

DEAR GOD

Written by

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EXT. COMPANY'S ROOFTOP - AFTERNOON

Panoramic view of SEOUL.

A young man smokes a cheap cigarette while leaning against the edge. He gazes at the city with hollow eyes.

KANG-DAE (V.O.)  
Dear God, the idea of death is as  
sweet as it could ever be.

Below he can see people walking, crossing the streets, and talking.

KANG-DAE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
In this bitter and unsavory world,  
while living a joyless, colorless  
life, I find myself craving this  
sweetness more each day.

The young man looks up to the sky, letting out a puff of smoke. There is not even a fake promise of happiness in his face.

KANG-DAE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Dear God, won't you help me  
disappear from this painful world?

INT. OFFICE - EVENING

People run left and right, distressed. The office is noisy; chaotic.

Some are taking calls from the customers.

OFFICE LADY 1#  
Yes...! No, of course not -- we  
will refund you right away, sir.

OFFICE GUY 1#  
We understand your complaints,  
ma'am -- of course, we will do  
everything in our power to reduce  
your losses.

In another room, the team leaders are having a meeting. Through the glass, we see the Chief General Manager shouting at them, veins popping up from his neck.

In an isolated corner, the same young man from the roof types rapidly while staring at the screen.

HO KANG-DAE/호강대 (23) looks sickly pale, his eyes sunken and lacking energy. He has sharp features and high cheek bones, yet lacks the confidence and posture to be called handsome.

INT. OFFICE CORNER - MOMENTS LATER

One of the team leaders present in the previous meeting is shouting and pointing at Kang-Dae, who silently bows.

The team leader throws the report on his face, belittling him in front of the entire office.

Kang-Dae's eyes are empty as he bows again and again, mumbling words of apologies.

EXT. BUILDING ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Some of the office workers are waiting at the entrance, their forces depleted. They are sighing, complaining.

OFFICE LADY 1#  
I thought this would never end...

OFFICE GUY 1#  
I never saw our team lead so mad before. I swear, I thought he was going to kill me.

OFFICE GUY 2#  
That's because you didn't hear the things the Chief General Manager said...He was about to commit genocide, I'm telling you.

The men shiver with the thought. The woman cries out.

OFFICE LADY 1#  
Ah, I need a drink. Otherwise I won't be able to sleep tonight.

From afar, Kang-Dae approaches. The men and the woman turn to his direction, their faces lighting up. They wave, calling out to someone.

Kang-Dae passes by them. Another woman, who was just behind him, joins the group.

OFFICE LADY 2#  
Sorry I made you wait!

The group goes out drinking, walking in the opposite direction of Kang-Dae.

He has both hands in his pockets, his head looking down. As Kang-Dae walks down the street, he sees establishments bustling with people. They are laughing, drinking, eating.

EXT. BUS STOP - CONTINUOUS

Kang-Dae enters the bus alone. He sits in the far corner, watching the city with a hollow gaze.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS

Kang-Dae climbs the stairs alone, carrying a plastic bag from a convenience store.

INT. KANG-DAE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Kang-Dae drops the bag on top of his kitchen table. He removes his company tag and his jacket.

Moments later, he takes a kimbap from the bag. Opens it. Eat it.

INT. KANG-DAE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kang-Dae collapses on his bed. The room is dark, practically empty. As he takes out his phone, a light shines on his face.

On social medias, he sees photos of friend groups gathering together for parties, lunches, and trips. He sees couples doing cute poses together.

He sees people smiling, loving, and having fun. Kang-Dae browses through the photos with an empty yet longing gaze.

He stumbles upon a news video. It shows a recording made from a ferry cruise on the Han River, as someone jumps from the bridge. Kang-Dae watches the video with morbid interest.

Almost envious.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Another day. The office seems less chaotic, yet people are still taking calls and rushing into the office.

INT. OFFICE CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

A group of workers are chatting away, some complaining about the workload others complaining about the harassment.

Kang-Dae enters the cafeteria alone. He gets some coffee.

The group does not acknowledge his presence.

Kang-Dae leaves.

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Kang-Dae types away on his computer.

Around him, people are making plans for the weekend. Some are trying to schedule get-togethers. Others are boasting about their plans with their significant others.

Kang-Dae continues to type, in silence.

