

Life at the Top Chapter 101

“Let’s go home.”

Jasper smiled and reached out his hand.

Wendy nodded and placed her small hand into Jasper’s large hand naturally.

The two of them walked shoulder to shoulder back to the parking lot.

On the way, Wendy saw an ambulance driving into the courtyard hurriedly and asked curiously, “Why is the ambulance here?”

“Zayden’s psychological state isn’t doing too well. He got so angry with me that he needs to go to the hospital.”

Wendy covered her mouth to laugh secretly after what Jasper said.

The two of them got into the car where Wendy said suddenly, “The daughter of the businessman from Harbor City is named Anna Law, right?”

“Yeah.” Jasper drove and did not glance sideways.

“I saw what happened. She spoke up for you and that’s how you got the chance to speak to Mr. Law.”

Wendy smiled.

“I think she can’t bear to look at Zayden’s arrogant face.”

Jasper’s expression was getting more and more serious.

“Perhaps.”

Wendy looked profound.

During the auction earlier, Jasper was not weak when he was devising a plan for the battle of more than a billion dollars of funds and when facing Mr. Law, but now, there was a light sheen of sweat on his forehead.

Back at Schuler Manor, Dawson was waiting for the two of them at the door with a huge grin on his face after he got the news.

“You’ve returned victorious!”

Dawson made a joke that was hard to come by.

“Luckily, we didn’t disappoint you,” Jasper said with a smile.

Dawson looked at Jasper up and down as if this was the first time he met him.

“I knew what happened. You rascal, you can remain calm and even-tempered, orderly and coherent, and have a sense of propriety when you’re facing the Laws. You have no idea how many friends of mine were praising you when you were in that situation.”

“The Laws are no different than any others to me,” Jasper said sincerely.

“They’re just richer, but I don’t think I’m requesting them to work with me. I just gave them a better direction for collaboration. They’re smart, so naturally, they’ll make the right choice.”

“Good boy!” Dawson patted Jasper’s shoulder. “Come, I’m happy today, so let us two men have some drinks.”

On the dining table, Wendy looked helplessly at Dawson who kept clinking his glass with Jasper's. She said, "Dad, the doctor said your blood pressure is pretty high, so you can't drink too much."

"Alcohol is the essence of foodstuff, so the more I drink, the younger I'll get."

Dawson ignored his daughter's worries. He turned around to lecture Jasper, "You have to listen to the woman at home. However, you should also know when to listen to them. For example, you don't have to care about the women now."

Jasper smiled and looked at Wendy who was fuming right now. He said, "You're right. You're right."

Wendy could only change the topic when she saw the men behaving like this.

"The Hanks lost so much this time, and now they have to make a very difficult decision. Do you think they'll clench their teeth and hold onto the land development rights?"

"No," Jasper shook his head and said, "If Zayden is the head of the family, then maybe. However, his elders won't be as brainless as him."

"The best choice for the Hanks right now is to give up on the bid. It's better to give up on the cash deposit of 50 million than taking out 1.5 billion. If not, they would hurt their vigor greatly."

"However, how will the Hanks gain ground? Won't people laugh them to death? These families value their image the most," Wendy said curiously.

"Normally, they value their image, but when they're facing a matter of life and death, they'll be more understanding than anyone," Jasper smiled and said.

"That's too bad. It's just a 50 million loss," Wendy said while feeling that it was a great pity.

Dawson chuckled softly and said, "Just leave this to me."

Jasper and Wendy lifted their heads to look over. Dawson then smiled and said, "The Hanks have been so arrogant for so many years. So many people are not happy with them. Now, we finally have a chance to beat them while they're down, so how will 50 million be enough?"

Life at the Top Chapter 102

Zayden opened his eyes slowly in the hospital room.

The person he saw after he opened his eyes was his father, Sylva.

Zayden felt a heavy weight on his chest as he anxiously opened his mouth and said in a trembling voice, "Dad, that Jasper kid... We've been..."

"I know," Sylva said calmly.

"I won't resign to this!" Zayden gripped the bedsheet and said through gritted teeth.

"You've lost everything," Sylva said in an extremely disappointed voice.

"The family has decided to give up on this auction. We will surely lose the cash deposit. The city hall is furious because the auction was such a huge event and everybody's attention had been on it. However, in the end, we decided to void our bid.

"The city hall is giving us a penalty of 200 million."

"The family will never forgive me for this 200 million and the 50 million combined," Zayden said in a trembling voice.

"You had walked into his trap since the beginning."

Sylva sighed ruefully. "I didn't think that young man named Jasper would be able to move Zachary Law. This is a huge variable and is the key for the Schulers to turn the tide."

“I want to kill him!” Zayden gritted his teeth. He was so mad that his voice started to change.

“You should leave the province for now,” Sylva said flatly.

“Dad, you’re giving up on me too? Where can I go if I leave the province?” Zayden said hurriedly.

Sylva sighed and looked as if he had aged a few years. He said, “From the looks of it now, the Hanks have completely fallen into a disadvantageous position. The continuous loss has struck down hard on my prestige. When one is rising, the other is falling. Your Uncle Zach’s right of speech is growing now.”

“You’ll go to Harbor City. I still have some resources, and I’ll plan for your future. The Laws have hoodwinked the public and they have a lot of rivals in Harbor City.”

Sylva looked deeply at Zayden and said, “You’ve had lessons coming at you one after another, so I hope you can grow from them. If not, there’s nothing else I can do anymore.”

After he said that, Sylva left the room.

Zayden widened his eyes to stare at the white ceiling and growled in a voice that was laced with extreme rancor. “Jasper Laine! Just wait, just you wait!”

...

‘The Hanks Tossed Out a Grand Total Of 1.5 Billion in the Auction to Obtain the 16-Acre Land in the Southface River and the Rights to Develop the south bank as a Whole!’

‘A Change of Attitude From the Businessman From Harbor City. Leaning Toward Working With JW Real Estates!’

'The Hanks Voided Their Bid, Angering the City Hall and Causing A 50 Million Cash Deposit Deduction and a Penalty of 200 Million Dollars!'

The upper-class were all watching the drama as a series of huge news shocked the province.

There was so much news in one day and it was such a rare sight.

The twist and excitement of the story were not inferior to that of a blockbuster.

No one could expect that the initial winner would suddenly fall at the last hurdle. On the contrary, this meant JW Real Estates of the Schulers had become the key to turn the situation around.

At the same time, Jasper was sitting in Dawson's office. He was on a call with the person in charge of the auction on his future father-in-law's phone.

"Oh, Uncle Jasper, you're hilarious. It's an honor that you're willing to transfer the land development rights and land to JW Real Estates."

The name of the person in charge was also Jasper. He had the same name as Jasper and was also older than him, so in order to become closer to him, Jasper naturally addressed him as Uncle Jasper.

"Price? Oh, Uncle Jasper, you should know that I was so furious I got confused during the auction, so that's why I called out 1.2 billion. Actually, we're just a small real estate company that just started. Where will we get that money?"

"I genuinely don't dare to play any tricks on you. I'm not pretending to be poor, but I really am poor..."

"Alright, Uncle Jasper. We'll just do whatever you say. You're occupied with important matters every day, so you must be so exhausted. We can't provide any help to you, so why would we cause more trouble for you regarding these minor matters?"

“Yeah, it’s the price I called out the third time. 710 million. That price is still doable. We definitely can’t afford 1.2 billion.

“Alright, you should go back to your business now, Uncle Jasper. I’ll treat you to a meal next time.”

Dawson did not know whether to laugh or cry when he watched Jasper wrangle with the person in charge of the auction.

However, this kid was indeed skillful. He lowered 1.2 billion to 710 million just by being cheeky.

Who else in this world could do this aside from him?

Life at the Top Chapter 103

After exchanging some conventional greetings with the person in charge of the auction over the phone, Jasper finally ended the call.

“When are you going to visit the Laws?” Dawson asked.

“It’s better now than never.”

Jasper pondered for a while. “They’ve shown enough sincerity, after all, so I’d better go over and do something as soon as possible.”

...

In the presidential suite of Sheraton, Jasper met Zachary once again.

“Mr. Law.” When Jasper saw Zachary walking out of the room, he got up and greeted him.

Zachary smiled and gestured to Jasper to sit. Then, he said, “Young man, we’re going back to Harbor City tomorrow.”

Jasper asked, “Has the investment agreement been confirmed?”

“If you’re the one with the land development rights, then yes, it has,” Zachary said with a grin.

Jasper said sincerely, “Thank you for your help, Mr. Law.”

“This is not even me helping you out. The situation in Mainland is not the same as in Harbor City. Even though we’ve invested here before, the central core

would still be Harbor City. As such, we still have to work together with a local developer with a much larger strength in this project to have peace of mind.

“Meanwhile, the Schulers are considered to be a pretty strong company in the province, so I’m not worried.”

“Mr. Law.” Jasper was silent for a moment before saying suddenly, “I’ve been planning to go to Harbor City for a while because I think after the bubble burst in the real estate market in Harbor City three years ago, the current market situation is in a slump. It’s the best time for bottom fishing.”

At the time of the handover, under the malicious manipulation of the authorities, they had planned to make Somerland take over Harbor City which was now left in ruins and had been squeezed dry.

It was because ten years ago, the real estate market in Harbor City had been flourishing.

Almost all of the rich families and millionaires in Harbor City were dealing with the real estate industry.

In addition to that, the Laws were nicknamed God of Land in Harbor City.

The main reason this happened was that the authorities wanted to suck their blood dry. They wanted to converge all of the capital in Harbor City to the real estate industry before drawing all of them out.

It could be said that they stole all of the savings Harbor City saved up for decades and only left Somerland with the ruins.

However, although they did not have complete success because of a lot of reasons, the real estate in Harbor City completely ruptured and broke out that year.

That was the rule of the economy, and nobody could stop it from happening.

As such, the current housing prices in Harbor City were no different from cabbages to Jasper.

After Zachary heard that, he smiled and said, “Young man, it’s impossible to dabble in the real estate industry in Harbor City if you don’t have the capital.”

Jasper smiled and said, “Indeed. Judging from my current assets, it’s indeed not enough to dabble in the real estate industry in Harbor City.”

After adding up all of the money Jasper had right now, he might be able to buy a normal piece of land in Harbor City with a decent location. That was it.

After all, Harbor City was indeed the economic center in the east currently. The pre-flourishing real estate prices in Mainland could not compare to that of Harbor City.

“So, the other reason I’m going to Harbor City is that I think there’s a huge opportunity in the stock market there.”

After Jasper said that, Zachary’s expression became solemn.

To Zachary, Jasper was already not a normal young man, after all.

Jasper’s identity as the mysterious individual shareholder in the international crude oil market was enough to make someone not dare underestimate his opinion in the capital market.

Not everyone had the ability and guts to snatch away more than one billion dollars of profit from the large countries all over the world and big shot capitalists.

After returning from the auction, Zachary had asked his people to look into the details of the battle in crude oils futures.

The more he understood what was going on, the more shocked Zachary felt about Jasper. Jasper was experienced—his foresight was savage and his decision was unwavering.

Now, the manipulation skills of the mysterious individual shareholder were being used as a classic example by the professors in educational institutes of finance and economy during lectures.

If he had not seen this with his own eyes, Zachary would not believe that this was done by the young man in front of him who was the same age as his children.

“I’ve mentioned to you about the opportunity in Harbor City’s stock market. It’s the chance to make up for the near tens of billions of loss your family suffered back then.”

Jasper’s tone sounded very confident.

Zachary looked at Jasper seriously and said in a low voice, “Are you saying that you want to make a stock market index?”

The stock market index was a way to invest.

For example, the stock market for Harbor City was called Hansel Index and this was fundamental for the entire market of Harbor City. If the market rose, then the Hansel Index would rise as well. If the market dropped, then the Hansel Index would drop.

Since the finance environment of Harbor City completely replicated that of the west, they could use the rise and fall of the Hansel Index to trade the futures of the market as a whole.

Basically, they would be treating the Hansel Index as one of the products of the futures. They could leave it empty or they could make more of it.

Jasper nodded and said, "There will surely be a huge quotation of market price in a short time."

The reason Jasper was so sure was that the dot-com bubble was about to burst.

The stock exchanges of the world would rise because of the internet economy. At the same time, internet corporate would be in high demand for stock investors.

However, after the bubble burst, a financial crisis that swept across the world would arrive.

Jasper could not tell the Laws everything because of a multitude of reasons.

Zachary lowered his voice and asked, "How sure are you?"

Jasper smiled and said, "Mr. Law, you should know that there isn't a 100% certainty on the capitalist market."

Zachary nodded and said while feeling disappointed and frustrated, "Indeed. I was too rash. However, the Laws do need a quick opportunity to withdraw currency from circulation."

"90% maybe." What Jasper said froze the expression on Zachary's face.

"Hahaha!" Zachary guffawed because he thought Jasper was joking with him. He said, "Oh, young man. Alright, I'll wait for you in Harbor City. If it's just like what you said, then you'll be... the most valuable friend to the Laws."

Jasper got up and said calmly yet solemnly, "Old Master Law was a legend throughout his life, and his heart was with his country the entire time. As a fellow compatriot, I feel proud to have such a senior."

Zachary could feel that Jasper was saying that from his heart. He nodded and said, "I'll wait for you to come to Harbor City and be a guest at our house. My

father hasn't met any guests in so many years. However, he must want to meet an excellent young man like you."

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“As the younger generation, it’s my pleasure. When I get to Harbor City, I will definitely get in contact with you, Mr. Law,” Jasper said and smiled.

Zachary said in a forthright manner, “If you don’t come to find me, I’ll get someone to kidnap you and bring you to me. After all, you’ve promised that you’ll make money for us.”

After some conventional greetings, Jasper got up to leave.

The moment he got out of Zachary’s room, he ran into Henry and Anna.

“Damn it, why did I run into this Mainlander?”

When Henry saw Jasper, his face darkened and he wanted to turn around to leave.

“Stop.”

Anna’s word caused Henry to stop as if his feet had been nailed to the floor.

“How many times have I told you to respect the people from Mainland now that we’re here? It’s easy to offend them by calling them Mainlander, don’t you know that?” Anna lectured.

Henry said impatiently, “I just blurted it out. I don’t mean it that way.”

“How would they know if you don’t mean it that way? Apologize right now,” Anna said.

Henry widened his eyes to look at Anna and yelled, "Are you sick in the head? You're asking your older brother to apologize to an outsider?"

"You're at fault, so you have to apologize." Anna looked at Henry coldly. "Are you going to or not?"

The corners of Henry's lips twitched, and he turned around reluctantly to say to Jasper, "Sorry."

It was insincere.

However, Jasper did not mind.

He knew Henry was not a bad person. Not only was he not bad, but he had a lot of the excellence of the Laws in his bones.

Why?

It was because in Jasper's previous life, this spoiled brat from a rich family would marry the diving queen a few years later!

When that happened, everyone in the country enjoyed a lot of piping hot tea.

However, Jasper did not expect that the cultured and refined young master from the previous life would be a sloppy brat now. It felt as if they were two different people.

"It's fine."

Jasper looked at Anna and said, "Are you guys leaving tomorrow?"

Anna nodded and said, "Early flight tomorrow morning."

"So, I'll see you in Harbor City," Jasper said with a smile.

“You’re going to Harbor City as well?” Anna asked curiously.

“Yeah, but not now. I still have to wait,” Jasper replied.

“Alright, I’ll see you in Harbor City.” Anna smiled. Her lovely feminine charms could shake one to their core.

After bidding farewell to the siblings, Jasper got out of the elevator.

Henry watched slyly as his sister stared at the door of the elevator until it closed. Then, he said, “Stop looking. He’s gone.”

Anna came back to her senses and peered at Henry flatly. “Do you like to get all up in my business?”

Henry chuckled and said, “Why do I have a feeling that you have a crush on this Mainlander?”

“Do you think I’d have a crush on someone so easily?” Anna said, in a bad mood.

“Hehe, don’t be shy. There were so many young masters pursuing you in Harbor City but you always gave them a dark face. However, you’re chatting and smiling with this Mainlander? Come, tell me, I’ll come up with a plan for you,” Henry patted his chest and said.

“Do you want me to tell Dad how many girls you’ve hurt when you were studying abroad? If I hadn’t solved your problems for you, I think Dad’s grandsons would be studying in junior high now, huh?” Anna said coldly.

Henry’s expression froze, and immediately, his disposition was gone completely.

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After all, some time ago when he started causing trouble outside and did not dare to tell his parents about it, his sister had always been the one to help him take care of those matters.

Sometimes, he would wonder if she was the elder sister and he was her younger brother.

...

Everything in the province was basically completed, and now, what was left would be given to the subordinates to handle. Of course, Dawson would arrange for all of these.

As such, Jasper brought Wendy back to the city.

It had been a while since they came back. The moment Jasper and Wendy stepped through the door, they heard Jasper's mother, Sally, nagging at them.

"Even if you're busy, you have to rest and eat well. Where did you two go these few days? I saw that the lights in the house you're living in next door were turned off at night. I didn't see you two as well."

"We were in the province these few days. We were with Wendy's father." Jasper took off his coat and hung it on the rack while replying.

"You've met her parents?" Sally had joy written all over her face.

"Did you remember to bring a gift?"

“Did you forget your manners?”

“Is Wendy’s father satisfied with you?”

Sally’s back-to-back questions caused Wendy to blush. She said quickly, “Sally, it was just a normal meeting. The main purpose of the meeting was still the business collaboration. It’s not what you think.”

“Wendy, it’s nothing to be ashamed of. Let’s discuss this when Jasper’s father comes back. Let’s decide a time for us parents to meet,” Sally said something astonishing.

Jasper did not know whether to laugh or cry. “What meeting between parents? Mom, stop interfering!”

“What nonsense are you talking about, kid? Do you still want Wendy to stay with you with no status? I won’t agree to it, and the parents should meet when it’s almost time. According to our tradition, the man’s family should go to the woman’s home and invite the woman over.”

The more Sally talked about this, the happier she became. She wanted so badly to call Charlie back right now to discuss the meeting of the parents.

When Jasper saw Wendy being as shy as a mouse and wanting very badly to hide, he coughed dryly. When he was about to say something, the phone rang.

The person calling was John. He said it had been a while since they met each other, so he wanted to invite Jasper out for a gathering.

Jasper could hear some hidden trouble that John could not mention amidst his stammers.

As such, Jasper agreed without a second thought.

Back then, John had helped him a lot, so if he could help him now, Jasper would not be stingy about it.

When Sally heard Jasper saying that he needed to go out right after coming home, her face fell immediately.

“You’re always so busy and don’t even have time to eat at home, huh?”

Jasper said helplessly, “It’s about social nicety, and I can’t decline. I’ll come back early.”

After he said that, Jasper ran away under Wendy’s eyes that were filled with a secret grudge.

After Sally nagged for a while, she turned around and beamed at Wendy. She said, “Wendy, let’s ignore him. What do you want to eat? I’ll buy the ingredients now and make it for you.”

Wendy answered in a lovable manner, “Sally, let’s go together. I want to learn how to cook from you as well.”

The more Sally looked at Wendy, the more she adored her. She said unhurriedly, “Alright, let’s go to the supermarket. I think Jasper’s father should be back when we’re done.”

20 minutes later, Jasper arrived at the agreed location.

It was a cafe.

Nowadays, if someone wanted to eat out, it was either a down-to-earth restaurant or a high-end restaurant. There would not be a myriad of choices like in the future.

As such, the existence of a cafe would gain popularity among ordinary people because it seemed stylish and pretty petit-bourgeois to them.

After Jasper found the private room, Jasper pushed the door open to see John sitting and drinking alone.

‘What happened? You look like you just went through a breakup.’

John sigh

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“Tell me, I’m listening. Let me know what’s going on,” Jasper said while sitting down.

John rubbed his face and started to tell Jasper what had happened to him during this period.

Gradually, Jasper understood what was going on.

The trouble John had run into was indeed directly related to him.

Although Jasper had won a huge amount of money after the fight with Hugh in Royce Villa, Hugh never planned to let this matter go so easily.

However, after that incident, Jasper was either in the province or Cavern City, so Hugh could not find a chance to seek revenge on him.

As such, Hugh, who had lost 50 million dollars, then channeled all of his anger and desire to seek vengeance on John, who was closest with Jasper.

Even though John also belonged to the circle, at the end of the day, he was just a president of Commercial Bank’s district branch. He still depended on his salary for his living.

Normally, when the firms wanted to take loans, they would need to see if he was in a good mood. However, to be honest, those millionaires never paid much respect to John.

Plus, Hugh was the one attacking first, so it was even more improbable for someone to be willing to offend Hugh for John.

It was because of this Hugh played some dirty tricks and set a trap to get hold of the details of how John went against the rules to approve loans for companies. Then, he even disclosed this to the city branch.

Hugh's people were among the leaders of the city branch and were tough. John pulled some strings but they still closed the door in his face.

If the investigation team came after him, then he would lose his job. As such, John only called Jasper because he had no choice.

"Is it true that you violated the rules and approved the loans? How much?" Jasper asked.

John's eyes were red as he gritted his teeth and growled. "It's not a lot, just more than three million. However, those inhuman b*stards with no conscience will still complain about life even if they have more than enough. They're all thankless wenches!

"I did violate the rules in some parts. If I have to go strictly by the rules, then a lot of companies won't fit the requirements for loans. The ones who fit the requirements might not even want a loan. How do they expect us to do our jobs like this?

"These are the unwritten rules in the industry. Everyone will turn a blind eye to this. It'll be fine as long as no one causes any huge trouble.

"That b*stard Hugh deliberately asked someone to set a trap for me. That person wasn't a stranger, so I wasn't worried that he wouldn't pay up and that's why I approved the loan. In the end, who knew that person would take all the money and run?

"I can't get the money back, and Hugh is using his connections to disclose this to the branch. So, that's how I got into trouble."

Jasper did not say anything as he was thinking.

John remained silent for a while, then he gritted his teeth and said, "Brother, it's fine if you can't take care of this. If worst comes to worst, I'll just quit my job as the president."

Jasper shook his head and said, "If they really implicate you, it's not a matter of losing your job or not. You might even get sent to jail if this is not handled correctly."

John's face turned white. He was in the industry, so how would he not know the sensitivity of these banking matters? If he approved loans without following the rules and the person ran away, as a president, he would really be sent to prison.

"But don't worry." Jasper smiled and calmed John down.

"This is easy to take care of. However, my goal is not just to take care of this.

"A person like Hugh will always bear grudges at one side, and he'll be a time bomb for you and me. Why don't we use this opportunity to get rid of him?"

When John heard what Jasper said, he widened his eyes and controlled his excitement. He said, "Brother, are you sure?"

According to the memories of his past life, John would keep getting promoted, and in the end, he would be the second-in-command of the provincial branch.

On the other hand, Hugh's Lantern Capital would bomb, and in the end, it would be finished.

At the end of the day, the reason Jasper knew this was still because he had changed some things after his rebirth.

However, overall, there was one thing that would remain unchanged.

It was that Lantern Capital would definitely be finished.

Lantern Capital's investments were running at a loss. If Hugh wanted to fix the hole and also the 50 million he lost back then, he could only rob Peter to pay Paul.

He might have already used the clients' funds.

Plus, there was another important point. Jasper remembered that in his previous life after Hugh's business completely went down the drain, he was eventually sentenced.

The team from the Municipal Bureau of Economic Investigation had been watching Hugh a very long time ago. The moment the company went down, they immediately got hold of him. Back then, he was arrested for illegal fund-raising.

To Jasper, it was not too complicated to destroy Hugh.

"Can you get in contact with Hugh?" Jasper asked.

John did not know why Jasper asked this question. However, he said, "Yeah, but I had a falling out with him over the phone yesterday."

Jasper said, "Call him and tell him you're treating him to a meal."

John stared blankly at him and said, "Um... Won't you be walking right into the trap? He's been looking for you all over the place."

"I'm worried that he won't find me. If he does, then I have everything planned. Make the call," Jasper said.

John nodded and called Hugh. He also deliberately put it on loudspeaker.

Immediately, the call went through and Hugh's gloomy, hoarse voice sounded from the phone.

“Jackson, why are you still calling me? Are you gonna beg for mercy?”

Jack took a deep breath and suppressed the anger in his chest before saying, “I’m inviting you to a meal.”

Hugh was stumped for words before chortling. “A meal? I won’t let you get away with this even if you kneel in front of me! You should blame yourself for following the wrong person. I’ll consider letting you off if you get that Jasper kid to come over, ask him to kowtow to me, and apologize to me.”

Jasper gave Jack a look.

Jack said coldly, “He’s the one who wants to see you.”

There was silence on the other end of the phone. Then, Hugh chuckled and said, “That kid has really appeared?”

“Alright, he’s pretty ballsy for having the guts to see me. Tomorrow afternoon at two o’clock, I’ll book a table at Grand Millennium and treat him to a meal.

“Remember to tell him that if he wants to beg for mercy, he needs to bring a check of 80 million dollars. If not, I’ll break his legs and let him crawl out the door.”

After he said that, he hung up the phone.

Jack said with worry, “Hugh has some connections with the mafia. Aren’t we a little impetuous by doing this?”

Jasper smiled and said, “Those tricks are better kept under the table.”

“So what should we do now?” John asked.

“Find two experienced stock traders and just follow my instructions tomorrow,” Jasper said calmly, “I know Lantern Capital has one main holding share. So, we’ll get it down for him tomorrow. His clients will feel the fire catching their eyebrows before he can even feel anxious.”

John said excitedly, “Brother, I’ll count on you this time.”

Jasper smiled and said, “You’re in this position because of me too, so I should help you to the end.”

While he said that, Jasper stood up. “Come, let’s go to a place.”

“Where?” John asked curiously.

“The Securities Commission in the city.”

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“Are you...” John looked blankly at Jasper as if he knew what he was thinking about.

“Hehe, do you think someone like Hugh would have a clean background?” Jasper smiled indifferently. Then, the two of them went to the Securities Commission.

As for why they went there, only they and the president of the Securities Commission would know!

...

The next day in John’s office.

Two young people who had just stepped into society were shaking in fear.

It was obviously their first time in the president’s office and doing personal matters for the president. Damn it, they were being favored by the president now...

“Do you remember now?”

John’s expression looked solemn.

“The account and target shares have been given to you two. When the trading commences in the afternoon, go in and immediately hammer the market. Hammer it as low as you can.”

The two young people nodded in haste. “Don’t worry, sir. This is easy, so we’ll definitely do well.”

“However, since we’re going to hammer the market, what about the capital?” one of the two young people voiced out their concern.

This was the stock market, and if they did not have at least hundreds of millions of capital, they would not even cause a ripple.

John gestured to them to look at the capital in his account in the back-end.

The two confused young people opened the back-end. Then, they widened their eyes as if they had just seen a ghost and their mouths turned into O shapes.

“Gosh, there’s so much money! Two billion?”

“I-I’ve never had this much money to play the game with before...”

The two young people were looking at John as if they were looking at a tall mountain.

Two billion dollars. No ordinary people would be able to see this much money in their lifetime.

“Anyway, the task handed to you two is not difficult. You’ll be fine if you do it properly. If you cause any trouble, then you can take off your clothes and get lost.”

John gave the two of them a warning.

“Got it.”

The two of them did not dare to say anything more. It had been so difficult for them to get into this industry after pulling some strings. They were not idiots, and

if they were able to do this well, then they would be able to get the chance of being favored by the president and become his people. If they did not do well... then they might seriously have to leave.

After his announcement, John looked at the time. When he saw that it was about time, he left his office.

After he left, the two young people started murmuring immediately.

“Say, which God-tier client is this? Two billion? How f*cking scary.”

“We shouldn’t ask what we shouldn’t. We should be careful not to cause trouble for ourselves.”

The other was more cautious and sensible. After they said that, they shut their mouths and waited for the time to come.

Downstairs, John had already gotten into Jasper’s Bentley.

“It’s great to have money,” John said ruefully. He remembered his predicament when he remembered the two billion capital and sat in the Bentley.

“Both have their advantages and disadvantages; both have their troubles,” Jasper chuckled and said.

John nodded and said nervously, “Are you sure it’ll be fine?”

“Don’t worry. Does he really have the balls to kill us?” Jasper said indifferently.

John nodded heavily when he thought about this.

Grand Millennium was one of the assets under Hugh, and it was considered a pretty high-end hotel.

Jasper's car stopped at the entrance, and the two of them got out.

After they got out of the elevator to go to the reserved private room, Jasper and John could feel the tension in the air.

There were people on both sides of the corridor.

All of them looked like thugs. They were chewing gum and shaking their feet as they looked at the two of them in a rowdy manner.

There were roughly over 20 people standing in the corridor at first glance.

John was starting to panic when he saw this. Then, he remembered the rumor about Hugh keeping a bunch of desperadoes as his subordinates, and his face turned white.

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However, Jasper was not scared at all. He walked straight to the private room without glancing sideways.

Behind Jasper, John's face was pale. He kept swallowing his saliva and did not dare to look at the thugs on both sides.

When they got to the door of the private room, John, who wanted so badly to run away from this corridor, took the initiative to grab the doorknob.

With a smack, one of the men who looked like the leader of the thugs smacked John's hand away.

"Mr. Lewis said you have to kneel and crawl into the room if you want to go in!"

The head of the thugs had a buzzcut and was showing off the sinister-looking tattoos all over his arms. He snickered, and his eyes were filled with sinister glints.

John was shaking from anger. However, he did not dare to say anything, so he turned his eyes to Jasper.

Jasper glanced at the head of the thugs and increased the volume of his voice to say to the person behind the door, "Hugh, is this how you treat your guests?"

The private room was dead silent.

"Alright, if you think these thugs can hold up the facade, then you can have fun on your own."

After he said that, Jasper turned around to walk away.

The moment he turned around, the door of the private room opened.

The inside of the room was huge. There was a big round table that was filled with food. Hugh was sitting on the main seat that was facing the door in an imposing and forthright manner. He was holding a piece of roast chicken, and his face was greasy from chomping down on it.

On the other seats of the round table were a few of the people Jasper knew and had seen in Royce Villa before. They looked as if they were sitting on pins and needles.

Behind Hugh were a few tall and sturdy bodyguards.

He had the manner of the head of the mafia.

“Haha, I’m sorry, I’m sorry. My men were insensible. Guys, please come in.”

Hugh grinned and said. He pointed at the seat opposite him with his greasy finger. “There. I saved those seats for you guys.”

Jasper led John into the room and sat down directly.

Hugh stood up and walked to John so that he was behind him. He wiped his greasy hands on John’s suit and chortled. “Did you bring the money?”

“What money?” Jasper asked him back indifferently.

The smile on Hugh’s face disappeared gradually. Then, he slammed his hand down on the table.

He had exerted a lot of force in that slam. Not only did the utensils on the round table jump, but even the people on both sides of the round table were startled.

Hugh roared at Jasper, "Are you f*cking joking with me right now? I told you to bring 80 million! Where's the money?"

Jasper stood up and looked straight at Hugh. He took out a checkbook from his pocket and wrote a sum of 80 million.

Hugh's eyes were twinkling when he saw this.

He thought Jasper was scared of him and he really came here to beg for mercy.

Back then, he had lost 50 million, and during this period, he had secretly embezzled a large number of the clients' funds to barely fill in the gap. Even so, a lot of clients were starting to feel suspicious.

However, Hugh managed to suppress all of them.

If he was able to get this 80 million today, then not only would he make the losses back, but he would even earn 30 million.

"Hahaha!"

Hugh patted Jasper's shoulder and guffawed. He said, "A wise man submits to his circumstances. Young man, I admire you for having a sense of propriety."

At this moment, Jasper had already written the check but did not sign it.

"Do you want this?"

Jasper glanced at the grease Hugh got on his coat and said indifferently, "Wash my clothes till they're clean again."

Hugh stared fixedly at the check in Jasper's hand and sneered, "It's just a piece of clothing. Sign the check, give it to me, and I'll buy ten of them for you!"

“Mr. Lewis, money has always been nothing but numbers to me, but... do you think I'm here to give you money?”

After he said that, Jasper ripped the check in front of Hugh and the others.

With a rip, the check that was able to cash 80 million dollars from the bank turned into waste paper.

The smile on Hugh's face froze.

Then, Jasper looked at Hugh and uttered a statement coldly.

“You dirtied my clothes, so you have to wash them for me!”

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Gulp.

That was the sound of John swallowing his saliva with difficulty.

At this moment, the air in the private room was extremely tense.

It felt as if everyone had been set firmly in place with glue. Nobody dared to do or say anything.

John was seriously scared.

He was scared that Hugh would be completely infuriated and do something irrational.

This place was filled with Hugh's men, and if he really were to go insane, nobody would guarantee what would happen to Jasper and him.

“Heh!”

When everyone was holding their breath and did not dare to exhale, Hugh made this sound from his throat.

It sounded like a laugh, but since it was too short and cold, nobody felt any benevolence from it.

“Jasper, nobody dares to be impudent in front of me. Meanwhile, you have completely enraged me.”

While he said that, Hugh stared fixedly at Jasper with his eyes glinting in a hostile manner.

“I’ll let you guess if I have the guts to call a few of my men in here, pluck the nerves of your hands and legs and give them tens of thousands of dollars to leave the country. What will be waiting for you then is a lifetime of disability.”

...

A little while before Jasper and John arrived at the hotel.

The two young men in John’s office were waiting for the trading to commence.

They did not dare to hesitate. When it was time, their fingers immediately flew across the keyboard and they started doing what John had told them to do before he left.

At the next moment, Company A received a two billion cash injection.

Zoni was the blue chip stock in the eyes of a lot of stock investors.

A second before the trading commenced, its price was still flat and reasonable.

A lot of the stock investors who were following this got the news about the dealer hyping and there would be a huge increase very soon.

When they were considering whether to buy some, in the next second, the price of the stock plummeted.

When the stock investors were in a daze, the price plummeted horrifyingly once again after staying still for less than a second.

The stock investors who did not buy were feeling lucky that they had dodged the bullet. However, the stock investors who had bought in were crying to the

heavens and selling the stocks they were holding at the lowest price as if they had gone insane.

However, the plummeting stock price would not give them the chance to sell.

After they had their lowest price pending, the current stock price would fall below the price they set.

This plummeting of stock prices without warning attracted the attention of a lot of people.

Including the vice president of Lantern Capital who had been staring fixedly at the situation all along.

He was Hugh's trusted aide, so naturally, he would know that his boss and a few owners of a private enterprise had a controlling number of shares and were trading in Zoni.

Since it had great potential, Hugh had invested most of the funds from Lantern Capital into Zoni. He was waiting to make a huge amount of money when the time came.

However, Zoni was now plummeting as if it had fallen down a cliff. Sweat was forming on this vice president's forehead.

In the blink of an eye, he received a lot of calls. All of them were asking whether Lantern Capital was the one that caused this plummet because of something they secretly did.

The vice president only wanted to curse.

If Zoni's stock price plummeted, the one suffering the biggest loss would be Lantern Capital. He was not an idiot, so why would he let it plummet?

After a few calls, the price was still plummeting. On the other hand, the floating loss account of the company had reached a ghastly number.

This was beyond his range of control.

The vice president did not hesitate before calling Hugh.

At this moment, Hugh was considering whether to cripple Jasper.

The hurried ringtone eased the tension in the silent room.

Hugh frowned and answered the call while feeling pissed.

However, after hearing the urgent report from the other end, Hugh's expression changed slowly.

The contrast of that was Jasper's eyes that were getting calmer.

"How is that possible..."

Hugh muttered in disbelief. Then, it was as if he had come back to his senses. He grabbed Jasper's collar and roared, "It's you? Did you do that to Zoni?"

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“Were you the one who caused Zoni to plummet ten minutes after the trading commenced?”

Hugh’s furious roars caused everyone’s expressions to change.

“Zoni? The one where Lantern Capital is the dealer and has the main holding shares?”

“I heard in order to make back the 50 million loss, Hugh put all of his money in it.”

“How could it have plummeted? Even though Zoni doesn’t have a huge market, it’s impossible to control the price without a few billion dollars.”

“My gosh, they’re seriously taking drastic measures to deal with a situation.”

The crowd who did not dare to speak because of Hugh were now like cats on a hot tin roof. All of their expressions started to change.

Suddenly, John was no longer panicking in the crowd.

He even took out a cigarette and lighted it before taking a drag happily.

Looking at the crowd around the table who were overwhelmed with shock, horror, or amazement, John suddenly wanted to laugh. He wanted to laugh at all of them.

These people had no idea how horrifying Jasper could be.

On the other hand, Jasper lifted his hand to remove Hugh's hands before saying indifferently, "You're involved with Zoni? I'm sorry, I didn't like that company so I smashed its market. Now, I might let it lose a few hundred million dollars."

Hugh felt as if his heart had been ripped out after Jasper said that.

He looked at Jasper with rancor and gritted his teeth. He said, "My entire fortune and life are on Zoni. If you smash it, then you'll be taking my life!"

"Too bad, then." Jasper chuckled lightly.

He lifted his eyes to look at Hugh who was like a mad dog. He said slowly, "Or maybe you can kneel in front of me? If I'm in a good mood, I might save a few coins for you to spend for the remainder of your life."

"Jasper!" Hugh had completely lost his mind. He roared, "I'm going to kill you!"

"Shut up!"

Jasper roared all of a sudden.

All this while, Jasper's tone had been neither fast nor slow. This was the first time he used his voice to completely overpower Hugh.

"If I were you, I'd be wondering what the investors will do to you after such a huge loss. Will they pluck your nerves or will they skin you alive?"

Jasper's words caused Hugh's face to turn white.

He was clear that the money from Lantern Capital had all come from the investors, and none of those people should be provoked.

If word about what happened today got out, Hugh Lewis would be completely finished.

There was intense fear in Hugh's eyes. His lips were trembling as he said, "Y-You're a devil."

"Thanks for the compliment," Jasper said slowly.

"Do you think you've won?" Hugh said suddenly.

"If not?" Jasper asked.

"Hahahaha!" Hugh lifted his face and guffawed. He pointed at the outside of the room and said, "Everyone out there was arranged by me. Yes, I'm done for and Lantern Capital will close down tomorrow, but so what? Before that, I want to kill you!"

"You can only blame yourself for being too savage. You burnt all of the bridges, so don't blame me for being cruel!" Hugh said while laughing nastily.

Some people on the round table were shaking their heads while sighing.

"Even though Jasper's skills are amazing, unfortunately, he's still not Hugh's rival."

"The carpet pulling is great, but at the end of the day, a slow remedy does not address the current emergency."

The people who were talking looked at Jasper, and their eyes were filled with pity.

"Everyone here is under Hugh, and the ones out there are desperadoes who will seriously do anything for just 10,000 dollars. Jasper is finished for forcing Hugh to a dead end."

"He's still inexperienced, not like us seniors. If not, he would not have come here. It'd be enough manipulating this from the dark. He wouldn't have to face these risks if he did that, would he?"

When John heard that as he was smoking his cigarette, he wanted to laugh even more.

He wanted so badly to stand up and tell those opinionated idiots that they had walked into Jasper's trap right from the beginning.

Hugh's final counterattack was just vulgar claptrap to please the crowd.

However, he could not do that, so John was having such a hard time holding himself together.

Bang!

At this moment, the door of the room was kicked open and a team of uniformed officers walked over to Hugh solemnly.

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Life at the Top Chapter 111

“Are you Hugh Lewis?”

The leader of the team asked Hugh sternly.

Hugh looked at him in panic and looked at the corridor. He realized that the men he brought with him were nowhere to be seen.

Ineffably, Hugh’s expression turned horrible as if a crisis was going to fall on him anytime.

“I’m asking you if you’re Hugh Lewis!” the officer yelled.

“Y-Yes,” Hugh answered with difficulty.

He knew if these people were able to show up in front of him, then they must already have concrete proof of his crimes.

“Hugh Lewis, we have sufficient proof to suspect that you’re involved in illegal fundraising and manipulating the stock prices in the dark. This is your summon. Please come with me,” the officer said in a deep voice.

Hugh gritted his teeth tightly and looked at Jasper with rancor. He growled, saying, “Did you arrange all these?”

Jasper said indifferently, “You’ve broken the law, so you were simply asking for this.”

Hugh roared, “If it wasn’t for you, how would it be possible for them to show up just in time? Stop quibbling, you’re the one who did this!”

“Hugh, you still aren’t remorseful even when death is near. We’re not working under someone, so nobody can tell us what to do. Actually, we’ve been watching you for a very long time. You’re just too egotistical and didn’t notice,” the officer said coldly.

Hugh laughed maniacally and said, “Bullsh*t! Those people’s money is for me to invest!

“You’re saying that I’m manipulating the stock prices? Jasper is the real manipulator! If not, how could Zoni have plummeted all of a sudden?”

“The investment agreement of Lantern Capital clearly states that all of the investment funds will not be used for stock speculation, so it means you’ve made a promise to your investors. Hence, this is illegal. A lot of people have reported you, you just had no idea.

“As for you saying that Jasper is also manipulating the stock price, if you have the evidence, you can report him to us too. We’ll definitely enforce the law impartially,” the officer said sternly.

“Ask them if you don’t believe me! Everyone here heard Jasper saying that... That...”

After Hugh said that, he suddenly could not continue anymore because he remembered that Jasper had never admitted to manipulating the stock price before.

Jasper looked at Hugh indifferently as if he was watching the final outburst of a hysterical lunatic.

“I think everyone here can be my witness. Just now, I said I thought Zoni has a pretty high price and it’s scamming the stock investors of their money, so that’s why I’m not happy with it. The only thing I did was sell its stocks.”

Jasper chuckled and turned his head to the officer to ask, "Is this manipulating the stock price?"

The officer shook his head and said, "This is a normal investment in the market, so it's not."

Hugh staggered backward and glared at Jasper with extreme rancor in his eyes. Suddenly, he laughed furiously. "Alright. Well done! What a nice trick! You've planned this from the start so that I'll go behind bars!"

Now, everyone in the room understood.

This was indeed a trap.

However, could one say that Jasper was the one who set this trap?

At the end of the day, the problem was with Hugh because he was the one breaking the law. If not, Jasper would not have been able to make those officers do this even if he wanted.

As such, Hugh's arrogance and Jasper's impression as a scatter-brained youth back then were all fake.

This entire development had already been in the palm of Jasper's hand.

"How horrifying!"

The person next to John who had just teased Jasper for being inexperienced sighed in regret with a horrible expression on his face.

"I've been living on this earth for 40 plus years but I didn't expect to gain knowledge and experience today," another man looked at Jasper and muttered with a complicated look in his eyes.

John snorted and said, "That's why you can't just look at one side when you're looking at things. Who knows what will happen in the future? All of you are not young anymore and you still don't know this?"

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Everyone on the table flushed red when they heard what John said. None of them dared to refute him.

“Jasper, you’ll die a horrible death!”

When he thought about how his high position and great wealth would end here today and what would be waiting for him was jail time, Hugh completely lost his mind.

He pounced at Jasper like a mad dog and looked as if he wanted badly to drag Jasper down with him.

However, Jasper stood in his spot without moving.

It was because the officers at one side who had been waiting and eyeing covetously instantly tackled Hugh to the floor.

“Take him away!” The leader waved his hand, and hence, Hugh was brought away while he yelled and cursed continuously.

As Hugh’s voice got further and further away, the officer shook hands with Jasper and said, “No matter what, thanks for your information. If not, we wouldn’t have been able to capture him so easily.”

“As a citizen, I should cooperate and help out,” Jasper said with a smile.

The officer displayed a smile on his expressionless face. Then, he said sternly, “We’ll support legal businesses, and at the same time, we’ll also provide the best environment for you guys. However, we will not allow any illegal activities to go on.”

Jasper nodded and said, "As it should."

"I won't be staying for long. I'll get going now." After the officer said that, he gathered his team and left.

After they left, Jasper turned around to look at the table.

There were about eight to nine people at the table. Even though the host, Hugh, would not be coming back anymore, no one dared to leave before Jasper said anything.

As such, Jasper walked to the seat Hugh had been sitting on before he left amidst the stifling silence.

He draped his arm across the back of the chair and scanned everyone's faces. Then, he chuckled lightly. "What are you waiting for? Continue eating if you're still hungry and if you're not, leave."

Everyone left out sighs of relief after Jasper said that.

After all, it might seem that they were siding with Hugh because they were sitting here.

Although they never said anything, their presence was proof enough.

Now, Jasper had completely ended Hugh quickly and efficiently. No one was sure if Jasper would seek revenge on them in the future.

No one expected that Jasper, who only joined their internal meeting a few months ago as a newbie, would now replace Hugh as the powerhouse among them.

"Um, I still have something to take care of, so I have to go now."

Finally, someone could not take this anymore and stood up while saying with a smile.

With someone taking the lead, a few more people immediately started bidding their farewells as well.

However, after they said that, Jasper did not say anything. As such, they would not dare to leave just like that.

It seemed that they were pretty cautious.

Jasper did not look at them. On the contrary, he only said nonchalantly, “Just leave if you have something else to tend to. I’m not the same as Hugh. He wants to control you guys, but I don’t want to do that. I think there’s an endless amount of money to earn in this world, and if there’s money, we can earn it together.

“However...”

Jasper lifted his eyes to scan their smiling faces.

“If anyone dares to do any shady business, then what happened to Hugh will not be the worst because there will be something even worse coming. None of us want to see that happening, right?”

Amidst everyone’s silence, John took a sip of his tea.

The hidden dragon was finally going to fly into the sky!

Life at the Top Chapter 113

“Mr. Laine, Hugh is emphatic and domineering, so we all had sorrows that we couldn’t voice out. Now that the villain has got his punishment, we’ll definitely be well-behaved.”

Someone stood up and said with a grin.

His words got the approval of a lot of people.

Jasper did not want to bother himself with whether this man was being sincere or not.

The pond of this city was too small to accommodate his growth and development.

These people would be destined to live in a different world than him in the future.

“Go now.”

Jasper waved his hand and left the room with John.

At the hotel lobby, Jasper asked John, “Do you need me to find someone to ask about your loan kerfuffle?”

John said quickly, “No need. It was difficult back then because Hugh was watching me. Now that he’s been defeated, I have a great chance to get away with this. I’ve been working in this industry for so many years and there will be some older higher-ups who appreciate me. Plus, this was a trap, after all.”

After this was settled, John felt like he owed Jasper a big one. He did not have the cheek to trouble Jasper anymore.

However, he was fearful in secret, because he could sense from Jasper's tone that it would be effortless for him to take care of this.

John felt that this was outrageous. When did Jasper get to such a high level?

Jasper nodded. From the memories of his past life, John was able to make his way to the second-in-command position of the provincial branch before retiring with honor and glory. It was enough to prove that he had something in him.

"Mr. Laine, I don't know how can I thank you for this. Perhaps you might not need me anymore in the future, but if you do, just tell me and I won't hesitate to go through water and tread on fire for you!" John said sincerely.

Jasper laughed and said, "I didn't help you just to have you make it up to me in the future. I just feel that you were only implicated in this because of me."

"You can't say that. After this incident, I came to understand a lot of things. I now know that I can't depend on the brothers I drink together with when I'm in a crisis." John shook his head and sighed sorrowfully.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed," said Jasper with a smile.

After John expressed his deep gratefulness for Jasper, they parted ways in front of the hotel.

After he returned home, Sally asked the moment she saw Jasper, "Why did you come back alone?"

Jasper replied, "We were in the province this entire time and had a lot of things going on in the office, so Wendy couldn't make it back in time."

“You should do more work. How can you leave Wendy alone in the office while you come back alone?” Sally was immediately displeased.

“Mom, I’m your son,” said Jasper helplessly.

“Wendy is more lovable than you. I wanted to have a daughter back then but you Laines have a feudal way of thinking and insisted on a boy,” Sally said while feeling slightly regretful.

Jasper sat down on the sofa and saw a few pieces of crumpled-up tissue paper on the coffee table. He asked in astonishment, “Mom, were you crying? What happened?”

Sally sat down and sighed. She said with a miserable look on her face, “Rose Peters is dead.”

“Rose Peters? Who’s Rose Peters?”

Jasper frowned and tried to mentally search for this person’s information among the family and friends who were close to his family.

“Her!”

Sally pointed at the television and sighed. “She was such a wonderful person. Your father and I loved her skits. Aside from Mr. Roberts’ skits, hers were the best.”

“Famous actress Mrs. Rose Peters who was beloved by everyone passed away early this morning today because of lung cancer...”

The host’s pained voice sounded from the television.

Even though it was a local entertainment channel, Rose's death as an artist was still being broadcasted on television and this showed just how big of an influence Rose had in the country.

For example, people around Sally's age would know that actress with an infectious smile.

"Oh, her." Jasper did not know whether to laugh or cry.

He did not understand. This person was not related to them at all, so why would his mother cry so sadly over her death?

"I think she's the only one qualified to be an actress and a star. Look at those young people on television nowadays. They're just androgynous bells and whistles. How can they be called stars?"

"Still, you young people love them so much and call yourself groupies. I think you people need to think properly with your brains."

While listening to his mother questioning the taste of the youngsters, Jasper laughed and said, "Mom, you're outdated. Just you wait, in the next few years, those are the ones who are truly androgynous, and the fans will be..."

When he said that, Jasper fell silent suddenly.

Two years later, with the economic development, everyone's living standards will increase and showbiz would welcome its boom before truly prospering.

Then, toward the end of 2020, any of those celebrities with huge followings would become cash cows.

The celebrities who would be shooting to fame in late 2020 were probably suffering in poverty or hardship now.

If he dabbled in the entertainment industry, he might not even need to do anything. As long as he signed them and gave them some resources that they were destined to get, then he could just sit home and wait for those cash cows to make money for him.

Others aside, the future superstar of Terra, Jay Ciao, might still be using other people's recording studios to make his first album.

It was this album that launched Jay's music career and dominated the English pop music industry for more than ten years.

Other than that, the women who the sims idolized in the future—Mimi Young, Tinker Belle, and Reba—had yet to make their mark.

Even Vicki Bird was just starting out, and she was far from being the mighty figure she became in the future who no one dared approach.

These people were the shiniest cash cows!

Throughout the ten years between 2000 until 2010, the three industries that would make one rich quick were real estate, the stock market, and the entertainment industry!

Jasper already had his plans for the first two, so now, he could not miss out on the entertainment industry!

"Why are you lost in thought?"

Sally's voice woke Jasper from his thoughts.

"I suddenly remembered something, so I spaced out for a little," Jasper answered without thinking.

“Wendy’s back, so I’m going to heat the chicken soup up for her to warm her body.”

Sally heard the sound of a car outside and got up to say.

“Why didn’t you tell me there’s chicken soup when I got back just now?” Jasper grumbled.

“Women are weaker, and you’re always asking her to do so many things, so of course, she’ll need this to replenish her health. You’re still young, so why do you need chicken soup?”

Sally said without even turning back. Then, she walked straight into the kitchen.

While they were talking, Wendy opened the door to come in. She asked Jasper curiously, “I heard your mother’s voice just now. What were you talking about?”

Jasper smiled and said, “We were talking about how to build an entertainment empire. Are you interested in being the best actress?”

Life at the Top Chapter 114

“Are you planning to advance into the entertainment industry?” Wendy asked as she was sharp and could sense Jasper’s intention.

As for the last sentence, Wendy ignored it automatically. She was used to this guy spewing nonsense occasionally, so she would treat it as if she had not heard him.

“The entertainment business is full of potential,” Jasper said. When he saw Wendy trying to say something but stopping herself, he asked, “You don’t agree with me?”

Wendy sat down and said, “No, I’ll always support your decisions. However, I’m just worried that we have too much on our plate. On one hand, JW Capital is doing investment, and on the other hand, we’re doing real estate too. Would it be a little too much if we venture into the entertainment industry as well?”

Wendy’s concern was reasonable. Some of the companies that were flourishing in one industry would be unable to recover after a minor hitch when they went onto the so-called path of diversification.

An example in another country would be the beverage company that was considered the brand of the people. They did not focus on making beverages, but instead, they went on to dabble in real estate and supplements. In the end, their losses almost caused the company to close down.

Within the country, it would be Schuler Group. An old fox like Dawson had almost jumped off a building because he went into the capitalist domain with his initiative after being deceived by the Hanks.

Naturally, Wendy’s concerns were not completely unreasonable.

“JW Capital’s main focus will always be in the finance industry, and our main job will be venture capital. This will never change,” Jasper explained attentively.

“As for the real estate company, it will be another business and your father will be the one managing it. As such, I’m not worried at all.

“I don’t plan to start from scratch regarding our future entertainment business. I want to buy an entertainment company in both Mainland and Harbor City. It’s the same concept. I can’t manage the company myself, so I’ll leave the professional things to the professionals. I’ll just be responsible for planning the entire project as a whole.”

Wendy’s eyes lit up when she heard what Jasper said. She asked, “Are you planning to set up a holding corporation in the future?”

Jasper smiled and pinched the bridge of Wendy’s nose. He said, “Smart.”

“The company’s system is too small.

“Although a corporation would be enough to hold a multi-industry development, the framework for a corporation is still pretty limiting.

“So, I’m planning to cast my net for now. In the future, when the companies from different industries become successful enough, then we can start a holding corporation.

“In the end, we’ll control the subsidiary companies with the holding corporation and each of the subsidiary companies will be responsible for their own industries.

“This way, we won’t cause a situation where people from outside the industry will need to lead the people from inside the industry. Plus, we won’t have the possibility of failing to have a multi-industry development.”

After he said this, Jasper looked at Wendy and smiled softly. “Let me test you, where will these frameworks usually appear in?”

Wendy suppressed her excitement and said, “Financial groups?”

“That’s right, financial groups.” Jasper nodded.

“My goal has never been to expand any company or corporation. That’s too small. The only way is to create a true financial group and use it to own a controlling number of shares of the headquarters of different industries. That is the true development of an oligarch economy.”

Jasper was not the first person to create this framework.

For example, Simsing Financial Group, Triton Financial Group, and a lot of other financial groups in the west all developed this way.

Even the strongest company would have its limits. For example, Weresoft and Honeydew were both the biggest companies in the world, but Weresoft was good at developing operating systems while Honeydew was good at developing electronic goods.

One industry was unable to satisfy Jasper’s appetite.

He had a chance to be reborn, so if he did not start a financial group and become an oligarch, then what was the difference between him and a dead fish?

“Back then, my father kept telling me that you’re a hidden dragon and you’ll fly into the sky one day. I thought he admired you too much and was only talking big. Now, why do I feel that your ambitions are bigger than the hidden dragon?” Wendy asked sincerely.

Jasper chuckled and said, “I’ve talked to your father, and we’ll ask the head of Financial Affairs to work for half a year in JW Capital. We’ll treat this as a temporary transfer. You have to learn from her in these six months.”

Wendy said angrily, “Do you think I don’t have the ability?”

Jasper said quickly, “No, it’s not that. I’m worried that you won’t be able to handle things after the industries under our name grow.”

Life at the Top Chapter 115

“I’ll definitely let a professional be the one to manage the overall system. However, aside from my parents and you, I won’t trust anyone to be in charge of the finances.”

Wendy grunted softly. She was enjoying the fact that Jasper was trusting her as much as he trusted his parents, but instead, she said, “I’ll steal all of your money when you’re not watching!”

“Whatever is mine belongs to you too,” Jasper said with a smile.

A faint red tinge appeared on Wendy’s face.

“Wendy, come, I’ve made chicken soup for you. Drink it while it’s hot. They brought me an old hen from the hometown and it’s good for you.”

At this moment, Sally walked over with a bowl of soup.

Wendy quickly went over to take it from her.

“Thank you, Sally,” Wendy said sweetly.

Her mother passed away when she was young, so she and Dawson had been interdependent this entire time.

Even though Dawson spoiled her like she was a treasure, he was still a man and was always busy with work. Aside from materialistic things, it could be said that he was unable to give Wendy the care she needed in life.

In these few days, Wendy could feel the motherly love she had lost for so many years from Sally. Naturally, she was very close to her.

Sally was beaming with joy as she said warmly, “Just tell me anything you want to eat in the future. Don’t trouble yourself.”

“Okay.”

Wendy took small sips of the chicken soup that had been simmered on low heat for long hours. She felt a warm feeling flowing all the way into the deepest part of her heart.

Sally turned around in satisfaction when she saw Wendy drinking the soup. Then, she instructed Jasper, “Go, call your father over for dinner. That old man hasn’t been doing anything after he came here. He’s either fishing or playing chess with his friends. He never knows to come back even when it’s time for dinner.”

...

Three days later, Province International Airport.

“JW Real Estate is operating according to standards now. I’ve entrusted the designers from the Province Design Institute to come up with something. I’ll show you when it’s done.”

Dawson said to Jasper.

Jasper nodded and said, “No rush. Soon, the people who are constructing the Laws’ amusement park will arrive. We can communicate with them because after all, the Laws started from real estate. They’ll know more than us.”

Dawson laughed and said, “Don’t worry. I’ll be watching over JW Real Estate, so there won’t be a problem.”

“I’ll be leaving, then,” Jasper said softly to Wendy.

After nodding, Wendy said, “Come back soon.”

Jasper smiled and waved at Dawson and Wendy before walking into the security check lane.

“Oh, that rascal. JW Real Estate was just set in motion and he’s asking me to ask around for any entertainment companies that are on sale because of bad business. How much information does he have in his brain?”

Dawson sighed ruefully.

He could flaunt himself as one of the few successful people in the business world. However, when he looked at Jasper, he felt that he was getting old.

“He said he wants to get into the entertainment industry. I think he contacted the Laws and that’s why he’s in such a hurry to go to Harbor City. I heard he has his eyes on an entertainment company that’s going to close down and go for sale.”

Dawson furrowed his brows. He did not have any opinions about Jasper going into the entertainment industry, but he had a feeling that something bad would happen because he remembered that the Hanks had also sent Zayden to Harbor City.

However, he had already reminded Jasper. Judging from his personality, anyone in this world would suffer a loss before him.

Dawson unfurrowed his brows when he thought about this. He said to his daughter who was almost turning into the Widow’s Rock, “Let’s go, your Aunt Zoey has already arranged for you to learn under the head of Financial Affairs, so you have to learn from her. If not, you won’t be able to handle Jasper’s humongous business empire in the future.”

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Wendy put her arms around Dawson's neck and said coquettishly, "Dad, you're the best."

Dawson patted the back of Wendy's hands, which were crossed in front of his body, and said, "You're my one and only daughter. Who else would I do all of this for, if not you?"

"The shares of JW Real Estates are already in your name. In the future, I'll entrust the management team of the entire real estate company to you.

"Is this appropriate though?" Wendy betrayed some hesitation.

"I'm giving it to you as a gift, so of course it's appropriate. Jasper's a smart man, he understands my intentions."

Dawson pondered for a moment, then continued, "Jasper is an outstanding young man. His future won't be limited to just this province. The entire country, or an even larger stage—that's where he should go.

"I want to seize the opportunity now to arrange a large dowry for you so that no matter where Jasper ends up in the future, you will always have sufficient authority to speak up."

Wendy frowned and said, "Dad, I haven't even thought this far ahead yet. What's more, Jasper isn't that kind of person."

"I don't think he is either," Dawson commented, smiling.

"However, given he's such an excellent young man, do you think he'd ever have a shortage of philanderers and lascivious women around him? Even if he does

remain faithful to you till the end, you won't lack for rivals. The shares of the JW Estate, as well as the future Schuler Group are the bargaining chips I'm giving you.

"This isn't for you to strive for favor. It's for you to always have enough to intimidate the women who want to get close to him, so that they'll back off once they're aware of the overwhelming odds against them."

...

"I've received inside information that Sylva has fully retired and no longer manages anything within the Hanks family. However, Zayden Hanks has been dispatched to Harbor City, so you need to beware."

On the plane, Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly, recalling the news Dawson had given him just before departure.

It seemed as if the Hanks family really did intend to keep some lingering influence.

Before Sylva fully relinquished his position, he had used the last of his resources and connections to send Zayden to Harbor City.

Surely he was counting on Zayden to open up new prospects in Harbor City to plot their comeback, father and son.

From this, Jasper could also consider himself as having gained insight into the power of this sort of large, deeply-rooted family.

It was absolutely true that old institutions died hard. Even at this point, Sylva's reach could still extend into Harbor City.

However, the proverbial currents of Harbor City ran many times deeper than that of the province—they were powerful enough that the Law family still did not dare proclaim itself the king of Harbor City.

What could Zayden Hanks alone stir up within Harbor City, even if he had the capital that Sylva had given him?

These were just the ravings of a lunatic.

As the plane lifted off into the air, Jasper closed his eyes and temporarily put aside the affairs of the Hanks family.

He still had a tough battle to fight in Harbor City.

Three hours later, the plane eventually landed at the Harbor City International Airport.

As he came out of the airport after going through Customs, from far away, Jasper noticed a Rolls-Royce parked conspicuously by the side of the road.

In Harbor City, one could customize the numbers and letters on their own license plates.

For example, a car with a single number 9 on its license plate belonged to a tycoon in the entertainment industry of Harbor City. Anyone would recognize it anywhere; it was worth 13 million Harbor dollars.

Furthermore, the license plate of the Rolls-Royce before his eyes was known to everyone in Harbor City.

LAW.

These 3 letters represented the Law family.

As for the value of that particular license plate... Unless they were mad, no one would even consider trying to buy this license plate, no matter what the price. That would be the equivalent of a death wish.

“Mainla... Mr. Laine, you...you have quite the reputation.”

Henry Law, who was standing by the car, had spoken of out of habit before immediately realizing that he had said the wrong thing. After forcibly correcting himself, his face was still wooden with displeasure.

“This is Old Master Law’s car. He requested the driver to pick you up with this vehicle to show how much the Law family values you.”

The person who spoke was Anna Law.

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“Please extend my gratitude to the old master on my behalf,” Jasper said sincerely to Anna.

Although it were the Laws who had asked for him, they had treated him with enough respect in all aspects regardless.

Jasper was not one to have an exaggerated opinion of his own ability. He respected Old Master Law, and his words were spoken from the heart.

“You should convey this to the old master yourself,” Anna said with a smile.

“Alright, Little Sis. You’ve picked up the man, I’m leaving now.” Henry took the opportunity to say this just as Jasper was getting into the car.

Anna furrowed her brows and said, “Grandfather wants to invite Jasper for dinner at home tonight. Where are you running off to?”

“Oh shucks, Grandfather also knows that I don’t fancy these kinds of occasions. I’ve already made plans with a friend, so I’ll be going off first.”

As Henry finished saying this, he sped off in a hurry.

Anna sighed. Turning around, she got into the car.

The same moment the driver started the car, Anna said to Jasper apologetically, “My brother, he is in truth a bit rude, so please don’t mind him.”

“Not at all. From the way he sees it, we’re simply not individuals from the same world. It’s not surprising that we might not have things to talk about.” Jasper actually understood this clearly.

“Apart from his group of scoundrels, who else would be of the same world as he?” said Anna unhappily.

As they sat in the car, there was a faint feminine fragrance coming from his side. This fragrance was not heady and carried with it the slight scent of perfume.

Ordinary women certainly wore perfume as not all women had a natural bodily fragrance. Like for Wendy, she did not really fancy using perfume as her body was naturally pleasant smelling.

It was different for Anna, though. The perfume on her body was supplemented by the scent of her own body, making it even more fragrant. Even though it was not heavy, the level of its intensity was one that tugged at heartstrings the most.

Jasper felt some discomfort sitting in the same car with both of them so close together.

They were so close that the two could clearly feel each other’s breath and heartbeat.

“This is the first time you came to Harbor City...”

“This is the first time I’m in Harbor City...”

The both of them opened their mouths and spoke at the same time, then stopped at the same time as well.

Looking at each other, the two began laughing. The previously awkward but charming atmosphere immediately dispersed.

“You speak first,” Anna said softly.

Jasper smiled lightly. “I wanted to say that this is my first time coming to Harbor City and I’m not familiar with the place. I’d like to ask you to bring me around Harbor City later. I heard that Victoria Harbor is the most beautiful at night.”

Anna’s face turned a faint red. She nodded and said, “I was just about to say the same. I’ll be your tour guide when you’re free tomorrow.”

As they chatted happily, the car drove quietly on the road and gradually left the bustling city.

Sassoon Road, Repulse Bay. As the top wealthiest district of Harbor City, almost all of the four wealthiest and most powerful families in Harbor City lived here.

33 was the residence of the Law family.

In Harbor City, the huge gap between the rich and the poor could be seen from the housing.

99% of the people in Harbor City lived in cramped ‘coffin rooms’ with family members essentially piling up on one another.

For a large family like the Laws, the area occupied by their house was so extravagant that their wealth had soared within this rich port city.

Entering through the gates of the villa and bypassing the garden lawn, Jasper then arrived at the door of the villa.

To his surprise, Zachary Law himself was actually waiting at the door.

This action showed that the Laws were really treating him like a distinguished guest!

Life at the Top Chapter 118

Jasper, we meet again.”

Zachary walked over with a loud laugh when he saw Jasper getting down from the car.

As he spoke, he smiled heartily while firmly shaking hands with Jasper and patting Jasper’s shoulder with his free hand.

Jasper smiled and replied, “I’m sorry to bother you with my coming to Harbor City this time.”

Zachary returned with a smile as well and said, “It’s no bother. It’s our responsibility to host you as the owner of this place.”

With that, Zachary guided Jasper into the manor. He said as he walked, “How’s the scenery of Harbor City on the way from the airport?”

Jasper thought for a moment and sincerely said, “I saw prosperity along the way. I also saw opportunities everywhere.”

Zachary said meaningfully, “Young people are full of vitality. Your vision is indeed different.

“C’mon, the old master is in the backyard. I’ve talked to him about you and he really wants to meet you,” Zachary said.

Following Zachary to the backyard, Jasper saw an elderly man in loose, everyday clothes wearing a straw hat. He was doing weeding work in a small vegetable garden.

Frankly speaking, Jasper really did not expect this to be how his first meeting with the corporate legend Old Master Law would turn out.

“Typically, when the old master has nothing to do, he likes to keep himself busy in this small vegetable garden. There’s nothing we can do about it,” Zachary explained and then walked toward the vegetable garden.

At this moment, Old Master Law saw the two of them. Ignoring Zachary who was walking over, he beckoned to Jasper and motioned for him to come over.

Jasper entered the vegetable garden and smiled. “Old Master, you’re as fit as fiddle.”

The old master was born in 1923 and was now at a venerable age of 77.

Old Master Law leaned on the garden hoe, his forehead slightly sweaty. He took in a breath and smiled. “There’s a lack of energy to do other things when one is old, but it instead feels meaningful to be in a vegetable garden.

“C’mere, youngin, come over and talk.”

Jasper went to the old master’s side. The two of them finally had the opportunity to take a good look at each other at this moment.

The old master was very lean. He was not a tall man, nor was he what novels might describe as ruthlessly ambitious or intractable. His whole bearing was not redolent of the domineering aura of the sort of people who enjoyed simply lording over everyone.

On the contrary, he looked more like an ordinary old farmer. It was just that his eyes were very bright. Although he was nearly 80 years old, his gaze was not murky but full of vitality.

The old master scanned Jasper from head to toe and complimented, “Not bad.”

“Youngin, come here and have a look. How’s my vegetable garden?” the old master asked rather proudly.

Jasper looked over and noticed that the vegetable garden was not big, but it was obvious that someone took great care of it every day. Some of the vegetables were growing up well.

If it were ordinary people, they would be racking their brains to think of praise and flattery regardless of the situation.

Jasper, however, shook his head. “Old Master, you’ve planted them wrongly.”

The old master was taken aback. He asked, “How is it wrong?”

Jasper pointed to a tomato seedling and the cucumber seedling next to it, saying, “Old Master, tomatoes and cucumbers cannot be planted together. Cucumbers have relatively shallow roots and need to be watered regularly, but tomatoes are the opposite. They have deep roots and low water requirements.

“If these two are planted together, either the cucumbers will die from underwatering or the tomatoes will die from overwatering. Only a child born in a farmer’s family like me would know such things.”

The old master slapped his forehead and said with a sudden realization, “So that’s why I’ve been unable to grow the tomatoes. Alas, knowledge obtained from books indeed feels shallow.”

Zachary, who was not far away, was sweating profusely.

He never really expected the old master and Jasper, where the age gap between the two was more than 50 years, to have such a great conversation on the topic of growing vegetables.

Anna, who had come over to his side at some point, burst out laughing.

“What are you laughing at?” Zachary asked curiously.

Anna looked at the two people in the vegetable garden and said, “Before this, Grandpa wouldn’t even listen when told to rest more, but it’s alright now. Grandpa will probably be embarrassed to show off the garden hoe again now that somebody has revealed his flaws.”

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At this moment, Old Master Law smiled and said to Jasper, “As a matter of fact, you’ll understand how to be a person after living long. The principle is the same when it comes to growing vegetables.

“From loosening the soil to sowing the seeds, fertilizing and watering, then waiting for the flowers to bloom and bear fruit; each process has to be done meticulously in its rightful order.

“Problems may occur at every stage. If the quality of the soil is not good enough, the seeds won’t grow. Too much fertilizer and the roots will burn, but too little fertilizer and they will wilt. Too much water and the veggies will be waterlogged, but too little water and they will dry up. Everything has to be just right.”

Jasper nodded in deep agreement. “The smallest piece of land may be no more than a few square feet, but it still possesses great wisdom.”

Old Master Law said cheerfully, “I heard from Zachary that you promised to help the Law family earn back the nine billion?”

Jasper said solemnly, “I’m certain of it.”

However, Old Master Law waved his hand and said, “There’s no need to feel pressured. The Law family enjoys making friends, even more so with young talents like you.

“When there’s a lot of money, it’s just a string of numbers. The Law family is still the Law family regardless of that nine billion. You don’t have to worry about it.”

Jasper smiled and said, "I am, of course, impressed that Old Master Law is able to look at the bright side of things, but I plan to seize this opportunity to lay a solid foundation for myself, so I can't let it slip by."

"If there's anything you need, you can let Zachary know. The Law family will provide you with all the help you need," Old Master Law said.

"Thank you, Old Master Law." Jasper did not pretend to be modest.

Showing up in Harbor City and standing in the Law family's manor had already proven the alliance between the two parties.

The Law family needed him, and he also needed the Law family.

The main intention when it came to helping each other out was to form an alliance.

"I'm tired, I'll be heading upstairs to rest. You can look around the Law family's manor while you wait to have dinner together in the evening," said Old Master Law.

"Alright," Jasper smiled and said.

The two of them walked out of the vegetable garden with Jasper right behind Old Master Law.

"Dad, don't work on this vegetable garden anymore. Just leave it to the servants," said Zachary.

"Grandpa, I'll help you upstairs," Anna said with a sweet smile.

"It's still my granddaughter who understands me." Old Master Law smiled and patted Anna's hand, then said to Zachary peevishly, "You just need to mind your

business. I don't see any prospects from you even at this age, yet you still want to lecture me every day?"

Jasper stood beside Zachary and watched Old Master Law leave.

It would be too foolish to think that he was just an ordinary old man because of his appearance.

This old man was considered to be the real hero of Harbor City!

Like any other wealthy family, even the richest Caucasian family, the Langdon family, had encountered violent criminals kidnapping their son. However, the Law family had for many years stood firm against the wind and rain. No one from either law enforcement or the mafias dared to touch them and why was that?

It was because Old Master Law of the Law family was still around.

This old man was a big shot who had connections in both sides of the laws and clever means. The Law family had also been involved in arms dealings back in the early years.

Besides, very few people knew that the Law family held a lot of shares in the gambling industry in Harbor City. Back then, the king of gambling had offended Old Master Law and the latter said to him, "Never step into Harbor City for as long as I live."

The king of gambling was so scared that he had yet to step into Harbor City till this day.

In the past, it was only after Old Master Law died did the king of gambling dare enter Harbor City free and easy again.

It could be seen that while Old Master Law had long retired and was busy with this vegetable garden every day, his name could still keep the entirety of Harbor City and Auma City in his control.

There was a saying that everyone in the elite circle knew.

Old Master Law was the first and only true top businessman since the economic reformation.

It was not an exaggeration to say that Old Master Law's ability had surpassed the heavens!

Life at the Top Chapter 120

“Jasper, I heard you started an investment company in Mainland?”

After Old Master Law had gone upstairs to have a rest, Zachary took Jasper for a walk in the backyard and asked the latter casually.

Jasper was not surprised that Zachary knew about this.

After all, investigating his background would be an effortless task for the Law family and their capabilities.

“My capabilities are limited and I can’t perform specific tasks, so I can only provide the money and let the professionals do what the professionals do best,” Jasper smiled and said.

Zachary laughed and then said, “The lower-class work using effort, the middle-class work using talent, and the upper-class work using people.”

Jasper chuckled and said, “In fact, in my opinion, this is a golden age, especially in Mainland where opportunities are everywhere. Start a little earlier and you may have some preemptive opportunities in the future.”

Zachary nodded and said, “Your investment company has invested in an internet company called Terizone Inc.. You seem to be very optimistic about the internet industry?”

Jasper nodded. “The internet is the general trend of the future. This is what the generation has chosen.”

Zachary did not comment on that.

Jasper knew very well that all the rich and powerful in Harbor City of today were still sticking to traditional industries apart from a few others.

It was not that traditional industries did not make money, but these people had become accustomed to cultivating deeply in the field they were good at.

They did not understand the internet, nor were they optimistic about it.

The issue of the rich having limited vision was not exclusive to Harbor City. It was the same in many places.

“The present performance of the internet companies in the stock market indeed makes people green with envy,” Zachary said.

“The Law family also has some investments in Harbor City’s stocks, but the current turmoil in Harbor City’s stocks has been treacherous and the market is a bit unpredictable. Several recent investments have failed, and comments against the Law family from the outside world are uproarious, which is very troublesome.”

Jasper immediately recalled something about the Law family from the memory of his previous life.

In his previous life, the Law family at this time had suffered a loss of nine billion as well and had been looking for opportunities to earn back what they had lost.

However, matters in the financial world could never be done in a hurry.

The Law family had made several investments. Although there were gains and losses and still a slight profit overall, it was not worth mentioning when compared to their investments and the risks taken.

For example, if one earned 10,000 from spending a million while risking the possible loss of half a million, should one really think that such an investment was successful?

It was without a doubt, a failure.

That was because the cost and risks were too high and not worth the profits.

Furthermore, according to the timeline, the Law family should have bought Hansel Index by now.

This was the Law family's last financial investment because they had lost 800 million at once in this investment.

800 million was not a big deal for the Law family, but this failure had driven the family to completely abandon the financial capital market and return to the traditional industries of real estate and shipbuilding.

"Is Mr. Law betting that Harbor City's stocks will fall?" Jasper asked according to the information from the memory of his previous life.

Zachary said in surprise, "Yes, how do you know?"

Jasper thought for a moment and said, "Can you look at Harbor City's stocks here at home, Mr. Law?"

Zachary nodded. "Come with me."

With Zachary's guidance, Jasper came to a study room.

After switching on the computer, Zachary ushered Jasper to take a seat in front of the computer while he himself stood by and watched.

"How much did the Law family buy?" Jasper asked.

"One billion."

Zachary sighed. "Because the stock that we're betting on is falling, the recent rise in Hansel Index also means that the Law family account now has a loss of at least 200 million.

"But we're ready to increase our investment. As long as the Hansel Index drops later, we will not only gain back our previous losses but also earn a lot of money!"

Jasper smiled, shook his head, and said, "Mr. Law, you and your analyst, along with most of the richest people in Harbor City, are wrong."

Since his rebirth, Jasper knew very well that Hansel Index Harbor City's stock will continue to rise above 18,000 points soon, maybe even today.

What was more, the burst of the internet economy bubble that was soon to come would cause the Hansel Index to plummet immediately, erasing more than 100 billion worth of wealth in an instant.

Three years later, under Harbor City's rooftops, there would be many bodies of those who jumped off buildings due to their bankruptcy.

"What do you mean? Do you think it'll rise above 18,000 points?" Zachary asked in astonishment.

Jasper nodded and said, "It's now the last carnival of the capital and the amount involved has reached trillions of dollars!"

"Besides, the stock market of both Harbor City and the United States are closely intertwined. Several of the major financial giants have poured in nearly one trillion dollars in funds with the prosperity of the internet economy, and good news will continue to come."

Zachary frowned deeply. He paced a few steps at where he was before looking at Jasper seriously, asking, "What would you do if it were you?"

"Accept all the losses, then take out as much cash as possible to buy it all up!"

Jasper raised his head and looked at Zachary. The corners of his mouth were slightly raised, making him look confident and crazed.

“The Hansel Index will definitely surpass 18,000 points!”

Although he was mentally prepared, Zachary still found it a little outrageous in the face of Jasper’s confidence.

“With this back and forth, there’s at least a billion-level gap. Are you confident that it will be as you think?”

Zachary asked seriously.

Jasper tapped his finger on the tabletop lightly and said indifferently, “Mr. Law, if you believe in me, just do as I say. If you don’t, it’s useless no matter how much I say!”

Life at the Top Chapter 121

“Why don’t you stay here and rest for a while? I’m going out real quick,” Zachary muttered.

Jasper took a sip of the coffee the servant brought him.

The pure Blue Mountain coffee produced in Jamaica was a good coffee that could hardly be found in any other ordinary coffee shops out there.

Nevertheless, Jasper missed his plain tea that cost 50 dollars a pound more.

Jasper was not surprised by the considerations Zachary mentioned.

He had just formed an alliance with the Laws. Even though the Laws recognized his status and ability, taking into consideration his crude oil futures record as well...

This was the first time one billion in funds was involved. No one could afford to bear the responsibility if there was a loss.

As the Laws’ current person in charge, Zachary needed to be cautious.

After Zachary got out of the study, he went upstairs straightaway and knocked on Old Master Law’s door.

“Come in.”

Old Master Law’s voice carried a trace of weariness.

When Zachary entered the room, he saw his daughter Anna massaging Old Master Law's shoulders and recounted what just happened.

"He's that confident?"

Old Master Law raised his eyelids and asked.

Zachary let out a bitter smile. "I've never seen anyone with so much confidence when it comes to capital market forecasts."

"What do you think?" Old Master Law asked lightly.

"If this fails, Dad, let's not talk about the loss we're going to suffer when the public opinion is already unfavorable enough to the Laws. If this problem crops up, it might affect other businesses of the Laws."

Zachary stated his concerns.

Harbor City's four giants were all wealthy families with a net worth of well over several hundreds of billions of Harbor Dollars, even after conversion to US Dollars, it was still well over ten billion in assets.

The Laws could easily bear the loss of several billion Harbor Dollars!

The problem, however, was that this sequence of bad news would affect other businesses of the Laws, which would then trigger a domino effect, resulting in more losses.

This would shake the Laws' foundation!

Ever since the Laws suffered a loss of nine billion Harbor Dollars that year, their investments had since failed more than they succeeded. There were numerous people who were pessimistic about them.

The Laws were in desperate need of a victory to defend themselves.

The Laws could not afford to lose. Not only in money but also in reputation.

The silence in the room had turned the air stagnant.

“Grandpa, Dad, I have something to say,” Anna said.

Old Master Law smiled and said, “Go on, then. I’m listening.”

Anna thought for a moment and said, “You once said before that the business field is filled with people who are trying to outwit others, but those who have managed to grow their business must not have a lack of trust toward others.

“This is a partnership between people. Now that we have chosen Jasper as our ally, that means we value him, and naturally, he values us even more.

“This is the first suggestion he has made, and he knows better than us how important this suggestion is. If this fails, then this will have an adverse effect on our subsequent alliances and cooperations, so he will be more worried about failing than us.”

Anna said with a smile, “Under circumstances like these, he still gave the advice anyway, so I think we should muster the courage of the Laws.”

After she said those words, Old Master Law let out a smile and patted the back of Anna’s hand that was resting on his shoulder. He said, “Good girl, you have said the things I wanted to hear.”

With that, Old Master Law got up and said to Zachary, “You’ve lived for more than 40 years yet aren’t as discerning as your own daughter. Why, when the Laws are in your hands, did you turn so apprehensive all of a sudden? Do you think you can support the Laws yourself when I’m no longer around one day?”

Zachary looked slightly embarrassed but also quite pleased at the same time.

Onlookers saw most of the game. After his daughter's reminder, Zachary understood the stakes involved and made his choice.

Life at the Top Chapter 122

After more than ten minutes, Zachary returned.

“Jasp, we will do as you say, but we need you to guide our traders.”

Zachary got straight to the point.

“Let’s not waste any time and get straight into it,” Jasper said.

Zachary nodded and immediately ordered someone to set up the system.

Therefore, Jasper started a video conference with the Laws’ traders in Zachary’s study.

“This is Mr. Laine. From now on, I need you to obey his orders unconditionally.”

After speaking to the traders, Zachary stepped aside.

The traders exchanged glances with each other, obviously a little confused.

One of the men who looked like a manager asked hesitantly, “Mr. Law, are you dissatisfied with our partnership?”

Zachary said, “There’s nothing to be dissatisfied about. Our investment strategy has changed now, so just do as I say. You will still get your commission as usual.”

Having said that, Zachary motioned to Jasper to start giving his orders.

Jasper, who had been watching the trend of the Hansel Index, looked up and said, “Immediately close the position according to the current situation!”

What Jasper meant was to sell all trading orders on hand and acknowledge all losses.

However, the first order that Jasper made confused the traders greatly.

The manager was dumbfounded, saying, "If we close the position now, we will lose more than 200 million dollars. More than 200 million dollars! You're a Mainlander, right? Even after converting to Somer Dollar, it's still more than 200 million Somer Dollars!"

"I said to close the position immediately!" Jasper raised his voice.

The stock market changed rapidly with the index fluctuating every second. Jasper would never allow anyone to waste a good opportunity talking nonsense.

The manager grimaced and said, "Are you insane, little boy?"

Jasper turned his head to look at Zachary. This time, his tone was no longer polite as he said sternly, "Mr. Law, I need a trader team that will obey me fully."

Zachary looked at the manager coldly and said, "Gordon Liam, Mr. Laine's words are mine, do you understand?"

Gordon gritted his teeth and glared at Jasper through the screen. His heart was filled with extreme disdain.

This young boy was at most in his 20s. The Laws must be mad to hire a boy like him to direct the traders.

