

Clang

The glasses collided, and the two men laughed happily.

The next day, at 2 p.m.

In the conference room connected to the outdoor terrace on the 20th floor, the company magazine shooting was in full swing.

The content, which was organized to commemorate the victory of the LCD Business Division Innovation Planning Contest, was scheduled to be published in three pages of the next month's magazine.

Since the shooting was done in an open space, quite a few people gathered.

Among them, there were also a fair number of female employees who supported Yoo-hyun.

"Yoo-hyun, fighting."

As the female employees' voices were heard, the photographer smiled and said.

“I think I need to zoom in on Yoo-hyun’s face more.”

“No, it’s okay. Just do as you were doing.”

Yoo-hyun, who was sitting in his seat playing the role of an audience member, waved his hand, and Manager Choi Min-hee, who was in charge of presenting, said.

“No, Yoo-hyun. It’s too obvious, so why don’t you ask a question instead?”

“Oh? Manager, you have a good sense. I’ll do that.”

The photographer accepted her words right away.

“There’s no need to do that...”

As Yoo-hyun tried to stop him, Lee Chan-ho, who was playing the role of an audience member at the opposite desk, threw an idea.

“Then I’ll turn my head towards Yoo-hyun.”

“Oh, then you’ll get a good shot of your face as the photographer said.”

Manager Kim Young-gil’s words made the photographer nod his head.

“Okay, let’s do that. Everyone else, please look at Yoo-hyun too. Yoo-hyun, please raise your hand and look at the audience.”

“...”

They were really good at pushing things.

That’s how the shooting started unexpectedly.

Yoo-hyun saw a man standing among the female employees.

He was wearing neat clothes and glasses without frames. He was observing Yoo-hyun with a sharp gaze.

Yoo-hyun’s eyes settled on him as he recognized his old acquaintance.

Click. Click.

The photographer took pictures from various angles and said.

“Okay, we’re done. Yoo-hyun, you pretended not to care, but you have a good vibe.”

“Your eyes were serious and nice.”

The magazine writer also joined in.

“Hohoho.”

“They say Yoo-hyun can do anything.”

People’s laughter and compliments were heard.

The interview followed right away.

As they sat down in a row by pushing their desks together, the magazine writer asked a question.

“Manager Choi, please tell us how you feel about winning as a presenter.”

“The reason why we were able to achieve excellent results in the Innovation Planning Contest was not because of me, but...”

Manager Choi Min-hee passed the credit to the people who worked with her.

She pointed out one by one how each part member contributed to the project.

Her praise also extended to Yoo-hyun.

“It was Yoo-hyun who set up the framework when we planned it in the beginning. Thank you again.”

“No, thank you, Manager. I didn’t do much.”

“No. You did well, Yoo-hyun.”

Manager Choi Min-hee took care of her team members until the end.

The team members also sincerely followed their leader.

Yoo-hyun saw the right image of an organization in front of him.

Was it because they were all smart?

Absolutely not.

It was possible because they had consideration and camaraderie for each other at the bottom.

It was impossible in a selfish organization where elitism prevailed.

The leader of such an organization was looking at Yoo-hyun now.

The interview continued towards Yoo-hyun.

“It’s your turn, Han Yoo-hyun, the youngest employee. What do you think of your current team?”

It was a mundane question to boost up the winning team from the magazine writer’s mouth.

Yoo-hyun looked around his team members and answered.

“I think my current team is very warm and nice. I think I’m lucky to be on this team.”

“I can tell that you like your team just by looking at your expression. Then do you have no intention of moving to another team even if you have a good opportunity?”

Yoo-hyun smiled faintly at the magazine writer’s malicious question.

Then he turned his gaze to his former boss standing in front of him and answered.

“Of course. No matter what offer comes, it’s for someone else.”

“Oh, I’ve never seen anyone answer so firmly to this question. The successful team is different indeed. Manager Choi, you must be happy.”

“It’s nice to hear that.”

Manager Choi Min-hee answered cheerfully to the magazine writer’s question.

