

Life at the Top Chapter 616

“You’re going too far, Jasper!”

Dave stared at Jasper and roared.

“What’s wrong with a creditor coming to collect my debtor’s debts? How am I going too far? Or are you telling me that I’m just supposed to give you that 2.7 billion? Is that it?” Jasper asked curiously.

“You won’t get anything good out of crushing the entire Hanks family to bits! Doing so will only make the situation more difficult to deal with,” Dave spoke grimly.

Smiling, Jasper replied to Dave calmly, “Then how would you propose I do this?”

“We’ll pay you 20 million a year until we repay everything. That’s the most we can do.” Dave’s eyes shifted as he spoke.

Jasper chuckled at the suggestion and turned to look at Sirius, ignoring Dave. “Mr. Hanks, should I take this as your family’s final decision?”

Dave roared. “I’m talking to you here! What’s with your attitude?”

“Enough,” Sirius suddenly spoke, interrupting Dave.

“Jasper, it’s not a lie that we can’t pay you such a large sum right now. The Hanks family is now a mere shell of its former glory. We have no other choice but to run it through the official procedure if you’re so adamant about getting the money back. That’s all I have to say,” Sirius replied calmly.

“But I don’t believe that’s the result you wish to see.”

Jasper chuckled and turned to ask Sirius, “Did you have anything to do with Zayden’s death?”

Sirius frowned slightly at how Jasper asked him a tricky question instead of replying to his question.

“What are you saying? You were the reason Zayden was put in the detention center in the first place. He killed himself because he couldn’t take the reality of it. If anything, you were the one who directly caused his death!” Sirius spoke grimly.

Jasper replied calmly, “He had it coming, being put behind bars. But I’ve never once thought of killing him. After all, this is a federal society we live in. It would do you good not to spout nonsense.

“But you didn’t answer my question at all. So tell me, what role did you play in his death?”

Sirius’ expression darkened. He did not need to turn back to know that his family was looking at him with shocked, complicated, and confused gazes.

“I’m the one who’s suffering the most. I swear, I’ll find the person who killed Zayde—”

“Didn’t you just say that he killed himself because he couldn’t handle the fact that I put him behind bars? Now you’re telling me that you’re going to find the killer who killed him? Aren’t you contradicting yourself here?” Jasper interrupted Sirius and asked.

Being interrogated by Jasper, Sirius roared with his face pale from anger, “What the hell do you want? Are you going to take revenge for Zayden?”

“He and I are enemies, not friends. I’d be the last person to help avenge him. In fact, I should be here clapping my hands in joy about the fact that he’s dead. But this incident has also shown me how cruel and heartless you and Conrad are. How do you expect me to let people like you off the hook?”

Jasper spoke softly, “You treat an illness by treating its cause, do you not? You might not know this, but Sylva came to me with a lot of information after Zayden passed.”

Sirius’ eyes widened as he asked aggressively, “Where is he? Tell me! Where is he?”

Jasper was shocked. “You seem very interested to know where he’s gone?”

“No sh*t. He took 600 million in cash from the family’s funds when he left! I...” Sirius spoke without hesitation. Halfway through, he realized how he had said something he should not have.

Looking at Sirius whose face had been drained of all color, Jasper replied calmly, “What a close relationship you have with your brother. Who’d have thought that this so-called family had already fallen apart long ago?”

With that, Jasper then walked to leave and spoke slowly, “Just wait for your subpoenas. Oh, my lawyer has probably already filed for a case, so you should be receiving a notice about the freezing of your assets soon.”

Watching Jasper leave, Dave and his brother Neville could not hold it anymore and ran over to block Jasper’s path. Neville spoke to Jasper with a cold look in his eyes, “What, you’re just going to leave now?”

“Why? Are you in a rush to transfer this park to me?” Jasper asked calmly.

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Neville took a deep breath. He was so infuriated he felt like he was about to explode.

“Stop dodging the question, Jasper. So what if you’re good at talking? Tell me, where’s Sylva Hanks?”

Dave agreed. “Exactly. You want money, don’t you? He’s taken all the cash in the family. Find him and you’ll get the money!”

“What makes you think that he’d tell me where he’s going and when he’s planning to flee?” Jasper frowned slightly. “How can you two be so stupid?”

“You’re going too far, Jasper!”

