

## A fresh start

### External Dormitory – 10.13 AM

Once she unpacked all of her suitcases, Lexi finally earned herself a rest.

Her **Dan Brown** collection occupied the shelf while her stationery sat on the desk in a tidy way. Her clothes were either folded or hanged in the closet, and her shoes were neatly put near the room's entrance. External dorms were wider than regular ones, which gave her quite the space she needed, whether it was for her belongings ... or for her state of mind.

As she lied down on the bed, she picked up a dark gray binder she had in her backpack, and started looking through the pages, glancing at her work throughout the past year. When it became too much for her to bear, she would write her darkest thoughts until her mind broke free: her thoughts would find each other in rhymes, creating a melancholic rap, if there was ever such a thing. On her binder, a white tag read the name "Dextra": this was her pen name, her other portrayal, her alter ego.

Lexi brushed off her nostalgia as she headed to the bathroom for a quick shower before leaving for a little tour around the area. Not knowing what to wear, she picked up the first thing she spotted in her closet: a black hoodie and gray jeans. On her way out, she grabbed a pair of sneakers and put her wallet and phone in the hoodie's wide pockets.

### Heart of Seoul – 12.30 PM

It was only a couple of hours until Lexi found herself back in the rush, and even worse, it was rush hour. The main streets were crowded with cars and taxis all over the place, almost as if they weren't moving. Luckily for her, everything was within reach by foot – her dormitory being in the center – so she freely strolled in the city, discovering her new grocery shop, her new library ... her new home.

However, her Korean was lacking, and she had vowed to take additional classes along with her English major; she already learned *hangul* and knew the usual phrases thanks to binge watching Dramas, but she was a hopeless case when it came to reading phrases, let alone having a decent conversation. As her mind wandered, Lexi bumped into a pedestrian, completely unaware of the situation.

*"Joe-Joesonghamnida"* she said stuttering as this was her first actual interaction with a Korean citizen.

"That's okay, I wasn't looking where I was walking either" he smiled lightly before adding "Are you okay?"

"Ah yes, thank you. Wait, how come you're addressing me in English?" she finally realized that their conversation was not being subbed.

He sent a little laugh before replying "You don't look Korean to me, so the safest choice was English. I hope I am not being too stereotypical".

"Not at all, you couldn't have been more right" she grinned "As a matter of fact; I just got here this morning. I am doing a little tour to get to know the area a bit".

"Well, you started in the right place, this is probably the busiest section of Seoul, and we literally call it "the heart of Seoul". If you don't mind, I can show you around".

"I would love to" she quickly responded, relieved that her language struggle ended, at least for the day.

"By the way, I'm David" he introduced himself as he initiated a handshake.

"Nice to meet you David" she engaged in the handshake "I'm Lexi".