However, Gordon was not brave enough to disobey Zachary, hence he could only clench his teeth and say, "I understand."

Seeing this, the traders started closing down the Laws' one billion transaction orders.

“We have closed the position successfully. We’ve suffered a paper loss of 248.64 million Harbor Dollars with 741.36 million Harbor Dollars left,” a trader reported.

Zachary grimaced. Although he had already prepared himself for this, he was still annoyed when he heard the numbers.

“Pending orders, Hansel Index, direction, bullish and going long, 17,980 points, full position.”

Jasper locked his fingers together and placed them under his chin, staring at the screen while giving his second order.

Zachary’s mouth twitched.

The market trend was falling, but as soon as Jasper removed the previous transactions, he planned to go long immediately.

Even though he was already mentally prepared for operations like that, he was still filled with apprehension nonetheless.

From the market trend’s perspective, he was going against the market completely.

Gordon could not help it anymore and roared furiously.

“Motherf*cker, do you even know the stock market at all!?”

Life at the Top Chapter 123

Gordon pointed at the market and sniggered. “This market is obviously choppy and declining. Motherf*cker, you’re actually calling me to go long right now?”

“If the market goes up today, kid, I’ll take my underwear off and eat it!

“Mr. Law, we may not be the first in Harbor City, but we have served numerous aristocratic families in the past. We had a pretty pleasant time working together before this, but now this little boy suddenly pops out of nowhere speaking all kinds of nonsense. Is he burning the Laws’ money like paper for fun?”

Gordon looked at Zachary with a cold expression as Zachary remained silent.

“Even a three-year-old can tell that he’s going against the market. You may end up losing one billion dollars...”

“Mr. Law,” Jasper said lightly.

Zachary looked over.

“I suggest you cut off all partnerships with Mr. Liam immediately!”

Jasper’s cold and firm orders entered Gordon’s ears clearly.

Gordon was so furious his lungs nearly exploded. He let out a scornful laugh. “You b*stard. You think you’re so great, huh? Motherf*cker! Who do you think you are? I, Gordon Liam, am famous amongst all the traders in Harbor City...”

“Gordon.”

Zachary raised his eyelids and stared at Gordon who was still chattering non-stop.

“From now on, the Laws will stop all partnerships with you, so please shut up right now. As for the other traders, do as Mr. Laine says. If I hear one more word of nonsense, I’ll take this to your boss, Harrison Zeigler.”

Zachary’s position was perfectly clear, and his words silenced the entire team of traders.

Everyone turned to look at Gordon.

Gordon’s expression looked extremely ghastly and awkward.

He did not expect Zachary to actually go nuts and be so dead set on listening to Jasper’s command.

Gordon’s mouth began to twitch, then he sneered and said, “Okay, Mr. Law. That’s your money, do whatever you want!”

Gordon did not lose his rationality no matter how furious he was. In Harbor City, very few dared to go against the Laws, not to mention Zachary, the second-generation patriarch!

Gordon did not leave either and simply stood by to watch. He would like to see the exciting changes on their faces when Zachary blew up his account.

“Do you need me to repeat my previous command?” Jasper asked coldly.

The traders stopped talking nonsense and got straight to work.

A split second later, a massive long position order hit the Hansel Index.

Although the amount reached nearly 800 million, it was only a drop in the ocean for the entire Hansel Stock Index, hence it did not cause a stir at all.

However, many people noticed the massive order and ridiculed this silly man who had too much money to spare for going against the market when the market was going down.

Meanwhile, in Harrington Capital's office, Harbor City's top-notch financial investment company.

"Is someone bucking the market and going long?"

Wallace Langdon, the man who made it to the list of the richest men in Europe four years ago, watched the market trend with great interest.

Although the richest man in Europe had now changed to Joe, whose last name was also Langdon, no one dared to underestimate Wallace's ability.

"Interesting. I wonder which company in Harbor City is this? Or perhaps, a foreign investor?"

Wallace pondered and picked up the phone on the desk before muttering into it, "It's me. Someone has started trading. Don't waste any more time. Release the news. It's going to be a rough night."

Having said that, Wallace hung up the phone, leaned back in the executive chair, and squinted his eyes to look at the massive order buried in the vast sea of transaction data.

At the same time in the Laws' study.

"Are you confident?" Zachary asked.

Jasper thought he was worried and said with a smile, "Of course."

Zachary nodded and said in a deep voice, "Since you're so confident, I can bring in another two billion within ten minutes."

Though Jasper knew that the Laws were rich, he was still shocked by Zachary's generosity. He was just about to say something when the market fluctuated.

"It's too late."

Jasper stared fixedly at the market and burst out laughing. "The market has already begun!"

As soon as Jasper said those words, Zachary turned over immediately to look and saw the telecommunication services sector leading the gain. They were driving the electronic technology sectors with it, causing them to skyrocket at once.

The skyrocketing of individual stocks drove the sector, and several sectors were driven at the same time, which caused the market to soar immediately.

Hansel Index jumped from 17,979 points to more than ten points. From the market perspective, it looked like a giant dragon lying flat on its belly raising its head ever so slightly.

"Hurry, switch to the Economy Channel on the TV!" Jasper hastened to say.

There was no servant in the study, so Zachary took action immediately after hearing what Jasper said. He took on the role of a servant and switched on the TV, changing the channel to the Economy Channel.

Although Jasper did not understand Harbor City's language, he could roughly make out what the host was saying from looking at the pictures on the screen.

"The U.S. Nasdaq and the New York Stock Exchange have hit all-time highs! The internet industry has contributed a lot to this huge wave of rising prices.

“The stock markets of countries around the world have risen due to the U.S. stock market’s influence...”

“Will Harbor City’s Hansel Index break through the 18,000-point mark by taking advantage of the positive news in the global stock market?”

“We have invited our stock review experts specifically...”

The market was still soaring. Harbor City’s financial market was extremely sensitive. At this critical moment, the Harbor City government suddenly released a piece of news.

“Harbor City government will, with the support from Mainland, introduce a series of policies beneficial to the stock market development!”

The Hansel Index had already accumulated enough momentum to start with and broke through the 18,000-point mark with the help of this news.

Both long and short parties launched a fierce offensive around the 18,000-point mark, and a massive amount of funds gathered in the Hansel Index market with tens to hundreds of millions of transactions per second.

Driven by the good news, Zachary held his racing heart and stared at the screen. They had broken through the 18,000-point mark!

“The dragon is about to raise its head!”

Jasper lowered his head, took a sip of Blue Mountain, and chuckled.

At this moment in the video conference, the face of Gordon, who had been waiting to see Jasper make a fool of himself and for Zachary to regret his decision, turned pale.

He stared fixedly at the market as if he had lost his soul.

“How could it be? It has only been a few minutes. He buys long and the market actually rises? It can't be...

“Not only did he win all the previous losses, but he even made an extra 100 million!

“How did he predict it?”

Gordon broke out in a cold sweat at the sight of Jasper who remained ridiculously calm at the moment...

Life at the Top Chapter 124

“I should have mobilized the funds sooner and make an extra one billion!” Zachary put on a pitiable expression.

Jasper said calmly, “This is just the appetizer. There will soon be another wave, and that will be your chance to earn a fortune. However, not many can laugh when that happens.”

Zachary looked at Jasper with mixed emotions and said, “I really wonder if you can foresee the future.”

This was not the first time Jasper had heard similar words.

Wendy Schuler and Dawson Schuler had said similar things.

With a chuckle, Jasper stood up and said, “18,000 point is an important threshold. Since you have broken through that threshold, it will continue to rise for at least a few days. When it’s around 18,400 points, you can then choose to close the position.”

“Okay, I will let the rest know.”

Zachary nodded. Right now in the financial sector, he had zero doubts when it came to Jasper’s words.

“Mr. Liam, do you want me to wait for you to take off your underwear?” Jasper asked, looking at the dazed-looking Gordon on the screen.

Gordon came back to his senses, his complexion alternating between blue and white. He opened his mouth and was about to speak when Jasper had already walked out of the study.

Gordon felt even more aggrieved now.

He could tell that the young boy had not taken him seriously from the start!

Zachary glanced at him and said coldly, “Hand in your resignation to Harrison yourself. You can at least find a job in another company that way. If I do it for you, then you should probably get ready to leave Harbor City for good.”

Having said that, Zachary turned around and walked off without taking a look at the ghastly-looking Gordon.

At the Laws’ dinner table were exquisite and distinct dishes—all a perfect combination of color, aroma, taste, and appearance

Zachary recounted the incident that happened that afternoon.

Although Old Master Law and Anna already knew about the investment, they did not expect the result to come out so soon. It was one in which they seized a total victory too.

“When the market closed just now, we already had 300 million dollars of paper profit. Not only did we make up for our previous loss of over 200 million dollars, but we also made an extra 100 million dollars.

“According to Jasp, if we hit the 18,400-point mark, then our profit will hit around 600-700 million.”

As Zachary spoke, he could not help but look at Jasper in admiration.

How could it possibly be so easy to earn profits in this world?

When he thought about it, the Laws were a big family that owned major industries as well, but making a net profit of six to seven billion was simply no easy feat.

Not to mention Jasper did it with just a cup of coffee.

“The capital market carries risks. Profit can come very quickly but go even quicker. If I wasn’t really confident about this, then I wouldn’t have done anything at all,” Jasper said with a smile.

Old Master Law nodded and said, “Yes, it’s important to look at the profit, but even more so at the risks involved.”

As Old Master Law said those words, he glanced at Zachary and asked, “Where’s Henry?”

Next to him, Anna replied, “He went out and said he’ll come home late.”

Old Master Law snorted and said, “Henry is two years older than Jasp, but look at the difference between them.”

Zachary said with a sullen expression, “I’ll make sure to discipline him well.”

“You’ve disciplined him for more than 20 years now, do you see any improvements yet?” Old Master Law was obviously a little displeased.

“Jasp, can I ask you for a favor?”

Upon hearing what Old Master Law said, Jasper hastened to say, “Please go ahead, Old Master Law. I will try my best to help you as long as it is within the scope of my abilities.”

“During your time in Harbor City, bring Henry along with you and teach him so he can learn a thing or two from you.” Old Master Law made an astonishing statement.

Jasper did not expect Old Master Law to make this request at all. The face of Henry, the trust fund baby, popped up in his mind, and he suddenly let out a wry smile. “That’s a huge challenge for me, Old Master Law.”

Life at the Top Chapter 125

“You don’t have to do anything. Let him follow you and be influenced by you. Let him see what a truly outstanding peer looks like. Tell him I’m the one who made the arrangements, and if he doesn’t listen to you, come to me.”

Jasper looked at Zachary, hoping that he could say something for him.

In the end, Zachary nodded his head appreciatively. “Yes, it’s time that kid faces the world.”

Failing to get Zachary to help him, he pondered and said, “If that’s the case, Old Master Law and Mr. Law, I’ll give you my word for now, but I must make it clear that Young Master Law and I don’t get along very well, so we might have some conflicts with each other.”

Zachary said, “Rest assured about this. Anna will come with you. Henry is most afraid of Anna and will listen to everything she says, and if he doesn’t, come to me or Old Master Law. Spare the rod and spoil the child. We can’t let Henry go on living his life like this any longer.”

After obtaining Zachary’s reassurance, Jasper picked up the glass and smiled. “Here’s a toast to the three of you. Thank you for your hospitality.”

Grand Old Master Law laughed, picked up his glass, and said, “Okay, we hope you’ve thoroughly enjoyed yourself.”

Old Master Law was getting on in years, and he left the venue to rest while they were still having their meal.

Zachary drank a little more with Jasper before going back to work.

As the person in charge of the big Law family, Zachary was much busier than what outsiders thought. According to Anna, there were only two out of ten days when Zachary would eat at home.

After dinner, Anna sent Jasper to the hotel.

This time, Anna drove her own car.

A brand new Porsche 911.

In Harbor City's circle of trust fund babies, this car was already very low-key.

Sitting in the car, Anna turned around and asked Jasper, "Mind if I ask you a question?"

"Go ahead."

"What would you have done if your investment failed today?" Anna asked.

Jasper smiled and said, "I haven't thought about your question, actually. I knew that I wouldn't fail."

"Is that confidence or arrogance?" Anna asked with slight interest.

Jasper chuckled and shrugged, saying, "If I win, then that's confidence; if I lose, then that's arrogance."

Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

It was the most luxurious hotel in Harbor City that specialized in receiving important foreign dignitaries.

The most luxurious imperial suites here would cost more than one million Harbor Dollars per night.

This time, Jasper stayed in this said imperial suite, and that just showed how much the Laws valued him.

The Laws booked the room for Jasper for half a month.

Anna and Jasper had just arrived downstairs of the hotel when they heard the harsh sound of a car braking.

A Lamborghini pulled over domineeringly in the middle of the road with its window rolled down. A young and handsome face was staring expressionlessly at Jasper.

“Who is this person, Anna?” the man sitting in the Lamborghini asked coldly.

“My friend.” Anna frowned. She then turned around and smiled at Jasper.
“Should I take you upstairs?”

Jasper could tell that Anna clearly did not want to have anything to do with this young man and said in a considerate manner, “Yes, please.”

Anna chuckled and walked into the hotel lobby with Jasper.

The car door opened upward, and Zane Lancaster got out of the car, rushing into the lobby with a gloomy expression to catch up with the two.

“I don’t care who you are but I’m warning you, stay away from Anna,” Zane said coldly, staring fixedly at Jasper.

Life at the Top Chapter 126

“He’s my friend, Zane, show some respect!”

Anna’s face was covered in frost as she stood beside Jasper without hesitation and chided Zane.

Zane brushed the tip of his nose, paying no heed to Anna’s words.

When he swept his gaze at Jasper’s luggage with an air freight label, his expression changed slightly.

“You’re from the Mainland?” Zane sneered.

“It turns out you’re from the Mainland. No wonder I’ve never seen you around here. What’s wrong? Trying to come here and make a fortune? If you want to make money, we can give you some, but you need to know your place. Harbor City is nothing like your poor Mainland, you hear me?”

“I thought that most of the young people in Harbor City are knowledgeable, have class, and are talented like Anna. Turns out it isn’t the case,” Jasper said faintly.

Even in 2020, there were still many self-opinionated people who thought they were superior and thus looked down on Mainlanders just because they were from Harbor City.

Zane’s complexion changed as he raged. “Hey, Mainlander, who are you calling ignorant and having no class? How dare a Mainlander like you say that I have no class?”

“I’m referring to the one who’s mad about this.” Jasper shrugged.

Having said that, Jasper turned his head and said to Anna, “Let’s go upstairs, there’s no need to waste time on a man like that.”

Zane stared at Jasper with cold eyes and let out an angry smile. “You think you can do whatever you like just because you’re friends with Anna? I can easily squash a Mainlander like you to death.”

As Zane said that, he looked at Anna and said, "Anna, you're a member of the Laws, Harbor City's aristocratic family. Hanging out with a Mainlander like that will only make you look inferior."

Anna glanced at Zane and said, "I think I'll look inferior when I hang out with someone like you."

Having said that, Anna smiled at Jasper and said, "Let's go upstairs. Ignore him."

He watched sullenly as the two figures disappeared into the elevator. Zane clenched his fists and slowly loosened them. It was obvious that he was in a state of great anger.

Just then, Zane heard someone cursing outside the door.

"Motherf*cker, whose damn car is parked in the middle of the road? Does this b*stard have a death wish?"

Already surging with great fury, Zane turned around and rushed outside.

When he walked out of the hotel, Zane saw a young man smashing the window of his Lamborghini with a crowbar.

Though when he saw the man's face, Zane suppressed his rage immediately.

"Young Master Law!?"

When Henry heard his name, he turned around to look with a sullen expression. When he saw Zane, he pointed at the Lamborghini and asked, "This car is yours?"

Zane nodded. He glanced at Henry's Ferrari F12 that was currently sitting in the middle of the road because the Lamborghini was in his way. He looked slightly awkward all of a sudden.

"I smashed it. Do you have anything to say about that?" Henry said with a grin.

Zane let out a dry smile. "You're too polite, Young Master Law."

When he saw how wise Zane was, Henry patted him on the shoulder and said, "I didn't know this is your car, plus I'm in a bad mood today. I'll treat you to dinner later."

In a bad mood?

Zane looked at Mandarin Oriental Hotel before him and asked, "Are you in a bad mood because of that man who's with your sister?"

Henry's expression sank as soon as he heard what he said.

He had received Zachary's call earlier. Zachary wanted him to follow Jasper and learn from him!?

Henry exploded on the spot.

Zachary, however, was unbending. He had also told him that this was Old Master Law's idea.

Life at the Top Chapter 127

When Henry heard that, he stopped clamoring at once.

He knew that there must be a limit to his mischief. As an aristocratic family, the Laws had the strictest parenting style among other top-notch aristocratic families in Harbor City. The seniors in the family had all been displeased with his behavior from a long time ago.

Nevertheless, asking Henry to listen to the Mainlander was worse than killing him.

Henry was about to make a trip to Mandarin Oriental Hotel to warn Jasper against assuming unwanted authority when he bumped into Zane downstairs.

“You met him?” Henry did not answer, but instead, asked a question.

Zane nodded and scowled. “He seems to be very close to Anna.”

Henry smiled when he saw how envious and furious Zane was.

Many of these rich and noble trust fund babies in Harbor City were interested in his sister.

Zane was only one of them, one that was more cowardly too.

Zane’s father, Bob Lancaster, had only four listed companies under his name. He could not even squeeze his way into the list of the top ten tycoons in Harbor City.

To put it nicely, he was only a second-string tycoon. In the eyes of first-class aristocrats like Henry, he was merely a character who was barely qualified to be in their circle.

This insignificant man wanted to marry his sister?

Henry would be the first to smash his head.

Right now, though, he was comparatively more pleasing to the eye than the Mainlander Jasper.

“My sister isn’t the only one close to him, even my dad admires him.” Henry sneered, wearing a disdainful look on his face.

Zane narrowed his eyes and said, “Young Master Law, since you and I both find him to be an eyesore, why don’t I set up a trap tomorrow and humiliate him? I will let him know that Harbor City is nothing like Mainland and that he should learn his place.”

Henry’s eyes lit up, then he sniggered and said, “Okay, I’ll leave this to you, then. But since he’s our guest, I want you to keep a low profile. I don’t want you to cause a major stir.”

Zane said nonchalantly, “Don’t worry, Young Master Law. What kind of commotion could a Mainlander possibly raise in Harbor City? I know my limits.”

“I’ll find a way to ask him out tomorrow and leave the rest to you. Call me when you’re ready.”

Henry and Zane smiled at each other and parted ways.

After giving Anna a call and getting the room number, Henry took the elevator straight to Jasper’s room.

As soon as he walked in and saw Anna and Jasper chatting happily while drinking red wine, Henry's expression sank at once.

"Mainlander..."

"Henry Law!"

Anna cast her cold gaze over.

Henry felt extremely aggrieved when his aura was suppressed before it could even be released. He raged, yelling, "I'm your elder brother. Have you seen other younger sisters calling their elder brothers so rudely?"

Anna chuckled and said, "Sure, I'll stop when you start acting like an elder brother instead of making me clean up your mess every day."

Henry did not bother to refute. He was already used to being the inferior one when it came to Anna.

Henry sat on the couch and poured himself a glass of wine while muttering to himself. He said to Jasper with a grin, "Jasper, my dad told me to follow you and... learn from you?"

"I won't call it learning." Jasper shook his head.

Henry chuckled cheerfully and thought that Jasper was not exactly that ignorant after all. In that case, maybe he should consider working with him to put on an act for his family.

"Let's start by learning how to be a proper human."

Life at the Top Chapter 128

“Pfft... Hahahaha.”

Anna could not help falling on the couch laughing.

Henry’s smile froze on his face. He turned his head and stared at Jasper, seemingly trying to confirm whether Jasper was serious about it.

“There’s no need to stare at me. I can tell you for sure that I’m being serious.”

Jasper shrugged and said, “I know you’re very unwilling. After all, you’re an adult who’s accustomed to being free, and to suddenly have your peer, someone who’s even a few years younger than you, guide you, you will feel more or less humiliated.

“Similarly, I’m in a tough position myself. It’s really awkward for me to have a student who’s older than me.

“So if you can persuade your dad and your grandfather, I will gladly skip this errand.”

As Henry listened to Jasper, he knew what he meant.

“What if you use my dad and the rest to pressure me?” Henry said with a scowl.

“We’re not trying to pressure you. We just want you to know that right now, you can’t resist, nor do you have a choice. You can only listen to me,” Jasper said in a mild tone.

“Don’t even think that I like having to watch over you. I don’t have the time for that. But since Mr. Law and Old Master Law requested it, I will think of a way to transform you so that you’ll stop being a little bug, at least.”

“Who are you calling a little bug!?”

Henry stood up abruptly, roaring while staring at Jasper.

“You.” Jasper put down the wine glass, looked at Henry, and chuckled. “What’s wrong? Want to hit me?”

“You think I’m not brave enough to touch you just because my dad and my grandfather are on your side?” Henry said coldly.

At this moment, Anna stood up and frowned at Henry. “What are you trying to do?”

Henry pointed at Jasper and said to Anna, “Didn’t you hear him calling me a little bug?”

Anna said calmly, “Actually, I think he’s right.”

Henry’s expression sank.

“Look at yourself. What else can you do aside from leading a life of debauchery and hanging out with your prodigal friends? We’re even the ones paying your credit card bills. You’re nothing without your family.”

Anna wanted to use this opportunity to wake Henry up, hence she spoke in a very direct manner.

Henry’s expression was cold and dark. He did not utter a word.

“I’ll talk to him,” Jasper said to Anna.

When he saw how anxious Anna looked, Jasper smiled and said, "Don't worry, if we do fight, this prodigal young master might not necessarily be my match."

"I'm going to the washroom." Anna compromised.

Henry was so furious he laughed out loud. "Are you actually worried that I'll hit him, Sis? Aren't you worried that I'll get beaten up instead?"

"If you get beaten up, that's because you deserve it." Having said that, Anna walked toward the suite's balcony.

After Anna left, Jasper said to Henry casually, "You must be really unhappy about this. I don't intend on pleasing you either, so here's the deal. You have no choice but to listen to me for now.

"Don't be in a hurry to speak yet. If I give your dad or even Old Master Law a call right now and tell them about your attitude, do you think they'll think that I'm being too pushy or will they think that you're a hopeless prodigal?"

Henry was livid and harrumphed. "So you're not going to let me go, huh?"

"Well, you can't say that either!"

Jasper did some stretches and said, "I just want you to understand one thing clearly. You're nothing after you leave the Laws. As for me, I'm a lone wolf, so no one in this world can stop me.

"Take for example, if the Laws cancel your credit card tomorrow, then even simple things like paying for gas will be a problem for you. On the contrary, I earn all my money, so no one can stop me from doing anything."

Life at the Top Chapter 129

Jasper looked at Henry and said in a mild tone, "That's the difference between you and me."

Henry was sullen, feeling very upset and itching to punch Jasper in the face, but he had to admit... Jasper had touched a sore spot.

He would be nothing if he left the Laws. It was true that as soon as his credit card was canceled, he would have no way to pay for gas. It just so happened that his car was running out of gas now...

When he saw Henry's conflicted expression, Jasper tossed him a bait in a timely manner. "If you follow me and learn from me before I leave Harbor City, then I will not only turn you into your father's right-hand man but when it comes to trading, no youngsters in Harbor City will be your match either."

"Really?" Sure enough, Henry was hooked.

Trust fund babies were humans too. Henry was not naturally bad, nor did he want to be a little bug. If given the chance, he was eager to improve more than anyone.

Judging from his past life, the future Henry would come to his senses later in his life. After marrying the queen of diving in accordance with his family's arrangement, he then started to manage his family's business in an orderly manner as well.

Therefore, it had never crossed Jasper's mind that trust fund babies were idiots. They had received high-quality elite education from an early age, so they would not be any less educated than others, only wiser.

Henry was one of the best.

“Really!” Jasper nodded.

“Okay, I’ll treat you to a meal tomorrow and introduce you to a friend. If you agree to my condition, then I’ll do as you say,” Henry said.

“Cool,” Jasper said casually.

“Heh.”

Henry grinned and said, “I’ll be leaving first, then. Ask my sister to go home earlier.”

Having said that, Henry swaggered out of the room.

Standing on the balcony, Anna saw Jasper coming over and asked, “Done?”

“Half of it. He’s gone home and asked you to go home earlier as well,” Jasper said.

Anna grabbed another glass for Jasper, poured some red wine, and asked curiously, “My brother isn’t someone who compromises easily.”

“I know that. He asked me to have a meal with him and his friend tomorrow,” Jasper said with a smile.

Although he had no idea what Henry was plotting at, he knew this was not going to be an easy meal.

“Shall I go with you?” Anna said, seeing through Henry’s plan.

“No, he’ll look down on me if I bring you along. Also, if I can tame him this time, then he’ll follow me willingly,” Jasper said.

“Sigh. I’m sorry for all the trouble,” Anna said with a sigh.

“The two of you are pretty close.” As the only son, Jasper sounded rather envious.

A close relationship like that was commendable, especially among the rich.

“We’re not like other families. Take my dad, for example. He has an elder sister and a younger brother.

“My aunt and uncle, however, were told that they were not eligible to compete for the family assets and were not allowed to do business when they grew up, hence my aunt is now a lawyer and my uncle a professor at a medical school.

“It’s the same for my generation. The heir is designated, but if my eldest brother is truly inept, then I might take his position, but I don’t want that.

“When you’re born in a huge family, while you get to enjoy the benefits of your family, you also bear huge responsibilities. Having these responsibilities means that you don’t have a say in many major decisions in life.”

Jasper nodded and said, “Old Master Law has his reasons for setting the rules. He has avoided family disputes, at least. Look at other Harbor City’s aristocrats. All of them have had a history of heirs competing for family assets. The Laws, on the other hand, never had similar news.”

Anna let out a slight smile and gently ran her fingers through her hair next to her ear, chuckling. “It’s late. I should be heading back now. Give me a call if anything goes wrong tomorrow.”

“I don’t think that’s necessary!”

Life at the Top Chapter 130

The next day, Jasper did not leave the hotel at all.

He had been watching Harbor City's entertainment news channel.

Since he had decided to enter the entertainment industry starting in Harbor City, it was necessary for him to learn about this era's entertainment news.

Although he still had memories from his past life, Jasper was not God, hence it was impossible for him to recall what every celebrity did at this point in time.

After a long day, Jasper was considered to have gained something because he finally had a preliminary understanding of the entertainment industry! At least his plan to enter the entertainment industry was much clearer now.

In the afternoon, Henry came to pick Jasper up for lunch.

It was already two o'clock. Others would be having afternoon tea by now.

However, it was not strange at all for a trust fund baby like Henry to have lunch at two o'clock.

When he arrived at the hotel's entrance, Jasper immediately saw Henry's frivolous bearing as he stood next to his sports car coolly.

"Let's go. If we still have time after lunch, I can take you around Harbor City to broaden your worldview," Henry said to Jasper, grinning from ear to ear. He stood next to his Ferrari F12, tapping his car keys on the car's smooth and radiant body.

“Just the two of us?” Jasper thought of something and asked deliberately.

“A few of my friends have already booked a table. They’re all Harbor City’s rich kids. I’ll introduce you to them.”

Henry chuckled before opening the car door and climbing in.

Jasper got into the car and was just about to fasten his seat belt when Henry slammed on the accelerator all the way to the end.

The Ferrari roared like a beast, and all four of its tires scratched wildly against the ground. After releasing a burst of blue smoke, it whizzed forward like an arrow.

Henry deliberately pulled a prank in hopes that he could hear Jasper shriek. Henry let out a boisterous laugh when he saw Jasper staring at him like he was mentally challenged.

Henry said to Jasper, who continued to fasten his seatbelt slowly, “Aren’t you afraid?”

“See the double-decker bus in front of you?” Jasper asked a question that puzzled Henry greatly.

“Yeah,” Henry replied subconsciously.

“Crash into it,” Jasper said coldly.

“Huh!?” Henry looked at Jasper in astonishment.

“Crash into it. I might be scared then.” Jasper’s lips pulled into a devilish arc.

“...You’re a lunatic!”

Henry squeezed the words between clenched teeth.

Harbor City's first-class private kitchen, the Mythical Dragon Kitchen.

The Mythical Dragon Kitchen's concept was similar to the popular private home cuisines that popped up in later generations, except that it was an authentic private kitchen.

Three great chefs were born here.

It was not easy to be rated as a great chef in Harbor City because not only was one required to master traditional cuisines, but one also needed to invent new dishes, all while making sure they remained popular.

A plain bowl of mushroom soup in Mythical Dragon Kitchen could be sold for hundreds of dollars, yet even so, many still rushed over to try it.

It would take half a year to reserve a seat here.

Henry took Jasper into Mythical Dragon Kitchen with a deadpan expression. Amidst the greetings along the way, Henry's expression gradually recovered.

"I'm guessing you don't have first-class chefs in Mainland?" Henry boasted.

"We indeed don't have one because they're all busy teaching your chefs how to cook authentic Mainland cuisines," Jasper said flatly.

Henry was taken aback, then recalled how Harbor City's great chefs were indeed restricted to authentic Mainland cuisines despite numerous attempts to move away from it. Out of the three great chefs, two of them started their careers with Mainland cuisines.

Henry was suddenly bringing contempt upon himself.

“Our private room is upstairs.”

After saying with a sullen expression. Henry walked ahead to lead the way.

Jasper walked up the flight of stairs slowly. As a first-class private kitchen, Mythical Dragon paid utmost importance to their decor. A random mural hanging on the wall of the corridor could easily be an authentic piece of antique. Mythical Dragon Kitchen’s strong financial position was evident.

After coming to the private room upstairs, Henry pushed the door in.

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Although it was meant to be a private room for dining, this was actually a massive suite.

There was a dining table in the center of the living room, a couch area behind it, and washrooms and lounges on both sides. This was way better than a five-star hotel's presidential suite.

Sitting on the couch inside were two young men talking and laughing with each other.

Jasper was not surprised to see Zane here.

Back at Mandarin Oriental Hotel yesterday, Henry had appeared immediately after Zane left. They were from the same circle and both of them disliked him, hence it was not surprising to know that they were plotting something together.

However, sitting next to Zane was someone he was familiar with—Zayden Hanks!

Jasper was astounded to see him here!

When Zayden saw Jasper, his expression was as excited as if he was watching the national football team making it to the World Cup.

Zayden had come to Harbor City with the last bit of hope and resources from Sylva, and his greatest backer was the Lancaster family.

In their early years, Sylva was acquainted with Zane's father, Bob Lancaster, who was nicknamed Big B. They had been keeping in touch from time to time.

After coming to Harbor City, Zayden uncovered the dazzling human world with its myriad of temptations. In comparison, the developing Mainland was not much different from the countryside.

He also learned that in a place like Harbor City, anyone who had money was king, and no one would disobey them.

Therefore, Zayden recalled his painful experiences and planned to cling to Zane for dear life. Then, he would find a chance to make a comeback and get his revenge.

Zayden thought about 10,000 different scenarios when he would meet Jasper again, how he would take his revenge and humiliate him. The thought of each scenario would make Zayden extremely emotional.

However, he did not expect this meeting to come so soon and so abruptly.

“Motherf*cker! Jasper!”

Zayden stared at Jasper and hissed through gritted teeth.

“Hehe, yup that’s me. I didn’t expect to bump into you here,” Jasper said lightly.

Zayden clenched his fists and sneered. “You b*stard. Who says you’re allowed to come to Harbor City?”

Standing next to him, Henry broke out into a grin.

He did not expect to bump into Zayden here.

Henry remained nonchalant about it and was even gloating a little. He wanted to teach Jasper a lesson, to show him the difference between Harbor City and Mainland. Jasper needed to know this was not the place where he could fool around as he liked.

Now that Zayden was here, Henry watched with great interest as both sides argued.

Zane was the only one who did not know anything about this complicated relationship. He looked back and forth between Zayden and Jasper, chuckling. "Looks like you hold a grudge against him, Young Master Hanks?"

A hint of viciousness flashed across Zayden's eyes. He gritted his teeth and said, "More than just a grudge! He stole our bidding results using shameless means back in Mainland and caused my family to suffer heavy losses. I can't wait to kill him!"

"Zayden, the Hanks were clearly the ones who didn't pay up and gave up their right to bid. That's why I reluctantly accepted it."

Jasper shrugged and said in a breezy and nonchalant tone, "By the way, I have to thank the Hanks, and you, especially.

"The price you called was too high, so no one dared to take the order after that. For this reason, the city government gave your family a fine of 200 million dollars, then used the money as a subsidy to deduct it from the bidding money I paid. I must thank the Hanks for your generosity."

Zayden gnashed his teeth so hard they were about to crush under the pressure. He sprung up from his seat and roared, "Motherf*cker!

If you hadn't colluded with the Laws using such despicable and underhanded means, how could my family have possibly given it up?"

"Winner takes all. From the way I see it, your angry and incompetent roars at the moment make you look more like a loser," Jasper said coldly.

Clap, clap, clap.

Zane clapped his hands and stood up.

He then stuck his hands in his trouser pockets, walked over to Jasper, and laughed. "Winner takes all, indeed. Look at me then, am I a winner or a loser?"

"Whether you're a winner or a loser depends entirely on who your opponent is," Jasper said mildly.

Jasper's tone was filled with a hint of disdain. Zane's complexion changed abruptly!

This was plain mockery!

Seeing this, Zayden's eyes lit up.

He immediately fanned the flames and said, "Young Master Zane, Jasper told me a long time ago that he looks down on rich kids like us the most because all we do is fool around all day and have no serious purpose in life.

Well, I think he's just jealous! This idiot has no idea how terrifyingly rich and influential Harbor City's aristocratic families really are!"

Having said that, Zayden's lips drew up into an arc as he stared at Jasper with a sneer. "Have you looked at yourself in the mirror, Jasper? How dare you throw your weight around in Harbor City and boast in front of Young Master Zane? Aren't you afraid of being squashed to death?!"

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“Hey kid, don’t get so arrogant just because you’ve made a tiny achievement. This is Harbor City, not your remote and desolate Mainland. You have to pay a price for being arrogant here.”

Zane narrowed his eyes at Jasper, sneering and saying unhurriedly.

“You look down on rich kids, huh? You’d better listen up then. I’m a rich kid! My family has assets worth tens of billions of Harbor Dollars and four listed companies, what about you? You really think you can throw your weight around after toying with the Hanks, huh?”

Standing next to him, Zayden was thrilled. He was itching to scream at the top of his lungs to express his happy feelings.

It felt great to see Jasper being humiliated!

“You hear that, Jasper? This is Harbor City! Young Master Zane can squash you with just one finger!” Zayden let out a burst of smug laughter.

Next to them, Henry crossed his arms in front of his chest while sitting at the table and eating the fruit on the platter. He had one leg over the other as he watched the argument as though things were not more serious than they were.

In the face of Zane’s aggressiveness, Jasper chuckled slightly and said slowly, “I’m guessing you’re planning to stand up for Zayden?”

Zane sneered and said, "So what if I am? You'd better listen up, your insignificant achievement is nothing but a pile of trash to me. Stop being so complacent. In front of someone who is truly powerful, you..."

At this point, Zane slowly leaned toward Jasper's ear and let out a grim smile as he uttered word by word, "...are... nothing..."

"Alright then! Let me show you who I really am right now."

Jasper nodded and took out his phone.

"Oh? Are you calling someone? Oh, I'm so scared! Idiot! This is Harbor City, not Mainland. Do you think you can intimidate me? Do you think a piece of trash like you is worthy of hanging out with Anna at all!?"

Zane laughed when he saw what Jasper was doing.

Zayden laughed out loud as well. "This idiot must be scared stiff. An idiot from Mainland is trying to give someone in Harbor City a call to fight Young Master Zane?"

Zayden was gloating at this point. Now that Zane was around, he would be able to fix Jasper up real good. Best if Jasper could never make it back to Mainland anymore!

Henry felt his scalp tingling when he saw Jasper dialing the number, worried that Jasper would call his father or sister...

He would be in trouble regardless of which one of them Jasper called.

"Why don't you sit down and have something to eat first?"

Henry thought it was time for him to step in and smooth things over now.

Henry, however, was looking down on Jasper very much when he said those words.

God knew what was wrong with his grandfather and father that they would dote on Jasper when his ability was not at all impressive. Was he already going to call for help just because they had said a few words about him?

His grandfather and father sent a man like that to guide him?

Henry shook his head.

Jasper merely ignored him.

The call connected.

The call was not to Anna nor Zachary, but to Mainland.

“Jasp?”

John’s slightly puzzled voice rang out on the other end of the call.

Jasper had told him that he was going to Harbor City on a business trip a few days ago and would not be back so soon. Why was he giving him a call already?

“John, link my account to Harbor City’s stock market. I’ll direct you while you operate from your side,” Jasper said without exchanging any greetings.

“Right now? This needs to be approved first.” John was taken aback.

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“Who’s the b*stard?” Zane frowned as he asked Zayden.

Zayden let out a sneer and said, “God knows. He’s just trying to seek trouble by struggling with all his means. In a while, let’s see what tricks he has up his sleeve.”

After a moment, John’s slightly nervous voice was heard. “All done. Say, which stock?”

“Megan Company. Set the current market price as the target price. Purchase all stocks with full positions,” Jasper ordered calmly.

His voice was not just heard through the phone to John but even echoed throughout the entire room.

“Megan Company? Young Master Lancaster, isn’t that your family’s property?” Zayden turned around, feeling suspicious. However, he found out that Zane was smiling as if he was about to go crazy.

“Hahaha, what a joke. How dare this brat from Mainland, who has never even seen the world, think of making a move on my Megan Company? Sure, show me five billion, or else, stop humiliating yourself.”

Zayden came back to his senses and said through maniacal laughter, “Jasper, are you actually a fool? Megan Company is the Lancaster family’s main property with a market value of ten billion. Do you want to buy this company? Do you f*cking have the money?”

“Why bother putting on an act with this fella? What a joke.”

It was as if Jasper did not hear the mocking words from the other two people. He said to John calmly, "Go allocate the assets from JW Real Estate into the market. When I'm back, I'll settle the procedure by asking Wendy to make it up for your part."

John also heard Jasper's voice over the phone. However, he did not question any further and said without thinking twice, "Rest assured, I can give you the highest limit of two billion."

Previously when Hugh set him up, it was Jasper who immediately helped him get rid of Hugh. He had promised Jasper that one day in the future, he would give his all to help Jasper out!

Besides, John was confident that Jasper would not set him up.

'If you want to play this game, then let's make it a huge one!'

John immediately used the highest limit and reallocated all of JW Real Estate's credits. Two billion in total was immediately transferred into Jasper's account, adding to Jasper's account which initially had four billion.

'Six billion!'

The six billion, after being processed by John, was placed into the stock market of Megan Company.

Boom! It was as if a giant rock had smashed onto the surface of the pond, causing a terrifying wave.

The stock value of Megan Company immediately rose by a few points. The exchanging volume flipped ten times in a blink of an eye!

The red color exchanging message kept renewing. Jasper's account and all those who were holding onto Megan Company's stocks were rising frantically.

Following then, Harbor City Securities Regulatory Commission immediately received the official note released by John, who acted as Jasper's assistant.

[Jasper Laine, as a natural person, will officially launch a purchasing battle against Megan Company by force!]

Just a single movement and it caused a commotion. The capital immediately changed with the news released. Almost everyone's attention was focused on the stocks of Megan Company.

"Jasp, the percentage of stocks you're holding is approaching 37%. You're now the second-largest shareholder of Megan Company."

"Wait for my news."

Jasper said, then hung up the call.

As soon as Jasper hung up the call, Zane's phone immediately rang.

With much effort, he took out his phone. He was entirely dumbfounded and jammed the answering button, feeling numb.

On the other end of the call, there came the roar of a middle-aged man who sounded almost like he was in a rage. "You brat! Who have you offended out there?! Why is there someone making a move against our company?"

"37% of the shares of Megan Company have been forcibly purchased! Do you know that person can set up a meeting with the board of directors anytime and request for a reorganization of the entire company?!"

Zane's lips fumbled when he heard it. He could not help but feel that something was off, yet he was unable to spit it out. That was because he was unaware of the issues regarding the company!

Bob was still barking continuously on the call.

Jasper had made his way to Zane, who was now looking pale. He said calmly, "You can stop thinking about it. I'm guessing right now, your dad will even have the intention to beat you to death. Are you still thinking of freeing yourself?"

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Jasper's comment made Zane recover as though he had just been suffocated. He took a deep, cold breath into his lungs vigorously.

He glared at Jasper. Zane's eyes were gleaming with terror and astonishment.

He clenched his teeth and muttered, "Impossible... You're just a b*stard. What rights... What rights do you have?!"

Never mind that Zane could not wrap his head around why Jasper could do so, but even Henry could not figure it out.

'This man, why is he such a hot-tempered guy?

'He wants to purchase another person's listed company just because of a disagreement?

'And he f*cking succeeded?'

Henry gulped a mouthful of saliva and looked at Jasper with a gaze mixed with shock and... terror.

"What the hell is going on? What trouble did you get yourself into outside?!"

Bob's roar was heard coming from the other end of the call once again.

Jasper chuckled softly. He took the phone from his hand before Zane could even speak and immediately spoke up to cut off Bob's barking.

“Come over to the private room on the top floor of Mythical Dragon Kitchen to retrieve both your company and your son!”

Jasper hung up the call and tossed the phone to Zane’s hand after he was done talking. He spun around and sat beside the dining table.

Seeing that Jasper had come over to sit, Henry’s first reaction was to stand up with a jump.

In the next second, Henry was slightly embarrassed with his lackluster performance.

Just when he was thinking of saying something to rescue his pride, Henry heard Jasper saying, “Aren’t you going to serve the dishes? I’m feeling hungry now.”

‘Serve the dishes?! Serve my foot. I’ve had enough of seeing you putting on an act. Aren’t you full after putting on such an act? Yet you still want me to serve the dishes?’

‘Besides, who else at this moment is in the mood to enjoy a meal?’

“I’ll immediately relay the message.”

Henry, who was frantically cursing internally, uttered those words after successfully changing his thoughts.

At a corner, Zayden suddenly felt a sense of sorrow dwelling within him as he looked at Henry’s figure. The man was happily running out to order the waiters to serve the dishes. Stunned, Zayden then looked over at Zane who was standing at the exact spot, motionless as if he had been struck by lightning.

In the province, he had just been like a dog, serving Henry as he was scared that Henry would not be pleased. After arriving at Harbor City, he was still behaving like a dog, trying to get on good terms with Zane, afraid that he would just kick him away.

'But how about Jasper?'

As he glanced at Henry's seemingly delighted expression, it looked exactly like himself when he served Henry previously.

Back in the province, he had made use of both Anna and Zachary to pressure Henry. After coming over to Harbor City, he immediately made Zane nearly lose his company.

Zayden clenched his fists and lowered his head, not daring to face Jasper.

Soon, the waiters presented all the dishes. Jasper took his sweet time to taste each and every dish. Henry was famished as well and picked up his cutleries to start eating.

Zane and Zayden dared not walk nor move an inch. They just stood there like wooden poles, looking at the two men eating their meal.

"Let's start the first lesson immediately."

Jasper suddenly put down his cutleries, drank a mouthful of water, and said to Henry who was chewing on a piece of pork.

"Mmm?"

Henry was chewing on the piece of pork and looking at Jasper absentmindedly. His mind could not process what was currently going on.

"A successful businessman, when they're earning money, most of them have a very bad character."

"This phrase, it sounds rather familiar?" Henry said, puzzled.

"It was Bob Lancaster who said it!"

The corners of Jasper's lips curled into a sneer.

"Bob relies on his family business, Megan Company, which is involved with ceiling fans, to become rich. However, after entering the capital market, they excel in purchasing other companies secretly, then blackmailing them for a large sum of money."

"So, for today's first lesson, there are two things to it. The first is to solve a problem starting from its root, and the second lesson is to use their evil method against them to teach them a lesson!"

Henry felt a tingling sensation on his scalp when he heard Jasper's comment.

He could not help but look at Jasper and then at Zane, who was behind him. He even had a feeling that since the very beginning, it had all been just a plan to hunt. Jasper was the hunter, and his prey was not Zane but the person behind Zane... Bob Lancaster.

The thought of it made Henry have goosebumps throughout his body.

'How terrifying this person is to be able to look ten steps ahead in his plan?'

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At that moment, the door of the room was being pushed open.

Under the escort of a few security guards, the famous Bob, who was well known throughout the entire financial world, entered the room grandly.

“Dad, you’re here!”

Zane finally dared to speak out when he saw his father’s arrival. However, when he saw the exasperated look gleaming in Bob’s eyes, he could only clench his teeth and shift his gaze to Jasper.

Bob glanced across the entire room. His gaze was extremely stern as it swiped past Zane. Then, he placed his gaze on Jasper’s body.

The moment he saw Henry, Bob revealed an expression as if he was almost smiling. “Henry, is this your friend?”

‘Bob is trying to make out Jasper’s background.’

Currently, Bob was apoplectic with rage. It was always him who triumphed over others on the share market. ‘How is it possible that I’ll be beaten by others?’

The rage and humiliation made him have the urge to just immediately order his security guards to throw Jasper into the ocean to feed the fishes. However, Henry was sitting there, and that made him rather wary.

After all, Henry’s position in Harbor City was not someone like Bob could compare to.

Subconsciously, Henry looked at Jasper, not knowing how he should answer.

“Director Lancaster, please have a seat.”

Jasper said faintly, “Even though Mr. Law and I have some connections, business is still business. Today’s issue has nothing to do with Mr. Law.”

Bob looked at Jasper seriously. Suddenly, he laughed and said, “You have guts. Just a statement and you said out everything clearly. Now, I’m more convinced that you’re the one who laid a finger on our company.”

“After all, I’m still a bit younger. It’s only reasonable for Director Lancaster to have some suspicions.”

Jasper looked at Bob taking his seat in a prestigious manner and said calmly.

Not knowing why, Henry sneaked a peek at Jasper beside him who was looking joyous. Deep in his heart, there was a voice that was shrieking frantically.

‘It’s starting, it’s starting. It’s going to start again!

‘This b*stard is going to put on an act again!’

Henry was somehow slightly looking forward to it yet slightly agitated at the same time.

After all, this time, Jasper was not going against any brainless young master but a genuine master from the business world, Bob from the Lancaster family!

He was a boss who was just half a level lower than Henry’s father, Zachary Law!

Bob did not say a word. Jasper did not continue talking as well and slowly ate his rice while completely ignoring Bob’s fearsome gaze.

Gradually, Bob could not tolerate it any longer.

“I already have an understanding regarding today’s issue. It’s Zane who was at fault first. I’m going to make him apologize to you. Well, this is considered as getting to know each other after an incident. I’ll organize a banquet on another day and treat you to a meal. Let’s become friends, what do you say?”

Bob had lowered his pride very much. That was considered a helpless act.

After all, on the surface, Jasper had the upper hand.

In Harbor City, setting up a banquet would mean to apologize. Given Bob’s position, he had already given in quite a lot by taking this measure.

“Well, youngsters will often have times when they are more aggressive. It’s all just a small matter. With just a word from Director Lancaster, of course, there won’t be a problem.”

Jasper placed his cutleries down, took a tissue from beside him, and wiped his mouth with it while saying.

Bob also revealed a smile when he heard it. He felt that Jasper was quite a reasonable person.

“So, let’s just forget about the conflict between the youngsters. Next, let’s talk about business. Right now, in my hands, I’m holding onto 37% of Megan Company’s shares. How much do you intend to buy back, Director Lancaster?”

His comment left Bob’s smile frozen on his face. It was as if a blizzard had suddenly covered his entire face.

Henry, who was just beside, had his eyes glittering frantically.

‘Indeed, how is it possible that this brat would just let this matter slide by?!’

That was the moment Henry was looking forward to. He wanted to see how Jasper planned to tackle Bob!

“B*stard! You’d better not go overboard. My dad is...”

Zane, who was beside, also sensed where Jasper was heading to and immediately stepped out to roar.

“Shut the hell up!”

Jasper’s cold gaze landed on him before he could even finish talking, and it immediately stunned him.

“Right now, do you still have the rights to talk?”

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"You..."

Zane was terrified by Jasper's gaze. Subconsciously, he took a step back and fixed his gaze on his father, Bob.

"Young man, you're indeed different from the other youngsters!"

Bob stared at Jasper, exasperated. His eyes glittered with an icy cold layer. It had been a while since he was this disgruntled.

All this while, it had always been him who looked at the mad expressions filled with grievances of the people he was blackmailing.

Since when was it his turn to be in the shoes of those being blackmailed while staring at another who was sitting tall and mighty?

Furthermore, it was a person whose age was the same as his son!

"Director Lancaster, we're now having a business discussion. We shouldn't let others run their mouth." Jasper was not fazed by Bob. Instead, he was looking at Bob calmly.

Hearing him made Bob's expression darken. His expression that was initially already angry looked even madder now.

"What do you mean, young man?"

Jasper said after hearing Bob's comment, "Director Lancaster, you can't seriously be thinking that I spent billions to purchase 37% of the shares of Megan Company just because I got into an argument with some brat?"

'Brat?'

Zane clenched his fist. He was so mad that his body was shaking, but he dared not speak. He did not even have the courage to lift his head as he was afraid to see his father's burning gaze.

Bob leaned on the big chair. He squinted his eyes and lighted a cigarette before sneering, "Hey youngster, are you declaring war against me?"

Jasper tapped on his temple and said, "In my mind, there's no such thing as war, only trading. Right now, I have the chips, and it's up to Director Lancaster whether or not you're willing to pay the price to purchase these chips back."

Bob extinguished the cigarette bud ruthlessly and said coldly, "Aren't you afraid that I'll launch a reverse takeover on you?"

In the financial world, one could buy with force, and naturally, there would be anti-takeovers as well.

Bob could use a vast amount of assets to purchase other shares of Megan Company and that would grant him the advantage over his ratio of shares.

However, if that occurred, it would be a genuine business war, which would not end if neither side crumbled.

Jasper said calmly, "The achievement of Megan Company is increasing annually. It's considered one of the rare blue chip stocks. I'm guessing that apart from me, there will be tons of people out there having an interest in the shares of Megan Company. Why don't you make a guess how difficult it'll be for me to let go of the 37% of shares I'm currently holding, Director Lancaster?"

Bob's pupils shrunk slightly. Even though he was exasperated, he had to admit that Jasper had grasped his weak point.

All these years, he had managed to blackmail others through shares. There would be tons of enemies out there. How was it possible for him to still be so carefree?

That was because Bob had never given other people a chance to invade his company.

However, on that day, without any preparations and with no time to take precautions, he was now being cornered by Jasper.

It was not at all Bob's fault. He could only blame things for happening too suddenly. How would he be able to predict that Jasper, who came from Mainland, would make a move against Megan Company?

Currently, Jasper was having the advantage. If he was willing to sell off the 37% of shares, all of Bob's enemies from the past would be all too glad to pay a huge sum of money to buy them.

Even if they failed to change the leader of Megan Company, they would still be able to give him a hard time ruthlessly.

Bob would not allow such a thing to happen.

However, this was precisely Jasper's confidence.

The atmosphere had come to an awkward situation.

Even Henry was feeling anxious.

Not knowing how long had passed, Bob spoke coldly, "Six billion."

The master of the business world had finally given in.

According to the normal market, the value of the 37% of shares of Megan Company that Jasper held would be approximately 4.5 billion.

However, Jasper underwent a takeover in the shares market without considering the cost and obtained the premium price. Hence, he had spent an approximation of five billion.

Currently, Bob was offering six billion to purchase those shares.

According to the calculation of the market value, Bob was losing 1.5 billion while Jasper would earn one billion.

“Deal!”

Jasper answered gladly.

‘I should retreat when the time is up.’ Jasper was not planning to corner Bob to a state where his back was against the wall. That would not comply with his initial intention of obtaining profit.

The deal was achieved, and Bob had no intention of staying back.

“Young man, you have guts. That method you have there is not bad!”

Before he left, Bob left Jasper a thoughtful comment.

“You’d better teach your son to behave. Next time, you won’t be able to solve it with just six billion,” said Jasper calmly.

Bob squinted his eyes, let out a cold smile, and turned around to leave.

Zane, bearing a grudge, glanced at Jasper. Just when he dragged Zayden to leave as well, Jasper got up.

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"Stand there."

Under Zayden's terrified gaze, Jasper walked over to him and stood still.

"What are you plotting?!"

Zayden was tough on the outside but weak on the inside. He had asked with a ferocious look, attempting to conceal his anxiety with his fierce expression.

Smack!

A slap landed on Zayden's face.

Zayden felt as if a layer of flesh on the left side of his face was about to be slashed off, leaving half of his face feeling numb.

He raised his hand and covered his face. Zayden, with his gaze that was frantically brewing with a grudge, stared at Jasper while roaring, "How dare you slap me?!"

"The feeling of slapping Young Master Hanks' face is no different than slapping anyone else's face."

Jasper flicked his wrist and said calmly.

At that moment, Zayden was on the brink of going crazy.

"This slap is because you intended to get your hands on Wendy when you're not supposed to."

As soon as he was done speaking, the second slap came along.

The other half of Zayden's face now felt numb as well.

"This slap is because you never look at others in the eye, and you've humiliated me a dozen times."

Receiving two slaps continuously left Zayden's head spinning. His eyes became engorged with vessels as he roared and pounced on Jasper.

However, Jasper took a step back and Zayden lost his balance before falling to the ground. That made him even more embarrassed.

Jasper said coldly while looking at Zayden on the floor from high above, "Since the beginning, you've viewed me as your ultimate enemy, but in my opinion, you're just a piece of worthless trash."

Zane, who was beside, witnessed the entire scene. Even his expression was trembling as well.

At that moment, in his vision, Jasper was no different from a devil.

It was just that he was covered with a layer of human skin.

What was more terrifying was that this demon who was covered with a layer of human skin was walking toward him now.

"You... What are you planning to do..."

Zane gulped a mouthful of saliva and said with a dry tone. He did not realize that his voice was shaking.

"Earlier, your dad said you're going to apologize to me. Have you forgotten about it?" Jasper said coldly.

Zane, with a hopeless gaze, looked at his father.

Having him apologize to Jasper made him feel more terrible than the idea of being dead.

“Youngster, you’re going overboard,” said Bob coldly.

“Director Lancaster, this is an affair between youngsters. Are you planning to stick your nose in?”

Jasper furrowed his brows and looked at Bob who was wearing an angry look.

Bob’s expression suddenly changed. He could hear the threat from Jasper’s calm comment.

‘That deal has yet to be completed right now.’

The shares had yet to be traded, and the six billion had not been credited into the account.

The deal could be off anytime.

Bob had never felt so aggrieved before.

“Apologize to him!”

Bob suppressed the rage within him and barked at Zane.

“Dad...” Zane looked at his father, finding it hard to believe.

‘Even Dad has given in as well?!’

Zane did not understand why his father was so scared of Jasper!

“I said apologize! This is what you get by being so proud when you’re outside. This is a lesson, and you’d better keep it in your mind!” Bob roared.

He clenched his teeth. Zane stared at Jasper, bearing a huge grudge. Then, he hopelessly lowered his head and blurted out three words through the gaps of his teeth.

“I’m sorry.”

“I didn’t catch it,” Jasper said coldly.

Zane was dumbfounded. He raised his head aggressively and looked straight at Jasper. He shouted, “I’m sorry!”

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At that point, Henry was at the brink of slamming the table and jumping to his feet, feeling exasperated.

'He really is good at putting on an act!'

There were three people in total. One of them had surrendered to Jasper, the other was pressurized by Jasper, and the last one was now terrified of Jasper!

He was looking at Jasper, and Henry could not help but feel scared and stunned.

He thought of himself who was a son from a rich family with the title of being Young Master Law. On usual days, he would court ladies and look down on others.

Such a low standard of acting, when compared to Jasper, was lacking far behind—just like a kid's show.

'When will I be able to put on a show and be able to show off? If Dad and Grandpa know about it, they'll be sure to praise me!'

"Let's go!"

Bob blurted out that comment coldly.

Zane, along with Zayden who had just peeled himself from the ground, both looked at Jasper with a gaze that was gleaming with a hatred that had seeped into their bones. They followed Bob and walked away without turning their heads around.

Henry looked at the room door that was being closed. He licked his lips. He was moved and could not get enough of Jasper's prestigious performance earlier.

After the guests had left, the drinks were still warm.

"Bob had lots of ill thoughts!"

Jasper held the teacup and gently drank a mouthful before saying.

Henry was dumbfounded and subconsciously asked, "Didn't you just win the game?"

"Yes, I won, but that doesn't mean that Bob has lost. He was just pushed to a corner where he had no way to counter. If he was given time to prepare, the chance of me winning this blackmailing game would not have been more than 10%."

Jasper shook his head and said.

Henry was flustered when he heard it. He felt as if he was listening to his father talking about a few tricks regarding the business industry. It was completely like listening to a text that was extremely hard to comprehend.

'The feeling is like I can understand every word he's saying and I can even write them all out, but once the words are combined together, I can't comprehend it at all.

'F*ck, how does this guy's thought process work?'

Henry was cursing internally.

"Did you learn anything today?" Jasper asked.

Henry was speechless as his mind went blank. "I only saw you putting on an act. What's there for me to learn?"

"However, if you're asking about the aspect of putting on an act, I did learn a bit from there. For example, no matter what the opponent says or does, you have to look at them with a gaze as if you're looking at a mentally disabled child," Henry said confidently.

Following that, Henry spotted something else that made him exasperated. Jasper was applying what he had just said, using a gaze as if he was looking at a mentally disabled child to look at him.

"B*stard! What's with that expression you got there?!" Henry asked angrily.

"Let's go. I'm tired today. I want to head back to get some rest."

Jasper shook his head, got up, and said.

He sent Jasper back to the hotel after being busy for the entire afternoon. After dropping Jasper off, it was already evening.

If it was an ordinary day, Henry would definitely not go home so soon. However, today was different than usual.

He immediately ignited the car engine and drove back home. Along the way home, the road was packed with cars and he was slightly frustrated. That was because he had an issue to discuss with his father and grandfather.

It was seven in the evening when he finally reached home. As soon as he entered the house, he saw Anna.

"You didn't do anything to Jasper today, right?" Anna immediately asked when she saw Henry.

“Why don’t you ask him regarding this issue instead? What could I possibly have done to him?!”

Henry put on a horrified expression when he recalled the incident that occurred today.

“It’s not convenient for me to ask him... What happened today?” Anna asked curiously.

“There’s something that I can’t figure out. I have to go ask Dad.”

Henry immediately ran upstairs to the study after he said it. Anna sensed that it must be something related to Jasper and immediately tagged along.

In the study, Henry blurted out the entire incident to Anna and Zachary.

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After he was done talking, Henry looked at his father who was laughing out loud. He had a delighted look on his face, and even Anna was wearing a faint smile on her face.

At that moment, he said with a very unpleasant feeling, "Why does it feel like both of you know what's going on and I'm the only fool here?"

"Dad, Jasper said he has won but Bob did not lose. He even said that Bob has lots of ill thoughts. What the hell does that mean?" Henry asked.

Zachary smiled, and then his eyes were brewing with admiration. Hearing his son's question, he said, "Actually what Jasper wanted to witness was Bob failing to accept his defeat and insisting to have a rumble in this business war."

Henry was puzzled.

Zachary glared at Henry, apoplectic with rage. He said, "Bob has lots of enemies in Harbor City. If the business war broke out, Jasper would have lots of alliances.

"At that point, Jasper would need not personally join the battle. He just has to sell off those shares and he would easily be able to sell them at a very high price."

"Then why doesn't he just sell them off to other people immediately?" Henry was getting more curious.

"That's where Jasper's wisdom lies."

Zachary's tone of admiration was getting intense. "He has one more important motive for coming here to Harbor City."

“You’re talking about the issue of taking over and investing in an entertainment company?”

Henry suddenly thought of that matter.

It was because of that the Law family had used up lots of resources to help Jasper gain some news.

“Mmm... If Jasper were to immediately sell those shares to Bob’s enemies right now, how will the other people from the business world of Harbor City view him? He will be the second Bob Lancaster.

“When he wants to take over an entertainment company, it won’t be an easy feat.

“If Bob wasn’t satisfied with the way things turned out earlier and wanted to go all out in a business battle, no one would be able to comment as throughout the entire incident, Jasper was just being reasonable.”

Zachary said, then looked at Henry and added, “Do you know why we, the Law family, receive honorable greetings wherever we go within the Mainland?”

“We’re rich, so they want us to invest in them,” said Henry casually.

“Foolish.”

Zachary scolded and said, “It’s because your grandpa has built up his reputation throughout his life!

“The superior position the Law family has in Mainland is so because everyone knows your grandpa is a businessman who sincerely loves his country, and everybody respects him for that.”

Zachary stood up and tapped on Henry's shoulder, saying, "When a businessperson reaches a certain level, they must consider the issue of reputation."

Since ancient times, fame and fortune are not divided with one's name still being the most important.

"Jasper is so young, yet his skill of being able to read others' intentions is splendid. This is no longer considered as perfect but scary," said Zachary with a sigh.

Anna said thoughtfully, "In the end, he beat up Zayden and forced Zane to apologize. He must be testing Bob as well."

Zachary nodded and said, "Bob is a cunning man but not easy to go against."

"However, being able to make Bob suffer from such a big loss, it's still a good thing," said Zachary with a smile.

Henry's eyes were sparkling, and no one knew what was in his mind.

"So how is it? Do you finally know just how big a gap there is between you two?" Anna said with a chuckle.

Henry nodded and said from the bottom of his heart, "There's indeed a huge difference"

For once, Zachary gladly gave a word of encouragement. "Don't compare yourself with him. In this world, there are not many people of Jasper's age who are able to be on par with him."

His opponent was someone from the older generation. "I'll be satisfied if you can learn 70% of his ability."

“In this world, are there not many who can be compared with his ability to put on an act?” Henry wore a look of admiration and said it sincerely.

Zachary was dumbfounded, and the smile on his face froze up.

Zachary roared, “You spoilt brat, get lost right now!”

Henry, who was being chased out of the study, was not at all bothered. Anyway, he was used to it, and he happily ran downstairs.

“Where are you going?” asked Anna.

“Off to bathe and call it an early night. He said he’ll bring me over to the trading center tomorrow to put on an act... Oh, no, it’s to learn how the capital market operates.”

Standing upstairs, Anna looked at Henry’s outline, astonished. ‘How many years has it been...’

After the siblings went past the age of 15 years old, she had never seen Henry turning in for the day before 11 at night while claiming that he wanted to sleep early.

At that moment, Anna had to admit that her grandfather’s idea of letting Henry hang around Jasper might just be an excellent move that could cause a miracle to happen!

Anna returned to her bedroom and subconsciously dialed Jasper’s number.

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Jasper was surprised when he received Anna's call.

Jasper, who was having a live stream meeting with Hudson and the rest, hinted for the meeting to end. He got up and came to the balcony of the suite to answer the call.

"I thought that the super-rich guy who earns one billion a day wouldn't answer my call."

After hearing Anna's teasing, Jasper replied with a smile, "It's a call from the beauty of the Law family. Even if I'm earning ten billion, I still have to pick up the call!"

"I already know about today's matter. My family gave you high praises for what you did today," said Anna.

"I guess it's all about fate. I don't have any good points about myself, the only thing that's worth praising is that I'm good at grasping the opportunity."

Anna lay on the bed. She twirled her hair with her fingers as she said, "I think my elder brother has changed."

Jasper massaged his forehead and said helplessly, "To be honest, perhaps the part that he's interested in is different from what we expect."

"According to him, he said you'll bring him over to the trading center tomorrow?" asked Anna as she was interested.

Jasper said, "Yes. I'm planning to head over there tomorrow."

“Can I tag along?” asked Anna.

“I can’t find any excuse to reject you,” said Jasper with a smile.

With a soft chuckle, Anna flipped over and lay on the bed, saying, “Then, shall we meet up tomorrow?”

“Sure, see you tomorrow.”

After hanging up the call, Anna sat on the bed. Both her hands were hugging her long legs. With her chin placed on her shin, one could not tell what was on her mind. It was just that she revealed a bright smile.

The next morning, Henry hurriedly ran to his car after having his breakfast.

However, just when he arrived at the side of the car, he saw that Anna had been waiting there a long time ago.

“What are you doing here?” Henry stared at Anna and asked.

“Going out with you,” said Anna as a matter-of-factly.

Henry frowned his brows and said, losing his cool, “I’m heading out to do some big business. Why are you tagging along? Go and have fun by yourself.”

Anna said, unsatisfied, “Aren’t you going out with Jasper? I already gave him a call, and he permitted me to tag along.”

After being stunned, Henry looked at Anna with a suspicious look. “Previously, there were so many young masters who put up so many tricks just to beg you to go out with them, but I’ve never seen you being bothered with any one of them, yet today, you insist on tagging along with me to look for Jasper?”

“Lil Sis, you’d better take good care of yourself.”

Anna glared at Henry and said coldly, “It’s alright if I don’t come along. Then I’ll now go upstairs and look for Dad to have a fine discussion with him regarding those matters of yours when you were studying abroad—”

“Go, go, go!” Henry unlocked the car door irritatedly, cutting Anna’s comment short. “You’re such a talkative person.”

At Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Jasper was just done with his breakfast when Henry and his sister arrived.

They drove and headed in the direction of the trading center. Henry was feeling rather uncomfortable when he sneaked a peek at the two people who were sitting side by side in the backseat while chatting happily.

‘Why did I become a driver?!’

It was clear that this was not what Henry had expected.

“Today, what are we going to do at the trading center?” Henry thought of a topic and successfully interrupted the two people who were having an engrossing conversation.

“I’m planning to go over there to open a new securities account. Then, you two can each open your respective accounts too,” said Jasper.

“We can open one as well?” Anna asked curiously.

“Don’t you want to earn some spare cash?” said Jasper.

Anna’s eyes were sparkling. She knew that Jasper was a genius in stocks yet had never witnessed it with her own eyes. With this chance presenting itself to her, she would not miss out on it.

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"Are you really someone who became rich via stocks? I heard from my dad that you previously earned a ton from crude oil futures," asked Anna.

"I guess so." Jasper thought back at his entire process of becoming a successful person. He shook his head and said with a smile, "Actually, I'm not paying much attention to the current stock market, unless I think it has a huge potential, or else, I'll just carry out a few trades. There's not much meaning to it."

"Previously, you said that there will be a huge change in the price of Harbor City's stocks. Is it going to happen soon?!" Anna asked earnestly.

Jasper nodded his head. Then, he saw the trading center that they were fast approaching. He said, "Indeed, it's going to happen soon. It's just that I wonder how many people are going to go bankrupt during this wave."

At the securities exchange center of Harbor City. Earlier when computers were not widely available, ordinary stock exchanges were done via phone calls to the professionals at the stocks exchange center, and the professionals would follow the investors' guidelines to conduct the purchasing and selling procedures.

Some would personally come forth to the exchange center. They would look at the large monitor while having a conversation with other stock investors. It would be a lively scene.

Currently, following the fact that every household in Harbor City had their own computers, everyone would operate themselves. Hence, the number of people lingering at the stock exchange center had declined drastically.

However, that was just one side of the story. After all, there were still many people who loved to come here to have a conversation with other stock investors.

The moment Jasper and the other two arrived at the exchange center, not long after the start of operational hours, it became peak hour.

With the presence of the Law siblings, Jasper would not need to queue up. With the manager's service, who nodded and bowed throughout the entire process, they opened new accounts at the fastest speed.

Under the arrangement of the manager, Jasper and the other two had arrived at a VIP room.

Aside from having a sofa in the resting area, there was also a large screen that displayed the condition of any stocks at any time.

Jasper observed the listed internet-based corporations in the stock market and noticed the markets were all hyped up. Most of the money was flowing to this sector.

"I heard from my friends who do stocks trading that buying shares of internet-based corporations is a business that will definitely earn and will not suffer any loss," said Henry from the side.

Jasper laughed and said instead, "Even you think that way as well?"

Henry was stunned and said, "Even though I'm not familiar with stocks, I believe everyone can earn some money from here. I guess that pretty much sums it up?"

"When everyone thinks a particular corporation's shares can bring fortune, it means it's near to its crash," said Jasper.

Henry pouted his lips, thinking Jasper was trying to put on an act again.

'It's plain obvious that it's a guaranteed profit if one purchases it and everyone's fighting to get their hands on it. How is it possible that it'll undergo a crash?'

Coincidentally, at that moment, they heard the door being knocked.

"Come in," Henry said lazily.

The door of the VIP room was opened, and a young gentleman came in. His gaze landed on Anna, and he said gently, "Anna, earlier when I heard someone saying that you've come to the exchange center, I didn't believe it. I didn't expect you to actually be here."

Anna, who had been quiet all this while and looking from aside, saw the person who came in. Her face revealed an irritated expression as she said coldly, "I'm just here to look around."

"His name is Mitch Langdon, one of my sister's pursuers. He's also considered as your number one enemy!"

Henry suddenly inched over to Jasper's ear and whispered.

Jasper looked at Henry, finding it hard to believe.

Henry chuckled and said, "He's the best investor among the younger generation from the rich families of Harbor City. During university, he got one million from his father and turned it into 20 million. Currently, he owns properties worth billions!

"The one who's great is his grandfather, Wallace Langdon. Speaking of rich people in Harbor City, there are two Langdons, one is Joe Langdon, who's the richest man, and the other one is his grandfather, Wallace. When Wallace just started off, he wasn't as brilliant as Joe!"

Henry was just done with the introduction, and Mitch shifted his gaze over to Jasper.

It was hard for him to ignore Jasper because of the way he was sitting so close to Anna. Even the slightest movement of their bodies would make their shoulders touch gently.

It was also because of such a small detail that it made Mitch look at Jasper with a hostile gaze.

“Young Master Law, this guy looks unfamiliar. I haven’t met him, right?”

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Henry said with a laugh, “Of course, he’s unfamiliar to you. He’s Jasper Laine, from Mainland. He’s the most splendid stock god I’ve ever seen.”

“Stock god from Mainland?”

Mitch’s tone was a playful one as if he heard someone claiming themselves to be the number one rich guy from the rural area.

“Hey dude, people from Mainland know how to invest in stocks as well?” asked Mitch calmly.

“There are, but very few,” Jasper answered calmly.

“Hahaha...”

Mitch burst into laughter on the spot.

Then, he waved his hand in an elegant manner and said, “I’m sorry, I really can’t take it when listening to this dude’s comment.”

In Mitch’s opinion, perhaps there might be people from Mainland who knew how to play with stocks and were smart enough to earn money, but how many people actually knew how to invest in stocks? The answer was rare among the rarest!

“What’s so funny about it?” Jasper looked at Mitch calmly.

Mitch shrugged his shoulder and said thoughtfully, “My friend, Harbor City’s stocks and the stocks in Mainland are totally different. Don’t think that by knowing a little, you’ll be able to survive in this stock market. You guys from Mainland are

lacking way behind. In my opinion, you're just a brat from the rural area of Mainland!"

Henry was the first to reveal an unpleasant look when he heard up to that point.

In his current opinion, Jasper was like a god when it came to putting on an act. All this while, Mitch never had a good relationship with Henry. 'With all the things he has blurted, then what does my identity as Young Master Law mean anyway?

'Is he implying that I'm a lackey following a kid from the rural area and learning from him?'

"Mitch, don't act all mighty. Yesterday, Zane suffered a terrible loss in Jasper's hands!"

Mitch sneered. "Zane? Will you believe that he will try to get on my good terms when he's facing me?"

As he was saying, Mitch pointed at Jasper with his finger and said coldly, "Don't think you can ignore everybody's presence just because you know a thing or two. There's more that goes on under Harbor City's surface than you think. It's not up to someone from the rural area of Mainland like you to claim yourself as a stock god. Even I don't dare proclaim myself to be a stock god, let alone you?"

Henry's expression was dark as he was unhappy about it. He looked like a young master whose temper was at the brink of exploding.

However, he still put up with it. His eyes kept glancing over at Jasper.

He found it rather weird. 'Mitch is being so arrogant, but why isn't he showing any reaction?'

Henry could not wait to activate his learning mode. He could still vividly recall Zane trembling with fear yesterday!

Once again, Mitch shifted his gaze to Anna without waiting for Jasper to speak up.

He said gently, “Anna, if you want to learn how to invest in stocks, just let me know. I’ll teach you for sure.

“Why bother wasting your time on this brat from Mainland?”

“I’ve seen plenty of such people. At most, they’re using some tricks and acting as if they’re very brilliant. In reality, though, they’re worthless and their true intention is to cheat you.”

Anna frowned, putting on an irritated look. Just when she was about to speak, Jasper got up.

Henry was agitated. His trembling hands nearly flew to cover Anna’s mouth.

He knew that Jasper was about to speak, so he quickly held Anna back.

“I’ve never said that I’m the stock god. Whether or not I’m the stock god, it’s just a title. Besides, in my opinion, even with such a childish title, it all comes down to each other’s ability in the end. No one can say for sure that they’ll have the final laugh.”

Jasper stood opposite Mitch. His tone had a sense of confidence that one would not be able to ignore.

“But you... You’re Young Master Langdon, right? And you keep displaying your superiority before me, all just so everyone will think greatly of you.”

The corners of Jasper’s mouth gradually lifted up. His unique and impressive aura that his body exuded suddenly changed. He was like a hawk now, aggressive and full of hostility.

“However, all this so-called sense of superiority, to me it’s just a childish act.”

Henry was almost voicing out to cheer.

He said into Anna’s ear, suppressing his agitated voice, “Did you see that? Did you see that?! Lil Sis, he always waits till his opponent is done expressing themselves before talking. Besides, every time he talks, he never scolds them, yet he’s able to trigger his opponent.”

Anna, feeling speechless, pushed Henry who was still blurting, away. She put on a worried look when she glanced at Mitch’s dark and ruthless expression.

With Mitch’s character, he would hold on to grudges and was not generous enough to forgive others. With Jasper agitating him, Mitch would definitely not let this matter slide aside.

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Indeed, at the next moment, Mitch spoke up.

“Hey Mainlander, you’re calling me childish and even said I’m faking it?!”

Mitch stared at Jasper with a dark gaze, his eyes gleaming with an icy cold layer.

“You’re Jasper, right? Great, very good. I admire your courage. Since you say that I’m childish and faking it, then do you have the guts to bet with me?”

“Right now, take out 100 million in cash. In one day’s time, before afternoon approaches, we’ll see who has earned the most.”

Mitch stared at Jasper and said coldly, “Mainlander, today, I’ll let you experience that there will always be others who are better than you!”

After glancing at Anna, who was just beside, Mitch realized that not only did Anna not look like she had gotten spellbound by his performance, but she was also wearing an expression as if she was worried for Jasper. That made Mitch angrier.

“Jasper, don’t play along with him.”

Anna came to Jasper’s side. She was not willing to let Jasper agree to it after being provoked.

After all, aside from Mitch’s reputation, he also had very splendid results. Anna thought Jasper might not stand a chance to win against Mitch.

“Let’s go. Come accompany me shopping, alright?”

Anna, with much care, gave Jasper a reason to step down.

However, she did not realize that because of her concern and action of siding with Jasper, it only made the jealousy and rage within Mitch almost explode.

Mitch glared at Jasper and said coldly, "If you don't have the guts, then get down on your knees, slam your head on the ground, and admit your fault. Then, f*ck off to your Mainland and continue being a worthless being!

"Why don't you look at yourself in the mirror? You're a Mainlander from Mainland. Return back to your village and live your poor life. How dare you try to lay your hands on Anna? What rights do you have to be with her?"

"Mitch, are you done talking?"

Anna turned around and looked at Mitch expressionlessly.

Mitch took in a deep breath, suppressing the jealousy dwelling within him. He did not answer Anna's question and only stared at Jasper.

Anna wanted to say something, but Jasper just used one of his hands and yanked on her arm.

"I'm fine with gambling, but since we're going to bet, how can we not have a prize?"

Seeing that Jasper was agreeing to it, Anna thought that Mitch had successfully provoked Jasper. She frowned and was about to say something when Henry yanked her to the rear end.

"Just keep your mouth shut. Sometimes, pride is far more important to a man."

Henry's expression was dark.

Anna was not in the mood to entertain her crazy elder brother.

“When facing challenges from another man and when a man chooses to accept the challenge, ladies can only provide support but not stop them.”

Henry glared at Anna, who did not know her position, and said in a more serious tone.

At that point, Anna finally stood motionless, not protesting anymore—except she continued frowning.

She could not comprehend the logic of a man’s thought process.

‘Is pride really that important?’

“Lil Sis, I think you’re blinded by love and way too worried!”

“Aren’t you a bright one? Have you ever seen this guy doing things that he’s not confident about? When everyone thinks he’s acting rashly, in fact, he has already targeted his opponent’s weak point and is all set to deliver the fatal blow!”

Henry said with a tone as if he had seen through everything.

“You’re the one who’s being blinded by love!”

Anna’s face suddenly turned bright pink. Her teeth bit on her red lip as she glared at Henry, who was taking the matter lightly.

“I’m speaking the truth!”

Henry’s voice was stern and serious. “Don’t you want to have a look at the more excellent side of the Prince Charming you’re having a crush on?”

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"Prize?"

Mitch was stunned and could not help but burst into laughter as if he had been made to laugh by Jasper.

"Hey poor guy, do you know who I am? You're talking to me about a prize?"

"Alright then, you name it. What do you want to bet on?"

"Very simple, the one who loses the match will crawl one round around the hall of the exchange center!" Jasper said coldly.

As soon as Jasper said it, Henry, who was looking forward to seeing Jasper putting on a show, was surprised—let alone Mitch.

To rich brats like them, pride was way more valuable than money.

'Jasper's bet is like scraping off Mitch's dignity and pressing it hard on the ground while rubbing on it.'

It was the same principle applied as well. If Jasper lost the bet, then he could just give up mingling in Harbor City in the future.

However, at that moment, regardless of what bet Jasper said, the Law siblings were not in any position to offer any comment.

As for Mitch, he was glaring at Jasper as if he wanted to start off brand new and get to know the person before him again.

Mitch then let out a cold smile and said, "I really have no idea where a Mainlander like you got your confidence."

"Alright, since you insist on digging your grave, then I shall grant you that opportunity."

After saying it, Mitch let out a cold laugh and continued saying to Anna, "Anna, today, I shall prove to you with my ability that this Mainlander named Jasper is just a scammer. Wait till it's afternoon. He will be crawling one round around the exchange center."

Anna looked at Mitch and said calmly, "You make me feel all this is just ridiculous."

Mitch's expression showed that he was stunned. He clenched his teeth and glared at Jasper before adding coldly, "Regardless of what underhanded method you used to cheat Anna, you Mainlander, I'll bestow you with a lesson you won't forget."

After saying it, Mitch raised his head and looked at the giant screen.

Jasper shrugged and sat on the sofa. He picked up the iced coke that the exchange center served and drank it joyfully. Then, he took a magazine and started flipping through it while reading it earnestly.

Mitch sneered when he saw Jasper's actions. He teased, "Giving up already? Or pretending to act all high and mighty? Who are you trying to show your act to?"

Henry was feeling anxious as well and came over to say, "You're not going to choose a stock?"

"I've already chosen it," Jasper was looking at the magazine and said calmly.

Henry felt that his intelligence was slowly degrading when being compared to Jasper.

'Why can't I understand a single thing that Jasper says?'

"Earlier, wasn't I constantly looking at the screen? At that time, I had already chosen the few stocks that I want to invest in. Or else, why do you think I'd want to play along with his childish game?" Jasper said faintly.

While he was talking, Jasper changed to another magazine again... Earlier, it was a magazine about some gossip within the entertainment industry and had no business value at all. Hence, he was feeling disgusted about it.

"Do you have confidence?" Anna asked sneakily.

"There's no 100% guarantee in the stock market," said Jasper with a smile. Seeing Anna frowning, he then comforted her. "But don't you worry. For sure, I won't be the one crawling one round around the exchange center this afternoon. I have full confidence in this matter."

Anna was slightly relieved when she heard Jasper saying that.

Mitch glanced at Jasper coldly and sneered.

In his opinion, Jasper was merely pretending to be all high and mighty right now when in fact, Jasper must be extremely worried. Everything he was doing now was just to act tough.

However, Mitch was not bothered at all because when the result was out, he would be able to enjoy looking at Jasper crawling around the exchange center.

'How dare a lowly piece of trash dare to be so close to Anna?!'

Suppressing the jealousy coursing through him, Mitch called a manager from the exchange center.

“I’ve already chosen my stock. Do you have a team that will manually process the trading? I guess a Mainlander like you won’t have such a team. Do you want me to lend you a few men?” Mitch looked at Jasper and said disdainfully.

People with a status like Mitch would not personally operate their own account and do stock trading.

He would usually come up with a strategy, then give his order. Then, there would be a professional team carrying out Mitch’s order.

Life at the Top Chapter 145

As for Jasper, he could not own a trading team to deal with Harbor City's stocks. Just when he was about to say something, Anna spoke up faintly, "Jasp, you may use the Law family's team as you wish."

"Then I'll take up that offer," said Jasper with a smile.

Anna nodded and then made a call. Soon, a small trading team consisting of three men immediately showed up in the VIP room.

Mitch was almost at the brink of breaking down from jealousy when he saw the scene, the corners of his eyes twitching. He said coldly, "Anna, even this Mainlander has the right to use the Law family's team?"

"You already said the team belongs to the Law family, so what rights do you have to instruct me?" Anna counter-questioned.

Mitch was speechless, but his hatred and jealousy against Jasper had grown stronger.

Mitch said to Jasper while letting out a cold laugh, "In a moment, I shall see how you fall!"

Jasper knew the few traders. It was the same trading team he previously met in Zachary's study during the video conference.

It was just that the manager who led the team, Gordon Liam, was naturally not here. Instead, they had already replaced him with a middle-aged man.

“Young Lady Law, Young Master Law, I’m Zack Jensen.” The manager who led the team introduced himself politely then stood aside and was all set to wait for further instructions.

‘This feeling he gives is much better compared to Gordon.’

