**#1 프롤로그 : 이것은 운명일 거야**

**#1 Prologue: A Predestined Encounter**

A : 그 때 OO가축 앞의 한 트럭이 눈에 들어왔어요. 트럭 짐칸에 뭐가 가득 실려있고, 나일론천 같은 걸로 덮여있었죠.

Right at that moment, I saw a truck parked out in front of a livestock supplier. The cargo hold was full, with a nylon cover draped over whatever was in the back.

A : 근데 갑자기 그런 느낌이 드는 거에요. 아 여기에 뭐가 있구나. 그래서 조심조심 걸어가서천을 살짝 들춰봤죠.

Suddenly, my sixth sense kicked in and I knew I had to check whatever was in that truck. So, I slowly made my way over to the vehicle and peeked under the cover.

A : 그랬더니 그 안에 학대받은 듯한 대형견 한 마리가 있는 거에요. 얼마나 안 씻겼는지 때가 꼬질꼬질하고, 목에는 목줄이 감겨있었는데 목줄이 목을 파고들고 있었어요.

Inside, there was a big dog which had clearly been abused. It was covered in grime because it hadn’t been washed in a long time and the leash was pulled so tight around its neck to the point where it was cutting into the skin.

A : 사람들은 이제 모란시장의 개 식용 산업은 끝났다고 얘기했죠. 대법원 판결이 나왔으니 이제 그들은 범법자고, 식용산업은 끝이야.

People used to say the dog meat industry at Moran Market was finished. The Supreme Court had made a ruling, which effectively turned all of the merchants into outlaws and the industry was supposedly done for.

A : 그런데 아, 사람들의 이야기와는 다르게 개도살 카르텔이 아직 분명히 존재하고 있구나. 더욱 음지화되고 있구나. 그 때 확신을 갖게 된 거죠.

But contrary to word on the street, the dog meat cartel was still very much alive, except it had gone deeper underground. This is the truth I realized right at that moment when I discovered what was in the back of that truck.

A: 그 개가 왠지 바로 도살당할 것 같아서 트럭 주인이 돌아오기를 기다렸어요. 그런데 저녁이지나고 밤이 되어도 안 나타나는 거에요. 그러다가 아침 7시에 제가 지쳐서 경찰에 신고했어요. 그제서야 트럭 주인이 와서 화를 내더라고요.

I had a feeling that this dog was about to be slaughtered, so I waited until the owner of the truck returned. But even as the evening turned to night, he never came back. Eventually, I became exhausted and called the police at around 7 a.m. the next morning. That’s when the owner of the truck finally showed up and he was very upset.

A: 잡아먹으려고 데려온 개가 아니라 그냥 어디에 데려다 주려다가 하룻밤 들른 거다. 근데 그얘기를 듣고 나니까, 오히려 의심이 강해지는 거에요. OO가축 바로 앞에 있는 학대흔적이 있는 개가, 도살장으로 팔려가는 개가 아니라 주인이 있는 개라고 하면 이상하잖아요.

He claimed that the dog wasn’t marked for slaughter, but he was rather taking it to a shelter and had stopped to rest for the night. I became even more suspicious after hearing him say this. It didn’t seem likely that the dog had an owner when it had clearly been abused and being transported in a truck that happened to be parked in front of a livestock supplier.

A: 그래서 결심했죠. 아 내가 직접 해야겠구나. 그것 밖에는 방법이 없구나.

I decided then that I had to take real action. There didn’t seem to be any other way.

A: 한국의 개도살 문제가 처음 수면위로 올라온 건 88올림픽 때였어요. 전 세계인들의 화합을 이루는 행사를 하는데 개고기를 먹는 문화가 부끄럽다는 거죠. 그래서 개고깃집들을 서울 외곽으로 이주시키고, 언어도 순화해서 쓰기로 했어요. 2002년 한일 올림픽을 앞두고도 같은 일이 일어났죠.

The controversy over dog meat consumption in Korea first came light during the 1988 Seoul Olympics. We saw it as an embarrassing practice, especially at a time when the entire world was gathering in Korea for the Games. As a result, many dog meat restaurants were forcibly relocated outside of Seoul, and some were renamed to make it less obvious what they were selling. The same thing happened in the run-up to the 2002 World Cup.

A: 물론 당장 바뀌진 않았지만, 장기적인 노력과 함께 대한민국이 점점 선진국이 되면서 개에 대한 인식도 많이 바뀌게 되었어요. 이제는 대한민국에서 약 700만 가구가 동물과 함께 살고 있어요. 그러다보니 ‘음식’보다는 ‘가족’이나 ‘친구’로 보는 시선이 늘어났고, ‘반려동물인 개’를 ‘보호’해야한다는 인식이 높아졌죠.

The changes didn’t happen overnight, but a lot of efforts were made over the years and perceptions also began to shift as Korea became part of the developed world. Currently, there are around 7 million households in the country that raise at least one pet. Dogs are now seen as a friend or a family member rather than a source of food, and more people want to see them being protected.