

A Nice Family

“Honestly, they’re boys. Boys get into fights, and when they fight, sometimes they get hurt. It’s not like they hurt him on purpose. Yet, they’re treating our boys like a bunch of thugs.”

They harassed a child, lured him to a **horeaebang**, and attacked him as a group. What are gangsters if not them? Their actions were not at all different from that of gangsters. Why did Chiu hang out with that kind of women’s sons? Once again, a deep sigh escaped her lips, but soon the woman collected herself. Thankfully, another woman took hold of the situation.

“In any case, we have to keep our kids from **getting marks on the permanent record**, right? So let’s just be apologetic and beg.”

She was a woman who said she was running a coffee shop in the city. A working woman who deals with people every day knows what to do in these situations, **the woman** thought. **She had been irritated by that woman’s showy red half-length coat before, but her irritation subsided somewhat.**

“Let’s go in quickly. I’m freezing to death.”

Another woman who had an expression on her face as if saying, “what did I do to deserve all this?” **when** on the phone and even now, complained about being cold, **hopping to keep herself warm**. As if getting unruly children ready, the woman stood all the other women in a line, and pressed the bell on the **side of the iron gate**.

2. Afternoon

The sky that was frozen with bluish light, looking as if it was going to split and crack, was clouding up. There was no wind, and the atmosphere felt humid. **Was** it going to snow? Picking up the phone, the woman pressed three buttons and checked the recorded weather forecast. The expected precipitation was about half an inch of snow. Half an inch would melt and disappear from car exhaust and people’s breaths even before it **could** accumulate. The woman put on a black wool overcoat and opened the shoe rack. Neatly arranged black shoes **lay** there meekly, as if they were waiting to be chosen. Among them, the woman picked out a pair of 4 inch heels. The woman walked slowly to the elevator, listening to the sound her shoes **made**. To the woman who had spent the morning kneeling, bowing obsequiously, those 4 inches might have been uncomfortable, and she seemed to sway for a bit, but the woman did not give up. A fashionable and confident, elegant yet controlled female. At this moment, the woman absolutely needed that kind of image. From one end of the hallway, laid out with marbles to the other, the woman stood straight and walked back and forth a few times. By the time she got on the elevator, she was able to regain her calm and arrogant walk. Standing taller, looking completely different from the **ajumma** wearing a jacket in the morning, the woman pressed the button, even her hand motion elegant.

After driving on a beltway, passing through a tunnel and 10 or so traffic lights in about 30 minutes, the woman arrived in front of a tall building in the city. **The** woman drove down a circular route **curved** like a snail **to the parking lot on the lower 5th level**, ignoring the slight dizziness, and parked her car, guided by the young man holding a **neon stick**. The woman turned on the courtesy light and put lip gloss on her cracked lips. After meticulously checking whether her mascara was running, or her **eye line** was too long,

Julia 5/28/11 3:39 PM

Comment: This may be just a personal pre ... [1]

Julia 5/28/11 3:39 PM

Comment: I had to look this up (private ka ... [2]

Julia 5/28/11 3:39 PM

Comment: You’re right, this sounds awkw ... [3]

Julia 5/28/11 2:53 PM

Deleted: she

Julia 5/28/11 2:53 PM

Deleted: The woman

Julia 5/28/11 3:39 PM

Comment: Waist-length? ... [4]

Julia 5/28/11 3:39 PM

Comment: It was somewhat difficult to tel ... [5]

Julia 5/28/11 2:54 PM

Deleted: her

Julia 5/28/11 2:54 PM

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Julia 5/28/11 3:39 PM

Comment: Sounds okay to me, but to clarif ... [6]

Julia 5/28/11 2:59 PM

Deleted: when she was

Julia 5/28/11 3:00 PM

Deleted: one

Julia 5/28/11 3:39 PM

Comment: Are these two parts of the sam ... [7]

Julia 5/28/11 3:00 PM

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Julia 5/28/11 3:01 PM

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Julia 5/28/11 3:01 PM

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Julia 5/28/11 3:28 PM

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Julia 5/28/11 3:39 PM

Comment: Married woman or woman old ... [8]

Julia 5/28/11 3:39 PM

Comment: “5th level” makes this sound like ... [9]

Julia 5/28/11 3:39 PM

Deleted: To the parking lot on the lower 5th ... [10]

Julia 5/28/11 3:35 PM

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Julia 5/28/11 3:39 PM

Comment: “5th level” makes this sound lik ... [11]

Julia 5/28/11 3:39 PM

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Julia 5/28/11 3:39 PM

Comment: Or “neon traffic stick” ... [12]

Julia 5/28/11 3:35 PM

Deleted: -colored

Julia 5/28/11 3:40 PM

Comment: Eye liner? ... [13]

the woman stretched out her hands and bent them in a few times. Energy ball blast motion. It was an action that the woman repeated to relax/calm herself. She smeared a drop of Coco Chanel perfume on each ear lobe, took a deep breath, and opened the car door. The woman slowly walked through the space full of car exhaust and got on the elevator that had just arrived among the six.

21st floor. Bright fluorescent light filled the hallway covered with maroon carpet. The woman turned the corner, heading towards the huge glass door, but she had to stop. On one side of the glass door, there was a small machine with a small, bean-sized d red light. The door only opened with the thing that hung on her husband's neck, only with that pass, only after sticking that flat piece of plastic in front of it. Walking in pompously, flinging that man's office door open, glaring at him standing in front of his desk... this was the first part of the scenario she drew up in advance, but reluctantly, she opened her cell phone and dialed the office number.