Anna nodded her head and said, “Manager Jensen, later on, you and your team shall follow Mr. Jasper Laine’s orders. Just follow his instructions when trading.”

Zack’s eyes were sparkling. He still remembered how his colleague, Gordon, ended up quitting his job and feeling dejected because he offended a big shot who was a friend of Mr. Law. ‘Could it be that person is this man before me, Jasper Laine?’

“Your orders, Mr. Laine?”

Zack expressed his respect and said politely.

At that moment, Mitch and Jasper each had their team showing up.

Since it would just be small trading this time and the cash limit was only 100 million, both teams were only limited to three people.

Each team consisted of two traders and a manager in charge of communicating with the strategist.

In no time, both parties had thoroughly understood the situation.

All of them were trading experts within the financial industry. They had experienced such a battle between rich people before.

However, except for Zack, who knew just a little bit about Jasper, the rest of them did not have faith in Jasper.

After all, Mitch was considered as one of the experts in the younger generation of Harbor City when it came to investing.

His previous results were excellent as well.

‘And who the hell is Jasper?’

‘Mainlander?’

‘Is he here at Harbor City to humiliate himself?’

Everyone on the scene was looking at Jasper with a scornful gaze. ‘I wonder where he obtains the confidence to have a battle with Mitch?’

Both teams were settled in the trading room. Each trader had a computer placed before them and logged into their accounts. They were on standby for their respective strategists to give them orders.

“Sunny Internet and Carefree Net, these two stocks are currently at the opening price. Allocate 50% to each of them.”

After Mitch gave his orders, he looked at Jasper with a cold smile, waiting to see what stocks he would choose.

Everyone’s attention was gathered on him.

He casually flipped through the magazine in his hand. Jasper drank a mouthful of cold coke and said carefreely, “Full position into Densen Wintech.”

Mitch was stunned as soon as Jasper said it, then burst into manic laughter.

“Hahahaha, like I said, you’re indeed a worthless Mainlander. Are you really that eager to prove me right?”

“You spent so much time choosing and didn’t choose internet stocks which are on trend right now. Instead, you choose Densen Wintech, which is half dead? What a joke. With that ability, you want to have a battle with me?”

Life at the Top Chapter 146

"If you're really not familiar with it, then please proceed to the main hall downstairs and simply catch hold of one of the janitors. They'll be able to tell you to purchase internet stocks if you want to earn some money."

Mitch was sneering while looking at Jasper. His face was filled with a mocking and scornful look.

"It's one thing if you're able to earn money without learning about stocks. However, your capability in choosing a trash stock is quite impressive."

"Yes, this Densen Wintech is a company belonging to the almighty Langdon, but their achievement this year isn't too good. They've been losing billions continuously and were nearly listed as junk stock. Everyone is desperately trying to avoid them, but you're different from them. You're not bothered and even rushing into them foolishly."

The more Mitch said, the more hilarious he found it. In the end, he just generously burst into loud laughter and said, "Are you regretting it? No problem, don't say that I'm bullying you. I'll give you a second chance to choose again. Hahaha."

As soon as Mitch said it, everyone's gaze that was on Jasper became much more suspicious.

Even though Mitch was an arrogant person, everyone there was a professional within the field and knew that Mitch's comment was reasonable.

This year, Densen Wintech's achievement was so poor that it made everyone disappointed.

A few huge projects under their business ended up with a loss without any profits.

A few days ago, their financial report was out and revealed a piece of huge news—Densen Wintech had lost two billion in the first half of the year.

This caused their stock value to drop drastically.

Currently, no one would buy Densen Wintech's shares.

However, Jasper chose to go full position of 100 million to purchase Densen Wintech.

'Isn't this a crazy move? What else could it be?'

Even Henry and Anna were starting to be suspicious of Jasper, wondering if he had analyzed it wrongly.

Henry said to Jasper, "Did you make the wrong choice? Why not just choose it again?"

"I may not know much about shares, but I know about Densen Wintech. It's a company that belongs to Joe's second son, Kayden. This year, they've suffered a terrible loss.

"Don't tell me you know that these two Langdons have some conflict and will go against each other, hence you purposely chose the shares of Densen Wintech?"

Anna frowned. Even though she had not said a word, her opinion was obviously the same as Henry's.

"I don't need to choose again. I have my own reasoning."

Jasper waved his hand and did not give any further explanations.

There were many things that occurred just like that. Everyone had their cognitive disability, and it would be meaningless to blurt a ton before a certain issue occurred.

As compared to a thorough explanation, Jasper preferred to use actions to speak for himself.

It would save time and energy. Plus, the effects were way better.

Those who applied it would know it best.

“Mr. Laine, the trading is a success,” Zack said politely.

Jasper nodded. He was satisfied with Zack, who did not waste any time and carried out his job decisively.

Mitch laughed coldly when he saw Jasper’s choice and said carefreely, “You really won’t be scared if you don’t bump into potholes. Be prepared to crawl around the exchange center. I hope you’ll still have the confidence you have right now.”

Time was ticking past. When it was noon and the market was about to close, the two men’s results from the morning were presented.

“Mr. Mitch Langdon, the shares of the internet companies are still continuing to rise, especially Carefree Net, which shot up. Your choice on Sunny Internet has risen 3%, and Carefree Net rose 5%. In conclusion, you’ve earned a profit of eight million.”

The manager who led the trading team said to Mitch while putting on a look of admiration.

Such a result made everyone in the room impressed.

Eight million was not worth mentioning, especially to rich people like the Law siblings and Mitch. However, that was a 100 million capital, and it was the result of the entire morning.

Being able to earn eight million in one morning was huge news that would attract everyone, regardless of where the news was spread to.

“Hehe.” Mitch laughed and said, “The stocks I choose will turn out decent. They will still rise in the afternoon. This is nothing worth mentioning.”

As he was saying, Mitch looked at Jasper and said with a cold smile, “How are things going on with Densen Wintech?”

The manager under Mitch glanced at Jasper scornfully and said, “Densen Wintech was dropping all the way during the entire morning. However, just when the market was about to close, it rose a little bit. Currently, Mr. Jasper Laine has some profits too. His profit amounts to about 10,000.”

“Pfft.” Mitch laughed out loud. “10,000?! Did I hear it wrongly? The profit from investing a capital of 100 million can’t be just 10,000. Jasper, you really are amazing, hahaha.”

Life at the Top Chapter 147

On Jasper's side, Henry and Anna were not looking too good.

Of course, they were rooting for Jasper, but reality gave them a feeling that perhaps Jasper had made the wrong choice.

At that moment, Jasper suddenly got up and walked to the door.

"What's wrong, thinking of fleeing away?"

Mitch laughed coldly as if he was looking down at Jasper from a high place, like a victor.

"Who says he's fleeing, f*cker!"

Henry, with a dark expression, glared at Mitch. "We're going for a meal. If you're worried, do you want to tag along?"

Mitch's expression turned dark, and he said with a firm tone, "Henry Law, don't you be too arrogant!"

"Huh?"

Henry, who was holding back the rage that had been coursing within him the entire morning, was looking for a channel to vent it out. Hearing those words made him let out a sinister laugh as he said to Mitch, "I'm an arrogant guy, so what are you going to do to me?"

"Let's go." Anna glared at Henry, warning him not to cause any trouble and follow Jasper out to the doorway.

Henry mouthed a few words to Mitch, then spun around to leave.

With a stern expression, Mitch snorted upon seeing the VIP room door being closed. "Why does he bother being so arrogant? One day, I shall make him regret it!"

"Mr. Langdon, how about us?" the manager asked cautiously.

"Send someone in to deliver the meals! We're not going out. I'm going to wait for them right here. I want to see them returning with teary looks and getting down on their knees before me," said Mitch coldly.

In a hotel nearby the exchange center, Jasper took his sweet time to eat his meal, not at all worried.

Henry could no longer tolerate it and said, "Jasper, what's going to happen in the afternoon?"

It was as if Jasper did not hear it. He ordered the servant to change the television channel to the finance channel.

At that moment, the screen revealed the logo of Densen Wintech, then it was the face of Kayden, with whom everyone in Harbor City was familiar.

"Today, the objective of having this conference is to let everyone know a piece of news. The telecommunication project Densen Wintech took on in Europe previously is a success.

"Densen Wintech has officially attained the telecommunication license in Europe. This will mean that Densen Wintech has successfully become the fourth company in Europe to carry out a legal telecommunication business.

"In the future, Densen Wintech will invest 20 billion and enter the telecommunication market in Europe on a large scale. Besides, we've obtained a 12 billion loan without interest from Chance Corporation.

“In terms of shares, we will be purchasing our shares back on the market and guarantee that the shareholders will gain profits.”

That conference was announced two hours earlier compared to the history Jasper remembered.

However, it would not cause any major loss.

Starting from that day, Densen Wintech would march its way to a high position in the telecommunication industry.

The share price before that day's conference would be Densen Wintech's lowest price for the next 20 years to come.

There were 26 continuous bullish sticks, making Densen Wintech the king of stocks during the miserable situation of the economic crash for the internet aspect during the year 2000 in Harbor City.

Kayden, because of this wave of trade, slowly began having the title of 'Little Superman'.

This conference had stunned the entire Harbor City.

At least at that moment, in the room where Jasper was having his meal, both Henry and Anna were feeling a tingling sensation on their scalps.

They looked at Jasper as if they were staring at a ghost. They even suspected whether Jasper was someone who had traveled from the future.

'This is way too scary.

'Or does he have a very good relationship with Kayden and was already informed about the insider news a long time ago?'

Both of them, feeling stunned and confused, could not say a word.

At that moment, it was as if Jasper had recalled Henry's speech from earlier. He said with a smile, "What did you ask earlier? What about the afternoon?"

"Of course, we're going to find ourselves a nice spot and enjoy the scene of Young Master Mitch Langdon crawling one round around the exchange center."

Life at the Top Chapter 148

“Do... Do you have information from the inside?”

Anna could not help asking.

There would be no other explanation as to how Jasper had managed to grasp such perfect timing for himself on his first try otherwise.

He had just purchased shares for Denson Wintech that very morning, and news of Denson Wintech's prices rising in the stock market then surfaced that afternoon.

Even an idiot knew that Denson Wintech's shares would be up for grabs under such positive circumstances.

If even the top management of Denson Wintech wanted to buy back their shares, did that not prove that they did not want others to earn this money?

The shareholders would not have the audacity to purchase shares from investors if it were not for the immense benefits, which was the nail in the coffin.

However, it was unlikely that anyone would sell their shares unless they were crazy.

Anna would not have believed it had she not witnessed it with her own eyes.

No such coincidence existed in real life.

He either had informants on the inside, or he could predict the future.

There was no other logical explanation.

“I was reading a magazine in the VIP room this morning and happened across a European news magazine that included a story about how the original telecommunication companies in Europe are now seeking cooperation with companies in other countries as 2G networks become more popular.

“Thus, it’s imperative that a new telecommunication company enter Europe. Denson Wintech has exactly the strengths needed.

“In the previous investments that Denson Wintech lost money over, they were not seeking to buy the company itself but rather the patents the company held regarding 2G technology.

“Money might have been lost in the short-term, but these patents will bring unimaginable returns in the long run. That’s how the Langdon family is looking at things. In the long run, the Langdon family will dominate the highest level of the business layout and become one of the richest families in Harbor City.”

The expression on Henry’s face made it seem as if he were listening to a ghost story as he stared at Jasper in shock. He said, “So, you managed to predict that Denson Wintech’s prices in the stock market would soar today based on a cheap magazine that you can buy anywhere in the streets?”

“That’s 90% of it. Another 10% is based on luck. After all, if Kayden had lost his mind today and decided to only hold the press conference tomorrow, I’d have to crawl around the stock exchange this afternoon even if the share prices soar tomorrow.”

Jasper shrugged. Of course, he could not tell the Law siblings that his 10% of uncertainty had withstood the test of time.

After all, the continuously low prices of Denson Wintech’s shares in the stock market had proved to be a hurdle for Kayden to prove his ability.

Thus, he continued to prove his flair in business with everything that was performing well.

Kayden did not have the patience to wait, and Jasper had become the angler who waited patiently.

Henry gave a contented sigh.

He knew it. He just knew it!

By following Jasper, the guy would definitely show his opponents a thing or two!

He could not wait to finish his meal so that he could return to the stock exchange center and look at the expression on Mitch's face. He would use the opportunity to taunt him!

No, he was still inexperienced and needed to learn. He would first observe how Jasper would deal with Mitch!

Henry became excited when he remembered how arrogantly Mitch had mocked him that morning.

Being able to retaliate after being looked down upon felt as refreshing as having an iced drink in the middle of a blazing desert.

When the group returned to the VIP room, there were about ten minutes left before the stock market opened for the afternoon.

It was obvious that Mitch, who had not left the VIP room at all, had no idea what had just happened that afternoon.

He crossed his leg over the other and scoffed as he watched Jasper enter through the door. "I thought you had chickened out and swum back to Mainland."

Jasper sat down calmly on the couch as he said, "You might not be able to watch me swim back, but at least we'll have the pleasure of seeing you crawling around the stock exchange center today."

The smile on Mitch's face slowly vanished as he stared coolly at Jasper, saying, "Sometimes I don't understand where you get your confidence from. Can't you see the facts right before your eyes? I've won, you lost!"

"If anyone needs to crawl, you're the one who needs to do it!"

Life at the Top Chapter 149

Jasper stared at the timer counting down the minutes before the stock market opened and said calmly, "Is the time up yet? How are you sure that you'll still be smiling at the end?"

Mitch scoffed and said, "Delusional."

"I'll let you continue pretending for a couple more hours. When the stock market closes this evening, I'll wait to watch you crawl out of this door like a sniveling dog."

Henry and Anna felt much calmer now than this morning when they had been anxious and worried.

"Why do I feel like laughing when I look at how crazy Mitch is being now?" Henry whispered as he leaned toward Anna.

Anna leaned away in disgust and said irritably, "Don't come so close to me... What's there to watch about that idiot? I do admire Jasper for not losing his cool. You would probably have told him everything by now if it were you."

"Damn, you do know he's the mean one, right? He's not telling Mitch on purpose so that he'll be even more gleeful. The more gleeful he is now, the worse he'll be later. Tsk tsk, I can't wait."

As they spoke, the time arrived. It was time for the stock market to open!

The stock market for Harbor City underwent a massive change the minute it opened.

Jasper and Mitch's men reported everything at a fast pace.

“Sunny Internet’s shares went down at opening!”

“Carefree Net’s shares went down at opening!”

“The crash is massive. It seems that funds are being taken out from the market.”

Shocked, Mitch immediately turned toward the electronic screen and immediately saw that the two shares he had invested in were declining at that moment. It was not because there was bad news from the companies either.

Rather, it was because the funds that had been invested in them were being taken out at the same time.

The stock price was bound to sink when funds were withdrawn.

“What’s going on!? Find out for me where the funds are going!” A bad feeling crept across Mitch as he hollered.

However, he did not have to wait for his team of traders to speak before he heard Zack Jensen’s excited screams from where Jasper was standing.

“It’s growing!

“It’s growing! It’s growing!

“Denson Wintech is growing rapidly!

“A huge amount of money is pouring in!

“It stopped growing!”

“It has stopped growing!?”

“Only ten seconds since the stock market opened and it has stopped growing.

“Sir, Denson Wintech has stopped growing!”

‘Sir’ could refer to both Jasper and Mitch.

However, the two of them had intensely different moods.

Mitch’s face was deathly pale, and his widened eyes were filled with disbelief as his hands shook. He stared at the electronic screen which had already switched to show Denson Wintech’s stocks.

As for Jasper, his eyes shone like stars as he took a sip of his iced coke.

Jasper stood up and walked over to where Mitch was. He gazed at the line that had shot up so rapidly it nearly went out from the screen. He smiled as he said, “The stock market is unpredictable. No one can tell what will happen in the next second, right?”

“No, that’s impossible,” Mitch muttered before yelling crazedly, “This is not normal. How could it stop growing within ten seconds after the stock market opened?! It’ll... It’ll start again soon! It’ll drop for sure!”

“8.9 million dollars worth of stocks are hanging onto this price now, and more than 30 billion dollars worth of stocks were purchased when it stopped growing. Are you going to bet your damned life to get the stocks to drop in price when it opens again?”

As Jasper’s voice rose, his aura changed instantly. He looked like a king as he stared coolly at Mitch, who was wailing in defeat.

“How could this happen... It’s impossible! It must be a fraud!”

Life at the Top Chapter 150

“Don’t you so-called rich kids always talk about victor’s justice? You’re the loser now!”

Jasper’s voice rang throughout the VIP room.

Everyone was staring at Jasper as if he were a god.

Even though the Law siblings had already known beforehand, they still could not help but sigh in admiration as they witnessed it again.

Where had Jasper gotten the courage and foresight to purchase Denson Wintech’s stocks?

A treacherous change occurred among the traders the minute victory was decided between the two.

The three traders who Mitch had brought along with him previously stared at Zack and the others with visible contempt in their eyes.

Zack and the others had been annoyed, but they had no choice but to swallow their anger because of Jasper’s orders.

However, things were different now.

Jasper had retaliated marvelously, kicking Mitch from the heavens to the dust.

It was now Zack and the others who were crowing with delight.

“Tsk tsk tsk. You two, take a good look.”

Zack crossed his legs and shook his head as he said to his two employees, “When you officially debut and become a manager like me, you’d better polish your glasses so that you don’t choose the wrong boss and embarrass yourself like some people I know.”

His words caused Mitch’s three traders to turn an ugly shade of red in the face.

However, Denson Wintech just had a massive growth that could not even be witnessed once a year, and that took all the bravado they had to retaliate against Zack and the rest.

They had no choice but to admit that Jasper had done a wonderful job.

Mitch glared at Jasper, his eyes red as he said coldly, “Did you get insider information?! Did Kayden get you to come lure me into a trap!?”

Jasper said calmly, “So what if it is, and so what if it isn’t?”

Then, Jasper turned toward Mitch and said calmly, “No matter if it’s a trap or not, you’ve lost. You should keep your promise since you’ve lost.”

Stepping out of the way, Jasper chuckled as he said, “Crawl. Start here and crawl around the entire stock exchange center.”

Anger, humiliation, shame, and hatred.

Mitch’s body shook slightly as various emotions took hold of him. He gritted his teeth, caught in a dilemma.

If he, Mitch Langdon, crawled around the stock exchange center, he could never appear in Harbor City again.

Not just him, but the entire Langdon family, including his grandfather, Wallace Langdon, would be the butt of everyone’s jokes.

The minute he crawled out of the room, he would find himself on the front page of Harbor City's tabloids. The next day, the Langdon family would be the laughing stock of Harbor City.

However, if he did not crawl, it did not matter if no one else said a word. Henry Law himself would be able to broadcast the news. Then, not only would he have embarrassed himself, but he would have also become a despicable person.

Both options led to a dead end.

Mitch stared at Jasper as he said, "Don't be so hard on others. You shouldn't pressure people this much."

Jasper scoffed as he asked nonchalantly, "If I'm pressuring people too much, what about your actions?"

The expression on Mitch's face stiffened as he gritted his teeth and said, "Jasper Laine, the Langdon family is a big shot in Harbor City. The Langdon family will never forgive you if I crawl out of this room."

"Woah, woah."

Henry, who hated listening to stuff like this, said in a grim tone, "You make it sound like our families aren't all big shots. If the Langdon family is miffed, there's no problem at all. Shall I get my old man to visit your old man? Or should we bring out the big guns and have your grandfather pay a visit to my grandfather?"

Mitch curled his hands into fists as he glared at Jasper, ignoring what Henry said.

However, his heart had sunk to the pit of his stomach.

Henry would not have been able to represent the entire Law family if he were alone, but since Anna had not objected, it was obvious that the Law family would support Jasper till the end.

This possibility made Mitch uneasy.

“Jasper, choose another way. I can compensate you in any other way.” Mitch’s voice took on a pleading tone.

He had decided that he would do anything to get past this hurdle and then turn back to retaliate ruthlessly.

He would let that country boy have his fun for a while before he seized the opportunity to take his life from him!

“We can do it another way.” Jasper’s lips curled upward in a stunning arc as he spoke.

Mitch felt as if he had been pardoned. He gloated inwardly when he realized that Jasper was still scared to offend him.

A touch of contempt appeared in Mitch’s eyes as he said, “Tell me, how much do you want?”

Country boys would remain country boys in the end. There was nothing insightful about them, and they could be bought off with some money.

It seemed that it was just his lucky day today.

Life at the Top Chapter 151

At least, that was what Mitch thought.

“Kneel.”

When he first heard the word, Mitch thought his ears were playing tricks on him.

Even Henry and Anna widened their eyes.

Kneel?!

Jasper was asking Mitch Langdon to kneel!?

Jasper’s smile grew wider as he gazed at Mitch, whose eyes had widened in shock. “What, did you not hear me clearly? I asked you to kneel.”

Mitch, who had just fallen from heaven to hell, yelled furiously, “In your dreams!”

Jasper said coldly, “Fine. You have a backbone. You can crawl, then.

“You can crawl out of this room and have everyone stare at you as you crawl a full round. Either that or you can kneel before me here. It’s your choice.”

Jasper sat on the couch and stared capriciously at Mitch as he said calmly, “Hurry up with your decision. I’m losing my patience.”

Mitch’s entire body shook slightly as he gritted his teeth. The veins on his hands that were now curled into fists were popping out.

Mitch was experiencing a multitude of emotions right now.

Henry did not even dare to breathe loudly.

To be honest, he had witnessed what it was to be arrogant and domineering today.

His arrogance was merely child's play.

For example, Henry was not intimidated when facing Mitch, but that was about the extent of it.

He would not dare force Mitch to kneel before him.

However, Jasper had gone ahead and done it.

Henry's eyelids twitched as he realized how childish and petty the things he had done in the past were.

They were simply tasteless.

One had to be like Jasper—be the most powerful and arrogant.

“Jasper.”

Anna walked over to Jasper and whispered, “His grandfather has a history with my grandfather. Besides, he's the heir to one of the big shot families here. Why don't we let it go?”

Jasper frowned as he looked at Anna and asked, “Are you begging for his mercy?”

Anna said helplessly, “I guess so! After all, the four big shot families have a complicated relationship. You can't be too ruthless if you're going to expand in Harbor City.”

Jasper frowned but did not say anything.

However, he was cheering inwardly for Anna.

Jasper did not care if Mitch kneeled before him or not.

No matter if he kneeled or not, Jasper would not earn or lose a single penny.

In contrast, he only needed to earn the most tangible benefits.

Anna's words rounded off the scene nicely.

"Yes! Anna's right!" Mitch could not care less about his resentment toward Jasper when he saw there was a chance to turn things around for himself. Hurriedly, he said, "Ten million! I'm willing to pay ten million! Let's forget this ever happened!"

Mitch glanced hopefully at Jasper.

He did not want to witness Jasper deciding to go all out and destroy his reputation. Ten million dollars was nothing compared to kneeling or crawling. Mitch was much more willing to settle this with money!

"100 million and I'll let you off the hook," Jasper said calmly.

Mitch gritted his teeth and glared at Jasper when he heard that. It was f*cking daylight robbery!

It would still hurt him even if he was rich!

"Hehe, Young Master Langdon, you can still earn more money after losing it, but you can never regain your reputation after losing it."

Henry seemed to be reminding him of this out of the goodness of his heart, but the furtive smile on his face seemed to tell another story.

Mitch gritted his teeth as he wrote a check for Jasper and handed it to him.

“You win!”

Life at the Top Chapter 152

“Thank you for your generosity, Prince Langdon.”

Jasper smirked as he took the cheque.

Mitch gritted his teeth and scoffed as he glared at Jasper, saying, “Don’t be too smug. Harbor City might not be large, but things happen every day. We... will have plenty of opportunities to fight again!”

With that, Mitch left with his traders.

“F*ck, what a shame we couldn’t witness him kneeling.”

Henry had a disappointed expression on his face. He might have reminded Mitch just now, but he wanted to see him kneel even more.

“It might have been nice for a moment to watch him kneel, but we wouldn’t have gotten anything else besides that. We would even have gained the Langdon family as our enemy,” Jasper said.

Anna nodded and said, “Jasper is right. Our parents might not care if our subordinates fight amongst themselves, but we would have been pissing on the Langdon family if we had forced him to kneel. They would never let that go.”

Jasper waved the check and said, “If you take a look at the bigger picture, it doesn’t matter if he kneeled or not. We have a far better result now. 100 million dollars! Did you think it would be this easy to earn this much money?”

“I think it’s quite easy for you,” Henry mumbled.

“Come on, let’s go,” Jasper said as he smiled.

Jasper had planned to return straight to the hotel, but after Anna received a call from Zachary saying that things had gone wrong with her business in the entertainment circle, Jasper changed his plans to return to the Laws’ household.

Jasper was much more familiar with the Laws’ household on his second trip there.

“Jasper, long time no see.”

Zachary smiled warmly as he shook Jasper’s hand, then clapped him on the shoulder.

Henry simmered with jealousy as he watched this scene. He might be Zachary’s son, but he rarely received such affection from him.

“Two days,” Jasper said as he smiled.

“Come, let’s have dinner,” Zachary said as he waved an arm.

Old Master Law had gone for treatment and was not present during dinner.

Sitting at the head of the table, Zachary’s eyes lit with curiosity as he listened to Henry and Anna talk about what had happened today.

“I know a little about what happened with Denson Wintech. Joe and Kayden had been making preparations since a year ago to enter the European market, and they’ve done a lot in the process.

“I knew for sure that they would succeed, but I never expected them to succeed this quickly.”

Zachary gazed seriously at Jasper and said, "Did you really predict this outcome just by reading a magazine?"

Jasper laughed and said, "Well, not exactly. I've always paid attention to Joe's properties. There might be a wave of increase in value for them in the future.

"It was just a coincidence today. Besides, I wasn't sure if Denson Wintech would reveal the news today."

Zachary nodded. Jasper's talent would be horribly demonic if he were able to sniff out such a huge business opportunity from a magazine.

However, this was already enough to prove that Jasper had an extraordinary flair for business.

It should be noted that as the head of the Law family, he had access to insider information that no other person could have. However, Jasper still managed to uncover the truth with just the bare facts.

Life at the Top Chapter 153

How could this have been accomplished by an ordinary person?

“You did well in your final choice. Mitch’s grandfather is an honorable man, and we’re indebted to him due to things that happened in the past. We must let him keep his reputation.”

Zachary was extremely appreciative of the fact that Jasper had not driven Mitch to the point of desperation but instead chose to settle the matter with 100 million dollars.

“Of course, you didn’t have to help the Law family repay what we owe the Langdon family. However, if you want to settle in Harbor City in the future, you should take note that we’re different from other places as we take our relationships very seriously. It would have been detrimental to your development if you had offended the Langdon family.”

Jasper said calmly, “I didn’t think about it that much. Respect is earned, not given.

“The Langdon family’s attitude doesn’t affect me too much. I merely think that exchanging a one-time kneel for 100 million dollars is much more worth it.”

Zachary smiled and said, “Alright, not bad. I can’t detect any of the arrogance that young people, especially successful ones like you, might have on you. Many successful people are arrogant, but you aren’t. I always feel like I’m talking to someone my age when I talk to you.”

“Thank you for your generosity in giving me such honor, Mr. Law,” Jasper said as he smiled.

Zachary said jokingly, “Still calling me Mr. Law? Such formalities.”

“Uncle Law, I’ll drink a toast to you.” Jasper smiled as he raised his glass.

“Haha, alright.” Zachary laughed heartily as he clinked his glass against Jasper’s.

Bored of watching Jasper and Zachary tooting each other’s horn, Henry interrupted them.

“Dad, didn’t you ask us to only bring Jasper back home when you’re almost finished with looking into the matter of the entertainment company?”

Zachary nodded when he heard that and said to Jasper, “It must be your luck too. I got my men to look into entertainment companies after you brought it up to me and found out that two of them are intending to sell.

“I finally found one that fits your requirements after excluding some newly-established ones and those that asked for exorbitant prices.

“This company was among the top five film distributors when Harbor City’s movies were still popular all across Terra.”

Jasper raised an eyebrow as he asked, “Are you talking about Gladness Entertainment Movies?”

Zachary was truly surprised this time.

“How did you know that? There are less than five people in Harbor City who now know that Gladness Entertainment Movies is looking to sell. You wouldn’t have guessed this from a magazine this time, would you?”

Jasper smiled and said, “Of course not. However, you just mentioned that the company used to be among the top five film distributors in Harbor City in the past, Uncle Law. That narrows my target down to five companies.”

“Asia Media Movies, Emperor Entertainment Corporation, and Nation Star Movies can be eliminated from the list.”

“Asia Media Movies has the support of Harbor City’s tycoons. They don’t need the money.”

“Emperor Entertainment Corporation is a huge corporation with a focus on entertainment. There’s no way they would consider selling their assets in the entertainment industry.”

“As for Nation Star Movies, they’re owned by the famous Smith brothers. They got rich through movies, and there’s no way they would let go of their money tree.”

“And lastly, I didn’t even consider Sullivan Group. That old man has just as much power as any of the tycoons in Harbor City. The possibility that he would sell the company is low.”

With that, Jasper spread his hands and smiled as he said, “Using the process of elimination, wouldn’t there only be Gladness Entertainment left?”

Zachary nodded as he listened to him and finally said in amazement, “You’re right. It is Gladness Entertainment. Jasper, I’m starting to feel lucky that you’re my ally in the business world instead of my enemy.”

Life at the Top Chapter 154

“Uncle Law, is Gladness Entertainment seriously considering selling?” Jasper asked.

Zachary nodded and said, “Their boss, Michael Lane, is an old friend of mine.”

“Gladness Entertainment Movies is a branch of his company, Gladness International Corporation. It did quite well in the early years, and the company earned quite a bit of money in the movie industry. However, Harbor City’s movies have been losing their popularity in recent years.

“Which is why he has decided to switch his focus from the movie industry to financial asset management and go international. That’s why he wants to carve out the entertainment portion of his company and sell it.”

Jasper thought to himself that the head of Gladness Entertainment Movies, Michael Lane, was a visionary.

In his past life, Harbor City’s movies had peaked in the 90s. Gangster films, gambling films, and movies starring Stephen Cole had made up the youth of a whole generation.

However, their fame started fading starting from the year 2000, and this went on till the year 2020.

However, Michael Lane did not sell the company in his previous life.

“How much is he selling it for?” Jasper asked.

Zachary frowned slightly as he said, "That's where things get complicated. To be honest, if Gladness Entertainment Movies had not met all your requirements, I would have eliminated them immediately.

"First of all, Michael is looking for a powerful buyer to buy the equity of other companies through selling the equities of his own company.

"If you're looking to buy with cash, he's asking for no lower than two billion dollars for the entire company."

Jasper now understood why Gladness Entertainment was never sold in his previous life after hearing what Zachary said.

Michael Lane was blinded by money.

One could not even comprehend how much two billion dollars was. Jasper had only spent ten million dollars to own a controlling share of Terizone.

Although, Terizone was a grassroots organization that was still far from being developed to its full potential.

In Jasper's opinion, Gladness Entertainment Movies was worth no more than 1.5 billion dollars even if it still held the copyright to many movies and had many cinematic resources.

It would only be odd if someone did decide to buy it.

No wonder Gladness Entertainment Company had not managed to sell in his past life.

"Gladness International is only worth five billion dollars as a listed company. Asking for two billion dollars just for a film sub-company is daylight robbery," Anna said as she frowned.

“You can’t look at things that way,” Jasper said as he shook his head.

“The price of things can’t just be measured using the market price. If you find something you like, it doesn’t matter if you pay a slightly higher price for it. If it’s something you don’t like, you wouldn’t buy it even if it’s priced lower than its market price.”

Zachary smiled. “That makes sense. If we think about the influence Gladness Entertainment Movies has, it’s not surprising that there’s a markup.

“After all, even though Harbor City’s movies are not as popular as they used to be, the market for them still exists. As one of the top five companies in the industry, Gladness Entertainment possesses an excellent system.

“Thus, if Jasper wants to enter the entertainment industry, it’ll be a solid deal for him if he splurges and purchases Gladness Entertainment Industry. Just the time and labor costs that you’ll save on in the process is astronomical.”

“Having said that, I can’t just splurge with no reason. Uncle Law, please help me arrange a meeting with Mr. Lane. I would like to have a conversation with him,” Jasper said.

Zachary nodded. “If you think there’s a need for a meeting, I’ll be more than willing to bring the two of you together. How about this? Most of the tycoons in Harbor City will be attending a charity ball tomorrow to show their support. You can come with Anna.”

“Charity ball?”

A wave of emotions washed over Jasper.

He had seen tycoons attending various charity balls in his past life.

They mostly just procured several harmless items to auction and then donate the money raised to those in need.

To put it bluntly, it was a place where rich people would mingle and spend some money to build themselves a good reputation.

Such charity auctions existed worldwide, but Harbor City's tycoons were especially fond of using this method to show off.

He had never imagined that he would also be attending such charity auctions after getting reborn.

"What's wrong?" Zachary asked after noticing the odd expression on Jasper's face.

He thought that Jasper was not a fan of such occasions.

"Nothing. I'm just curious because I've never attended such events," Jasper said as he smiled.

Zachary laughed and said, "It's just a place where we talk, meet new friends, and broaden our social circles. We also buy some trinkets that will never be seen again to build ourselves a good reputation."

"Henry is familiar with such places. I'll get him to bring you along."

Henry smirked as he said, "It's just a place for you to show off, which you're good at."

Zachary glared at Henry, who had forgotten his place. He immediately zipped his mouth and stopped joking.

"Alright, I'll make sure to be on time the day after tomorrow," Jasper said.

Once Jasper had said his goodbyes to the Law family, Henry acted as his chauffeur back to the hotel.

However, this time, Henry did not mind his duty at all.

After boasting all the way to the hotel, Henry scrambled the minute he dropped Jasper off. It was evident from the direction he was driving in that he was not heading home. He was probably heading off somewhere to have fun.

Jasper could not be bothered.

When he got back to his room, he discussed the company's plans with Jack and Hudson as usual. It was past midnight when they wrapped things up.

Jasper called Wendy once the meeting ended.

"You're not asleep yet?" Jasper asked.

"I was waiting for you to call," Wendy said, her voice as gentle as ever.

Smiling, Jasper asked, "Has much been happening in the company these few days?"

"Things are alright with the company, but trying to learn financial stuff is hard. It's so complicated," Wendy said dispiritedly as she flopped onto the bed.

"Every process takes time. Don't be too eager for achievements and take it slowly. I can't afford to have you collapse from exhaustion," Jasper said as he smiled.

Wendy huffed and said, "You're worried that I'll collapse from exhaustion? Look at you, taking such a long trip to Harbor City without coming back sooner."

"I still have some things to do. I'll come back the minute I'm done," Jasper said.

Wendy turned onto her side and said, “Oh, right, Dad wanted me to tell you to visit him once you’re back in Mainland. I think there has been some progress with the entertainment companies in Mainland and he wants you to talk to them.”

“I’ll deal with that once I’m back. There are more pressing issues at Harbor City.”

Life at the Top Chapter 155

“Alright, you deal with your matters in Harbor City first!”

“Don’t worry, I’ll be back soon.”

Jasper talked to Wendy about other matters before hanging up. However, he did not go straight to bed.

He used the hotel’s computer to browse the news and make some notes in the notebook he brought along with him.

Although rebirth was Jasper’s greatest advantage, it would slowly weaken over time.

Jasper was not one to sit on his laurels both in this life and the previous one.

Thus, he needed to study and analyze the day’s news.

Hard workers would not necessarily succeed, but successful people were always hard workers.

Jasper was convinced of that.

The next day, Anna dropped by the hotel with a tailored suit for Jasper.

“It’s for the charity ball tomorrow,” Anna said as she passed the clothes to Jasper.

“How did you know my measurements?” Jasper asked in surprise.

Anna said gleefully, “Besides being the second young lady of the Law family, I’m also a designer. It’s not that hard for me to use my eyes as a ruler to take your measurements.”

This was the first time Jasper had heard that Anna was a designer. With great interest, he asked, “So, you designed this suit for me?”

Anna laughed lightly as she said, “Do you think I’m capable of designing a suit in a couple of days? This is an old design that my mentor praised, so I kept it. You’re the first person who will ever put it on.”

“Who’s your mentor?” Jasper asked.

“Karl Lagerfeld,” Anna replied.

Jasper stared at Anna in surprise. “Kaiser Karl?!”

“You know him too?” It was Anna’s turn to be surprised.

“Oh, I more than know him,” Jasper said as he shrugged.

To be honest, Jasper would not have heard of the man if he had not died and caused the entire world to talk about him in 2019.

However, he could not deny that the well-tempered Kaiser Karl had been one of the absolute best in the fashion circle.

After all, not everyone got a documentary about their life after death.

“If you’re Kaiser Karl’s apprentice, would you be interested in opening a fashion design studio? I can invest in it,” Jasper said as he smiled.

Anna said flatly, “He said that I’m still young, so I’m not allowed to open a studio and disgrace him before I master the skills.”

Jasper laughed. That did indeed sound like what Kaiser Karl would say.

Jasper stepped out of the bedroom once he was done changing.

He was usually dressed casually in a T-shirt and sweatpants, sometimes with a jacket thrown on top of. It was rare for him to be dressed this formally.

Anna's eyes lit up when she saw Jasper in the suit.

Frankly speaking, Jasper had always been good-looking.

Not the preppy kind of good-looking, but just pure masculine handsomeness. He could be described to have a soft, moderately chiseled face with strong eyebrows and clear eyes.

Besides, he had a good figure. He was neither thin nor bulky. He had a wide frame and wide shoulders too. He was a natural model.

Jasper could pull off any outfit he was given.

Especially suits, which demanded a good figure. They looked even better when he wore them.

"After seeing you, I'm beginning to think that the men in Harbor City are too effeminate. They can't be called men at all," Anna said sincerely.

"Thank you for your praises," Jasper said as he stood in front of the mirror and smiled.

He was quite pleased with how he looked too.

Kaiser Karl did not care how rich or powerful one's family was when he took in apprentices.

The Law family could be considered powerful within Harbor City, or even within the entire Somer community. However, there were people much more powerful than the Law family if one looked at it from a global perspective.

Thus, Kaiser Karl only ever looked at a person's personal style and talent when choosing his apprentices. If they fit his style, he would even instruct you for free.

Anna must be a talented designer to be Kaiser Karl's apprentice.

The suit that Anna designed had a simple uncomplicated style that looked clean and crisp. There were not any complicated patterns and it managed to convey a majestic aura using only the simplest designs.

"Just one more thing," Anna said suddenly as she walked toward him.

She stood in front of Jasper. A black bowtie had somehow found its way into her hands.

Tilting her head back, Anna used her slender, pink arms to turn over Jasper's collar. Then, she circled her arms around him and helped tie the bowtie on his collar.

The two of them were standing very close to each other. They were so close to each other that Jasper could even feel Anna's body touching his when she breathed.

Jasper had to lower his head to Anna's height because she was helping him wear his bowtie. The minute he lowered his head...

To be frank, Anna won over every woman Jasper had ever seen in his life in terms of figure.

Her creamy fair skin was tinted with a shade of cherry blossom pink and was so smooth that even your gaze could smoothly slide down it.

In the span of a stolen breath, that stunning glimpse was enough to enrapture his soul.

Perhaps because she was done with the bowtie, or perhaps she had realized how close they were to each other, Anna took a step backward.

That step was enough to jolt Jasper out of the charming and sweet-smelling trance he was in a moment before.

“Done.” Anna’s forcefully calm voice wavered slightly.

What could one say to ease the awkwardness now?

Nothing.

No matter what he said, it would make the girl shy and flustered.

Like the expert he was, Jasper avoided the minefield. Turning again to look into the mirror, he gazed at the bowtie as he smiled and said, “Gorgeous.”

It was hard to tell if that ‘gorgeous’ was meant for himself or Anna.

“I’m... I’m going now. See you tomorrow.”

Anna’s flustered voice rang out before she grabbed her purse and ran off.

Jasper scoffed as he stared at himself in the mirror. The corners of his lips curled upward to form a smile that made him seem wickedly flirtatious.

“See you tomorrow!”

Life at the Top Chapter 156

Anna and Henry arrived at the hotel in the early afternoon to pick Jasper up.

You would never drive yourself to such formal events, which was why the Law siblings had their chauffeur drive them in the family's other Rolls-Royce.

Henry, also dressed in a suit, widened his eyes in surprise when he saw Jasper stepping out of the hotel.

"Why bother buying an entertainment company when you look like that? Might as well go star in a movie and gain instant fame," Henry said with jealousy.

Jasper laughed as he got into the car. "Starring in a movie is such tiring work. How could it be as easy as being a CEO?"

Henry clicked his tongue and was about to say a reply when he noticed something. He stared intently at the suit Jasper was wearing.

A couple of seconds later, Henry wailed and said in equal parts anger, jealousy, and woe, "Anna Law, isn't this the suit you designed?!"

"You wouldn't let me wear it no matter how much I asked. Were you waiting for Jasper?!"

"I'm your brother! Your brother! Besides your mom, dad, and grandpa, I'm the person closest to you! How could you do this to me?!"

After listening exasperatedly to Henry's wails, Anna said stiffly, "What are you yelling about? Are you scared that the tabloid journalists won't be able to hear us?"

Henry had a vengeful expression on his face.

Excelsior Hotel was a top-notch five-star hotel in Harbor City best suited for these high-end charity balls.

The red-carpeted area outside the hotel was already filled with people when Jasper and the others arrived.

The press, crowd, and bodyguards had been arranged on both sides in an orderly manner.

Every once in a while, a luxurious car would pull to a stop near the red carpet and the passenger inside would step out of it.

It was just like an awards ceremony.

However, stars were the main characters of an award ceremony.

These stars were only an accessory to tycoons at places like these, where the rich and famous mingled with each other.

No matter how famous you were or how large your fanbase was, you had to be careful here, lest you say or do something wrong and offend the wrong person in the community.

Tragedies like these had happened in the past.

Modern stars were not much different from the playwrights of the past in front of the powerful.

As one of the top four most powerful tycoons, the Law family required an elaborate entrance.

A time period of an extra five minutes had been allocated both before and after the time slot the Law family was supposed to arrive.

For those not in the know, there was nothing new about the Law family. They were all old-time friends or rivals. They were much more interested in Jasper, who had been growing close to the Law family.

Especially Bob, who heard that Jasper would be attending the charity ball with the Law family.

“Jasper Laine is coming tonight.”

Bob spoke quietly to Zane who was standing beside him.

Zane’s mouth twitched, and a gloomy expression came over his face when he heard Jasper’s name.

“I’ll head in first to socialize with some old friends. Find a chance to humiliate him if he has arrived. Count it as interest.”

Bob patted his female companion on the arm when he was done speaking and motioned for her to follow him.

A famous, beautiful female movie star was standing beside him.

Zoelle Griffin.

Zoelle Griffin might be the most famous star in Harbor City now, but at this moment, she was nothing more than Bob’s female companion.

Zoelle had also gone through various hurdles and defeated many people to be his companion.

The entertainment industry was far more complicated than outsiders thought it to be. Female stars had to pay painful prices that one could not even begin to imagine to advance through the ranks.

Seemingly posh and elegant before the masses, they were nothing more than a tool to earn profits in a capitalist society.

Zoelle glanced in another direction. It was another female star who was in the same rank as her, Queenie Shaw.

At that moment, Queenie was standing beside Mitch, who was gazing silently at the approaching Law family's car with a solemn expression on his face. No one could tell what thoughts were going through his mind.

Life at the Top Chapter 157

As the crowd stared, the Rolls-Royce pulled to a stop at the red carpet. Someone immediately came forth to open the door.

Lights immediately began flashing wildly. It was as bright as if someone was shining a large searchlight.

Henry was the first one to get out of the car.

The wealthy son was well-known by both the tabloids and the crowd.

Then, there was a face that most people did not know.

“Who's that?”

Someone asked curiously as they watched Jasper getting out of the car.

Even though they had no idea who he was, everyone understood that any person who could enter a venue in the same car as Henry Law would be someone important.

He would have to be at least an esteemed guest of the Law family to have such eligibility.

Both Zane and Mitch's blood were boiling as they stood some distance away. They were wishing they could charge forth and pummel Jasper to death.

Under the flashing lights, Jasper turned to stand by the car door in a gentlemanly manner. He reached out and elegantly helped Anna out of the car.

Anna's slender, soft hand nestled in Jasper's palm. The minute she got out of the car, Harbor City's passion for both beauty and gossip heightened to new levels.

Dressed in a red evening gown, Anna grabbed the attention of every male at the scene the moment she got out of the car.

Bright red was a picky color. Not every woman would be able to pull that color off. Moreover, the evening gown demanded a perfect figure.

However, not only did Anna pull off the dress beautifully, but she even managed to make it seem even more beautiful.

When a person was truly beautiful, it was not their clothing that made them look even better, but the other way round.

She had a long, slender figure, and her long hair was pulled into a simple bun at the back of her head. Several strands of hair bounced around her pale neck.

She seemed as regal as a swan and as flirtatious as the devil.

At that very moment, no one dared challenge her title as the most beautiful woman in Harbor City.

The venue was filled with movie stars and gorgeous girls galore, and none of them gained their looks through plastic surgery. They were all gorgeous in their way.

However, Anna's appearance had caused their beauty to fade.

Jasper smiled as he extended his right hand toward Anna for her to hold on to as they walked forth.

Anna smiled as she placed her arm in Jasper's. The two smiled as they stepped onto the red carpet and walked toward the hotel.

A strange man had arrived in the same car as the Law siblings.

The young lady of the Law family seemed to have a boyfriend.

The journalists had adrenaline coursing through them as they looked at the lovely couple. They had even already crafted the next day's headline in their minds.

Henry felt jealous as he walked behind them, a stiff expression on his face.

"Stupid. He doesn't even look that good, but he's good at what he does. He even got my sister to be his date!"

Henry gritted his teeth. He might have changed his opinion of Jasper, but he still felt annoyed!

He was the young master of the Law family but seemed to only be an accessory to Jasper. He could only be his student!

Besides, this was not the first time he had felt that his identity as the young master of the Law family was worth nothing when he stood next to Jasper.

“Young Master Law, who is the man next to your sister? Is he your future brother-in-law?”

A brave journalist extended their neck out to pose the question.

“You’re talking about him?”

Harry pursed his lips. “He’s from Mainland. But if he’s alright with it, my grandpa and dad might even wrap my sister up like a present for him!”

Boom!

Everyone nearby felt their heads imploding!

Life at the Top Chapter 158

Who was Anna Law?

She was recognized to be the most beautiful lady in the upper circle of Harbor City.

She was the apple of Old Master Law’s eye.

The number of people who wanted to date her could form a line that stretched from Victoria Harbor to Causeway Bay!

They were all sons of rich families too.

However, they were now hearing this from Henry Law?

The journalist who asked the previous question seemed to think that they had struck gold, but by the time they wanted to ask another question, Henry had already walked off.

He was finally free from the flashing lights once he had crossed the red carpet and entered the hotel.

However, the socializing that came after was also a pain.

The differences between various cliques were exceptionally obvious in vanity fairs like these.

The four big shot families formed a clique of their own, and no one else was allowed in it.

When the four big shot families were done socializing, they would scatter off to look for those who were on good terms with their families.

The rival circles would have a clear-cut separation from each other.

However, no matter who you were, you would put on a smile for everyone.

New acquaintances popped up continuously before Jasper as long as Anna stayed beside him.

He had met members from the other three big families. They were mostly elegant, well-spoken people.

They had an obvious interest in Jasper. However, it did not seem right for them to pose the question.

However, Jasper could feel the crowd's attention shifting toward him as his name spread throughout the venue.

"Master Boyle, I heard your wife is pregnant. We'll be looking forward to your invitation once your child is born," Anna said as she smiled at the head of the Boyle family.

The man, who was several years older, blushed as he laughed and said, "Of course, of course. I'll make sure yours doesn't get lost in the mail."

After a round of greetings, Jasper had gotten to know several people and even more people had learned his name now.

No one knew where it started, but news of what Jasper had done awhile back traveled through the crowd like the plague.

"Mr. Laine, you were the one who purchased our company on the stock market the other day?" Kayden asked as he looked at Jasper in surprise.

Jasper smiled and said, "I didn't expect that to surprise you, Mr. Langdon."

"The amount of shares you hold now makes you eligible to enter the board of directors. Rules state that you must be notified the next time the company meets with the board of directors," Kayden said as he smiled.

Jasper said to Second Young Master Langdon, who was a refined man, "As an investor, I'm merely optimistic about your company's future and intend to make a profit while I can. I don't think I'll be needed in the company's meeting with the board of directors."

Kayden smiled meaningfully as he said, "I must compliment you on your fine taste, Mr. Laine."

Their conversation seemed peaceful, but there was a hidden agenda to it.

Kayden was worried about the intentions Jasper might be holding toward his company. If that was the case, the two would have to fight then and there, but Jasper had no interest whatsoever in the Langdon family's business, and he made sure to give an honest explanation.

His honesty had gotten him Kayden's appreciation in return.

"Here's my card. Let's talk again when we have the chance." Kayden smiled as he handed his card over.

"Of course."

Smiling, Jasper took the card from Kayden and offered his in return.

Taking the card from him, Kayden glanced at it and said in surprise, "Mr. Laine, you have an investment company in Mainland? JW Capital... Is that the one that's investing in Terizone?"

"Yes!" Jasper was not surprised that Kayden had heard of Terizone.

In his past life, Hudson had asked Kayden to invest in the company, and he had indeed done so.

"Haha, seems like we'll have a lot to talk about in the future," Kayden said playfully.

The two conversed for a little longer before Kayden said goodbye and headed elsewhere. People like him could not talk to any one person at an event for too long.

Kayden had just stepped away when Jasper heard a piercing voice behind him.

"Hey, look at what I've found. A Mainlander trying to mix into high society. You actually have the nerve to come in?"

Mitch scoffed as he walked over with Queenie.

“Was 100 million dollars too little for you to be considered as a punishment?” Jasper asked coolly.

The expression on Mitch’s face stiffened as he scoffed and said, “Don’t be too proud. You were just lucky. I refuse to believe that you’ll always be this lucky. One day, you’re going to end up worse than a dog.”

“I don’t know how I’m going to end up in the future, but I do remember clearly that I ended up with 100 million dollars from you the other day,” Jasper said as he laughed lightly.

Mitch gritted his teeth as he said angrily, “Do you have nothing else to talk about besides that 100 million?”

“Indeed, I have nothing else to say to you,” Jasper said coolly.

“Young Master Langdon, the banquet has not started. No need to get into conflicts with other guests,” Queenie hurriedly said when she saw the expression on Mitch’s face.

Mitch scoffed and said, “You’re right. Getting angry at someone like him does nothing but taint my reputation. That Mainlander ought to take a look at himself. He won’t fool anyone into thinking he’s a king even if he has the royal mantle draped over him!”

Queenie glanced curiously at Jasper. She had done several jobs in Mainland this year and also shot several commercials there, which meant she had a vague understanding of Mainland.

What she was sure of was that a man as attractive as Jasper was hard to come by both in Mainland and Harbor City.

Even without mentioning anything else, Jasper's gentlemanly and elegant demeanor on the red carpet just now had already attracted countless women.

"Queenie, I hear that many of your fans are Mainlanders." Mitch scoffed as he raised his chin toward Jasper. "See that? The movie star who you Mainlanders don't even dare dream of meeting is my date tonight."

"Ms. Shaw, you're under Gladness Entertainment, aren't you?" Jasper asked calmly.

"Yes."

Queenie nodded, not understanding why Jasper asked that question all of a sudden.

Smiling, Jasper turned and said to Mitch, "The world is a miraculous place because you can never guess what's going to happen in the next second. For example, your date who you're so proud of, a famous movie star with countless fans, might have a new boss in the next second."

"What do you mean?" Mitch narrowed his eyes and glared threateningly at Jasper as he spoke.

"Nothing," Jasper replied calmly.

"Jasper, my dad's looking for you."

Just then, Anna walked over and spoke quietly to Jasper.

Mitch was handsome, and Queenie was naturally gorgeous.

However, they paled in comparison to Jasper and Anna.

Jasper smiled as he extended an arm toward Anna and then pointed to their interlocked arms.

He smiled at Mitch and said, "My date, Anna Law."

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Mitch stared at Jasper's retreating figure. He felt blood pooling at the base of his throat, but he could neither swallow it nor spit it out.

He had just been gloating over the fact that Queenie was his date, and Anna Law suddenly appeared beside Jasper the very next second.

Queenie was pretty and famous enough.

To be honest, one could not be embarrassed bringing Queenie along to any event.

She was on par with his status as Mitch Langdon too.

However, one was always worried to be compared with.

A man's success was measured by the woman beside him.

Queenie was fine, but could she and Anna be compared side by side?

They were miles apart.

Mitch felt his face burning, and that translated to him feeling annoyed as he stared at Queenie.

“Young Master Langdon... You...”

Spooked by the look in Mitch’s eyes, Queenie was just about to speak when she heard Mitch saying, “F*ck off!”

Queenie stared at Mitch, flabbergasted.

“I said, f*ck off!”

Mitch turned after speaking coldly to Queenie and strode off, leaving her stranded at the venue. Tears filled her eyes.

...

Jasper and Anna entered a smaller hall in the hotel.

The hall outside was for the younger generation to mingle and form connections while this smaller hall was where the real vanity fair was. It was where the actual bosses gathered.

The majority of the richest in Harbor City had arrived.

This was not a scene that everyone would have the opportunity to witness.

When Jasper entered, he saw Zachary approaching him with a smile on his face.

“Jasper, come over. I want to introduce you to a few of my old friends.”

Zachary grabbed hold of Jasper's arm affectionately and laughed loudly as he led him forward.

He was doing this on purpose for the others to witness.

He wanted the others to know that he, Zachary Law, approved of this young man. They all needed to pay their respects to him.

Zachary could do that with the status and power he held.

Sure enough, everyone immediately looked at Jasper with a different glint in their eyes.

They had to have a certain amount of power to be let into this room. News traveled much faster among them here, and Jasper's identity was already no longer a secret.

Bob, who was nearby, got Zoelle to talk to the other women. When he got rid of her, he turned toward the middle-aged man who looked somewhat similar to Mitch.

"Kennedy, what's Jasper's relationship with the Law family?"

Kennedy said calmly, "Big B, you should stop using all your attention on those movie stars and pay more attention to other matters.

"Zachary got to know Jasper in Mainland some time ago. I don't know what exactly happened between them, but Zachary thinks very highly of him. Even Old Master Law can't stop praising him."

The expression on Bob's face faltered when Old Master Law was mentioned. "So, this Jasper Laine is not going to be easy to deal with."

Bob raged inwardly when he remembered how he had taken a fall in front of Jasper even though he was Jasper's senior.

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Just then, Zachary had already led Jasper over to a modest-looking middle-aged man who had a pair of round glasses on.

"Jasper, this is Michael Lane, otherwise known as Mr. Lane. He's the CEO of Gladness International Corporation."

"Mike, this is the wonderful young man I've been telling you about, Jasper Laine."

When Zachary was done with the introductions, Jasper extended a hand and said while smiling, "Nice to meet you, Mr. Lane. I've heard a lot about you."

Michael smiled as he shook Jasper's hand. "I've never heard about you in the past, but Zach's been talking about you for the past few days."

The fact that Zachary and Michael had nicknames for each other proved that they were on close terms.

After exchanging pleasantries, Jasper said, "Mr. Lane, I won't beat around the bush anymore since Uncle Law is here. I'm interested in purchasing Gladness Entertainment, which you currently own."

Michael glanced at Zachary before he smiled at Jasper and said, "I do intend to sell it. However, in terms of its pricing, I understand that it's not exactly cheap, but I don't plan to lower the price."

Michael might be a good-tempered man who was easy to talk to, but he was a force to be reckoned with in the business world. After all, he had managed to build the empire that was now Gladness International Corporation.

“You can’t deny the fact that Harbor City’s movies are declining in popularity. I’m worried that you’ll struggle to find a buyer as sincere as I am if your price is too high.”

Jasper was not one to spend mindlessly and thus would not just agree to whatever price Michael had set. As such, he did not hesitate to retaliate.

Michael said calmly, “But Gladness Entertainment has the best assets in the entertainment industry. That’s a fact. Jasper, how much effort would you have to put into creating a company like mine from scratch if you wanted to enter the entertainment industry?”

“I would not be standing before you if I didn’t agree that Gladness Entertainment has the best assets, Mr. Lane,” Jasper smiled as he said that.

Michael laughed and thought for a moment before he shook his head and said, “I had put my heart and soul into Gladness Entertainment. I wouldn’t be selling it if I had a choice. No more negotiations regarding the price.”

Jasper said calmly, “If that’s the case, there’s no need to continue this conversation.”

With that, he turned and left.

Not only was Michael stunned at that swift exit, but so was Zachary.

Who did business like that, turning around and leaving the minute a disagreement surfaced?

Given Jasper’s assertive attitude, it did not look like he wanted to buy Gladness Entertainment but more like Michael was begging him to buy the company.

“Jasper, wait.”

Zachary had not interrupted thus far. He was merely a middleman for this transaction, and his role was to ensure things wrapped up nicely. Now that the deal was about to fall apart, he called after Jasper.

Just then, a waiter walked over with a tray. Zachary took three glasses of wine and gave Jasper and Michael a glass each before he took a sip. He then said while smiling, “What’s a business deal without a little compromise? Mich, you’re the senior here. Why don’t you express your attitude first?”

Michael frowned as he said, “I’m not explicitly demanding cash. You can also seal the deal with shares.”

“What if it’s a tip that can prevent Gladness International Corporation from losing 40% of its value in the market?” Jasper suddenly asked.

Michael’s eyes lit up as he gazed seriously into Jasper’s eyes and asked, “Young man, do you hear what you’re saying?”

Zachary’s expression turned solemn.

Jasper’s choice of business jargon had already crossed the line from being impolite to being insulting.

In his past life, Gladness International Corporation, which shifted their focus into the finance industry, had met with the burst of the dot-com bubble. They had suffered major losses at the end of the year 2000.

Memories of Gladness International Corporation played in Jasper’s mind as he said calmly, “The burst of the dot-com bubble is starting in the west. It might be as fast as a week or as slow as half a month. Either way, something will definitely happen. Most of Gladness International Corporation’s investments are in internet companies, right?”

Michael shuddered.

“Do you dare take responsibility for your words?” Michael asked solemnly.

Jasper glanced at Zachary before he said calmly, “Mr. Lane, I’m willing to bet a billion dollars with you if you don’t believe me.”

Michael barked out a laugh as he said, “No need for a bet. I can sell Gladness International Corporation to you for 15 billion dollars, but you have to promise me one thing.”

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“Mr. Laine, you’ve been really close to the Laws recently. You guys must be planning something together. No matter what you are planning, you have to count me in as well!”

Jasper raised his brow at Michael’s words.

Logically, the first thought that came into Jasper’s mind was that Zachary Law must have told Michael something.

However, Jasper immediately snuffed out the possibility of something like that happening.

From a business perspective, Zachary had a position that ranked higher than everyone present here. Even if he had a good personal relationship with Michael and wanted him to join his side, he would not just disregard Jasper and tell Michael everything.

For now, the fact that he was working together with the Laws was absolutely confidential.

It was impossible for Zachary not to understand the risks of involving more people in their plans. If something like that were to be exposed to the outside world, especially by someone from the Law family, it would definitely bring forth consequential impacts to the finances of Harbor City.

Therefore, as long as Zachary did not do anything foolish, it was impossible for the outside world to know anything about their plan.

“Don’t overthink. It was easy for me to guess. You made your fortune in the stock market, and everything that you have recently done in Harbor City revolved

around the stock market. At the same time, Zachary has been rather active nowadays. It is obvious that a major event is about to take place.

“These aren’t secrets. Those who are observant can easily realize this if they pay a little attention. However, they lack the core contextual information, so they don’t understand the common goal that underlies your individual actions.

“In the beginning, I didn’t get it as well. However, after hearing what you said just now, I immediately understood. The downfall of the Internet economic bubble is a disaster for most, but if you managed to predict it and made arrangements beforehand, it would be a celebration of wealth and capital.

“You have the abilities, and Zachary has the funds. That’s enough to create an impact in the capital sector of Harbor City.”

Jasper nodded after Michael finished speaking.

Sure enough, someone who had managed to make a name for himself in a place full of powerful, influential people like Harbor City was not simple-minded at all.

Since Michael had already seen through their facade, there was no need for Jasper to continue hiding it from him.

“This condition is acceptable, but there’s something that you must do, Mr. Lane. Otherwise, there’s nothing more for us to discuss,” Jasper said.

“Say it,” Michael said with a grin. He was overcome with relief after Jasper agreed to his proposition.

“I don’t care about how much funds you intend to contribute, but you must hand it over to me to ensure everything operates in unison. Also, since you’ve decided to get in this car that I’m driving, you must follow my command in everything, from the speed, to the direction that the car is going.”

Michael smiled at his words. "Of course, I'm just taking the opportunity to score a bargain deal. I definitely wouldn't try to overthrow you. I'll listen to whatever you ask me to do when the time comes," he said.

Jasper raised his glass with a chuckle. "Let's make a toast to our successful collaboration. Cheers."

"Cheers."

This toast signaled the commencement of a 1.5-billion-dollar entertainment film package sale plan, and future financial plans involving at least tens of billions of dollars' worth of funds.

Michael was evidently in a pretty good mood. He chatted and joked around with Jasper for a while before coming up with an excuse to leave.

After he left, Jasper said, "It seems like there are a lot of smart people out there in the world."

Zachary laughed. "In truth, this deal guarantees a win for both parties in the transaction. You saved 500 million dollars in the takeover of Gladness Entertainment, and he can rely on you to earn more in the future. There are no losses for you," he said.

"More importantly, after this incident, Gladness International Corporation will naturally form an alliance with you. This is extremely beneficial for you in the future."

Jasper nodded at his words. He replied, "Actually, having one more person on board does not affect how we earn money. With him, we won't make a penny less, and without him, we won't make a penny more either. The thing is, is this person reliable?"

“He’s trustworthy. I’ve known him for a few decades now. He’s a person who doesn’t easily show his true intentions. He’s good at scheming, but he may appear rather selfish at times just because he’s too good at it.

“Honestly, nobody’s perfect. Other than that, he’s perfectly reliable.”

Jasper nodded at Michael’s words.

Since it was a charity auction gala function, the main attraction of the gala would be the auction.

In reality, these were all formalities. All the rich men simply had to take out some of the items they did not need and put them up for an auction. No matter how much the items got auctioned for, the money would be donated to charity.

Moreover, there was a high probability that these items would not even pass through the actual auction. This was simply a matter of price.

All the rich and powerful people who came to the function would also make a bid for one or two items each to join in the fun of the occasion.

This money meant nothing to them. They were only doing so to make a good reputation for themselves.

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The auction commenced not long after. Jasper and Wendy had already returned to the banquet hall.

A big boss like Zachary Law no doubt had a custom seat for himself. Meanwhile, the younger ones like Jasper and Anna gathered in the hall while waiting for the auction to begin.

This occasion was a gathering of the stars. Everyone shone in all of their extravagance.

Even the air was filled with the lingering scent of wealth and fame.

Being as meticulous as always, Jasper also noticed that Mitch Langdon and Zane Lancaster were seated together. The two of them were peering at him as subtly as they could.

It was evident that having a common enemy allowed them to achieve a certain degree of understanding with each other.

“How did the both of them get together?” Anna asked, frowning her brow.

Based on logical reasoning, Zane only had his father, Bob Lancaster. Nonetheless, Mitch was different. His father was Kennedy Langdon, whereas his grandfather was Wallace Langdon. They were both top bosses in their own leagues.

With Wallace Langdon around, the Langdons would easily take the throne among the top four families of Harbor City.

Therefore, based on such reasoning, Zane had no right to sit next to Mitch.

“Both of them are equally bad. It should be easy for them to find a common topic among themselves,” Jasper said. He did not mind at all.

Since he attended the function with Anna, Jasper sat in a seat designated for the Laws. It was located right at the front of the hall.

The first four rows were reserved for the Laws, the Boyles, the Langdons, and the Lennons.

The remaining seats were allocated for the other prominent and wealthy families of Harbor City. The seats extended backward in order of wealth and status.

There were close to a hundred tables.

This showcased the number of wealthy people in Harbor City.

Over here, those with assets worth a billion dollars or less were considered poor.

Meeting Henry once again, Jasper realized that there was a beautiful female celebrity seated next to him.

Furthermore, Jasper knew her well. Thanks to Mr. Collins, Jasper had enjoyed viewing a fair few of her gorgeous photographs.

Cindy Jung.

Stage name, Sherry.

She would be debuting in a group with another female celebrity this year after signing a contract with Golden Entertainment. She would become really popular in the future.

However, after the incident with the camera, she was utterly ruined.

Jasper had even lamented over it in his past life.

“Here’s my date. Not bad, huh?” Henry remarked proudly.

He did not really like famous female celebrities. If he wanted any of them, they would be queueing up in front of him in no time. However, he generally found them dirty.

Therefore, Henry preferred fresh faces that have only just made their debut. He found them pleasant and fresh-looking.

Cindy was rather nervous as well. She greeted Anna and Jasper respectfully.

If Henry had not brought her here, never in her life would she have the right to sit in this seat.

Anna was unfazed. Something like this was extremely normal in a wealthy family.

However, Jasper knew that Cindy had a pretty messy private life despite her innocent looks. He grinned and said, "It's good as long as you think it's good."

Henry always felt that Jasper was trying to hint at something with his curious choice of words. Nevertheless, he could not seem to figure out what Jasper meant. Therefore, he felt extremely uncomfortable about this.

Jasper had just sat down when Zane's sinister voice rang out from the table beside them.

"Oh, look over here. It's a country bumpkin from the Mainland. Do you think that you're our equal now that you've found a wealthy person to back you up? The fact that you're pretty pleased about it all is terribly disgusting."

His voice was not loud, but it was enough for everyone from the four top families, who were seated not too far away, to hear clearly.

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His words attracted the attention of many people.

Most of them were here just to watch the scene unfolding before them and join in on the fun.

Alas, Jasper was not a slice of delectable pie. It was impossible for him to make everyone like him.

If he were to consider the top four families alone, many of them felt a strong animosity toward him due to him being an outsider's sudden appearance in their family affairs.

Everyone was simply maintaining a facade of harmony on the surface.

Mitch Langdon, for example, was on the verge of becoming his lifelong archenemy.

Now that Zane had voiced out, a lot of people were waiting for Jasper to embarrass himself. Many of the gazes directed at him were dripping with contempt.

Henry arched his brows. He thought of Jasper as a respected mentor that would guide him on the path of becoming bigger and better. Furthermore, the Laws had invited Jasper to sit at their table. Thus, he represented the Laws as well.

By shaming Jasper Laine, it meant that he was putting the Laws to shame as well.

How could Henry stand this?

Just as Henry was about to say something, Jasper voiced out.

“You have it wrong. Being your equal is an insult to me.”

A lot of people could not resist bursting out into laughter at Jasper’s words.

Zane was fuming with anger. He glared at Jasper after being humiliated by him and sneered, “Why are you being so rash? Harbor City isn’t the Mainland. You can’t act as arrogant as you wish to over here. You won’t even know the cause of your death later on.”

“Aren’t you tired of repeating the same things over and over again?” Jasper asked impatiently.

“Even if you want to threaten me, do it differently. Please enlighten me on how you wish to end my life.”

Henry was amused while listening to their exchange. Jasper had such a smart and sharp way with words. Looking at the helplessness and blunt rage in Zane’s gaze, it was clear to everyone just how powerful Jasper’s stance was.

Zane, who did not manage to humiliate Jasper but got humiliated himself instead, was so vexed that he began gritting his teeth. Just as he was about to say something, Mitch, who was seated beside him, raised his voice.

He glanced at Jasper indifferently. “Zane, stop talking. What good can come out of having a sharp tongue with someone like that?” He asked nonchalantly.

“He’s just like a dog at home. It won’t understand if you scold it. Just beat it up. When it hurts, it’ll learn its place. Dogs are dogs, it’s impossible for them to surpass their owners.

“Are you just afraid that you won’t have the chance to teach the dog a lesson?”

A light-hearted expression formed on Zane's face after listening to Mitch's words. He chuckled. "You're perfectly right, Mitch. I can't bite back at a dog if it bites me, right? I'll teach it a lesson when the opportunity arises. It'll understand when it hurts after getting beaten up," he said.

Right then, the host walked onto the stage. Everyone fell silent immediately.

Although the host was a hotshot within the entertainment industry, he did not dare to showcase his wits in front of all the wealthy families of Harbor City.

After a brief opening remark, the host reiterated the charity theme underlying the auction event. After sending waves of praise to the wealthy families, the auction immediately began.

Since the items being auctioned were all personal belongings of these wealthy and powerful people, they were not half bad. Therefore, many of them began bidding right after the first item was presented.

Nevertheless, the atmosphere was extremely harmonious. Everyone was here to support the occasion. They could just act their part. Nobody would cause an uproar during an occasion like this.

Even the bosses from Zachary Law's social circle made a few bids and purchased a few items.

"Everybody, the auction item that will appear next is very special. It was specially handed over to us by the late famous philanthropist Ms. Shannon White. She had specially requested for us to display the collector's item at this auction."

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“This collector’s item is known as the Angel’s Heart. It is a jewelry piece that Ms. Shannon White brought back from New Zealand more than a decade ago.

“According to Ms. Shannon White, there’s a secret within this collector’s item. However, she doesn’t know what that secret is either. She didn’t manage to find out even after analyzing it thoroughly for more than a decade.”

“Before Ms. Shannon passed away, she wanted to put this collector’s item up for auction. All the proceedings will be donated to the Leukemia Research Foundation. The starting price is 1 Harbor Dollar.”

This jewelry piece selling at starting price of 1 Harbor Dollar looked like a very simple and ordinary pendant. The pendant itself was molded in the shape of an angel holding a heart. Based on its material and appearance, it looked like it was worth 100000 Harbor Dollars at most.

However, Shannon White was one of the most famous philanthropists in Harbor City. Her death, which had been caused by leukemia, caused quite a huge uproar back then.

Hence, the Angel’s Heart, which had a mere starting price of 1 Harbor Dollar and a so-called “secret” within it, attracted the attention of many people as soon as it appeared.

As for that so-called secret, many of them did not take it seriously. They just laughed it off.

Most people thought it was simply a gimmick created by the auctioneer. Shannon White had analyzed the piece for more than ten years without making any discoveries. Therefore, they could conclude that this ‘secret’ was a mere sham.

Meanwhile, Jasper's interest was piqued when he set his eyes upon the Angel's Heart.

Going through his memories of the future, he clearly remembered that this Angel's Heart really had a secret... A huge secret that was worth more than 100 million dollars.

People eventually discovered the secret around the year 2012. It had been the hottest topic for a significant period of time.

"500000 Harbor Dollars."

During the few minutes that Jasper had been immersed in thought, the price of the Angel's Heart had already been elevated to a number far beyond its original value.

The people in the audience were some of the wealthiest people in Harbor City. To them, 500000 Harbor Dollars and 50000 Harbor Dollars were no different.

As the late philanthropist Shannon White had commissioned for the auction of this jewelry piece herself, this was indeed an item of notable prestige. Hence, many people intended to purchase it.

"800000 Harbor Dollars." Jasper joined in the bidding without a moment's hesitation.

Given Jasper's current net worth, he did not really have a liking for such things anymore. This included the secret, which was worth more than 100 million Harbor Dollars.

However, people like Jasper thought that it was a loss not to earn anything on a daily basis. After all, only b*stards did not love a good bargain.

Someone from one of the tables of the four top families made a bid. After that, the other wealthy people sitting behind understandably stopped matching the bid.

Although the item was good, it would not be wise to offend someone from the four top families over it.

Noticing Jasper join in on the bid, Zane, who did not have much interest in the Angel's Heart, sneered. After meeting eyes with Mitch Langdon, he slowly raised his hand.

"1000000 Harbor Dollars."

The moment had arrived. A lot of people watched on eagerly.

Since ancient times, battles for riches between wealthy families had always been an interesting sight. Many of them were beyond thrilled to watch Zane and Jasper go against each other.

"1.5 million Harbor Dollars." Jasper did not disappoint the interested audience. He added 500000 Harbor Dollars to the bidding price immediately.

"Oh, it seems like the country bumpkin wants to gain some fame from purchasing the Angel's Heart from Ms. Shannon White? Well, that's too bad. I won't let you do as you wish. 2 million Harbor Dollars," Zane said with a grin on his face. He crossed his legs and side-eyed Jasper snobbishly.

"Listen to my advice. Don't embarrass yourself in the high society circle of Harbor City with just those few steel bars in your pocket. Even if you force yourself into the community, you're still a country bumpkin.

"If you really wanted to be famous, why don't you make a bid for the renaissance painting worth more than 10 million Harbor Dollars just now? Just accept the fact that you're poor. Aren't you ashamed of bidding for an item that had a starting bid of 1 Harbor Dollar? You can't give up the money, but you still want fame? What a joke."

Zane scratched at his ear nonchalantly. He then laughed maniacally. "Continue following the bid if you can! I want to see just how much money you can spare to play this game with me!"

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Those who were listening to Zane thought that he made perfect sense as well.

At this point in time, most people from Harbor City were still extremely xenophobic. They looked down on all outsiders, especially Mainlanders.

They felt that the Mainland was a land of barren hills and turbulent rivers where savages lived. It was a barbaric place.

In their eyes, Jasper's actions showed that he was chasing for clout while being reluctant to spend his money.

Seeing that many people agreed with him, Zane stared at Jasper contemptuously. "Did I get it right? Shut up and stay by the side quietly, you dog. Aren't you ashamed of yourself?" He drawled confidently.

Zane's expression turned stony as he spoke. "I can't even stand your dog-like stench when I'm seated in the same room as you. You stink," he growled in anger.

"Mr. Zane Lancaster bid 2 million Harbor Dollars. 2 million Harbor Dollars going once. Does anyone think that this Angel's Heart is worth a higher price?"

The host did not want to join in the fight raging on between the two wealthy men. However, he had to carry out his responsibilities. Thus, he had no choice but to bite the bullet and shout out into the microphone.

Right then, Zane smirked at Jasper. He was absolutely certain that he would defeat Jasper tonight.

“Follow the bid! Why don’t you follow the bid? Aren’t you extremely capable of doing so?”

Jasper’s silence fueled Zane’s satisfaction. Jasper must have used up all the tricks he had up his sleeves. Zane guffawed loudly. “If you don’t have the money, you can always borrow some from the Laws. Anyways, you’re just a dog that the Laws brought home,” he said.

“Or do you mean to say that the Laws won’t bother to lend that much money to a dog like you? Right, you’re just a dog. Who’d want to spend money on someone like you? Hahahaha!”

As Zane laughed maniacally, everyone stared at Jasper while anticipating what would happen next. They could not wait to see if he would rise up against Zane’s attack or accept his defeat.

Even the group of big bosses were paying attention to the development of the situation in an interested manner.

“Mr. Law, it seems like this young man that you look so highly upon is nothing special.”

Bob Lancaster had been displeased with Jasper for some time now. Upon seeing his own son deal Jasper a harsh blow, he laughed out loud and joked to Zachary Law.

Zane smirked. “It’s not over yet. Don’t jump to conclusions,” he said.

“Oh, I think the result is already out.”

Kennedy Langdon was the one who spoke out. He voiced out calmly in front of all the bosses. “Mr. Lancaster, your son made a pretty powerful move. If Jasper

Laine continues following the bid, it would show that he's calculative, impetuous, and easily irritated. However, if he doesn't do so, it would mean that he's admitting to what your son said about him."

"This is a dilemma. Either way, it seems that Jasper has lost the first exchange."

"2 million dollars, going twice." "

The host gulped and stared at Jasper, who appeared calm and collected. There was no sign of anger or humiliation on his face.

"100 million Harbor Dollars."

Jasper's clear voice rang out just after the host finished speaking. His firm and strong voice resonated throughout the entire function hall.

"Beep!"

All the wealthy people who took pride in having a good upbringing and education could not resist causing an uproar in the hall.

Plenty of them were beyond shocked. They all stared at Jasper in disbelief after registering the price of his bid.

Even a few of the bosses within the group of big bosses had dumbfounded looks on their faces.

Just as Kennedy Langdon had said.

If Jasper continued following the bid, it would show that he was angered by Zane. It would be shallow and simple-minded of him to get tricked by a scheme like that.

If he did not follow the bid, it meant that he was recognizing his defeat.

It was a tough situation for him either way.

However, this tough dilemma got resolved by his 100 million Harbor Dollar bid.

The bidding price had to be considered as well. If Jasper called a bid for 3 million or even 5 million Harbor Dollars, people would just think of him as a silly fool.

However, following a 2 million Harbor Dollar bid with a bid of 100 million Harbor Dollars was not a foolish move at all. It was a show of power!

Kennedy Langdon's squinted his eyes and pinned Jasper with a scorching gaze. It was impossible to read his thoughts.

Zachary Law sipped at his glass of whisky cheerily. The scene unfolding before him did not seem to shock him at all.

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If Jasper was so easily defeated, how could he have trusted him enough to take time off for his health at such a crucial time?

How could the Laws rest assured while placing such a large bet on him?

Countless discussions were still going on in the function hall.

A lot of people were shocked by Jasper's strong financial power and boldness.

If he could take out 100 million Harbor Dollars in cash, no one would even bother to look at how much the Angel's Heart was really worth. This 100 million Harbor Dollars would be enough to crush Zane Lancaster's arrogant stance.

A dark expression formed on Zane's face. Jasper had raised the bidding price to the maximum.

There was no way for him to continue following the bid.

He had been arrogant and smug up till a second ago. He suddenly snickered. "Alright, alright. You're good. This jewelry piece is only worth a maximum of a few hundred thousand Harbor Dollars. This fool here actually bought it for 100 million Harbor Dollars. Don't you know that others will just see you as a fool right now?"

"It looks like you're not just a dog. You're a foolish, idiotic one."

Forget the other people, even the Law siblings were shocked by the bidding price.

However, they knew that Jasper had earned a lot more than that from Zane and Mitch over these few days. Although they suspected that Jasper was just doing so to get back at Zane, they did not say much.

Beside him, Cindy Jung's gaze shone in admiration as she stared at Jasper. He had just spent 100 million Harbor Dollars on a whim. A man like this simply oozed charm and charisma.

Nobody would follow a bid of 100 million Harbor Dollars.

After asking the price three more times in accordance with the rules, the host closed the bidding with a knock of the hammer before everyone's gazes.

"Congratulations to Mr. Jasper Laine for successfully bidding for the Angel's Heart at the monumental price of 100 million Harbor Dollars. I believe that Ms. Shannon White would also love to thank you from the heavens for your contribution to charity."

This host was extremely witty. He knew that there was nothing the wealthy people here loved more than building a good reputation for themselves. Therefore, he showered Jasper in praise without a moment's hesitation.

After that, a staff member held the Angel's Heart on a tray and delivered it to Jasper.

After taking the Angel's Heart, Jasper took out a cheque and put it on the tray.

When Mitch Langdon caught sight of the cheque, his expression instantly darkened.

F*ck, of course he found that cheque familiar. That was the cheque he paid to Jasper as compensation!

"What a foolish dog," Mitch Langdon remarked, gritting his teeth.

"He spent 100 million Harbor Dollars on something that's only worth a few hundred thousand at most. What is he if not a foolish dog?" Zane snickered beside him.

After getting his hands on the Angel's Heart, Jasper did something that nobody would have expected.

He handed the Angel's Heart to Anna Law, who was seated next to him.

"I haven't thanked you for gifting me this set of clothes. Let me give this Angel's Heart to you as a gift," Jasper said.

Anna blinked in shock. She then accepted the jewelry piece instinctively.

Everyone was now paying attention to them. Nobody would have expected Jasper to give something that he had bought with 100 million Harbor Dollars to Anna Law.

"Press the angel's palms."

Anna was slightly baffled by Jasper's words. Nevertheless, she followed his instructions all the same.

She believed that Jasper had his reasons for doing so.

Anna pressed lightly on the simple carving of the angel's palms under the watchful eyes of Harbor City's wealthiest men and women.

The outer shell of the angel pendant fell apart after what seemed like the activation of a contraption. A dazzling pink diamond appeared before everyone after being kept inside the pendant for more than a decade.

"What... what a massive pink diamond!"

The chairman of Chadstone Jewelry exclaimed out loud upon catching sight of the pink diamond.

“I’ve been working in the jewelry industry for my entire life, and yet I’ve never seen such a flawless pink diamond!”

His words, accompanied by the brilliant and dreamy iridescent glow that reflected off the pink diamond under the light, caught everyone’s attention like a massive boulder being flung at their faces.

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The pink diamond glowed softly under the light, but its brilliance seemed to blind the eyes of everyone within the function hall.

Zane was rendered speechless with shock. He stared at the pink diamond in Anna’s hands in utter disbelief.

Right then, Zane felt his scalp grow numb.

How could this be?

How could some worn-out accessory that Jasper had purchased without much thought turn out to be a priceless treasure?!

Although he was not from the jewelry industry, as someone from a wealthy family, Zane had seen a lot more valuable items than the typical person.

Thus, he could easily tell when something was valuable.

This pink diamond was definitely not something of low value!

It felt as if countless invisible slaps were being directed at his face and smacking him till he was ruddy and swollen.

Zane gritted his teeth while his eyes turned bloodshot. He was so jealous that he was about to lose it.

Right now, he seemed just like a fool who had been busy entertaining himself just now by throwing insults and contemptuous words at Jasper.

“The Angel’s Heart really comes with a secret?”

Mitch Langdon murmured out loud. He found this situation unbelievable as well.

His words represented the thoughts of everyone present in the function hall.

The host had told them there was a secret within the Angel’s Heart. Ms. Shannon White had even examined the jewelry piece for more than a decade just to find out the secret. Everyone thought that it was simply a gimmick.

Maybe Shannon White had gotten fooled by it herself.

In any case, nobody would actually take a myth like that seriously.

However, the turning point of the incident came to them like a harsh slap across their faces.