INT. KANG-DAE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Kang-Dae seats at the table. He drinks a banana milk.

INT. KANG-DAE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

He turns on his computer. After a few moments, he opens Lost Ark, an online game.

The cellphone vibrates on his table. There's a message from 'Gaming Seonbae'.

Gaming Seonbae: Hey hey did you get home yet?

Kang-Dae starts to type.

Kang-Dae: I'm logging in now. Are we doing Metus Island?

Gaming Seonbae: you want the tokens, right hehe

Gaming Seonbae: I'm going with my Artillerist this time.

Kang-Dae: What? Why?

Gaming Seonbae: I'm getting tired of my Paladin.

Gaming Seonbae: I miss the explosions heheh

Kang-Dae let out a long sigh.

Kang-Dae: If we die I'm killing you again

Gaming Seonbae: is that a way to talk with your lovely seonbae?

Kang-Dae puts the phone down.

As the night passes, Kang-Dae continues to play in his room, alone.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Another stressful day.

Kang-Dae is ridiculed in front of his peers, once again. He keeps bowing and apologizing.

TEAM LEADER 1#

Hah, seriously... How did the company even hire someone like you? Was there no decent candidates when you applied? Is that why you are so carefree?

Around them, people avoid glancing at Kang-Dae and the team leader. They all feel the tension in the room.

Kang-Dae listens with his head down.

EXT. COMPANY'S ROOFTOP - AFTERNOON

Kang-Dae let out a long sigh, taking a drag of his cigarette. He passes his hands through his hair, watching the view.

He stares at the ground for a long time. Contemplating.

Considering.

JAE-HWA

The view from the fall is not pretty. Not here.

Kang-Dae turns with a start. From afar, seating on the floor, is a beautiful woman.

YOUNG JAE-HWA/영재화 (21) is sitting with her legs crossed. She wears odd and baggy clothes, her hair messily cut in a layered jaw-length bob.

She stares at him with an uninterested gaze.

KANG-DAE  
 Sorry...What?

Though he asks politely, she continues to speak informally.

JAE-HWA  
 The view. If you want to jump,  
 shouldn't you at least pick a place  
 with a good view? It's the last  
 thing you will be seeing, after  
 all.

As Kang-Dae fully turns to face her, he's more disconcerted about her words than her impolite tone. He begins to speak informally as well.

KANG-DAE  
 What if I like this view?

JAE-HWA  
 (blunt)  
 Then you would be a weirdo.

Kang-Dae seems almost amused. He puts out his cigarette, taking a few steps closer to her.

KANG-DAE  
 Why? What's even wrong with the  
 view here? I think it's pretty.

JAE-HWA  
 What, a bunch of tall buildings you  
 can find in every big city? You  
 find concrete pretty?

She rolls her eyes.

JAE-HWA (CONT'D)  
*Please.* It's boring.

Kang-Dae gets even closer, her brashness oddly entertaining.

KANG-DAE  
 Tell me then, what would be a  
 pretty view for you? A bunch of  
 trees you can find everywhere?

She scoffs, meeting his eyes once again.

JAE-HWA  
 Look at you, speaking so informally  
 with a total stranger.

He blinks and smiles.

KANG-DAE  
(baffled)

You are the one calling a complete stranger a weirdo. Shouldn't you be polite when you meet someone for the first time?

JAE-HWA  
Shouldn't you be respectful toward your elders?

He is now standing practically in front of her. He takes a good look at her, doubting she is even older than twenty.

KANG-DAE  
Why, you think you are older than me?

She lowers her voice and averts her eyes.

JAE-HWA  
I might be...

Kang-Dae scoffs, shaking his head in disbelief. Though entertaining at first, now he feels tired.

As he turns his back and goes for the door, he hears her voice again.

Yet this time her voice is soft, almost warm, as she speaks politely.

JAE-HWA (CONT'D)  
Kang-Dae ssi.

He turns back to face her, eyes widening in confusion. Then realization sinks in as he looks down and sees his company tag: it shows his full name.

The woman smiles, her gaze giving off a sad glow.

JAE-HWA (CONT'D)  
Whenever I'm troubled, I like to go to a high place where I can see a lot of trees. They may be boring to you, but to me, trees are confidants that will never tell my secrets, no matter how loud I shout them. Perhaps you can find the same solace I do, next time you are in a high place and just want to appreciate the view.