Neville could no longer control the rage within him and raised his fist to punch Jasper in the face.

Jasper stood expressionless in place and did not move at all.

Julian reached out from beside him and grabbed Neville’s wrist. Before anyone could register what was happening, Julian flicked his wrist and Neville’s sharp cry sounded in the air. His arm was immediately fractured.

A young master like Neville could hardly endure such immense pain. Tears and snot began to flow freely that instant, and he grabbed his arm while hopping around.

“Insolent b*stard.” Jasper shook his head and turned to look at Dave who was gulping with a pale face. “Are you going to block my path as well?”

Dave could neither move nor stay, so he remained rooted in place. Regret filled his heart as he wondered why he rushed out on impulse.

His elders had yet to say anything, so who was a youth like him to act out?

“Come back, Dave.”

Sirius’ words saved Dave from embarrassment, and he quickly ran back to Sirius’ side.

Sirius looked at Jasper with a deep gaze and said, “You’ve won.”

“As expected.”

Jasper glanced at Sirius and spoke, “The Hanks family never had the right to join the game since the very beginning. But since you had decided to join, then it’s only right you pay the price.”

“The Hanks family is out.”

With that, Jasper brought Julian and left Hanks Residence.

After standing in place for a long time, Sirius’ family members all surrounded him and asked him what they should do next. Then, he finally exploded.

“Stop asking me what to do! I don’t even know what to do now!”

“What else can we do? We’re screwed. It’s over for us! It’s over for the Hanks family!”

Silas asked with trepidation, “Should we ask Conrad’s family for help?”

Sirius scoffed. “This is a huge sum of 2.7 billion, not 27 million. There’s no way we can come up with so much money even though we have got a good amount

of assets. Conrad has his own issues to deal with already, and I haven't been able to contact him since yesterday. We're discarded pawns now, do you hear me?"

Silas shuddered and hissed. "Then what are we supposed to do now?"

"Let's split up. At least then, we'll still get to stay alive."

Sirius waved his hand dismissively. "You heard Jasper, didn't you? I know all of you have your own hidden reserves. Take that money and run as far as you can. This is it for the Hanks family."

With that, members of the Hanks family felt their hearts shake in their chests. It felt like the end of the world to them.

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The fall of the Hanks family caused an uproar within the entire Southeast Province.

It was abrupt and under the intervention of the Provincial High Court where all courthouses in prefecture-level cities within the province were to investigate all of the Hanks family's assets.

Seeing the red tape that sealed off the Hanks family's properties, people could not help but remember how the Hanks family had blindly attacked JW Real Estates' projects. In the end, JW Real Estates stood strong while the Hanks family had fallen.

Everyone could not help but look in the direction of JW Real Estates. No one dared to look down on this company anymore.

They knew that change was about to hit Southeast Province.

At Nauritus City in the provincial capital, in the study of Monty Manor.

Conrad had his hands under his chin as he listened to his subordinate's report.

"Mr. Monty, that's basically the situation now. All members of the Hanks family have already left Southeast Province last night. They've all gone to other places and some even left the country. It seems like it's truly over for them."

Conrad was unfazed, and there was no sign of mirth nor anger in his eyes.

"What about Sirius?" he asked faintly.

"Unreachable. He's completely dropped off the grid and our people are unable to find any traces of him," the subordinate replied carefully. He was afraid that his inability to trace Sirius would irk his employer.

Conrad separated his hands and pulled out a cigar from his drawer. Cutting it carefully, he spoke with his head still down, "It's not your fault. Sirius had spent decades working in Southeast Province, after all. It's only normal for him to have a few methods to save himself at such a time. If he truly wishes to run, then there's no holding him back."

"Should we continue searching for him?" the subordinate asked, exhaling a breath of relief.

"No need. The Hanks family is over." Conrad sighed unexpectedly.

Not even the man himself remembered when was the last time he sighed, but it must have been years ago. He had lived his life confidently since he made a name for himself at a young age, and nothing nor anyone seemed to be worthy of his sighs from then on.

However, Conrad could not help but feel a wave of exhaustion wash over him now.

“Jasper has dealt me a heavy blow and he’s not giving me the chance to take a breather at all. Should we borrow money to help the Hanks family at such a time? Then we’d surely lose when it comes to Skyward Aluminum’s shares.