“So what if it’s a pink diamond? You spent 100 million Harbor Dollars on it. Even if this pink diamond is valuable, is it worth more than 100 million Harbor Dollars? Aren’t you being taken advantage of just the same?”

Mitch sneered derisively.

He simply could not stand the sight of Jasper acting all high and mighty in front of everyone.

Jasper's free and easy demeanor was like a constant stab to his heart.

This was because Mitch could not help but recall the moment when he almost kneeled down before Jasper two days ago. He had the same expression on his face at that moment!

"Exactly! You're still being taken advantage of!" Zane shouted out loud.

Sneering out loud, Mitch continued adding fuel to the fire. "What are you being so proud of? A country bumpkin from the Mainland will always be a country bumpkin. Look how overjoyed he is over some cheap bargain."

Jasper said calmly, "It's just 100 million Harbor Dollars. Anyways, I bought it using your cheque, Mr. Langdon. I don't mind at all."

Mitch's face reddened in anger upon hearing what he said.

Mitch hummed in response to everyone's curious gazes and expressions that reflected their yearning for gossip. He remained silent after that.

He was afraid that his previous scandals would be revealed.

That would truly bring shame upon his entire family.

"Ms. Law, can you let me take a look at this pink diamond?" In the chaos, the chairman of Chadstone Jewelry had made his way to their side without anyone noticing.

He then asked Anna this while staring at the pink diamond in her hands with an obsessive gaze.

Anna glanced at Jasper. After he nodded, she handed the pink diamond to the chairman.

Accepting the pink diamond with both hands, the chairman of Chadstone Jewelry exclaimed in excitement, "In the past, the largest pink diamond that had been put up for auction at a public auction was a 18.96-carat pink diamond, which had been auctioned off at Christie's Auction."

"They were only five minutes into the auction when the diamond got sold off at a price of 360 million Harbor Dollars.

"Although this pink diamond isn't as large as that one, it has a better color grade and seems to be much clearer. It would be considered a diamond of the best grade. A gem like this is truly a rare sight in this world.

"Excuse me, Mr. Laine. I would like to ask you something. If it is possible, I would like to purchase this pink diamond from you for a price of 300 million Harbor Dollars."

Although many of the people present here were wealthier than the chairman of Chadstone Jewelry, nobody could compare to him in terms of authority on the jewelry industry.

His words caused everyone's expressions to change.

Especially Mitch Langdon and Zane Lancaster.

They had been mocking Jasper for spending 100 million Harbor Dollars out of bitterness just a second ago. Just split second later, everything had backfired on them.

300 million Harbor Dollars!

It could be sold off at the colossal price of 300 million Harbor Dollars.

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Everyone knew that if this pink diamond was officially put up in an auction, it would definitely sell at a price that was much higher than this.

Everyone's gazes and expressions changed instantly. They looked at Jasper like he was a deity.

What kind of person was he to be capable of having such an accurate and sharp insight?

How did he know the secret of Angel's Heart?

"I've already given the diamond to Anna. It's not for sale," Jasper said matter-of-factly.

With this sentence, he firmly denied the opportunity to gain a profit of 20 million Harbor Dollars at once.

The expression on Jasper's face was so calm and indifferent that it seemed as if he had just rejected a poached egg delivered by the chef during breakfast.

"That's really...a pity."

Heartbroken, the chairman returned the pink diamond to Anna. He had no other choice. If Jasper was not willing to sell it, it was impossible for him to snatch it from him, right?

Anna stared at the pink diamond in her hand dumbfoundedly. All of a sudden, she found herself facing a slight dilemma.

“This is way too valuable!”

Annie wanted to return the pink diamond to Jasper.

If it was just Angel’s Heart, Anna would dare to accept it as a gift although Jasper had bought it for a price of ten million Harbor Dollars.

However, the value of this pink diamond could not even be appraised accurately right now. Most importantly, such a pure and perfect pink diamond only came with a price but not any buyers.

Even someone like Anna Law found it way too valuable.

“I meant it when I told you that it’s a gift for you.”

Jasper chuckled lightly. In contrast to the shock on everyone’s faces, he remained unfazed.

Alas, he had already caught up on all the news regarding the diamond in his past life. However, he had only been able to admire it from his computer screen back then.

“In my opinion, a man should take more pride in winning the smile of a pretty lady as compared to earning a sum of money,” Jasper said with a hint of a smile.

After registering his words, all the women in the function hall looked at Jasper with a different gaze.

No other man could even begin to compare with Jasper’s current charisma.

He was willing to take a gamble at high stakes just to win a lady’s smile.

How many people in the world could be as bold and generous as he was?

A king who tormented his subjects for the queen's pleasure may be a fatuous and self-indulgent ruler in the eyes of his people. However, to the queen, he was the best husband in the world.

Cindy Jung, who was standing beside Anna and had been closely watching the entire incident all along, was particularly amazed.

She stared at Anna in admiration. If she was Anna, she would be willing to do anything for Jasper right now.

How many women in the world had men who were willing to spend their riches on them?

Furthermore, this was not just thousands of Harbor Dollars in cash. It was worth at least 30 million Harbor Dollars!

As the female lead of the entire act, Anna's gaze flickered. She did not dare to meet Jasper's eyes right now.

For some inexplicable reason, she felt slightly flustered.

As the princess of the Laws, 30 million Harbor Dollars was not a large sum of money. However, now that Jasper was making her the subject of everyone's admiration and attention, she felt extremely shy.

"Thank you..."

Anna thanked Jasper in a small voice and turned around immediately. She held the pink diamond tightly in her hands as her cheeks blushed. She was slightly mesmerized by Jasper.

Henry Law, who was forced to witness the sweet scene unfolding before him, leaned over to Anna. "Anna, show me that big diamond," he said.

“No!”

Anna refused his request in an outright manner.

He should not even think of it!

Nobody could take this diamond away from her.

Not even for one second!

Henry’s face darkened. He grumbled, “Now that she has a man, she has forgotten her own brother! I don’t even want to look at it!”

That being said, Henry’s will wavered as well.

Even for a grown man like him, he had to admit that Jasper had made an excellent move.

How could any woman resist him?

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“Hahaha.”

Michael Lane, who was seated at the table of big bosses, laughed out loud.

“Zachary, Jasp is pretty good!”

Michael openly expressed his admiration for Jasper.

The other bosses looked at Michael in distaste. Michael had always been on Zachary's side. There was no need for him to act all supportive of him right now.

However, even they could not deny the fact that Jasper had made a brilliant move.

Zachary had a bright smile on his face. "This kid has always been like that," he said.

Although he was speaking in a casual tone, his choice of words reflected just how much he admired and cherished Jasper.

Alas, the head of the Law family would not just address anyone as 'this kid'.

This was how an elder addressed his or her junior.

Zachary and Michael were both in good spirits. In contrast, Bob Lancaster and Kennedy Langdon's expressions did not look too good.

They had not personally joined in the exchange, but anyone could tell that both their sons had been defeated by Jasper.

Since their sons had been put to shame, what glory could they have?

The big bosses did not really care about 30 million Harbor Dollars. It was just that they had gained a profound insight into Jasper's way of doing things.

The auction continued amidst the audience's chatter and laughter.

Zane and Mitch suppressed their discontentment over their defeat and sat back in their seats.

According to the rules, all the wealthy people present in the function had to purchase at least one item from the auction. Otherwise, news about them being stingy and reluctant to do charity work may be published in tomorrow's tabloids.

Therefore, although Zane and Mitch were already in a state of distress from the previous incident, they still called to bid when a blue and white porcelain bowl was presented before the audience at a starting price of 200,000 Harbor Dollars.

"200,000 Harbor Dollars," Mitch called for a starting bid.

Nobody competed with him either. After all, he was a member of the four top families. Besides, everyone knew that he had just embarrassed himself badly and was currently in a bad mood. For their own sake, no one wished to offend him.

"1,000,000 Harbor Dollars."

Unexpectedly, Jasper, who had not called for a bid since buying Angel's Heart, made a bid.

It was beyond their expectations, but his actions were perfectly understandable.

Henry almost burst out into laughter. He whispered loudly in Anna's ear, "See, I told you that Jasper would not let him off just like that. He's definitely going to embarrass those two idiots thoroughly before defeating them once and for all."

Jasper's bid caused Mitch's expression to further darken.

He eyed Jasper, who was standing nearby, coldly. Meanwhile, Jasper seemed lighthearted and relaxed. He picked up a strawberry from the table and ate it. He did not even spare Mitch a glance.

The more Jasper acted like this, the more hatred and resentment rose up within Mitch's heart.

“3,000,000 Harbor Dollars!” Mitch said through gritted teeth.

He could not back off at a moment like this. Otherwise, he would not only embarrass himself, but he would also bring shame upon the Langdons as well.

“8,000,000 Harbor Dollars,” Jasper called for another bid almost immediately after Mitch announced his bid.

“Jasper Laine!” Mitch stood up and yelled out in rage. He fixed a stony glare on Jasper. “Do you really want to have a falling out with me?” he asked in an icy voice.

Jasper picked up a strawberry and popped it into his mouth. He chewed for a while before swallowing. He then picked another strawberry and passed it to Anna. “Taste this. It’s quite sweet,” he told her.

Mitch stood motionless. It was awkward for him to either remain standing or sit down. He felt like the biggest joke in the world after being thoroughly ignored by Jasper. Everyone was laughing at him.

“Alright! You forced me to do this! Ten million Harbor Dollars!” Mitch shouted out in a frenzy of rage.

Looking at the seething expression on Mitch’s face, Jasper chuckled. “You’re a wealthy and generous man, Mr. Langdon. Why are you being so stingy over some charity work? 50 million Harbor Dollars.”

“Hahaha!”

Mitch let out an angry bark of laughter. “Country bumpkin, are you comparing your wealth to mine? My personal assets alone are worth several billion Harbor Dollars! Come on, I’m bidding 100 million Harbor Dollars!” he hollered.

Jasper shrugged. “You’re really something else, Mr. Langdon. As expected, you must really be committed to charity since you’re willing to buy a porcelain bowl at

a gargantuan price of 100 million Harbor Dollars. You have my admiration. I'll happily announce my defeat and back out of the bid," he said calmly.

Mitch's eyes widened after hearing what he said. His face turned red-hot with rage. "Stupid f*cker, were you fooling me?!" he roared out angrily.

Everything had already gone wild when Mitch called for a bid of 100 million Harbor Dollars.

Although this porcelain bowl was an antique item, it was worth around 1,000,000 Harbor Dollars at most. Its price had now spiked up to 100 million Harbor Dollars after Mitch got enraged over Jasper's taunts. An act like that could not be merely deemed irrational anymore.

Mitch Langdon was out of his mind.

At the same time, Kennedy Langdon, who was seated at the table of bosses upstairs, had a heavy expression on his face.

He never would have expected his son to be so incapable.

It would have been better if his son had just called for a bid of ten million Harbor Dollars or even more when the auction just began just like what Jasper did before this. Instead, he was slowly lured into Jasper's trap.

"This kid is way too immature."

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Zachary shook his head and laughed out loud.

Utterly amused, he could not miss out on the opportunity to mock Kennedy Langdon.

As expected, Kennedy's expression darkened.

The other bosses chuckled happily after meeting gazes with each other.

Both situations occurred during an auction and involved a battle of wealth.

Nevertheless, the one who had the upper hand between Mitch and Jasper could easily be discerned.

"Mr. Mitch Langdon has called for a bid of 100 million Harbor Dollars for this blue and white porcelain bowl. Going once.

"Going twice.

"Going thrice, it's a deal! Con-Congratulations to Mr. Mitch Langdon," the host announced. The host did not even dare to look at Mitch, who had a ferocious expression etched on his face. He began auctioning the next item after carrying out the follow-up processes in a hurry.

The items to be auctioned grew fewer and fewer. Jasper did not call for a bid after that.

With a look that could kill etched on his face, Mitch was still fuming with rage. Nonetheless, Zane Lancaster, who was seated right beside Mitch, grew nervous.

He was extremely anxious.

He had not called for a bid up till now.

Using Mitch's incident as a reference, he knew that Jasper would not let him go once he called for a bid.

However, he was in an urgent situation. If he gave up on the auction, others would mock him for being stingy. A lot of them would think that he was frightened of Jasper.

He could not be put to shame by this person.

Besides, he also knew that he could not embarrass his father, Bob Lancaster.

As the auction gradually progressed toward the end, a landscape painting by a famous painter from Harbor City was presented in front of the audience. Zane gritted his teeth. He decided to call for a bid.

“1.1 million Harbor Dollars.”

Zane, who had called for the bid, glanced at Jasper instinctively. He had already decided on a limit of ten million Harbor Dollars. If Jasper called for a bid higher than that, he would get back at him by giving up on the bid.

That way, he could prevent himself from losing a fortune.

Thinking about this, Zane’s lips curled into a smile.

There were many ways to trick someone else in an auction.

What could a country bumpkin from Mainland know about auctions?

“Ten million Harbor Dollars.”

As expected, Jasper did not disappoint the audience who were eager to watch the showdown between the both of them. He immediately raised the price by nearly ten times in front of everyone’s watchful gazes.

Zane took in a deep breath as the corners of his mouth twitched. The price Jasper called for had reached the maximum bidding price that he had set for himself. He was overcome with a sense of extreme discomfort.

However, this was just the first round of bidding. If he gave up right now, it would be awfully embarrassing for him.

Gritting his teeth, Zane's gaze flickered. "15 million Harbor Dollars," he announced.

He intended to get back at Jasper. He would give up on the bid later no matter how much Jasper called for.

Just as Zane was feeling full of himself, he realized that the entire auction hall was silent.

"Mr. Zane Lancaster has called for a bid of 15 million Harbor Dollars. Is there a higher price?" the host asked cautiously.

Nobody responded to him.

"15 million Harbor Dollars, going twice."

Zane's hands were shaking. He pinned his gaze on Jasper as his heart raced in anxiety.

'Follow the bid! F*cking follow the bid right now!'

Zane wanted to rush in front of him and force him to raise his hand, making him follow the bid.

He was not the only one looking at Jasper. Everyone had their attention on Jasper and awaited his response.

However, Jasper... did not even move. He did not even have the intention to follow the bid.

“Why aren’t you following the bid?!” Zane yelled out at Jasper instinctively.

How could he not follow the bid?

He was waiting for him to follow the bid so that he could get back at him! Why was he not following the bid?!

Zane was about to lose it.

Jasper glanced at Jasper like he was looking at a fool. “15 million Harbor Dollars for something like this? Only an idiot would buy it...”

Zane’s face flushed bright red. He looked like he was about to suffocate. Looking at Zane’s expression, Henry could not resist bursting out into laughter.

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“Hahaha, this is f*cking hilarious. Look at this f*cker’s face. He looks like he just got kicked in the face by a donkey. Hahaha...”

When Henry Law grew bold, he did not care if Zane was Bob Lancaster or someone else’s son. He simply dissed him mercilessly.

After hearing what he said, everyone’s expressions turned odd. They wanted to laugh but did not dare to. It was hard to suppress their laughter, though.

Zane was so infuriated that he was about to spit blood. However, he did not dare to do anything to Henry Law. He could only repress his anger and glare at both Henry and Jasper with a seething gaze.

The auction, which had been nearing its end, concluded after this interlude.

However, everyone felt dull for the remainder of the auction.

After all, they had just watched Jasper go against Mitch and Zane in two epic showdowns. Everything else paled in comparison to that.

After the auction ended, the host rushed down the stage while breaking out in cold sweat. He had even forgotten to greet everyone in the hall.

This auction could be regarded as a traumatic memory that he would never forget for as long as he lived.

He would be easily wiped out if he had made a slight mistake while striving for survival amongst these big bosses,

It was too f*cking scary.

Just when everyone thought that the charity gala had ended, Michael Lane suddenly walked onto the stage with a wide smile on his face.

His appearance caused all the wealthy men and women to quiet down. They looked at Michael curiously while wondering what he was about to do.

“Everybody, I’d like to take this opportunity to make an announcement.”

Standing on the stage, Michael grinned. He scanned the entire hall before his gaze finally landed on Jasper.

Many people took note of this detail. Everyone focused their attention on Jasper.

“Today, I just signed a deal with Mr. Jasper Laine who’s from Mainland. In line with our principle of being fair and open, I’d like to let everyone know about it in advance.

“The subsidiary under Gladness International Corporation, Gladness Entertainment Movies, was officially sold to Mr. Jasper Laine at a price of 1.5 billion Harbor Dollars today. From today onward, he will be the head of Gladness Entertainment Movies.

“I believe that under the guidance of Mr. Jasper Laine, Gladness Entertainment Movies will definitely achieve greater heights in the future...”

Michael continued speaking on the stage. However, everyone below the stage could no longer pay attention to what he was saying.

They were all so shocked by the news that they lost the ability to form words.

Gladness Entertainment Movies was a well-known film company in Harbor City.

Gladness Entertainment Movies had been a constant in the industry ever since films from Harbor City began rising in popularity. The company owned the copyrights of many popular movies. Many artists were signed under the company as well.

Nevertheless, Gladness Entertainment Movies, one of the most prominent companies in the film and entertainment industry, would be handed over to a Mainlander today just like that?!

1.5 billion Harbor Dollars!

This was a fair price point that befitted the company's worth.

Those who were quick-witted immediately recovered from their shock. The real deal was likely to include something worth far more than 1.5 billion Harbor Dollars.

However, Michael and Jasper did not say anything about it. Nobody could guess the real terms listed in the deal.

Nonetheless, the change of ownership of Gladness Entertainment Movies had become a reality.

"How is this possible?!"

Zane shouted in shock.

"Gladness Entertainment Movies has been operating well all along. There has been no news about this at all. How could it get sold off just like that?"

Zane's family was considered to be the most highly involved in the entertainment industry among all the top wealthy people of Harbor City.

Although Bob Lancaster was in the real estate business instead of entertainment, he had the nickname of 'Harvester of Female Celebrities'.

With the net worth of his personal assets, he had close relationships with the bosses in Harbor City's entertainment industry.

However, the Lancasters had not received any news regarding Michael's decision to sell off Gladness Entertainment Movies.

Mitch squinted his eyes and looked at Jasper. "Did he come to Harbor City for Gladness Entertainment Movies? Does he want to set foot into the entertainment industry?" he asked in an icy voice.

Most of the wealthy people from Harbor City had their eyes set on Jasper, who was now the center of everyone's attention.

Right then, they suddenly realized that this young man from the Mainland would come to occupy an important part of Harbor City in the future.

After Michael got down from the stage, he walked toward Jasper while gesturing to him affectionately. There was a bright smile on his face.

"Your move caught me by surprise, Mr. Lane," Jasper said.

Michael chuckled. "The entertainment industry is different from other sectors. Bosses in the entertainment industry should keep a high profile. Otherwise, the artists under the company will question their boss' ability," he said.

Jasper shrugged. "It's alright. Anyways, once the deal is made official, we'll have to announce it to the public as well. It's only a matter of time," he said.

After the news regarding Jasper's acquisition of Gladness Entertainment Movies was revealed, the charity gala officially came to an end.

The wealthy people gradually left the hall. However, they all had one name in their mouths... Jasper Laine!

At the side door located in a more discreet area of the hall, Kennedy Langdon and Bob Lancaster looked at Zane and Mitch, who both had despondent expressions on their faces, with indifferent gazes.

“You guys have thoroughly disappointed me,” Kennedy reprimanded them straight in the face.

Mitch’s expression dulled. He gritted his teeth in anger. “That Mainlander is freaking despicable!” he exclaimed.

“Despicable? Anyone capable of doing big things is despicable. If you can’t get on your opponent’s level, you’ll just be trampled by them,” Kennedy said icily.

Beside him, Zane had his head lowered. He did not dare to utter a single word.

Bob Lancaster took a long glance at his son. “You guys are no match for him,” he said.

Refusing to accept his defeat, Mitch argued, “This is just one failure! I’ll eventually find the opportunity to crush him once and for all!”

“That’s enough,” Kennedy chastised him impatiently. “There are more important businesses coming up soon. They cannot be delayed any longer. Both of you should head back first. In the meantime, don’t do anything foolish!”

After that, Kennedy and Bob walked out of the hotel and entered a Rolls-Royce which was parked beside the building. They were in a hurry and were guided by their bodyguards.

A middle-aged man clad in a business suit was seated inside the car. He gave off an air of superiority.

The middle-aged man had a burly physique, blonde hair, and blue eyes. He must be from the west.

He was slowly swirling a glass of wine in his hands when the both of them got in the car.

After closing the door of the car, the man looked at the red wine sliding down the curve inside of the glass. He chuckled. "Mr. Langdon, Mr. Lancaster, it seems like your sons are still pretty naive," he remarked.

The fact that their sons were incapable was a private matter. They could teach and scold them themselves. However, it was different when it came from someone else's mouth.

Therefore, Kennedy Langdon did not seem to be in a good mood either. "Mr. Rogers, let's talk about our plan," he said in a blunt voice.

"According to what we previously discussed, Quantum Fund has already convinced a group of Wall Street capitalists. They're all extremely interested in this plan. All you need to do is to cooperate with us from within Harbor City," Rogers stated matter-of-factly.

"The United States' internet economy bubble is about to be disrupted. Once the disruption occurs, we will start immediately. It'll soon become a festival where we celebrate getting our hands on trillions of capital!"

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"You can rest assured about all your affairs in Harbor City, Mr. Rogers. We're always monitoring the major wealthy families of Harbor City. There has been

nothing out of the ordinary in terms of their performance. However, a Mainlander named Jasper Laine has joined the Laws lately...”

Detecting the hesitation in Kennedy’s speech, Rogers frowned. He put down his glass of wine and said, “Tell me your worries, Langdon. This plan is of an extremely large scale. Factors beyond our control should not exist at all.”

Kennedy then began to explain, “Not long ago, Bob and I discovered that the Laws have hidden a large sum of funds. We have no idea where the funds have gone up till now. It seems to have happened around the same time as Jasper Laine’s arrival.”

Bob added, “However, the Laws have always been doing business in the real estate industry. Other than the financial crisis three years ago, they rarely involved themselves in the capital sector. Therefore, we’re still in the midst of investigating. We’re not sure what the Laws intend to do.”

“I know the Laws from Harbor City. They rarely do business involving capital. You guys should continue to monitor their activity, but don’t do anything rash. After all, they’re still the top wealthy family in Harbor City. They must be on alert at all times,” Rogers said calmly.

“As for Jasper Laine... What’s his background?”

Kennedy replied, “He’s from Mainland and has been pretty close to the Laws lately. The stock market is his forte.”

“He’s the one who made your sons suffer, right?” Rogers asked in amusement. There was a playful glint in his gaze.

Kennedy and Bob’s expressions darkened almost immediately.

“Young man, the higher you soar, the harder you’ll fall. Countless young talents emerge on Wall Street every year, but eventually, elders like us are the ones who have the final say.”

...

After the charity gala ended, Jasper left the hotel with Anna and Henry.

Before they left, Jasper met Queenie Shaw and Zoelle Griffin once again. Only this time, everything was different.

“Mister... Mr. Laine,” Queenie greeted Jasper courteously.

At the same time, a surge of complicated emotions surged through their hearts.

This world changed way too quickly. A few hours ago, they had just met for the very first time.

However, the man in front of them was now their boss.

Queenie’s eyes glowed as she recalled Jasper’s glory in tonight’s charity gala.

However, once she took a glance at Anna Law, who was standing beside Jasper, she immediately extinguished all her thoughts of him.

One had to know their own place. Queenie personally thought that her looks outshone a lot of other celebrities from the entertainment industry of Harbor City. However, in front of Anna Law... She should not humiliate herself by comparing the both of them.

“Hello,” Jasper greeted. He did not act haughty in front of them. In his opinion, these celebrities were people who worked and earned money on his behalf. They were the ones generating wealth for him.

Therefore, there was no need to act all high and mighty in front of them.

It would be meaningless that way.

Right then, the Laws' car arrived.

"I'll head back first. After a while, I may go to the company. Let's have a chat then if the opportunity arises," Jasper said politely. After that, he left together with the Law siblings.

Watching Jasper leave after getting into the Rolls-Royce, Queenie pursed her lips.

"He's very different from the other wealthy people," Zoelle suddenly said.

Queenie nodded. "Yeah, how often do the other wealthy people treat female celebrities like us as decent human beings?"

The both of them sighed. The future held endless possibilities, but they had their own difficulties that outsiders did not know of.

...

The Laws' study.

Jasper and Zachary were both seated in the study.

"I previously had a discussion with Michael. It'll be alright as long as we settle the transaction payment before you leave Harbor City," Zachary said.

Jasper nodded. "That would be the best. After all, the 1.5 billion Harbor Dollars can be withdrawn at any time, but it'll affect the follow-up plan," he replied.

Life at the Top Chapter 173

Zachary smiled. “Don’t refrain from speaking up if you need help. The Law family has ample wealth.”

Jasper raised the teacup and took a sip. He smiled. “I don’t think that’s necessary... Has the Law family prepared the funds?”

Zachary’s expression grew stern. “Give me something to go with here. How much do I need exactly?”

“It’s hard to tell for now.”

Jasper thought back to the United States stock market that he had been following the past few days and frowned. “The United States stock market is wrecking up a weird storm. I’ve noticed that someone’s already trying to control the market over there and they’re covering quite a large area of stocks as well. It’s a gamble of at least trillions of dollars over there.”

“Trillions!” Zachary found it hard to believe despite having seen his fair share of money.

‘Using trillions as a base unit...

‘Only the country’s GDP had that power!

‘Only the country’s GDP was worth enough to be measured by trillions.’

That showed how exaggerated and terrifying the amount was.

“But that’s the United States stock market. As the world’s economic center, there’s nothing any single entity or force can do to stop it once the strangling begins. So all we’ll do now is focus on Harbor Stocks.”

Jasper thought about it for a moment before he replied, “As for funds, the exact amount we’ll need will depend on how big a wave is made once the bubble pops over in the United States. With how things look now, the Law family might need this much.”

Jasper raised three fingers.

“30 billion?” Zachary frowned.

“Yeah, 30 billion. You might only need to take out ten billion in the beginning, but I’d say it’s safer to have 30 billion ready to mobilize at any time just in case,” Jasper replied.

Zachary’s expression was solemn as he fell into deep thought. A moment later, he replied, “Alright. I promise you, money-wise, it won’t be a problem.”

Seeing how Zachary was agreeing so easily, Jasper had a better understanding of how deep the roots of Harbor City’s rich families went.

It was 30 billion, yet Zachary’s reaction told him that 30 billion was not his limit.

“How much can Michael gather?” Jasper asked.

Zachary replied, “Michael’s wealth is more fixed than fluid, or he wouldn’t need to sell Gladness Entertainment Movies. From what I can tell, I think he’s got around five billion?”

Jasper gave it some thought. ‘I probably won’t be able to gather more than five billion either.’

Thank goodness that Jasper had earned quite a bit from Harbor Stocks these few days, especially from Kayden's company's stocks. The moment Jasper sold his stocks, he would make at least twice or thrice the profit.

In addition to the funds that he could transfer from Mainland, five billion was an easy amount to gather.

By then, he would probably find himself with around 40 billion worth of funds. That was enough for this battle.

"Now we wait." Jasper smiled.

Zachary opened the windows in the study, allowing the chilly midnight Harbor City wind to rush into the study. The warm temperature indoors immediately dropped, causing him to shiver.

"It would be a waste of your time on earth not to achieve great things, Jasper."

"I see that Uncle Law is open-minded."

Jasper stood next to Zachary and smiled, looking at Harbor City's dazzling night view.

"I'm not the open-minded one here. This is the aura I get from you."

Zachary turned to clap Jasper's shoulder.

"The Law family may be helping you now, but I can't help thinking that it'll be you helping the law family in the end."

Jasper took a sip of the hot tea. The burning liquid entered his mouth and scalded its way down his throat like a sip of strong alcohol. Only then did he part his lips to reply.

“Since we’re allies, we become one whole entity.”

Life at the Top Chapter 174

The following morning, all of Harbor City’s gossip magazines released breaking news as if an explosion had occurred.

‘Mysterious Mainland Youth Crushes Son of Plutocrat At Charity Dinner In Front Of All Harbor City’s Magnates!’

‘Mysterious Mainland Youth Throws 30 Million, Gains Favor Of Law Family’s Princess!’

‘Gladness Entertainment Movies’ New Owner, Mysterious Mainland Youth Buys Harbor City’s Fourth-Largest Film Company with Striking 1.5 Billion!’

All the gossip magazines shared the same protagonist, and that was the mysterious Mainland youth.

Paparazzi had managed to take a picture of Jasper’s side profile.

The image was one of Jasper linking hands with Anna, and the two had smiles on their faces as they talked and walked on the red carpet.

This mysterious youth from Mainland was rich, handsome, and full of charisma.

Jasper’s name had instantly swept all over Harbor City.

Some people even began to wonder when Jasper and Anna’s wedding would be held.

Meanwhile, people in the business world were more interested in news about Gladness Entertainment Movies now that Jasper had bought it.

1.5 billion.

That was hardly a small sum.

What was once Harbor City's fourth-largest film company had just changed its boss, one from the Mainland too, no less. It was on a path to a fresh start.

Quite a few people began to bemoan Jasper's identity as a Mainlander on social media, only for the Law family to quietly get rid of such comments.

With the Law family's current position in society, one word from them was all it would take to rid such negative comments from the internet.

From that, people in the business world came to understand that the relationship between Jasper and the Law family ran deep.

Countless people began to speculate about Jasper's identity, wondering if he was from a rich family back in the Mainland.

Meanwhile, the outside world was in an uproar about all sorts of news. As such, Jasper shut himself within the confines of his hotel.

He was watching the activity on the United States stock market.

Due to the difference in time zones, Jasper had burned the midnight oil twice in a row.

"How about you go take a nap? You'll get sick staring at this all day."

Anna turned to tell Jasper who looked exhausted.

Anna wet a towel with hot water as she spoke and passed it to Jasper.

Henry's jaw fell to the floor beside them.

This was his first time seeing Annie serve anyone.

Jasper took the hot towel and wiped his face, looking more alive now. He shook his head. "Their movements are only getting bigger over at the United States stock market. I can't afford to take a break at all right now."

Henry leaned over to take a look at Jasper's screen and asked strangely, "Aren't the stocks for the internet rising? Holy crap, look at that jump. Wow!"

"God will drive men crazy before He bestows death. The same goes for the stock market. Prices skyrocketing for no reason and without warning is a common tactic for gaining capital.

"They'll raise stock prices to attract buyers, only to resell all their stocks when the time is right before they finally go short. That way, once these falsely high-price stocks no longer have the capital to sustain them, they'll have no other option but to plummet."

Anna was not completely unknowledgeable like Henry. She had a vague understanding of the financial market, so she added, "That's right. That's the logic behind it."

Jasper nodded in approval. "The entire internet economy is essentially a castle in the sky right now. It may look stunning, but its roots have already completely eroded. All it takes is one opportunity, and the entire structure will fall apart in an instant."

Life at the Top Chapter 175

“Doesn’t that mean the people who are starting to invest in the internet now are screwed?” Henry asked.

Jasper thought about how the dot-com bubble had popped in his past life and how multiple people in Harbor City had gone bankrupt overnight, turning to suicide through jumping off buildings.

Some people even said that the ground in front of every high-rise in Harbor City was filled with blood afterward.

Others said that while the police dealt with a case of suicide by jumping, someone else would jump from the building before the body below could even be moved away.

It had been a heart-shuddering sight.

“I suppose they dug their own graves,” Jasper replied plainly.

“The United States currently leads the western capital since their economy is overheated and their loan interests are low. It urges investors to put money into the stock market, so there’s a large number of fluid funds there. Business’ financial statements end up looking great too.

“Especially the internet industry. There’s a guarantee of two to five times the return once it enters the stock market, so it puts analysts, investors, entrepreneurs, venture capitals, and the bank into a frenzy.”

A message popped up on the computer as Jasper spoke.

It was KK.

A message from Jack.

Having worked in Weresoftware's internal management for years, it was no surprise that Jack could get wind of Weresoftware's news before the rest of the world.

From what Jasper remembered of his past life, two iconic incidents signified the popping of the dot-com bubble.

The first being Weresoftware, the world's biggest internet company, losing its antitrust lawsuit and facing the dilemma of having to close down.

Although Mr. Granger had resigned and the new CEO, Thomas, overturned the verdict in the court of appeal, but that was something that would happen later. Right now, the current news was indeed greatly affecting the internet stock market in the entire world.

This was a fuse, a report that would directly trigger the explosion of the dot-com bubble.

Barron's then published an article with figures from an investigation done on more than 200 listed internet companies.

It was a report that directly dried up the cash flow of internet companies, resulting in company executives going mad and cashing out their stocks. With multiple actions taking effect, many internet companies began their path toward bankruptcy and reorganization.

With these memories of the future, Jasper had told Jack to keep an eye out for Weresoftware's antitrust lawsuit through the contacts he still had in Weresoftware.

Tapping on the notification window, Jasper fell silent as he read Jack's message.

[The trial has come to an end in the United States and the high court ruled that Weresoftware has lost the case. The verdict was passed a few minutes ago and it's about to go public soon. Weresoftware is being forced to split up!!!!]

The three exclamation marks represented the surge of emotions Jack was currently going through.

As the world's largest internet company and a company with the highest net worth in the world, Weresoftware splitting up would undoubtedly immensely affect stock markets worldwide.

It did not matter that Jasper knew Weresoftware would evade the fate of being split up as the rest of the world right now did not.

Even Anna and Henry gasped in shock at the news.

"Weresoftware is being split up? Oh my God!"

Jasper glanced at the time. It should be eight a.m. over in the United States right now.

According to history, the first article directly popping the dot-com bubble worldwide would be published this afternoon.

It would be followed by investors being frightened by both major newsflashes. Managers and retail investors would proceed to pull their stocks out maddeningly and the stock prices would plummet...

Such was fate, and no one would be able to save it anymore.

Jasper suddenly shot up and spoke firmly, "I need a team of the best stock traders and an absolutely quiet environment. Right now!"

Henry's scalp tingled as he felt the premonition of being in a toppling building. It was as if there was an invisible tsunami coming right at him.

At that moment, not even the richest trust fund babies dared to fool around anymore. For once, Henry's expression turned solemn and he pulled out his phone.

"I'll inform Dad right away!"

Life at the Top Chapter 176

Zachary was in a meeting with senior executives of the group when he received Henry's call.

He raised a hand to halt the man speaking and picked up the phone.

"It's starting, Dad! Jasper's plan is starting! Our stock traders need to get in position now!" Henry spoke agitatedly.

Zachary, a man who rarely lost his composure, felt his emotions go haywire at his son's words.

"I've already contacted the professional team. Bring Jasper back immediately. There's no safer or more quiet place in Harbor City than our home. The people and equipment will be waiting for him there."

With that, Zachary ended the meeting and rushed off, leaving behind the senior executives in the room to scratch their heads and share looks of confusion.

On the way back, Zachary lined the people up while he texted Michael the details.

Since they had already decided to involve Michael in this, there was no way they would neglect him when things were happening.

Zachary was efficient. Everyone he had prepared was mostly in place by the time Jasper, Henry, and Anna had returned to Law Manor.

The manager leading the team was Zack, someone Jasper had met once before.

“Hello, Mr. Laine. I’ll be the manager leading this team of stock traders. We’ll do our best to follow your instructions.”

Zack immediately walked over to speak when he saw Jasper.

This manager who had a quick mind, worked cleanly, and acted instead of speaking had left a good impression on Jasper.

“We’ve already worked together before, so it’s just the same thing as then. Execute my instructions as fast and as efficiently as possible. Leave everything else to me,” Jasper stated as he shook Zack’s hand.

Zack replied solemnly, “Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. These 15 stock traders here are an old team of mine. Their skills are guaranteed, and we’ve already signed an NDA of the highest order.”

Jasper nodded. He was not surprised for this was what he and Zachary had already discussed.

As the stock traders would be following Jasper’s orders directly, it could be said that they were Jasper’s left and right-hand men in this business war. What was most important was not high efficiency but rather, absolute trust.

Before these traders entered the room, the Law family’s bodyguards had taken all their phones and checked them for any form of communication devices.

Moreover, they were not allowed to take a step out of Law Manor before their mission was complete. The Law family would be in charge of everything they did, be it an intake or the letting out of food. Bodyguards were tasked to follow them even when they took bathroom breaks.

Naturally, their pay would also be a generous one.

They earned, in one day, what ordinary people could only earn in three months.

Zachary had especially cleared a large living room for this battle. When Jasper and Zack walked over, there were already 15 stock traders sitting in front of newly installed equipment, ready to begin.

Glancing at the large LED display on the wall, Jasper gave his first order for the war.

“Open up Harbor City stock market. I want the internet sector strictly monitored from now on and any change of stock prices exceeding 3% reported.

“Open a short position at the bottom. Zack, equally split and transfer the prepared 15 billion worth of funds to each of the traders’ accounts, then let me authorize it after you’re done.”

Zachary and Michael’s promised funds had already arrived earlier today and the funds that Jasper transferred from his account in Mainland had also smoothly arrived with John’s help.

At that moment, Jasper currently had a whopping 40 billion in his hands.

30 billion was from the Law family while he and Michael both contributed five billion.

This 40 billion would prove to be Jasper’s weapon to move all of Harbor City’s finances at his will.

Zack’s team was very efficient, and it was less than a minute after Jasper’s order that Zack reported the completion of tasks.

After entering the password authorization to the master computer with the highest authority, 15 billion funds were then split up and entered into each of the 15 traders’ accounts.

Zack’s heart raced as he saw the large balance before him.

Life at the Top Chapter 177

Up until that moment, Zack had no idea what the Law family and Jasper wanted him and his team to do. However, the shocking sight of 40 billion in cash signified that a storm had begun to brew over Harbor Stocks.

He did not dare ask nor think into it, throwing away all thoughts that he should not have. He waited in focus for Jasper's next order.

Just then, the doors opened to reveal Zachary and Michael walking in with solemn expressions on their faces.

"How's it going, Jasper?" Zachary asked.

Jasper relayed the information he had gotten from Jack.

"Weresoft... is splitting up?" Zachary asked in disbelief.

Michael was more sensitive, for he had switched to working in the finance industry, after all. "It's going to affect a lot of people."

Jasper nodded. "From my understanding of Weresoft, there's no way they'll be so willing to split just because they're forced to. However, once the news gets out, then it will come with drastic effects."

"Will this be what induces the popping of the bubble?" Michael asked.

Jasper shook his head. "It's one of them, but unless I have it wrong, another reason will appear very soon. I don't know what it'll be, but it'll definitely appear today. By then, the future will be set."

The fuse leading to the first world war was the Sarajevo assassination incident. There were too many contradictions, and conflicting forces were still keeping up the delicate balance. Yet one falling leaf was all it would take for this balance to topple and crash.

Weresoft losing their lawsuit was the first leaf, and the balance had already been toppled. It was still a slow process, but the next leaf would undoubtedly trigger the figurative avalanche.

“Mr. Laine, there’s a shift in Ardent Tech’s stock prices! It just dropped by 4%!”

Zack’s voice suddenly cut through Jasper and the other two’s conversation.

The three turned to look at the screen, and before their eyes were Ardent Tech’s stock prices on the large LED display, dropping a heavy 4% as if being axed.

At that moment, Harbor City’s investors had yet to realize the impending storm. Many merely assumed that it was a conspiracy within the stocks.

However, people with sharper senses began to realize that something was different this time.

“Keep watching and monitoring,” Jasper ordered without turning back.

The first change brought the second and the third changes.

“Sunny Internet’s stock prices dropped by 3.5%!”

“Carefree Net’s stock prices dropped by 3.6%!”

“The entire internet sector had an overall drop of 3%!”

“Its Hansel Index keeps dropping! It’s currently at 17,970 points!”

Updates after updates were reported.

The atmosphere within the large living room slowly turned nervous and heavy.

Michael and Zachary looked at Jasper, waiting for him to react.

Jasper did not say anything.

A quick moment later, Michael asked, "The stock prices are already dropping, Mr. Laine. Won't we start investing?"

"Not yet."

Jasper shook his head and replied, "It's not the time to start investing yet. There's no way the idle funds and organizations dealing these internet stocks will go down without a fight."

Michael frowned. "But Mr. Laine, if the future is already set, it'll be too late when we do start investing."

"You're welcome to take your funds out if you don't trust my judgment, Mr. Lane," Jasper replied calmly.

Michael frowned and spoke distastefully, "So you're going to be so stubborn?"

Life at the Top Chapter 178

Michael was enraged when Jasper talked back at him.

After all, Michael was still his elder, especially in terms of working in the business world. His Gladness International was a large corporation.

Everyone respected him, in front and behind his back.

Yet Jasper's words had cornered him and made it difficult for him to accept.

"We've already agreed, Mr. Lane. I need to have absolute authority," Jasper stated.

Michael replied roughly, "All I did was make a suggestion. You're the one who's acting like a tyrant who won't listen to others' opinions."

"I didn't say that I won't, but I'm trying to think and make a decision here. Your self-righteous suggestion will only divert my attention." Jasper's expression hardened at Michael's accusation.

"We're a team now. If we win, we split the winnings, and if we lose, we all shoulder the blame. If you've already decided to give me the full authority, then I'll greatly appreciate it if you remain a silent bystander most of the time, Mr. Lane."

Michael pointed at the market and laughed. "The market is dropping right now. If you're not going to start investing, then what if we miss the opportunity?"

"Let's all take a minute."

Zachary spoke in understanding and turned to Jasper with a light-hearted expression. "Mr. Lane might be a little confused here, Jasper. How about you explain it to him?"

"The dealer!"

Jasper pointed at the market and raised his voice. "There's no way internet companies will just stand there and watch as their own stock prices begin to drop. Not when a dealer is controlling the stocks in every company. No way."

"So you're telling me that no one has seen the horrible drop in the entire sector?" Michael scoffed.

"Of course, they have," Jasper replied without hesitation, "But most of their funds are in the stock market. If they want to pull out, they need to raise the prices first.

"Not to mention that the status of senior executives and bosses depends on the price of their stocks. They will definitely make a move."

Just as Jasper finished speaking, Zack's voice suddenly rang out.

"The overall price of the entire internet sector has just jumped back up!"

"All stock prices that dropped just now are rising at different rates again!"

"The market is picking up again. Businesses have begun to oscillate and recover!"

Michael's head snapped up as he stared at the electronic screen. Each green line that showed a decrease had turned red and started to rise.

"I..." Michael felt like there was a hand suffocating him and he could not speak.

The turn of events had given him a whiplash.

“Haha. Nothing to say this time, huh, Mike?” Zachary chuckled.

With Zachary smoothing over the situation, Michael then apologized to Jasper. He had an embarrassed expression on his face, but he was a man who knew when to leave things and move on. “My apologies, Mr. Laine, I’ve spoken out of turn. I did give you the authority when it comes to the stock market, so I shouldn’t have suspected your decision.”

Jasper’s expression warmed as he replied gently, “Like I said, Mr. Lane. We’re a team.

“You know too that we already have 40 billion funds at hand, but we’re in for a financial war involving hundreds of billions in the future. So I have to ensure my authority to command.

“My apologies if I offended you just now, Mr. Lane.”

Jasper had already spoken so understandingly and humbly that Michael was at a loss for words.

“Alright. I promise to watch my words,” Michael replied in admiration.

Jasper smiled and saw Zachary, who stood behind Michael, giving him a big thumbs up. Jasper turned to instruct Zack’s team, “Prepare to open a position!”

The clickity-clack of fingers on keyboards brought the living room into a frenzy, and the 15 professional stock traders immediately opened a position.

All it would take was an order from Jasper to buy any stocks, and they would immediately enter Harbor Stocks with a large number of funds.

Life at the Top Chapter 179

At that moment, fierce competition began among the people who were watching the rise and fall of the internet sector in Harbor Stocks. A large number of funds were entering the market every second.

Bearish people wanted to knock down the stock prices, bringing down with them all of Harbor Stocks and its Hansel Index. Meanwhile, bullish people continued to defend their territory and refused to let the prices drop so easily.

A war without the use of gunpowder continued to spread.

At that moment, in a quiet villa within Harbor City, the clicking of keyboards continued to sound out.

Kennedy stared at the display screen solemnly and kept firing orders.

A short distance away, Rogers sat idly as he sipped red wine.

“We’ve accumulated enough bargaining chips, Mr. Rogers,” Kennedy turned to tell Rogers.

Rogers put the glass of red wine down and looked at the screen, a playful smile tugging at the corners of his lips as he spoke, “News of Weresoft in the United States should’ve arrived at Harbor City by now, yes?”

Kennedy replied, “People more well-informed should already know by now. Quite the amount of funds have begun to enter the market.”

“Good!”

Rogers rolled his shoulders and walked over to the door. "I'll tell the people at Wall Street to start moving. There'll be an exciting battle there in no time, and I'm sure Harbor Stocks will immediately make their move as well."

"Solo, that old man, didn't manage to defeat Harbor City's economy three years ago, but this time, I'm going to make sure Harbor City's economy loses the past five years of their development!"

Bob spat at him sullenly as he watched Rogers leave to contact his Quantum Fund Group. "These white people from the United States are just coming here to dig up the graves of Harbor City's ancestors. And here we are, handing them the shovels."

Kennedy glanced at Bob plainly and spoke, "Ancestors don't exist in the capital market, but if you mind, you're free to leave."

Bob smiled embarrassedly. "I don't care if they live or die. The more they lose, the happier I become. After all, that's how we profit."

Five minutes later, Barron's, the dominating financial magazine, had published an emergency report in the United States.

Its contents were no different from Jasper's memory of his past life.

They had investigated more than 200 internet companies and realized that the senior executives there had all begun to cash out. The companies' performances began to fall, and a lot of them on the market were facing dilemmas of bankruptcy and restructuring.

With that report published, the public opinion around Wall Street that had been shrouded in the gloomy clouds of Weresoft losing the antitrust lawsuit immediately exploded.

The capital's senses were the most sensitive, and they had immediately affected the stock market.

All three of the United States' indexes, The Dow Jones, the S&P 500, and the Nasdaq Composite, plummeted drastically.

Without warning, the dot-com bubble crashed worldwide.

In a flash, trillions of funds turned into maddening strangles in the United States stock market, and enormous amounts of funds disappeared into thin air in mere seconds. Countless people were immediately faced with bankruptcy.

The tragedy hit like a tsunami, and it swallowed the entire world whole.

Harbor Stocks' Hansel Index was immediately affected, and countless investors immediately tried to retreat. Every investor began to sell their stocks at maddening speed in fear of being affected.

However... they were too late.

"Quick, what's the trading volume of the internet sector?"

"It's three times larger than it was three minutes ago! It's continuing to grow!"

"The Hansel Index just dropped by 200 points!"

"The stock market crashed!"

Zack's frantic and exceptionally excited voice was quickly followed by Jasper's new instructions.

"Open a position! Open a position! The Hansel Index, it's dropping! Open a position now!"

Life at the Top Chapter 180

In the futures market, one could decide whether they wanted to buy or to sell. In other words, to take a bullish or a bearish stand.

It was a simple idea. Taking the bullish stand meant that you believed the stock index would increase, so when it did, you earned profits.

Taking the bearish stand meant that you believed the index would drop, so when it did, you earned profits.

All in all, it was a gamble of whether the stock indexes would drop or rise.

Jasper believed that the Hansel Index would drop, so he chose to take a bearish stand.

When in truth, the falling of the Hansel Index was a trend that not even God could change.

The figurative tsunami had appeared at sea level, and the only thing anyone could do now was run as high up as possible, since stopping the tsunami was impossible.

With both Weresoftware losing the antitrust lawsuit and Barron's article, sorrow filled Harbor City's stock market.

The entire market was starting to crash, and retail investors were trying to escape. Everyone was selling their own stocks, but where would they find an investor who would take over the market at such a time?

For stocks to be sold out, it first required someone to buy them or the transaction could not be completed. Without anyone purchasing, the falling of prices was the only outcome!

Harbor Stocks right now and stock markets all over the world were facing the same situation.

Countless shares were dropping drastically and therefore lowered the overall stock indexes.

Almost every stock price was dropping!

Countless people were hugging their heads in disbelief at the current situation of Harbor Stocks' trading market. Wails, sobs, screams, and shouts filled the city.

The scene was one of absolute chaos.

At the same time, media companies were trying to report the latest news of the stock market as quickly as they could.

Now the entire world knew that the dot-com bubble had popped.

Such a situation only promoted more fear.

Harbor City's government quickly set up an emergency press conference stating that they would do everything in their ability to guarantee the safety of investor's funds while providing a series of favorable measures for internet companies.

Harbor City's government was trying to use politics to reignite the stock market to ensure that the city's economy could continue to develop.

Yet with the major trend of panic spreading through the entire market, the government of Harbor City's press conference produced no effects.

Stock prices continued to drop.

The drop in the stock index was beyond what anyone had ever seen.

Like a nightmare, it reminded Harbor City's investors of the horrific memories from the financial tsunami three years ago.

Every single citizen had to pay for the economic fallout of one single district.

The most straightforward and simple result was that the market price of companies would drop too low, thus leading to their cash flow breaking up and lastly the company closing down. The first thing that happened was the axing of employees.

Having lost their jobs, employees no longer had any economic income and their entire family's financial stability would be put at risk.

Too many people would lose their jobs, and the worst, as well as the most direct result, would be social chaos.

Similar tragic consequences had happened overseas before.

Citizens were terrified.

In less than half a trading day, the Hansel Index had continued to drop. By the time the market closed for the day, the Hansel Index had dropped to 14,979 points!

At that moment, everyone knew Harbor Stocks was screwed.

Those who took the bullish stand had lost everything in this war, down to their defenses. All they could do was watch as those who took the bearish stand celebrated joyfully.

They were tasting the fruits of their victory.

In Law Manor, Jasper let out a long exhale the moment the stock market closed.

“Report,” Jasper ordered.

Zack was flushed with excitement. He had never felt so ecstatic in the more than ten years since he started working in this industry.

Life at the Top Chapter 181

Gulping, Zack licked his dry lips and did his best to stop his voice from shaking. “Since this morning, the Hansel Index has dropped by 3,000 points and the 15 billion we invested in has become a total of 29.6 billion.

“In just one morning, we’ve earned 14.6 billion!”

“Stock god! Mr. Laine, you really are the god of stocks!”

Zack shook as he spoke.

At the same time, stock traders in the room all looked at Jasper with gazes of utter admiration. As executionists who merely followed his orders, they knew better than anyone how decisive and intellectual Jasper’s orders had been.

Many of his seemingly inexplicable orders had proven to have incomparable foresight, for the ever-changing capital market would shift a very short moment afterward.

It was as if Jasper could see through every secret in this treacherous capital market.

Jasper, who had been wearing a solemn expression for the past few hours, finally smiled and said, “Alright. Let’s go eat something now that the market is on break. Eat and drink whatever good food you want, and if there’s anything you need, just tell them and they’ll fulfill it!

“Oh, and everyone gets a 100,000 bonus.”

The stock traders immediately chortled at the news.

Meanwhile, Jasper and the rest left for their meal upstairs.

Both Michael and Henry kept staring at Jasper as they ate, for Jasper seemed as divine to them as God Himself.

“How are you so good at this?” Anna spoke honestly.

Jasper merely smiled. “Am I? It’s still too early for anything to be confirmed. We’ve only just started.”

Zachary heard him and asked, “When do you think the Hansel Index will stop dropping?”

Jasper fell into thought for a moment and tried to remember the result of the financial crisis in his past life.

A total of three trillion US dollars had vanished in this bubble. That was how terrifying it had been.

On the other hand, the Hansel Index had dropped to 8,000 points.

That was more than 60%.

To explain this concept with a simple example, imagine you invested 100 bucks into the stock market before the bubble. When the bubble was over, you would be left with less than 40 bucks.

If you happened to invest in a company that went bankrupt and had to exit the market, then you would be left without a single cent.

Such was the cruel reality of the financial market.

“There’s no way it’ll hold at 10,000 points. I’ll say it’ll drop past 9,000, at least.” Jasper gave a more conservative reply.

Zachary and Michael shared a look and sucked in a cold breath.

They understood what the figure Jasper gave them signified.

Such a figure meant that Harbor City's economy was set to lose at least five years of its economic growth.

"What's with your expressions? Don't we earn more the more it drops?" Henry asked dumbly.

Anna glared at him and replied, "That's why I told you to read more in your free time. Sure, we'll earn more the further it drops.

"But you have to remember that our family and Mr. Lane's family both have roots in Harbor City. How are business families like us supposed to continue making money when Harbor City's economy is screwed?"

Henry was stunned and quickly responded, "You're right! What do we do?"

Jasper was deep in thought.

He had been a mere bystander who could only witness what was happening after it happened in his past life. He had only learned of the economic crisis that burst the bubble afterward through reports.

Yet to experience it firsthand now, he could feel that there was an invisible hand controlling this financial crisis.

Someone seemed to be intentionally destroying Harbor City's economy.

"Harbor Stocks can drop, such is the trend. There's no way anyone can save it now with how the bubble has been enlarged. But that doesn't mean Harbor City's economy can be destroyed," Jasper stated solemnly.

He had intentions to invest in Harbor City, for its future development would undoubtedly bring unimaginable profits and return. As such, how could he let someone destroy Harbor City's economy?

"Harbor City must not be destroyed..."

Life at the Top Chapter 182

While the market was put on hold for lunch break, it gave a breather to every person in Harbor City who had been shrouded by gloomy clouds.

Just then, people suddenly realized that this storm had not come without warning.

In the United States across the ocean, a similar situation was occurring.

The entire dot-com bubble was being popped worldwide.

It had originated from the United States and slowly spread to Europe and Terra. Sweeping across the entire world, every stock market in every country and region was affected.

Everyone who entered the stock market with high prices now had to pay a tragic price for their impulsive decisions.

Almost one trillion US Dollars had been lost in the global stock market on the first trading day the bubble popped.

A flood of reports had brought the latest news to citizens of Harbor City, and the readers felt their scalps tingle in fear.

Harbor City had not fully recovered from the financial tsunami attack three years ago, and here they were with the popping of the dot-com bubble. Countless people had grown gray hairs overnight because of this.

With such unprecedented chaos happening in the background, all sorts of monsters and devils began to lurk.

Some so-called stock review experts on the economic channels were frantically advocating how the current crisis was merely a temporary adjustment and that everyone should hold their defenses so that they would not spread and create more panic...

As if anyone was willing to listen to them at this point.

Watching the stock prices drop by the minute and names of shares lining up at the limit down, everyone was worried that they would lose the money they had invested into the market. People were gloomy and they began to think of how they could extract themselves from the situation.

No matter how the outside world thought of and understood the situation, Jasper followed Zachary and Michael back to the living room that was their battleground after lunch.

“Say, Uncle Law, if Harbor City’s economy really faces irreversible losses, will the rich families of Harbor City save the city?” Jasper asked.

Zachary replied without hesitation, “Yes, or at least, most of us will. It’s just like the economic crisis three years ago. Most of Harbor City’s rich businessmen teamed up to defend against the invasion of western investors.

“Harbor City is our home, after all, and no one is excluded. If Harbor City’s economy is destroyed, then we rich families will also have nothing to rely on. Balancing the pros and cons, I think most people would be able to tell which is more important.”

Zachary's words had given Jasper something to think about.

"Let's see how it goes first." Jasper sighed.

Despite Zachary promising him, Jasper could not help but think that there was more to this incident.

If the mysterious force's target was Harbor City's economy, then it did not make sense for them to ignore the strength of Harbor City's wealthy families.

The biggest problem now was that the enemy was in the dark. Jasper did not have enough leads to go on.

However, Jasper had his advantages as well. His biggest one being the same as his opponents—a hidden identity. His only solace was that his opponent did not know enough about himself either.

That afternoon, the market opened again on time.

Just as Jasper had expected, after the short lunch break, bullish funds were gathered together and the battle began to focus on a few representative stocks.

Since it had just been a few minutes since the market reopened, both sides were still trading back and forth.

Such had given countless investors hope and reignited their trust in the market.

However, people in the industry, like Jasper, knew that this was merely a ray of light before death befell.

As expected, ten minutes after the market reopened, there seemed to be no end to the funds from the short position. The bullish people could not hold it up anymore and their line of defense fell again.

This time, it was a rapid drop.

The Hansel Index had instantly fallen by 500 points.

Steady flowing water in a river had suddenly turned into a waterfall that plummeted off the cliff. It sprayed everywhere like an avalanche, and no one could stop the attack from the short position.

“The market crashed!”

Jasper suddenly spoke, staring at the spectacular sight of pure, tragic green on the screen. Almost every stock was dropping.

Life at the Top Chapter 183

At that moment, calls were blowing up Zachary's phone.

They were all from Harbor City's rich families, some of whom even held senior positions in the government of Harbor City.

They had one goal.

In face of Harbor City's current economic crisis that was so severe, the rich were frantic and lost. They needed to communicate a plan.

As the wealthy held the life of Harbor City's economy in their hands, they were the only ones with the power to turn the tides at such a time.

Even Michael had received similar phone calls.

Both Zachary and Michael were torn between feeling ecstatic and sorrowful.

For the bigger dip the stock market took, the more they earned. Yet letting it continue to drop was no different than killing the goose that laid golden eggs.

Not to mention that the Law family's prestigious image would be destroyed if the outside world came to know about the situation.

"Not only are the wealthy families frantic, but even the government of Harbor City is urging for action too, Jasper. They need to discuss a plan to save the city. What's your say in this?"

Zachary had begun to see Jasper as an equal, instead of someone from the younger generation, before he knew it.

Otherwise, Zachary would not ask Jasper for his opinion on something so crucial.

"Saving them goes without saying," Jasper replied with certainty.

Even Michael could tell.

"Harbor City's economy is a base. It can drop, but it must not be destroyed."

Jasper glanced at the stock market that continued to fall without restraint. Harbor City currently had around 1,300 stocks on the market and more than 900 of them had reached the limit down.

With the way things were going, at least 1,000 stocks would reach the limit down before the market closed this evening.

This was a situation that Harbor Stocks had never encountered since its first opening.

To Jasper, Harbor City would turn to be one of his biggest golden cash cows, leading to the burst of growth in his wealth in the future. As such, how would he allow others to destroy this cow of his?

That was no different from getting sacked.

Logically and emotionally speaking, Jasper would not let such a thing occur.

Zachary nodded. "Michael and I will talk to them tomorrow."

"More than a thousand stocks have reached the limit down!"

Zack's voice suddenly rang out.

Jasper and the other two turned to look. The scene that was talked about by countless people in his past life had finally appeared.

On the limit down, the number of companies' stocks: 1,001!

Like some sort of signal, the Hansel Index's defenses completely fell and dropped by more than 1,000 points!

If one were to look at the market for Harbor Stocks right now, all the stocks they would be able to see were gathered at the limit down, and the entire screen before them would be filled with tragic light green lines.

"Profit report," Jasper demanded.

"Hansel Index closed at 8,700 points. Total account balance amounts to 45 billion, a total profit of 30 billion!"

15 billion in capital had brought them 30 billion worth of profit.

While everyone had expected it, their hearts could not help but shudder as Zack announced the figure.

Zachary wore an expression of utter shock. Despite being a hero in the business world, he could not stop his heart from shaking in excitement.

“Is... this the capital market? Earning 30 billion worth of profit in a day?!”

Life at the Top Chapter 184

'Popping of the Dot-Com Bubble!'

'Harbor Stocks Drops Violently by 10,000 Points!'

'Hundreds of Billion Harbor Dollars Lost!'

'Financial Tsunami Tragedy Three Years Ago Sweeps Harbor City Again!'

'Harbor City's Economy in Danger, Citizens Ask What Now?'

Countless news articles had spread throughout Harbor City that night.

Almost every citizen was affected by the crisis.

Switching on the television, every channel was reporting today's economic crisis.

What truly chilled the hearts of civilians was that the boss of Carefree Net, an internet company on the stock market, had gone bankrupt and proceeded to kill himself and his kids by jumping from the rooftop.

A true tragedy.

Sorrow and fright could be seen everywhere in Harbor City.

Meanwhile, a joyful party was held in a rural and safe villa somewhere in Harbor City.

“Haha. In these few years, I’ve never been as happy as I am today!”

Bob raised his wine glass and clinked it with Kennedy’s with a smile on his face as he spoke.

Kennedy smiled and replied, “Yeah. We earned almost ten billion today. What’s better than earning money?”

“But something still feels weird to me.” Bob rubbed his chin and explained, “According to our predictions, we knew that Harbor Stocks were bound to have a violent drop, but we never expected them to drop like this. It’s too exaggerated. I almost got a shock with the Hansel Index dropping 10,000 points in just one day.”

“Just our funds alone wouldn’t have gotten us this result,” Bob frowned and voiced out.

Kennedy seemed to be in thought as well. “I realized it this afternoon as well. There’s got to be another entity in the market aside from us and their funds are not in any way lesser than ours. They’ve taken the bearish stand too, and if I had to guess, I’d say they had prepared at least tens of billions of funds!”

“Who do you think it is?” Bob asked sullenly.

“I don’t know, but it probably isn’t Harbor City’s local forces.” Kennedy gave his own deductions.

Just then, Rogers descended the villa's stairs with a relaxed expression and turned to Kennedy. "Quantum Funds' headquarters are very happy with our results, my friends. Wall Street's investors have largely profited too. Shouldn't all this good news be celebrated?"

Unable to disagree, Kennedy and Bob nodded with a smile. Then, they told him of their suspicions.

Rogers frowned, but his expression was not one of concern. "Perhaps Europe's other capitals were sold, or it may even be one of your Somerland's neighbors? But I can confirm that the capital wasn't from Wall Street.

"Keep an eye out tomorrow, we'll watch out for their next course of action," Rogers replied plainly.

Bob hesitated before he spoke, "Mr. Rogers, our original plan was to knock the Hansel Index down by 10,000 points in three days.

"But it's only the first day and the Hansel Index has already dropped 9,000 points. If this goes on, the government of Harbor City and the other rich families will team up to help."

Kennedy interrupted, "I already received their calls today, saying that the four main families should come up with a plan and publicize it, then team up with the other wealthy families to save the city."

Rogers smiled playfully. "It's a shame that they don't know that among Harbor City's four main rich families, you're egging for Harbor Stocks to drop."

Kennedy replied plainly, "Still, you can't let them find out, or at least, not yet. Otherwise, that's goodbye to my foothold in Harbor City."

Life at the Top Chapter 185

“The Langdons’ business has already started moving out of Harbor City, hasn’t it? You’re everywhere in Southeast Terra, so what are you afraid of?” Rogers did not care.

“But there’s nothing wrong with you going. At least then we’ll get some insight on how Harbor City’s four major families plan to save the city. With intel on our side, how will they ever win us?” Rogers stated plainly.

Rogers clapped Kennedy’s shoulder when he took notice of the other’s calm expression. “There’s a saying in the United States that capital only makes friends with winners, Langdon. Harbor City’s still too small, not to mention that it has already returned to its previous state now. You have to know that the west is where true heaven exists for people like you.”

Kennedy smiled. “I know. We will always be friends with Quantum Funds.”

Rogers laughed aloud. “Of course, as one of its founders, I can promise you that Quantum Funds will always be willing to be friends with intelligent people like you.”

...

The night slowly darkened, and Zachary had much to do. In addition to the shock the stock market had suffered, people were very volatile right now. That was why he left the house after the market closed.

It was especially in times like this that celebrities like Zachary and Michael became busier, for most people expected the rich to provide them with rescue measures.

Meanwhile, their companies also needed to show their presence to calm the civilians' hearts.

Jasper, on the other hand, now had a lot of free time.

Watching the situation with the United States stock market, Jasper realized that its development was fundamentally different from his past life.

Perhaps it was his participation in Harbor Stocks, but the strength and speed of this storm had been greatly increased.

Harbor Stocks had only dropped 10,000 points three days after the storm began in his past life, yet it had dropped more than 9,000 points in one day this time. Today's daily decline had hit an all-time high.

It was the first time for any stock market worldwide to drop 10,000 points in one day.

The night was cold, and Jasper pondered over tomorrow's plan.

Anna had walked over before Jasper realized. She said to him, "You haven't been resting well these past few days. Won't you take the time to give yourself a break?"

"I'm not actually that tired. Plus, there are a lot of things that I haven't planned yet," Jasper replied with a smile.

Anna sighed. "Bystanders only see how brightly successful people shine, yet not many of them know that success has never come easy to begin with."

"That's the idea. You'll have to put in the effort if you want to reap rewards." Jasper agreed.

Anna gave it some thought before she suddenly invited Jasper, seeing as he did not have the intention to rest. “How about we take a walk around Victoria Harbor?”

Jasper was shocked. “Now?”

“What, are you afraid I’ll sell you off?” Anna joked. “I told you when you first arrived in Harbor City, didn’t I? That I’ll be your tour guide and bring you around Victoria Harbor? You’ve already been in Harbor City for so long and you still haven’t stepped foot there yet.”

Jasper smiled. “Alright. Let’s go, then. I’ll take the chance to relax.”

The two walked to the garage together, tacitly choosing to ignore Henry’s car with large headlights this time.

Sitting in Anna’s Porsche 911, Jasper felt his nerves unwind after the past few days of accumulated stress as he watched Harbor City’s night view zoom past him.

“Are you saving the city tomorrow?” Anna asked while driving.

Jasper thought about it and replied, “As a businessman, my main focus is business. Everything else is secondary to me. That’s why I did what I did today.”

“But being a businessman means you have to look at the bigger picture. And the crashing of Harbor City’s stock market is bad news to me and the whole Harbor City!”

Life at the Top Chapter 186

“But whether I do save the city or not tomorrow will depend on how things end up going.”

Anna fell into deep thought. “You mean that if the trend continues and the market crashes, then you won’t help. But if this is caused by someone and they’re secretly trying to increase the severity of this economic crisis, you’ll help?”

Jasper smiled. “Smart! There’s no way I’d be able to fight the trend of the dot-com bubble popping no matter how rich I become, so the only way to earn money now is to go with the flow. Fighting against the trend is only something idiots would do.

“But if someone from the outside is putting their capital in? That means someone’s trying to crush Harbor City’s economy and that’s a man-made disaster, not a natural one! Then I have to act!

“Not to mention that the government of Harbor City and the city’s rich families will act even if I don’t do anything. By then, I’ll still just go with the flow!”

As they spoke, the two arrived at Victoria Harbor.

Anna pulled the car to a stop, and the two walked on the pedestrian bridge side by side like many ordinary couples here.

Harbor City was overpopulated, so most roads were rather crowded. As such, pedestrian bridges had been integrated into one of Harbor City’s unique scenery.

It was getting late, but an international metropolis like Harbor City hardly ever grew deserted.

People came and went on the pedestrian bridge, most of them talking about what had happened on the stock markets today. People strode quickly around them with sullen expressions on their faces.

As Jasper and Anna chatted and walked around Victoria Harbor with smiles on their faces, Mitch and Zane were currently joyfully clinking glasses at an open bar.

“Today sure was great, Young Master Langdon! Had you not shown me the way to earn money and told me to take the bearish stand for Harbor Stocks, I wouldn’t have been able to earn tens of millions today!” Zane thanked Mitch elatedly.

Mitch merely smiled softly at Zane’s praise. “It’s nothing. Keep working for me and I can promise you’ll be earning big bucks in the future. This is only the beginning.”

“Looking at those aggrieved expressions those people wore just makes me want to laugh! What do they know about stocks? They had it coming for losing!”

Zane leaned against the chair comfortably and enjoyed the sea breeze. “How much did you earn today, Young Master Langdon?”

Mitch’s lips quirked upward as he lifted two fingers.

“200 million?!” Zane exclaimed.

Mitch burst out in laughter. “Look at you, so unpromising. It’s just 200 million, that’s nothing. I’m one of Harbor City’s well-known investing masters, after all. I could tell that something was up when I looked at the market’s big picture. So I prepared my funds and chose to take the bearish stand before it was too late. There’s only more money to be made from now on.”

Zane replied in admiration, “You sure are good at this, Young Master Langdon...”

Halfway through his praise, Zane's eyes suddenly widened. Looking over in the other direction, he roared, "What the hell! Look at those two, Young Master Langdon. It's Jasper, that country bumpkin, and Anna?"

Hearing Zane, Mitch immediately snapped his head over to see a couple walking by the harbor not too far away, approaching their direction.

While the lighting around them was dim, Mitch could easily tell the two's identities!

"Motherf*cker! It really is that country bumpkin and Anna!"

Mitch huffed enviously.

He had been chasing after Anna for quite a few years already. Yet every time she saw him, she would have a dark expression on her face. How could she possibly take strolls with him?!

He thought about himself, how he was still a member of one of the four major rich families in Harbor City with equal footing as the Law family. However, Annie had never even looked his way!

Meanwhile, Jasper, a country bumpkin from Mainland, was deeply favored by her...

Mitch scoffed and stood up when he saw Jasper, that new distaste adding to his old resentment. "Come on, let's go talk."

Jasper was chatting and laughing with Anna when a sharp voice sounded not too far away.

"Hey, isn't this a Mainland cockroach?"

Life at the Top Chapter 187

Zane had both his hands in his pant pockets as he scoffed at Jasper and spoke, “What? Haven’t seen a night view as beautiful as Harbor City’s before? That must be why you’re here, right? To learn more about the world.”

“Don’t say that.”

Mitch glared at Jasper and spoke wittily, “That’s a humiliation to cockroaches. People like him should be called a mangy dog.

“After all, it wasn’t easy climbing up a tree like the Law family. He looks so proud of himself. It’s like he can’t wait to wag his tail and please his master.”

Zane broke out into a laugh and agreed. “You’re right, Young Master Langdon. He really is just a mangy dog!”

Jasper could not help but feel like he was being stalked by Zane and Mitch.

Needless to say, the amount of hatred, new and old, between them had gotten beyond the point of mitigation.

“Should’ve checked my horoscope today before I left the house.” Jasper shook his head.

“Shouldn’t we be the ones saying this?”

Zane scoffed. “What misfortune to see a dog like you the moment I leave my house.”

“You’ve got to be understanding too. After all, Mainland is hardly as urbanized as Harbor City. At least he’ll have something to gloat to his friends back in Mainland if he has walked around Victoria Harbor.”

Mitch mocked plainly.

With that, Mitch then turned to Anna. “How could you come out for a walk with someone like this, Anna? What about your dignity if this news gets spread?”

Anna had long felt annoyed when it came to Mitch, so she replied to his words coldly, “Who are you to control who I take walks with? And watch your attitude, the two of you. You disgust me.”

“I disgust you?!”

Mitch started laughing, feeling infuriated as he pointed at Jasper. “It’s people like him who schemes and tries to flatter his way into your family who’s disgusting here!”

“What gave you the idea that he’s flattering his way into my family?” Anna asked impolitely.

“Just look at him. It’s obvious, isn’t it?”

Mitch spoke with certainty, “You’ll get the f*ck out of Harbor City if you still see yourself as a man, Jasper! Leave Anna alone, or we’ll never have an ounce of respect for you!”

“How does your respecting me or not affect me?” Jasper asked.

Mitch scoffed and replied wretchedly, “You really are just a mangy dog!”

“Let’s go, Jasper.”

Anna had enough of the two's faces and pulled Jasper away to leave.

"Stand there!"

Mitch blocked the duo's path and sneered at Jasper. "I thought you were capable, country bumpkin. But all you're doing now is hiding between a girl's legs and running away?"

"Exactly, Miss Law. I'd think carefully if I were you. Young Master Langdon easily earned 200 million from the stock market today. What about that country bumpkin next to you, can he do that?" Zane sneered.

Mitch was pleased with what Zane had said and huffed his chest as he spoke with an intentionally nonchalant tone, "It's just 200 million. I could already tell from the trend that Harbor Stock's index would plummet. That's why I prepared money and opened a position for a bearish stand. Earning just that bit of money was easy-peasy."

With that, Mitch turned to Jasper and snickered. "I'd f*ck off soon if I were you, you Mainland country bumpkin. Harbor City isn't a place for losers like you!"

At that, Jasper merely chuckled in disagreement. "Is 200 million a lot of money?"

Life at the Top Chapter 188

"Pfft!"

Mitch burst out laughing and said while laughing, "What did I just hear? 200 million is not a lot, but can you make so much? You're just lucky, and you only

made some money from shady businesses, so how can you compare to me? I made my money with my own ability!”

“Yeah, you’re just a country bumpkin and you dare to compare with Young Master Langdon? You’re a humiliation to all of us with the last names starting with L,” Zane chuckled coldly and said at one side.

“I’m sorry, I think I’m going to disappoint you guys. I did use my luck to make money, but my luck has been great so far. From stock speculation to futures, I rarely fail. I think I made a few billion in just a few months.”

Jasper shrugged and looked at the two of them who widened their eyes after they heard him saying that. He chuckled lightly.

“Right, how much did you say you made? 200 million? You just made the scraps from what I made, so I guess that’s just my pocket money.”

Mitch and Zane felt a buzz in their heads and they almost shut down.

Pocket money?

The rich children of the rich families in Harbor City did not even dare to say 200 million was pocket money and this country bumpkin from Mainland had the balls to say this?

“Bullsh*t!”

Zane said sharply, “Country bumpkin, you expect us to believe that you’ve made a few billion just from your words? You even made a few billion in a few months? I don’t even have the guts to say this! Who do you think you are?”

“Mitch, just because you can’t make this much doesn’t mean other people can’t,” Jasper said flatly.

Mitch narrowed his eyes and looked at Jasper sinisterly. He chuckled coldly and said, "Do you think I'm as easy to fool as a three-year-old? How many hundred million of capital do you need to make a few billion in the stock market in such a short period? Have you calculated that? All ten of your fingers won't be enough for you to count that!"

"Whatever. Do you think I care whether you believe me or not?" Jasper sneered.

Mitch was immediately speechless, and he felt extremely terrible.

It was because he believed that Jasper was able to make some money in the stock market by seizing every opportunity.

After he had this thought, Mitch felt so jealous and pissed that it felt as if he had bugs gnawing on his heart.

Then, he looked at Anna who was standing next to him.

Mitch could only feel that Jasper had defeated him in the business world and also relationship-wise.

Now, he felt that he was the country bumpkin instead!

"Hehe, how amazing you are!"

Mitch smiled coldly while gritting his teeth. "However, don't feel too pleased with yourself, country bumpkin. There'll be a time when you'll cry!"

"Young Master Langdon, have you forgotten about our bet last time? You lost 100 million to me, and it was thanks to that I was able to bid on a pink diamond that's worth a few hundred million at the charity party."

Jasper looked at Mitch and Zane. He said indifferently, "Plus, Mr. Lancaster, I almost bought your family's company last time, and in the end, your father had to show up and give me a billion dollars!

"Have you guys already forgotten about that?"

After they heard this, their faces turned green. There was a hint of anger in their eyes and their faces looked sinister.

Especially Zane. When he remembered what had happened last time, he did not even know what to say.

"Damn you! Do you think you're all that just because you seized every opportunity and defeated me? Don't forget that the stock market can make someone get rich in one night but can also make someone lose everything in one night!"

Mitch glared at Jasper malevolently. He chuckled coldly and said, "Hmph, you just defeated me by 100 million. I can earn it back with just a turn of my hand. Plus, I can make even more in the future.

"Country bumpkin, it's okay for you to come here to make money. If you're tactful, I can take you along to make more with me.

"As long as you leave Anna and get out of Harbor City after you make your money, I'll be willing to let you tag along. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, so don't blame me for not giving you this chance."

Jasper smiled. "After you let me tag along then we'll watch Harbor Stocks continue plummeting, yeah?"

"This will just make things worse in a bad situation. If the economy in Harbor City collapses, no one can escape unscathed in a great disaster."

“You son of a b*tch! Stop saying it like you’re so high and mighty! Aren’t you involved in the stock market to make money?”

Mitch felt disgusted when he saw Jasper acting so pretentious. He looked at Anna. “Anna, did you see that? He didn’t come here to make money. He’s obviously putting on an act for you by being so full of justice! It’s so that you’ll fall for his tricks!”

“Do you think Jasper is on the same level as you guys?”

Anna suddenly said. She could not stand this anymore, so she opened her mouth and berated.

Life at the Top Chapter 189

When Mitch saw Anna siding with Jasper, he felt the fire of anger and jealousy burning in his chest. His eyes were filled with rage!

“Anna, I know you’re pure-hearted, but don’t be fooled by him! Do you think he got close to the Laws with no ulterior motives?”

Anna gritted her teeth with anger. She wanted to tell them that Jasper was making a lot of money just from the short sale.

Due to the general trend, the market of Harbor Stocks would plummet. He could not fight the general trend, and Harbor Stocks would fall no matter if he did or not.

However, this was the secret between the Laws and Jasper, so Anna could not tell them everything.

She looked at Mitch and Zane before saying coldly, “Mitch, do you know what Jasper said to me just now? We’re talking about how we’re going to save the crisis of Harbor Stocks and not how to continue to suck the blood of the citizens of Harbor City dry! As someone from a rich family, don’t you ever think about the economy of Harbor City?”

“A market rescue?”

Mitch almost burst out laughing. “Jasper?”

Mitch pointed at Jasper’s nose and was struggling to breathe due to all the laughing. “This is the burst of the dot-com bubble. Do you know what it means by the bubble bursting?”

“You just made some money in the stock market because you got f*cking lucky. Do you seriously think you’re able to predict and understand everything?”

“Damn, this is a f*cking global financial crisis and you want to do a market rescue? You? A country bumpkin from Mainland? I’m going to die from laughter.”

“Harbor Stocks are worth a few trillion dollars. They fell 10,000 points today and the Langdons can’t even save this. You can still be a poser back in Mainland with your coins. Aren’t you scared that I’ll laugh my head off from you boasting shamelessly in Harbor City?”

Jasper looked at Mitch sympathetically and said flatly, “Continue laughing then. Laugh more. I hope you can laugh for a few more days.”

Mitch deliberately laughed even louder. “I’m going to keep laughing and I’ll laugh at you every day. What can a country bumpkin like you do to me?”

“A market rescue? F*ck your market rescue and f*ck you! You’re so pretentious that your head is in outer space. What do you even have? You’re just a country bumpkin from Mainland and you want to rescue Harbor Stocks? You might not be afraid to lose your image, but aren’t you afraid of embarrassing the Laws?”

“Anna, are you willing to let the Laws lose their image because of this country bumpkin from Mainland? I think you should tell him to get lost as soon as he can!”

“You’re so senseless!” After Anna said that frigidly, she grabbed Jasper and said, “Jasper, let’s go. We have nothing to say to this lunatic.”

Jasper patted Anna’s hand and said to Mitch, “I’ll remember your laughing face. I hope you can still laugh as foolishly as you are now the next time we see each other.

“The one who gets the last laugh is the winner, no?”

After he said that, Jasper left slowly with Anna.

Mitch watched as Jasper and Anna’s figures walked farther and farther away. The smile on his face slowly disappeared, and what was left was a distorted look filled with malevolence.

“Young Master Langdon, I want to kill that country bumpkin so badly!” Zane said through gritted teeth.

“I want to do it more than you!”

Mitch snorted and said loftily, “Just wait, the time will come when he’ll die. Let’s just allow him to feel pleased with himself for now.”

Zane pondered for a while and asked, “He said he made a few billion from the stock market and wants to rescue the market. Do you think he’s serious?”

Mitch gritted his teeth and chuckled coldly. He said, “I think he did make some money but I’m sure it’s not as much as a few billion. Just listen to him talk big! And he even wants to save the market? He must be dreaming!”

Mitch remembered the news his father had talked about on a call while he was standing in front of the door of his study. He felt his heart burning up.

He knew that his father was probably doing something major and it was related to the financial crisis.

However, Mitch would not tell anyone about this secret.

When he thought about this, he scoffed. 'Jasper, even if you're all that, but can you do better than the Langdons?'

"Tomorrow, let's take out all of our savings for a short sale. We'll use this once-in-a-lifetime chance to get rich overnight!"

Zane was shocked when he heard this. He said, "All of our savings? Isn't this a little risky?"

"What are you scared of?"

Mitch glared at Zane. "Just do as I say. I have a source, and I got some information that the financial crisis this time won't be so simple. It's still early, and that country bumpkin wants to go against me. After I make enough money, I'll kill him!"

Zane thought about it and said through gritted teeth, "Alright, I'll do as you say. I'll get the money tomorrow!"

Life at the Top Chapter 190

After leaving Victoria Harbor, because of Mitch and his gang, their moods were destroyed so they went straight home.

Tonight, a lot of people in Harbor City could not sleep.

This entire city fell into a dense cloud of dismal.

However, Jasper got himself a rare good night's sleep.

He had not had the chance to rest for the past few days because of the time difference and having to follow up on the stock market in the United States. He had to be prepared for the burst of the dot-com bubble at any time.

Now, the bubble had burst and the storm had arrived in Harbor City.

Jasper slept soundly tonight, and he only woke up because of the blaring alarm clock the next morning.

After washing up and eating some breakfast, he walked to the living room.

At this moment, Zach and his team were already in position.

When they saw Jasper, everyone got up enthusiastically and greeted him.

Due to the exceptional results yesterday, Jasper was now the true stock god in their hearts.

As such, even if Jasper told them the sun was square, they would lift their heads to look at it seriously.

“My dad as well as Mr. Lane and his gang have gone to Clark Duvall. I think they’re discussing the countermeasure for dealing with this.”

When Anna saw Jasper walking over, she walked over to him and said.

After nodding, Jasper said, “We should have news by afternoon.”

While he was saying that, the trading had commenced.

At the same time, the trading commencement of Harbor Stocks had attracted the attention of a lot of people.

At this moment, the entire Harbor City went silent. Everyone was watching the changing of Harbor Stocks.

It was not out of everyone’s expectations. After the commencement, the stocks started to plummet wildly.

The plummet yesterday was enough to make Harbor City famous around the world, but it was as if that was not enough. The wealth and riches of Harbor City were evaporating amidst the bitter plummet.

Now, even the most impulsive investors were silenced. Everyone looked as if they were numb.

Everyone’s faces were as gray as ash.

They could only watch as Harbor Stocks continued to plummet.