Then Lee Chan-ho, who had been watching from the front, raised his hand with a flash and said.

“I’ll answer that question again. I’ll stay on this team even if there’s a knife on my neck. Our team, our part is the best.”

“Chan-ho, it’s too late.”

Manager Choi Min-hee cut him off sharply, and the people who were watching laughed together.

“Hahaha.”

The atmosphere of the interview was very friendly.

Only the man who had been looking at Yoo-hyun had a stiff expression on his face.

After the magazine shooting was over.

Manager Choi Min-hee spoke to the hard-working part members.

“Shall we have a cup of coffee with the coupons we received today?”

“Sounds good.”

Yoo-hyun left them behind and said.

“Manager, I’ll skip this time.”

“Why?”

“I have somewhere to stop by.”

“Okay. I got it. Enjoy yourself and come back.”

“Okay.”

Yoo-hyun smiled and sent off his part members.

Swoosh.

Behind Yoo-hyun, the man who had been watching him since earlier approached and asked.

He didn't notice that Yoo-hyun had waited for him on purpose.

“Can I talk to you for a moment?”

“What is it?”

Yoo-hyun pretended not to know and asked, and he silently handed him a business card.

-Group Strategy Office Strategy Team Kwon Sung-hoe Director.

It was just a company business card, but he arrogantly lifted his chin as if he was something.

It was a brilliant act of carrying the prestige of the Group Strategy Office on his back.

It was quite pathetic, but Yoo-hyun hid his expression and responded to his act.

“I think it would be better to move to another place.”

“Let's do that.”

Director Kwon Sung-hoe nodded his head and took the first step.

Chapter 310

A moment later.

Yoo-hyun faced Director Kwon Sung-hoe on a bench in the 20th floor corridor.

He was not even given a cup of coffee in his hand.

That was how much Director Kwon valued Yoo-hyun.

It was exactly what Yoo-hyun wanted.

He checked the time and got straight to the point.

“I'm here to offer you a transfer to the Group Strategy Office.”

“Do you mean moving to a different team?”

“Yes. It’s a great opportunity that you can’t get as an employee.”

Director Kwon spoke with a confident expression.

He must have thought it was an irresistible offer, but Yoo-hyun’s answer was different from his expectation.

“Thank you, but I like my current team.”

“What? Haha. You don’t know anything about the Group Strategy Office, do you?”

Director Kwon gave a hollow laugh at the employee who uttered such nonsense.

Then he started to explain as if he was teaching him.

“The Group Strategy Office is...”

The Group Strategy Office was the core department that coordinated the entire group.

This place, which carried out the chairman’s direct orders, had every member with power equivalent to or higher than that of an executive in any subsidiary.

They had tremendous authority and influence that could not be measured by salary.

Being from the Group Strategy Office was enough to open up the path to success in the company.

Yoo-hyun listened to his obvious words for a while and then looked at him calmly and said,

“I appreciate the opportunity. But I don’t value success that much.”

“It’s worth much more than you think. You’ll get benefits in personnel matters, and you can go abroad for training whenever you want. You can’t imagine that with your academic background.”

As soon as Director Kwon finished his words, Yoo-hyun remembered what he had said when he was his team leader.

-Is it because your academic background is so low that you can’t grasp the subject? Contact me only when I need you. Don’t ask or question anything, just wait.

He was full of elitism and treated Yoo-hyun, who came from the LCD business unit, as a rookie.

Even though he worked hard and showed results, all he got back was a cold word.

There was no way Yoo-hyun had any good feelings for him.

But.

Yoo-hyun smiled leisurely.

“Thank you for your kind offer. But my mind hasn’t changed.”

“Are you really so stubborn?”

“I just want to live long and thin.”

“Really.”

He even shook his head, trying to ease the mood a bit.

Why?

There was no need to stir up a hornet’s nest just to catch a piranha.

When the time was ripe, Yoo-hyun would take action himself.

Until then, Yoo-hyun planned to keep his teeth clenched.