Kang-Dae says nothing. He gives her a brief nod and turns away, going for the doorknob.

KANG-DAE (V.O.)

Dear God--

He looks behind his shoulder one last time, still trying to process the past interaction.

KANG-DAE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I have met a strange woman.

INT. OFFICE - EVENING

As Kang-Dae works, someone approaches him with care.

OFFICE LADY 2#

How are you-- (glances at his  
company tag)  
Kang-Dae ssi?

The woman seems a bit uncomfortable and shy.

She is MIN-JEE/민지 (20s), a woman with doe eyes and a pure, innocent air around her.

MIN-JEE

You have been working hard as well,  
right? The team leader can be so  
scary sometimes...

Kang-Dae, without much patience to deal with pleasantries, replies with a tired voice.

KANG-DAE

How can I help you, seonbae?

She smiles, getting closer to his desk.

MIN-JEE

They asked me to write this report  
by the end of the day, but I'm  
still waiting for the Sales  
Department's reply. They promised  
they would email us by 6pm.

He said nothing.

MIN-JEE (CONT'D)

I already had a prior arrangement,  
and I really can't be late. Can you  
finish and deliver the report  
instead?

KANG-DAE

Sure, seonbae. I can help you. Just tell them to send the email to me instead.

The woman smiles and thanks him. As she leaves, Kang-Dae glances at the clock. It's 4:58pm.

EXT. BUILDING ENTRANCE - ONE HOUR LATER

The same woman in the previous scene leaves the building. A man is waiting for her with a bouquet. She rushes and gives him a warm embrace.

They walk away smiling.

INT. OFFICE - LATER

Kang-Dae spins in his chair, exhausted. He keeps glancing at the ceiling, waiting. As he checks the clock again, he sighs.

KANG-DAE

In what world is this 6pm?

His phone vibrates. As he unlocks and reads the message, he begins to type.

Gaming Seonbae: are you home yet?

Kang-Dae: no. I will stay till late today, so do whatever you want.

Gaming Seonbae: wow this company is insane. Why haven't you quit already?

KANG-DAE (CONT'D)

(mumbling)

...because I wasn't born rich.

Gaming Seonbae: well I'll play Maple today then. You hang in there, my dear pupil.

Kang-Dae puts his phone back in his pocket and sighs.

EXT. BUILDING ENTRANCE - LATE NIGHT

Kang-Dae leaves the building. He looks miserable.

INT. KANG-DAE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

He drops his backpack on the ground. This time, he is not carrying a bag from the store.

INT. KANG-DAE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dragging his feet, he collapses into his bed, covering his eyes with his hands.

Someone starts knocking on the door.

He stands up. Walks back to the entrance. The man keeps staring at the door, praying to be a mistake or a prank. Hoping the knocking will stop.

It doesn't.

Kang-Dae sighs, moving toward the door. The moment he opens, he freezes.

KANG-DAE  
Mom? What are you-

HANEUL  
What, do I need permission to see  
my only son?

A woman barges into the apartment, carrying different bags in her hands. She swiftly removes her shoes.

Kang-Dae closes the door behind him, almost in a daze. They both speak casually with each other.

KANG-DAE  
It's just...you could've called.

HANEUL  
Then you would tell me you were  
busy. Here, I brought you ox bone  
soup and kimchi.

KANG-DAE  
I already ate.

HO HANEUL/호하늘 (late 40s) removes the food containers from one of the bags. She is tall, slender, not a wrinkle on her clothes or gray in her hair.

She opens up his fridge, puts the food inside.

HANEUL

So what, you won't eat anymore for the rest of the week? It won't go bad, eat when you get hungry.

KANG-DAE

What are you-

The woman points at the chairs.

HANEUL

Seat.

She places the smaller plastic bag on top of the table before sitting down.

HANEUL (CONT'D)

It's hot, I bought some ice cream.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTSIDE STAIRS - DAY

A young Haneul and Kang-Dae (8) cheerfully smile as they eat ice cream on the stairs' steps. The little boy laughs whole heartedly.

CUT TO:

INT. KANG-DAE'S APARTMENT

Kang-Dae quietly takes one from the bag. He opens up, takes a small bite. His mother does the same.