Everyone’s moods were like the plummeting numbers. They felt as if they were falling down a cliff and they could never reach the bottom.

“The Hansel Index fell by 800 points after the commencement and it’s reaching the gateway of 8,000 points.”

Zack was announcing the situation of the market.

At this moment, everyone was extremely nervous and felt strange in their hearts.

Jasper looked at the time on the screen. It had only been 30 seconds since the commencement.

They had a slump of 800 points in only 30 seconds.

It seemed that this mysterious hand would not be satisfied if it did not completely destroy Harbor City.

“There’s another two billion from a put option short seller! The Hansel Index dropped by another 180 points! It’s now at 7,813 points!”

Zack’s voice sounded again.

Jasper furrowed his brows tightly.

That mysterious fund finally bared its fangs after failing to control itself.

“Give up on the shorts we have now. Let’s hedge this two billion,” Jasper ordered.

Zack was stumped for words.

The more the Hansel Index fell, the more money the party that was waiting for it to drop would make. However, Jasper was now asking them to hedge the other party while facing the destruction of the economy of Harbor Stocks.

Hedging meant that Jasper would buy what the other party sold.

The more the other party sold, the more Jasper would buy.

That way, there would be two successful transactions and it would stop the plummeting Hansel Index from dipping even more.

There was another name for it, and it was called the protection of the market.

Jasper was going to protect the market of Harbor Stocks.

However, a second later, Zack quickly realized this was not the time to space out. Hence, he quickly did what Jasper told him to do.

At the same time, Zack started to feel a surge in his heart.

Life at the Top Chapter 191

To Jasper, he wanted to protect Harbor City's economy even if it meant giving up the profits he already had in his hands.

What kind of mindset was this?

Even though they had made a lot of money these two days and Zack could get a hefty sum of money, he and his team were from Harbor City after all.

Zack would still feel a little uncomfortable when he watched the economy of his home being plundered and robbed by someone else. In addition to that, they were also sucking the blood of the citizens and taking away the results their economy had gained after so many years.

However, he was just someone holding onto a job. He did not have the ability, and his words would not amount to anything, so it would be impossible for him to do anything.

However, now, Jasper's order felt like a cardiac stimulant to him.

'Mr. Laine... is a hero!' Zack murmured to himself in his heart.

Jasper's expression was serious. His main issue was that someone else was digging this farmland that was Harbor City and he could not tolerate this!

This farmland would be able to bring him a lot of opportunities to make money in the future!

The measly profits that he was letting go now would be able to get him a wider space to grow in the future.

He would need to be farsighted if he wanted to do business. He would not have a future if he kept staring at those tiny profits in front of him.

Now, the Hansel Index had dropped to 8,000 points. Its limit would be this even if Jasper did not do anything. If it continued to lose another 1,000 points and reached 7,000, the Harbor City government would take strong action and those millionaires would also start to inject funds.

To Jasper, 90% of the money he could make was already in his pocket. As for the remaining 10%, it would be a worthy trade if it would be able to give Harbor City a rapidly developing economy in the next 20 years.

In Harbor Stocks Trading Center, everyone lost all of their hopes when they saw the two billion being shown on the screen.

To them, Harbor Stocks would continue to plummet this morning as they had yesterday. They would continue to bomb.

“Oh no, oh no! This is the same as the financial crisis three years ago! It’s exactly the same!”

An old stock investor wailed in front of the trading hall with tears in his eyes.

Everyone around him was silent, and they all had despair on their faces.

However, when despair was looming over everyone, a buy order of two billion appeared in the list of trading without any warning signs.

In the next second, a buying order and a selling order were hedging. The Hansel Index miraculously stabled at 7,813 points and did not drop anymore!

“What’s going on? Did someone eat the order of two billion?” someone yelled loudly.

This loud voice attracted everyone's attention.

When they realized what they were seeing was not an illusion, someone yelled, "Did the four wealthy families do something?"

"Maybe the government of Harbor City injected the emergency funds into the market?"

Among the commotion, inside Law Manor that was more than ten kilometers away.

"There are 15 stock traders and everyone is using their own accounts to display the order they bought with 100 million. These 15 orders will be the tool for us to protect the market and fight back."

Jasper took a sip of the spring tea Anna handed him as he stared at the screen and ordered.

Inside the living room, all of the stock traders were so excited that their faces were red.

None of them would expect to be in the team of heroes saving Harbor Stocks one day.

Some things were more important than making money in one's life.

Harbor City was their home, and they did not want to watch as their home got destroyed.

At this moment, everyone was working faster and with more excitement than when they were furiously making money.

In the next second, an order occupied a line of information. Then, 15 lines of information and 15 purchase orders appeared in the trading list of Harbor Stocks.

15 orders.

15 purchasing information.

All of them were worth 100 million.

They were displayed dazzlingly and evidently on the screen, occupying the buying list that had been empty for a day and a half.

The purchasing order of 1.5 billion was like a soundless and shapeless thing, but at that moment, it was a message that everyone in Harbor City could understand as it resounded in everyone's hearts.

'When you're in despair and when you're feeling helpless, someone is still protecting and saving the economy of Harbor City!'

At this moment, in another secluded villa on the other side of Harbor City, Bob furrowed his brows tightly.

"Someone's causing trouble!"

Life at the Top Chapter 192

When the 15 orders totaled 1.5 billion were listed on the trading list, Bob could tell something was wrong. Someone wanted to protect the market!

It was because Kennedy was at the internal meeting of the four wealthy families.

He could not be absent from this important meeting with his current status. If not, his entire plan would be exposed and they would be finished.

As such, Bob was the one controlling the situation. However, they did not expect that someone would do something at this moment. Were the four wealthy families and the government of Harbor City doing something to save the city?

Impossible! They would not be so fast!

“Mr. Lancaster, someone devoured the order we sold for two billion earlier in the blink of an eye. Now, they’re listing out these 15 orders and it’s clear that they’re declaring war with us.”

The manager who was leading the stock traders said.

“It doesn’t matter who it is. They’re just overrating themselves and attempting something impossible.”

Bob thought for a while before chuckling coldly. He ordered, “Take them down. Don’t give them any hope.”

After Bob gave out that order, the stock traders started to do their things.

In the blink of an eye, the 1.5 billion order was swept clean.

“Continue selling. I want the Hansel Index to drop until 7,000 points this morning!”

Bob’s haughty voice reverberated in the villa.

He was enjoying the feeling of being full of vim. When Kennedy was here, his words were nothing compared to his.

However, it was different now. He was the boss here, and with one sentence, he was able to cause the rise and fall of Harbor Stocks. He was also able to control the fall of Harbor Stocks according to his wishes. This feeling was even more addictive than doing drugs.

...

“Mr. Laine, the other party has swept our orders clean. We’re still selling shorts and watching it drop!”

When Jasper heard Zack’s voice, he stayed silent for a while. A moment later, he ordered, “Take. Take as many as they have. We have to maintain the Hansel Index at 7,810 points.”

After Jasper’s order, Zack started to instruct the stock traders.

Immediately, Jasper and Bob’s funds were competing against each other on Harbor Stocks.

The funds that were worth more than ten billion did not cause any ripples when they were going against each other. However, these funds worth more than ten billion dollars would dictate the fate of Harbor Stocks this morning before the market closed.

“Tell me the situation of the funds in our account,” Jasper said while looking at the market without blinking.

“For now, we have about 89.6 billion in our account.”

When Jasper heard what Zack said, he nodded.

His capital was 40 billion. He had made almost 50 billion from yesterday and today.

Since he had such a huge amount of funds in his hands, he was naturally confident.

“Continue to list out purchase orders for a total of three billion. I want the Hansel Index to rise ten more points.”

...

“B*stard!”

Bob stared gloomily at the changes in the market. It had only been half an hour and he had already put in almost five billion dollars. However, it was as if the other party’s funds were bottomless. The other party would put in as much as they put in.

After spending five billion dollars, not only did the Hansel Index not fall as he had predicted, it even stood firmly at 7,813 points.

This figure was like a spell and he could not get rid of it no matter how hard he tried.

If Kennedy came back to this scene, he would certainly question Bob’s ability.

When Bob thought about this, his eyes darkened even more.

“F*ck! Who the hell is fooling with me?” Bob muttered to himself sinisterly.

At this moment, a three billion order crashed into Harbor Stocks.

“M-Mr. Lancaster, should we take this down?”

Even the blind would be able to see that Bob was in an extremely bad mood, so the manager asked in a small voice nervously.

Life at the Top Chapter 193

“Rubbish! If we don’t take it down, then are we going to watch them raise the market? We’ll all be finished if the Hansel Index increases, isn’t it?”

Bob yelled angrily, and his saliva almost drenched the manager’s face.

“We can’t let him raise the market!”

Bob’s eyes were shining with a sinister glint.

“Once the market is stable or even has a glimpse of a rally, then those investors will think the time for bottom fishing is here. When they make a comeback, then we’ll be in huge trouble!”

When Bob thought about this, he yelled fiercely, “Continue to smash the price! I refuse to believe that he has so much money to play with me!”

...

The parents of the four richest families were sitting together and discussing in Clark’s house.

“We can’t watch Harbor Stocks crash. I suggest all of us take out some funds. We have to stabilize the market.”

The Ship King, who was also the head of the Boyles, said with a serious expression on his face.

“You’re right, but we don’t even know who’s the other party or how much funds they have. What if we fall into their trap if we just do this blindly?” Kennedy said indifferently.

“What should we do, then? Are we just going to watch it happen and do nothing? Everyone out there is waiting for us to say something,” Spencer Boyle said bluntly.

“Please don’t be impatient.”

Clark chuckled and turned his head to look at Zachary. He said, “Old Man Law, what do you think?”

Zachary had a calm expression on his face, and he said calmly, “I support the Boyles’ opinion. As the four richest families, we have to be the examples. On the other hand, we have to communicate with the government as well. They can’t just allow the economy of Harbor City to fall back!”

At this moment, Clark’s secretary knocked on the door before coming in. She quickly said something to Clark.

Clark made a noise of surprise that attracted the attention of the other three.

After waving his hand to dismiss his secretary, Clark said profoundly, “I think someone’s one step ahead of us.”

While he said that, Clark turned on the television and ordered someone to connect it to Harbor Stocks Market.

Immediately, the situation of the market appeared on the television.

Right now, it was 13 minutes to closing.

The Hansel Index was stable at 7,820 points and there were two large amounts of funds going at each other surrounding this point.

“Is someone protecting the market?” Spencer said in surprise.

Clark nodded and said, “My secretary told me while we were in the middle of the meeting, there was an injection of funds and the other party has been protecting the market since 7,813 points. They’ve been going at each other for the entire morning. Not only did the points not fall, it even increased by seven points.

“Now, everyone out there is guessing who this person is. Nobody has any idea who’s spending the money now,” Clark said profoundly.

At this moment, the expressions on Zachary and Kennedy’s faces changed subtly.

Of course, Zachary knew that the person who was protecting the market now was Jasper.

There was a hint of comfort in his eyes.

On the other hand, Kennedy was conflicted.

He did not expect that Bob would be able to mess this up when he was out having a meeting.

They had so many funds but they still let the other party successfully protect the market.

“Who’s this person?”

Kennedy asked quickly. He wanted to find out who this person was right now more than anyone.

“No idea.”

Clark shook his head and said gleefully, “But since someone’s ahead of us, then we can’t hesitate anymore. If not, people will be disappointed.”

Everyone looked at each other and reached a mutual agreement.

Even though Kennedy was extremely reluctant, he did not dare to show it. He could only say that he agreed with this while going against his wishes.

After a while, the morning market closed.

Bang!

In the villa, Bob slammed down on the screen violently. He roared, “F*ck! Who is that person?”

“Who among you can tell me why not only did you fail to make the points go down, but you even walked right into the other party’s trap and lost a few hundred millions?”

Life at the Top Chapter 194

The entire villa was quiet.

At this moment, the stock traders wanted so badly to stop breathing.

They were scared that once they made a squeak, Bob, who was in the middle of his rage, would take out his anger on them.

Nobody dared to say a word, but everybody was disapproving of this in their hearts.

'You're the one who ordered this and you're the one who made all of the decisions. Now that you've fallen into the other party's trap, you're blaming the people who're working for you?'

Bob gasped for air loudly, staring at the market angrily and irritably. He was gritting his teeth tightly. Nobody knew what he was thinking about.

At this moment, his phone rang.

When he saw that it was from Kennedy, his face fell. However, he still decided to answer.

"What's wrong with you? I handed you the power to command them and you caused this mess! How do you expect me to explain this to Rogers?" Kennedy's dark voice sounded from the other end of the phone.

Bob could feel a demonic fire surging from his stomach, but since he was terrified of Kennedy's power and influence, he suppressed his displeasure tenaciously. He said, "The other party is too sly. I didn't expect this to happen—"

"That's enough. Stop talking!" Kennedy interrupted Bob's sentence.

"We've talked about this just now and we're on the way to the government of Harbor City. We plan to host a press conference with the government at noon.

"The four rich families will take out ten billion each. With the market rescue funds from the government and the other millionaires, we might be able to get about 100 billion for market rescue funds.

"The 100 billion will be injected into the stock market for market rescue in the afternoon. I'll come back with Rogers before the market commences in the

afternoon. Be more low profile later. If you make Rogers think you're a useless piece of trash, I won't be able to save you, nor will I want to save you!"

After Bob heard that, he felt fear and trepidation in his heart. He said, "100 billion? How are we going to play this after the funds come in?"

Kennedy scoffed and said, "Quantum Fund has not made a move yet. Why do you think Rogers and his gang are staying in Harbor City? We'll just wait for them to inject the funds into the market. When that happens, we won't know for sure if they're rescuing the market or sending themselves to their deaths. Hehe."

...

During lunch, Jasper, Anna, and Henry were eating while watching the television.

Showing on the television was the live broadcast of the government's press conference.

"The four rich families in combination with the government are declaring that the economy of Harbor City is the result of every citizen in Harbor City, and they won't allow anyone to tarnish this!

"This afternoon, the four rich families, the other millionaires in Harbor City, and the government has an overall plan to raise 100 billion in funds to rescue the market!"

A series of news proved that the government had started doing something.

Henry turned his head to look at Jasper. He said, "You're pretty accurate. The government did release a statement at noon. You even got the 100 billion correct. Are you a god?"

When Henry remembered how Jasper had said the government would release a statement before lunch about rescuing the market with 100 billion in funds and how he had not believed him, Henry felt a little awkward.

“Your dad called and told me. I was just repeating what he said, so how would I be wrong?” Jasper shrugged. He did not mind Henry’s murderous gaze after he flew into a rage out of humiliation. A moment later, he stared blankly at him.

“Damn it! You’re fooling me!” Henry yelled in displeasure.

After spending some time with him, Henry could finally predict Jasper’s temper.

He looked mature and earnest, unlike anyone who was the same age as him. However, he was a pretty easy-going person and was able to take a joke.

The relationship between the two of them was much better than before. Plus, Henry was genuinely impressed with Jasper, so his sense of superiority of being the son of the number one millionaire in Harbor City had long been gone.

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As such, Henry was able to say anything he wanted and according to his wishes.

Jasper took some soup for himself and did not forget to also take some for Anna who was beside him. The latter reacted shyly to what he was doing. Jasper said to Henry, “Let me quiz you. If you were me, what should you do this afternoon?”

Henry was stumped for words. He bit his fork and fell into deep thought.

When Anna was about to say something, she saw Jasper smiling and shaking his head at her. Immediately, Anna fell quiet. She was also looking at her ignorant and incompetent brother with interest. She wanted to see what strategy he would blurt out.

“Wait and see,” Henry said probingly.

The way he observed Jasper carefully and the way he tried to guess if his answer was right or wrong was exactly as if he was a pupil in class who just got called by the teacher to answer a question.

However, what disappointed Henry was that he did not get anything from his observation.

“Continue,” Jasper ate some vegetables and said flatly.

“Because I know we have about 100 billion in the morning but we didn’t make the other party lose out too much because it was just a trap you set to make them lose a few hundred million.

“A few hundred million is just a slap in the face compared to such a large amount of funds. It’s far from being able to make him lose out too much.”

Henry felt that he had not killed his brain cells and operated his thoughts so violently after graduating from high school. He continued to stammer.

“Plus, I remember you saying yesterday that the government will rescue the market so the other party must be prepared because everything is according to their plans. So, we have to see what they’ll do after the market rescue this afternoon.”

After listening to Henry, Jasper nodded under his expectant gaze and grinned. “Not bad. Good answer.”

“Yes!” Henry snapped his finger and chortled arrogantly. His entire body was filled with complacent.

Mr. Law stated that it was truly so difficult to get a compliment from Jasper’s mouth.

Anna looked at Henry in surprise. To be honest, she did not expect Henry to have this thought.

Looking back at Jasper, Anna felt in her heart that this man was extremely magical. He could even educate an idiot like Henry, so what else could he not do?

“Hey, Anna, your brother is the one who did a good job, so why are you looking at him with such admiring eyes?” Henry said in displeasure.

“I’m impressed by him because you did a good job. Half a month ago, you didn’t even know what’s a stock market index,” Anna replied bluntly.

“...” Henry looked at Jasper in embarrassment. He was saying that he did not know whether he should say ‘f*ck you’ to her.

At this moment, Jasper’s phone rang.

It was from Zachary who just attended the press conference.

After a while, Jasper hung up the call and rubbed the space between his eyebrows.

“What’s wrong?” Anna asked in concern.

“Seems that we can’t execute Henry’s plan anymore,” Jasper said helplessly.

“What?” Henry looked over curiously.

“Your father sold me.”

Jasper looked as if he was complaining. He smiled bitterly and said, “He recommended me to host the market rescue with the fund of 100 billion. He’s asking me to rescue the market myself!”

Life at the Top Chapter 196

“You be the host?”

Henry was completely stumped for words. Even though he knew Jasper had the ability to do so, this involved the economy of Harbor City, and his father was recommending him to conduct this!

The more responsibility one had, the more honor one would get!

If Jasper successfully conducted the market rescue, then he would cause a sensation in Harbor City!

His status and position would be higher than his!

However, if Jasper failed, not only would he need to bear the infamy, he would also affect the Laws.

At the side, Anna also looked as if she was in deep thought. On one hand, she supported Jasper, but on the other, she was worried that Jasper might fail.

Of course, she wished that this man in front of her would succeed.

However, the market rescue involved too many people and if there was a slight mistake, then it would cause an incurable loss as well as huge trouble.

“A-Are you confident about this?” Anna asked in a low voice.

“Someone has to do it. The Laws have placed so much value in me so naturally, I don’t wish to embarrass you. However, I’ve never conducted this kind of quibble worth a few hundred billion before.”

Jasper's expression looked solemn. After a while, a burst of light flashed across his eyes. "However, I've said that I won't let anyone destroy Harbor City!"

...

On the other side, an office in the government of Harbor City.

"Are you guys crazy?"

A man in his 30s who looked as if he had an out-of-the-ordinary character yelled loudly. His face had turned green.

His name was Jake Cullen, and he was an exceptional stock trader and investor from Wall Street.

Inside the room, Zachary and another high-level official from the government of Harbor City who was about the same age as him were looking at him calmly.

"Two years ago, I was the stock market genius in Wall Street. Now that I'm back in Harbor City, I've never failed after hosting more than a dozen trade wars in the stock market. Aside from me, who else in Harbor City is qualified to host this market rescue?"

Jake slammed his hand down on the table angrily as he glared at the people sitting in front of him with a dark face.

"Now, you're recommending a minor nobody from Mainland to steal this mission from me? What is the meaning of this?"

The official glanced at Zachary who had no expression on his face. He later chuckled and said, "Mr. Cullen, don't be mad. Mr. Law must have his reasons to say this."

Actually, the government of Harbor City was surprised and embarrassed at Zachary's suggestion.

It was because in Harbor City, Jake was indeed the top of the top when it came to controlling the trade war in the stock market. No one had better qualifications than him.

The government had planned to entrust him to host this market rescue worth 100 billion.

However, the government had to take Zachary's suggestion into consideration as well. As such, that was why there was this scene in the office.

Zachary knew who Jake was, but his expression did not show that. On the other hand, he said slowly, "Everyone, firstly, I need to mention that this young man named Jasper is not an unknown nobody.

"He started out by depending on the stock market in Mainland. He was the mysterious retail investor who defeated the capitalist big shots in the international crude oil futures market a few months ago.

"He was also the one who purchased Gladness Entertainment Movies and caused a stir in Harbor City a few days ago.

"Plus, he was also the one who tried hard to save the market this morning."

While Zachary said that, he looked expressionlessly at Jake and the official.

"Next, this is not just my suggestion. This is also a suggestion made by my father to the higher-ups of the government."

Jake and the official still disapproved while listening to the first two statements, but when they heard that Jasper, who saved the market in the morning, was also recommended by Old Master Law, their expressions changed.

The market rescue this morning had given the citizens of Harbor City a lot of confidence. When the hearts of the citizens wandered in this kind of economic crisis, it would be hard to assemble them again.

It was because of Jasper's market rescue this morning, the government had time to release the press statement at noon to strengthen the confidence of the citizens.

It could be said that Jasper was already the hero of Harbor City with just the market rescue this morning and nothing else.

Plus, with the recommendation of Old Master Law, even the higher-ups of the government had to attach some importance to him.

Jake moved his lips. The reason he dared to slam down on Zachary's table just now was that the government officials supported him in doing the market rescue, so that was why he had the guts to be so arrogant.

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However, he did feel a little guilty now after hearing Jasper's past achievements and how Old Master Law had already taken action.

"If that's the case, then I think Mr. Law's suggestion is reasonable."

The official wiped the sweat from his forehead and thought of a compromise.

"Everyone is just trying to protect the economy of Harbor City, so there's no need to make this so tense. Why don't we let Jasper host the mission this time? However, Jake, as the representative of the government, you should go along. If Jasper can't handle it, then you can help him too."

The 100 billion market rescue plan was funded by the four rich families and the government. As such, it did not matter who was the host. The four rich families or the government would definitely ask someone to keep watch.

As this was the case, Zachary did not have any opinions on it.

“Okay, I want to see how skillful this country bumpkin from Mainland is!” Jake said with a cold chuckle.

He did not go against what the Laws wanted, however, he was genuinely looking down on this country bumpkin named Jasper.

He was just a hillbilly from Mainland, so what knowledge and experience did he have? How dare Jasper steal this chance to rescue the market from him?

Initially, he wanted to use this market rescue opportunity to better his reputation so that his business would have a bright future.

However, everything had gone down the drain now.

Jake’s heart was bleeding.

Half an hour later, Zachary went back home. The people tagging along were Jake and a few officers from the government of Harbor City.

“Jasper, this is Jake Cullen, the number one professional stock trader in Harbor City. He just came back from Wall Street. Initially, the government planned to ask him to host the rescue, but I recommended you.”

Zachary reminded Jasper indifferently. Then, he patted his shoulder and said in a low voice, “However, he’s nothing to me compared to you. You don’t have to treat him like a fellow human being.”

Jasper almost burst out laughing at Zachary’s last sentence.

“You’re Jasper?”

Jake narrowed his eyes and said with a cold chuckle.

“Mr. Cullen, hello,” Jasper nodded and said courteously.

On the other hand, Henry’s eyebrows twitched at one side. Even though he did not hear what his father said to Jasper, Jake’s expression, eyes, and tone...

...were pissing him off!

Usually, he would be the one looking down on people with the kind of despise that came from the bones because he was Young Master Law.

“Mr. Cullen, may I know which university did you graduate from? What course did you do?” Jake asked with a smirk.

Jasper answered indifferently, “Just a regular university in Mainland. I have a degree in Business Administration.”

“Hahaha...”

Jake guffawed and said, “I was a postgraduate student in an Ivy League university in the United States and I majored in Economics. After I graduated, I joined one of the Big Four companies in the United States as an investment supervisor. I’m the most well-known young stock trader on Wall Street!

“You graduated from a diploma mill in Mainland and you’re here hosting a market rescue worth 100 billion? Are all Mainlanders so shameless?”

Jasper could feel Jake targeting him, and it was obvious that he was not happy with him. However, Zachary had given him a lot of confidence just now.

At this moment, Jasper did not plan to exercise forbearance with him. The situation was urgent now, and he could not let anyone affect the market rescue!

“You don’t think I can succeed in this mission?” Jasper asked indifferently.

“Hehe, I don’t care what you’ve achieved before this, but you have to know that the 100 billion market rescue will directly affect the future of the economy in Harbor City. Not any Tom, Dick, or Harry can host this thing!”

Jake suppressed the jealousy and displeasure in his stomach, saying coldly, “I would advise you to give up voluntarily.”

Jasper sighed and turned around to call the security in Law Manor over. “Get me a few people and make this idiot sit over there quietly.”

Everyone in Law Manor from the maids to the bodyguards knew Jasper. Naturally, they would not dare to defy his orders.

As such, two beefy bodyguards walked over with malicious looks on their faces immediately.

Jake widened his eyes and backed away subconsciously. He roared, “What’s the meaning of this?! I came here representing the government of Harbor City and you have the balls to call the security to control me?”

“Shut up then!” Jasper suddenly opened his mouth and yelled, “This is serious, and there’s no time for you to be so presumptuous! I don’t care who you are. We’re doing a market rescue right now, so I won’t be fighting with you over the position of authority!”

“I don’t care which Ivy League school you graduated from and I don’t care what stock genius you are on Wall Street. If you want to be a poser, then get the hell out! If you affect my decision-making with your nonsense, you won’t be able to pay for the losses even if you sell your body!”

Life at the Top Chapter 198

Jasper's words shocked everyone into looking solemn.

No one expected Jasper, who usually appeared so cultured and refined, to look so terrifying when he got angry.

Henry almost burst out laughing at one side.

"Listen. Listen to that. What a beastly statement."

Henry only thought of one word while listening to Jasper scold Jake.

'Great!'

It was so great that it felt refreshing!

Henry wanted to laugh out loud when he saw Jake's face that looked as if he had eaten dog excrement.

Jake was stumped for words.

To him, a hillbilly from Mainland would be very gutsy if he could say a complete sentence without stammering in front of him.

However, what was going on now?

Was he being berated now?

Was he being scolded?

He felt angry and wronged as a series of emotions became intertwined in his heart. Jake's face was green, and his entire body was trembling.

He stared fixedly at Jasper, and his eyes were filled with so much bitter resentment.

However, when he saw the two bodyguards who were waiting longingly for him to explode, Jake burst out laughing suddenly.

He was laughing from anger.

"Alright, hot stuff. Okay, I won't talk. I'll see how you're going to lose later! If you cause the market rescue to fail because of your problems, then let me tell you, no one will be able to save you when that happens!"

Jake's tone was extremely cold. It was as if he was hoping for Jasper to face a crushing defeat. He wanted the Laws and the government to know that it was their biggest mistake to have chosen this hillbilly from Mainland over him!

"Are you hoping that I'll fail?" Jasper looked at Jake and asked flatly.

Jake scoffed, and there was visible disdain on his face. He said, "This is a battle of capitals of hundreds of billions. This is a capital trade war! Do you even know what you need?"

"You need structure! You need foresight and strategy! You're just a country bumpkin from Mainland, so what do you even know?"

"Do you think you know the capital trade war just because you've made a few coins from stock speculation?"

"Please take a piss and look at yourself in the reflection. I just can't bear watching the funds from the four rich families and the government being wasted by an ignorant country bumpkin like you!"

Jasper placed his hands behind his back and watched Jake coldly. He said, "What if I win?"

It was as if Jake had heard the funniest joke in the world. He pointed at the floor and said, "If you win, I'll kneel in front of you in front of the four rich families of Harbor City. I'll grovel to you and admit my mistakes. Then, I'll formally become your apprentice!"

"Same goes the other way. If you lose, you need to kneel, grovel, admit your mistakes, and apologize to me. You don't need to become my apprentice. You're not worthy!"

Jake smirked and looked at Jasper. He did not believe that Jasper would agree to these circumstances.

Even though he did not know what kind of spell Jasper had cast on the Laws to make them support him so much, so what?

Everything depended on one's ability in the finance market.

You could not do anything you want just because you have someone powerful backing you up.

"If you don't dare to do it, then hand over the authority to command. Tell the government that you're a piece of trash and you're just a country bumpkin from Mainland who's not brave enough to gamble!"

The smile on Jake's face was sinister and malicious. "Don't do something that you'll regret forever because you're impulsive. You have to think carefully. This is a trade war that is worth hundreds of billions and not the child's play of millions or tens of millions you're used to in Mainland.

"Everyone is watching the stock market in Harbor City and you want to host the market rescue this time? Are you even qualified for this?"

Life at the Top Chapter 199

When Jake was close to getting the opportunity to humiliate Jasper, he heard four unenthusiastic words.

“Alright, I’ll do it.”

Jasper’s four words caused Jake to have a million words in his head but he was unable to even utter one word.

“What did you say?” Jake narrowed his eyes and looked at Jasper.

“I’ll take this bet. If I win, you’ll kneel and formally become my apprentice. Of course, you have to kneel and grovel. It’ll depend on my mood if I want to take you as my apprentice.

“And vice versa,” Jasper said fully.

Jake laughed angrily and said, “Alright, you’re the one who said this. I’ll take this bet!

“Country bumpkin from Mainland, remember this, the worst mistake in your life is stealing this market rescue because you seek to impress people by taking on more than your ability. From this moment on, you’re going to have your reputation swept away!”

Jake smiled coldly and said, “The facts will tell you that Harbor Stocks is the one place where all the international capitals come together. On the other hand, a country bumpkin from Mainland like you will only be an ignorant and narrow-minded toad. You have no idea how big the outside world is!”

“I have no idea how big the outside world is, but there are a lot of idiots in society nowadays,” Jasper said insipidly.

Jake said sharply and unkindly, “Don’t think you’re all that because you’re quick-witted. I’ve seen a lot of people like you. They don’t have any talents and only know how to dupe people with their smart mouths, but actually, they’re just lying.

“I’ve seen more than you think you know. I can even make a name for myself in a place like Wall Street, so who do you think you are?” Jake said disdainfully.

“Not bad. You’re indeed educated so that’s why you keep saying the same old stuff. Remember what you just said so you can reminisce about them when you eat your words later. It’ll help you make clear of reality.”

After he said that, Jasper did not want to pay any more attention to this simpleton. He entered the door while talking to Zachary.

Then, the group went into the house together. Nobody paid any attention to Jake.

“Mr. Cullen, shall we go in?”

The official from the government who tagged along smiled bitterly and said.

Jake gritted his teeth while feeling aggrieved. He smirked coldly and said, “Go! Let’s go now. I want to see how he’s going to fail and how he’s going to die!

“When he fails, I want him to kneel in front of me, unable to cry!

“Those people who are supporting him now will also pay the price for being hot-headed. They will know that only I can host this rescue!”

...

Still in that secluded villa.

Bob stood at one side with an awkward and angry expression. Kennedy's face was grim, and he did not look good.

On the other side was Rogers. He lightly tapped the surface of the table with his fingertips and said coldly, "Lancaster, I think you're very stupid. It was such an obvious trap and you couldn't even see it. On the contrary, you even fell into it."

Bob's expression looked even worse.

Even though he was feeling extremely pissed, he did not try to defend himself.

He knew what everyone wanted now was results and not explanations.

The result was that he was the one who did not crash Harbor Stocks according to the initial plan, but instead, he fell into the other party's trap and caused them to lose a few hundred million of funds.

At this moment, the more he explained, the more mistakes he would make.

Kennedy scoffed. Even though he was displeased with Bob's useless performance, he still said, "Since it has already happened, there's no use explaining anymore."

"I just got the news that the Laws are going to make Jasper the host of the market rescue. Now, we can be sure that Jasper was the one behind what happened this morning."

At this moment, a Caucasian man walked in front of Rogers with a cold expression on his face. He handed him some documents.

“Jasper Laine? That young man...” Rogers lowered his head to look through the information in his hands. Suddenly, he guffawed and said, “Interesting! I didn’t expect this young man to give everyone such a huge surprise!”

Life at the Top Chapter 200

“Earlier this year, he made his first pot of gold in the futures market in Mainland. Then, he made a lot of money in the international crude oil market. I didn’t expect the mysterious retail investor that Quantum Fund contacted last time to be him as well.”

When Kennedy and Bob heard that, they were surprised.

“I guess we underestimated him last time!” Kennedy said profoundly.

“You guys got information on Jasper in such a short time?” Bob narrowed his eyes and said while suppressing the shock in his heart.

Rogers shrugged and said nonchalantly, “You have to believe in the ability of Quantum Fund. We have clients and information all over the world. As long as you can pay, I can even tell you what color underwear the top man of the United States is wearing right now.”

“I have to go to Law Manor in the afternoon. On one hand, I’m going to watch their every move, and on the other hand, I need to be prepared at any time. So, over here...” Kennedy looked at Rogers.

“You don’t have to worry,” Rogers said flatly, “My people from Quantum Fund will take over from now.”

Bob was not happy that he had been pushed aside. He asked quickly, "What about me?"

"You can watch from one side."

Kennedy sighed and made eyes at Bob secretly.

Even though he was disappointed in Bob, Kennedy could not kick him away now.

The collaboration with Quantum Fund was fine for now, but Kennedy knew more than anyone that Quantum Fund was a coyote that would swallow a person whole.

He needed to go to Law Manor, so no one would be keeping an eye on Quantum Fund. He would not be able to be at ease this way.

Bob understood what Kennedy meant and could only nod.

It was as if Rogers had no idea what they were communicating about. He said insipidly, "Initially, my team and I planned to collaborate with the government and aristocrats of Harbor City to rescue the market. This time, we've prepared 150 billion Harbor Dollars in addition to your 50 billion."

He lifted two fingers. "We have a fund of 200 billion, but the market rescue fund of Harbor City is only 100 billion. Plus, I have a team of the best traders in the world, so how can they fight with me?"

When Kennedy heard this, he got up and said, "Okay. We'll do it according to the plan. I'll go to Law Manor now. It's almost time, so I have to get there before the market commences in the afternoon."

...

Before the market commenced in the afternoon, the atmosphere in Law Manor was getting lively.

One after another, cars representing the top aristocratic families in Harbor City drove into Law Manor.

At the same time, the security had been heightened to the max. Not only did the millionaires have their own bodyguards, but the police force that was transferred here by the government was also patrolling around the place.

Before the end of the financial war, this place would be one of the safest places in Harbor City.

In the living room of Law Manor, Jasper was officially meeting the heads of the four richest families in Harbor City.

There was nothing much to say about Zachary.

The first one to greet Jasper was Clark.

“Young man, I’ve heard about you. Keith told me about you as well. You’re exceptional. I’m depending on you this time,” Clark shook Jasper’s hand and said.

Jasper nodded and said, “Don’t worry, Mr. Duvall. I’ll do my best.”

Clark laughed loudly and said, “You don’t have to bear too much burden. If the sky were to fall, us old farts will hold it for you.”

“I’m young and my body is still strong, so I don’t think you elders need to throw your caps in the ring.”

Jasper made a joke.

Clark guffawed and pointed at Jasper before he turned his head to say to Spencer and Kennedy, "Look, I told you that Zachary won't make mistakes. This young man is so interesting."

Kennedy smiled and looked at Jasper. He said, "Our hopes are on you."

Jasper replied neither obsequiously nor superciliously, "I'll try my best."

"To be honest, I was quite surprised when I knew it was you." There was a hidden meaning behind what Kennedy said and it was significant.

Jasper looked at Kennedy without saying anything.

Kennedy patted Jasper's shoulder affectionately. He grinned and said, "My son is insensible. It'll be useful for him if you taught him a lesson."

Jasper did not think much about what Kennedy said.

At this moment, perhaps he was worried that the animosity between the two of them would affect the market rescue plan, so Kennedy's words actually sounded pretty reasonable.

"Your son and I did have some beef between us, but it's between us. The present condition is more important for now."

Jasper's attitude caused Kennedy to smile in 'satisfaction'. He said, "We're looking forward to your performance."

While they were talking, Zack knocked on the door and came in. "Sir, three minutes till the market commences."

There were a lot of 'sirs' in this room.

However, everyone knew he was referring to Jasper.

Jasper nodded and extended his hand as an invitation. Then, he led the heads of the four rich families into the living room.

Clark, Zachary, Kennedy, and Spencer arrived in the living room, and the air there immediately became intense.

Even Zack and Jake, who wanted so badly for Jasper to fall flat on his face, were feeling more nervous than usual, let alone the stock traders.

After all, these four men were the heads of the four rich families of Harbor City.

It would be extremely difficult to meet even one of them on any ordinary day. Now, they were here together.

Everyone felt a sense of glory as they were in the same room as sovereign kings who were far removed from the masses and reality.

Jake suppressed the nervousness in his heart. With a scoff, he looked at Jasper who was the center of everyone's attention. He felt extremely jealous and furious.

If it was not for this country bumpkin from Mainland, the person enjoying the attention and escort from the heads of the four rich families would be him, Jake Cullen!

When he thought about this, Jake clenched his fists in anger. His eyes that were staring at Jasper were getting more and more hostile.

“Stock traders, get ready for the commencement of the market.”

Jasper did not care what the four rich families and Jake were thinking. He ordered calmly and unhurriedly.

After he said that, the stock traders under him started making preparations. A hint of solemnness and respectfulness appeared amidst the intense atmosphere in the living room.

After turning around, Jasper saw Anna handing him a pot of tea she just brewed.

Anna knew Jasper liked drinking tea and he would drink some whenever he felt like it. As such, whenever she was free, she would make a pot for Jasper.

This was the tacit understanding that had been cultivated between the two of them after spending these few days with each other.

Jasper smiled at Anna before turning around and lifting his head to look at the digital screen. Right now, it was the countdown to the commencement of the market.

At the same time in the secluded villa.

The team of stock traders had been replaced by blonde-haired Caucasians with blue eyes. As the person with the decision-making power, the man stood under the digital screen and stretched lazily.

“Brace yourselves, boys. This afternoon, I want to massacre Harbor Stocks. Tomorrow, all of the investors from around the world will know the name Quantum Fund. We’re the kings of the capitalist world!”

Life at the Top Chapter 201

When it was time, the market commenced.

In the split second after, not only the investors in Harbor City were watching Harbor Stocks, but numerous capitalists from all over the world also had their eyes on it.

Although the burst of the dot-com bubble was global, anyone with a discerning eye would be able to tell that the situation in Harbor City was more than extraordinary.

It was because someone was trying to collapse the economy in Harbor City using the crisis.

This was already a financial battle, and it was not as simple as a normal crisis after the burst of a bubble.

The moment the market commenced, numerous funds were being injected frantically into the transaction of the stock market index. The Hansel Index was fluctuating intensely in just a split second.

“Mr. Laine, the Hansel Index dropped by 11 points after the commencement of the market. Currently, the short sale of the funds that have reached a deal has reached five billion and it’s increasing continuously.

“Mr. Laine, the party that’s short-selling is offensive and violent. Now, the Hansel Index has dropped another seven points.

“Mr. Laine, two stocks in Harbor Stocks have reached their price limits.”

The atmosphere in the living room became more intense after Zack reported the situation at an extremely fast speed.

Spencer, from the four rich families, had a horrible look on his face because the two stocks that had reached their limits were the listed companies under his name.

The other party was having a demonstration!

They were attacking the stocks of the rich families!

Everyone looked at Jasper, waiting for him to give out an order.

However, Jasper was only drinking his tea. The lingering dense vapor was hanging in the air, obscuring his expression.

Spencer could not keep his cool anymore because his listed companies had been attacked to their price limits. He said, "Mr. Laine, aren't we going to do anything?"

At this moment, Jake smirked and said, "I think he's stumped from the attacks. It's just been three minutes since the commencement. The funds of the short-selling parties who are waiting for the put have been increased to seven billion. Have you never seen this kind of battle, country bumpkin?"

"Let me teach you, the market needs confidence now. Everyone knows that the government of Harbor City has a market rescue plan. You should go in immediately and clear the market of the sellers!"

While he said that, Jake chuckled coldly. "Country bumpkin, you can't handle this kind of battle. You should hand over the power to conduct and do as I say obediently."

Jake's words started to sway the opinions of everyone in the room.

Indeed, according to the normal rhythm, what Jake said would be the best way to handle this.

However, if Zachary and Clark did not speak, then nobody would dare to say anything.

Zack looked at the attacks by the sellers that were getting denser and more intense on the market. At this moment, the Hansel Index was falling continuously.

Zack did not know when the sweat started to form on his forehead. He asked carefully, "Mr. Laine, what should we do?"

At this moment, Jasper said, "Don't worry. Let's bide our time."

When Jake heard this, he chortled. "Bide our time? Is this the ability of the country bumpkin you found? He's all battered and bruised and he wants to bide the time? I'm going to die from laughter.

"Spencer, you're the head of the four rich families. You're going to lose the market value of your company because he wants to bide his time."

Jake kept smirking. His words were like venomous snakes as he frantically ridiculed Jasper.

"Get lost if you don't have the skills. Why are you inflicting suffering on other people here?"

"You're pretending to be so calm, but in reality, you've already pissed your pants from fear, right?"

"Country bumpkins are so stupid. I told you you should fight back now. Do you think you'll lose your reputation by listening to me? What a joke. Anyone knows the ability of a Mainland hillbilly like you. Stop acting like a poser here, okay?"

“Enough.”

Zachary interrupted Jake’s taunts coldly. “Can you shut your mouth? You’re so noisy!”

When Jake saw Zachary’s hostile expression, he swallowed his saliva and suppressed his anger and hatred. He scoffed with a disdainful look on his face, but he did not dare to talk back to Zachary.

Jasper had been staring fixedly at the digital monitor the entire time.

Lines and lines of information kept being refreshed. Jasper was arranging and analyzing every move of the other party in his head.

Life at the Top Chapter 202

With a woosh, the Hansel Index fell to 7,802 points. The short-selling party was vigorously attacking the defense line of 7,800 points.

At this moment, no matter the heads of the four rich families at the scene, the higher-ups who were following the changes of the stock market in the government of Harbor City, or the ordinary investors at home and at the exchange watching the market, a lot of them were curious. Why was Jasper not doing anything?

If the Hansel Index fell and broke 7,800 points by the short-selling party, it would be too late to do anything when everything tumbled down vigorously.

“Make an opening!”

Under everyone’s anticipating gazes, Jasper finally said something.

Everyone shifted their gazes over to him.

Jake chuckled coldly and looked at Jasper. He was waiting for him to make a decision.

“Make an opening at 7,800 points. Buy all of the short-selling orders in the list that’s under 100 million.”

After Zack heard that, he turned around to yell at the stock traders under him, “Did you guys hear that? Do it according to Mr. Laine’s orders!”

The stock traders had been suppressing themselves since the beginning. After they got the order, they immediately started firing away on their keyboards frantically.

In the next second, all of the short-selling orders under 100 million in Harbor Stocks were swept clean by Jasper.

The other party sold their orders and Jasper would buy them. With one in and one out, he managed to stabilize the number of transactions.

On the other hand, the Hansel Index was forcibly stopped at 7,801 points, unable to budge.

The stock price of another listed company of Spencer’s that was being attacked seemed stable now. This allowed Spencer to let out a sigh of relief.

He was feeling miserable. He did not know why the other party would target him.

At this moment, they could hear Jake’s cold laugh floating over.

“You idiot. The orders below 100 million are all just useless troops and minor characters. The true pressure comes from the main force of the other party.

You're not attacking the main force and instead, you're attacking these useless troops. I'd be insulting a pig if I say you're as stupid as a pig!"

...

At this moment inside the secluded villa.

Rogers was staring at the market.

"Oh? He's finally doing something because he can't bear this anymore, huh?"

Rogers said with a scoff after he saw the orders under 100 million being cleared out in the market.

"What should we do next?" one of his subordinates asked.

Rogers shrugged and poured himself a glass of red wine. He said, "Our opponent is just observing our tactics. Now, he has cleared out the tiny investors who wanted to make some money while hopping onto the trend. Is he trying to fight with us on 7,800 points?"

"We'll continue to wait for it to drop and short sell. Open more small orders under 100 million. If he wants to clean up the battlefield, then I'll just create more messes for him.

"What an interesting young man from Mainland. Your calmness surprises me, but..."

"Can you still find where my main force is?"

...

"I can almost tell the composition of the main force from the seller, but now, there are a lot of vermins trying to use this opportunity to make some money while

Harbor Stocks is plummeting. These vermins will obscure our vision, so if we want to find the main force that's short-selling, we have to clear the battlefield," Jasper said.

Then, more than ten transactions from the seller that were under 100 billion dominated the digital screen all of a sudden.

Jake chortled. "Are you dumbfounded? Do you think you're the only one who knows how to make something unnecessarily complicated? You're so great at talking big, so find it for me now. Where's the main force hiding among these dozens of orders? Hmm?"

"These are just confusions created by the main force. Why should I find them?" Jasper said insipidly while ordering.

"Make openings. Buy and clear out all of the short-selling transactions on the market. I want them to be unable to create more confusion!"

"Then, make more openings, list out, and buy in the order of ten billion. Our target point on the Hansel Index is 7,850 points!"

Life at the Top Chapter 203

A large order of ten billion!

It was a rare sight to see no matter which stock exchange market in the world one was at.

This afternoon, investors from all around the world had their eyes on Harbor Stocks when a large order of ten billion with genuine significance appeared.

When this ten billion was injected into the market, this was undoubtedly a cardiac stimulant to the buyers who were almost exhausted of all resources.

Everyone knew that the market rescue from the government and four rich families had started to take place.

The fund of hundreds of billions was finally here!

However, the investors were not able to stay happy for long. This huge order of 10 billion was devoured in the next second like it was a provocation.

At the same time, numerous selling orders appeared at the side of the short-selling party.

The Hansel Index that just had signs of recovery dropped down to about 7,800 points again and it was fluctuating around that figure.

The main forces of the seller and buyer started an intense massacre surrounding 7,800 points without any warning.

“Buy all of the top ten stocks of Infrastructure Bank, energy and technology, and the four major sectors.

“There are 40 stocks and it’ll be a total of 40 billion if each of them is one billion. After you’re done so, I’ll authorize it.”

Jasper kept giving out orders in the living room. At this moment, the atmosphere and situation in the living room were extremely intense.

Jasper was hosting the main force of the buying side. He had already come to grips with the mysterious main force of the selling side that was hiding in the dark in close-range fighting. Transactions worth hundreds of millions were made in every minute and every second.

On the market, the retail investor had all been cleared out of the game. The ones remaining were the institutions who would ride roughshod over people normally, but now, they were shaking like leaves in the wind and did not dare to make any noise as they watched the two big shots going head to head with each other.

The stock market worked much like fantasy novels with distinct power levels.

Usually, retailers would just follow the direction of those higher up on the food chain in hopes of making a buck or two off the wisdom of the rich. Meanwhile, a collective of retail investors combined was strong enough to take down any force. There were simply too many retail investors. With such a big spread of resources, it was hard to stay united.

Those with a higher level of capital were usually called 'whales'. These large-scale retail investors were characterized by their large amounts of capital and they had the ability to influence the price of companies with small to medium market capitalizations.

Moving up another level would be the institutions. Institutions were usually led by investment banks or large investment companies. These folks controlled capitals starting from billions at the entry level, and quite a few operated in the realm of tens of billions.

All in all, institutions were considered the giant crocodiles in the stock market. Usually, they were the ones calling the shots and making the deals in the market

However, at this moment, the power of the institutions was insignificant.

It was because the true main forces of the two parties had funds reaching hundreds of billions, and they could easily affect the fluctuation of Harbor Stocks.

After the authorization, the 40 stocks Jasper chose started rising in response.

The stocks would spur the market. While the Hansel Index rose, the pressure on the short-selling party would skyrocket.

It was evident that the short-selling party had not expected Jasper to take action at this moment.

Plus, the 40 stocks Jasper chose belonged to large-scale listed companies with huge dimensions. They would need to pay a large price if they wanted to lower the prices for these.

The main force of the short-selling party hesitated for a few seconds. In the next second, a fund of 100 billion entered the market.

It was as if they were opposing each other with equal harshness. The fund of 100 billion entered those 40 stocks and was frantically crashing the market.

“Got them!”

Jasper’s eyes were lighting up like never before.

Even if they were virtually fighting this war with their opponent and they could not smell any inferno or smoke, Jasper could feel the pressure from the other party every second of the way.

They were experts.

Plus, they were top-notch experts who were skilled in stock trading with large amounts of funds.

The reason Jasper did that move back then was to force out the fund of the main force of the other party.

At this moment, with an injection of a fund of 100 billion, it seemed that the other party had seen through Jasper’s decision and was taking up the challenge.

“This tactic...” Jake exclaimed.

Life at the Top Chapter 204

“It’s the capitalists from the west! It’s definitely one of the financial big shots from the west. No ordinary person would have skills and courage like that! It’s going to be a decisive battle!”

Jake’s face had turned red from either excitement or fear. He roared at Jasper, “Hurry! The opponent’s main force has shown up. They’re going to fight a decisive battle with you in the next second. Put down your composition and make an opening right now! You have to protect the 40 stocks from just now with your life!”

Jasper did not pay attention to Jake who was screaming frantically. On the other hand, he asked Zack, “How much is the purchase price of the 40 stocks earlier?”

Zack immediately answered, “Volume’s at 40%.”

“Cancel all the remaining orders that have not reached a deal.”

When he said that, everyone in the room was shocked.

That was right. In a stock transaction, when you bought a stock with a price, you needed someone who was selling with the same price to get a successful transaction. If not, it could be canceled at any time.

However, would Jasper not be giving a helping hand to the enemy if he canceled the transactions at this crucial moment?

“Are you f*cking insane?”

After feeling shocked, Jake looked at Jasper with disdain on his face. “Do you even know the stock market? How can you cancel at this moment?”

“Is this part of your own plans and arrangements? Are you the f*cking spy that was sent here by the opponent?”

“Get lost if you don’t know anything. Stop harming yourself and the others over here. Don’t consign yourself to eternal damnation because you want to be a poser!”

At this moment, an officer from the government of Harbor City said solemnly, “Mr. Laine, I’m not doubting your decision, but I think you can give everyone a reason why you’re doing this.”

“Do you know about traps?”

Jasper said insipidly. “If we fight with them for real, even if we win, Harbor Stocks will be in ruins. So, we have to set a trap, and in this trap, we need some bait. My bait is over here.”

While he said that, Jasper lifted his hand to point at the 40 stocks on the digital screen that were plummeting frantically because of his cancellation.

When everyone was pondering about what Jasper had said, Zack raised his voice.

“The Hansel Index has fallen under 7,800 points!”

Everyone looked over with ghastly expressions. The Hansel Index on the digital screen showed 7,620 points.

A fund of 100 billion that crashed the market combined with Jasper’s cancellation was one disaster on top of another. The Hansel Index eventually fell below 7,800 points.

It was the lowest in history!

“This is my bait. Do you dare come at me at 7,600 points?” Jasper muttered.

“You’re gambling with the economy of Harbor City!” Jake yelled.

“If you do this and fail, Harbor Stocks will be in ruins. You’re insane!”

While he said that, Jake walked to the heads of the four rich families who had been silent this entire time. He pointed at Jasper and said, “He’s a lunatic. I suggest that we strip him of his authority to conduct. Let me do it! He’s from Mainland, and it’s in his bones that he won’t care about the economy of Harbor City. He’s just messing around without a plan!

“Tell him to get lost now! I’m the only one who can save the economy of Harbor City!” Jake yelled loudly.

Clark’s face was as calm as a pool of water. He turned to look at Zachary and did not say anything.

Zachary said in a deep voice, “However, if he succeeds, he’ll be able to take care of this crisis instantly. I think it’s worth it!”

Spencer shook his head and said, “I’ll listen to you guys.”

At this moment, Kennedy secretly wrote a text message on his phone without batting an eyelid and sent it out. Then, he said flatly, “Why don’t we continue observing?”

Clark nodded and said, “Since we’ve chosen him, we have to believe him.”

While he said that, Clark peered at Jake. “Please be quiet.”

Jake was extremely disappointed and furious. He pointed at Jasper and said, “You son of a b*tch, I want to watch how you’re going to die with my own eyes!

“If Harbor Stocks collapse, the economy of Harbor City will fall back a few years.

“You’re being so pretentious now but soon, you’ll become the target of scorn!

“When that time comes, you’ll only have yourself to blame because you were too arrogant and conceited!

“You’re just a country bumpkin, so you should know your place and stay in the poor valley in Mainland. Why did you come to Harbor City asking for death?”

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Inside the secluded villa, Rogers’ eyes were staring fixedly at the phone in his hand.

After he deleted the message, he lifted his head to look at the digital screen. A cold smile appeared on the corners of his lips.

“You’re Jasper, right? You’re too sly. I almost fell into your trap.”

While he said that, Rogers calmly gave his order, “Watch for a bearish and sell short. Don’t hold back.”

...

“It’s here! The short-selling party is attacking!”

Zack’s excited voice broke the contemplations of everyone in the living room.

At this moment, they could only see the 40 stocks plummeting wildly in the blink of an eye. In less than three minutes, they were almost at their price limits.

With the fund of 100 billion, not only the 40 stocks, but almost all of the remaining and surviving stocks in Harbor Stocks were plummeting wildly.

On the other hand, the Hansel Index was plunging like it had fallen down a precipice.

Oh no!

Almost everyone in Harbor City was howling in grief.

Jasper had never been so focused before.

“Make more openings!

“Build a defensive line at 7,610 points on the Hansel Index! Let them know this is our defensive line.

“Aside from the internet sector, buy all of the top ten stocks of all of the other sectors. Buy all of them with huge amounts of money!

“The authorized fund for this execution is 150 billion!”

After Jasper said that, Clark stood up suddenly. He exclaimed, “The total market rescue fund amounts to just 100 billion, so where is this 150 billion coming from?”

“I have them!” Jasper said insipidly, “Don’t worry about the funds.”

When he said that, he did not look at the conflicted expressions on Clark and the others’ faces. He continued to give out his orders.

The main forces of both sides had been fighting at close range.

This time, there was no probing. It was a direct grapple of fund injections between the two main forces.

Jasper stared straight at the Hansel Index. He watched as it got nearer to 7,600 points gradually.

At this moment, Jasper was a little nervous as well.

When the other party forced the Hansel Index down to 7,600 points, he would be able to use this trap and lure the other party here.

This trap was like a lasso. Once it got hold of the funds of the main force of the other party, they would be a pig in an impossible situation waiting to be slaughtered by Jasper.

The current situation was indeed developing according to Jasper's prediction.

7,610 points!

Jasper had deliberately put down a defensive line. After a series of tough resistance, it was still broken through.

However, the following points would be more and more challenging for the short-selling party who was waiting for a bearish to break.

It was as if Jasper's final defensive line was at 7,600 points. Once it was broken, Jasper would lose all control.

The fruit of victory was right in front of their eyes.

7,608 points!

Jasper was still resisting. He kept giving out orders based on the decisions he made. Zack and everyone in the team wanted so badly to grow four more pairs of hands to be able to operate in time.

7,605 points!

The smell of smoke in Harbor City was now extremely thick.

This trade war in the stock market was destined to be written into the textbooks of business schools, and it had already reached its true climax.

7,602 points!

The pressure had been forced to the max.

At this moment, both Jasper and the short-selling party had already thrown their whole weights behind this.

Even the heads of the four rich families could not sit still now, let alone the investors out there. They were all standing up now, and their eyes were glued on the market.

Aside from Kennedy, of course.

He was pretending to look nervous, but there was a sneer and a hint of ridicule hiding deep in his features.

He felt that this was interesting. While looking at the reactions of these people, he suddenly wanted to know what his comrades' expressions would be if they knew he was a spy and he had already leaked all of their information out.

When he thought about this, Kennedy could not help but wanted to burst out laughing.

Jasper stared heatedly at the digital screen.

Numerous pieces of information of the transactions kept refreshing on the screen.

An unprecedented and intense close-quarter fight was happening on the battlefield between the two main forces.

Everything looked normal.

He was protecting his defensive line and the opponent was inching closer to him.

However, it was as if the short-selling party did not have enough follow-up power. When the index was at 7,602 points, it would not fall no matter what.

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To other people, this looked like good news.

However, Jasper sensed something amiss.

The main force of the short-selling party must be a top-notch expert. It would be impossible for him not to know why Jasper was insisting on protecting 7,600 points. At this moment, he was getting closer and closer to victory.

The treasure was right in front of him after working so hard and it was within arm's reach, however, he was suddenly backing away now.

This move was very unusual.

To the outsiders, this meant that the main force of the short-selling part had exhausted their resources. However, Jasper had been fighting with them this whole time and he was sure they still had energy left over.

“Something’s wrong!” Jasper yelled all of a sudden.

“He’s going to run!”

“Increase the stock price now! All of them! Use the fastest speed you can to increase the Hansel Index!”

Jasper’s voice startled Zack. He instinctively carried out Jasper’s orders as if it was in his subconscious.

It was like magic. The Hansel Index skyrocketed as if someone had used a cheat code on it.

The screen was initially shrouded by a gloomy-looking green color, but after the increase of the stocks, the numbers turned from dark green to bright red.

The stock market had a rebound and was increasing!

At the same time, it was as if the short-selling party did not dare to continue the fight. They were retreating.

The Hansel Index increased from 7,602 points to 7,650 points.

7,680 points.

7,800 points.

8,000 points!

It surmounted all difficulties and there were no obstacles on the way!

“We won?”

Spencer yelled in excitement.

Not only him, but the entire Harbor City was going insane.

“We won!”

“The stock market is rising!”

“We saved it!”

Everyone was frantically celebrating the victory.

After the last transaction of the short-selling party was taken down, the Hansel Index went up to 8,500 points.

Even though there was still a long way to go to reach the top, it would all be a matter of time.

After all, Harbor Stocks plummeted because of an irresistible trend. The bubble would eventually burst if it became too big, so when that happened, not even the gods could stop it!

Jasper had saved the points, and it was equivalent to saving the economy of Harbor City. This was pretty commendable.

This battle of the two main forces finally came to an end.

The living room fell into a state of boiling merriment.

The heads of the four rich families were beaming. Even the officials from the government were high-fiving each other in celebration.

Outside of the crowd, Jake's face was white as he murmured, "How is that possible... How could they just retreat like this? He won just like that? Impossible..."

Jake looked ghastly pale, and his first thought was to run!

He felt as much panic as the arrogance he initially felt.

However, the moment he turned around, he saw the young master of the Laws, Henry, blocking the door with a grin on his face. He looked as if he was waiting for him to make a mistake so that he could beat him up authoritatively and fairly.

Jake gritted his teeth and withdrew his foot that had already stepped out. The look on his face changed irregularly, and he looked horrible.

“Congratulations! Mr. Laine, you did it!”

Kennedy came over to Jasper unbeknownst to him and said with a grin.

Jasper had no joy on his face.

It was because this entire script was completely different than the one he had in mind.

The main force of the other party had retreated at a crucial moment, causing Jasper’s initial plan to be fruitless for the greater part.

Even though they won for now, for Jasper, he knew he had lost a little to his opponent!

The other party had obviously seen through his objective.

They did not step into his trap but on the contrary, they turned around and walked away.

Jasper composed himself while facing Kennedy’s words of congratulations. He smiled lightly and said, “I just did what I should do.”

“We always have to remember that there’s always someone who’s better than us in this world, no?”

Kennedy said this significant statement.

Jasper’s eyes twinkled as he looked deeply at Kennedy. Then, he nodded and said, “Yes, but I believe the truth will come out one day!”

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Was there a mole?

This was the biggest possibility Jasper could come up with.

However, he did not eliminate the possibility that the opponent had predicted what he was about to do.

In short, it did not matter if there was a mole or not. Judging from the current situation, Jasper should enjoy the fruits of his victory.

It would be impossible for Harbor City to get through the burst of the economic bubble this time unharmed.

The global economy had been badly affected and suffered a great loss. These were the rules of economics and also the trend that Jasper was talking about, so it would be impossible to change this.

As such, as long as he was able to stop Harbor City's economy from being further destroyed, this was the biggest victory for him!

Jasper had done it.

However, it just did not reach his expectations.

Jasper got rid of these thoughts and walked in front of Jake. He only smiled and did not say anything.

Jake looked at Jasper sinisterly and frenetically. He gritted his teeth and said, "Why are you smiling at me like that?"

“Honor your promise,” said Jasper insipidly, “You said that if I win, you’ll kneel, grovel, admit your mistakes, and even become my apprentice. Did you forget that in such a short time?”

Jake laughed from anger. “You want me to kneel, grovel, and ask you to make me your apprentice? You’re dreaming!”

“The heads of the four rich families have all witnessed what you said just now. If you plan not to own up, then can you guess what your consequences will be?” Jasper said flatly.

Jake said with animosity, “Jasper, don’t go too far!”

“Am I going too far or were you too egotistical?” Jasper asked, and his eyes that were looking at Jake were emotionless.

“I never liked competing with someone verbally. I prefer to talk based on facts. Now, you’ve seen it for yourself. I won, so... you should honor your promise.”

Henry chuckled and walked over. He lifted his hand and patted Jake’s shoulder. He pressed him down, saying slovenly, “You son of a b*tch, you bet, you pay. Now, a weasel like you should kneel, grovel, and admit your mistakes before asking him to take you as his apprentice.”

After he said that, Henry said meaningfully, “If you don’t kneel, do you think you can walk out the door of Law Manor?”

After Jake heard that, his face turned white.

He knew a child of a top aristocrat like Henry would have the guts to do anything. There were also a lot of people willing to risk their lives for him.

Jake pondered for a while before bowing his head deeply. He bent his knees and knelt on the floor heavily.

“I was wrong. I’m sorry!”

Jake gritted his teeth and suppressed the anger in his heart. “Please take me as your apprentice!”

Jasper looked at him unenthusiastically and said to Henry, “Let him go and let him leave.”

“You’re not taking him as your apprentice?” Henry asked with a grin. He wanted to use this opportunity to insult him some more.

“Next time.” Jasper narrowed his eyes.

If one overlooked the rest, a person like Jake really had professional skills. He was a suitable candidate to be his subordinate to manage the properties in Harbor City after he left.

However, it was not suitable to talk about this now.

“Alright, get lost.” Henry kicked Jake. “Remember to be humble next time. Don’t go about with your nose in the air just because you have some kills.”

After he heard this, Jake got up hurriedly. He glanced at the two of them with bitter resentment in his eyes and was too embarrassed to stay here anymore. As such, he turned around and ran away.

The heads of the four rich families were very busy, especially now. After exchanging courtesies with Jasper and leaving promises of working with him in the future, they left hurriedly.

After Kennedy got out of Law Manor, he did not go to put his assets in order like the rest of the gang. On the contrary, he went back to the secluded villa.

After he stepped into the villa, he saw Rogers smiling at him while raising his wine glass.

“My number one spy is back.” Rogers joked.

Kennedy shook his hand nonchalantly and asked, “How’s our profit?”

“We can make a ton of money, of course.”

Rogers said and shrugged. “However, there’s still some disparity with what we expected. That young man, Jasper, is very skilled. The trap in the end was pretty interesting!”

“Yet you still managed to solve it, no? I saw Jasper with a horrible look on his face when I was over there,” Kennedy said with a smile.

“He’s still young and needs to pay some tuition fees after all,” said Rogers while standing up.

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”I’m also heading back to the United States to report myself in. There’s a celebration banquet awaiting me as well. All the investors were extremely satisfied with the cooperation with my fellow partners. From now onward, we’ll have opportunities to work together.

“The share that belongs to you will be transferred to your designated account within this week. For now, let’s stay low as currently, Harbor City is experiencing a massive crash in the dot-com bubble. Many potential shares are on the lower side, and it’s just the right timing to enter now.”

Rogers said as he burst into laughter.

“To be honest, I’m looking forward to the day when I cross paths with Jasper. This young man has intrigued my interest.”

After making only a few comments, Rogers led his team to leave the scene.

In the villa, only Kennedy and Bob were left there.

Kennedy tossed a cigarette to Bob and said with a complicated expression, “This bunch of foreigners has earned quite a ton.”

Bob said with a rather jealous feeling, “Their ability is overwhelming. What can we do about them?”

“However, this is also a lesson for Jasper. It should make him realize others are more capable than him and he shouldn’t be too arrogant.”

Kennedy breathed out a mouthful of smoke and said, “In the future, there will be plenty of chances to teach youngsters in Harbor City about their standings in society.”

While he was in the middle of the conversation, Kennedy received a call.

It was a call from his son, Mitch Langdon.

“What’s the matter?” Kennedy asked.

On the other end of the call, Mitch’s voice was followed by a sobbing tone.

“Dad, I’m... I’m broke!”

At that moment, Mitch’s hair and clothes were in a mess. It was as if he was a poor guy running for his life. He glanced at Zane who was on the ground and

unable to move an inch. The man was not saying a word while Mitch was speaking with a shaking voice.

“I thought Harbor Stocks would still drop today, so I used up the family’s assets and put it into a short sale. I didn’t expect that b*stard, Jasper, to be chosen as the host for the market rescue fund. In the first wave, he immediately cleared off our orders.

“Currently, the prices are continuously rising. Me and Zane... have been liquidated and are bankrupt!”

Kennedy, who initially was still in a somewhat pleasant mood, immediately had a dark expression after hearing it.

“Didn’t I order you to behave yourself and stay at home without doing anything?! Who gave you the guts to make your own decision and go forth to play with stocks?!”

“Don’t you know what the current situation is? Even I’m being cautious and dare not do anything rashly. Who are you guys to be so daring?!”

Kennedy was getting more exasperated as he spoke, and he suddenly roared as he asked, “How much did you and Zane lose respectively?!”

“We’re both broke. I’ve lost billions. Zane has it far worse. He even mortgaged his house and suffered a loss of 600 million,” said Mitch with a shaky voice.

Kennedy took in a deep breath and said through his gritted teeth, “What a piece of trash who can never accomplish anything and only fails!”

“At this period, there are tons of eyes watching over the actions of affluent families like us. If this news spreads out, that my son carried out a short sale on shares and attempted to engulf the hard earn monies of those shareholders only to end up losing billions... Say, what do you think those reporters will write about it?!”

“The pride of the Langdon family, my pride, and your grandpa’s pride will all be tainted by rubbish like you!

“I’m with Bob right now. You two spoiled brats better come back home this instant!”

...

At the Laws’ household.

Jasper was calculating the rewards from this operation. He did not feel good whenever he thought of the mistake made at the end of the market rescue plan.

“After deducting the 100 billion funds to save the city, we managed to earn 98 billion from the 40 billion capital during its peak. However, in the afternoon, I used that sum of money for the market rescue plan. On the surface, we’ve won.

“However, at the very last moment, it was obviously my loss when I was having a contest with the opponent. I lost an additional 18 billion!”

Jasper was shaking his head in Zachary’s office. There was a look of dismay on his face.

“So, right now, we still have 80 billion with us, which coincidentally has been doubled. It’s just that most of the money couldn’t be taken out, all so that we can stabilize Harbor Stocks.”

Zachary tapped on Jasper’s shoulder and said, “You’ve already done the best. Don’t be too harsh on yourself. You’ll only wear yourself out.”

“I’ll take control over that sum of money. Previously, you spent five billion and gained back your capital with some profits. Later, I’ll give you ten billion. Michael is just the same as you. He took out five billion of capital. I’ll do the same and give him an additional ten billion. The remaining 60 billion, I’ll gladly accept it.”

Zachary was smiling. He sensed that this young lad, Jasper Laine, would one day be a big shot in the future!

No, it should be that he was heading to a much higher stage in the world where he would stand at a higher level!

The thought of it made Zachary glance at Jasper with an astonished gaze. He admired and respected Jasper from the bottom of his heart.

“To be honest, at the very beginning when you said you’re able to help the Law family earn back that ten billion, I was still doubting you, but now, you’ve helped the Law family earn 30 billion! You didn’t let us down, you even exceeded our expectations!”

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Jasper shook his head and said, “We both gained some benefits. Without the Law family, I wouldn’t be earning this much as well. At the end of the day, without the help from the Law family, I’m afraid that I wouldn’t even have the opportunity to show my talents as well!”

Zachary nodded his head with satisfaction when facing Jasper’s humbleness. He said with a smile, “Regardless, you’ve indeed done a huge favor for the Law family in this matter. The Law family shall always remember this.”

Jasper waved his hand and said with his expression suddenly becoming much more serious, “Uncle Law, please allow me to say something on my mind. Just keep these words in your heart after hearing this.”

Seeing that Jasper was speaking in such a manner, Zachary became all serious as well. He said, "Spit it out. I'm all ears."

"At the very last moment, I was actually planning to set up a trap for the opponent. Once he was in the trap, he would be within my control. With that, we could have gobbled up the main funds for a short sale, at least half of it!"

"I know about this. You mentioned it previously," said Zachary.

"But at the eleventh hour, we just lacked that one step. The opponent was very decisive and backed off instead. I'm suspecting that there's a spy among us."

Hearing this made Zachary's expression become extremely stern.

"We can be absolutely sure that the main force doing the short sale has its funds from the western countries. However, the investigation about who the leader is is still ongoing. You're saying that among us, there's a spy who's helping out the western countries?"

Zachary's tone was extremely serious.

Earlier, there had been lots of people in the hall. They could exclude Zack and the trading team. Since two days ago, they had been staying together under the tight surveillance of the security guards.

Even if they had the intention of leaking out information, they would not have had that opportunity to do so.

Next up were the heads of the four affluent families, along with the two officials with the government of Harbor City, and... Jake Cullen!

"Who do you think is the most suspicious?" Zachary asked.

“I’ve got no idea.” Jasper shook his head. “Actually, the conclusion that there’s a spy among us is also my own guess without any concrete proof. So as for who’s the most suspicious, currently I only have very little information to go on. I can’t say for sure.”

“Alright, I’ll conduct an investigation on this matter,” said Zachary with a dark expression.

At this point, being a spy for the funds to the western countries was no different than selling one’s own country to others.

Zachary despised people who betrayed their country for their own luxury.

“There’s something that you might need to consider.”

Zachary said to Jasper, “The financial weekly magazine that’s the biggest and most famous throughout Harbor City, Terra’s Financial Weekly, hopes to have a special interview session with you.”

Jasper waved his hand and said, ‘I’ve got lots of work to do. I might not be free.’”

It was an opportunity to integrate Gladness Entertainment Movies when Harbor Stocks were still in a recovery phase. He got to enter rapidly in those potential stocks that might rise in the future. There were tons of things awaiting for Jasper to accomplish.

“It won’t do you any harm to spare some time to go over. They can follow your schedule. Besides, you’ll still be able to gain some benefits from this weekly magazine. Regardless of what happens, Harbor City is a place that emphasizes reputation. There are many times where reputation might be more useful than benefits.”

Zachary’s thoughtful words made Jasper change his mind. “Alright then. Then please ask them to get in touch with me.”

...

In a quiet study room in a villa.

Smack!

A slap landed across Mitch's face.

Due to that slap, Mitch stumbled and took two steps back. He nearly fell hard with his bottom hitting the floor.

The burning pain on Mitch's face made him clench his fist, but he dared not retaliate or vent out his frustrations. He knew that his father, Kennedy, had a temper that was much worse than himself. Hence, he did not have the guts to speak even a word.

"You scumbag!"

Kennedy's exasperated roar exploded in Mitch's ears.

"It's one thing if you lost your mind and lost some money. But how dare you be so daring, even dragging Zane along and selling the family's assets, tossing all of it away?!"

"Do you two fools know that you guys are the sons of affluent families? If news were to spread out about you guys doing short sales and trying to earn the hard earned monies of Harbor City during the financial crisis, do you guys think that you'll be able to raise your heads high in Harbor City?"

"Even the family's business will be affected as well!"

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Zane was hiding at a corner, shaking out of fear. He dared not let out a single word under Bob's stony gaze.

He was feeling utterly aggrieved as well. Initially, he did not have the guts to do such a thing, but it was all because Mitch was overconfident. As such, he got all hyped up and both of them gathered about two billion. They then placed all the funds into the shares.

If it was just because of the two billion in funds, Kennedy would not be that exasperated. The main problem was that Mitch's actions could possibly expose him to everyone in Harbor City.

His cooperation with Quantum Fund was a top secret and should never be known to any outsiders. For safety purposes, he had not told his son about it either.

He had been cautious while working on it on the side but his son nearly got into huge trouble. The thought of it made Kennedy disgruntled.

"It's all because of Jasper!"

Mitch clenched his teeth and shouted, exasperated, "If it's not for him provoking me, I'd never have done short sales with such a big fund!"

Kennedy's expression darkened as he roared, "You've committed such a foolish mistake, yet you still want to put the blame on others? Being easily provoked by others will only mean that your composure is not sturdy enough!"

"Wait a moment!"

At that moment, Bob voiced out and said, “Mr. Langdon, it’s useless if you continue being angry. It’s better if you think of a way to fix things. Mitch, earlier you said that Jasper provoked you. What actually happened?”

Mitch and Zane both blurted the entire incident on the day they were at Victoria Harbor.

Finally, Mitch gritted his teeth and said, “Back then, Jasper should have already known that he would be hosting the market rescue plan. That’s why he intentionally provoked me and set up a plot against me. This man is utterly cruel!”

Zane was also so mad that his face had turned pale. He yelled, “Don’t ever give me the chance. If I seize that chance, I’ll be sure to make that Mainlander suffer!”

Bob and Kennedy looked into each other’s eyes, and everyone fell silent.

“Jasper...”

Kennedy softly called out that name.

“This brat is not as simple as he seems,” said Bob with a deep voice.

With a smirk, Kennedy said, “What’s there to be afraid of? As long as he’s in Harbor city and intends to run a business in Harbor City, we’ll get our chance to go against him.”

Mitch opened his mouth to say, “Dad, we can’t just let this matter slide aside.”

“Obviously not!” Kennedy’s expression darkened. “However, for these two days, you two better not show up anywhere. Don’t leave the house. I’ll arrange for someone to do their best to cover up this matter. At least there’s good news, which is that the outsiders are temporarily unaware of you guys doing short sales.”

“Let me handle this matter,” said Bob, “I’m still able to say something to the media of Harbor City.”

“Sure.” Kennedy nodded. There were some things that would not be appropriate for him to handle himself, and Bob would be just the perfect person to do this.

...

While Kennedy and his son were having a secret discussion, Jasper was already at the International Commerce Center of Harbor City.

Even though it was named a center, in fact, it was the iconic building of Harbor City.

As the tallest building in Harbor City, its outline had appeared in lots of dramas and movies made in Harbor City.

On the 118th floor at the top balcony.

An umbrella, a coffee table, and three chairs.

Jasper was sitting on the balcony, feeling the chilly breeze and the sunny weather. He had a lazy yet calm smile on his face.

Henry, who was sitting beside, yawned. He was lazily lying and sunbathing. He sneaked a peek at the troop of security guards who were lined up at a place not far away and was jealous of them.

“Right now, you’re occupying a higher place in my dad’s heart. He even said that he’s worried about your safety. He has dispatched all the elite security guards to you. I’ve never received such treatment.”

Jasper smiled and ignored that statement, saying, “Has Jake arrived yet?”

“Don’t worry. I’ve already sent someone there to get him. Even if he has the guts, he won’t be so bold to refuse to step forth!”

While he was talking, Jake, who looked famished, showed up at the entrance of the balcony. They both locked eyes. The moment Jake saw Jasper, the corners of his mouth twitched. He had a very dark expression on his face.

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The moment Jake bumped into Jasper again, he gritted his teeth. He was so eager to pounce on Jasper and feast on him!

After coming back from the Laws' household that day, Jake had been listening to people singing praises at Jasper while they mocked him.

He wondered who was the loudmouth who spread out the news of him being humiliated by Jasper in the Laws' household.

As such, he, Jake, a rich and influential person who led his life as if he was the main character in a novel, suddenly became the opposing character in a novel instead...

He would himself in the office for almost the entire day and not come out.

He knew that after this incident, he had humiliated his entire family throughout Harbor City. From then onward, no one would be willing to cooperate with him.

He, as a stock trader, had no funds to invest in himself, hence what awaited him in the future was only death.

Jake did not even consider whether to go to other countries to develop.

However, at that moment, Henry's men had found him.

Jake did not have the guts to not show up when faced with Henry's summon.

At this moment, he was looking at Jasper who was sitting on the balcony. His back was facing the sunny sky, and his casual white shirt made him look handsome under the umbrella.

Even Jake had to admit that Jasper's appearance and aura were definitely of a prestigious person.

'This guy, he's from a family that's slightly of the lower class. If only he was from an affluent family of Harbor City, perhaps he might be a very successful person.'

That was what Jake thought as he made his way to Jasper and Henry.

"Have a seat."

Jasper pointed at the only empty seat.

Jake said with a cold smile, "You called me over to continue humiliating me? You should begin right now. The winner is the king and the fallen will be the loser. I've got nothing to comment on that. However, in regards to sitting, I'll pass on that."

"Humiliate you?"

At that moment, Henry was not happy and said scornfully, "F*ck you. Who do you think you are? Do you have any idea how busy we are right now? There's a ton of stuff waiting to be settled. Who has the spare time to humiliate you? You've really overestimated yourself."

While being lectured, Jake gritted his teeth and roared, "Then why did you guys call me over here? Don't tell me we're here to be friends?"

"It's not that accurate if you say it's to be friends, but we can't say it's wrong from a different perspective," said Jasper with a soft chuckle.

Jake looked at Jasper with a hostile gaze. He realized he was no longer able to see through what was going through the mind of that person.

“Harbor City is a very important place. However, I can’t possibly stay in Harbor City forever. So, I need someone in Harbor City to help me settle some issues regarding business.”

Jasper said it without beating around the bush. He tapped on Jake and continued saying, “You’re one of the candidates.”

Jake found it hilarious yet felt exasperated at the same time. He said, “You’re not holding a grudge against me and are even thinking of putting me in a very important position? Do you think I’m some three-year-old kid who’s easily cheated?”

Jasper stood up and walked to the side of the balcony.

Jake was in doubt, hence he followed as well and stood not far away from Jasper.

At that moment, if it was not for a group of security guards glaring from a place not far away, Jake might really push Jasper down to end everything.

However, that was just a quick flash of an idea. Jake was aware that if he did that, he would be taken down before he could even make a move.

Even though he hated Jasper, the hatred he had was not to a point where he would take him down with his life.

“Harbor City is indeed a city that can spellbind others. It’s full of temptation, isn’t it?”

Jasper faced the wind and the vast sky that was hundreds of meters wide. He said those words while facing the entire Harbor City.

Life at the Top Chapter 212

Harbor City had just endured a financial crisis. Currently, its sky was so clear with sunny weather. Skyscrapers were standing tall under the dark blue sky. Each floor was shining, and there were lots of people strolling along the streets downstairs. Cars were passing by each other as well. Everything looked so lively. "Don't you wish to stand at the top of this city and enjoy its beauty from up here?" said Jasper.

Jake looked at Jasper's back view and raised his brow. He had to admit that at that moment, he was indeed being mesmerized by the beauty mentioned by Jasper.

'Standing at the peak of Harbor City? That will be an enormous honor.

'That will really make my ancestors proud of me as well!'

It was also a target that made Jake keep putting in the effort. It was just that the target was way too far and hard for him to reach. Aside from fantasizing about it, Jake dared not think further about it.

However, Jasper did not just have the guts to think about it, he even blurted it out. Besides, he was also making a move toward it.

At least at that moment, everyone in Harbor City had come to know of the name Jasper.

"There's no such thing as being enemies forever in the business world, only benefits exist. If you think that there's a miscommunication between us from earlier, and to you, it's a barrier that you can't overcome, then you may leave this instant. I give you my word that no one will stop you."

After listening to Jasper's comment, Jake's face twitched. Finally, he snorted and said, "Previously, I was the one who insulted you in the first place. Then later on, you made me kneel and grovel to you, forcing me to take you as my master. Doesn't that make things equal?"

"Equal? Maybe."

Jasper's comment made Jake's expression change for the worst. From the moment he arrived up to that point, Jasper's words and actions made Jake think that he was intending to solve the issue. However, he did not expect Jasper to say such a thing after he surrendered.

"However, to me, business is business. You have your strengths that I admire, and it's something that I need. This is the basis of our cooperation. It has nothing to do with other things. It's only up to whether or not you want to cooperate with us."

Jasper spun around. The curve on his lips at that moment was no different from a demon in Jake's vision.

He could not think it through. 'What kind of person will be able to really place their personal emotions aside when making a decision?'

Even if he previously had a very huge argument with Jasper, he should be discussing with Jasper with a calm spirit all just because he possessed an ability that Jasper needed?

'Does such a person really exist in this world?'

"For a time period, I'll be leaving Harbor City. When that happens, my investments in Harbor City will be under your supervision. You have the skills, but your temper is so bad. That's why I don't plan to give you the main authority. Without my permission, you can't make any decisions by yourself.

"I'll give you 5% of profits for your part for one year."

Jake sneered, “5%, isn’t that way too low?”

“You can choose not to agree to it. You can just turn around and leave.”

At that moment, Henry came over and stood beside Jasper. He chuckled and said, “Of course, the moment you leave, I might end up giving you lots of trouble!”

Jasper frowned and looked at Henry, saying, “Don’t frighten him.”

After saying it, Jasper’s expression became awful as he said to Jake, “This is win-win cooperation. We’re gaining benefits from each other. There won’t be any revenge if you don’t agree to it.

“Both parties cooperating on their own record is the basis to a cooperation process that will be guaranteed to be a success.”

Hearing Jasper’s comment made Jake’s expression look much better. Deep within his heart, he started having a good impression of Jasper.

After all, when compared to Henry, Jasper was so generous that he could gain the respect of others.

“5% is too little. It’s so much lower than the market price.” Jake was already inclined to give in, but he insisted on gaining more profits.

It was normal human psychology.

Jasper gradually raised his head and said, “The investments in Harbor City that I’m about to hand over to you are not less than two billion. Now, do you still think that 5% is little?”

“What?!”

Jake was shocked and looked at Jasper, horrified. He was stunned by Jasper's large sum of money.

Life at the Top Chapter 213

Since young, Jake was always surrounded by others and flattered by them. He grew up with the nickname of being a genius.

He was always the ideal kid mentioned by other parents.

Even on Wall Street, he was also considered to have become famous from a young age.