Instead, he scratched his pride a little by coming down personally to recruit an employee like him.

“I’m sorry you came all this way.”

“The bus won’t come back once it passes by.”

“I might regret it, but I want to trust my judgment now.”

Yoo-hyun smiled without backing down.

Director Kwon looked at him incredulously.

That evening, Yoo-hyun spent his last night in Seoul at Kang Jun-ki’s house.

He bought a lot of food for his friend who had lent him his house for quite a long time.

There was beef among them.

While Kang Jun-ki took out the burner and set it up, Yoo-hyun sat in front of the computer and browsed the news.

<Apple decides to invest more in Hansung LCD plant. Apple: “Hansung is a very good partner.”>

The article came out as he had heard from Yeotae-sik, the executive director in Ulsan.

It was an official article that Hansung released with Apple’s permission.

It also meant that the negotiation with Apple was over in a big picture.

Of course, they kept the details secret.

But maybe because the deal was so big, the netizens' reactions were hot.

-Wow. They said they had a secret evaluation meeting. Hansung must have pressed sharp. -I heard Ilseong couldn't even get in. -Hansung has some power. But then, will the next iPhone be ultra-high resolution? -What's the spec? -Apple is such a thing, they won't disclose it. Maybe they'll change it if they reveal it now?

The atmosphere in Ulsan factory must be lively too.

He felt a little proud of his team members who had worked hard.

He only glanced at the pleasant news for a moment.

There was another news that caught Yoo-hyun's eye below it.

<Ilseong speeds up management succession work. What is Hansung doing?>

It might look like nothing special news.

But Yoo-hyun saw through the hidden intention behind the lines.

This was a covert operation by Han Kyung-hoe, who hoped for a generational change.

It was still too early, but they were impatiently waving their flags.

Did they know?

If you put meat on a fire that hasn't risen yet, it will stick.

Just like Kang Jun-ki's voice from behind.

"Hey, you put the meat on too early."

Their past mistakes were repeated even now.

Kang Jun-ki asked Yoo-hyun, who smiled.

"Yoo-hyun, come down. Let's eat."

"Ah, I'm sorry to just put the spoon on the table you prepared."

"What are you talking about? The one who bought the meat is the boss."

Kang Jun-ki laughed heartily and filled Yoo-hyun's glass with alcohol.

They enjoyed the meat and alcohol and continued their conversation.

Beep.

In the middle of that, another call came to Yoo-hyun's phone.

It was the number on the business card he had received today.

He was sure when he saw the name Kwon Sung-hoe pop up.

"He must be really pissed off."

He had conveyed Yoo-hyun's refusal and received an order to persuade him more.

The person who requested it must have been Director Yoon Joo-tak.

Yoo-hyun pressed the call button and heard a heavy voice.

-It's Director Kwon Sung-hoe from earlier.

"Hello. Nice to see you again."

Yoo-hyun greeted him cheerfully, but Director Kwon ignored him and said what he wanted to say.

-I'll ask you one more time. Are you sure you don't want to come to the Group Strategy Office? I'll give you a promotion right away.

"I'm sorry, but I have no intention of moving to the Group Strategy Office."

When Yoo-hyun refused again, Director Kwon squeezed out his last patience.

-Then I'll give you a group reward. This is as far as my favor goes.

"Thank you for your words. But my mind is the same."

Yoo-hyun's answer was still the same.

Of course, he politely declined so that he wouldn't harbor too much resentment.

As soon as Director Kwon finished his words, he hung up the phone.

The possibility of contacting him again?

It was unlikely for a while after he had done this much.

He hoped that they would completely forget about him in their heads.

It wouldn't be that easy, though.

Kang Jun-ki asked Yoo-hyun who hung up the phone.

"Why? Did someone scout you?"

"Just some annoying person."

Yoo-hyun casually threw his phone and said.

Kang Jun-ki, who was grilling meat, said,

“But isn’t your expression really arrogant right now?”

“Haha. Really?”