HANEUL

How's work?

KANG-DAE

It's fine. They are training me well.

HANEUL

You are a contractor, right? Do your best to get a full-time position.

KANG-DAE

Yes...

KANG-DAE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Dear God. I'm an incredibly selfish person.

CUT TO:

INT. FUNERAL CEREMONY - FLASHBACK

A younger Haneul is wearing a black hanbok. She's holding the hand of six-year-old Kang-Dae. Close to them, there is a picture of a smiling man surrounded by white flowers.

KANG-DAE (V.O.)

I trust my mother's strength to  
face Death head on, once again.

Tears run down her face as her lips tremble, yet her eyes are determined. As Kang-Dae stares at his mother from below, his eyes wells up with tears.

KANG-DAE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I know mother means well, and I  
know she did her very best to raise  
me.

Haneul looks at her son and smiles.

KANG-DAE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But even when I know it would bring  
her immense pain, I cannot bring  
myself to keep living in such a  
miserable state.

INT. KANG-DAE'S APARTMENT

Haneul opens another ice cream. Watermelon flavored.

HANEUL

You need to start eating better.  
Your fridge is practically empty,  
your cabinets too. If you are not  
having much time to cook, just call  
your mother. I will bring you food.

KANG-DAE

I will. Thank you, mother.

A few moments pass by.

HANEUL

I met Sung-Ah by chance today. She  
is looking for someone to play at  
her wedding.

Kang-Dae shifts in his seat, a bit uncomfortable.

KANG-DAE

I haven't touched the violin in years. I don't even know how to play anymore.

HANEUL

Nonsense, this is not something you forget. But if you don't want to, I will recommend someone else.

KANG-DAE

Who?

HANEUL

My neighbor. She plays it beautifully. (pause) I think you would like her.

Kang-Dae freezes for a second.

KANG-DAE

Why would I like her?

HANEUL

She's pretty.

Kang-Dae smiles weakly, the ice cream starting to melt in his hands.

KANG-DAE

So you are saying your son should like any woman who has a pretty face?

HANEUL

She's smart too. A good girl. Works in a nice place. I can arrange a meeting.

He shakes his head in disagreement.

KANG-DAE

Don't you know already? Your son is very busy. I don't have time to meet anyone.

HANEUL

Stop lying to your mother, or at least give me a better excuse.

KANG-DAE

Fine. I don't want to meet anyone, I'm good where I am.

She points at him.

HANEUL

You're good now. You are a healthy young man in his twenties; you need to enjoy your youth. Date people, go out with your friends, enjoy life.

KANG-DAE

I thought I was supposed to get promoted at work.

HANEUL

You are young. You can get promoted and invest in your social life.

KANG-DAE

I don't think we are living in the same country—ouch!

Haneul slaps her son on the shoulder.

HANEUL

Stability is important. But you also need to think about your life in the future.

KANG-DAE (V.O.)

Dear God, I love my mother. Yet I'm selfish.

HANEUL

Think about the man you want to become. Don't get too stuck in the present. That's the advice your mother is giving you.

KANG-DAE (V.O.)

In a sense, I'm already dead. She simply doesn't know it yet.

Kang-Dae nods, eating the rest of his ice cream in silence.

INT. OFFICE - MORNING

Kang-Dae arrives at work. Around him, people are whispering and mumbling. The air is tense.

Right after he seats at his desk, a woman rushes toward him.

MIN-JEE

Did you send the report yesterday?  
The one I told you about?

The woman looks desperate. Kang-Dae immediately fixes his posture, starting to share her worry.

KANG-DAE

I did. I left it at your desk.

MIN-JEE

But there wasn't anything on my desk when I arrived! Are you sure you put them on *my* desk? Do you even know where I seat?

The woman is speaking a bit more aggressively. Her hands are shaking.

KANG-DAE

(annoyed)

Yes! I'm telling you, I put it right on top of your desk.

The woman snaps at him.

MIN-JEE

THERE IS NOTHING AT MY DESK! Stop lying and just admit you screwed up!

Their team leader walks toward them with a reddened face. Furious.

The woman automatically bows.

MIN-JEE (CONT'D)

Team leader, I swear, this is--

TEAM LEADER 1#

I DON'T CARE WHO FAULT THIS IS!