However, it was those incidents that created Jake's ego and proud character.

However, no matter what happened, no one would deny Jake's exceptionally strong working ability.

In his 20s, he was able to create fame for himself on Wall Street. Such an ability was impossible to be seen in any ordinary person.

Besides, Jake was also a bright person.

After leaving the Laws' household, even though he was very upset and suffered a lot, he took the time to calm himself. After looking back at his mistakes, he returned to witness Jasper's way of trading.

He had to admit that if he was the one who operated it, Harbor Stocks might be done for.

Jake was not willing to admit it verbally, but deep within him, he knew it crystal clear.

According to the momentum on the market, looking out for such an investment would require at least 15% of profits. Only then would it be considered as the norm.

However, that was only for those small customers with millions of investments.

‘This is two billion...’

To be honest, Jasper’s offer was considered luxurious.

Even if Jasper was not famous now, many people would still fight their way to get hold of the offer if it was extended to the public.

The thought of it made Jake grit his teeth and say, “I’ll take the offer!”

Jasper smiled and clapped Jake’s shoulder, saying, “This is what you call knowing what’s best.”

“When are we signing the agreement?”

Even though Jake had agreed to cooperate with Jasper, deep within his heart, he had completely surrendered to him. Even though his pride made him unable to step down without feeling awkward, he still forced himself to ask the question.

“I’ll get in touch with you after some time.” Jasper waved his hand.

“Sure. I’ll be waiting for your news,” said Jake, then he left the scene.

Looking at his back view, Henry elbowed Jasper. “Let’s not talk about me, but there are tons of talented people in Harbor City. Why bother looking for him?”

“Indeed, there are lots of talented people and investment management companies who can accept my task. However, in the near future, Harbor City will be operating as my second largest base. I won’t be able to rest assured if I hand it over to other companies,” said Jasper while shaking his head.

As for the details, which involved Jasper’s future and the plans for his business territory, there was no need to reveal them to Henry as he would not be able to understand it.

“Then you’ll be able to rest assured if it’s Jake? Don’t you forget that he’s a man with greed! Besides, he even has a grudge against you,” said Henry, astonished.

Regardless of what he said, those two people were considered to have suspicions toward each other. He had never heard of an enemy who would be much more trustworthy than other people.

“He’s aware of my relationship with your family, and he knows that I have good connections with the four affluent families of Harbor City, as well as the government of Harbor City. Hence, even if I’m not in Harbor City, he won’t dare do anything foolish.

“An enemy who knows how overwhelming you are will do things more cautiously compared to a stranger who knows nothing about you. The chances of them doing foolish things will be fewer as well.”

Henry heard the comment and thought about it for a long time. He then said with a sorrowful tone, “I don’t get it...”

“Aren’t you guys tired? Every day, you guys are calculating so many things. It’s as if you guys have to think through it ten times.”

“Let’s go. Let’s head home.”

Jasper stretched lazily.

Henry quickly followed happily. He was already used to being the character of Jasper's underling... He still did not find anything weird about it.

This time, Jasper did not return to the Laws' household.

Zachary was busy, and he was not able to divide his person to carry out other tasks at the same time. After the huge financial crisis that landed on Harbor City, Zachary would have to personally handle issues, be it the family's business or the issues in the government of Harbor City.

Zachary even brought Anna along to help out.

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Henry, who would only make things worse when he helped out, was cast over to Jasper without hesitation.

That was why when Jasper returned to the hotel, he immediately abandoned the idea of heading out to have fun, especially when he knew that Jasper was going to attend the interview session with Terra's Financial Weekly.

"Man, that's Terra's Financial Weekly! It holds such a great influence!

"They only interview big bosses, people like my dad. He was interviewed once. Even if that's the case, I haven't heard of such a thing as special interviews."

At the executive lounge of Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Henry was saying to Jasper with an excited look.

"Why don't you go for the interview since you're so excited about it?" said Jasper with a smile.

Henry's expression turned dark and he said angrily, "Forget it. If I'm able to attend an interview with them, my dad will laugh till he wakes up from his sleep. Knowing one's limit is the key to being a prestigious person... The key is to know one's limit."

"There's no such thing as something being impossible."

Jasper left a comment when he noticed Henry being lifeless.

According to Jasper's memories from his past life, later on in the future, Henry really got featured on a page in Terra's Financial Weekly. However, that was after he changed his ways and carried out a legit business. It was also after he married an athlete, the queen of diving.

While they were talking, three people consisting of a lady and two men rushed into the executive lounge.

The two men were carrying some supplies while the lady had delicate makeup on, looking quite stunning.

She had short hair that reached her ears and was wearing a lady's suit. She did not have heavy makeup on, which made her appearance look fresh. That lady was Leilani Carlson, one of the most famous hosts in Harbor City.

"Nice to meet you, Mr. Laine. I'm Leilani Carlson, representing Terra's Financial Weekly. I'm responsible for the interview session with you this time."

As a host who was used to dealing with lots of huge crises and had even interviewed many talented bosses from the business industry, Leilani was rather amiable and could easily leave a good impression on others.

Jasper smiled and shook hands with her, saying, "Nice to meet you. It's a pleasure."

After taking a seat, Leilani said, “We know that you’re quite busy, Mr. Laine. So, let me get straight to the point. We’re very grateful that you’re willing to spend some time and cooperate with us to sit for this interview.

“In light of the market rescue plan which you hosted, you managed to rescue the finances of Harbor Stocks and they didn’t suffer from further damages. Hence, the citizens of Harbor City are eager to know more about you. So this time, you’ll be featured on the front page of our Terra’s Financial Weekly.”

Henry, who was beside, was widening his eyes when he heard it.

Once again, he was able to sense himself being extraordinarily weak when compared to Jasper—especially when he recalled his younger days of fooling around with young models, racing cars, clubs, and going to yacht gatherings.

‘Look what others are fooling around with!

‘He hosted a rescue market plan that’s worth tens of billions!

‘He’s sitting for an interview with Terra’s Financial Weekly and is even f*cking getting featured on the front page!’

In Harbor City, the influence of Terra’s Financial Weekly was just only second to the magazine Fortune, which was famous throughout the world.

“Will you need to specially take pictures for this?” Jasper asked.

“If you have to take additional photos, then you guys can forget about it. I’m really very busy, and I have no time for makeup and taking photos.”

Jasper’s comment nearly made Henry, who was beside him, jumped to his feet.

‘F*ck you! You may not have the time, but I do!’

Leilani was stunned for a moment. A weird sensation was dwelling within her.

To be honest, Jasper was very easy-going. He did not have the ego of a young ambitious man. Even if he was rejecting something, he could make others feel his sincerity as well...

'But this is Terra's Financial Weekly!'

Even if it was a boss like Kayden, he had also given full cooperation and used one whole day for makeup and photoshoot when he was featured on the front page.

"If you're busy with work, Mr. Laine, then let's be flexible and immediately start with the interview. As for the photoshoot, we'll just seize any opportunity and take a few pictures. Later on, we'll choose a nice one and publish it," said Leilani.

"Let's start," said Jasper while nodding his head.

Leilani hesitated again and said awkwardly to Henry who was staring at a corner with an excited look, "Young Master Law, could you please move aside and have a seat while our shooting takes place? We don't want anyone else showing up beside Mr. Laine..."

Suddenly, Henry's expression turned dark. Flames of rage dwelled within him as he cursed internally.

'F*ck you!'

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Henry was so mad that his expression changed for the worst.

Since when would Young Master Law, who was all mighty in Harbor City and had a good reputation, be cast aside disdainfully by others?

‘She even thinks I’m a nuisance for being in the background?!’

“No need for that.”

Jasper suddenly spoke up and said with a smile, “Allow him in to be in the interview with me. After all, I think there are quite a number of readers who are rather curious about the identity of Young Master Law.”

Jasper’s request was one that did not comply with the standard set of rules. All this while, such a professional interview was on a one-on-one basis. When would there be a scene where two people showed up and were interviewed at the same time?

‘Plus, Henry is not on our list of to-be-interviewed as well.’

However, Leilani was not a fool. After giving it some thought, she understood that Jasper’s suggestion would work out. Henry was not some random person but the eldest young master of the Law family.

During this market rescue plan, the four affluent families of Harbor City had spared some funds, and among them, the Law family had put in lots of effort. Logically speaking, he should be allowed to stay for this interview.

The most important thing was that Leilani was able to recognize reality. If she were to reject the suggestion and did not do a perfect job, she would have to

endure an earful of a lecture when she returned. Jasper would definitely not be happy as well, and she would even offend a mighty young master of Harbor City like Henry.

‘Only a fool will do such a thing!’

“Alright, then shall we officially start our interview?”

After getting all set up, Leilani started with her first question.

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Laine. You came from Mainland yet have become so famous in Harbor City. You were elected as the host for the market rescue plan. Besides, your performance truly did not let anyone down. In regards to this, do you have anything that you’d like to share with everyone?”

Jasper thought for a moment and said with a smile, “If I were to share something, I will only say that gold will shine wherever it goes.

“I’m not trying to praise myself. I’m just trying to tell everyone that it’s 99% effort, as well as a little bit of luck and a tiny bit of talent. Only by persevering one will ultimately be successful.”

Leilani’s eyes sparkled.

She had interviewed so many people before. Unless they had already memorized their lines, it was very rare for someone to perform in such a perfect manner during a spontaneous interview session.

Jasper, at that moment, regardless of his mentality or vibe, all seemed natural without an ounce of anxiety.

While they were talking, Jasper was behaving appropriately and was able to fulfill a difficult task with the least effort.

Leilani had only sensed such a vibe and charisma on those bosses who had been famous for a very long time in the business industry.

After asking a few routine questions, Leilani did not give Henry a cold shoulder and asked him, “Mr. Law, you’re good friends with Mr. Laine. So, tell me, what kind of person is he in his usual life? Is he always this elegant and easy-going?”

Henry nearly burst into laughter.

He could not comprehend the fact that Leilani was able to sense that Jasper was elegant and easy-going.

‘This brat is using his looks to cheat others again.’

Even though he was cursing frantically internally, Henry had a bright smile on his face.

“You’re saying that about him? Previously, in my eyes, he was just a Mainlander... No, actually he’s a very good person.”

Henry nearly went with the flow and revealed his relationship with Jasper. He immediately became serious when he remembered that this was a serious interview.

“In my life, my relationship with him is actually... that of a master and a student.”

Leilani’s eyes were opened wide. She did not expect to get such an answer from the mouth of Henry.

“That’s right. You’re very surprised, right? Actually, I’m also quite astonished by my conclusion.

“Well to be frank, during this period of time, I’ve learned a lot from him. At least, I realized just how childish I was last time.

“Right now... he’s the target that I’m running toward.”

Henry shrugged his shoulders. Initially, he had not planned to praise Jasper, but as he kept talking, he realized that speaking out what was in his mind was actually not an embarrassing thing to do. As that was the case, he might as well blurt out everything that was deep within him.

‘Setting my master as my target and learning from him is not an embarrassing thing.’

Leilani’s eyes were gleaming with rays of excitement. She could already predict that with just Henry’s statement, this issue of the magazine would be able to sell out till it was out of stock.

“Mr. Laine, do you think you’re a genius in the investing world?”

Under the lightings that gathered together, Jasper sat on the sofa with the most natural and comfortable posture. When facing Leilani’s question, he kept silent for a moment.

“Maybe I have a bit of talent. Actually, I didn’t have any interest in investment at the very beginning. I’m actually quite a lazy person.”

Henry glanced at Jasper as the corners of his mouth twitched.

‘It’s starting!’

‘It’s starting again!’

‘This man is starting to put on an act!’

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Henry, who was eager to curse, did not show any fluctuations in his expression. He was even looking forward to seeing what sort of performance and script Jasper would put on and say next.

Jasper's comment which was said with a tone that made him appear calm made Leilani experience a brief moment of suffocation.

"I still have some personal questions. Usually, when you're making friends, do you have any special criteria? Do you disregard identity and status, or do those who are able to mingle with you need to possess a certain amount of wealth and status?"

"I have no criteria. What matters is that I get along with them. I never look at their wealth nor status when I'm making friends because I know that usually, those who are of the same age as me will not be as rich as me!"

Henry caught the sign and grasped it on his chest. He was feeling an ache in his heart as he looked at Jasper's calm expression. Suddenly, he was feeling slightly envious of him. 'When can I be just like Jasper, able to blurt out such arrogant words carefreely?'

"Mr. Laine, you've such high expectations in your investments. I heard that your returns from your previous investment were terrifying. May I ask what's your feeling about that?"

"Well, I don't have many feelings about it. Actually, when you've earned a ton of fortune, money will become just numbers to you."

Hearing it made Henry, who was beside him, and Leilani feel a strong urge coursing through them...

Leilani forced herself to suppress the emotions within her. Her expression remained composed as she continued with the interview.

“Then, may I ask, do you have a target, Mr. Laine? Or in other words, have you ever thought that one day, you’ll be able to obtain the title of being the richest man in the country?”

“Nope. if you insist on asking for a target, well I guess I should at least be the richest man in the world?”

Leilani was speechless.

This time, it was both Leilani and Henry whose expressions turned dark again. Even Leilani, who had received very stern training, was unable to remain composed in this interview.

Even Henry wanted to purchase some cardiac medications!

‘Are... Are these even words spoken by a human?’

‘In his eyes, being the richest man in the country is not at all something to be proud of?’

Next up, Leilani followed her usual schedule and asked Jasper a few more questions before ending the interview.

After the camera was off and the interview was over, Leilani let out a breath of relief. It was as if she had completed a big project.

“Mr. Laine, you’re no doubt a more unique rich man I’ve ever interviewed. Not one of them but the only one.”

Leilani’s comment was approved by all the workers.

The interview session was completed after being struck by a few continuous sudden strikes.

Leilani and the two men left. Henry wiped off his sweat and glanced at Jasper with a weird gaze before asking weakly, “Do you have any idea how well you can act?”

Jasper said astonishingly, “But all this while, I’ve just been stating the truth.”

Henry was speechless.

Henry let out a dry laugh, and his expression was dark.

In no time, Henry started scolding while leaving the scene.

Judging from the contents of his words, he was feeling depressed and was heading over to look for his two girlfriends to comfort his soul that was injured.

On the next day at Hennessy Road of Harbor City, number 777, on the ground floor of Gladness Entertainment Movies.

Hennessy Road was considered the most crowded street where all entertainment companies were. The four big movie companies were over here, and not far away from number 777 where Gladness Entertainment Movies was located, was Elite Corporation.

At that moment, Gladness Entertainment Movies was very crowded. Even though it was a fact that the movie industry of Harbor City had declined, the company still shone brightly despite the poor financial status. At the entrance of Gladness Entertainment Movies, there were still people lingering around and it was extremely lively.

Jasper had come over today because he had made an appointment with Michael to sign the final purchasing agreement.

He was not in a hurry, but Michael was.

Michael was desperate for cash as half of the cash he had was trapped within the stocks. He had earned five billion with five billion, which allowed him to have capital with a profit of ten billion. However, he was not Jasper, and Zachary did not abuse his powers to help him out. Hence, it would take a very long time if he wanted to take out that ten billion.

That was why Michael kept remembering the 1.5 billion that Jasper would be paying to purchase Gladness Entertainment Movies.

Even though they had agreed to sign the agreement on that day, Jasper did not inform Michael in advance when he came over. He planned to have a look at Gladness Entertainment Movies' operation, whether or not it was still functioning well.

That would affect his decision on whether or not he should change the employees of the higher management after purchasing Gladness Entertainment Movies officially.

Once the ruler was changed, the underlings would be changed as well. Those who were of no use to Jasper would obviously need to step down.

“Out of the way, out of the way!”

As soon as Jasper entered the entrance of the building, he heard an impatient voice coming from behind. Following then, there was a hand stretched out, attempting to push Jasper away.

Jasper took a step back and evaded that hand.

“What the f*ck, didn't you hear me asking you to get out of the way?”

The owner of that hand was a middle-aged man with an average physique and a potbelly. Earlier, he ended up pushing the air and felt that he had lost his dignity as he looked at Jasper with a fierce gaze.

“You must be Scarlet’s fan, right? Did you happen to know that she’ll be coming here to Gladness Entertainment Movies this morning? Hence, you’ve come here earlier to wait? Hurry up and get lost!”

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Jasper calmly stared at the middle-aged man who had a big head and equally large ears.

Then, he glanced at the latter’s working pass on his neck and said faintly, “You’re an employee of Gladness Entertainment Movies?”

The middle-aged man suddenly let out a smile and said, “I’m glad you’re aware of it. Later, you’d better behave appropriately and stand aside. Don’t go causing any trouble, you hear me?”

While he was speaking, a commotion suddenly broke out at the entrance. A luxurious car came to a halt at the entrance of the company, and immediately, there was someone who went over attentively and opened the car door while serving the owner.

This scene was as if a director of a company had shown up.

Jasper calmly said to the middle-aged man who had an excited expression on his face while he tidied his suit, “In the eyes of your movie company, no matter how famous a celebrity is, they’re just a money-maker. Do you have to do things in such a grand manner?”

The middle-aged man glanced at Jasper and said scornfully, "What do you know? How is Scarlet the same as others? The son of our company's vice president, Mr. White, is courting her. She might just become the daughter-in-law to the vice president."

"A loser like yourself, who can only lick her on the screens, can just forget about it for the rest of your life."

At that moment, the door of the car flung open. The first to come down was a young man, who insisted on wearing a suit that was made specifically for him. His entire body was giving off an exquisite aura, revealing his identity as a young master to a rich family.

That man put on a smiling face and opened the car door attentively. Then, a female celebrity who was well known throughout the entire nation came out of the car.

Scarlet Yates.

Being a part of Purple Fairy had immediately pushed her up to the peak among the female celebrities of Harbor City.

She was considered the crush of most of the people in the same age group in the entire nation.

Currently, Scarlet was at the point where she was extremely famous. As soon as she got down from the car, there was a reporter frantically taking her pictures and there were lots of fans holding up her posters and pictures while shouting out her name.

If it was not for the security personnel blocking the way, perhaps the scene might be thrown into chaos.

When faced with the questions from the reporters, Scarlet smiled politely but did not answer any of them. Under the escort of the young master from the rich family from earlier, they went straight into the company.

The young man glanced at the entrance of the company, feeling disgusted. He even pouted his mouth at those reporters who were rushing in and muttered, "These reporters are way too annoying..."

As he was saying, the man glanced at the surroundings. He immediately spotted Jasper, who had long ago been standing at the side. He found Jasper to be an eyesore.

"Who is this guy?"

He pointed at Jasper and asked irritably.

The middle-aged man planned to head forth and reply but he soon got ruthlessly lectured, "Didn't I mention before that the company doesn't permit these ordinary people to enter?"

"These fans are just so disgusting. They think of all means to get in here to cause havoc!"

As he was talking, the young man lost his patience and waved his hand to Jasper as if he was getting rid of a fly. "Get lost!"

Jasper said with a stony expression, "Regardless of whether or not I'm a fan, am I causing you any trouble by just standing here and having a look?"

The young man did not expect Jasper to answer back. He snorted and said with his eyes squinted, "Judging from your slang, you must be from Mainland?"

The young man put on a disdainful expression when he commented on that as if there was a disease on Jasper that would spread to him.

“Scarlet, your fans from Mainland have chased you all the way till here,” said the man as he burst into laughter.

Scarlet could no longer tolerate it and said to Jasper, “Nice to meet you. If you’re my fan, I need to tell you that I’m currently rushing to a meeting in the company. So, right now, I don’t have much time. Why don’t I give you one of my pictures with my signature on it?”

Jasper was rather surprised to see Scarlet being so polite. She knew her manners. He said faintly, “Alright.”

In Jasper’s past life, he really did fancy Purple Fairy for some time.

Scarlet gave a sweet smile directed to Jasper. Then, she spun around and received a picture from her agent... Celebrities like her would often bump into fans when she was out of her house. Hence, she had prepared all these things in advance.

She signed the picture, then gave it to Jasper while saying, “Thank you for your support!”

After receiving the picture, Jasper was surprised that it was a picture from the drama where Scarlet was dressed up as Purple Fairy.

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“Beautiful,” Jasper said sincerely.

Scarlet smiled. She turned around and was about to walk away, but noticed the gloomy expression on the wealthy, second generation White heir’s face.” “Alright, can you go away now?”

“I came to Gladness Entertainment Movies to take care of some business. Why should I leave?” Jasper shot back.

Mack almost laughed out loud. “The f*ck, you damned country bumpkin, I’ve met a lot of sons of b*tches, but you’re the biggest one there is. You’re here at Gladness Entertainment Movies to take care of business? Do you actually know what this place is?”

“Get lost now! Or I’ll call security to throw you out!”

Jasper said coldly, “Are you an employee of this company?”

Mack gave a smug smile as he replied, “My father is the vice president of Gladness Entertainment Movies!”

“I asked—are you an employee of this company?”

Mack’s expression gradually darkened. “You’re really not going to give up until reality smacks you in the face, huh? You want to act all high and mighty in front of me even when you’re not? Alright then..”

Seeing that the situation was escalating, Scarlet hurriedly said to Mack, “Mack, why don’t we leave now?” Today’s company meeting is very important and Mr. Lane will be attending personally. Let’s not waste any more time.”

Mack eyed Jasper coldly and ground out through gritted teeth, “Count yourself lucky today, bumpkin.”

As he spoke, Mack directed his words at the middle-aged man beside him, who had broken out in a cold sweat. “This is Gladness Entertainment Movies. It’s a big company! Not every Tim, Dick, and Harry can come in here. You don’t want your job anymore, is that it? If that’s the case, I’ll just let my father know you can get out immediately!”

“No no no, rest assured Mr. White—I’ll call security immediately and chase him out.” The middle-aged man’s expression was full of panic.

With a snort, Mack eyed Jasper and sneered, “Bumpkin, Harbor City isn’t somewhere you can come and act like some pretentious prick. Remember that. Now get lost!”

With that, Mack and Scarlet left together.

With a frosty glance at Mack’s back, Jasper headed inside the building.

“Hey!” The middle-aged man exclaimed, and hurried over with two security guards to stop him.

“You were told to get lost—didn’t you hear? Are you that keen on digging your own grave?” The middle-aged man asked Jasper in flustered exasperation.

“Why are you acting like his flunky when he’s not someone from the company?” Jasper asked coldly.

With a sneer, the middle-aged man retorted, “How can a country bumpkin like you be such an idiot? His father is the vice president. The vice president—do you understand? He could crush you with just the tip of a finger. You’re already pretty lucky to have gotten an autographed photo, so go home and lap it up. Now hurry up and leave!”

As the middle-aged man was speaking, the door of the elevator opened and a capable, experienced career woman hurried out.

The moment she noticed Jasper at the door, her eyes lit up and she approached him with the utmost respect.

When the middle-aged man saw her, he was startled. In an instant, his expression altered, becoming a million times more circumspect than when he had faced Mack. He went up to her and said very cautiously, “Secretary Lee, why

are you here? If you have any instructions, you only need to give us a call and we'll take care of things.

Secretary Lee ignored him. Walking over to stand directly in front of Jasper, she said deferentially, "Mr. Laine, you've already arrived. Mr. Lane is in the meeting room upstairs waiting for you to commence the signing ceremony. Would you follow me, please?"

Jasper gave the ghastly-pale middle-aged man a bland look and asked, "What is this person's position?"

Secretary Lee did not know what the middle-aged man had done to offend Jasper. Nevertheless, she replied, "He is one of the deputy reception managers."

"Have him pack up his things and leave."

After saying this, Jasper immediately headed toward the elevator.

Secretary Lee looked at the violently trembling middle-aged man, whose forehead was drenched in cold sweat. Shaking her head, she noted, "You heard him, right? Go get your salary from finance, sign the termination agreement, and leave."

The middle aged man asked indignantly, "That fellow? Who is he? Isn't he just some country bumpkin from the Mainland?"

"He's our new boss."

With a look of pity at the middle-aged man, Secretary Lee hurried to catch up with Jasper and left.

With a plop, the middle-aged man sat right down on the floor, ashen-faced...

Life at the Top Chapter 219

The building of Gladness Entertainment Movies had a total of 26 floors. Jasper took the elevator directly to Michael's office on the top floor.

"Mr. Laine, why didn't you tell me you're coming? I could've arranged for someone to welcome you in advance."

Michael laughed aloud as he stood up and walked to the door. He shook Jasper's hand.

"I came to take a look at how Gladness is and I wasn't disappointed," Jasper said meaningfully.

Michael smiled a little and thought nothing of it. He dismissed Secretary Lee with a wave of his hand.

He invited Jasper to take a seat and said, "All families have skeletons in their closets. To be honest, I've indeed neglected my business in the film industry in the past two years, which has led to some issues within the high-level and mid-level management," Michael tapped his temple lightly as he said.

"Mr. Lane, you're throwing me a mess," Jasper rubbed between his brows and said.

Michael smiled and replied, "You don't have to be so pessimistic. Most of the higher-ups are fairly diligent and conscientious, such as the current CEO, Ryder Lawrence. He was hired back from Halluvu with a large sum of money. You can use him as you wish."

"We'll talk after I get to know him," Jasper said.

“Shall we get going then? The signing ceremony is ready. All the higher-ups and top-tier celebrities who are important to the company are already there,” Michael said.

Jasper got up, nodded, and said, “Let’s go.”

The meeting room on the 25th floor of the company.

The huge meeting room was full at the moment, and everyone was whispering to one another.

The people sitting in the frontmost row were all the current top executives of Gladness Entertainment Movies. CEO Ryder Lawrence was a man in his early 40s who was wearing gold-rimmed glasses and a solemn expression.

A wealthy-looking middle-aged man came over from the side and inquired, “Mr. Lawrence, what is Mr. Lane’s plan? I’m a little puzzled that the company has been sold all of a sudden? I heard that it was sold to a Mainlander. Do you know anything about it?”

Ryder shook his head and said, “I’m not sure. Mr. White, just mind your own business. You still have to work regardless of who the company is sold to, no?”

Joseph chuckled and said yes, but in his heart, he was cursing Ryder.

‘You, Ryder Lawrence, is a CEO who can just brush his bottom and leave anytime. I’m f*cking tied to Gladness Entertainment Movies since a long time ago. Where else can I go besides here?’

Joseph’s worry echoed with the vast majority of people in Gladness Entertainment Movies.

No one knew what this new boss was like. Some of the top-tier celebrities were quite fine with this. With their fame, they were not afraid of not being able to put food on the table.

However, for the other shady mid to high-level managers, their hearts were drumming in their chests.

A little to the front from the middle of the meeting room, Mack said to Scarlet who was next to him, "Rest assured, my dad holds a veteran status within the company.

"No matter who the boss is, they'll have to count on him. When the time comes, I'll ask my dad to keep you busy, and the resources you will get will definitely be much more than what you have now."

Scarlet suppressed her annoyance and said politely, "Thank you then."

Mack smiled smugly and said, "My dad started this business with Mr. Lane. Many matters in Gladness Entertainment Movies were personally spearheaded by my dad. My dad's status is higher than anyone else's."

Suddenly, the buzzing meeting room quietened down. The side door of the meeting room opened and everyone's gazes were drawn to it.

The main character was here.

Michael was the first one to be seen but he was very polite. After entering, he turned sideways and made a gesture of invitation. A very young man with an imposing presence walked in immediately afterward.

Everyone was shocked by this man's youth upon seeing him.

Mack and Scarlet, who were sitting in their seats, had expressions that were beyond incredulous.

Especially Mack, whose eyes were widened and had his hair on end. It was as though he had seen a ghost in broad daylight.

Life at the Top Chapter 220

The person who came in was Jasper Laine, the one who was hooted and driven away by him downstairs earlier.

“Isn’t he that country bumpkin?” Mack cried out involuntarily.

At this time, Jasper had already walked toward the center of the meeting room at Michael’s invitation.

Michael would be selling the company to Jasper in the next moment, so he was tactful. Even though he was still the current chairman, he still deliberately lagged behind Jasper by half a step, highlighting Jasper’s future authority in Gladness Entertainment Movies.

After he took the microphone, Michael said to everyone who was still shocked by Jasper’s youth. “Today’s a sentimental day, but also a day worthy of joy.

“Today, the Gladness Entertainment Movies of the past will come to an end. But today is also the day where the brand-new Gladness Entertainment Movies will welcome a new life.”

Michael was very good with words. After his opening speech, he continued right away, “As the chairman of Gladness Entertainment Movies, I have one last thing to announce today.

“Gladness Entertainment Movies will be sold to Mr. Jasper Laine who’s next to me. He will lead everyone to higher glory in the future.”

Then came the signing ceremony. There was still thunderous applause regardless of what everyone below the stage thought.

After signing and exchanging documents, Jasper formally acquired 100% equity of Gladness Entertainment Movies and was automatically elected as the chairman of the board of directors and concurrent chairman.

Michael stepped down after handing the microphone to Jasper.

Jasper smiled a little as he stood on the highest spot of the meeting room, looking at the employees of Gladness Entertainment Movies beneath who looked at him with various expressions. He said, "Hello, everyone. I'd like to thank Mr. Lane for his trust. I will replace Mr. Lane and continue to push Gladness Entertainment Movies toward the peak from here on."

This was considered to be Jasper's declaration after he took the throne of Gladness Entertainment Movies.

There was another round of applause.

"However, today's meeting is an internal meeting. Is there anyone present who does not hold any position in Gladness Entertainment Movies and is not a contract artist of Gladness Entertainment Movies?"

Jasper's words distorted Mack's expression as he had already been anxious and fearful for the past few minutes.

The corners of his mouth twitched. His expression was stiff and his face was flustered.

The others also felt a little baffled by Jasper's words. Everyone gradually looked toward Mack.

In the past two years, Mack had done a lot of resentful things in the company using his father's identity. Even some female stars would bow down to him and had to please him.

Jasper's words immediately shrouded the meeting room with an extremely weird atmosphere.

At this moment, Jasper followed everyone's gaze and looked at Mack White.

Under everyone's gaze, Mack stood up with an expression of embarrassment and anger. He felt like a monkey being surrounded and watched by people in the zoo at this moment.

"This is Gladness Entertainment Movies' meeting room. You're neither an employee nor a contracted artist of Gladness Entertainment Movies, so what are you doing here?" Jasper asked dully.

At this moment, everyone understood that this would be the first cut of the newly appointed boss' knife.

Nobody knew how Mack White had offended the new boss, so much so that he was being addressed directly.

Most people looked at Mack gloatingly, wishing him bad luck.

"I..."

Mack found it difficult to speak and could not think of an appropriate reason. As such, he could only ask for help by looking over at his father, Joseph White.

Joseph frowned a little and looked at Jasper darkly, his expression slightly gloomy.

Naturally, Joseph could not bear to watch his own son be humiliated. Just as he was about to speak, he heard Jasper's voice shocking the audience through the speakers.

"Get out!"

Life at the Top Chapter 221

“Get out!”

Jasper’s voice was amplified by manyfold through the speakers.

Mack, who was already flustered with a guilty conscience, shuddered. He was so scared that he fell back into his seat under everyone’s watchful eyes.

“Pfft...”

A number of people at the scene sniggered when they saw Mack’s flustered appearance.

Joseph’s expression changed unsightly.

The mid-level managers and those artists were looking at his own son, Mack, but the higher-ups of the company kept their eyes on Joseph.

Seeing that his son had been humiliated till this point, Joseph knew that he had to speak up no matter what.

He stood up, wanting to go up the stage to Jasper’s side to speak.

However, Jasper swept his gaze over and said indifferently, “Who is the one standing up?”

Secretary Lee, who had been watching everything quietly on one side, immediately walked over and said into Jasper’s ear, “This is Joseph White, the company’s vice president... and Mack’s father.”

“Then, there’s no need for you to come over. Just stand there and speak,” Jasper said coolly.

Joseph’s expression sank. There was a hint of resentment in the depths of his eyes, but he stood at his place and said to Jasper, “Mr. Laine, he’s my son, Mack White. He actually came to apply for a job today. The company has already considered letting him take the position of a contract supervisor.”

“Who’s in charge of the Human Resources Department?” Jasper asked coolly.

Everyone present was silent. No one answered, but everyone’s gaze was on Joseph.

Joseph’s expression was extremely unsightly.

He said that Mack came here to apply for a job, but it was considered a lie. He had already planned to place his son in the company a long time ago.

It was just that in the past few years, he had run amok in the company and had made many enemies. His son had also followed his arrogance and became a spoiled brat. Many higher-ups headed by Ryder were opposed to this matter and he was still working on it.

“Vice President White is in charge of the Human Resources Department.” It was still Secretary Lee who explained matters to Jasper.

“So you, who are in charge of the Human Resources Department, plan to place your son into the company?” Jasper asked coldly.

“Although he’s my son, I appoint people based on their merit—”

Before Joseph was done speaking, he was interrupted by Jasper. “Since you intend to utilize him, has there been any public recruitment conducted in accordance with the company’s rules and regulations? Is there documentation of the recruitment process?”

“ ... ”

Joseph was speechless this time.

The formal personnel appointments in modern companies had a set of very formal procedures and processes. If the company had gone through with it, it would definitely leave evidence. However, Joseph only relied on being in charge of the Human Resources Department. How could he have gone through those procedures and processes?

Once such procedures were gone through, how could an idiot like Mack be selected?

“It seems that there isn’t any,” Jasper said coolly.

“Gladness Entertainment Movies used to be Mr. Lane’s, now it’s mine. But I don’t know when it has ever been Mr. White’s?”

Jasper’s words caused the hundreds of people present to tense their bodies.

When new officials took office, bold changes might be made on assuming office. The new boss of the entire company would inevitably alter the management.

It was just that nobody expected Jasper’s method to be so decisive and assertive.

He targeted the eldest senior, Joseph, as soon as he took over the company.

On one side, Michael looked at everything with a faint smile.

Everything about Gladness had nothing to do with him now. Therefore, from the perspective of a bystander, Michael could increasingly feel the depths and wisdom of Jasper’s actions.

Before this, Secretary Lee had told him everything that had happened downstairs.

Hence, Michael knew that Jasper seemed to want to make Mack eat a humble pie.

However, how could the truth be that simple?

Mack was but a minor character, not worthy of making a big fuss over. His aim was still Joseph, or in other words, to eradicate the higher-ups of Gladness Entertainment Movies.

Life at the Top Chapter 222

Joseph had been an executive in the company for many years and had secretly infringed on countless of the company's vested interests. His son, Mack, would not have the guts to paw at the company's artists otherwise.

It was not that Michael did not know of it, but Joseph was indeed a founding member who had followed him for many years. On the other hand, there was also the complexity of bureaucratic division within Gladness Entertainment Movies, and if he disturbed one division, the rest would also be affected. It would be big trouble for Michael to deal with it.

However, it was different now.

Jasper never had the intention to take things slow and steady. When he made a move, he would make it big. It was not only to establish his authority but also to sweep away every other background noise in the company. It would only be him who had the authority and power.

“My apologies, Mr. Laine, I...” Joseph said with a troubled expression. He had the intention of acknowledging his mistake.

“There’s no need to apologize,” Jasper interrupted him once again.

“Having been with Gladness for so many years, you still made the effort even if you didn’t gain achievements. I’ll let you keep your reputation, so do hand me your resignation letter voluntarily tomorrow.”

Jasper’s words completely changed the expression on Joseph’s face.

Every one of the higher-level management including him had thought that Jasper only wanted to display some authority after taking office.

However, he had immediately gone to the depths by taking action, and his method was intense.

Shocked and in disbelief, Joseph opened his mouth in indignation. He said, “Jasper, what is the meaning of this?”

“Was my intention not clear enough?” Jasper asked indifferently.

“I’m a founding member of this company and I manage a large number of people under me. Aren’t you afraid that the company won’t be able to run smoothly if I leave?” threatened Joseph immediately.

His gaze was bitter with resentment, yet it still held confidence and assurance.

He did not believe that Jasper would really dare go against him till the end.

Jasper looked at Joseph coolly, his eyes only showing indifference. There was no trace of concession that Joseph was expecting on his face.

“Will the earth stop on its axis just because you’re no longer here?”

Jasper said coldly, "Get lost now and I'll see who are the few rotten apples who will follow you as you leave. I will sincerely thank you for saving my time in weeding and getting rid of a few more of them."

Joseph was so angry his body shook. At the same time, there was also a feeling of despair as if the end was approaching.

"Alright! Just wait, don't celebrate so soon! This film company is not one where you can so easily manage!"

After Joseph said this with a very bitter voice, he turned around and left in embarrassment.

Nobody dared take a breath. Joseph's playing of his vice president's card had proven that Jasper was not only all bark and no bite. Who would dare object at this time?

Jasper did not even spare a glance at Joseph. His eyes fell on Mack, who was unable to even stand. He was now sitting limply in the chair. Jasper said lightly, "Do you want me to get someone to escort you out?"

Mack stood up shivering and ran away without looking back.

In the meeting room, everyone looked at Jasper and waited for him to speak after Joseph and his son had left.

"I don't care how the company was before, but now that I have acquired it, all of you will do things according to my rules.

"If you're capable, you will rise.

"If you're not, you will fall.

“Troublemakers like Joseph will be caught and fired. There will definitely be no mercy.

“I announce Gladness Entertainment Movies to be officially renamed Advent Entertainment Group.

“It will be split into three larger business groups called Advent Films, Advent TV, and Advent Agency.

“The three business groups will be in charge of film and television dramas, singing and variety shows, and overseeing the contracts of artists of Advent Entertainment Group respectively.

“In the meantime, President Ryder Lawrence will continue serving the group in his position. Other personnel arrangements will remain unchanged. An official document will be issued to notify all employees of the company of the subsequent appointment of the board of directors.”

Michael sighed softly as he looked at Jasper speaking on stage.

It seemed that Jasper had long been prepared before buying Gladness Entertainment Movies. He had been eyeing the entertainment industry.

He suddenly regretted having sold Gladness Entertainment Movies to Jasper for a capital price of 1.5 billion. Maybe Jasper could really create a giant in the film and television entertainment industry.

Life at the Top Chapter 223

“Alright, these few points are all that we’ll be discussing today.

“If anyone has a better idea, please feel free to talk to me or Mr. Ryder Lawrence.

“That’s all for today.”

It took Jasper two hours to finish this meeting. He walked away in a breezy manner, but everyone in Gladness Entertainment Movies was unsettled and had mixed emotions.

Almost everyone thought that... change was coming to Gladness Entertainment Movies.

After the meeting, Jasper then talked to Michael.

Michael was full of praise for Jasper.

Michael, the cunning old fox, could tell that Jasper would inevitably make great achievements and have the last laugh in the future—provided that he did not get trampled to death while he was still an immature youth.

It was already hard enough for anyone to mess with Jasper now.

After a series of affairs, those who wanted to give Jasper trouble would have to think twice because they would have to deal with the Laws at the same time.

Those who were incapable of doing it should just give up.

Therefore, Michael was extremely friendly with Jasper because then he might have the chance to work with him in the future and make a fortune.

What was more, the five billion Somer Dollars that Jasper had earned for him was now lying in the stock market. When Harbor City's economy recovered a little, he would then withdraw it immediately.

He owed him a great favor.

As for Jasper, he accepted Michael's goodwill fully.

It was important to exalt each other, especially in business. It was better to make more friends than enemies.

Lone wolves who walked around with their noses in the air definitely would not make it too far in the business field.

They talked and laughed and had a great time. Michael kept talking, and it was not until Secretary Lee came to make reports that he sought permission to leave.

As soon as Michael left, Ryder entered through the door.

"Hello, Mr. Laine," Ryder greeted politely.

Standing behind the desk, Jasper looked at Ryder. He was a middle-aged man in his early 40s, the type that young girls in later generations would be greatly obsessed with. He said with a smile, "Please have a seat."

When Ryder took his seat, he pondered for a moment and said, "Mr. Laine, to be honest with you, the changes happened too quickly at today's meeting. Many people, myself included, are at a loss at what to do next."

"Just act according to the company's articles of association," Jasper replied.

“Mr. Lane told me that you’re a professional manager from Hallavu, and that he had paid handsomely to hire you. You have a wealth of experience and know how to manage an entertainment company, so I can trust you.”

Ryder waved his hands and said, “With all due respect, I can’t make bricks without straw...”

“What do you need?” Jasper asked.

Ryder was startled by how straightforward Jasper was and felt so awkward that he did not know how to start.

“If you lack money, then I’ll continue to inject 300 million Somer Dollars into Advent Entertainment Group. Spend the money first and then assess the effect after spending.

“If you lack manpower, go to a headhunting company and hire talents from there.

“If you lack power, you’re the company’s president. I’m going back to Mainland soon, so I can delegate a lot of power to you. I can give you full authority.”

Jasper leaned on the executive chair and looked at Ryder with a smile.

Ryder looked at the unruffled-looking Jasper as he made those bold claims. For more than 20 years he had been in the industry, he had never met a boss like him who did things so differently.

Who would fool around like that immediately after acquiring a company?

Advent Entertainment Group seemed like nothing but a toy to him.

“Advent Entertainment Group is a crucial piece in my business landscape. I will not tolerate any mistakes, and therefore I’m eager to succeed. We don’t have

much time left. I can give you what you want, but I want to see a powerful Advent Entertainment Group in the shortest time frame possible!”

Ryder looked intently at Jasper. He knew that Jasper was serious about this.

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However, the more he received, the heavier his burden would be.

Ryder knew that Jasper would not give so much power for no reason.

“What’s your condition?” Ryder asked.

“I want Advent Entertainment Group to produce five movies with box office of more than one billion Somer Dollars within two years, bring at least three phenomenon-level celebrities to fame, and double the scale of assets.”

Jasper stated his request and said with a smile, “In addition to the rights I mentioned above, you can also get 10% of the company’s stock.

“If you can accomplish it, then your net worth will grow over 100 million. If you can’t, then I can only find someone else.”

Ryder took a deep breath, stood up, and said, “I’m willing to try.”

Jasper laughed, then stood up and shook Ryder’s hand while saying, “I’m an easy-going man. I won’t interfere with the company’s day-to-day affairs.

“I focus on the results, not the process. I don’t treat my subordinates as workers, and I prefer to use cooperation to define superior-subordinate relationships. If

everyone performs well, then we'll make a fortune together. If not, then I'll work with someone else."

Ryder laughed as well, saying, "To be honest with you, Mr. Lane, I did plan to resign and join a new company. I've also talked to several headhunters. But now, I think it'll be a whole new experience working with you."

Jasper laughed and said, "Let's shine together."

"Mm. Let's shine together." Ryder nodded.

After Ryder left, Jasper pondered for a very long time in the office.

Jasper did not have a candidate that was better than Ryder right now, hence he could only give it a try and employ him.

Jasper was not lying earlier either. If Ryder did a good job, then he would give him all the benefits he stated earlier. If not, then Ryder would have to pack up and leave.

Jasper was not running a charity. He acquired Gladness Entertainment Movies for 1.5 billion and injected another 300 million after that. That was 1.8 billion altogether. He must see results.

He would be able to tell whether Ryder was performing well or not in just a few months' time.

In Jasper's opinion, it would not be difficult to establish a phenomenal entertainment company when he recalled the songs, TV series, and even variety shows that would go viral in the future.

However, Jasper could not just sit around doing nothing and stay in the entertainment company doing one thing only. His goal was to be a true modern consortium, not to have a successful business.

That would be too boring and not grand enough.

Therefore, although Jasper had high demands for Ryder, he did not mind pulling up certain things from memory to let Ryder apply them in the business if he was a genuine talent.

If Ryder was not, then he would just leave him be.

Now that matters related to Advent Entertainment Group were settled, it would not be long before it was time for him to leave Harbor City.

At the thought of this, Jasper summoned Jake Cullen.

After rushing over to Gladness Entertainment Movies, Jake was stunned for a very long time after hearing the news that Jasper had acquired the company.

“Why are you daydreaming? Here’s an investment list containing the stock names and the pre-authorized amount that I want you to purchase next month.”

Jasper gave him a list that totaled up to a two-billion investment.

Some stocks in the list could already be purchased, but some had not reached the lowest price yet, hence it was necessary to wait it out.

Jasper did not have the time to wait it out, and at the same time, he did not want to purchase at a higher price and be taken advantage of. Therefore, this was where Jake came in.

“Two billion! You’re giving it to me straight away for investment? Didn’t you ask me to manage only? Aren’t you afraid that I’ll run away with the money?” Jake asked in shock, looking at the list in his hand.

“What are you thinking about? The funds will be in the Laws’ trusteeship. You can’t take a single dime away without the Laws’ authorization. They also have a copy of this list,” Jasper said.

“...” Jake gritted his teeth, wanting to slap himself in the mouth.

Did he have nothing better to do? Why did he bring contempt upon himself?

At this moment, Jasper’s phone rang.

It was a call from Zachary.

“Jasp, Old Master Law is back and wants to see you. Can you come over?”

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Jake heard the contents of the call.

His heart skipped a beat.

He knew that Jasper shared a close relationship with the Laws.

However, from the viewpoint of an ordinary person, Jake thought that Jasper was at most close to Henry and Anna. They were of the same generation, after all.

Then it was from there that he used his own ability to gain recognition from Zachary.

This was a standard procedure that was very easy to grasp.

However, Zachary was personally giving Jasper a call and told him that Old Master Law had returned.

Where Old Master Law went was not important, but the first thing he wanted to do when he came home was to meet Jasper!

This meant a lot of things.

This showed that Jasper was not only a popular figure in the Law family, but he also played a pivotal role in front of Old Master Law.

How many people in Harbor City today could meet Old Master Law as they liked?

To put it negatively, even the head of Harbor City's government needed to seek Old Master Law's approval before meeting him.

The noble and prestigious Old Master Law had an intimidating identity. He was renowned and distinguished even in Mainland.

Although he only had a nominal post, the prestige he had accumulated over the decades was enough to prove many things.

"I'll be there soon."

Now that Old Master Law had asked to see him, Jasper dared not keep him waiting.

After hanging up the call, Jasper instructed Jake on a few things.

The latter's thoughts were fully occupied by the relationship between Jasper and Old Master Law, hence he only nodded absent-mindedly.

"Why didn't you tell me that you share such a good relationship with Old Master Law?" Jake asked suddenly.

“Had you told me earlier, do you think I’d be so crazy as to act so brazenly in front of you?”

Jasper was taken aback, then said sternly, “Do I look like an ostentatious person to you?”

“...”

Jake turned around, ignoring Jasper.

He could not stand the pretentious look on his face.

It was already afternoon when Jasper arrived at the Laws’.

Zachary had gone out, while Anna and Henry were chatting with Old Master Law.

“You’re here, Jasp.”

Old Master Law raised his head and said to Jasper with a smile.

“You’re in good spirits as always,” Jasper said while walking over, making himself at home and sitting down.

Old Master Law chuckled. “A person becomes more afraid of death as they grow older. I have to take good care of my body and live a few more years.”

“You’re sure to live to a ripe old age, Old Master Law,” Jasper said cleverly.

Old Master Law laughed, took a magazine from Anna’s hand, and said, “I see you were interviewed. Good job.”

Jasper took the magazine and said in surprise, “It’s published already? That’s fast.”

It was the latest issue of Terra's Financial Weekly.

On the cover of the magazine, Jasper was seen sitting on a couch, smiling. He was clasping his hands with his chin resting on them. He was radiating with health and vigor, looking both outstanding and elegant.

The title was even more eye-catching: 'The stock market genius made every effort to save a desperate situation!'

Apart from everything else, Jasper could tell that Terra's Financial Weekly was pretty sophisticated judging from the cover photo and title alone.

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Upon flipping the cover page, the full interview contents were basically in it. There were also a few pictures printed that were taken during the interview.

Contents and pictures of professional-level magazines like this were meticulously designed, which made it very interesting to read.

The things that Jasper said were pretty novel too.

For example, the things he said about choosing friends, his goal to be the richest man in the world, and so on... Not a single thing he said was left out.

To appear on such a strict and traditional financial magazine, it was clear that Jasper's words were extremely appealing.

The most unique thing of all was that Henry was included as well. Henry's internal monologue had set Jasper off to a considerable height.

If even Henry had admitted that Jasper was outstanding and thought of him as his teacher, who would have the guts to say that Jasper was only fishing for fame and reputation?

What was more, Jasper's record was evident. Harbor City's financial crisis had just passed not long ago.

"I'm so envious..."

Henry had already read the contents, but he still said sourly.

“When you’re capable enough, you too will be the main character one day,” Anna said.

Henry snorted and said, “That will happen sooner or later!”

“Oh?” Anna looked over. “Sure, I’ll be waiting.”

Old Master Law smiled and said to Jasper, “You did really well, Jasp. Although I wasn’t around, I knew about everything that was going on. Excellent! You have once again proved me right.”

Jasper said with great sincerity, “If the Laws hadn’t helped me, things wouldn’t have moved so smoothly for me either.”

Jasper expressed those words from the bottom of his heart.

The Laws had helped him a lot since the beginning. Both parties were not so much allies because both Old Master Law and Zachary treated him as one of their own juniors.

Jasper was not an ungrateful person. He would remember their kindness and the favor they showed him.

Old Master Law said with a chuckle, “You’ve helped the Laws tremendously too. Zachary told me that you’ve helped the Laws earn 30 billion this time. That’s a huge favor you’ve done for the Laws.”

Anna’s eyes glowed when she looked at Jasper.

Henry clicked his tongue.

He knew that Jasper had helped the Laws earn a lot of money this time, but since Zachary did not say how much exactly, he did not ask either.

Henry was startled after hearing that the exact amount was 30 billion.

Even for the Laws, 30 billion was a big sum.

Jasper was able to do it without anyone knowing

“Old Master Law, I’m returning to Mainland soon, but before that, I still have a few investment projects in Harbor City. I’ll need all the help I can get from the Laws,” Jasper said.

Old Master Law said, “Take this to Zachary. Your business is the Laws’ business.”

As he said those words, Old Master Law thought for a while and glanced at Henry with a meaningful look on his face.

Henry tensed up subconsciously. No matter how prodigal he was, as soon as he was facing Old Master Law, he would turn as obedient as a puppet. He would be afraid to cause any trouble at all.

“Actually, I’m optimistic about Mainland’s development,” Old Master Law said slowly.

Jasper nodded. Among the richest in Harbor City, the Laws were indeed the first to invest in Mainland. They had invested a large sum of money as well.

Of course, Old Master Law was hoping to drive Mainland’s economy. He was not running a charity. No matter how powerful a family was, it could never drive a country’s economy on its own.

Therefore, all investments made by the Laws were still done based on interest.

A virtuous cycle was when a project could drive the local economy, make money, then use the profits to continue investing. This was what the Laws had been doing.

“Mainland’s economy will advance by leaps and bounds next, so we plan to enter earlier to make arrangements, but we need someone to coordinate. Zachary is too busy, so I plan to train Henry for a period of time by sending him to Mainland.”

As Old Master Law spoke, he did not notice Henry’s jaw dropping. He only said to Jasper gently, “This is supposedly unrealistic. Henry is ignorant and incompetent. No matter how much money I give him, it’ll all go to waste. But things are different now that you’re here.

“This was also my initial intention, and that’s to let Henry follow you and learn from you.”

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Jasper was not surprised by what Old Master Law said.

He could already have predicted this when Old Master Law sent Henry to him.

Surely, as the one and only third-generation son who had inheritance rights to the Law family, Henry was not going to keep fooling around.

In the future, Henry did learn as silver tried in a furnace.

Jasper’s appearance, however, had caused the Laws to change their initial plan.

Therefore, Jasper did not hesitate to accept Old Master Law’s request.

“Okay.”

Jasper answered straight away.

Henry was moved to tears.

“Do you believe in me so much?”

This was the first time Henry had ever felt Jasper’s kindness.

“Old Master Law, if there’s really no way around this, then ask Uncle Zachary to give birth to another son. He’s still young anyway... Or maybe you can let Anna be the heiress instead.”

No ordinary person would ever have the guts to sit in someone else’s home, especially not in front of Old Master Law, and tell them what to do.

This was an absolute taboo in every family. Outsiders had no right to comment on their family.

Jasper, however, did it ever so casually.

Not only did Old Master Law not take it to heart, but he even laughed and said, “You’ve hit the nail on the head. I’ll consider it.”

Henry erupted on the spot.

“Believe me, Grandpa. I know I was wrong now. What I’ve been doing in the past was nothing but a waste of time. I only fooled around all the time. I’ve repented and turned over a new leaf...”

When he got to this point, Henry glanced at Jasper and then said in a very serious tone, “That’s because Jasper taught me that a true man is absolutely

dope! And those who only rely on their family to gain status and power are simply using their powerful connections to intimidate others.”

Old Master Law did not understand what Henry meant by dope, but he knew it was something good.

For the first time ever, Old Master Law did not lecture Henry like he always did.

Instead, he said earnestly, “Grandpa is getting older. I don’t know how much longer I can live. Once I leave, I can foresee great changes befalling the family. Young people like you need to grow up quicker.”

Both Henry and Anna put on a stony resolve. Henry said, “Grandpa, you’ll definitely live to a ripe old age.”

Anna added, “Why are you saying these things all of a sudden, Grandpa?”

Old Master Law smiled and said, “Do you think I’ll never die? Am I supposed to turn into an old fairy or something?”

As he said that, Old Master Law waved his hand and said, “I’m tired. I’m going upstairs to get some rest. Jasp, stay for dinner tonight.”

“Okay.” Jasper got up and sent Old Master Law upstairs.

Zachary also took the opportunity to have dinner at home.

At the dinner table, Zachary and Jasper talked in detail about certain projects that they were working on together.

“Real estate is the best way for the government of Harbor City to recover its economy quickly. With that being said, real estate will soon usher in great development.”

Zachary agreed with Jasper.

No matter which country or region, the real estate industry was definitely a pillar industry that could drive the economy. Although real estate in Harbor City was still in a downturn, it would soon flourish.

“My plan is to establish a real estate company in Harbor City in the future. Although market competition over here is fierce enough, I may still have a chance.”

Jasper said while smiling at Zachary, “Are you interested, Uncle Zachary?”

Zachary smiled and said, “A large part of the Law family’s properties are in real estate, so of course, I’m interested. But Jasp, are you planning to buy the property for hoarding or buy a piece of land to develop it yourself?”

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“I’m buying a piece of land to develop it,” Jasper replied resolutely.

He had memories about the future and knew areas where housing prices would rise dramatically, so naturally, he would not do tacky things like being a middleman.

“You need a large capital to enter Harbor City’s real estate industry,” Zachary said.

Jasper nodded even though his total wealth had already reached ten billion.

Of the ten billion, two billion would be left in the Harbor City’s stock market to make money.

1.8 billion had been invested in Advent Entertainment Group.

There was only 6.2 billion cash left in his hands.

Though it seemed like an awful lot, it was still not enough to enter the real estate industry.

“Let’s wait until Harbor City’s stocks recover.” Jasper chuckled lightly, sounding extremely confident.

Jasper needed the Laws’ help to watch over the two billion investment funds that Jasper gave to Jake. Zachary was aware of this.

“With your ability, I’m sure you can make a fortune out of the two billion. But how much can you make in the short run? In my opinion, Harbor City’s real estate will launch early next year,” Zachary asked curiously.

“It’s enough. When the time comes, the two billion will triple,” Jasper said lightly.

Everyone at the table was startled.

There were only two months left before the end of the year and at least four months to the beginning of next year.

300% profit in four months?

Henry looked at Jasper and thought how he was constantly deepening his understanding toward pomposity.

There was no limit to this person’s pomposity!

...When would he ever get to this stage?

Had those words not come out of Jasper's very mouth, others would have regarded him as a fool by now.

"Sure, I'll order someone to invest according to your list." Zachary laughed.

"Let's make a fortune together. When the Laws' capital comes in, we can then make advance stock speculations. It's a good thing," Jasper said with a smile.

...

The Langdons'.

With a bang, a magazine was thrown far away. Mitch stared at Terra's Financial Weekly on the ground with gloomy eyes and raged, "Are these editors crazy? How can a man like that go on a cover!?"

Bob sat on the couch and said lightly, "Don't get so angry, Mitch. I'm not surprised to see him on Terra's Financial Weekly after what he has done."

"The things he said are really novel, eh?" Kennedy said.

Mitch sneered. "He's only making those bold and arrogant claims to attract attention. I can't believe those rubbish media are actually currying favor with him! Does he really think he's now Harbor City's king?"

"Mitch," Kennedy looked at Mitch and said faintly, "If you can't bring yourself to recognize your opponent's strength, then you will forever remain at the bottom of the ladder."

Mitch's expression darkened as he gritted his teeth. "I can't stand his arrogant face."

Bob glanced at both father and son before saying meaningfully, "He has officially acquired Gladness Entertainment Movies, renamed it Advent Entertainment

Group, and divided it into three major business groups. He seems ambitious and wealthy.”

Mitch sneered. “He’s only trying to court people’s favor with his nonsense. Does he really think he’s capable enough to enter the entertainment industry?”

“Well, after taking a look at his plan, I can say that you’re right. Today, he fired Joseph White, a veteran who previously worked for Michael. Joseph came to me to ask for a job,” Bob mused.

Kennedy raised his eyebrows slightly. “A veteran? He must be really familiar with Gladness then?”

“At least this saboteur will create enough trouble for him,” Bob chuckled and said viciously, “Since he has invested heavily in the entertainment industry, we will then knock him down and suppress his arrogance.”

Mitch said excitedly, “That’s right! We can’t allow him to keep being so arrogant! Who does he think he is? He’s just a country boy acting absurdly in Harbor City. We must teach him a lesson.”

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“What are you planning to do?”

Kennedy looked at Bob.

There was a sinister smile on Bob’s face when he said, “What else?”

“Jasper has spent more than a billion to buy Gladness and renamed it Advent Entertainment Group. It’s obvious that he needs to spend a lot of effort doing this.

“It’s not easy to succeed in one thing, but it’s extremely easy to destroy it.

“I intend to start with Joseph White. He was in Gladness for many years and knows many secrets and scandals. We’ll ask him to reveal some of it after some time. I call this controlling public opinion.

“I’ll then ask him to poach several top-notch celebrities from Gladness. I call this pulling the carpet from underneath.”

As he said that, Bob chuckled and said, “Once these are all done, we will contact Emperor Entertainment. They won’t want to see a big entertainment company backed by the Laws rise to popularity. They’re more anxious than us. How do you think Gladness is supposed to stay in business if all the industries are against them?”

The more Mitch listened, the brighter his eyes glowed. Bob did not sleep with so many female celebrities for so many years for nothing.

At least he was clearer than anyone about the entertainment industry’s rules.

“I’ll take care of this.” Mitch offered.

“I want to trample Jasper to the ground myself!” Mitch’s expression was grim, and his eyes were exceedingly sinister.

Kennedy mused on how Jasper was almost turning into a demon residing in his son’s heart. If this issue was not resolved, his son probably would not be able to get over it.

At the thought of this, Kennedy nodded and said, “Okay, I’ll leave this to you. We’ll give you a portion of our family’s resources to support you. Also, discuss this with Uncle Bob. He’s more experienced than you and can point you in the right direction.”

Mitch nodded and said excitedly, "Got it. I'll come to you for help if I need any pointers, Uncle Bob."

Bob laughed. "Sure. But it's best that we start this plan a little later. We will easily alert our enemy if we act now."

"I understand."

Mitch gritted his teeth and stared viciously at the magazine he had tossed to the ground, saying, "I'll let him have fun for a few more days first."

Bob's eyes flashed with a deep, meaningful smile. "Before Harbor City stabilizes, it's best that you stay put. Don't cause a stir. We'll defeat Jasper sooner or later!"

"Yes!"

Mitch nodded. Although he was eager to end Jasper now, Jasper was simply too reputable at the moment. With the Laws as his backer, it was impossible to get rid of him alone.

He could only wait for the perfect opportunity!

...

On the other side, Jasper was done packing up his luggage and was ready to leave Harbor City.

Many things in Mainland had been put aside because he was in Harbor City for so long. Now that everything here had been dealt with, it was time for him to hurry back.

Mainland's industry was Jasper's top priority after all.

After his farewell this time, it would probably be a very long time before he would return to Harbor City again.

Henry and Anna came to see him off at the airport. They had spent a considerable amount of time together during this period of time and had naturally formed a much stronger bond now.

Henry was completely awake by now. What started as a dislike for Jasper in the beginning had turned into admiration today. Jasper had become his role model.

Anna had witnessed everything that Jasper did with her own eyes. An outstanding man like him had sparked the fondness in the depths of her heart.

When they were bidding farewell at the airport, Henry said to Jasper casually, "Let's both be pompous together the next time I go to Mainland to visit you."

"I'm not really good at being pompous, to be honest," Jasper said sincerely.

"Look, you're being pompous again."

Henry twitched his lips. He was already used to Jasper's unexpected pomposity.

On a side note, their relationship was different than before. They were so close that they could joke around with each other at any time.

Jasper looked at Anna who remained silent the whole time and chuckled. "I'm leaving now, Anna. I'll come and visit you in Harbor City next time, or maybe when you visit Mainland. I'll definitely take good care of you."

"Okay, it's a deal!" Anna nodded, her eyes flashing with a hint of obscurity. She muttered under her breath, "Have a safe journey."

"Thank you."

Having said that, Jasper turned to leave.

He had just lifted his suitcase when a fragrant breeze whizzed past him. The soft and graceful woman was embracing Jasper from behind.

Jasper was taken aback. When he turned around, he was surprised to see that it was Anna hugging him!

He did not expect Anna to be so bold!

One must know that this was Harbor City Airport and she was the Laws' daughter. If anyone saw this, then this would surely make it to the media headlines tomorrow!

“Don't move, don't talk, don't turn around!”

Anna sounded really anxious. It was as if she was afraid that Jasper would turn around and see what she looked like at the moment.

“I'll let go after hugging you for a little while,” Anna said.

“I might not have the same courage again next time.”

Jasper could hear her trembling voice and smiled bitterly. “Why are you doing this? You're acting like death is separating us. I'm going back to Mainland, not to die...”

Her slender and dexterous fingers pinched his belly gently. The charming lady was annoyed. How inappropriate were the things he was saying at this moment!

“Uh...”

Standing next to them was a completely dumbfounded Henry. His first reaction was to stop the man and woman who were bursting with hormones as quickly as he could.

Anna's identity aside, even Jasper was Harbor City's celebrity right now. These two! This pose! If a paparazzi captured a picture of this scene, even their children's names would appear at the celebrity gossip corner tomorrow.

"Gosh, Sis, can you please behave yourself? What happened to being demure?!"

Henry said in a panic, and at the same time, he was sweeping his gaze around the place for fear of being noticed.

Anna ignored him and continued burying her face in Jasper's back. She said in a slightly trembling voice, "I know you have a girlfriend, but... I have the right to pursue my own happiness too."

"Yes." Jasper nodded, a wry smile emerging on his face.

"Ask her to prepare herself."

Jasper, "..."

Henry yelled, "Ah!"

Anna did not continue and let go of her hands.

"You should probably go through the airport security now," Anna said.

Jasper gave a chuckle and strode off.

He did not turn back at all.

As such, he did not see the blush on Anna's beautiful face either.

The maiden's tender bashfulness had vanquished every other maiden out there...

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It was not until Jasper was completely gone that Henry stared at Anna with an extremely strange gaze.

"Let's go."

Anna immediately restored her ever unruffled expression.

"You'd better train and study hard. Try your best to get Dad and Grandpa's consent to go to Mainland as soon as possible," Anna lectured him.

His sister's conflicting attitude threw Henry off balance completely.

Why!?

Why was she so gentle in front of Jasper but pulled a long face in front of him, acting like his big sister instead?

"Why do you care when I go to Mainland? Grandpa asked me to go, not you." Henry sulked.

"I want to go with you!" Anna said resolutely.

Henry stared at Anna and understood what she meant immediately. He said in surprise, "Sis, you clearly know that he has a girlfriend and yet you insist on

putting yourself down to be with him?! Have you forgotten who you are? You're the Laws' precious daughter!"

Anna looked at Henry and suddenly chuckled, saying, "Do you think I look good?"

Henry turned away with a disgusted expression. "No matter how good you look, I'll still get sick after having looked at your face for 20 years..."

After saying those words, Henry saw the change in Anna's expression and quickly corrected himself. "Don't look at me with those murderous eyes... You look beautiful, okay!"

"So why can't I fight for my relationship? We're not married yet, so we're all free to choose our partners," Anna said indignantly.

Henry was amused and shook his head helplessly. "This is my first time seeing someone using such high-sounding words to intervene in other people's relationships."

"You impregnated a trust fund baby's fiancée the first year you came back from abroad. If it weren't for me, this incident would have reached Dad's ears. Don't you feel embarrassed at all to say that to me?"

"...How are we the same!? I'm not going to lose anything, but you! You're a girl!"

"You're shameless!"

...

On the plane. Jasper bought a first-class ticket.

It was the same flight yet it was three times more expensive.

Jasper knew how to enjoy life. He was not a miser who would make a lot of money and then refrain from using it.

It had never been his intention to be frugal. Take the local Warwick Company's CEO for example. In the future, his company became a multinational giant, but when he went out, he still took a second-class seat on the high-speed rail and an economy seat on a plane.

Jasper expressed his admiration for the older generation's diligent and thrifty spirit, but no thanks.

Had this not been the crucial time for him to put every single penny he had to good use, Jasper would have even bought a private jet.

If a man did not spend the money he earned, then that man would be no different than a dead man.

Jasper had just taken his seat when he caught a whiff of fragrance in the air whizzing toward him. Two women walked over and sat not far away from him.

"Queenie Shaw?"

Jasper was a little surprised. He did not expect himself to bump into a Harbor City celebrity—one whom he had encountered before too!

"Oh, Queenie, Your Majesty, we're just adding a last-minute event, that's all. Those Mainlanders are foolish people who have too much money to spare. You'll earn 500,000 bucks just standing there for a few minutes and saying a few words. Why wouldn't you want to go?"

Standing beside Queenie was a woman who looked like her agent and was painstakingly persuading her, saying, "You must attend this event no matter what! Otherwise, the money will go down the drain!"

The other party obviously had not noticed Jasper.

Jasper did not plan to go up and say hello either.

If this happened when he had just been reborn, he would at least feel a bit more excited.

As Jasper's wealth and status had improved, his mentality changed as well.

Right now, Jasper was certainly not interested in idolizing a star. This was not something he would do in the past life, let alone now.

As far as his current status was concerned, only celebrities would come to him to curry favor with him.

Therefore, Jasper looked down at the magazines prepared for him on the plane. It just so happened that Terra's Financial Weekly was there...

"Don't say anymore, Liliana. I really don't want to go. I'm going to Mainland to film a movie this time, so I'm not going to the additional event you scheduled for me," Queenie said helplessly.

When Liliana saw how resolute Queenie was, her expression grew sullen as well.

The sponsorship from Mainland hoped that Queenie would attend their event, and in order to get this to work, Liliana had taken the other party's money.

If Queenie refused to go, not only did she need to return the money she received, but she would also be greatly humiliated.

"You must go to this event, Queenie. You don't have a choice! It's so easy to earn Mainlanders' money, and if you don't go, then you're not showing due respect for my feelings."

Queenie frowned at Liliana's words.

Jasper was frowning too.

Jasper did not want to be nosy at first, but since Queenie was his company's artist, how could he just let her agent bully her like that?

Besides, her agent was plain condescending!

"What's the matter with Mainlanders? If you look down on Mainlanders so much, why are you going there to make money then?" Jasper said lightly.

Liliana turned her head to look at Jasper, then frowned and said, "I'm not talking about you. What are you barking at?"

"I'm a Mainlander. You said that Mainlanders are fools but I'm not allowed to comment on that?" Jasper said lightly.

Liliana snorted when she heard what he said. "You're from Mainland too? I'm not wrong then. You Mainlanders live in poor and remote places, and all the nouveau riche are fools who are too easy to trick, no?"

At this moment, Queenie looked over after hearing his voice and her expression changed drastically!

Liliana might not know who Jasper was, but Queenie had met Jasper at a charity dinner. Plus, Gladness had been acquired by Jasper and was renamed to Advent Entertainment Group, so Jasper was now her boss!

As soon as Queenie recognized Jasper, her complexion paled. She wanted to cry out subconsciously.

Jasper motioned to her with his eyes, hinting at her not to say anything.

Queenie clammed up silently, glanced at the lofty and self-conceited Liliana, and gloated a little inside.

In Harbor City, there were many agents who assumed great airs—even more than the celebrities themselves. It was just because they thought they were really experienced.

Liliana was one of those people.

She had, on many occasions, tried to squeeze as much income from her reputation as possible.

Take this event for example.

Queenie was aware of Liliana's underhand dealings with those investors but was powerless to do anything about it. She had signed a contract with Liliana, so she could not do anything even when Liliana invested outside without the company knowing.

Things were different now. Liliana had shot herself in the foot. This was going to be her unlucky day!

"You need to be responsible for your words and deeds," Jasper said to Liliana.

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Liliana snorted and said, “Oh, don’t be so full of yourself. Who do you think you are?”

As she said that, Liliana glanced at the magazine in Jasper’s hands and sneered disdainfully, “Look at you, reading Terra’s Financial Weekly like the rest of us. Only figures in Harbor City and big shots in the business world are featured on it. All a Mainlander like you can do is watch.”

“Liliana, you really need to get your eyes checked,” Queenie said with a sigh.

Liliana frowned upon hearing this and said coldly, “What do you mean?”

Queenie pulled out a copy of Terra’s Financial Weekly that was in front of her seat and tossed it to Liliana. “Look carefully at the man on the cover.”

Liliana looked over and noticed how the man on the cover resembled the Mainlander in front of her...

No, not just ‘resembled’ but it was the same person!

Liliana was taken aback abruptly, then turned her head in horror to look at Jasper. She then confirmed over and over again before realizing that they were indeed the same man.

“Who... Who are you?!” Liliana exclaimed.

“Queenie is an artist under Advent Entertainment Group and you’re her agent. Now that the group has been restructured, you should only do what you’re required to do as an agent, no?” Jasper said lightly.

“You’re now fired.”

In an instant, Liliana felt as though she had been struck by thunder and lightning. She looked at Jasper with a pale face, opened her mouth, and stammered, “You’re... You’re... Mr. Laine?!”

Queenie stood up, glanced at Liliana with an exceedingly indifferent expression, and said mildly, “Thanks for taking care of me all these years, Liliana. I wish you a safe journey in the future.”

As they spoke, Queenie came to Jasper’s side and greeted respectfully, “Nice to meet you, Mr. Laine.”

“Nice to meet you.”

Jasper nodded. He adopted a neutral feeling toward Queenie. In his opinion, Queenie was just a cash cow!

Queenie asked carefully, “Can I sit next to you, Mr. Laine?”

“Sure,” Jasper said lightly.

Most female celebrities in the entertainment circle were conscious about serving their bosses. Most of the time, unwritten rules were done out of mutual consent, and Queenie was no exception either.

Especially when Jasper was also the boss of her company. He carried more weight than anyone else.

At this moment, Jasper’s status could get eight out of ten female celebrities in Harbor City to readily line up to serve him if he wanted to.

Of course, Queenie had ideas too.

Jasper was young, handsome, influential, and wealthy.

If she could become acquainted with a boss like that, then why would she even bother working so hard? She could just be his very own canary without worrying about anything else.

Unfortunately for Queenie though, no matter how well she tried to perform after that, Jasper simply treated her in a lukewarm manner.

His indifference that kept her at arm's length made Queenie realize just how naive she was.

How could a man like Jasper possibly fall in love with a woman like her?

“Mister... Mr. Laine, that was very wrong of me. I shouldn't have said those things. I deserve to be punished. Please forgive me!”

Liliana stepped forward and pleaded, crying.

She knew better than anyone that an agent like her could offend anyone, even the celebrities themselves and the sponsors, but not the boss.

The moment she offended her boss, everything would be over.

“Be quiet.”

Jasper said softly, “I'm a gentleman. I don't want to have anything to do with a woman who yells for no reason.”

“Pfft...”

Seated next to him, Queenie could not help but snigger after hearing what Jasper said. Jasper was not only young and capable, but he was pretty humorous too!

Liliana was in total despair. She turned her gaze to Queenie for help.

Queenie pretended not to see it.

She did not have the power to do so, but even if she did, she would not help Liliana either.

Liliana sat slouched in her seat. At the moment, the plane was above 10,000 meters in the sky, and she was tempted to jump off of it to end her life...

“Hi, do you need a blanket?”

The stunning flight attendant did not know what had just happened in the first-class cabin and came forward to deliver them blankets politely.

“I’ll have one.”

Queenie quickly took the blanket, then carefully and thoughtfully placed the blanket on Jasper’s thighs, saying, “Mr. Laine, feel free to let me know if you need anything.”

At this time, the flight attendant had recognized the popular celebrity, Queenie Shaw. Before she could express her surprise, she saw how obsequious Queenie was toward Jasper.

The flight attendant’s gaze changed. Who was this young man?

After more than two hours, the plane landed smoothly at Province International Airport.

As soon as the plane landed, Jasper got off the plane straight away.

Queenie knew that Jasper had things to attend to, hence she very tactfully chose not to follow him.

She turned back to glance at the pale-looking Liana and shook her head, then walked off straight away.

When Jasper left the airport, he saw Wendy standing not far away waiting for him.

After being apart from each other for so long, both Jasper and Wendy missed each other a lot.

They walked toward each other and eventually came face to face with one another.

Wendy smiled sweetly.

Jasper's eyes were full of smiles. When Wendy was about to speak, he suddenly reached out and hugged her.

"Oh!"

Wendy exclaimed and softly hammered Jasper with her fists in embarrassment.

"What are you doing? Lots of people are staring."

Jasper embraced Wendy, feeling her soft and warm body in his arms. He thought to himself, 'Money? Company? Business Landscape? Nah. They're all nothing in comparison.'

He went full-on ostentatious mode!

The onlookers exclaimed at this sight, "How nice it is to be young!"

"Let them watch then. Why won't you let others stare when you look so beautiful?"

Jasper buried his face in the crook of Wendy's neck, took in the fragrance of her hair and body, and teased.

Wendy blushed and stopped resisting, resting her chin on Jasper's shoulder peacefully. She said, "You must be really tired after your trip to Harbor City, right?"

"A little!"

Jasper let go of Wendy, took her hand, and left the airport.

Wendy drove while Jasper sat lazily in the front passenger seat.

Jasper looked at the province's scenery and said slowly, "I plan to take a two-day break."

Wendy agreed. "It's time you take a break. Your body won't be able to stand working around the clock like that."

Amid the shakiness of the car during the journey, Jasper chatted with Wendy about his experience in Harbor City and felt his eyelids growing heavier and heavier.

When Wendy did not get Jasper's reply after saying a few words, she turned to look curiously and noticed that Jasper had fallen asleep.

Wendy felt her heart aching and slowed down the car to drive at a much steadier pace.

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Schulers'. Dawson was waiting for the two at the door.

When he saw Wendy's car, he walked over and saw Wendy tiptoeing out of the car while giving him a 'shh' gesture.

"He fell asleep. He's probably too exhausted during this period of time. When we talked on the phone, he would often stay up until two or three in the morning. Let him sleep for a while," Wendy said.

Dawson glanced at Jasper who was sleeping in the front passenger seat and nodded, saying with a smile, "Okay then. I'll ask someone to make dinner. Let him rest."

When Jasper woke up, he found himself sitting in the car with a shirt placed on top of him.

He got out of the car and happened to see Wendy walking toward him.

"Let's go, dinner is ready. My dad is waiting for you," Wendy said.

Jasper did some stretches. "When did I fall asleep? Why didn't you wake me up?"

"I just wanted you to rest longer."

Wendy said softly, "Your career may be important, but your health is your asset. Have you ever seen anyone work as hard as you?"

When Jasper recalled himself chatting and drinking with Anna last night and that was why he had slept late, he suddenly felt a little guilty.

At the dining area. Jasper said to Dawson, "I'm sorry, I overslept."

"Don't be too hard on yourself. You're still young and healthy," Dawson said while pointing at the seat from across the table. "I asked the cook to make something nutritious for you. Let's eat first."

Jasper drank the spiced lentil & butternut squash soup before asking, "How's the real estate company doing now?"

"It's doing okay overall, but we bumped into a bit of a problem in one of our projects in Brac County. Our subordinates can't handle it. I simply don't have the time to go. Maybe you can go and take a look two days later once you've gotten the rest you need," Dawson said.

Jasper nodded and agreed.

"How's Harbor City? Wendy told me that everything went smoothly for you," Dawson asked.

Jasper said with a chuckle, "Everything went very well indeed. It even exceeded my expectations. I made five billion this time. I left part of it as an investment and I've brought back the rest of it. I don't have to worry about insufficient funds for now."

Dawson and Wendy were both startled.

They knew that Jasper had gone to Harbor City to make some money but did not know the details about it, let alone the fact that he had made five billion dollars.

"I heard that the dot-com bubble burst some time ago and caused quite a stir. The domestic stock market was greatly affected too. Was this the opportunity you took?" Dawson asked.

At this time, the dot-com bubble had yet to have a great impact on the domestic stock market and thus avoided an economic loss that might happen due to the burst. There was a slight impact, but not so much compared to other places.

Moreover, the domestic news was still relatively restricted and not as developed as in the future, so they did not know much about the things happening out there in the world.

Jasper said, "Yes, I predicted that the dom-com bubble would burst soon, so I went to Harbor City ahead of schedule. Fortunately, I seized the opportunity this time. Otherwise, the rapid development of JW Capital in the future would require a lot of funds. I guess you can say that I've earned all my capital back."

"I'm old now compared to young people like you." Dawson laughed. "The money I made this entire lifetime can't even compare to the money you earned from just one investment."

Jasper shook his head and said, "Venture investment is all about tricks. There are both benefits and risks, and no one can say for sure if they'll fail. However, one failure is enough to bury the benefits of ten successes. It's important for the industry to have a solid foundation."

If someone else said these words, they would seem really pompous and arrogant.

However, Jasper proved with facts as not one of his investments had failed, hence the things he said just made him seem genuinely dope.

Dawson was pleased to see Jasper keeping a humble and cautious attitude. He was not haughty and arrogant just because he had achieved a win or two.

"I've contacted someone with regards to the entertainment company you mentioned earlier, but there's no rush in this. The seller is still considering it. You can go when you have the time."

“Which company? What’s its name?” Jasper asked curiously.

“I think it’s called... Easy Media. It’s a company run by two brothers with the last name King,” Dawson mulled it over and said.

Easy Media!

Jasper suddenly grew interested.

The company would later turn into one of the leading companies in the domestic film, television, and entertainment industry in the future.

As for the King brothers, they would also become the uncrowned kings of the domestic entertainment industry.

He was surprised to learn that they had plans to sell the company at this time.

“Uncle Dawson, can you confirm with the other party as soon as possible? I acquired an entertainment company in Harbor City and I think the ones in Mainland need to keep up as soon as possible. I plan to open up both territories and create a major entertainment group across the straits.”

Upon hearing what Jasper said, Dawson said seriously, “Okay, I’ll arrange a time for you as soon as possible.”

After dinner, Wendy sat on the couch and propped her chin as she stared at Jasper who was carefully reviewing JW Capital’s documents that had piled up during the time he was away.

Jack had taken care of many things for him, but there were still many major decisions that he needed to make.

“You said you were going to rest for two days first, didn’t you?!” Wendy was a little displeased.

“Now you’re reading documents and two days later you’re going to the entertainment company for a discussion. There’s simply no time for you to rest.”

Jasper shifted his attention away from the documents and smiled at Wendy. “I’ve made plans. We’ll drive to the beach tomorrow to have a relaxing time together.”

“Really?” Wendy suddenly grew excited.

“Yes, we’ll go to Brac County. One of the projects in the real estate company has hit a wall. It’s not far from there, about a two-hour car journey. We can go there and drop by while we’re at it. Besides, it’s just next to the beach. There’s a beach, barbeque, and even a beer festival there,” Jasper said with a smile.

Wendy said happily, “I’ll go and pack my luggage then.”

“We’ll just be there for a day or two. Two changes of clothes will do,” Jasper said.

“What do you know, big man? Every time a woman goes out, that’s like going to war. We mustn’t let our guards down!” Wendy had already walked out the door when her words fell into his ears.

Jasper gave a chuckle, picked up his mobile phone, and booked a five-star hotel in Brac County.

“I want to book a suite, the most expensive one.

“Yes, one... The kind with only one bedroom.”

...

The next day, Jasper and Wendy returned to the city together.

After greeting his parents and getting nagged as usual, Jasper and Wendy drove to Brac County.

More than two hours later at Brac County's Marriott Hotel, Jasper tossed the car keys to the valet and accompanied Wendy into the hotel to check-in.

As soon as they got to the entrance, Jasper and Wendy heard a young man passing by while talking on the phone. His voice was harsh and grating to the ears.

"Stop talking nonsense, damn it. JW Real Estate? Never heard of it. I, Mark Zion, am the king in Brac County. If they want that piece of land, ask them to come and speak to me. If I'm in a good mood, then I'll talk to them. If not, I'll kick them out of Brac County overnight!"

Life at the Top Chapter 233

Mark captured both Jasper and Wendy's attention when he mentioned JW Real Estate.

Wendy frowned, a little displeased with the insulting tone in Mark's words.

Mark had come to the front desk while still talking on the phone.

Jasper was currently doing the check-in procedure at the moment. He had handed in his ID and deposit. He was waiting for his room card now.

Mark squeezed in like Jasper was not there, tossed the signature sheet that Jasper had placed on the counter aside, and said to the attendant, "I want a suite."

The attendant who was currently handling the check-in arrangements for Jasper was taken aback. She could tell that Mark was not someone she could offend, hence she sounded very sorry when she said to him, "I'm sorry, sir, the last suite

has been booked by this gentleman right here. We only have standard rooms left.”

“Do you know who I am? Standard room? F*ck standard room. Do you have a death wish by asking me to stay in a standard room?” Mark slammed the counter and roared.

The attendant was caught off guard, and her face turned pale. She was too afraid to utter a word.

At this time, Jasper’s voice fell into their ears.

“Please give me my room card as soon as possible.”

Jasper sounded very gentle, helping the attendant out of the embarrassing situation tactfully. The young lady glanced gratefully at Jasper and hurried to finish the procedures.