“He has already foreseen that we won’t give up Skyward Aluminum just to help the Hanks family, so I have no other choice but to take the hit. I have to say, this hit hurts.”

Conrad slammed his palm on the mahogany table as he spoke, and there was a cold glint shining in his eyes.

“So what if this is the end of the Hanks family? We’ve already wrung them dry of their use to us anyway... How’s the progress with Colin from Southeast Province Mining Co., Ltd going?”

The subordinate’s expression changed slightly and he looked down, not daring to look at Conrad’s expression. He spoke softly, “Mr. Monty, Colin claimed that he had left Nauritus City for a business trip... but our men saw him in the city yesterday.”

“This fellow knows that there’s another party also seeking his mining company’s support, so he’s only agreeing to whoever pays the higher price then?” Conrad spoke coldly.

“Call him again. Tell him that I’m treating him to a meal and ask if he’s free enough to talk. If he can’t come down to the city, then I’ll look for him where he is. He’s just a general manager. We can find someone else to take his place if he’s unwilling to listen. No matter what, I will not let Jasper get his hands on this.”

The subordinate hastily replied, “Yes, I understand.”

“Go, then.”

With a wave of his hand, Conrad had the subordinate leave. Peace returned to the study, and Conrad walked toward the window with his hands behind his back. Staring at the newly sprouted grass downstairs, he murmured, "The year 2001 sure is filled with hardships!"

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In a hotel, Jasper was currently treating someone to a meal.

It was none other than the general manager of Southeast Province Mining Co., Ltd, Colin Walter.

Even though Jasper was hosting, the main character of the night was Henry instead.

This little brat had indeed brought Jasper a surprise.

"Here, a toast to you, Mr. Law." Colin raised his wine glass and stood, leaning over lightly as he proclaimed courteously.

Henry beamed as he knocked his glass with Colin's. "Don't worry about your daughter and son-in-law's businesses in Harbor City, Mr. Walter. I'll call them in a bit and put my name in. I'll make sure they earn a lot."

Colin brightened up immediately. "Mr. Law, I've lived more than half my life and the most important part of my life is this daughter of mine. I'm not too outstanding myself, so I sent both her and her husband to Harbor City.

"It's not easy for those from the Mainland to make a living in Harbor City, and I'd be very grateful if you could look out for them, Mr. Law."

Henry gave Jasper a weird look when he heard Colin claim that it was hard for those from the Mainland to make a living in Harbor City.

“Don’t worry about it, I already promised that I would help.” Henry grinned and then spoke intently, “But about my friend’s situation? What do you think we should do about it?”

Colin’s expression changed slightly as he looked at Jasper with a smile. With a conflicted look on his face, he replied, “Mr. Law, Mr. Laine, I’m not trying to decline you, but there really isn’t much I can do.

“You should know that even though I’m the mining company’s general manager, it still isn’t my company. It’s the higher-ups who decide what happens and they’ve already told me we will remain impartial to the situation between Mr. Laine and Mr. Monty.

“Both you and Mr. Monty are formidable men, Mr. Laine. I’m merely someone who survives on a salary. I cannot afford to offend anyone.”

Henry’s expression darkened instantly at Colin’s words.

It was a rare chance that he got to show his abilities in front of Jasper, yet this *sshole was about to screw him over.

“Now, this, Mr. Walter, I don’t like hearing. Don’t pull the higher-ups into our conversation now. I’ve promised to help your daughter and her husband, so I will. I have no complaints. But the moment I ask you for a bit of help, you start giving me excuses and whatnot. Are you looking down on my abilities?”

People like Henry mainly came in contact with other big shots. Even in situations where Henry’s existence was just as an insignificant youth, he was still much more formidable than nobodies like Colin.

Colin’s words had also ignited Henry’s spoilt temper at that moment and he exploded.

“Look, there’s no point in saying nonsense now, so let me just get straight to the point and tell you what’s going to happen.

“If you promise to help, then everyone will be happy and I promise that your daughter and her husband will live a sophisticated life worthy of the upper class. You know my family background, so I’m sure you know that I have the power to make that happen.

“But if this really is out of your hands and you can’t help, then that’s alright too. I don’t like forcing people to do things. But I also can’t promise what’s going to happen to your daughter and son-in-law in Harbor City. As I said just now, I have the power to make anything happen.”