The woman flinches. Kang-Dae clenches his jaw.

TEAM LEADER 1# (CONT'D)

You two have any idea how much money the company lost because of a mistake last week?! Are you trying to put us out of business?!

No response.

TEAM LEADER 1# (CONT'D)

ARE YOU?!



They both shake their head, not daring to look up.

TEAM LEADER 1# (CONT'D)  
(to Kang-Dae)

You. You good-for-nothing, how many times must I scream at you for you to grow some backbone? Do you even have a brain inside your head, or is just filled with shit? Because that's what you keep delivering to me.

(to Min-Jee)

And you. Why delegate your tasks to someone you don't trust? Are you an idiot? You think things will be okay because you have a pretty face?

The woman is on the verge of tears. Kang-Dae is clenching his fists.

INT. OFFICE CAFFETERIA - LATER

Kang-Dae quietly makes coffee. A group enters the room.

OFFICE LADY 3#

I can't believe the Team leader did not even check his email! If he had spared one minute -- no -- three seconds!

OFFICE GUY 1#

We should be used to this by now. If it weren't for the intern "cleaning the desks" this morning, we would have one less headache.

MIN-JEE

(revolted)

This is the same intern who messed up the database last week, right? Hah, if he wasn't the chairman's nephew, he wouldn't be even here anymore.

OFFICE LADY 3#

At least someone found the report before the meeting. Otherwise, the fault would fall on Min-Jee again.

The woman pats her friend in the back, consoling her. As Kang-Dae turns, they recognize him.

They avert their gazes, changing the subject swiftly. The woman who got reprimanded with him looks guilty.

He leaves the cafeteria.

INT/EXT. TENT BAR - NIGHT

Kang-Dae walks alone. His face is sunken. His body exhausted.

After a few seconds of consideration, he enters a tent bar.

He orders two bottles of soju.

As he drinks away, people come and go. His phone vibrates, yet he doesn't check it.

After a few moments, some people get closer to his table.

HYUN

Hey, aren't you Ho Kang-Dae?

As Kang-Dae lifts his gaze, he meets three familiar faces he never wished to meet again.

HYUN/현 (20s) a confident, muscular, and handsome man. JAE/재 (20s), with a boyish charm flaunting expensive brand clothes. MIN-SU/민수 (20s), a slender man with cruel eyes and a toxic smile.

JAE

Holy shit, it's really him! Hey Ho Kang-Dae, you remember us?

Kang-Dae starts to get up, yet he's dizzy.

KANG-DAE

Sorry, you must've mistaken me for someone else.

Min-Su pushes Kang-Dae back to his seat.

MIN-SU

Hey, why you keep lying to us? We have finally met again after so many years. Do our memories together mean so little to you?

As Min-Su leans closer, Kang-Dae grows even more distressed.

KANG-DAE

(mumbling)

Well, it's been years since high school, so--

HYUN  
Hey, speak clearly! We can't hear  
you otherwise.

Kang-Dae tries to push Min-Su away.

KANG-DAE  
I'm sorry, I'm actually quite busy.  
I need to go home.

Jae and Hyun get closer, surrounding him completely.

JAE  
Don't be like that! We finally  
reunited after so many years! Did  
you do your military service  
already?

HYUN  
Bullshit, look how frail he is!

Min-Su wraps his arm around Kang-Dae, speaking close to his  
ear.

MIN-SU  
You are looking quite pale, Kang-  
Dae. Have you been living well?  
Since we took care of you for so  
many years, I kinda feel  
responsible for you.

Kang-Dae pushes Min-Su away, standing up so fast his chair  
falls down.

KANG-DAE  
Don't you dare touch me, you son of  
a bitch!

The three men stare at him in shock.

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Kang-Dae is thrown against the wall. Hyun and Jae beat him up  
while Min-Su watches from afar while smoking a cigarette.

When Kang-Dae collapses on the ground, Min-Su grabs him by  
the hair so he can meet his gaze.

Min-Su tone is cold, ruthless.

MIN-SU

Listen here, Kang-Dae. You were a loser back then, and you are a loser now. Next time, know your place and don't try to act up.

Min-Su lets him go, using Kang-Dae's hand to put out the cigarette before walking away with the others.

Kang-Dae muffles a cry.