After saying these words, Jasper glanced at Mark indifferently and said mildly, “Line up.”

Mark frowned slightly as he looked at Jasper up and down. He sneered, “Are you not from around here? You don’t know me?”

“You really don’t know who I am? I don’t need to line up anywhere in Brac County.”

Having said that, Mark caught sight of Wendy standing next to Jasper. His eyes widened and lit up.

He had never seen such a stunner in Brac County before!

He did not care who Jasper was. With his power and status in Brac County, everyone who saw him would show him respect.

Therefore, Mark started flirting with Wendy straight away.

“Hey gorgeous, are you here in Brac County for a holiday? I’m Mark from the Zion family!” Mark stated his name. He believed that the other party would be interested after knowing who he was.

No one in Brac County could resist his status and charm.

“You can mention my name wherever you go and I guarantee that you’ll be treated like a VIP. So, want to play?”

Mark smiled and stretched out his hand to Wendy.

Smack!

A crisp and clear sound rang through the lobby. Mark’s hand was smacked aside by Jasper.

Mark was taken aback for a moment. He narrowed his eyes, his gaze gleaming fiercely as he stared at Jasper. Hissing, he yelled, “F*ck, how dare you hit me?”

Jasper did not care about his reaction and said mildly, “You and your filthy mouth. I’ll chop your fingers off if you try groping around again. Get behind the line!”

Jasper had the experience of hitting a trust fund baby and even trampled on magnates to the ground before.

He had caused quite a stir in Harbor City and hung out with the top four aristocratic families such as the Laws.

Now that he was back in Mainland, how could he allow an insignificant Brac County trust fund baby to act domineeringly in front of his face?

Mark was furious. He had always been the person to throw his weight around Brac County and had never encountered a person like Jasper before.

Mark gritted his teeth. He wanted to hit Jasper, but he looked robust and full of energy.

Although Mark was young, his body had been damaged a long time ago from all the wine and women. Normally, a young master like him would pay a thug to do the job, so why bother doing it himself?

Therefore, after comparing their size and strength, Mark decided to put up with it first.

“Fine, you’re really something, huh? We’ll see about that!”

After saying those words, Mark stormed off with an extremely sullen expression.

Life at the Top Chapter 234

As long as Jasper was still staying in Marriott Hotel and was in Brac County, he was not worried that he would not have the chance to seek revenge.

Jasper did not even see Mark leave and grabbed his room card from the attendant’s hand. When he walked to the elevator, Jasper said to Wendy, “Get Brac County’s real estate company’s person in charge here.”

Wendy replied and started making a call.

They had just taken a two-hour car ride to Brac County, and after encountering this incident, Wendy was no longer in the mood to go out and enjoy herself.

After taking a shower in the hotel, Wendy and Jasper waited for the person in charge to come over.

The person in charge took his big boss' orders very seriously and merely took a little over half an hour to get to Jasper.

"Ms. Schuler, Mr. Laine."

The person in charge, Mr. Lambert, was a shrewd and capable middle-aged man in his early 40s. He was previously the backbone for Schuler Group, a competent worker. As such, he was transferred by Dawson to the real estate company to help with opening up new markets.

In Brac County, however, not just his but all of JW Real Estate's projects had now sunken in a quagmire.

"Tell me all about JW Real Estate's situation in Brac County." Jasper grabbed a bottle of red wine and poured two glasses, motioning Mr. Lambert to take a seat before speaking.

Mr. Lambert responded to him. Despite Jasper's young age, Mr. Lambert, who had just left Schuler Group, knew that the Mr. Laine who was sitting across from him was not only JW Real Estate's second-largest shareholder but also Dawson's future son-in-law.

The real estate company aside, even the entire Schuler Group would belong to him in the future.

In addition to that, Jasper was mostly acquainted with the upper-class social circle. His aura was growing stronger and stronger every day. It was nothing like what he used to be anymore.

With those two things in mind, Mr. Lambert dared not let his guard down anymore.

“Currently, JW Real Estate is mainly doing a real estate project in Brac County called Landscape City.

“This land has been auctioned off to JW Real Estate before this. It’s located by the sea. The plan is to build a high-end residential building in Brac County, focusing on the concept of sea view properties.

“There’s a problem though. When the land was first auctioned off, JW Real Estate’s main competitor, Majestic Real Estate which is also the core industry of Brac County’s Zion family, started using all sorts of means to hinder our development when they failed to auction for the land.

“They even arranged for a bunch of households to refuse to move from the property, and that hindered our demolition work greatly. Then there are also local thugs coming over to give us trouble every now and then. We simply can’t start the project.”

As Mr. Lambert spoke, he wore a wry expression. “Otherwise, we wouldn’t have sought help from the headquarters in the province either. The Zions are too powerful here. They said that JW Real Estate will either have to take out 50% of the profits to give them a bonus or do nothing at all.”

“They want half of the profits? Is Brac County’s last name Zion? They’re simply asking for too much!” Wendy raged.

“What’s Mark’s position in the Zion family?”

Jasper asked suddenly.

He recalled the man he met in the lobby today who happened to be called Mark. Moreover, he had also mentioned that he was a Zion!

He seemed really confident. It looked like the Zions were really influential in Brac County.

Mr. Lambert replied, "He's Harvey Zion's only son, the head of the Zion family. He's arrogant and domineering and doesn't care about the law. No one in Brac County is bold enough to offend him."

Jasper nodded, then discussed the progress and work arrangements of the entire project with Mr. Lambert before sending him away.

"Jasp, never condone forces like the Zions!" Wendy said to Jasper.

Jasper smiled and said, "Temple is small but evil winds heavy, the pond is shallow yet wicked cuckolds too many. The smaller a place, the easier it is to encounter rebellious people. It's okay, I'm great at dealing with all sorts of people who refuse to cooperate."

It was nearly evening after their discussion, hence Jasper took Wendy downstairs to have dinner at a restaurant.

"We'll fill our tummies first then go to the beach to have a walk after dinner," Jasper said to Wendy, taking a seat at the table.

"And beach barbeque too!" Wendy said with a sweet smile.

"We can't forget that, can we?" Jasper said with a smile.

The two were still talking when Mark returned. He was standing at the entrance of the restaurant. This time, he brought two tall and hunky bodyguards with him.

As soon as he entered the restaurant, Mark saw the duo engaging in a delightful conversation. He let out a vicious and smug smile.

Mark swaggered over to Jasper and Wendy's table, displaying an insincere smile. "Hey, kid. Having dinner?"

Life at the Top Chapter 235

Wendy wore an unpleasant expression. This feeling was like when one was in a good mood and when it was about time to enjoy a meal, a fly kept lingering around them, making all sorts of disturbing noises from beside.

Jasper glanced at Mark and said calmly, "I'm not used to having my meals with someone pacing back and forth at a corner."

A smile remained on Mark's face, but the evil chills within his gaze were getting more intense.

Placing one of his hands on Jasper's chair, Mark then leaned forward and whispered into Jasper's ear, "I love seeing this arrogant side of you, because the more arrogant you are right now, the more miserable you'll be later on."

"I don't care what kind of person you are. In Brac County, regardless of your capability, it's best you behave appropriately. Or else, your family won't have a place to mourn your death once I'm done with you!"

As Mark was talking, he let out a burst of devilish laughter and immediately pulled a chair from the table beside. He then called the waiter over to order.

The man beside him also followed to take a seat. He went around Jasper with ill intention and said, "Young Master Zion, aren't you going to make fun of him straight away?"

Another man joined in and giggled, saying, "That's right, Young Master Zion. Just let us siblings torture him to death. That lady is f*cking gorgeous. Young Master Zion, you should personally go comfort that beauty. Isn't this the perfect solution?"

Mark sneered, "What do you guys know about? It's only meaningful if you slowly torture a person like that."

"One glance and it's obvious he's not from here. I'm guessing this guy has some cash on him and brought this beauty over here for a meal to put on an act. If I want to make this beauty admire me, I have to first let her know that in Brac County, there's no one richer than me nor more powerful than me.

"Just look at the day and age! We don't kill and murder people anymore. That's the lowliest method." Mark deliberately raised his voice so that Jasper and Wendy could hear him crystal clear.

"He wants to use fortune and authority to make you admire him," said Jasper to Wendy with a smile.

Wendy glared at Jasper, and for the first time, she gave him a warning glance. "Stop making me feel disgusted."

At that moment, Mark had already summoned the waiter.

"High-quality foie gras, abalone vegetable dish, then according to the headcount, I want codfish from the deep ocean, tuna, and salmon. Also a set of platter Albino Sturgeon Caviar."

Even though they were having their meal in a five-star restaurant, ordering dishes that were worth hundreds of thousands was enough to shock the manager of the restaurant.

The manager rushed over and said to Mark in a polite, cautious tone, "Sir, aside from others, in regards to the Albino Sturgeon Caviar, our restaurant does not have many in stock. One gram will cost approximately 20,000, and there are three of you here, which sums it up to 60,000."

"Do you think I can't afford it?" Mark's expression was dark.

The manager quickly answered, “No, that’s not what I meant. I’m just trying to confirm with you, sir.”

“Then cut the nonsense and just serve what I ordered.”

Mark waved his hand with a calm face. Then, he glanced at Jasper disdainfully and said faintly, “That’s all. It’s just hundreds of thousands, a simple meal.”

Knowing Mark was trying to use his money to suppress other people, the two underlings he had brought with him naturally showed their support. With a mystifying manner, they worked together and said, “Young Master Zion is generous! However, for someone else, perhaps they won’t be able to earn these hundreds of thousands, right?”

“Don’t say so. It wasn’t easy for a certain someone to save more than half a year’s worth of salary to bring a beauty over to a five-star hotel to enjoy a meal. If you guys are here triggering him, won’t he lose his composure when he returns home?”

“Hahaha!”

Ear-piercing sounds kept traveling over, but Jasper’s expression remained calm.

“Manager, I’m going to order some dishes.”

The manager walked over to him. As someone with a discerning eye, one glance was all it took for him to know that the guests from those two tables were trying to compete with each other. This made the manager hope for more good things to happen.

“Give me a portion of whatever they ordered. For that Albino Sturgeon Caviar, give me two boxes of it.”

The manager was dumbfounded when he heard Jasper’s words.

“Two... Two boxes?!”

“Sir, you heard the price just now. One box has six grams, and two boxes will be 12 grams. It’ll cost 214,000...”

Subconsciously, the manager emphasized the price of Albino Sturgeon Caviar.

“For foods like this, what’s the meaning of being so calculative when eating? It’s only by having a big spoonful per mouthful can I make out the taste,” said Jasper calmly.

When the manager heard this, he dared not even let out a sound. He dared not offend someone who could afford a meal costing more than 200,000. He spun around and placed the order.

Mark’s expression changed for the worst.

He bought Albino Sturgeon Caviar according to grams while Jasper immediately ordered two boxes of it.

This made him feel that he was being overwhelmed by Jasper.

The truth was indeed that way.

Mark was rich, but there was a limit to it. After all, his money was sourced from the Zion family, which was the source of his monthly pocket money.

He had not reached a level where he was able to enjoy a meal worth 200,000 to 300,000.

If his family found out about it, he would be in trouble.

The corners of Mark's mouth were twitching as he wore a dark expression. He stared at Jasper and said, "Cut the overacting. Later you won't be able to pay for the bill."

At that moment, the dishes for both tables were being served. Jasper immediately opened up a box of Albino Sturgeon Caviar and poured all of it on his foie gras. He took a bite and frowned gently.

It was not as delicious as he thought it would be.

Jasper took the remaining box of Albino Sturgeon Caviar and waved to a waiter who was doubting his life. He said a word or two to him.

The waiter's expression changed drastically.

Wendy was laughing sneakily.

That scene made Mark curious because he did not know what Jasper had told the waiter. His sixth sense was telling him that it would not be a good thing.

Following then, the waiter looked at Jasper with a troubled look, then looked at Mark.

Finally, he gulped a mouthful of saliva and walked over while holding onto the box of Albino Sturgeon Caviar.

"What are you trying to do?!"

Mark saw the waiter who was walking toward him and asked, suppressing the unpleasantness and anger within him.

The waiter let out a dry smile and said awkwardly, "That man said he can't bear to see you three eating on such a tight budget, so he's giving you guys one box. Just help yourself to it... This is what he said."

‘Eating... on such a tight budget?!’

Mark felt the flames of rage burning within him. In his entire life, he had never been humiliated in this manner before.

What was more, it was regarding the wealth he was so proud of.

Just when he was about to open his mouth and roar at Jasper, a young gentleman suddenly came in from the outside. He rushed over.

“I beg your pardon, Young Master Zion! I came late...”

Mark did not speak a word after hearing it. He looked unhappy.

Seeing Mark’s awful expression, the man thought Mark was exasperated because he was late.

When he was about to apologize, he noticed Mark’s dark gaze staring in another direction not far away.

The man looked in that direction. When he saw the familiar face that was not far away, his face was decorated with astonishment. “Wendy... Wendy Schuler?!”

Life at the Top Chapter 236

Steve did not expect to meet Wendy, who he had been dreaming of for nearly ten years, at Brac County.

He had a crush on Wendy since their high school days. Steve was considered the most passionate one among the group of pursuers courting Wendy back then.

However after so many years and even up till graduation, Wendy had not spoken more than three sentences to him, let alone became closer to him.

Later after graduating, Steve's family business that was involved in building materials shifted over to Brac County. As such, he gradually let go of his feelings for her.

He did not expect to be able to meet Wendy once again.

Even though a few years had already passed, Steve was still able to recognize Wendy with just a glance.

In the meantime, he spotted Jasper beside her.

“Jasper?”

Steve's tone was laced with some doubt, but then he let out a smile. “What the f*ck? A poor guy like you also has what it takes to show up in a five-star hotel?”

It was plain obvious that Steve thought Jasper was pestering Wendy, and in light of them being old classmates, he made Wendy treat him to a meal at this hotel.

'Otherwise, this poor guy wouldn't be able to come to such a high-end place in his lifetime.'

The thought of it made Steve glance at Jasper with much disdain.

"Steve, you guys know each other?" Mark asked coldly.

"Yes," said Steve with a chuckle, "Wendy was a goddess in my high school. How can I not know her? As for Jasper, he's also our schoolmate, but he's just a genuine poor guy.

"He could wear the same set of school uniform for one whole year, and I never saw him change to another set of clothing. Even if the clothes had a hole in them, he still continued to wear them. Every day, he would eat buns and pickles. Some people found him pitiful and would offer him food, and he would be happier than a dog."

Mark was delighted when he heard it.

"What the f*ck, a poor guy is putting on an act against me?"

Mark was slightly exasperated as he was terrified of a poor guy just earlier.

The thought of it made Mark so mad that he wanted to just tear off Jasper's skin.

"Steve, please mind your language," Wendy said coldly. Currently, what irritated Wendy was other people teasing Jasper.

Steve witnessed Wendy shielding Jasper, and all of a sudden, it made him disgruntled.

"I said nothing wrong. Isn't he the famous poor brat in the entire school?"

“Wendy, I know you’re very kind, but you have to pay more attention. Don’t get used by these useless beings because of this matter.”

Steve said in a mystifying manner and then said to Jasper with a smile, “As a man, I really f*cking look down on you!”

“However, as your old schoolmate, I’ll just give you a piece of advice. Wendy is already showing you some dignity by treating you to a meal. Or else, a poor guy like you won’t be able to come to a five-star hotel like this for the rest of your life.

“You’d better leave this instant after gaining the benefits. Don’t be such a drag and insist on staying here.”

“What a splendid speech.” Mark stared at Jasper with a dark gaze. He then said with a sinister smile, “Hey brat, you’re quite good at putting on an act. I nearly got scared by you. Now, how do you wish to die? Huh?”

Steve immediately understood when he saw the scene.

‘It must be Jasper, this fool, who came to a five-star hotel and went overboard. He ended up offending Mark!’

When he thought about how his family’s business relied on the Zion family, it made Steve all hyped up.

“Young Master Zion, did this fool offend you?” asked Steve politely.

“Does he have what it takes to do so?” Mark smiled coldly. “At most, I’m just disgusted by the filthy smell coming off his body. It affected my mood.”

“Got it.” Steve nodded, spun around, and barked at Jasper. “Why are you still daydreaming here? Hurry and apologize to Young Master Zion, then get lost!”

“We haven’t seen each other for so many years, yet you’re still the same,” Jasper looked at Steve and said calmly.

“Back in school, you were a lackey to those young masters from rich families. You were good at getting on other people’s good side. Then, your family managed to gain some profits through a business involving building materials and you became so proud. Right now, it seems that Mark is your new owner?”

Hearing Jasper’s comment made Steve’s expression become darker.

He did not see any fault in getting on good terms with those with power and fortune, but with Jasper blurting it out like this, it was like a slap on his face.

“Who are you to comment about me?”

Steve was looking fierce. “It’s way better than being a poor brat like you, pestering an old female schoolmate and making Wendy bring you over to a high-end hotel to treat you to a meal.

“I advise you to apologize to Young Master Zion if you know your standing, then get lost. After all, you’ve already eaten. You can return to the construction site and show off to your colleagues about how you’ve been to a five-star hotel.”

As he was saying, Steve suddenly burst into laughter and was proud. “Someone like you can only work as a laborer at a site, moving bricks around, right? You can beg me. If you beg me and if I’m in a good mood, I can arrange to have you take up a foreman position, hahaha.”

Mark sneered and said, “A fool like him wants to be a foreman? Just put on a metal string around his neck and make him squat at the entrance of the site. He can be a watchdog who looks after the site. That would suit him best.”

“You’re right, Young Master Zion, hahaha.” Steve raised a thumb to Mark, putting on a flattering expression to get on his good terms.

“You guys are so full of yourselves and look down on others!” Wendy got up with a stony expression.

“Jasp, let’s go. It makes me want to puke being together with these people.”

Mark snorted and blocked Wendy with his body, saying with a delighted face, “Hey beauty, don’t be in such a rush to leave. What’s so good about this watchdog? This world is so vast. A beauty like yourself should only be a match to someone as splendid as me.”

Steve’s heart skipped a beat when he saw Mark staring at Wendy while drooling.

Wendy was his goddess.

It was a rare chance for him to bump into her. Hence, he still had some thoughts about it...

However, the moment he thought of his family’s business relying on the Zion family’s charity, Steve made a decision after weighing the pros and cons.

“That’s right, Wendy. Young Master Zion is the heir to the huge Zion family of Brac County. He’s not someone who can be compared to some brats. Seeing that we’re old schoolmates, I’ll just remind you that it’s your luck that Young Master Zion is willing to be friends with you.”

Mark was very satisfied with Steve’s comment. He clapped his shoulder and said with satisfaction, “Not bad, you’re good at analyzing the situation. I’m very satisfied with your action.”

Steve put on a lowly smile and said to Mark, “I’m just stating the facts. In the entire Brac County, who doesn’t know that Young Master Zion is the number one person among the younger generation?”

Wendy glanced at Steve coldly and said, “Last time, I only felt that you were just a spineless person. But now, why is it that your actions disgust me?”

Hearing that comment made Steve twitch the corners of his mouth, and his expression looked awful.

At that moment, Jasper also stood up and looked at both Steve and Mark coldly.

Before he could even speak, Mark saw his reaction and immediately smiled coldly before saying disdainfully, "F*cker! Hey brat, earlier I was petrified by you because I didn't know about your background, but now, are you still thinking of scaring me?"

"Utter rubbish! Let me tell you, in Brac County, I'm the one with the most authority!"

Life at the Top Chapter 237

"How boastful you are!"

Jasper let out a smirk and placed his gaze on Mark. He said with a deep voice, "So far, the Zion family supporting you can't control the entire Brac County. With just you alone, you dare claim yourself as the king of Brac County?"

Hearing Jasper's comment made Steve sneer. He looked at Jasper as if he was looking at a mentally disabled person and said, "You b*stard. You have no ability yet you sure talk big. Do you know who the Zion family is? Is the Zion family someone the likes of you are able to comment on? Who do you think you are?"

"Hehe, I'm someone from JW Real Estate. Young Master Zion, you must be familiar with JW Real Estate, right?" Jasper did not continue hiding his identity but blurted it flat out.

His comment made both Steve and Mark stunned.

The Zion family had high authority in Brac County. Most of the citizens were afraid of the Zion family, hence only a handful of people dared to go head-on with the Zion family.

During this period, the only defeat the Zion family had ever suffered was the incident with that piece of high-quality land.

They were unable to do anything as the opponent had lots of funds. Even though the Zion family was one of the big families in Brac County, when being compared to JW Real Estate which was being supported by the Schuler family of the province, their funds were not even comparable!

It was because of this incident, the Zion family had been very exasperated lately.

“Hey brat, you’re someone from JW Real Estate?” Mark squinted his eyes to look at Jasper and said with a hostile tone.

While speaking, he looked straight at Wendy who was beside Jasper as something suddenly struck his mind.

“Wendy Schuler, the Schuler family... JW Real Estate?!”

He suddenly thought of something. Wendy, the person before him, was perhaps the daughter of Dawson Schuler of the Schuler family!

“Someone from the JW Real Estate, my ass. I say you’re just a worker. I wonder what makes you so proud? However, your boss is just a dog,” Steve said with a cold smile.

Wendy, who was beside, heard this and was not willing to continue with the conversation with them both. She felt that the two men before her were way too lame. She spun around and said to Jasper, “Jasp, Let’s go.”

Jasper let out a thoughtful smile at those two men and brought Wendy out.

This time, Mark did not block them. When Steven was attempting to say something, he was stopped by Mark instead.

“Young Master Zion, are you just going to let that b*stard leave?” asked Steve cautiously.

Mark smirked and said with a deep tone, “You really are stupid. Think about it, who’s the boss of JW Real Estate?”

“Who else if not Dawson Schuler, the chairman of Schuler Group!” Steve answered without thinking further.

“Use that stupid brain of yours and think again. What’s Wendy’s surname?” said Mark coldly.

“Of course, Wendy’s family name is...”

Steve left his statement hanging, then he widened his eyes and said, finding it hard to believe, “Young Master Zion, you’re saying... It cant be, right? How is it possible that something can happen so coincidentally? Wendy and I were schoolmates during high school, and I never knew that Dawson is her father!”

Mark glanced at Steve and said straightforwardly, “I know right? We’ll know if I send someone to go check on it. This is not a secret anyway.”

“It’s Jasper. He doesn’t look like a capable person,” said Mark coldly, “His ability to act is great.”

Steve smirked and said, “He’s just a poor guy who depends on his girlfriend. He’s not worth being wary of. I’ll believe that Wendy is from a super-rich family, though. After all, that aura emanating from her is not usually seen in daughters of any ordinary families.

“But I know about Jasper’s background perfectly. He’s from a poor farming family. During his third year in high school, he was always being looked down on and was treated like a dog.

“He must’ve bumped into Wendy after graduating and used some underhanded methods to make Wendy pity him. She then gave him a job to make ends meet. Right now, it seems that he’s using Wendy’s identity to put on an act.”

Even though Mark said that Steve was stupid, Steve’s words about Jasper were almost just like what Mark was thinking.

“I’ll consider it as you’re not entirely stupid then. I think things are as you said.”

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Mark said coldly, “If Wendy is Dawson’s daughter, then we can’t force our way tonight. However, not to fear. No matter how powerful Dawson is, can he provide a helping hand over at Brac County? If he dares lend a helping hand, I’ll just chop it off!”

Mark chuckled and put on a devilish expression as he said, “I’m still hoping that Wendy is his daughter!”

“Young Master Zion, do you mind elaborating on that?” asked Steve.

“JW Real Estate used up so much money to buy that land. Without the permission of the Zion family, will he dare to start developing it? Impossible. If Wendy is his daughter, then he has to make Wendy come to me to negotiate.

“Hehehe, if I can be Dawson’s son-in-law, there’s no harm letting him develop that land because that’s going to be mine as well!”

Steve looked at Mark who was laughing maniacally. His eyes sparkled, and he buried his greed for Wendy deep within his heart. He raised his thumb and said, "What a splendid strategy you got there, Young Master Zion. Everyone will just plan things as they march forth, but you look a few steps ahead into the future with every move you make."

"Even after taking the entire province into consideration, who can be better than you, Young Master Zion, let alone here in Brac County?"

Marriott Hotel was just at the beach, and there was a large area of their own private beach.

Even though it was a private beach, as long as they were guests of Marriott Hotel, they were free to be there.

Even if that was the case, the environment over here was much better compared to public beaches.

They were holding hands and walking on the beach. Wendy took off her shoes. Her fair feet stepped on the beach which had been drenched by the tides, leaving behind a trail of footprints.

The waves washed up to the beach but did not go over Wendy's feet. The chilly and exciting experience made the smile on Wendy's face never once fade away.

"The air here is so nice," said Wendy, feeling touched.

Jasper let go of his hand, allowing Wendy to jump up and down as she stepped on the waves. He answered with a smile after hearing her, "If you like this, we'll choose a quiet place, buy it, and build a holiday villa there."

Wendy tilted her head and looked at Jasper. She said, "Why are you being just like someone who got rich overnight? You'll just buy everything now. You weren't like that in the past."

“It was the period of starting a business previously, so every penny had to be spent carefully. But now that we have a little bit of capital, we should make our lives better. What’s the point of earning so much money if you don’t use it to enjoy life?”

Wendy shook her head after hearing Jasper’s reply and said, “I don’t want to. There’s no meaning to building a holiday villa. It’s enough if we come here occasionally for a trip.”

“As long as you like it,” said Jasper with a soft smile.

Wendy spun around and walked backward. She glanced at her footprints on the beach while pulling Jasper along, insisting he took off his shoes as well.

Jasper would never reject Wendy on such a trivial issue. He immediately took off his shoes and socks before strolling the beach with Wendy.

As such, the beach had a long trail consisting of two pairs of big and small footprints.

“It’ll be winter after a few more months. Let’s make a trip to Capital City during this coming winter.” Wendy suddenly suggested.

Even though Jasper was very surprised to hear this suggestion, he still replied with a smile, “Sure.”

“Let’s choose a time when it’s snowing and visit the Forbidden City,” said Wendy softly.

She would never tell Jasper that she had heard from others that the ancient palace was only called the Forbidden City when it snowed. Legend had that if one accompanied their loved one and walked around the Forbidden City under the snow, without one realizing it, they would have become old together...

After they were tired from the walk, they lay on the lounge chairs that were set up on the beach nearby the hotel. They ordered the waiters to serve them drinks. Both Jasper and Wendy were feeling very relaxed.

“What do you plan to do to those two disgusting people?”

“In three days, I’ll make them both kneel before you and admit their mistakes!”

Life at the Top Chapter 239

Jasper was never a person who lied.

The same applied when he was treating any lady.

He said that he would make both Steve and Mark kneel before Wendy and admit their faults. Since he said it would happen within three days, it would definitely not happen on the fourth day.

Early in the morning after waking up in the hotel, both of them headed downstairs for breakfast. They immediately headed over to the office of JW Real Estate that was located in Brac County.

With the two big bosses’ arrival, Mr. Lambert dared not waste a single second. He immediately went to summon all of the workers in the company for a meeting.

However, Jasper never liked having meetings on a frequent basis. As such, he utilized his authority as the boss and had most of the workers continue on with their own tasks, leaving only Mr. Lambert and his two assistants.

These three people basically comprised the Management Department of the branch company of JW Real Estate in Brac County.

“To be honest, even though the main company knows that the project in Brac County is not easy to do, we’re still not satisfied with your working progress,” Jasper sat in Mr. Lambert’s seat and said.

The three of them exchanged terrified looks at each other and revealed bitter smiles at the same time.

“Mr. Laine, we’re indeed facing some difficulties as well. The main reason is that Brac County is a special place, and our work is facing a great deal of resistance,” said one of the assistants while feeling aggrieved.

“If it’s not a difficult task, then tell me, why should I be spending several times more to pay you all a higher salary than an average employee to work for me?” Jasper asked.

That question left the three of them speechless.

Wendy, who was sitting beside them, was looking at Jasper intently.

She realized that at this moment, Jasper was very handsome...

“I know that the greatest obstacle for the project in Brac County is the all-around obstruction by the local Zion family. To you guys, this is indeed a very critical issue. Mr. Lambert, I heard that you were previously threatened with blades in the office?”

Mr. Lambert quickly nodded and said with a bitter smile, “This is indeed like an educated person bumping into a ruthless being. No logic can go through their minds. It’s not just me, but many people have been threatened as well—both straight to the face and in the shadows.”

“They also warned us that we’re just workers, and there’s no need to endanger our safety for the sake of a job.”

Jasper said coldly, “It’s now the year 2000 already, yet there are still people using such ruthless methods to run their business. And you guys are actually petrified because of this?”

“I can tell you guys that you work for JW Real Estate, so JW Real Estate will be your shield as well. Whoever uses underhanded methods is going against JW Real Estate, and JW Real Estate will never let you guys suffer from any threats.

“And if anyone really takes the risk and causes any one of you to suffer from any injury, JW Real Estate will definitely redeem justice for you all—even at the expense of losing this project!”

Jasper’s speech was very influential. His voice was not that loud, yet it brought with it persuasion.

Mr. Lambert and the other two people looked at each other before nodding at the same time. “Mr. Laine, we have faith in you!”

Since Jasper had already said so, they were reassured and comforted.

“How many local building materials suppliers are there in Brac County and which one is cooperating with JW Real Estate?” asked Jasper.

An assistant manager with the surname Wood was mainly in charge of that aspect and quickly answered, “The local market for this industry is mainly composed of Ambition Corporation and Future Industries. These two companies comprise 70% of the building materials market. The one who’s cooperating with us is Ambition Corporation, whose ability is slightly weaker than Future Industries.”

“Future Industries... Is the boss’ surname Quare?” asked Jasper.

Mr. Wood nodded. “Yes, sir.”

“Immediately set up an appointment for me to meet with the boss of Ambition Corporation.”

Mr. Wood answered immediately after hearing it, spun around, and went on to proceed with his work.

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”What’s the condition at the site?” Jasper looked at Mr. Lambert.

Mr. Lambert answered with a slight awkwardness, “The demolition work is not able to be completed because of the few families that refuse to move. Initially, we thought of starting with laying the foundation where demolition works have been completed, but because of the hindrances every day, we can’t start on that as well.”

“It means the site is demonstrating a halt in work and I have to witness all sorts of cash outflow every day?” Jasper asked calmly.

Mr. Lambert smiled bitterly and nodded.

Mr. Lambert’s body trembled out of fear when he noticed Jasper’s gaze getting colder.

He knew if he continued to make Jasper dissatisfied, then his position would be handed over to another person.

JW Real Estate was at a stage of developing its company, and the benefits given were way better than usual. If he was fired by JW Real Estate, for sure he would not be holding any position in Schuler Group as well.

He had to bear in mind that the person before him was the son-in-law of Schuler Group.

The chairman only had Wendy as his daughter, which meant his son-in-law would be the future boss. He could not afford to offend him.

“Mr. Laine, this is the report on the Zion family’s business which I compiled yesterday after I went home. I’m not sure if it’s going to be of use but please have a look at it.”

Jasper’s expression became much better when he saw the report Mr. Lambert was cautiously handing to him.

“The core of the Zions’ business is building ships.”

Jasper looked at the report in his hands, and his gaze showed signs of interest.

“Yes, Mr. Laine. Brac County is a city by the beach. It’s not surprising that the shipbuilding industry is more advanced. Old Master Zion was originally a technician in the national shipbuilding factory. Later on, he went to work alone in the oceans, and his business gradually became much better. He even bought over the national shipbuilding factory.”

“Right now, their main business is from cooperating with big companies in Harbor City. Every year, they will receive orders to build a few ships. I heard that one ship can easily earn them tens of millions of profits.

“Adding to the usual maintenance, it’s all under them as well. In one year, with just this shipbuilding company, they can earn tons of fortune. This is also the basis of the financial securement for the Zion family.”

Jasper smiled softly and said, “If they’re from other industries or if they weren’t working with big companies in Harbor City, then it might take some time to defeat them.”

Mr. Lambert's heart skipped a beat. He was making a guess internally. 'Does this son-in-law have any connections in Harbor City?'

With that thought in mind, Mr. Lambert's impression of Jasper was that he was getting more mysterious.

At that moment, the sound of the door being knocked on was heard. It was Mr. Wood from earlier.

"Mr. Laine, the boss of Ambition Corporation, Xavier Johnson, has arrived."

Jasper waved his hand, beckoning Mr. Lambert and the rest to leave the office. He said, "Allow Mr. Johnson to enter."

A moment later, the office door was pushed open and a middle-aged man with a prestigious physique entered while giving off a domineering aura.

There was an astonished look on Xavier's face when he saw that the boss of JW Real Estate, Jasper, was so young. However, very soon, he composed himself and said politely, "Nice to meet you, Mr. Laine. I'm Xavier from Ambition Corporation."

Jasper smiled and got up. He shook hands with Xavier and asked him to have a seat.

Jasper was no stranger to Xavier.

In his past life, Xavier's building materials company left Brac County and became the number one building materials supplier in the entire province.

However, the real reason that made him famous was that his family of three was suddenly met with a robbery when his business was at its peak. All three of them were murdered.

Then, his building materials company was inherited by one of his best friends.

Coincidentally, that best friend of Xavier's went by the surname of Quare!

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"According to what I know, there's a vice president in Ambition Corporation who has the surname Quare. I think he's also the biological brother of the boss of Future Industries?"

Hearing Jasper's question made Xavier, who thought Jasper would first discuss business with him, dumbfounded.

"You're right, Mr. Laine, but my vice president is also my friend, my brother. Even though he's Douglas Quare's biological brother, they've long since been separated.

"Initially when I got transferred back from the military, I couldn't find a good job for a while. It was this brother of mine who brought me onto this path of building materials. I can say that Ambition Corporation was able to get to today's scale mostly thanks to my brother."

Xavier did not hide anything. This incident was known by everyone in Brac County. As long as one went asking around, they would be able to figure it out.

"However, Mr. Laine, does this have anything to do with the corporation between your company and Ambition Corporation?" asked Xavier.

Jasper said faintly, "Of course, there's some connection to it because right now, JW Real Estate is choosing a reliable partner in the building materials industry. Obviously, we can't just find someone who will end up losing his family because of his brother to cooperate with us."

Xavier's expression changed drastically after hearing it.

He was quite joyful when he initially heard that JW Real Estate was having the intention to choose a reliable partner.

In Brac County, that was just a branch company to JW Real Estate. Even though there were some difficulties that prevented it from moving forth because of the pressure exerted by the Zion family, however, in the view of the entire province, JW Real Estate was definitely an upstart in the property industry.

'If only we can become their reliable business partner, then Ambition Corporation will be in charge of all the building materials of JW Real Estate throughout the entire province. That'll be such a great thing!'

However, Jasper's words made Xavier's good mood immediately disappear into thin air.

"Mr. Laine, what do you mean by that? My relationship with my brother is not something an outsider like you can understand. How is it possible that he'll make me lose my family? I wouldn't be here if it's not for him."

Although he had changed countless jobs throughout the years, Xavier still retained the boldness of a soldier from his time in the military deep in his bones. At this moment when he saw that Jasper was trying to 'sow discord', he argued back ruthlessly.

"He can even betray his own biological brother, so what more you?" said Jasper immediately.

That statement left Xavier speechless for a long time.

"Mr. Johnson, honest people won't say things behind other people's back. You can look into it, how the siblings got into a fight in the beginning and ended up going their own pathways. Besides, go and look at your company's account. You'll know what I'm talking about soon enough.

Xavier's expression became more awful as he heard Jasper's words.

Out of trust, he had basically handed over the company's account to his brother to manage and he would not bother with those matters.

However, Jasper's words were like a thorn, making it hard for him to accept the words.

Jasper shook his head slightly when he saw Xavier's expression that was changing for the worst.

'So it means that people like Xavier aren't suitable to run a business.

'He's too honest and easily trusts others.'

Take Jasper for example. No matter how good of a relationship he shared with others or how great the ability of that person was, he would never hand over the financial authority to another.

Except for Wendy.

She was different because she was Jasper's lady.

However, for those who were not his family, Jasper would beat that person's head into pieces with a bat if they wanted to lay a finger on the finances of the company.

"Mr. Laine, you called me over today just to talk about this matter?" asked Xavier.

Jasper said faintly, "As I said before, I'm planning to choose a building materials supplier who is reliable for JW Real Estate. Ambition Corporation is the first company that I'm considering, but if you can't solve the problems within your company, then I won't choose you guys."

Xavier gritted his teeth and said, "I need to go back and have a look."

“Since the opponent has already decided to do it, he won’t allow you to catch him red-handed so easily. I have a better idea that can help Ambition Corporation conquer the market of building materials in Brac County, and it can also make this whole incident come to light. It’s up to you whether or not you’ll give us your cooperation, Mr. Johnson.”

Xavier’s eyes sparkled, and he looked at Jasper before saying, “I’m all ears.”

Jasper said with a smile, “Strike down Future Industries.”

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Xavier was dumbfounded when he heard it.

He felt that Jasper was making fun of him.

Future Industries was his greatest enemy. Never in his wildest dreams would he think of taking down Future Industries. ‘But why is he taking it lightly?’

“Indeed, there’s some difficulty to it but with the full support given by JW Real Estate, things will be much easier.”

It was as if Jasper could read one’s mind and had seen through what was on Xavier’s mind.

“The building materials market is mostly just like other industries. From supplying the goods to providing the goods, the account is being settled in a cyclical phase, right?” asked Jasper.

Xavier nodded. It was not just building materials, most of the industries were like that.

Even if they were the one providing the building materials to JW Real Estate, JW Real Estate would at most pay 20% or around 30% of deposits for the goods and pay the rest later.

“Mr. Johnson, you can go get in touch with your supplier. Ambition Corporation will pay full for the goods with the only request that they have to stop supplying goods to Future Industries.”

Xavier was shocked when he heard Jasper’s comment and said, “This is indeed a way to finish someone off. But where do I get so much money to immediately pay everything to them?”

“JW Real Estate can pay for all the goods. With this, don’t you have the money?” said Jasper with a giggle.

Xavier was stunned for a long time. He looked at Jasper deeply and said, “Mr. Laine, do you mind me asking you something? Do you happen to have a grudge against Future Industries?”

Jasper answered faintly, “Nope. I just don’t like them.”

Xavier took in a deep breath. He could not comprehend what was going on in this young man’s mind. He immediately blurted such huge news the moment they met up. First of all, Jasper claimed that his brother bore ill intentions, then he told him a method to take down Future Industries—both in just a single night.

The main point was that Jasper did not just provide the idea, but the execution of the plan as well!

Currently, JW Real Estate’s business was doing very well. As long as the company was willing to clear off all their debts, then he would be able to hold on to all the supplies and make Future Industries fall.

To be blunt, this was like having a dog sitting on a chair. Even a dog could accomplish it well, hence it was not something that could only be done by being ambitious.

‘And this is just because Jasper despises Future Industries?’

Xavier felt that this world had changed.

“I’m doing it!” said Xavier, determined.

Jasper said with a smile, “A toast to our cooperation.”

...

After Xavier left, Jasper pinched Wendy’s nose and said, “What are you thinking about? Why are you being absent-minded?”

Wendy blinked her eyes and said, “Isn’t it going to be very troublesome if you want to take down Future Industries?”

“If it’s within the rules of the game, Future Industries is deeply involved in the building materials market in Brac County. Even Ambition Corporation is not worthy of being their opponent. It’s indeed not an easy feat for a property company like mine that comes from a foreign land to take the company down.”

While saying this, Jasper shrugged his shoulders. “But why should I abide by the rules of the game? I can just overrule these rules anytime I want. When I’m the one who gets to have a saying about the rules, what is Future Industries going to use to go against me?”

“Hurting others with the lowest cost.” Wendy covered her mouth and smiled.

“Smart lady.” Jasper held his phone, lowered his head in search of a number, and praised her.

“Who are you calling?” asked Wendy curiously.

“It took me about half an hour to contact Xavier and convince him to take down Future Industries. Now, I’ll let you see how long it’s going to take me to take down the Zion family,” said Jasper to Wendy with a smile when he dialed a number. He was waiting for the call to go through.

“How long?” asked Wendy.

“Just a phone call’s time.”

Life at the Top Chapter 243

Over at Harbor City in another shipbuilding company. Jasper was calling the Ship King, Spencer Boyle.

He did not wish to trouble Spencer over such a trivial issue. It was because he did not know any of the Boyle family members who were slightly younger.

Spencer, who was far away at Harbor City, was flabbergasted to receive the call from Jasper. After laughing while talking for a moment, Jasper then revealed his intention behind this call.

Spencer knew what was going on and was able to grasp the situation after just listening to half of Jasper’s speech.

“I’m not familiar with the Zion family’s shipbuilding factory in Brac County that you’re talking about. After all, there are just way too many shipbuilding company partners who provide us with the original equipment manufacturer. Most of it is being arranged by the underlings.

“However, in regards to this issue, I’ll order my men to settle it. So, rest assured.”

The Ship King’s reply showed that he greatly respected Jasper.

After all, as the head of one of the four affluent families in Harbor City, to be able to say such a thing already represented an attitude.

“Thank you. Next time when I head over to Harbor City, I’ll definitely come to visit you,” said Jasper with a smile as he also knew how to reciprocate with the same respect.

Spencer burst into laughter and said, “Sure. When you’re here, be sure to be my guest.”

After another word or two, Jasper hung up the call.

“Just now was...” Wendy looked at Jasper, astonished.

Even though she was aware that Jasper had a good relationship with the four affluent families in Harbor City, witnessing Jasper being able to call Spencer straight and even have a nice conversation with him made her feel that it was rather ridiculous.

“It’s exactly the person who you’re thinking of. The next trip to Harbor City, I’ll bring you along and introduce you to him,” said Jasper with a smile.

Wendy let out a faint smile.

“Earlier, I think you said a total of ten sentences. Among them, eight of them were greetings. With just two sentences, the matter is settled.”

“You finally get to witness the ability of your man, right? Come, let’s go have lunch.” Jasper smiled and held Wendy’s hand before walking out of the office.

...

In Harbor City, Spencer indeed attached great importance to Jasper. As soon as he ended the call with Jasper, he immediately dialed another number.

He made a call to his son, Eustass Boyle. Currently, most of the businesses of the Boyle family were under the control of his son.

Eustass, who was having a meeting, immediately raised his hand to stop the meeting when he saw the incoming call. He ordered a group of staff from the higher management to watch over the situation while he answered the call.

“What’s up, Dad?”

Hearing Eustass’ reply made all of the higher-ups stand up straight subconsciously as if the old man was able to see them through the phone.

After listening to the words, Eustass answered and said another two sentences before hanging up the call.

A dead hush befell the conference room. Eustass loosened his necktie and asked, “Who knows if we’re cooperating with a shipbuilding company under the Zion family of Brac County in the Mainland?”

All the bosses exchanged terrified looks. ‘Who the hell is that? We’ve never heard of them before.

‘Such a trivial matter yet it made Spencer, who is half-retired, personally make a call to enquire?’

After some time, a man who was sitting at a corner of the conference room got up weakly. “Mr. Boyle, I vaguely have an impression of this name. It seems that it’s true.”

Eustass waved his hand and said, “You shouldn’t continue with the meeting. Go give them a call and tell them that we, the Boyle family, will not continue working with them.”

Eustass thought for a moment and added, “Send regards to others who are involved in the same industry. Just say this is my old man’s intention.”

‘Old man’ referred to his father, and the crowd knew the meaning as well. The identity of Eustass’ father...

The higher-ups sighed internally. ‘I wonder which unknown shipbuilding company this is. It seems they are done for this time.’

Spencer’s intention was passed on. It was foreseen in the future that anything that floated on the ocean, even if it was just a little boat, would not involve the shipbuilding company of the Zion family.

...

The plan to go against Future Industries still needed some time to take effect. However, the call from Harbor City immediately made the entire Zion family fall to their doom.

Initially, Harvey was still in a good mood.

Even though in the property industry he had lost his pride because he could not win against JW Real Estate over that piece of land, the arrangement after that incident still made Harvey rather confident that he was able to exert pressure on JW Real Estate.

Plus, their shipbuilding company had received another two boat orders. With this, the Zion family was able to enjoy their lives even without needing to work for the remaining year.

However, just when he was having his lunch, he received a call from Harbor City.

The caller, without even being courteous, immediately claimed that they were going to halt all cooperation agreements. From then on, there was no more cooperation, let alone the two orders for ships that were just placed.

At that moment, Harvey was dumbfounded.

He wanted to ask but the caller had hung up the call.

Following then, he received a call from the underlings of the shipbuilding company, saying that the caller had released an official memo to officially halt all cooperation.

The underlings were stunned, and even Harvey was stunned as well.

“What the f*ck?!” Harvey was so mad that he threw his cutleries and plate. “Who the hell is making fun of me?!”

Mark, who was sitting at the same dining table, was dumbfounded as well. “Dad, I thought our cooperation over at Harbor City was proceeding well? Why did they suddenly call off the agreement?”

Harvey was like a disgruntled bull and said through his gritted teeth, “Someone is setting us up!”

Mark thought for a moment and said, “We didn’t offend anyone, though.”

Suddenly, Mark thought of something and said with a shocked voice, “Could it be JW Real Estate?”

Mark said with his brows furrowed, “Where did JW Real Estate gain the ability to exert influence in Harbor City?”

“However... I met with the boss of JW Real Estate yesterday...”

As he said that, Mark then blurted the entire incident that occurred last night.

“You fool! JW Real Estate from the province is the one who worked with the Law family of Harbor City in developing the project on the Southface River. This incident caused a huge turmoil at that time. It’s obviously Wendy and Dawson trying to set us up through their relationship with the Law family.”

Harvey’s words were making so much sense as he spoke. He frowned and glared at Mark ruthlessly, roaring, “You useless thing! All you know is to cause trouble outside. How is it possible that Wendy will not seek revenge after you humiliated her?”

Mark’s expression was dark as he said through gritted teeth, “I also didn’t expect that lady who was so quiet to actually carry out such a cruel plan.”

“Even if she didn’t, did you think Dawson wouldn’t?!” Harvey kicked Mark’s body and roared, “You’d better go and look for Wendy right now to apologize to her. Whatever she requests you to do, you have to obey her!”

Mark’s face went pale as he said with a teary face, “Dad, if I show up before them, do you think she’ll let me off the hook?”

“Our family relies on our shipbuilding business. If this business is gone, that will be the end for the Zion family! Go over this instant! If Wendy is not satisfied, don’t ever think of coming back!” Harvey barked.

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"Alright... Alright... Alright... I'll go find them now..."

Mark could sense the anger from his father. He dared not waste a single second and immediately nodded to agree.

He made a move to search for Wendy to apologize to her.

After having a meal with Jasper, Wendy happily planned to drag him to watch a movie with her. However, she did not expect to see the person whom she did not wish to see.

Mark Zion! He was standing at the entrance of their hotel room.

Judging from the looks of it, it seemed that he had been standing there for quite some time.

"What are you doing here?"

Hearing Wendy's cold tone, Mark silently gritted his teeth. However, he had a smile on his face to try to get on her good terms.

"Miss Schuler... I-I'm here today to offer my apology.

"I've thought through it and realized that my attitude last night was terrible. I was being too arrogant. So, I purposely came here to apologize to you, Miss Schuler. I hope you'll be generous enough to forgive me."

Mark tried his best to lower his ego as he blurted the most humbling words. Even so, he cursed with the crudest words internally.

Throughout his entire life, he had never suffered such humiliation before. He engraved the entire incident in his mind and vowed to seek revenge. 'I will!'

Wendy looked at Mark coldly. Naturally, she knew that it was impossible for this person to have realized his mistakes.

'It seems that Jasper's method has already taken effect, forcing him to show up to apologize.'

Wendy let out a cold smile. Then, she spun around and looked at Jasper.

Wendy would never make any decision when it came down to dealing with outsiders. As such, she granted the final decision to Jasper.

Jasper smiled. After opening the room door, he entered with Wendy.

Since the beginning, Wendy and Jasper never reacted to Mark's apology.

They did not mention any words of forgiving him but did not comment that they would never forgive him either.

They just ditched him at the doorway!

Mark was dumbfounded. He looked at the room door that was half-closed. Finally, he gritted his teeth and followed them to enter.

Upon entering the room, he stood still in the middle of the hall. Mark saw Jasper sitting on the main seat while Wendy was... cutting an apple for Jasper!

At that moment, perhaps Mark was deeply jealous of Jasper.

'F*cker! Steve was right. Jasper is just a b*stard who relies on ladies. How dare he rely on ladies like this?!'

Since the beginning, Mark never thought that the incident had anything to do with Jasper.

In his opinion, this fight was obviously because Wendy had suffered some grievances and experienced terror last night. She then told Dawson about it, leading Dawson to arrange all of this.

As for Jasper, he was just a b*stard who relied on ladies!

Hence, seeing Jasper sitting in front of him and showing off his mightiness made Mark feel mentally uneasy!

“I’m here to apologize to Miss Schuler. Why are you sitting here? Hurry up and get lost!” Mark said in a mystifying tone.

Jasper leaned on the sofa and looked at Mark calmly. He let out a vague smile and said, “Aren’t you here to apologize? Looks like you’re not sincere enough in your apology.”

“Son of a b*tch! Why are you acting all mighty? Since when was it your turn to put on an act before me?! I’m here to apologize to Miss Schuler, not to some f*cker like you!” Mark said with a cold smile.

Wendy looked at Mark coldly. Then, she carefully cut the apple into smaller pieces and used a toothpick to poke on it. She fed them to Jasper.

That gesture explained it all.

Mark gritted his teeth. His icy yet exasperated gaze stared at both Jasper and Wendy.

In Mark’s opinion, Wendy was intentionally using someone who relied on ladies like Jasper to humiliate him.

'As for Jasper, he's an arrogant f*cker who relies on ladies. That's more disgusting!'

"I heard that your family's shipbuilding business is about to come to an end?" said Jasper faintly.

'Indeed!'

Mark clenched his fist while his expression tensed. 'Indeed, it's this stupid couple who's responsible for this.'

Mark took in a deep breath. He went all out and said coldly, "This time, I admit my defeat. Spit out what you want me to do. I just request that you'll let go of the Zion family's business!"

"Alright, nice. Being able to say this statement can at least prove that your dad didn't waste his efforts bringing you up for so many years," said Jasper with a smile.

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Mark stared at Jasper and said with a cold smile, "Shut the f*ck up. You're a b*stard who relies on ladies! You're just relying on the power of the Schuler family. I despise such a worthless man!"

Jasper got up and sauntered lazily to Mark. When he raised his head, there was a dark gleam within his eyes.

Mark did not seem to back off as he matched up to Jasper's gaze and coldly said, "What do you want?"

“Down on your knees,” said Jasper calmly.

Mark’s eyes widened. His pupils were dilated as he glared at Jasper as if he was trying to confirm whether it was Jasper who said it wrong or it was himself who misheard it.

“You want me to get down on my knees?!” Mark got so mad that he ended up laughing.

“It’s fine if you don’t kneel down.”

Jasper’s chin was in the direction of the room door that was still left half-opened. He pointed at it, saying, “The door is just right there. Off you go. I won’t be seeing you off.”

“Jasper Laine!” Mark raised his voice. “Don’t cross the limits!”

“Is it?” Jasper sneered and fixed his gaze on Mark.

Smack!

Suddenly, a slap was swung and landed on Mark’s face, leaving behind a fiery red palm mark.

“This is your last chance. If you don’t get down on your knees and apologize, then get lost!”

Mark felt the burning sensation on his face. He gritted his teeth and stared at Jasper. If it had occurred in the past, Jasper would have long ago been tortured to death by him!

However, at that moment, Jasper was with Wendy. Besides, if he failed to obtain Wendy’s forgiveness, then that would truly be the end for the Zion family’s shipbuilding company!

He had a ferocious expression as he glared at Jasper. He spun around and looked at Wendy, saying with much effort, “Miss Schuler, I—”

“Don’t talk to me.”

Wendy lowered her head and played with her phone. “I only listen to Jasp.”

Gnash!

Mark was gritting his teeth as he stared at Jasper mercilessly. He said with a miserable smile, “Do you think you have what it takes to make me get down on my knees?”

Jasper looked at Mark calmly and said, “I have no interest in your knees. When I asked you to kneel, I wanted you to kneel before Wendy to make up for the inappropriate comments you said to her last night.”

The thought of his family’s business made Mark so mad that his body was trembling when he recalled his father’s fierce and merciless gaze before he left home.

Jasper just looked at him faintly, not saying a word.

After some time, with his teeth clenched, Mark gradually lowered his head and bent his knees.

Bang!

Both of Mark’s knees knocked against the floor, letting out a deep sound.

“It’s my fault, Miss Schuler. Please forgive me.”

Mark lowered his head, and his voice was heard.

“You’re too soft. I can’t hear you.”

It was as if Mark was going all out as he raised his reddened eyes and roared, “It’s my fault, Miss Schuler! Please forgive me!”

Jasper smiled, then got back to his seat and said calmly, “Get lost!”

With both of Mark’s hands supporting his thighs, he stumbled to peel himself from the floor. Mark, with a cruel gaze, glanced over at the two people then spun around to sprint out of the room.

“Jasp, I’m afraid he won’t just let this matter end like this.” Wendy put down her phone and said to Jasper, “Earlier, did we just do something that crossed the line?”

“Obviously not. Just now, his gaze was saying that he wanted to eat us up so badly.” Jasper nodded. It was not the first time Jasper was meeting a young master from a rich family like Mark.

‘Isn’t Zayden just like him? However, right now, Zayden is not even worthy as a dog!’

“Then, will he go and do anything irrational?” asked Wendy.

Jasper smiled and said thoughtfully, “If he doesn’t become irrational, how are we going to utterly defeat the Zion family?”

Downstairs of the hotel, Mark sprinted out. He sat in the car and slammed the car door. He was panting hard, out of breath.

Bang! Mark’s punch smashed against the steering wheel. His ferocious and cruel voice echoed within the car.

“Jasper! Wendy! Just you guys wait and see! I’ll never let this matter slide aside!”

It was as if Mark had thought of something. He took out his phone and made a call, roaring into it in a hysterical manner, "Steve, come and look for me now. I want to make that lowly couple suffer like hell!"

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"I'm coming over to look for you right now, Young Master Zion!"

Steve received the call from Mark. After hanging up the call, he immediately rushed over.

In no time, he arrived at the designated place chosen by Mark. He was dumbfounded the moment he saw Mark's face.

"What's wrong, Young Master Zion?"

At that moment, Mark's face had a bright red handprint on it. His expression was extremely dark.

Steve had no idea what had happened and dared not imagine who in the entire Brac County would have the guts to hit Mark.

"I must make Jasper fall, regardless of the price I have to pay for it!"

Mark glared ruthlessly at Steve and said with a deep ferocious tone.

The corners of Steve's mouth twitched. He had the desire to enquire the reason but he gulped down his saliva as he had no guts to blurt out another comment.

He thought to himself, 'Could it be it was Jasper who personally hit Mark?

'No matter what, Mark vows to make Jasper fall. This is great news!'

Indeed, Steve did not think into it. His deep voice sounded as he said to Mark, “Young Master Zion, if you really want to make them fall, I have an idea which will definitely make them wish they were dead instead of alive.”

Mark stared at Steve and said evilly, “Stop beating around the bush and spit it out!”

Steve chuckled and said, “Young Master Zion, no matter how great Jasper and Wendy are, they’re just two ordinary beings. We can find someone with a much more powerful ability to beat Jasper till he’s disabled, then kidnap Wendy.

“At that time, won’t it be your call to do whatever you want to a beauty like Wendy? Even if you rape her in front of Jasper, he can only lie on the ground and roar all he wants.”

Hearing Steve’s comment made Mark’s eyes sparkle. His mind was flooding with images of Jasper being beaten till he was covered with blood and lying on the ground. Meanwhile, Wendy was tied up, allowing him to go on top of her body.

Mark felt a warm sensation coursing through his body as if the slap on his face no longer hurt.

However, in the next second, Mark hesitated and said, “But Dawson is not someone we should simply go against. If we do that—”

“Dawson is the richest man in the entire province and naturally cares for his pride. If such a thing happens to his daughter, will he even have the dignity to spread the news out?”

Steve counter-questioned, and on his face was a devilish expression.

He knew that he would not be able to obtain Wendy’s heart. However, even if he could not gain it, he would want to at least destroy Wendy.

'Aren't you a goddess? Aren't you someone who's always at the top? Aren't you always looking at me disdainfully?

'Then, I might as well instigate Mark to rape you. We'll see whether you'll still be able to act all elegant then!'

Steve, who was out of his mind because of the jealousy and hatred that was dwelling within him, was utterly delighted.

"Young Master Zion, you're the young master of the Zion family! You have a prestigious status. When everything is settled, there's no turning back. The Schuler family will have no choice but to give in. After all, the incident has already happened. It's either Dawson makes a fuss about the incident and allows everyone in the province to tease him, or he'll just have to acknowledge you as his son-in-law. If he's smart, he won't choose the former.

"With that being said, not only will you counter them and obtain victory, but you'll also obtain Wendy. What's more important is during that time, it'll be up to you how you'd like to torment Jasper, the man who only relies on ladies."

Hearing Steve's analysis made Mark squint his eyes. The evil gleam within his eyes was getting more intense.

"Not bad, not bad!"

Mark patted Steve's shoulder and said, "If this matter is a success, in the future, your family's Future Industries will be the Zion family's business partner."

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Steve was thrilled. He could no longer suppress the smile that was plastered on his face. He took the opportunity and said, “Young Master Zion, the most crucial point in this plan is to look for a person who is reliable yet has a great ability to help you kidnap Wendy, and in the meantime, he can finish Jasper off too.

“And I happen to know such a person.”

Mark said excitedly, “Great. Indeed even the gods are helping me out. Hurry, go summon this person over here. Remember, the guy must be a reliable one”

...

At Brac County General Hospital.

“Where’s Cathy’s family?” a nurse shouted out loud into the hall that was filled with people.

A man, who was not even 180cm in height, stepped over. He had a physique that was not bulky but still emanated a sharp cold aura.

“I’m her younger brother,” said Julian to the nurse.

The nurse sighed and stuffed a pile of bills into Julian’s hand, saying, “These are Cathy’s bills for this week. Right now, the account is stating that you haven’t paid for the bills. Hurry and go collect the funds.”

After the nurse left, Julian stared at the big stack of bills in his hand. His stern face revealed sorrow and torment.

Ever since his sister was diagnosed with leukemia, the siblings had used up their entire savings. The prize money he previously won from martial arts tournaments and the money earned through his performances all these years was way too trivial in amount when dealing with leukemia.

Julian gritted his teeth and came to the ward upstairs. A lady with a fragile look on her face was sitting on the hospital bed. It was his elder sister, Cathy.

“You should take a good rest, Sis. In the afternoon, you’re going for dialysis,” said Julian.

Cathy sighed and said, “Jul, we don’t have any money already, right?”

Julian forced out a smile. “Don’t worry, Sis. I’ll go borrow some from my friends. You don’t have to worry about the money.”

It was impossible that Cathy could not see through Julian’s intention to comfort her. She said, “Jul, let’s go home. I don’t want to be treated. One session of dialysis costs more than 200,000. We don’t even have the money. Furthermore, we can’t find suitable bone marrow. I’ll still be gone either way.”

Julian put on a stubborn look and said, “No way, Sis! Even if I have to go all out, I’ll make sure you’re treated. Don’t worry about the money. I’ll think of a way!”

Just when the siblings were in an argument, Julian’s phone rang.

Julian walked out of the ward and answered the call.

After half an hour, Julian came to a private room in a restaurant.

Steve, the person who called him, was sitting in the room with Mark. They had been waiting for his arrival.

Seeing that Julian had come in, Steve spun around and faced Mark before saying with a giggle, “Young Master Zion, this is the good fighter I was talking about.”

“He started training in boxing at the age of five. At the age of eight, he started going into professional boxing. At the age of 15, he managed to achieve good results in the boxing industry and became champion in the national boxing tournament in the youth category. He’s a three-time back to back champion in the 60 kilograms category. He’s a rare fighter and one of the best in the entire country, let alone in Brac County.”

Mark’s eyes glittered the more he heard. He nodded and said, “Not bad. He has the required ability.”

Steve smiled proudly, spun around, and said to Julian, “This is Young Master Zion. He needs you for a favor. Once the matter is done, you may immediately leave with one million.”

Julian’s breathing became heavier when he heard the one million figure.

In terms of fighting ability, he was confident he could defeat everyone in the country of the same age group as him. However, because of a small incident, he was unable to proceed further. Currently, Julian was in need of money. For the sake of the money, he was willing to do anything.

Mark took out a photo of Jasper and Wendy, which had been taken in secret, and tossed it onto the table. He said, “These two people are now at Marriott Hotel. Go beat this guy till he’s disabled, then kidnap this lady. When you’re done, inform me. It’s as simple as that!”

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On the other hand, Wendy and Jasper had almost spent the entire day playing outside.

That day, Wendy had played with much excitement. She had never been that happy in her life.

They had strolled along the streets, watched movies, had snacks, and even took a trip to the amusement park.

It was just that Wendy was not that brave. Those thrilling rides such as the drop tower, she had no guts to ride. Finally, she yanked Jasper over to ride two rounds on the carousel...

Jasper followed along with her plans. It was a rare occasion for Wendy to be this happy, and he was happy as well that he relaxed for a moment.

While they were heading back to the hotel from the snack street, Wendy was so tired that she dozed off.

Jasper took out his phone and saw that there were about ten missed calls from Xavier. He finally called back.

“Mr. Johnson, I was accompanying my girlfriend earlier. Is there anything the matter?” asked Jasper calmly.

Judging from the way Xavier was looking for Jasper in such an urgent manner, perhaps Xavier had already verified some information regarding the matter that Jasper told him about earlier in the morning.

“Mr. Laine, I’ve finally got through to you.”

Xavier could not help but let out a bitter smile when he heard Jasper's casual 'reason'.

However, he dared not say anything unrelated and immediately said, "Regarding the matter you told me about today, I sent someone to check on it when I got back. It's not looking too good. Humans are truly unpredictable."

Jasper smiled as he replied, "Since ancient times, the hardest thing to predict is a person's thoughts. Since you've already gained some insights, then I believe you'll agree with my plan, right?"

Xavier said with a deep voice, "Although I've found some traces, there's no evidence yet. It's just that I can already sense something even without the evidence. Regarding your plan, I'll carry it out to the best of my ability.

"I've already contacted a few suppliers who are very powerful. No one will be able to refuse the generous terms I'm going to offer them. Tomorrow, I'll be sure to cut off Future Industries' entire supply chain!"

Jasper said with a smile, "Nice one. Tomorrow, the first batch of funds for the cooperation between JW Real Estate and Ambition Corporation will be credited. In regards to those suppliers, you ought to bear in mind to be careful when signing contracts with them."

Xavier nodded and said, "Got it. You can rest assured about that, Mr. Laine... It's just that, aren't you afraid I won't keep to my promise after you credit those funds to me tomorrow?"

At that moment, the car had come to a halt at the entrance of Marriott Hotel. Jasper opened the car door and helped Wendy step down from the car. While he was walking to the lobby of the hotel, he said, "You won't have the guts, Mr. Johnson."

Xavier kept quiet for a long time and suddenly said with laughter, "Mr. Laine, I realized being your friend is much more assuring than making an enemy out of you."

"I'll wait for your good news tomorrow."

Jasper smiled and hung up the call.

As soon as he put down his phone, Jasper noticed the moment when he entered through the doors, a man got up and walked toward him with clear motives.

'There's danger!'

Jasper looked at the face that was very familiar in his memory, but it was a face that looked far too young. He suddenly spun around and said to Wendy, "Do me a favor and head over to the lounge area to order some supper for me, alright?"

Wendy was puzzled. Jasper did not have the habit of having supper. What was more, they had both just returned from the snack street.

However, since Jasper had already spoken, Wendy did not think any further and obediently answered him. She then spun around to head over to the lounge area beside the lobby.

Wendy and Julian passed by each other.

Julian saw Wendy's back figure. Then, with a dark expression, he came to Jasper.

Having lived two lives after being reborn, he had made lots of enemies. Jasper could sense that the man who was approaching him posed a very dangerous threat to himself.

However in Brac County, who would arrange for someone to cause him trouble?
Could it be Mark?

'Except for him, there's no one else!'

Before Jasper could speak, Julian beat him to it. "Someone gave me money, asking me to do him a favor. I'm sorry!"

After saying this, Julian bowed deeply to Jasper without any prior warning.

Julian only practiced boxing due to interest and it being a hobby. Boxing was his life's passion, but he never thought that one day, he would use this ability to commit a crime.

Plus, it was against two strangers too.

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However, Julian had no way out. He had to do it for the sake of money!

Julian planned to immediately take action once he was done talking and bowing, but when he straightened his body, Jasper suddenly spoke.

"If your sister who has leukemia finds out that you're helping the evil commit a crime all for the sake of money, she will never forgive you even after she's dead."

Julian's pupils quickly shrunk. He stared at Jasper and stood frozen on the ground.

He was dumbfounded.

Jasper looked at Julian and sighed internally.

Very few people knew of Julian. After five years, he would astonish the entire nation using another name.

Rexy, the fighting monk!

He learned boxing, and he was the first one to defeat 18 people in one go throughout the 50 years of boxing history. With his ability, he had made a name for himself.

He was not just a master of boxing. He was familiar with other fighting styles including mixed martial arts.

He had truly mastered all sorts of fighting styles.

Later on, he went to join a world tournament and had a winning streak with 22 consecutive wins. He never lost a match.

With the status of a 60-kilogram athlete, he used only 15 seconds to knock out the boxing king of 110 kilograms, creating himself the title of 'The Legendary Fighting Monk.'

During Julian's interview after that, he revealed that his biggest regret in his life was to witness his biological sister being tortured to death because of leukemia.

Many leukemia patients could not find suitable bone marrow donors and passed away. However, his sister had actually found a bone marrow donor that was compatible, but because they did not have the money for the transplant surgery, she ended up dying on the hospital bed with regret.

That was Julian's greatest pain.

Calculating the timing, this was when Cathy, the Fighting Monk or Julian's sister, was being tormented by leukemia.

If there were no accidents, Cathy would pass away after another half a year.

Then, Julian would give himself the name Remy the Fighting Monk. He would give his all to learn fighting for four years and became famous.

Jasper did not expect Mark to be able to look for Julian.

If it was another person, Jasper would really be in trouble. However, he knew that deep within Julian's heart laid the spirit of a knight.

Adding to the words he said earlier, Jasper was confident that he was able to make Julian return to the bright side from the dark side.

"I know your sister has leukemia. Right now, you two siblings are very poor to the point where you can't pay for the hospital bills. You're on the brink of being chased out of the hospital. But I can help you," Jasper stared at Julian and said.

Julian stared at Jasper and said with a deep tone, "How do you know about me and my sister?"

"There are very few things in the world that I'm not aware of." Jasper let out a smile because he could feel the kindness that was still in Julian. If there was still a ray of hope, he would never take this path.

As for Jasper, he could give him hope. Not just hope, but a path that was bright and where he could cure his sister!

"I even know that it was Mark who made you come forth, am I right?"

Jasper's comment made Julian speechless.

Being silent would mean he had agreed to it silently.

Jasper said with a smile, “Think about it. Mark sent you to go against me. Once things are settled, he’ll be holding on to your weak point. Do you think you’ll be able to shake off his set-up?”

Julian’s expression changed for the worst. At that moment, he did not think much as to why Jasper knew so much about his matters. Instead, he was starting to reconsider Mark’s intention.

Earlier, it was because of his mindset to get the money to save his sister that he did not consider the outcome. However, at this moment, he started to hesitate!

“Mark doesn’t dare to come and look for me but got you to fight me instead. That means he’s afraid of me. Think about it, if anything happens to me, do you think you’ll be able to escape?”

Julian’s expression became dark as he said, “I can’t be bothered too much right now. I just need the money!”

“I can give you the money! And I can even give you the bone marrow that can save your sister!”

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Jasper’s words impressed Julian.

He certainly did not want to break the law if he could.

What did it matter if he was strong?

Was he able to fight the law?

During this time, he had clearly understood that personal strength meant nothing in the world.

Only wealth and power mattered.

As for Jasper, his calm and unhurried demeanor since the start made him so much more powerful than Mark or Steve.

“How can I trust you?” Julian asked.

Jasper chuckled when he realized that Julian was having a change of heart. “How much did Mark give you?”

“One million,” Julian answered honestly.

“What a big deal,” Jasper said quietly.

Then, Jasper took his phone and made a phone call in front of Julian.

“Hi, Mr. Lambert, it’s me. Withdraw two million in cash from the company’s vault. You have 30 minutes.”

Then, Jasper hung up and turned toward Julian to say, “So, can we sit down and talk now?”

Julian stared intently at Jasper before he nodded.

Jasper treated Julian to supper in the lounge.

He was full and did not feel like eating anything, so he just got himself and Wendy a drink each.

As for Julian, he was so broke from using all his money to purchase Cathy's medicine that he had not eaten for two days.

Besides, he was a martial artist, which further increased his body's need for food. Thus, he managed to eat enough for eight in one sitting...

Wendy's eyes widened in shock as she looked at the number of empty plates.

"Who is he? He has such a large appetite. Are you sure nothing will happen?" Wendy asked as she poked Jasper.

Jasper smiled. "He's the bodyguard I've set my eyes on. He's great in combat."

Wendy batted her eyes. She was born into a rich family and thus was familiar with the concept of bodyguards. Her father's bodyguards were usually retired members of elite troops, and they could beat up six people in one go.

Other things aside, Wendy felt that Julian could defeat five or six of her dad's bodyguards in terms of appetite alone.

Half an hour later, Mr. Lambert sprinted toward the hotel with a combination lock case.

Panting, Mr. Lambert placed the case down and glanced at the time.

29 minutes and 30 seconds!

Mr. Lambert let out a breath.

"Thanks for your hard work."

Jasper looked at Mr. Lambert, who had thrown on his clothes haphazardly after being roused from bed, as he spoke.

“No worries. As long as I didn’t hold up any procedures.”

Mr. Lambert was a smart man who made his leave after replying respectfully.

Jasper pushed the case toward Julian and motioned for him to open it.

When Julian opened the case, he saw 200 bundles of 100 dollar bills placed neatly inside it.

Excitement flashed through Julian’s eyes as he said to Jasper, “What... What do you want me to do?”

“Nothing much. I just want to be friends,” Jasper replied smoothly.

Julian was startled.

Was this how rich people acted?

They would spend two million dollars just to become your friend?

However, Julian was not stupid. He knew which side he should be on after doing a cost-benefit analysis.

Steve and Mark wanted him to break the law, but it was obvious that Jasper would not let him do that. His sister had also taught him since he was a child to be a law-abiding citizen.

“Steve was the one who got in touch with me, and the other person you’re referring to must be Mark. Steve paid me to do stuff for Mark. He wanted me to come meet you at this hotel and...

“...beat you up and then kidnap her.”

Julian paused before saying, “Before I left, I heard them saying that Mark will humiliate her in front of you so that you’ll beg for death before they did what had to be done...”

The expression on Wendy’s face turned frosty after hearing that. She was angry.

“How vile and shameless! I never expected them to be like that!”

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Jasper remained calm as he tapped Wendy on the arm, signaling for her to calm down.

“I’ll take care of these two,” Jasper said.

Wendy nodded and said angrily, “Jasp, you must teach them a lesson this time.”

“Teach them a lesson?”

Jasper smiled as he said slowly, “I’ve already taught them a lesson, but it seems that they aren’t in touch with reality yet. Lessons... aren’t enough for people like them.”

Jasper was smiling, but Wendy, who knew him like the back of her hand, knew he was furious.

Wendy knew Jasper was this angry because Mark had malicious intentions toward her. Her heart glowed with the warmth of that knowledge.

“I’m going to have to trouble you with something.”

Jasper said to Julian, “Call them and tell them that your plan has succeeded.”

Julian did not understand what was going on, but he could sense the iciness hidden within the calm expression on Jasper’s face.

Without asking more questions, he nodded and took his phone out to make the call.

...

In a restaurant near Marriott Hotel.

Mark and Steve smoked on cigarettes as they stared at the silent phone on the table, panic building within them.

Suddenly, the phone rang.

Steve immediately answered the phone.

A while later, he hung up and smiled broadly at Mark. "Young Master Zion, it's done."

Mark stood and suppressed his excitement as he asked, "Really?"

Steve nodded and said, "That was Julian on the phone. He told me that he has successfully taken control of Jasper and Wendy. All we need now is for you to grace them with your presence, Young Master Zion."

Mark laughed uproariously as he clapped Steve on the back gleefully. "Not bad! I'll remember your contributions in this matter!"

Steve laughed with him as he said sinisterly, "I wonder how wild Jasper and Wendy will be this time."

"Don't worry, I'll make sure you get the chance to humiliate Jasper. I'll make him lie on the floor and watch me have fun with Wendy," Mark guffawed as he said.

The two excited men hurriedly stood up and set out toward Marriott Hotel.

Within ten minutes, Mark had brought Steve to the door of the suite.

Mark could not conceal the delighted grin on his face as he knocked on the door.

Just today, Jasper had slapped him and forced him to crawl out of the room. Now, he was back!

Everything had come to a full circle. Now, he was going to step on Jasper's face and ask him who was the actual winner!

As for Wendy Schuler, she could pretend to be high and mighty all she liked. He would see if she could continue maintaining that aristocratic persona of hers after he ripped her clothes off!

Her screams must be music to the ears!

Mark's face turned red from excitement as he imagined the scene. He could not wait.

The door soon opened.

Julian was standing behind the door.

"Hahaha, good one, Julian. I admire you!" Mark laughed as he spoke to Julian.

Then, he pushed the door open to enter.

Steve followed behind him.

Julian watched them enter the room before he calmly closed the door and locked it.

Mark and Steve must not have noticed that in their excitement.

The minute he entered the room, Mark roared with laughter as he yelled, "Jasper Laine, you didn't expect this, did you? I'm back! I can do anything I want to you in Brac County! It's too late to be sorry now..."

“Jasper... you...”

Mark realized that Jasper was sitting comfortably on the couch when he strode into the room.

He forgot what he was about to say.

Silence took the place of his arrogant, smug voice as if someone had wrapped their hands around his throat.

Jasper swirled the glass of red wine he was holding and raised it at Mark and Steve, who were shocked to their cores as he smiled.

He looked calm and elegant.

“Young Master Zion, are you surprised?”

Life at the Top Chapter 252

Mark and Steve felt as if they were going crazy.

Their elation fell from the heights of heaven to the pits of hell the minute they saw Jasper... They did not know what to do.

They really did not know what to do.

In their imagination, Jasper had been lying in a pool of blood, ready to either hurl curses or get on his knees and beg when he saw them.

No matter what, he should not be sitting on the couch in one piece and sipping on red wine, looking as if he was awaiting their arrival?!

Who was the mastermind in their elaborately planned scheme?

Steve began sweating profusely as he panicked.

Mark's lips trembled as the sparkle left his eyes.

Instinctively, the two looked at Julian together.

Julian had a calm expression on his face as he walked toward the couch Jasper was sitting on. He stood at attention.

An answer that Mark was reluctant to accept surfaced in his mind as he looked at Julian, who stared back with an indifferent expression.

They had been betrayed by Julian!

"Julian Lager, you dare betray me!?" Steve stared at Julian in shock and roared in anger after understanding what was going on.

Julian did not answer, acting as if he had not heard anything.

Mark was so angry that he turned and slapped Steve. Gritting his teeth, he said, "This is the reliable person you found!? A f*cking backstabber!?"

Steve was shocked by Mark's slap.

He turned his head to the other side, afraid to meet Mark's furious expression. His entire being had been consumed by feelings of fear and trepidation.

Where had his smugness vanished to now?

Jasper inclined his head and downed the rest of the wine before he gently placed the glass on the side table.

“I suppose that’s all you have?”

When he heard Jasper, Mark took a deep breath and shuddered as he said, “Jasper... No, Brother Laine, this is all that idiot Steve Quare’s fault. He’s the one who coerced me into this. I never wanted to seek revenge against you. He was also the one who got in contact with Julian!

“Brother Laine, please forgive me.”

Mark had not imagined this would happen. His father had wanted him to apologize, and indeed he had come over to apologize earlier.

However, he had been angered by the humiliation and thus orchestrated this plan.

He did not dare imagine what would happen when his family learned of this accident that would undoubtedly affect his family’s shipyard.

Thus, Mark decided to grovel first. No matter what, he would sell out Steve first. What was important was soothing Jasper’s temper.

Steve could not believe that Mark was selling him out. He said furiously, “Mark Zion, you were the one who contacted me in the first place to help you find—”

He had not finished speaking when Mark, who was beside him, kicked him aside and roared angrily, “Would I be in this mess if it weren’t for you? F*cking shut your trap!”

“Enough.”

Jasper's voice rang out, stopping the two from ripping each other to shreds any further.

"Young Master Zion, we're all adults here. Don't treat the other party like an idiot. Wouldn't it be nice to just let things go?"

Then, Jasper's gaze landed on Steve, who had a hurt and furious expression on his face. He chuckled as he said, "Steve Quare is a lapdog at best. Would he have the guts to do something like this?"

Mark calmed down after hearing that. He took a deep breath and gazed intently at Jasper as he asked, "What do you want?"

"What do I want?" Jasper's tone was light and playful as if he was talking to a friend.

However, in the blink of an eye, Jasper had grabbed the wine glass on the table and smashed it on Mark's head.

The glass shattered into countless tiny pieces with a crash.

Life at the Top Chapter 253

Mark yelled out in pain as he stumbled backward with his head in his hands. Blood oozed out between his fingers.

Jasper took a napkin and carefully cleaned the stains on his fingers. The gaze he directed at Mark and Steve was impossibly cold.

"It's normal that you want to attack me, but we only look at a man's power.

“If I lost, that means my ability isn’t up to par. Then I should surrender myself to you.

“However, that means you should do the same if you’ve lost.

“You should have never, ever, directed any of your filthy thoughts toward my woman.”

Mark felt his head throbbing and spinning as he raised it to look at Jasper. At that moment, he did not bother taking any more chances and decided he might as well say while grinning evilly, “Shut the f*ck up with your bullsh*t! Of course, you’re in the right when you’ve won!

“Kill me if you can!

“But do you dare to?

“Do you really f*cking dare kill me?

“You’ll have to pay a life with a life if you kill me!

“I’m the sole heir to the Zion family. You dare kill me while you’re in Brac County?”

Jasper laughed as he looked at Mark who still insisted on having the last say even when there was no chance of escape for him.

“I love seeing how emboldened you are. To you, your family losing its power would be much more painful than dying, wouldn’t it?

“If I can cause the Zion family’s shipbuilding company to go out of business, I can treat the entire Zion family as my playthings. When that happens, you, Mark Zion, will be worth even less than a b*tch in Brac County.”

Jasper patted Mark on the cheek and chuckled while saying, "You've made quite a number of enemies in Brac County over the years, haven't you? Many would like to kill you even more than I do. Why would I dirty my hands with your blood?"

Mark's pupils dilated when he heard that. He screamed, "It was you who contacted Harbor City and not Dawson Schuler?! You were behind all this?!"

"Who the f*ck are you?!"

"What the hell do you want?!"

Mark had flown into a state of genuine panic.

It was because he had realized that the actual mastermind behind this since the start was Jasper Laine, someone he had never paid attention to.

This had all been masterminded by Jasper.

How else could Julian's betrayal be explained?

How else could Jasper's calmness be explained?

However... How was that possible?

Was he not a poor b*tch? Where did he gain the power to influence the tycoons of Harbor City?

Fear washed over Mark as he thought about that. He suddenly realized that Jasper was filled with secrets and power.

Perhaps he could actually do what he claimed and sabotage the entire Zion family.

Mark did not dare imagine what would happen to him, who had made countless enemies in Brac County over the years, if that happened.

It would be an attack on the enemy while they were down!

Jasper smiled slightly. "I'll give you another chance. Call your dad and get him to come to talk to me."

The corners of Mark's mouth twitched slightly with both fear and disbelief.

He could not think of any reason why Jasper would do that.

However, he understood that the situation was out of his control now. No matter what, he had to make that phone call.

Mark got out his phone with difficulty and dialed his dad's number.

Jasper walked toward Steve and asked calmly, "How would you like to die?"

Life at the Top Chapter 254

Steve shuddered when he heard what Jasper said.

He had realized something just by listening to Mark speak.

Which was that Jasper had used some sort of method to cause not only Mark but the entire Zion family to suffer extreme losses.

Then, he remembered when he met Mark today. Mark had a handprint on his face and was so furious that he could not wait to swallow Jasper whole...

Steve realized that he was in deep trouble now.

He did not have a background as powerful as Mark's. His family could not even be called a prestigious family. It was just that his family's company had the slightest bit of fame and fortune in Brac County...

With this little capital, how could he fight against Jasper who could cause the Zion family to suffer extreme losses?

"Jasper, we were classmates... We were high school classmates for three whole years. You'll keep that in mind, won't you?"

"I know I've made a mistake. How about I kneel to you? I'll get on my knees and beg for forgiveness!"

As he spoke, Steve fell to his knees and slapped himself without hesitation in front of Jasper.

Steve poured all his efforts into trying to live, slapping himself loudly each time. Within minutes, his cheeks had turned red and swollen.

Jasper narrowed his eyes as he stared at Steve who looked as red as a roasted pig.

To him, Mark was nothing more than a worthless rich kid who was spoiled. He had neither the guts nor brains to be useful to him.

However, Steve was different. He was more intelligent than he seemed and was much eviler. Steve was the one who had instructed Julian on what to do today.

If that had not been enough, Steve could even grovel in the blink of an eye when plans failed. Even a casual onlooker could feel the pain from his slaps.

However, that did not mean Steve was easier to deal with than Mark.

They were the truly poisonous ones. If you did not kill them now, they would cause you more trouble in the future.

Jasper watched quietly as Steve slapped himself repeatedly. He made no action to stop Steve, nor did he say a single word.

Soon, Steve had slapped himself so much that he began seeing stars in his vision. His cheeks were numb, and blood oozed from the corners of his mouth.