With that, Henry then clapped a hand on Colin’s taut shoulder while grinning. “Understood?”

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What were trust fund babies?

Henry was the epitome of one.

‘Work for me, and I will reward you.

‘Yet the moment you’re unable to do your part well, I’ll screw you over.’

While it may sound like a simple piece of logic, it was in truth filled with bossiness and arrogance.

They did not fear revenge. In fact, revenge was welcome. ‘Go ahead. Let’s fight, shall we? Let’s compete to see who has the more formidable parent.’

There was no way Colin could compete with Henry's parents, so after a moment of pondering, he smiled bitterly and replied, "Mr. Law, what else can I do but listen when you've already made it so clear?"

Henry's expression finally brightened as he laughed out loud. "There we go. Here, come, Mr. Walter, let's have a drink. As for tonight, don't be in such a rush to return, okay? Let me make preparations."

Colin immediately raised his glass and replied, "Next time, Mr. Law. I'll treat you next time. The issue now is to make a stand, isn't it? So I've got to go back and make preparations in advance. I'm not the only employee in the office, after all."

Henry was very understanding and nodded. "Sure. I like your attitude toward work, Mr. Walter."

After eating their fill, Jasper and Henry sent Colin off.

"Mr. Laine, Mr. Law, there's no need to send me off any farther. I'll be getting into the car now," Colin told the two.

Jasper smiled and reached out to shake Colin's hand. "There's something else I would like to discuss with you, Mr. Walter."

After the dinner, Colin could tell that Jasper was someone whom Henry held in extremely high regard.

Even if it was not the case, Jasper was not someone he could afford to offend considering the former's prestige in Southeast Province.

Thus, Colin replied courteously, "Do tell, Mr. Laine. I'm listening."

"It's for your sake as well, Mr. Walter," Jasper smiled and spoke, "If I'm right, Conrad must've been contacting you over the past few days, right?"

Colin smiled bitterly.

To be frank, Colin would undoubtedly choose Conrad if it were a choice between him and Jasper. It was Henry's existence and his hold over his only daughter's family that he had to concede.

"Indeed. But don't worry, Mr. Laine. I definitely won't contact him in the future anymore," Colin promised.

Jasper shook his head instead and replied meaningfully, "Actually, what I wanted to say was please feel free to agree to whatever requests Conrad asks of you, Mr. Walter."

"The Monty family is very prominent in Southeast Province and I fear for your position should you end up offending him."

Hearing Jasper, Colin was stunned.

Honestly speaking, if possible, Colin was very much open to the idea of not taking the dangerous role of being the mining company's general manager. Being a simple chief in some other company was a much better option.

However, Jasper's words swarmed Colin with a feeling he had never once felt in more than half his life of working in the system.

"What do you mean, Mr. Laine?" Colin asked dumbfoundedly.

Jasper smiled. "You're a smart man, Mr. Colin. I'm sure you understand what I'm trying to say. Two days, at most. Two more days and all of this will be over. I promise to return the favor once all of this is over, Mr. Walter."

Colin looked at Jasper with a deep gaze. Before this, the reason why he had agreed to stand on Jasper's side on the Skyward Aluminum incident was that he was terrified of Henry's threats.

However, Colin now truly believed that the so-called genius from Southeast Province that appears once every half a century might truly be thrown off his high horse by Jasper.

No matter what, Colin still had to decide. Naturally, he would stand on Jasper's side since the odds were in his favor.

Colin clenched his jaw and spoke, "I know what to do, Mr. Laine."

Jasper smiled as he opened the car door for Colin who thanked him with a bow before getting into the car.

Watching Colin's car vanish into the distance, Henry suddenly sighed.

"What's wrong?" Jasper asked.

"Motherf*cker! Seriously, if not for the fact that it'd obstruct your plans, I really wish he'd say no. The number of people who'd risk disrespecting me now is dwindling. What a bunch of cowards."

Henry did not seem to realize how arrogant and irking his words were.

Then, Henry turned to ask Jasper, "You said that you'll finish it in two days. You mean it?"

Jasper smiled. "Why? Are you interested in this too?"

Henry snickered, saying, "My dad has actually told me so many times before that the most important thing I should learn from you is not how to make money but how to fight people.