EXT. STREET - LATER

Kang-Dae walks at a very slow pace. He has a bruise on his left eye and a cut on his lower lip.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - AFTERNOON

Kang-Dae, in his middle school years, walking down the street with almost identical bruises.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Kang-Dae, now in his high school uniform, looking beaten down. He has even more bruises.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - LATE NIGHT (BACK TO PRESENT)

Kang-Dae is walking alone. The streets are quiet, empty. He loosely carries his backpack in one hand.

KANG-DAE (V.O.)

Dear God. Today, I desperately crave for sweetness. A kind embrace that will never let me go, something that will make all this pain go away.

He keeps walking. He walks for a long time.

EXT. STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Kang-Dae starts climbing, going to a higher spot. He is surrounded by trees.

KANG-DAE (V.O.)

The night may be warm, but every part of my being is dead cold. I think tonight is a good time. To finally taste this sweetness death promises me.

EXT. HIGH SPOT - CONTINUOUS

Kang-Dae is standing at the edge of a fence. Surrounding him, there's nature.

Below him, there's DEATH.

He stares at DEATH with anticipation. All he has to do is let go of the fence and let his body drop.

Kang-Dae starts to lose his fingers.

The image of JAE-HWA's face appears in his mind. He recalls the strange woman from the rooftop, talking about sharing secrets with trees and pretty views.

Kang-Dae looks around, seeing all the beautiful trees. He takes a shaken breath.

KANG-DAE

...my body hurts.

His voice can barely be heard.

KANG-DAE (CONT'D)

I wish I could quit my job

There is no answer.

KANG-DAE (CONT'D)

I wish I could have nice pictures to show others I'm also living a happy life.

The world is quiet as Kang-Dae speaks with a trembling voice.

KANG-DAE (CONT'D)

I wish I had friends to go drink with.

His voice gains a bit more strength. A bit more anger.

KANG-DAE (CONT'D)

I want to beat up my boss... I want to shove all those reports down their throats and quit and never work again.

The image of Min-Su, Hyun and Jae laughing at him flashes in his mind. His voice burns with anger.

KANG-DAE (CONT'D)

I want to kill those bastards.

Kang-Dae looks up, shouting as tears run across his face.

KANG-DAE (CONT'D)

I want to kill them and let their body rot away because they don't deserve to live!

Images of his high school bullies, his boss at work, his lonely life keeps appearing again and again.

KANG-DAE (CONT'D)

I hate my boss, and I hate my job. I hate that I have no friends. I hate that I feel so lonely.

He takes a very deep breath.

KANG-DAE (CONT'D)

*I HATE THIS FUCKING LIFE!*

Kang-Dae goes back to the other side of the fence, his body shaking. His breath is uneven, however, there is a new fire in his eyes.

KANG-DAE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Dear God.

Kang-Dae laughs at himself. What he did was silly. Embarrassing. Stupid. Yet he feels proud.

KANG-DAE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I've never felt so alive.

INT. OFFICE - NEXT DAY

Kang-Dae looks a little bit refreshed. His body is lighter, his eyes a bit more bright.

Today, his team leader does not bother him.

He opens his desk and takes a kimbap. He looks at the cafeteria. Ponders for a bit.

EXT. COMPANY'S ROOFTOP - AFTERNOON

Kang-Dae starts opening the kimbap, taking the first bite while looking in the distance.

JAE-HWA

Wow, would you look at that? Mr. Weirdo is back.

Kang-Dae lets out a laugh, turning around. This time, she is standing on his left, looking at the streets below.

JAE-HWA (CONT'D)

Seriously, how can you even say you find this view pretty?

KANG-DAE

Can you stop calling me weirdo? You already know my name.

She glances at him, up and down. Frowns.

JAE-HWA

Nah, it doesn't suit you. Weirdo fits you better.

Kang-Dae almost chokes on his kimbap. He swallows, staring at her in disbelief.

KANG-DAE

Hah, this woman...! Do you think it's okay to talk like that just because--

Her voice becomes softer, her tones more polite and gentle.

JAE-HWA

Did you find a better place?

At first he doesn't understand her. Then he looks away, nodding once.

She smiles.

JAE-HWA (CONT'D)

I thought so. You look better. Did you take my advice, then?

Kang-Dae scoffs.