"The director can't take the call right now. He's in a meeting."

A female employee with a friendly voice kindly told her, but the woman did not give up.

"I'm right in front of the office now. I have to see him."

"Whom should I tell him to call? If you'd like to leave a message, I'll let him know. He's in a very important meeting right now. I'm sorry but he can't take the call."

The female employee was still kind. She had anticipated this reaction. The woman breathed in deeply and spoke again.

"As I told you, I'm right in front of the office. If you don't put him on the phone right now, things might get rowdy."

The woman spoke with the kind of composed, frosty voice that generates fear. The female employee sounded a bit taken aback.

"May I ask who's calling? I was told not to transfer..."

Cutting her sentence, the woman answered,

"Oh, I'm sorry. I'm Director Manbok Kim's wife.

The other end of the phone became silent. After telling her to wait a moment, the female employee opened the office door and walked out about three minutes later.

"He told me to bring you inside. The director will be out in a minute."

Behind the woman who walked in through the glass door, tens of eyes popped up over the cubicles and began to follow her. Her head held high and back straightened, the woman walked slowly, facing front. It felt like some people were talking behind her back, but the woman did not waver. Guided by the female employee through the aisle lined by cubicles until she stepped into the office with the glass door covered by blinds, the woman held her breath. About 9 square meters wide, the room seemed wider

Julia 5/28/11 4:23 PM

Comment: ...I have no idea. It sounds like a ball of fire suddenly whooshed past her, which I know is not the imagery you need. I would suggest something like "the woman stretched out her hands and bent them in a few times, letting energy flow through (them)."

Julia 5/28/11 4:17 PM

Comment: I left relax/calm in there so you could choose one. ☺

Julia 5/28/11 3:40 PM

Deleted: her body

Julia 5/28/11 3:41 PM

Deleted: was hanging

Julia 5/28/11 3:56 PM

Comment: Is there a stylistic reason why the dialogue tags are cut off from the dialogue? I mean that usually you would have "He's in a meeting," (comma followed by quotation mark) a female employee told her.

Julia 5/28/11 3:46 PM

Comment: The female employee or the woman? If the woman, I'd change this to "The woman had anticipated this reaction. She breathed in deeply and spoke again."

Julia 5/28/11 3:47 PM

Deleted: most

Julia 5/28/11 3:47 PM

Deleted: generated

Julia 5/28/11 3:50 PM

Deleted: over the cubicles

Julia 5/28/11 4:13 PM

Comment: Facing forward?

Julia 5/28/11 3:52 PM

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Julia 5/28/11 3:53 PM

Deleted: guided by the female employee

A Nice Family

than her husband's room. A mahogany desk, a black leather chair, and a neat grey sofa made up the room. Director So[^]ngjin Ku. The woman's eyes passed over the name plate with his name engraved on it.

"Would you like something to drink? There is green tea and coffee. And black tea, as well."

The female employee asked, smiling. Her face was sweet.

"Could you give me a cup of coffee? Black, please."

The female employ went out, clicking her heels, and soon she returned with the sound of the cup rattling against the saucer.

"You look the same as the last time I saw you a while ago. When I first started working at the company, I had been to your house. You probably don't remember me, Mrs. Kim, but I'm Chiyong Chung."

When her husband was the head of the department, the woman had invited his staff for dinner a couple of times. Her husband tried to stop her, saying it was too cumbersome, but the woman didn't think it cumbersome at all; she steamed shrimps, seasoned skate, and salted salmon to prepare dinner for 30 people.

"Oh, I see. I'm sorry I didn't recognize you."

I heard you got married and had a child, and you don't seem your old nimble self anymore, she whispered quietly.

"Director Kim... went to Africa, right? He's not back yet, is he?"

The woman just nodded her head. Ms. Chung, who seemed as if she was going to say something more, closed her mouth. A man was standing in front of the open door. The man stood, holding the door knob, watching the woman and Ms. Chung motionlessly. The woman stood up and took a step back to the back of the sofa. Ms. Chung stood up quickly, walked out of the room, and closed the door.

So he is So[^]ngjin Ku. The woman carefully looked at the room's owner. Lustrous hair, well-styled and looking as if he put wax on, white shirt, striped blue tie, glossy brown pants, black shoes that looked a bit crude, stylish apparel and seemingly well-toned arms s under the shirt, the cuffs sparkling on the ends s of the sleeves -- she examined all of these, like an interviewer grading the interviewee.

"I'm sorry for coming unannounced. You probably heard, but I'm Director Kim's wife."

The woman spoke first. She sounded polite but did not seem apologetic.

Julia 5/28/11 3:54 PM

Comment: Translation of the name looks off because of the ^ (or is this just my computer?).

Julia 5/28/11 3:57 PM

Deleted: Can

Julia 5/28/11 3:59 PM

Comment: Sounds less confusing/rushed when cut like this (or you could start a new sentence instead of using a semicolon).

Julia 5/28/11 3:57 PM

Deleted: and

Julia 5/28/11 4:00 PM

Comment: Should this be in quotation marks because it's spoken aloud, even though spoken to herself rather than the employee?

Julia 5/28/11 4:10 PM

Comment: Back to the back sounds awkward. Maybe "took a step to the back of the sofa" or "took a step back to the sofa"

Julia 5/28/11 4:02 PM

Comment: Same question as earlier about translation of name.

Julia 5/28/11 4:02 PM

Deleted: owner of the room (room's owner)

Julia 5/28/11 4:03 PM

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Julia 5/28/11 4:04 PM

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Julia 5/28/11 4:05 PM

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