“Yeah. You look like a very mean guy.”

I lifted my glass as Kang Jun-ki chuckled.

“That sounds very nice.”

“Of course. I’m good at talking.”

The two of us continued our pointless conversation for a while.

The next day, I took the morning train home, unpacked my luggage, and headed to the office.

By the time I arrived at the Ulsan factory, it was just past lunchtime.

As usual, I brought gifts with both hands.

I was curious about the faces of the people I hadn’t seen for a long time.

What would they look like?

I climbed up to the second floor of the office building with an expectant expression.

Drill drill drill.

One side of the office was under partition construction.

Buzz buzz buzz.

The voices of the construction workers echoed everywhere.

There was no one from the Preceding Product Team in their seats.

What’s going on?

I moved my feet with a bewildered feeling.

That’s when I saw it.

In the corner, there was a review room where people were sitting and working.

The review room was filled with all kinds of documents.

Then, Maeng Ki-yong, my senior, ran up to me.

“Yoo-hyun.”

“Hello.”

He was so enthusiastic that I took a step back.

Soon after, the others greeted me.

Everyone had a bright smile on their faces.

“You worked hard, right?”

“Yoo-hyun, good job.”

“What are you doing? Sit down.”

I suddenly remembered when I first came here.

No one welcomed me back then.

But now, everyone was taking care of me.

With a grateful heart, I bowed slightly.

“I’m back.”

“You’re back.”

Everyone embraced me warmly.

For a while, the atmosphere was lively.

Especially Maeng Ki-yong’s stories about his heroism in America were endless.

“The Apple mockup suddenly stopped working...”

Jung In-wook, who was watching him from the side, clicked his tongue.

“He went to America and came back with a motor in his mouth.”

“It must be hard to have so much work piled up.”

“Who hasn’t suffered?”

I whispered to Jung In-wook, who was grumbling.

“And congratulations in advance.”

“For what?”

“You’re going to be a team leader soon, right?”

“No, no. That’s not it. Nothing’s decided yet.”

Jung In-wook waved his hand, but the result seemed obvious.

The office partition construction was also for expanding the team.

“Isn’t there a TF (Task Force) for ultra-high resolution coming up?”

“Huh. Where did you hear that?”

“From you, sir.”

I smiled slyly and Jung In-wook shook his head vigorously.

“Geez. You’re really hard to deal with.”

“Anyway, don’t get too excited.”

“Hey. When did I ever?”

Jung In-wook flared up at my light joke as always.

That’s when it happened.

Creak.

Everyone stood up and straightened their backs.

“Hello.”

A greeting came in like a wave and I turned my head.

There was Lim Jun-pyo, the vice president, with a bright expression on his face.

“Hello.”

I greeted him as I stood up and he stretched out his arms to hug me. But he seemed to change his mind and lowered his arms.

Then he reached out his hand and said,

“Yeah. You did a great job.”

“Yes. It wasn’t easy.”

He raised his eyebrows as he saw me shaking his hand nervously.

“Yeah. You worked really hard. That’s why I want to take care of you a little bit.”

“Thank you.”

“I’m not just saying it. I’m planning to add more staff, give you a reward, take care of your personnel evaluation...”

Lim Jun-pyo’s words got longer and longer and everyone’s mouths opened wider and wider.

It was certain that everything he said would come true since he said it himself.

Ko Jun-ho, the director who was next to him, nodded his head at every word.

He seemed to be listening attentively without missing a single word.

Lim Jun-pyo continued his speech and called Ko Jun-ho.

“Director Ko.”

“Yes, vice president.”

Ko Jun-ho quickly nodded his head and Lim Jun-pyo went on.

“Yoo-hyun doesn’t have much to do now, right?”

“That’s right. The planning is finished so there’s no need to rush anything.”

“Good. He worked hard so let him work at his own pace.”

“Yes. I understand.”

It was Lim Jun-pyo who said it.

The word ‘at his own pace’ in front of everyone meant that no one should bother Yoo-hyun anymore.