KANG-DAE

Do I look like someone who takes advice from crazy women?

JAE-HWA

Do I look like some crazy woman who would give free advice to weird men?

With that comment, Kang-Dae laughs. For some reason, he feels at ease.

KANG-DAE

You are right. You're not crazy, just weird.

JAE-HWA

Wow, look at him. Calling a lady like that, such a disrespectful young man.

KANG-DAE

Tell me your name then.

Jae-Hwa smirks, replying in a playful manner.

JAE-HWA

No, I don't think I will.

KANG-DAE

Why? Scared your name doesn't match you?

JAE-HWA

(dramatically)

I don't know you. Ho Kang-Dae could be a stalker and start harassing me online.

KANG-DAE

Sorry, I don't have the time to stalk anyone. Also, you are not that interesting.

Jae-Hwa gasps, clearly offended.

JAE-HWA

The audacity of this man! Is that how you thank me?

He meets her gaze, his voice serious and earnest.

KANG-DAE

What should I thank you for?



He is waiting for her to say it. She is waiting for him to admit it first. Jae-Hwa opens and closes her mouth, then sighs.

JAE-HWA

Hah...! Maybe I am crazy. Next time I see someone troubled, I will just keep my mouth shut.

As she starts to leave, Kang-Dae calls out to her.

KANG-DAE

Hey, weird lady.

When she turns, Kang-Dae is looking at her with a grateful gaze.

KANG-DAE (CONT'D)

Thank you. For helping me find a better view.

Her smile in response is bright and kind.

KANG-DAE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Dear God.

JAE-HWA

I'm glad you liked it.

Kang-Dae watches her for a bit, turning his back before he can see her leave.

KANG-DAE (V.O.)

I wonder if I will meet her again.

INT. KANG-DAE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

He is playing Lost Ark with the same friend as before.

In the private chat, they are exchanging texts. The friend's username is BlueLaughingDemon [BLD]; Kang-Dae's WeepingGod [WG].

WG: I've met this strange person at work.

BLD: strange how? You talk as if you were normal hahaha

WG: shut up.

WG: She dresses funny, and the things she talks about are weird.

BLD: your game avatars have zero fashion sense, and you talk about the most random shit.

BLD: are you talking about yourself? lol

Kang-Dae scoffs while reading the remark, typing furiously in reply.

WG: Forget it. I can't have a conversation with you.

BLD: nooo my pupil, forgive me! i will stop, i promise. I only have you to play with, don't abandon me T-T

Kang-Dae ignores him.

BLD: why youre not replying? youre not abandoning me for real, are you?

BLD: pleeeeee dont leave your seonbae ;-;

Kang-Dae sighs.

WG: lets focus on the game pls

BLD: AWWWN I KNEW YOU STILL LOVED ME <3

Even if a bit annoyed, Kang-Dae smiles.

His phone vibrates beside him. When he checks the notification, it shows that someone replied to a comment he liked.

INT. KANG-DAE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Kang-Dae scrolls down on his phone. There is a war going on in the comments, the remarks going from nasty and offensive to straight-out death threats.

KANG-DAE (V.O.)

Dear God.

A brief montage with headlines about the toxicity found in social medias is displayed.

Cyberbullying. Death threats. Teenagers driven to suicide. Stalking. Online harassment.

KANG-DAE (V.O.) (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

If evil has truly manifested in this world, Social Media is its most loyal spawn.

Kang-Dae is shown once again, browsing on other people's profiles.

KANG-DAE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
With hundreds, thousands, billions of people connected, all around the world, 24/7... I still feel as lonely as I could be. I see glimpses of their lives and their achievements, and I can only wonder... What is my purpose in this life? Is life supposed to be this lonesome? If that is so, how come their lives are so different from mine?

Kang-Dae puts his cellphone aside, being swallowed by the darkness in the room.

KANG-DAE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Because even if it's a fake moment of happiness, a fake smile, a fake friend, I have nothing to share. Even my lies are hollow and depleted of joy.

He looks out of the window. Realizes it's pouring.

KANG-DAE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Dear God, whatever their purpose in this life is, I envy them.

Kang-Dae closes his eyes.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Kang-Dae sighs, rubbing his face. As he glances around, he sees his Team leader is in a bad mood again.

The office is once again chaotic.