"That's more important than making money. My family's rich, I don't even need to work and it'd still be impossible for me to spend all of our money. There's no need for me to make more money, but it's a different story with fighting people. I

want to be the number one young master in Harbor City. Do you know how cool that'll make me?"

Jasper hummed noncommittally at Henry's very outstanding ambition. As he walked to his car, he said, "I've already bought 15% of Skyward Aluminum's shares. Conrad has been fighting with me the entire time and he bought another 5%.

"Now that I have the support from Southeast Province Mining Co., Ltd, their 30% will then belong to me. That leaves both 45% in both mine and Conrad's hands."

At that, Jasper opened the door and glanced back at the brightly lit restaurant. Bending his head, he got into the car and continued calmly, "Therefore, the fight for another 5% of shares tomorrow will be the most important battle of all. But Conrad doesn't know that.

"Conrad's lack of knowledge on that will be enough to secure his loss.

"Think about it, we'll be fighting the battle tomorrow with the courage and commitment to end it all, while he's still contacting Colin and receiving a verbal promise from the man. Conrad will think that victory is in his hands.

"In that case, what reason do I have to lose?"

Henry got into the car with him. After hearing Jasper, Henry felt enlightened.

Then, he turned around to look at Jasper weirdly and said, "Just hit me if you ever get pissed at me in the future, okay? I promise I won't fight back. Just don't plot against me, please? I won't be able to sleep normally if you do."

"Your dad's rich, isn't he? Think you could ask him to buy you a bit of intellect?" Jasper commented.

It took Henry a long while before he understood what Jasper meant and he shouted, "What the f*ck, man? Who the hell talks about their brother-in-law like that?!"

...

In the blink of an eye, it was already a new day.

At 9:30 a.m., the country's share market A opened as usual.

Jasper sat before the computer at nine that morning. He would do the work himself today and claim victory in this battle.

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After a week of having its price blown up, Skyward Aluminum had now become a hotspot in share market A.

All investors knew that there were dealers trying to fight for control in this company.

Therefore, both retail investors with idle funds and organizations are trying to do everything they can just to get their hands on even a slight portion.

In truth, these past few days, investors who had shares in Skyward Aluminum had indeed made a lot of money.

Jasper alone had thrown in more than two billion Somer Dollars, while Conrad had thrown in 1.5 billion.

Jasper did not care though, for this was all Gale's money, after all.

That morning, Gale had transferred another 1.5 billion over to assist Jasper.

Jasper was truly impressed by Gale's wealth.

Work was much easier this time compared to the other trades he had done in stock markets before.

All he had to do was buy.

It was not his money anyway, so Jasper immediately bought all available shares the moment the market opened with nothing remaining.

Such a transaction instantly caused the share price to increase.

"Holy sh*t. It's going to rise to the limit in five minutes with how you're buying the shares. How are you planning to buy 5% of the shares?" Henry asked in shock when he saw the scene upon his arrival.

Jasper smiled. "I have my ways."

With that, Jasper then canceled all transactions that had yet to be confirmed backstage.

There was a sudden stunt in the momentum of purchasing.

At that, retail investors who were filing in maddeningly were instantly stunned.

An extremely expensive order had been canceled. Did that mean the share price had reached its maximum?

At the same time, Jasper called Jake.

"You can release the news now."

A few minutes later, the news spread like wildfire among the investors.

[JW Capital and Haddock Mining Group have come to an agreement regarding Skyward Aluminum. They've decided to cancel their plans to merge and acquire Skyward Aluminum.]

There was no need for a formal statement for the investors to feel panicked. They immediately sold all their shares.

Over the past week, Skyward Aluminum had already risen to the limit seven consecutive times and the market had closed every business day with the prices rising to the limit.

Anyone with the slightest sense of stock speculation would know that any single share could have their market price increase by 95% after rising to the limit seven times.

Skyward Aluminum that once had a market price of 30 billion was now approaching a market price of 60 billion. It was almost twice the amount it started with.

It was a miracle.

Yet at the same time, this news had frightened the investors who had calmed down amidst the frenzy. The share price was just too high now.

A pause in an upward trend was followed by none other than a revengeful drop.

As such, investors all began to sell their shares crazily.

Even a few large organizations within the country had sold their shares as well.