He checks the clock, then looks at the cigarette pack inside his drawer.

He decides to go for a break.

EXT. COMPANY'S ROOFTOP - MOMENTS LATER

For the first time, Jae-Hwa is already there when he arrives.

As she watches the sky with a lonesome gaze, Jae-Hwa has her back to him.

Kang-Dae keeps thinking if he should approach her.

Jae-Hwa beats him to it when she turns around, a smile appearing on her face when her eyes meet his.

JAE-HWA

Are you sure you are not stalking me?

Kang-Dae shows the cigarette pack.

KANG-DAE

I'm on my break.

JAE-HWA

Ho Kang-Dae; a weirdo *and* a liar.

He has nothing to say to that.

Once he is by her side, Kang-Dae offers her a cigarette. She declines.

JAE-HWA (CONT'D)

Do you smoke a lot?

KANG-DAE

Only at work.

JAE-HWA

Why?

KANG-DAE

I only smoke when I'm stressed.

JAE-HWA

So you only get stressed at work?

He takes a drag, careful to not let the smoke get to her.

KANG-DAE

No.

JAE-HWA

So what do you do when you are stressed and not working?

He looks at her, raising an eyebrow.

KANG-DAE

What are you, an investigator?

JAE-HWA

Since I need to keep tabs on my potential stalker.

KANG-DAE

*I'm not--*

Kang-Dae stops himself, shaking his head.

KANG-DAE (CONT'D)

Whatever.

Jae-Hwa smirks, taking two steps closer. Yet she never touches him.

JAE-HWA

So? What do you do outside work?

He glances at her, lowering his voice.

KANG-DAE

I play games.

She keeps staring at him. As he doesn't continue, she raises her brows.

KANG-DAE (CONT'D)

What?

JAE-HWA

What, are you saying that's all you do?

KANG-DAE

Well...yeah.

JAE-HWA

You have no other hobbies?

KANG-DAE

Not really.

She is baffled.

JAE-HWA

Don't you ever go out? Go drinking with your friends, parks, anything?

Kang-Dae lowers his gaze, uncomfortable.

KANG-DAE

I don't have friends.

Jae-Hwa realizes her mistake, falling in silence.

After a few moments, she turns to him again. There is a quiet determination in her eyes.

JAE-HWA

That can't do, Mr. Weirdo. You are not living your life right.

He chuckles weakly, his tone sarcastic.

KANG-DAE

Is there a correct way to live?

JAE-HWA

(smiling)

There is a *fun* way to live.

Kang-Dae looks at her suspiciously.

KANG-DAE

How? Going to crowded places with people who pretend to care about you?

She shakes her head, thinking for a bit.

JAE-HWA

I can show you how to lead a decent life, Ho Kang-Dae. But you will need to keep an open mind.

As he considers her proposal, the cigarette slowly burns in his hand.

KANG-DAE

Why do you even care whether I lead a decent life or not? We don't even know each other.

Though his comment takes her by surprise, she replies right away.

JAE-HWA

What, don't you feel sad when you see someone completely wasting a good thing? Like when they let their noodles get soggy, or let their beer get warm.

KANG-DAE

Not really.

JAE-HWA

Then you really are weird.

He rolls his eyes, yet she rushes to continue.

JAE-HWA (CONT'D)

What I'm saying is... I just want to help. Like I did before.

He falls silent, thinking. Contemplating the idea.

JAE-HWA (CONT'D)

All I'll do is give you some challenges. Things for you to do to make life more interesting. I won't tell you to do anything weird, or pry into your life.

Kang-Dae squints his eyes, still uncertain.

JAE-HWA (CONT'D)

So? What do you say?

He pauses.

KANG-DAE

You won't tell me to do anything dangerous, illegal, or expensive.

JAE-HWA

Of course not.

KANG-DAE

And I will have no legal obligation to you, nor to anything you ask me to do.

JAE-HWA

Who do you think I am? A prosecutor?

KANG-DAE

Finally... We are free to cut ties with each other at any moment.

She thinks for a second, then she smiles.

JAE-HWA

Sounds good to me. Can I give you your first challenge then?

Kang-Dae sighs, agreeing halfheartedly.

She whispers close to his ear.

He widens his eyes in pure shock.

KANG-DAE

You want me to do WHAT?