When he finally lost the strength in his arms to continue hitting himself, he said to Jasper, "Please forgive me. I swear that I'll be a decent person in the future. I won't cause you any more trouble."

Jasper smiled slightly. It seemed as if he was going to forgive him.

Then, Jasper pulled out his phone just as Steve allowed a flare of hope to ignite in his heart.

He called Xavier Johnson who answered the phone swiftly.

"How do you do, Mr. Laine?" Xavier sounded both confused and respectful.

"Do you dare become the lord of Brac County's building materials industry tonight?"

Xavier sat upright in bed when he heard what Jasper said. His breathing became quick and labored.

"Yes!" Xavier said in a low voice.

"Alright, spread the news then. Once done, contact the suppliers that you've been in touch with and arrange a meeting with them at Future Industries to settle previous payments."

Xavier's heart thumped as he asked, "Mr. Laine, has something changed?"

Jasper turned to look at Steve who had a confused and terrified expression on his face. "Steve Quare is beside me."

That one short sentence was enough for Xavier to realize that something sensitive and sinister was going on. He repressed his curiosity as he said, "I'll get to it immediately. I'll give you my word that the front doors of Future Industries will soon be filled with people looking for payment."

Jasper smiled and asked, "You're in the building materials industry. Your cash flow is supported by default payments and bank loans, right?"

Xavier nodded and said, "Yes. We usually pay a settlement of 40% and then pay the rest of the money periodically. That accounts for half of our cash flow. Bank loans support the other half."

Life at the Top Chapter 255

"Do what you're supposed to do. Tomorrow, no bank in Brac County will issue a loan to Future Industries, and they'll start demanding payments for loans that have already been made."

When Jasper finished speaking, he did not wait for Xavier's surprised reply before hanging up the phone.

At that moment, Steve felt the top of his head go numb as he stared at Jasper.

Jasper was going to kill his entire family!

“What... What are you doing?! Who did you call?!” Steve’s voice shook while he asked his questions.

“Who would most enjoy seeing Future Industries fail in the entire Brac County?” Jasper asked calmly.

Steve shuddered as he roared, “What the f*ck do you want to do?!”

Jasper ignored Steve.

It was because Harvey Zion had arrived.

Harvey had been discussing tactics with his brothers when Mark called him.

All orders for their shipbuilding company had been canceled, and Harbor City refused to give them a chance for a discussion. Harvey could not have kept it a secret from them even if he tried.

Relationships were a complex thing within a family business. Harvey might be the head of the family, but he was not yet at the stage where he could control everything.

He was furious when he heard that Mark, whom he had asked to apologize, did not bear good news. Rather, he was now being held captive at a hotel.

In his opinion, JW Real Estate was showing no respect for the Zion family at all.

The Zion family might be at fault here, but they were still one of the tyrants of Brac County. If JW Real Estate was so aggressive that they not only refused to accept their apology but even captured one of his people, would that not be a loud slap to the face?

Thus, Harvey immediately left with two of his best bodyguards.

When he arrived at the hotel room, Harvey immediately spotted Mark who had his hands wrapped around his bleeding head. He also saw Steve whose face had swollen to twice its size as he knelt before Jasper. His eyes narrowed.

“You’re Jasper Laine?” Harvey asked quietly.

Jasper replied calmly, “You’re the head of the Zion family?”

Harvey huffed, not thinking of Jasper as someone important. He said, “Where’s Dawson Schuler? I want to speak to him. Does he think I would negotiate with any runty scamps he sends my way?”

Jasper shook his head. “Negotiate? I think you’ve made a mistake.

“Besides, we don’t need to trouble him with matters like this. I can take care of it myself.”

Harvey scoffed angrily. “Dawson is too arrogant for his own good. He should know his place as the richest man in the province and me as the tyrant of Brac County. Does he really think the Zion family will sit back on their laurels as he bullies us?!”

“Dad!”

Mark yelled out desperately as he tried to tell Harvey that Jasper was the mastermind behind everything.

However, Harvey frowned and interrupted his son when he saw the state Mark was in. “Stop talking. I’ll take you to the hospital now.”

As he spoke, he got ready to take Mark with him.

Jasper’s low voice rang out. “Who dares leave this room without my permission?”

Julian, who had been standing behind him, stepped forth. He roared as he cracked his knuckles, which sounded more like he was popping corn. It caused goosebumps to appear on one's flesh.

The expressions on the faces of the two bodyguards Harvey had brought along stiffened as they stood in front of their boss. "Boss, this is not someone we can mess with."

Harvey had a furious expression on his face.

This was the first time he had been threatened in Brac County!

Life at the Top Chapter 256

“Dad, this was all Jasper’s doing!

“He was the one who contacted the people at Harbor City!

“We’ve all been fooled by him!”

Jasper finally found an opportunity to yell out desperately.

He sounded miserable. It was as if he had finally gotten the chance to bed a beautiful woman but it turned out she had a thicker schlong than him.

Harvey’s eyes widened after hearing that. He stared at Jasper in disbelief.

The expression on his face and the look in his eyes looked identical to the one Mark showed just moments ago.

Then, Harvey laughed.

“Not bad. I’ve been making my way around Brac County for more than 20 years, but this is the first time I’ve had a youngster run circles around me.

“You’re Jasper Laine, aren’t you? Well done. That was wonderfully executed.”

Harvey pushed his bodyguards aside and stared straight into Jasper’s eyes as he said calmly, “You’ve proven yourself by being able to deceive me at this age. Tell me, what do you want?”

Jasper stood behind the couch, using it to rest his arms. He seemed to be smiling as he stared at Harvey and said coolly, "So, you think I'm doing all this to prove my worth to you?"

Harvey's face fell as he said, "Young man, you were still in your mother's womb when I took charge of the Zion family's business. It's worth more than ten billion dollars! I would advise you not to get too snooty."

"Is ten billion a lot?" Jasper asked calmly.

Harvey was angry now. In a cold voice, he said, "Don't be too arrogant. Not even Dawson would speak like that to me."

"That means you're not on that level yet. You might think you're in high society, but those actually in it can't even be bothered to look at you," Jasper said playfully as he shrugged.

"The larger the crowd, the higher the number of idiots. You're one of those idiots. Do you think you're royalty after making a name for yourself in Brac County, which was just a municipality a while ago?"

Harvey's expression stiffened as he listened to Jasper speak. He roared, "The audacity! And who do you think you are? God?!"

Jasper smiled as he pointed at Mark. "I'm not God, but your son is."

Mark's face turned as white as a sheet when he remembered he had uttered those words before Jasper.

Standing in front of the father and son, Jasper took out his phone once again.

Harvey and Mark had a somber expression on their faces when they saw Jasper do that. Steve was so afraid that he shuddered.

Mere moments ago, Jasper had used his phone to make a call that would cause his family's business, Future Industries, to suffer from extermination.

What was he going to do with his phone now?

Was he going to piss all over the Zion family?

Steve shuddered, his eyes wide with fear.

Jasper dialed Dawson's number.

Soon, Dawson's sleepy voice rang out across the line.

"Jasper, what's the matter?"

Jasper smiled as he said, "I've made matters clear on my end. You can begin exerting pressure from the province, Uncle Schuler. I've already dealt with the Zion family's shipyard. You can ask your friends from other industries for help."

Dawson grabbed his glasses from the bedside table and walked toward the study.

He did not ask for a reason, nor did he ask for details about the Zion family. He simply answered, "Alright."

One word was enough.

Schuler Group had recently been transitioning into the real estate industry and causing economic growth. Thus, they were extremely important to both the provincial and city government.

As Schuler Group's fame and power rose, so did the number of people who wanted to curry favors with them.

Thus, Dawson could not care less about who the Zion family was. If Jasper said they were to be defeated, he would make use of his resources to ensure that was done.

After Jasper hung up, he looked at Harvey whose eyes were glinting despite the stony expression on his face. He said calmly, "You were right about one thing."

Both Harvey and Mark looked at him.

"If I did the math correctly, I was indeed still swimming in my mother's womb when you took over the Zion family's business."

Then, Jasper shrugged and walked over to Harvey from the couch. He still had a calm smile on his face.

"However, now that I'm out of my mom's womb, I'm in such a high position that you wouldn't be able to see it even if you incline your head and stand on your tiptoes.

"Meanwhile, you're still rolling around in your business that's worth a measly billions of dollars."

Jasper's words stung Harvey as much as if he had been slapped.

It felt as if a layer of his flesh had been scraped off his face.

Just then, the ear-piercing sound of a phone ringing echoed.

It was Steve's phone.

He felt terrified beyond measure as he answered the call.

His father roared furiously on the other end of the line.

“Where are you?! Hurry back! All our suppliers are demanding payment right now!

“And you’re still loitering?! Get your ass back right now!”

Steve’s lips trembled as he said, nearly on the verge of tears, “Dad, we’re done for. We’re all done for.”

The furious man was stunned for a moment before he said through heavy breaths, “What do you mean?”

Steve lay paralyzed on the floor, his eyes vacant as he stared at Jasper and said, “It’s not just us. The Zion family is done for as well.”

As if it had been a signal, Harvey’s phone rang as well.

Harvey answered the phone with great difficulty.

His brother, whom he had posted at Ambition Corporation as a spy, was on the other end of the line.

“Brother, they know who I am. Xavier Johnson’s men are on the hunt for me now. Brother, what should I do?”

“I just went home, and the entire family is in chaos. All our partners want to dissolve their contracts with us!

“What’s going on!?”

Amidst the chaos, Harvey lost the strength in his arms. As his phone fell to the ground, he could still hear his brother’s desperate voice.

Harvey shuddered and stared at Jasper with wide eyes. “Who the f*ck are you?!”

“Jasper Laine. J for Julius, L for Lord.”

Jasper relayed this coolly to Harvey before he placed his hands behind his back and left the room.

Julian was right behind Jasper. He did not give the room a second glance as he walked after Jasper.

Mark was as white as a sheet as he stared at Harvey, who had a hideous expression on his face. He asked nervously, “Dad, what should we do?”

Life at the Top Chapter 257

Harvey’s face turned a bright shade of red as he curled his hands into fists and roared like a wounded animal.

“What should we do? How am I supposed to know that?!”

Harvey glared at Mark before he raised a hand to give Mark a resounding slap across the face.

“I asked you to come to apologize. Is this how you apologize?! Huh?!”

As Harvey bellowed, his vision went black and he nearly collapsed onto the ground.

In the end, he gritted his teeth and said, “The Zion family will preserve whatever power it can. As for the rest... we’ll talk about them in the future!”

...

Jasper had gotten himself another room to work in so that he would not interrupt Wendy's sleep.

When Jasper returned with Julian, he found Wendy curled up lazily on the couch and watching television.

"Done?" Wendy asked.

"Yes." Jasper nodded and asked gently, "Aren't you going to bed yet?"

"I was waiting for you," Wendy answered in a matter-of-fact tone.

Laughing softly, Jasper said, "It was a success. We should be able to move the project forward tomorrow."

"How are you planning to get rid of the Zion family?" Wendy asked curiously.

Jasper thought for a moment. The Zion family owned several businesses, but only the shipyard was worth something. He did not have his eyes set on anything else either.

"I'll have Mr. Lambert deal with it tomorrow," Jasper answered.

Wendy nodded and looked at Julian who was standing wordlessly at the door. She called out to him, "You're Julian, right?"

Julian, who rarely talked to strangers, let alone beautiful women like Wendy, was startled. He nodded.

His expression was one of surprise and bewilderment.

Wendy giggled, her liking toward the large, down-to-earth guy increasing.

“You can be Jasp’s bodyguard. Your monthly salary will start at 30,000 with a bonus at the end of the year. Your basic salary is 30% of your annual salary. We’ll sponsor two trips per year to any location you like, and you can bring your family along.

“As for the workload itself, it’ll be harder for you at first since you’ll be alone. But I’ll continue adding members to Jasp’s team of bodyguards, and you’ll act as the leader. Your workload will decrease once you have subordinates.”

This was what Wendy had been thinking about before.

Now that Jasper’s status in society was elevating, he needed to start paying attention to his safety.

Especially after what had happened tonight. Who knew what would have happened if they had been more vicious.

Thus, Wendy wanted Julian to stay.

To her, Julian seemed much more reliable and better at combat than her dad’s bodyguards.

Not only was Julian stunned at what Wendy had said, but even Jasper was also on the verge of laughter.

He had once told Wendy that he would like Julian to stay and work as his bodyguard, but he had not expected Wendy to be this many steps ahead of him.

Even so, Jasper was quite touched.

He could tell that Wendy was undoubtedly serious about this matter. She would not have made this decision on her own unless she was convinced it would benefit Jasper.

“But...” Julian said hesitantly.

To be honest, he had no reason to reject an offer with such great benefits.

Moreover, Julian was broke and wanted to find a rich family that he could rely on to earn a living.

However, he could not leave now.

Wendy guessed the reason for his hesitation. “Is this because of your sister?”

“I’ll go visit your sister tomorrow. Don’t worry about her bone marrow transplant surgery. We’ll do our best to scour the entire country to find someone who’s a match. We’ll search the entire globe if needed. And we’ll pay for all the treatment as well.”

Wendy laughed gently as she asked another question.

“What level of education does your sister have?”

Julian’s eyes lit up as he hurriedly answered, “She’s a university student.”

“I can arrange for your sister to work in our company when she has fully recovered. That way, you won’t have anything to worry about.”

Julian was extremely excited, but he still glanced instinctively at Jasper.

Life at the Top Chapter 258

Jasper laughed as he said, “Why are you looking at me? She’s in charge here.”

Julian immediately nodded and said, “You have such high expectations of me. I’ll do my best to protect Mr. Laine!”

Wendy smiled and said, “Alright, that’s that then.”

...

The next day, Brac County found itself in chaos.

Suppliers arrived at Future Industries, demanding payment, whilst banks refused to sign them a loan. Moreover, they had even demanded that Future Industries repay all their loans immediately.

Future Industries’ financial support chain was on the verge of collapse.

Just when things could not get even worse, Ambition Corporation put out the word that the Quare brothers from Future Industries were laundering money from Ambition Corporation.

Xavier claimed that he was going to kill the Quare brothers.

Future Industries collapsed in an instant.

As for the Zion family...

As one of the most famous families in Brac County, their shipyard piqued the attention of many when Harbor City ripped apart their contract.

Then, the various businesses they owned got exterminated.

They suffered an industry-wide closure.

Anyone who had any sort of relation to the Zion family immediately abandoned them to save themselves.

It was as if a large invisible hand had crushed everything the Zion family had built in Brac County over the years.

The members of the Zion family sat in Harvey's house, sobbing hysterically.

Now that the family business was done for, members of the Zion family began stabbing each other in the back. They were hoping to take whatever remaining benefits there were for themselves.

Harvey sat at the head of the table. He seemed to have gone gray overnight.

He smoked cigarette after cigarette, the ashes piling next to his feet like a tiny mountain.

As for the other members of the Zion family, they were arguing over how the money should be divided. They were all preoccupied with securing themselves the best deal.

Just then, a group of people showed up at the front door.

"Good day, Mr. Zion. I'm Mr. Lambert from JW Real Estate."

Mr. Lambert smiled as he handed Harvey his name card. He felt ecstatic when he saw the chaos the Zion family was in.

Just a few days ago, he had been at the disposal of the Zion family. Anyone in that family could humiliate him.

However, the Zion family was done for now. He felt jubilant as he arrived with the task at hand.

Mr. Lambert was ecstatic.

However, he also had massive respect for Jasper who managed to pull all this off quietly.

That man was horrifying!

Harvey glared at Mr. Lambert as he said coolly, "What are you doing here?"

Mr. Lambert smiled condescendingly at Harvey. He never had the right to do this before, but things were different now. The ecstatic Mr. Lambert said haughtily, "Mr. Laine sent me over to strike a deal with you, Mr. Zion."

"Hah!" Harvey snorted. "What does that *sshole want to talk about? Does he think that he hasn't caused the Zion family enough harm?"

"Tsk, tsk, tsk." Mr. Lambert shook his head and said condescendingly, "Mr. Zion, that's where you're mistaken. Mr. Laine can't bear to watch the Zion family beg on the streets, which is why he has decided to give you another chance.

"Mr. Laine says that he's willing to pay 50 million dollars to buy the Zion family's shipbuilding company."

When Harvey heard that, fury consumed him as he stood and roared, "Bullsh*t! My shipyard is worth at least 1.3 billion. Does Jasper Laine think he can get it for just 50 million?!"

Mr. Lambert calmly wiped Harvey's spit off his face and said, "Do you think anyone will want to buy your shipyard now?"

“Do you think there’s a soul out there who doesn’t know that this shipyard has been blacklisted by Harbor City?”

“Moreover, who dares offend Mr. Laine?”

The three questions stunned the entire Zion family into silence.

Mr. Lambert smiled as he procured a check. Gazing at the Zion family, he said, “50 million dollars. It’s your last chance. If you refuse to sell, it’ll stay there and rot.”

The rest of the Zion family stared at each other, their hearts thumping.

Life at the Top Chapter 259

How much was the Zion family’s shipyard worth?

The 800-tonne gantry cranes they had imported from Germany were worth 400 million themselves.

There were also the most advanced computer numerical control machines of the day, each of which had a starting price of 100 million.

The members of the Zion family understood that even if the machines were dismantled and sold as scrap metal, they would be worth way more than 50 million.

Which was why Jasper’s offer of 50 million infuriated them.

Yet, did they have a choice?

No!

The Zion family was in shambles both on the inside and on the outside.

When they left the house, they were confronted with people demanding the Zion family to pay off their debts. When they returned home, every person in the family was calculating how they could get the greatest amount of money.

Most importantly, they understood one thing.

No one besides Jasper Laine would dare buy their shipyard.

It did not matter if there were great benefits or profits if you were not alive to spend them!

Jasper understood that. Which was why he had let Mr. Lambert drop by with a check for 50 million.

If it were any less, there would not be enough money to divide between the family members. They would not take the bait.

Jasper wanted to claim the shipyard without causing any casualties. If the Zion family decided to take the risk and not accept the offer, it would not fit Jasper's consistent approach to maximizing benefits.

This amount of money was just enough to make the Zion family stop and think.

It would hurt them if they agreed.

However, it would hurt them even more if they refused!

"Eldest Brother, I think we should sell it."

Harvey's younger brother, Herman Zion, was the first one to speak.

The minute he spoke, his other relatives turned to glare at him.

The expression on Harvey's face faltered before he yelled, "Are you stupid or crazy? We inherited this shipyard from Old Master Zion. It's our family business and it's worth well over a billion dollars! How could you agree to sell it for 50 million?!"

When Harvey finished yelling, he looked at his other relatives but realized that they did not look angered. Rather, they had sly expressions on their faces.

Harvey's heart sank as he got a bad feeling.

"Eldest Brother, I think Second Brother has a point."

Another woman spoke.

Harvey glared at her, his eyes resembling those of an angered tiger. The woman avoided his gaze but continued saying stubbornly, "Look at the situation we're in now. There's no way the Zion family is going to survive any longer in Brac County. To hell with a family business.

"You might have earned a lot over the years, but we only got a small portion of that money. We have our families and kids to feed."

A murmur of agreement rang out as the woman spoke.

"That's right. Eldest Brother, you should sell it."

"What's the point in staying stubborn? You can even get 50 million if you agree to sell it to Mr. Laine. Do you think anyone else in Brac County will dare buy our shipyard?"

The more Harvey listened to them, the angrier he became. He roared, "If no one in Brac County wants it, I'll go to Greene City and Fortune County. As long as

there's a sea, there will be a shipyard. Does Jasper Laine think he can dominate the world?!"

"Dad," Mark said weakly, "People are demanding we return our debt. They're surrounding the outside now. There's no way you can get out. They won't give us time to raise the money."

The furious expression on Harvey's face melted away as his face turned ashen.

Mr. Lambert dusted his shirt as he looked at the expressions on the members of the Zion family. His respect for Jasper grew by another notch.

How terrifying!

Mr. Laine's calculations when it came to dealing with humans were terrifying.

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Jasper got him to arrive at this time because he knew that the entire Zion family would either be arguing over the money or discussing strategies.

Harvey might be the head of the family, but who would be thinking for the family when they could not even protect themselves during a crisis like this?

Every member of the family had a share in the shipyard.

Now was the time to make off with as much money as possible.

With this interjection, Harvey would not be able to stop his family members' greed no matter how insistent he was.

“Mr. Laine also instructed me to only give you 20 minutes to think about it. It’s been 15 minutes. I’ll leave if you aren’t going to agree,” Mr. Lambert spoke pompously.

That caused members of the Zion family to have an even uglier expression on their faces.

“I’ll sell!” Herman gritted his teeth as he stood and said, “I own 20% of the shipyard’s shares!”

The rest of the Zion family could not sit still after hearing what Herman said.

“I’ll sell too. I own 13%.”

“I have 17%. I’ll sell too!”

A lively discussion took place. Soon, Harvey was the only one who had not spoken yet.

Mark’s face was pale as he tugged on Harvey’s shirt and said chokingly, “Dad, why don’t we sell it? We can go abroad and start again.”

Harvey heaved a long sigh. He seemed to have aged at least ten years as he said listlessly, “I’ll sell. I’ll sell it all.”

Mr. Lambert smiled in satisfaction. As members of the Zion family looked on impatiently, he retrieved a contract that had been prepared earlier from his briefcase and said, “If that’s the case, I’ll need everyone’s signatures.

“The contract will come into effect once everyone has signed their names. Your family will then own an additional 50 million dollars.”

No one hesitated when they saw the check in Mr. Lambert’s hands and surged forth to sign their names.

When Harvey finally managed to sign his name, Mr. Lambert took the contract and placed the 50 million dollar check on the coffee table. He smiled as he said, "It's been a pleasure doing business with you. I hope we never meet again."

Then, Mr. Lambert roared with laughter as he turned to leave.

As he shut the door, he could hear the sound of Harvey roaring in both anger and indignance. He sounded like a wounded beast.

"How dare you fight against Mr. Laine with such capabilities?"

Mr. Lambert smiled coolly as he got into the car and drove off.

...

Brac County was a cryptic place. As the Zion family faced disaster, Jasper and Wendy were at Brac County General Hospital.

"Don't worry. I'll have you sent over to the province where you'll receive treatment from the most elite medical team. Moreover, we'll stick to our promise of helping you find a match for your bone marrow transplant surgery."

Wendy spoke gently to Cathy.

Cathy had an embarrassed, bewildered expression on her face. She could not stop glancing at her younger brother, Julian.

Even though Julian had already introduced her to both Jasper and Wendy, she still felt dubious. She could not believe that such fortune would befall her.

"Thank you... Thank you so much," Cathy said sincerely.

As the two women spoke, Jasper gave Julian a look. The two walked out of the ward.

“We’ll return to the province this afternoon. I’ll arrange for the hospital to prepare an ambulance that will follow us all the way so that your sister can receive the best treatment in the province,” Jasper said.

Julian had a solemn expression on his face. Suddenly, he knelt and said, “Thank you, Mr. Laine!”

That action caused everyone nearby to sneak glances at them as they wondered what was going on.

Jasper hurriedly grabbed Julian’s arm and pulled him to his feet as he said, “I gave you a job where you can work without any additional worries because I need you as my loyal protector. It’s a fair trade.

“Go easy on your knees. Good men kneel only to their parents and God. No one else, not even the king, is worth you kneeling to.”

Julian said solemnly, “Mr. Laine, I owe you my life!”

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Jasper chuckled at Julian's words.

He patted Julian's shoulder and laughed softly. "I don't need you to give me your life. You just have to stay by my side and work hard. I won't mistreat you," he said.

Julian nodded slowly.

He had previously come here to destroy Jasper. Although Jasper had given him 2 million dollars, he had also kept to his words and chosen not to take revenge on him.

Despite this, Julian knew that Jasper absolutely dared to do so.

Julian had watched how Jasper defeated Mark Zion and Steve Quare right before his very eyes.

He knew that if Jasper intended to seek vengeance against him, that he would easily be vanquished despite his abilities.

He could escape, but what about his sister?

Nevertheless, not only did Jasper choose not to take revenge on him, but he also treated him well and employed him as his personal bodyguard.

Julian viewed Jasper as his saving grace due to the kindness he had bestowed upon him.

Thus, he decided to stay by Jasper's side loyally and continue protecting him in the future.

"Anyone who wants to bring harm to Mr. Laine will have to do so over my dead body," Julian said solemnly.

At that moment, Jasper was holding hands with Wendy as they left the ward and headed downstairs. Thus, he did not hear Julian's words.

With their financial power, Cathy's transfer procedure went smoothly. The procedure was completed within half an hour.

While waiting for the operation to be completed, Jasper met up with Mr. Lambert.

"Mr. Laine, take a look. This is the contract for the shipyard. It has already been signed," Mr. Lambert said. He took out the contract and held it before Jasper with both hands.

Jasper took the contract and flipped through it. "I will arrange for someone to take over later. In the meantime, find a few reliable men to look after the shipyard," he ordered.

The shipyard was equipped with top-notch facilities. The raw materials stored there were extremely valuable as well.

If nobody looked after the place, the materials may be stolen by greedy people.

It would be unwise to underestimate these people. There was once a gang of seven to eight thieves that stole a batch of steel worth tens of millions in three days. Their skills were comparable to that of a professional transport and demolitions team.

Mr. Lambert patted his chest and said, "Don't worry, Mr. Laine. With me there, nobody will be allowed into the shipyard."

“Has the project commenced?” Jasper asked.

Mr. Lambert chuckled. “It started this morning. Without the Zions causing trouble, those few stubborn jerks signed the agreement at once and moved away. The project is progressing very smoothly right now,” he replied.

Jasper nodded. “The resettlement compensation provided to normal households that have been demolished must be in strict accordance with the regulations. Meanwhile, welfare protection must be in place for the migrant workers. Wage arrears are absolutely prohibited,” he added.

“These rules are to be stated in black and white, and nobody is allowed to breach them. If anyone causes trouble due to non-compliance, I’ll fire them immediately. Is this understood?”

Mr. Lambert had a solemn expression on his face. “Understood, Mr. Laine,” he replied at once.

Jasper nodded. “In that case, you can continue with your tasks. If anything comes up, get in contact with the provincial headquarters. I can’t watch the project in Brac County every day,” he said.

“In short, you will have indispensable benefits if you do well. An executive like you can get dividends from the project’s profits, so you’ll be rewarded with at least a few hundred thousand dollars.

“However, if you don’t do well, whoever is in charge will have to take responsibility. As the manager, there’s no way you can escape from the brunt of the punishment.”

“I understand, Mr. Laine. I’ll get going then,” Mr. Lambert replied courteously.

Waving Mr. Lambert off, Jasper accompanied Wendy into the car. An ambulance followed them, which Julian and his sister were seated in. They all headed back to the province together.

It was already late into the evening when they arrived at the province.

Jasper originally planned to let Julian send Cathy to the hospital and settle down before coming to work on the next day.

However, Julian came back immediately after sending Cathy to the hospital and ensuring that everything was alright. Jasper did not send him away either.

Back at the Schuler's household, Dawson had already arranged for their meals to be prepared while he waited for them.

"You handled the incident at Brac County pretty well," Dawson told Jasper with a smile.

Jasper chuckled in response. "It's all thanks to your support, Uncle Schuler. Your phone call alone managed to crush almost half the Zions," he said.

Shaking his head, Dawson replied, "The Zions' most important assets are in that shipyard. When those people saw that the Zions' shipyard had been destroyed, they began outsmarting each other. It was brought about by a collective effort. My phone call only fueling the fire and sped up the process."

"Right, I heard that you've taken over the Zions' shipyard?" Dawson asked curiously.

Jasper nodded and said, "That shipyard is a premium asset. I am close to the people-in-charge in Harbor City. If the shipyard operates well, it can bring in a large sum of profits in one year. Even if I don't have the time to manage it, I can sell it for more than a billion dollars. A business like that is a no-brainer.

"I have a friend that's involved in shipbuilding. I've heard that he is currently on the lookout for opportunities to expand his production capacity and is out and about looking for equipment. If you don't intend to operate the shipyard on your own, why don't I help you inquire to see if it can be sold off?" Dawson suggested.

Jasper's eyes shone in interest. "Sure, my main focus is still investing in the Internet, real estate, and entertainment industries. Shipbuilding involves high amounts of professional talent, and I don't have the ability to manage the shipyard either. If he proposes a suitable price, I'll sell it to him," he said.

Nodding in response, Dawson said, "Alright, let's eat first. I'll help you inquire about it soon. If he's interested, I'll ask him to come to the province for a meeting with you."

After having their meal, Dawson was surprised by Julian's arrival. Wendy explained everything to Dawson, who suggested that Julian should train with his personal bodyguards.

Julian wanted to prove himself as well. Hence, he immediately agreed to it after seeing Jasper nod his head.

Alas, Jasper's gamble in him was soon shown to have paid off.

Julian went against five of Dawson's personal bodyguards alone. Not only did he win, but he also defeated them impactfully.

Dawson looked upon Julian in admiration. His bodyguards consisted of highly skilled men that he had recruited via reliable sources. They were either ex-special forces or martial art specialists. Therefore, they were all highly capable men.

"Let Julian come over to train my bodyguards when he's free," Dawson proposed.

"Sure," Jasper said with a smile. "Julian, I'll leave this to you," he added.

Julian grinned widely. "No problem," he said.

The moon shone in the clear night sky, which was speckled with stars. Jasper was lounging on the balcony of the room on the second floor while reading a book leisurely.

Suddenly, his phone rang.

The call was from Hudson Moore.

Hudson's angry voice rang out from the other end of the call when he picked up the phone. "Mr. Laine, Sena has gone overboard. They hired hackers to attack our server! We're in big trouble now!"

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"What happened?" Jasper asked in a heavy tone, a frown forming on his face. He put down his book at once.

"Two hours ago, our users suddenly discovered that their connection was severed over a large area. The server was severely jammed, and the portal website completely collapsed. We have confirmed that it was an attack launched by hackers."

While listening to Hudson's account of the incident, Jasper walked into the study, turned on the computer, and logged into KK.

Like Hudson had described, he could not go online despite having logged in for more than 10 seconds. Not long after, a notification stating that there was a server connection failure appeared.

After that, Jasper clicked on Terizone's portal website. Similarly, the original webpage, which was rich in content, had become blank and was now completely devoid of words or pictures.

"Users are scolding us on discussion forums everywhere. What should we do, Mr. Laine?" Hudson asked bitterly.

Netizens were still relatively simple-minded back in the year 2000. The battles between internet companies were also not as competitive as they would be in the future.

However, due to these exact reason, the opinions and comments published online reflected the most authentic user experiences.

Hudson and the others frequently compiled user reviews from discussion forums because of this.

Unfortunately, they were all scolding Terizone right now.

KK kept disconnecting when they wanted to use the software to chat online. They could not log in and the webpage was completely blank as well. Who were the users to blame if not the?

Jasper pondered upon it for a while. "What about Zaine and the others?" he asked.

"They've gone to the machinery room to carry out emergency maintenance," Hudson said.

"Maintain the server first, then solve the problem of user disconnection as soon as possible. You guys are the top programming professionals in the country. You should be familiar with the groups of hackers within the country, right?" Jasper asked.

"Zaine was once the backbone of the Scarlet Union. However, he quit the group. Nevertheless, a lot of people within the hacking industry know him. Without him here, we might be in a worse situation right now," Hudson replied.

"In that case, use your connections to get in touch with the relevant people and ask them to help you deal with the attack. We must at least try to resist the attack no matter what. Purchase all the firewalls you need for the machinery room. Don't be afraid of spending money at times like this.

“Next, issue an announcement to notify users that the server has been hacked, and let them know that we promise to resolve it as soon as possible. We must first calm down the users, so write it with a sincere attitude.

“Should I tell everyone that Sena was the one who launched the attack?” Hudson asked, gritting his teeth in anger.

Jasper laughed. “Hud, have you lost it due to your anger? Do you have any evidence that Sena launched this hacker attack on us?” he asked.

“No,” Hudson said in exasperation.

“Exactly. Sena may be waiting for Terizone to mess up. Once you blame Sena for the attack, they will follow up with another step, which will bring much worse consequences.

“In any case, our first priority is to stabilize the server and shield ourselves against the attack. At the same time, we will have to appease the users. These two things must be carried out concurrently to resolve our problems. We’ll talk about how to get back at them after I arrive at Cavern City,” Jasper said.

“Alright, I’ll wait for you in the office tomorrow then.”

.....

The next day, Wendy sent Jasper to the airport. Julian followed them as well.

“Take good care of yourself. Remember not to overwork yourself,” Wendy reminded Jasper gently as she helped him straighten his collar.

Jasper stared at the beautiful woman before him and chuckled. “I realize that you’ve been acting more and more like a devoted wife and loving mother lately,” he said.

Wendy glared at Jasper and huffed out, “Devoted wife and loving mother? You make it seem as if I’m gray and old!”

“You aren’t old at all. You’ll forever be a goddess in my eyes,” Jasper teased Wendy as he reached out to pinch the bridge of her nose.

“Ah, you’re so annoying,” Wendy remarked, pursing her lips into a smile as she flicked Jasper’s hand off her. “Go ahead and build your empire. I’ll protect you from behind,” she said.

Nodding, Jasper squeezed Wendy’s hands and said, “Wait for me. I’ll build a huge empire and gift it to you as dowry.”

Wendy blushed and pulled her hands away immediately. She turned over in embarrassment. “What a load of nonsense. Who wants your dowry? I’m not going to bother you anymore. I’m leaving!” she said in a flustered, low voice.

Wendy then turned around and ran away.

Jasper chuckled at the sight of Wendy running away. He greeted Julian, turned around, and walked toward customs.

“Jasp!” Wendy’s voice suddenly rang out from behind him.

Jasper turned around and was met with the sight of a graceful belle standing in the middle of the crowd. She stared at him affectionately, her gaze reminiscent of brilliant stars shining in the night sky.

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“I’ll wait for you to come back.”

Resisting the urge to turn around and hug her, Jasper nodded earnestly. He then turned around walked toward the customs.

On the plane, Jasper took a light nap.

As Jasper's personal bodyguard, Julian sat right beside him.

"Mr. Laine, you have such a loving relationship with Ms. Schuler," Julian said.

Jasper opened his eyes and glanced at Julian. He chuckled. "You're not that young anymore. Should I ask her to introduce a girl to you?"

Julian shook his head solemnly. "Work is my priority," he replied.

"True. Since we are men, how can we start a family without first having a stable career?"

"Work hard by my side for the next two years. After that, I'll arrange something for you," Jasper said.

Julian smiled, but he did not put much thought into his words.

In his mind, protecting Jasper was his topmost priority. Everything else was secondary.

Two hours later, the plane landed at Cavern City International Airport.

Jack Tanner came to pick them up from the airport.

"Mr. Laine, you're finally here," Jack said after stepping forward.

Jasper could tell that he had spent an all-nighter working with Hudson and the others from his pale and tired complexion. "Work is important, but you need to rest as well," he said.

Jack laughed and said, "I can't help much in terms of technical skills, but it's my responsibility to manage and reassure all the employees."

"Let's talk in the car."

Jasper led the way as they walked out of the airport.

After they got into the car, Jasper realized that Jack kept staring at Julian. "He's my personal bodyguard," he explained.

Jack gasped in realization. He was not surprised. Considering Jasper's net worth and social status, he should have employed a personal bodyguard a long time ago.

"How's everything at the company right now?" Jasper asked.

"The competition between both parties lasted till four in the morning. Although it was extremely tough, we managed to protect our server. However, we took a huge loss this time round. The firewalls we purchased and the server upgrades in the machinery room alone cost millions," Jack replied.

"Nonetheless, the good news is that both the portal webpage and KK have been restored. This incident impacted us greatly. KK has been disconnected for nearly 13 hours, and the users are still not reassured about the situation."

Jasper's expression brightened a little after listening to what he said. He then nodded and said, "Since losses are inevitable, all we can do for now is try our best to minimize it."

Soon after, the car arrived at the two-storey commercial building that Terizone had just moved into. Upon entering the building, Jasper was met by the sight of dozens of employees working busily at their respective desks.

Terizone had recruited all of these employees later on, so Jasper did not know any of them.

Everyone was loaded with work right now due to the incident. Despite this, the atmosphere was lively as there were frequent exchanges of conversation and movement between desks.

Jasper was impressed with the vibrant work atmosphere at Terizone.

“Jack, it seems that you’re managing the company pretty well,” Jasper joked.

“I just proposed a general structure. I can’t deny that the founders of Terizone are all extremely talented. Most of the results should be credited to them,” Jack said in a humble manner.

Jasper nodded and told him, “You’ll have to return to JW Capital in the future. I allocated you here just to assist these start-up rookies so that they can familiarize themselves with the management methods of a contemporary company as soon as possible. It seems that everything is progressing well.”

After that, Jasper opened the door of the meeting room and walked in.

Zaine and the others were all fast asleep in the meeting room. Logan, in particular, was snoring loudly as he slept.

This seemingly unorganized and unrefined team would be known as the core of Terizone Inc., a world-renowned company, in the future.

All of it would be made possible because of them.

Thinking about this, Jasper reminisced upon the fact that regardless of in the past or the present, their success was definitely meant to be.

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“Everyone pulled an all-nighter yesterday, and they fell asleep not too long ago,” Hudson said in a hushed tone after making his way toward Jasper.

“Let them rest. Let’s talk in your office.”

After speaking, Jasper walked out of the meeting room with Hudson, Jack, and Cameron, who were all wide awake, following behind him.

Although Hudson had the highest-ranking company position in Terizone, he had the simplest office.

His office consisted of a small space separated by wooden boards. There was only a desk, a computer, a bookcase, and a few sofas in the room. Other than that, it was barren.

“It’s a simple room. After all, the company has a lot of expenses right now,” Hudson said, sounding slightly embarrassed. He poured a cup of water for Jasper.

Jasper chuckled. “That’s why I was willing to invest in the lot of you. From your stingy demeanor, I can tell that your future will definitely be bright,” he said.

Hudson nodded. He was glad that Jasper approved of his mindset.

“Although we have persevered through this incident, it was mainly because Sena stopped the attack halfway through. Otherwise, we may not have been able to recover our system even now.”

There was an overcast expression on Hudson’s face. Although he had not slept in more than thirty hours, he did not feel even a hint of fatigue. He was overcome with rage and aggravation.

“We’re still too weak. We had close to zero resistance against Sena’s treacherous means of attack!”

“How are our losses?” Jasper asked.

Hudson’s expression darkened. “We lost more than a million dollars in terms of funds. However, the loss in user count is way more significant. There has been a decline of one-third of portal visits!” he exclaimed.

Jasper nodded. The main priority of Internet companies was their user count. A decline in users was way more terrifying than a loss in cash.

“That b*stard Dane Warren is being too harsh!” Cameron Scott huffed in anger.

“Sena is now vying against Terizone, so they must still have plans for us!” Jasper said after a momentary pause.

Worry filled the others’ faces after registering what Jasper said.

“To be honest, in terms of technical aspects, I don’t know as much as you guys do,” Jasper said, shrugging his shoulders in exasperation.

“However, I’m pretty skilled in fighting a business war,” Jasper added with a chuckle. “Leave this matter to me. I can deal with Sena,” he said.

Hudson’s gaze lit up almost immediately. Just as he was about to say something, his phone rang.

After exchanging a few words on the phone, Hudson hung up on the call excitedly. “Mr. Laine, our savior is here! If it wasn’t for his help last night, we wouldn’t have been able to withstand the attack,” he told Jasper.

“Does such a talented person exist? What’s his name?” Jasper asked in surprise.

“Theo Wright!”

Jasper slowly raised his brow after hearing this name.

This name belonged to a legendary man. He was the crème de la crème of hackers within the country. He was a godfather-level figure.

He was the founder of the Hawk Alliance, one of the top hacker organizations. Under the leadership of this godly figure, the Hawk Alliance would raise their national prestige through their groundbreaking performance in several global hacker battles in the few upcoming years.

In several global hacker wars a few years later, the master of the Eagle Alliance led by this great god can be said to have beaten the competition severely.

This man was also the only person publicly known to have hacked into the United State's military database.

Jasper did not expect Hudson to be well-acquainted with him.

Jasper met Theo Wright in the meeting room.

He assumed that a Hacker God like him must be someone who was cold and daunting.

Nevertheless, Jasper found it nearly impossible to associate the short, plump young man with middle-parted hair that was standing right before him with the most powerful man in the online world, the Godfather of Hacking.

“Theo, let me start with the introductions. This is the actual head of our company, Mr. Jasper Laine. This is Mr. Jack Tanner.”

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Hudson introduced Theo to everyone passionately.

Theo looked at Jack and smiled. "I know you. You used to be a high-level executive at Weresoftware," he said.

After the both of them shook hands, Theo turned over to look at Jasper.

Jasper grinned and extended his hand. "You're the number one hacker in the country. I've admired you for a long time," he said.

Theo was actually rather nervous. He was not accustomed to interacting with strangers in real life. Jasper's confident demeanor, which radiated from his actions and behavior, made him feel particularly uneasy.

"Nice to... meet you! I don't dare to claim the title of being the top hacker in the country. Hacking technology consists of extremely profound knowledge. No one would dare to say that they are the best of the best. I'm still learning."

Theo's words made everyone burst out into laughter.

A successful person must stand out in one way or another—this applied to any field out there. Take Theo as an example, who had an extremely normal appearance: He looked like any other average young man out there, and was not particularly good at socializing with strangers.

However, his reverence toward technology was enough to prove that he did indeed have the potential and ability to be the top hacker in the country.

Hudson and Jasper exchanged a glance. "Theo, I have previously told you that we would like you to join our company. You would be in charge of all aspects of network security. What do you think about that?" Hudson asked.

Theo chuckled in response. He said, "Hudson, you know very well that people like us are used to having all the freedom we want. I don't have the intention of joining a company, so..."

Jasper laughed. "You're extremely capable. Do you want to remain as a hacker for your entire life?" he asked.

Theo raised his head to look at Jasper. A look of distaste flashed across his face. Jasper's choice of words made it seem like he was looking down upon hackers.

Jasper did not pay any heed to the expression on Theo's face. He continued speaking, "You must know that as laws and regulations gradually improve, even the most highly-skilled hackers will start to experience growing restrictions on the Internet. It will be impossible for you to continue doing as you wish in such an unscrupulous manner.

"However, everything will be different if you join Terizone. With your skills, you can help Terizone build a protective firewall. During the process, you can also compete against hackers from everywhere around the world. The only thing that would be different is that you're doing everything for a good cause.

"Don't you want to rely on your skills to become someone respected and admired by those within the hacker industry?"

Theo's expression changed. Jasper's words had managed to speak to his heart.

"How do you find Terizone?" Jasper asked, suddenly changing the topic.

"It's excellent," Theo replied.

As one of the top hackers within the country, Theo had an even more precise and professional vision of the Internet compared to everyone else. He knew that Terizone had great potential right now.

KK, in particular, had attained massive control of the market.

It was truly the top online chatting software in the country.

“Terizone’s team of founders consists of individuals who are capable of dominating different fields. However, they currently lack a master that’s capable of handling cybersecurity issues. Join us. With you on the team, Terizone will soar to greater heights.”

Theo laughed at Jasper’s sincere words. “Since you guys are inviting me so enthusiastically, I can’t find any reason to reject this offer,” he said.

Jasper and Hudson looked at each other and burst out into laughter.

“However, I have a condition,” Theo suddenly announced.

“You can tell us anything,” Hudson said.

“I have two other friends. They’re currently in poor financial conditions and are in urgent need of a job. I would like to bring them into the company so that we can work together. After all, it would be difficult for me if I was to work alone. You can rest assured of their skills. They’re extremely competent,” Theo said.

Hudson chuckled. “Since you’ve recommended them, I’m sure their skills are impeccable. You can ask them to come over. I’ll have someone make the relevant arrangements so that you guys can start working as soon as possible,” he said.

Theo nodded. “Alright, it’s a deal,” he said excitedly.

“It’s a deal.”

With that, Hudson and Theo shook hands enthusiastically.

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In the office building of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments located in Cavern City.

Dane Warren, the chairman of Sena, and William, the president of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments, each signed their respective agreements.

Dane laughed as both of them shook hands. "William, I hope that Colossal Investments can help us achieve our plan of getting publicly listed as soon as possible," he said.

William chuckled in return. "Now that we've signed a contract, we're even more eager than you are to get Sena publicly listed. We can only cash in our investment and earn money after Sena gets listed," he said.

Dane snickered and said, "I am in urgent need of funds to acquire Terizone as well. During this period of time, I have been carrying out the relevant preparations required for the acquisition of Terizone."

William shrugged. "Warren, I don't actually understand why you're being so insistent on taking down Terizone. You need to know that Sena's public listing is our top priority right now," he said.

Dane laughed. "There's something you don't know. Sena's public listing is already set in stone. However, Sena is merely one of the four major Internet portals right now. What would happen if I also acquired Terizone and managed to get my hands on the largest online chatting software in the domestic market?" he explained.

William's gaze perked up in interest when he heard this. "There will definitely be a major spike in Sena's stock price," he said.

Dane grinned in satisfaction. "That's right. One of the reasons I intend to do so is to get back at Terizone for defeating Sena Chat with their platform, but this is a relatively minor point. My true goal is to acquire their company after defeating them," he said.

"You're indeed the best Internet merchant in your country, Warren," William praised him.

Chuckling, Dane replied, "Those few young men are still way too inexperienced and naive to found a start-up company. They don't know anything about the harshness of the business world. It's only natural for them to experience such an outcome."

William asked his secretary to open a bottle of champagne. Handing a flute of champagne to Dane, William raised his glass and made a toast. "To your wealth and prosperity," he said.

Dane and William clinked their glasses together. "To our wealth and prosperity," they laughed while making a toast.

Half an hour later, below the office building.

Dane narrowed his eyes and looked at the magnificent office building. He snorted coldly, seeming extremely unhappy.

"Mr. Warren, you don't seem too happy. Isn't it a good thing that the contract has been signed?" His secretary walked forward and asked him.

Dane's expression darkened. "These people are vampires. They want to acquire 25% of Sena's shares in exchange for helping us list the company on the Nasdaq. They're scoring a huge bargain!"

His secretary shrunk into himself. He did not dare to interrupt Dane when he was talking about important affairs. “Mr. Warren, are we going back right now?” he asked cautiously.

“Go back? Since we’re already in Cavern City, we can’t miss out on the opportunity to pay a visit to our former competitor,” Dane said. His lips twisted into a cold sneer as he ordered, “Let’s head to Terizone!”

.....

Everyone in Terizone received the news about Dane Warren’s visit immediately.

Hudson and Logan were sitting in the meeting room with troubled looks on their faces while Jasper stood by the side.

Jasper looked at the solemn expressions on their faces and let out an inward laugh. It seemed as if they were preparing for a battle. “Relax, guys. Dane Warren is just paying us a visit. Do you guys intend to beat him up once you see him?” he asked.

“Zaine and the others are still in the operations room. If they were here, they may really beat up Warren,” Logan said in distaste.

Hudson glared at Logan. “Can the problem be resolved through fighting? We are businessmen now. We should focus on business alone. Everyone will treat us as a joke if we start a brawl,” he said in annoyance.

Logan scratched his head and huffed in anger. “I simply can’t get over it. How dare he greet us and tell us that he’s coming over to get acquainted with us? Acquaintance, my *ss! Why is he acting so courteously toward us? Don’t we all know that he’s the one who brought all this sh*t upon us?”

“Those in the business world have their own way of solving problems. Being expressive of your emotions will only allow people see through you at a glance.

As Hudson said, everyone here is an adult. Don't act in a childish manner," Jasper said in a calm and controlled tone.

Logan nodded and fell quiet after hearing what Jasper said.

Not long after, the door to the meeting room opened and Dane Warren walked in with his secretary following closely behind.

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No matter how unhappy Hudson was, Dane Warren was still paying a visit to his company as the chairman of Sena. As the host, he had to accommodate him out of common courtesy.

Therefore, Hudson stood up and plastered a smile onto his face. He then walked toward Dane Warren.

"You took time out of your busy schedule to visit us, Mr. Warren. It's a huge honor," Hudson remarked politely in a relatively neutral tone.

Dane burst out into laughter. He had a booming voice and hearty laughter. One who did not understand him would have thought that he was a bold and simple-minded man. However, under the facade of his honest and straightforward persona, he was a vicious man with an extremely cruel heart.

"You're being way too courteous, Mr. Moore. I had to attend a public meeting surrounding the Internet industry in Cavern City, so I stopped by your office to look around," Dane said as he clasped Hudson's hand in a tight grip.

“Right, didn’t you get invited to the meeting, Mr. Moore?” Dane asked while feigning doubt and uncertainty.

Hudson’s face stiffened. He drew back his hand and said matter-of-factly, “There has been a lot of company affairs lately. You should understand, Mr. Warren. That’s why I wasn’t free.”

Dane could not help but sneer in his heart upon noticing the somber gaze in Hudson’s eyes. Alas, these young people were way too inexperienced. They could hardly hold it in after receiving a few taunts.

Scanning through the crowd, Dane side-eyed Logan before finally setting his eyes on Jasper.

“And this is?”

Jasper stood up lightheartedly. With a calm demeanor, he gently extended his hand. “I’m Jasper Laine, the president of JW Capital,” he said.

JW Capital!

Dane’s heart lurched. He glanced at Jasper in amusement.

If he wanted to acquire Terizone, JW Capital, who owned more than half of Terizone’s stocks, would be an inevitable hurdle.

“Mr. Laine. I’ve heard all about you.”

Dane said as he extended his hand toward Jasper. A smile that did not reach his eyes formed across his lips.

Jasper shook his hand and chuckled. “You have an extremely well-known reputation, Mr. Warren. Juniors like us have a lot that we can learn from you,” he said.

Dane laughed at his choice of words, which reflected the bare minimum of politeness. Despite this, he did not mind at all.

From his perspective, Terizone had already lost. Losers would inevitably hold some grievances after the battle.

Their insinuating words were more like a compliment to him.

Only winners deserved to accept a loser's derision and mockery, was it not?

Dane took a seat on the chair in a calm and collected manner. "I heard that Terizone faced quite a number of difficulties over these two days," he said cheerily.

Logan clenched his hands into fists upon hearing what he said. He could hardly stop himself from aiming a blow straight at Dane's head.

Everyone already knew that the problems faced by Terizone were caused by Dane himself. Nonetheless, he still came over to feign compassion and gloat about it in front of them.

Without paying any heed to Logan's fuming gaze, Dane continued speaking. "You guys are still young. You have no idea how ruthless the business sector can be. Operating a business isn't an easy feat. As your senior, I would like to give you guys a reminder. It's important to quit while you're ahead," he said.

Hudson sat down and stared at Dane impassively. "Mr. Warren, if you have anything you want to tell us, just say it to us directly. Young people like us don't have much experience, and I'm afraid we don't quite understand what you're trying to imply," he said.

Dane chortled gleefully. "In that case, I'll just say it directly."

Dane then beckoned his secretary over. His secretary immediately took out a document from his briefcase.

Dane waved the document in front of them and announced, "Since Terizone is facing so many hardships, I'm here today to lend a helping hand. Sena would like to acquire Terizone."

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After hearing what he said, Logan could not contain himself anymore.

"What bullsh*t are you going on about? Warren, you were the one who stirred up all these problems in the first place, and now you're saying that you want to acquire our company. What do you take us for?! Let me tell you, there's no way that that'll happen!"

Dane sneered. "Young man, first of all, I don't understand what you mean by 'stirring up problems'. I have never done anything to Terizone. The hardships that you're facing are all due to your own incapability," he said.

"On the other hand, a wise man submits to his circumstances. Terizone is barely surviving right now. Is there still a need to continue struggling? Sena is giving you a way out by acquiring the company!"

Hudson glared at Dane. He was trying his best to control his fury. "We reject your acquisition. If this is the only thing you're here for, please leave. We won't see you on your way out," he said stiffly.

Dane's expression darkened. "Appreciate my act of kindness while I'm still offering it graciously. How long can Terizone persist under such circumstances?" He asked icily.

“As the leading portal among the four major portals, Sena has reached an agreement with Colossal Investments and is about to get listed. Once Sena becomes a public listed company, we will have a market value of at least several billion US Dollars.”

Dane then narrowed his eyes at Hudson. He continued rambling on haughtily, “What about Terizone? God knows when you guys will be able to get Terizone listed. If Sena wanted to crush you guys, it would be easier than stomping an ant to death.

“I’m giving you guys a chance right now, so you’d better appreciate my kindness. Once Sena gets listed, I won’t bother to look your way even if you guys stand before me asking for help!”

After speaking, Dane looked at Hudson with a proud, overbearing gaze.

He believed that anyone with a decent head on his shoulder would carefully consider what he had said.

“Mr. Warren.”

Jasper interjected abruptly. The calm tone attracted Dane’s attention.

“You’ve been talking for a long time, but I’m curious. How much do you intend to acquire Terizone for?”

Dane chuckled in response to Jasper’s question. “You’re a smart person, Mr. Laine. It’s no wonder that you have such a precise vision and decided to invest in Terizone so early in advance,” he said.

“Sena has prepared 20 million dollars for a full acquisition of Terizone.”

After that, Dane threw the agreement on the table. He seemed pretty full of himself.

It was the year 2000. How many millionaires were there in the country?

20 million dollars was a monumental price for the acquisition of a company like Terizone.

It meant that these few young men were about to become millionaires.

Jasper had previously invested 10 million into Terizone in return for 51% of the company's stocks. This incident had largely boosted Terizone's reputation. This was no secret.

Dane figured that Jasper could completely withdraw his investment within a few months. This deal was evidently a huge bargain.

"20 million is a large sum of money," Jasper said, letting out an inward laugh.

Dane snickered. "Young man, you need to understand the circumstances that Terizone is currently facing. If you continue operating the company like this, how long can Terizone survive? It may even go bankrupt tomorrow," he said contemptuously.

"When that day comes, your 10 million dollars will vanish into thin air. However, you can still withdraw your full investment right now. Shouldn't you thank me for giving you this excellent opportunity?" he asked.

Jasper sighed. "My apologies, Mr. Warren. I'm someone who doesn't act until I see the incentives. I'd rather lose everything than settle for a compromise," he said.

"It's just 10 million dollars. I can afford to lose that much."

Dane's expression darkened after hearing Jasper's words.

"Jasper Laine, how dare you turn a blind eye to my good intentions!"

“I will gladly turn a blind eye to your good intentions!”

All of a sudden, Jasper stood up and placed both of his hands on the meeting table. He leaned forward and pinned a predatory gaze upon Dane. “I’ll address you by your name if I want to show my respect to you as a senior in the industry. However, if I look down upon you, you’re nothing in my eyes,” he articulated each of his words clearly.

“Quit acting all mighty because of your experience in the industry. I don’t care about those two measly steel bars of yours.

“How dare you come over to Terizone and appear before me to tell me that you want to acquire Terizone. Aren’t you afraid of biting off more than you can chew?”

“Bang!”

A loud slam resonated through the room.

Incandescent with rage, Dane slammed his palm onto the surface of the meeting table. “Jasper Laine, are you challenging me?!” He yelled.

Jasper let out a soft laugh as he stood upright. “You’ll know very soon if I’m challenging you or not,” he said indifferently.

Logan, who was right beside Jasper, stared at him in awe. He retracted his gaze from Dane, who was consumed with rage, and turned to look at Jasper. His admiration for him instantly soared.

Damn, he was standing up for the company like a real man!

Dane looked at Hudson with an icy gaze. “Hudson Moore, is this how you guys do things in Terizone?” he asked in a low voice.

Hudson shrugged nonchalantly and said, “You’ll have to excuse us. Mr. Laine is the controlling shareholder of Terizone. He will be the chairman of the board of directors once the board is established in the future. Therefore, his words represent the will of Terizone.”

“Well, well, well! Very well!”

Dane was so infuriated that he insistently repeated the same words. He raised his hand and pointed at Jasper. “You guys will eventually submit to us, even after rejecting my good intentions!” He shouted angrily.

Jasper arched his brow slightly. “Will you be the one submitting to us, or will we be the ones submitting to you?” He questioned.

Dane scoffed. “Young man, don’t think that you can act so recklessly just because you have some money. You’re a lowly junior in the internet industry. How dare you challenge me?”

“I’ve said everything that I’ve wanted to say today. I’m showing you guys a sign of respect by acquiring Terizone. However, since you guys refuse to be respected, you’ll bear all the consequences on your own!”

“This goes for you as well, Jasper Laine. All you have is an investment company. How great do you think you are? I’m sorry, but you’re not worth sh*t in front of Sena!”

Jasper narrowed his eyes at Dane. He then took up the document on the table and tore it into pieces!

Pieces of paper billowed through the air...

“Mr. Warren, small transactions like this don’t catch my eyes. Why don’t I add another 0 behind the 20 million? Shall I acquire Sena for 200 million dollars?”

Dane cackled maniacally. “Acquire Sena? Hahaha, you’re being way too full of yourself! Why don’t you look at yourself before talking big like this? What do you take Sena for? Sena is the largest website portal in the country. Do you think you can acquire it just because you want to?”

“Mr. Warren, don’t look down on the younger generation! Let’s wait and see what happens!” Jasper said in a frigid tone.

An overcast expression formed on Dane’s face. He looked like he wanted to devour them alive.

“Your sharp tongue is not something to be proud of. You guys are smiling happily now, but I’ll make sure that you won’t be able to cry even if you wanted to in a few days’ time,” Dane said.

“Mr. Warren, we still don’t know for sure who’ll be the one crying then.”

“What goes around comes around. The time for you to cry will come on the day I show up before you to acquire Sena,” Jasper said calmly.

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The expression on Dane’s face morphed into one of all-consuming rage. He glared at Jasper and shouted, “It seems that you’ll only submit under force. Just wait and see!”

Dane stormed off angrily after saying this.

After Dane left in a state of fury, Hudson looked at Jasper and smiled bitterly. “What shall we do now, Mr. Laine?”

“There’s no rush. Let’s just do what we need to do,” Jasper said calmly.

“It’s just Dane Warren. He can’t raise hell upon us!”

“Mr. Laine, what you said just now was so cool!” Logan exclaimed in excitement while staring at Jasper.

Jasper chuckled. “Although Terizone is indeed below Sena right now, we shouldn’t just take his insults since he took it this far. We must talk back and defend ourselves when we need to,” he replied.

Hudson nodded, seemingly lost in thought.

Right then, Dane made his way out of Terizone with a dark expression on his face. He roared out in anger, “They’re being way too much! How dare this bunch of shameless b*stards treat me like that?!”

Dane’s secretary trembled in shock as he stared at him. The secretary stood by the side, not daring to utter a single word.

Dane panted loudly. A venomous glint flashed across his eyes as he turned around to gaze at Terizone’s office building. He then pulled out his phone with a sneer on his face.

The call went through soon after.

“It’s me, Dane Warren.”

A courteous voice spoke on the other end of the phone, “Mr. Warren, how can I help you?”

“Launch a second attack on Terizone right now. Let them get a taste of despair through this attack! Do everything that you can. It’d be best if you could defeat them all in one go!” Dane growled.

“How dare this bunch of jokers stand up against me? I’ll teach them how to behave today!”

The person on the other end of the phone was evidently stupefied for a moment. However, there was no delay in his reply. “Alright, Mr. Warren. We will do exactly as you wish,” he replied immediately.

Hanging up the phone call, Dane grinned. He then bent down and got into the car.

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Back in Cavern City, Jasper, Hudson and the others had just returned to the company after having their meals.

Although Zaine and the others had pulled an all-nighter, they were still young. Hence, they sprung back into action after getting a few hours of sleep.

Hudson brought up the issue of their funds during the meeting.

After moving to a new building and hiring so many employees in addition to the server bandwidth expenses, they had been spending hundreds of thousands on a daily basis. Furthermore, they had upgraded their server and bandwidth after the attack the night before. Another one million dollars had been spent on that.

Therefore, they had less than 10 million dollars left right now.

“If you don’t have sufficient funds, I can invest a bit more. We need to go up against Sena right now,” Jasper said.

The meeting room fell pin-drop silent after he spoke.

Jack spoke up as well, “I’ve got a grasp of Dane Warren’s personality back when I was working at Weresoftware. He’s extremely good at doing business, but his

biggest specialty is his cruelty. His cold-hearted methods and unscrupulous way of handling affairs was a major contributor to the rise of Sena.”

“During the early days of Sena’s development, a lot of his competitors were defeated by him through disreputable means, so he had a pretty poor reputation.”

“What should we do?” Logan asked worriedly.

Jasper looked at Theo and said, “We will need your help, Theo.”

Theo had a solemn expression on his face. “Since I’ve already joined Terizone, I will do everything I can to the best of my abilities,” he said.

Jasper nodded and said, “We can’t let our guard down during these next two days. Sena could launch their attack on us at any time. We must be sufficiently prepared this time around.”

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“Sure!”

After agreeing to Jasper’s instructions, everyone left the meeting room to work on their respective tasks. Only Jasper, who was consumed by his thoughts, remained in the room.

Sena was a bomb that would eventually blow up in their faces one day if they did not get rid of it.

Terizone was still too vulnerable right now. It would not stand a chance against any harsh blows. If this problem was not resolved as soon as possible, Terizone’s future development may be severely delayed.

In his past life, Sena rushed to obtain a public listing due to a major shortage of liquidity. Sena had now delayed its listing for such a long time. Furthermore, the internet economy bubble had burst, making it even more difficult for Dane Warren to obtain investments within the country. Therefore, Sena should be short of funds as well.

However, Jasper knew very well that the progress of Sena's public listing would not come to a standstill. On the contrary, it would be fast-forwarded instead.

Jasper called Jack over after thinking about how Sena succeeded in obtaining a public listing through its connections with Colossal Investments.

"Jack, do you know anyone from Colossal Investments?" Jasper asked.

Jack was momentarily stunned. He then nodded and said, "I know William, the president of the Terra regional branch. We don't know each other very well, but Celine Maynard, the general manager, was my classmate. She's also from Harbor City, so we're quite closely acquainted."

Celine Maynard.

Jasper knew this name very well.

In his past life, he had also been involved in the financial industry. Therefore, he had been greatly influenced by the Queen of Investment, who was widely renowned within the global financial circle.

According to the timeline, she should have just gotten married right now. At the same time, she had just taken up the position of general manager of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments. Four years later, she would advance further up the hierarchy and become the president.

When Jasper got reborn, the Queen of Investment had gotten promoted to the position of executive chairwoman at Colossal Investments.

“Sure, can you make an appointment with her for me?” Jasper asked.

Jack nodded and said, “Alright, wait for a while. I’ll contact her through a phone call.”

A few minutes later, Jack returned. “She happens to be in Cavern City for a business trip right now. She will be returning to Harbor City tomorrow afternoon. She said that she’s free to meet up with you anytime,” he said.

Acting decisively, Jasper stood up and said, “Give me the address.”

Jack told him the address of a hotel, then proceeded to ask him curiously, “Mr. Laine, may I ask if you know her?”

“If I knew her, why would I bother to ask you to help me set up an appointment?” Jasper asked in amusement.

Jack thought that this reply made sense. “Initially, I told her that you would like to meet her, but she didn’t agree. This is expected because, as you know, a company like Colossal Investments with a large-scale business tends to be haughtier and more arrogant. However, she immediately agreed to meet up with you once I told her your name and that you owned JW Capital,” he said.

Jasper did not find this surprising. If Colossal Investments, which ranked the highest among the top four investment banks, did not know anything about what he had done in Harbor City, they ought to just close down.

“Maybe she managed to sense my domineering stance through my name alone,” Jasper joked.

Silently, Jack watched Jasper leave the company in a hurry.

The hotel that Celine Maynard was staying in was quite a distance away. Jasper received a call from Hudson while he was still on the way there.

“You guessed correctly, Mr. Laine. Sena has launched their second attack on us,” Hudson said in a heavy tone.

“I’m on the move right now. Hold on over there. Make sure what happened yesterday doesn’t repeat itself,” Jasper said calmly.

“Understood,” Hudson said with a nod.

“Hudson, what did Mr. Laine say?” Logan, who had an overcast expression on his face, immediately asked Hudson once he put down the phone.

“Mr. Laine wants us to persevere through it to the best of our abilities. He has begun taking action over there. He won’t allow Sena to continue acting so recklessly,” Hudson said.

“F*ck it, Dane Warren is such a b*stard! We’re all operating our own respective businesses. He’s just messing with us just because he’s more experienced and owns a larger company than us!” Logan yelled angrily.

Logan’s words represented everyone else’s innermost thoughts.

Hudson’s gaze deepened as he voiced out, “Weakness is not an excuse! This is a lesson that each and every one of us must remember. The more aggressive Sena and Dane Warren are, the more we have to bear it and protect ourselves. The day will come when we’ll grow bigger and stronger than them. When that day comes, everyone will look highly upon us!”

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Cavern City, Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

As one of the top global five-star hotel brands, the Ritz-Carlton in Cavern City was the second branch of the flagship hotel in the country after it first opened in Andros.

Needless to say, this was the most luxurious hotel in the whole of Cavern City right now. No other hotel could top the degree of luxury it provided.

Following the address Jack gave him, Jasper went straight to the highest floor of the hotel.

The presidential suite was located on this floor.

A woman dressed in a business suit was standing by the door once he got out of the elevator.

“May I know if you’re Mr. Laine?” The woman, who resembled a secretary, asked him courteously.

Jasper nodded.

“Please follow me,” the secretary said while gesturing at him to follow her. She led the way in front of him. “Miss Maynard is in the midst of a video conference right now. There was a last-minute decision to hold the conference, so we did not have the time to notify you, Mr. Laine,” she explained while walking.

“It’s alright, I can wait for a while,” Jasper said.

The secretary brought Jasper into the suite. After arriving at a reception room, she prepared some tea and left the room.

The presidential suite of this hotel had a master bedroom and a minimum of two other guest bedrooms in addition to a lounge, meeting room, reception room, and a study. It was fully equipped with a wide range of facilities.

Even the reception room that Jasper was currently situated in was about 70 to 80 squared meters in size.

After waiting in the reception room for almost an hour, the door suddenly opened.

A pretty, tall, and slender woman that gave off an air of competency walked into the reception room.

Celine headed straight toward Jasper after entering the room. She extended her hand with an apologetic smile plastered on her face. "I'm really sorry, Mr. Laine. There was a last-minute emergency meeting, so it took quite some time. You must have waited for a long time," she said.

"I'm the one who's disturbing you. I should be the one apologizing instead," Jasper said politely as he shook hands with Celine. The two of them then sat down.

Celine's secretary came forward and placed a cup of tea in front of each of them. After that, she sat down in a corner of the room and remained silent.

Meanwhile, Celine and Jasper quietly sized each other up.

She was indeed the same Queen of Investment that he had seen on a magazine cover in his past life. However, her aura had yet to grow to the same level of sophistication as it was in his past life.

At the moment, Celine Maynard emanated a sense of competency and dominance that could not be compared to her future self. She had long been

complacent and comfortable with her position in her future days. Thus, she did not shine as brilliantly as she did right now.

In other words, once a woman concealed their ambitious demeanor, it would not be discovered easily. Nevertheless, that meant that she even more dangerous.

At the same time, Celina was observing Jasper.

Like most of the people who were meeting him the first time, her first reaction to Jasper was shock at his young age.

At an age like this, Celine could hardly associate him with the powerful figure who had dominated Harbor City.

As the general manager of the Terra regional branch of Collosal Investments, Celine knew very well about the incident whereby the Harbor City stock market had gotten attacked by Western capital during the crisis of the bursting economic bubble some time ago.

She even knew that Quantum Fund was the one behind all of it.

This young man before her was the one who had presided over Harbor City's 100-billion-dollar rescue plan.

Not everyone had the ability to do something like that.

Not only did he handle it, but he also did an amazing job at that.

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Besides that, Celine also knew that this young man shared an extremely close relationship with the top four families of Harbor City.

He was especially close with the Laws.

Even the Harbor City Government took a great liking to Jasper as he had played a decisive role in this economic defense battle.

If it had not been for these glorious achievements, Celine would not have decided to meet the mere chairman of a local investment company.

“Mr. Laine, Jack is a longtime friend of mine. He told me that you wanted to meet up with me because of an urgent matter. May I know what this matter is regarding?” Celine spoke up first.

Jasper pondered for a while before deciding to go straight to the point. “I know that Sena is planning to get listed on the Nasdaq. Did they ask Colossal Investments to be their agent?” He asked straightforwardly.

Celine was stunned. “How did you know that, Mr. Laine? Yes, they have. Not many people know about this. Furthermore, Mr. William, the regional president, is handling this personally,” she answered in surprise.

Mr. William was the one who had called for an emergency video conference just now. The main topic of discussion was Sena’s public listing.

Once the listing plan for Sena gets launched, it would become the Terra regional branch’s largest business deal of the year. They would gain a lucrative sum of profits from handling this.

William, who was eager to present his achievements to the headquarters, placed a great deal of emphasis on this issue. Therefore, the conference just now was mainly centred on the arrangements required to help Sena obtain a public listing as soon as possible.

Furthermore, this plan had only been circulated among the top executives of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments who had participated in the video conference earlier. How did Jasper Laine know about it?

Jasper chuckled lightly. "I have my ways. I came over today in hopes that you'd be able to work together with me, Miss Maynard," he said.

Celine shook her head after listening to what he said. "My apologies, but I can't help you with this. Mr. William is handling this issue personally and no one else is allowed to interfere in his plans. Besides, both parties have already signed a contract. Why are you suggesting that we should work together, Mr. Laine?" she asked.

Jasper directed a scorching gaze at Celine. "I don't want Sena to obtain a public listing!"

After registering his words, Celine's expression immediately changed.

She looked at Jasper with a frown as she wondered what were the true intentions behind his words.

Jasper looked straight into Celine's eyes. "Miss Maynard, you don't really want to see Sena obtain a public listing, right?" He asked this in a playful tone.

"I don't understand what you're implying here, Mr. Laine. The public listing of Sena is the Terra regional branch's largest deal of the year. There's no reason for me to sabotage this deal," Celine said in a cutting tone.

“Indeed, it is the largest bit of business for the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments this year. However, this has nothing to do with you. Am I right, Miss Maynard?”

Jasper’s words caused Celine to fall silent.

They were both intelligent people. There was no need to squabble over a trivial matter like this.

Although Celine was extremely competent, she had just taken up this mantle. She arrived at her current position after going through many exchanges of interests and cruel battles.

Hence, both her opponents and those in support of her were all waiting to see how she would perform in this position.

Evidently, William was not one of those who supported her. The responsibilities of the president and general manager both overlapped greatly, which meant that their individual capabilities would determine the one between them who would emerge as the boss.

William would not remain dormant while watching Celine grab all the power from his hands.

Therefore, Celine had not been involved in Sena’s listing at all.

Once the plan succeeds, it would be difficult for Celine, who did not have access to many resources in the Terra regional branch, to surpass the deal and soar toward greater heights.

Jasper took a sip from his cup of tea. “Miss Maynard, you need to preserve the right to speak for the Terra regional branch in order to retain the dignity and authority befitting of a general manager. Meanwhile, I don’t want Sena to get listed. Therefore, we share common interests,” he said with a smile.

Celine pinned a deep and thoughtful gaze on Jasper. She was rather taken aback.

What was the background of this young man, and why did he know so much about the internal strife for power within the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments? How could each and every of his words resonate with all of her heartfelt thoughts?

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Even if Celine was smart, she did not expect that Jasper had been rebirthed with more than 20 years worth of memories.

In her past life, when Celine had climbed the corporate ladder abruptly, people had dug up some secrets about her.

One of the most well-known secrets was how she changed jobs from Seefa Securities to Colossal Investments as a young newbie and then immediately jumped into the position of the general manager in the Terra region.

Then, there was the story of how she fought for power with the current president in the Terra region, William, as a general manager.

This later became Celine's entry point.

Celine looked at Jasper calmly and said, "Mr. Laine, what are you planning to do? How do you want me to work with you?"

Jasper smiled and said, "First, I hope to know what price Sena had to pay for you to be their agent."

Celine furrowed her brows and said bluntly, “Mr. Laine, you should know that before the listing succeeds, that this is a trade secret. If I leak this, I’ll face the risk of getting sued.”

Jasper held up his hands and said, “There are no risks in this world that you can’t handle, right?”

“Power is always obtained from battles that are full of risks, and never given to you by the enemies out of pity.”

Celine stayed silent for a while before saying indifferently, “Sena is willing to give us 25% of their stocks in exchange for Colossal Investments to help them get listed on the Nasdaq.”

“How generous.”

When Jasper heard this price, even he silently praised Dane’s decisiveness.

How much was 25% of the total shares worth? This would take away a quarter of Sena’s value.

Even though they would need to pay a huge price, in the face of Sena’s capital chain rupture crisis, it was a necessary step. After all, you could not make an omelet without breaking a few eggs.

If Sena wanted to get through this crisis and start anew, they would need to give up on short-term benefits.

Ordinary people would not be able to do this.

It was through bold moves like that Dane was able to make Sena into the most outstanding web portal in the country.

No mediocre leader would be able to get to this position.

“Miss Maynard, will you work with me to take down this 25% figure from your investment company?” Jasper asked indifferently.

Celine’s expression changed immediately.

Jasper was saying that he wanted her to steal from her own company. This was not as simple as leaking a trade secret now.

Before she could say anything, the secretary who had been staying silent this entire time stood up to speak.

“Impossible!” The secretary’s tone was stern.

“Miss Maynard, you can’t promise him this. This is impossible. The company is planning to help Sena get listed. We can’t transfer the shares away. You won’t be able to get past William on this matter.

“More importantly, so what if he gets the shares? Sena won’t be publically listed, and they’ll end up suing us. When that happens, we’ll be in trouble.

“This person is harboring evil intentions. Who knows what’s the purpose behind him coming here?”

The secretary’s words caused Celine’s face to darken. She did not say anything.

A secretary was interrupting the conversation of their superiors but was not immediately berated.

This meant that her boss was carefully considering her words.

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Jasper's expression looked calm and tranquil. He ignored the secretary's overbearing attitude and was only looking at Celine.

"Mr. Laine, Miss Stone came here with me from Seefa Securities, and she's been working with me for 6 years. At work, she's my secretary, but in my daily life, she's my best friend. Therefore, her words are equal to mine."

Celine had a calm look on her face.

The implication was that she had already rejected Jasper.

"150 million." Jasper suddenly said.

"Colossal Investments wants Sena's stocks because you hope it might grow in the future. Despite this, I am currently offering to pay you 150 million on the spot in exchange for 25% of the stock. For an investment company like you guys, this is a deal that is a win for you any way you look at it."

Celine replied without any expression on her face, "Mr. Laine, I don't think you understand. For our investment company, the most important thing is trust. Since we've already signed an agreement with Sena, we'll do things according to the agreement."

"If that's the case, what if Sena is destined to never be listed? Even though Dane is the chairman of Sena, he might not be the biggest shareholder," said Jasper insipidly.

"In order to get more investment, Sena kept diluting and issuing stocks over the years. Three investment companies in the country held a total of 34% of Sena's stocks at the time, and that 34% are in my hands now."

Jasper laced his fingers together and looked at Celine and Miss Stone whose expressions had changed abruptly. Then, he said calmly, "A company will only go public after gaining approval from two-thirds of all of the shareholders. I already own over 34% of the shares, so I have the sole power to decide if we go public or not.

"If I disagree, what will Colossal Investments use to list the company? The decision alone from the internal shareholders of Sena will not be sufficient to save the deal in this situation. Is Dane going to use his head to try to get listed on the Nasdaq?"

Jasper's words felt like a clap of thunder. It was so shocking that Celine and Miss Stone started to breathe heavier.

"How is that possible? We did a background check but we didn't learn anything about this. Moreover, does Dane not know about this?" Miss Stone muttered.

Jasper replied calmly, "I am deliberately scheming against Dane, so why would I let him know? As for your background check, to be honest, you still need to strengthen your information network in the country.

Celine looked heatedly at Jasper and said, "If that's the case, then the contract William signed with Sena has major issues. I need to report to the headquarters now."

Jasper said casually, "While you're at it, tell your boss that you're only going to make them a profit of from this 150 million dollar deal."

"Please wait for my update, Mr. Laine," Celien said.

Jasper smiled and replied indifferently, "I've been babbling for too long, so I should take my leave now."

Miss Stone watched as Jasper left. Then, she could not control herself and asked Celine, "Miss Maynard, can we trust him?"

Celine sighed deeply. “If this were someone else, I would not believe them, but he hosted a market rescue of hundreds of billions in Harbor City and has a good relationship with the Laws. Even the government of Harbor City admires him, so I don’t think he has a need to lie to us.”

“In that case, what are we going to do?” Miss Stone said in appall.

“I think we should ask the headquarters in Wall Street to start a shareholder meeting to talk about this,” Celine sighed.

“What does Jasper want from doing all this? Even if he’s all that, it was all done in Harbor City. Our country is not like Harbor City, yet he thinks he can defeat Dane? I don’t believe him,” Miss Stone spat coldly.

Celine looked fixedly at her and said, “We don’t have any business in his gripe with Dane. Now, I need to immediately report this to the higher ups.”

Miss Stone huffed and was looking down on Jasper’s personality. She felt that he was a vile character who would backstab others at a moments notice.

What big accomplishment could this despicable vermin achieve?

She scoffed.

Miss Stone was suddenly looking forward to this. She could not wait to see Jasper suffer a crushing defeat at Dane’s hands even after doing so much and spending so much money.

At this moment, Jasper had just walked out of the hotel as he called Jack.

“Jack, contact the person in charge of Montagne Capitals. Tell them I want to buy their 34% stake in Sena. If they don’t agree, tell them I’ve already gotten 25% ownership of Sena from Colossal Investments.”

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After going back to Terizone, Hudson and the rest were not back yet. Inside the office, Jasper and Jack were sitting next to each other.

“I’ve contacted Montagne Capitals and they want to confirm whether you’ve really gotten Colossal Investments’ 25% of the shares, Mr. Laine.”

After he heard what Jack said, Jasper smiled and said, “You want to know too, right, Jack?”

Jack chortled and said, “I think it’s true. If this was someone else, I won’t believe them, but if it’s you, there’s a possibility.”

“You think so highly of me.” Jasper shrugged. He was not a god, so he could not make everything go his way.

Basically, the plan this time was to use the misinformation between Montagne Capitals and Colossal Investments to create a chance to gain some advantages.

Jasper told Colossal Investments that he had Montagne Capitals’ 34% of the shares. He was using this to threaten them to make them realize that if they did not nod their heads, Sena would not be able to float in the market.

As such, they would definitely sell their shares.

As it was Sena’s internal problem that caused their float to fail, according to the agreement, Colossal Investments would automatically get 25% shares as compensation.

On the other hand, Jasper could use the fact that he got Colossal Investments’ shares as a requirement to buy the shares Montagne Capitals had.

Montagne Capitals would not have a reason to decline that as well.

After Jack heard what Jasper said, he widened his eyes and said in disbelief, "You're saying that... you're lying to them?"

Jasper smiled and said, "I'm not lying because I'm this close to getting my hands on Colossal Investments' share of Sena's shares, and it is indeed 25%."

Jasper told Jack about his plan.

Jack was dazed and dizzy after he heard it.

"To be honest, I'm so impressed with you," Jack said sincerely.

"These are just cheap tricks. The main problem is that we're still not strong enough. If not, we wouldn't have to use such cheap tricks and could just crush them brazenly," Jasper lamented.

Jack said, "You're still young and have a long future ahead. In a few more years, you'll be able to reach the height you mentioned. To be honest, I have no idea where you'll be in the future, but it must be a height that other people can only look up to.

"How should I reply to Montagne Capitals then?" Jack asked.

Jasper hesitated for a while before saying, "Did they quote a price?"

Jack said, "They did. 200 million."

"They only invested 80 million back then, right? It's just been two years and they're selling it for 200 million. What great businesspeople," Jasper said dully.

Jack laughed and said, "There's still a very large chance with this price."

Jasper shook his head and said, “No, we don’t need to negotiate the price. Just promise them. The requirement is to deal immediately.”

Jack was stumped for words. He could not help but say, “We could at least get it down to 180 million...”

“Jack, we don’t have any stocks with us. If this drags on, problems will arise,” Jasper said with a smile.

“The most important thing is that I can double this 200 million very soon. Everyone underestimates that Sena still has the value of Terizone. If I combine these two companies into one, who else would become the king of the internet in this country?”

Jack stopped speaking abruptly and looked at Jasper while overwhelmed with shock. He muttered, “If that’s the case, Terizone could skyrocket. It would be immeasurably valuable to be number one in the country’s internet industry.”

“That’s why I’m asking you to talk to them about this for me. Go as soon as you can,” Jasper said.

Jack got up and said seriously, “Alright, I’ll get to the airport now and talk to the people from the headquarters of Montagne Capitals. I’ll do my best to close this deal.”

“Thank you for your hard work.” Jasper patted Jack’s shoulders.

Jack smiled and said, “I’m included in the vesting. The more the company earns, the more I’ll get, so this is not hard work at all.”

“Indeed,” Jasper said with a loud laugh.

Sometimes, actual benefits would be more trustworthy than relationships and feelings.

Colossal Investments was an investment company that was top in the world and could be said to be very efficient.

Jasper received a call from Celine that night.

An hour later, the sky turned black and Jasper once again came to Ritz-Carlton Hotel.

This time, Celine was standing at the door to wait for Jasper unlike in the morning.

“Mr. Laine, we meet again,” said Celine as she reached out her hand to shake Jasper’s.

Jasper smiled and shook Celine’s hand. He said, “Is there a conclusion?”

Celine nodded and said, “Actually, the higher-ups are moved by Mr. Laine’s suggestion, because to us, gratuitously making 150 million just by reselling our stocks and agreement would be like finding money on the streets.”

Jasper and Celine walked into the hotel shoulder to shoulder. After Jasper heard that, he laughed and said, “Under normal circumstances, this would be followed by bad news, Miss Maynard.”

Celine looked at Jasper in surprise. She said, “Mr. Laine, do you know how to read minds?”

“I’m just very observant,” Jasper smiled and said.

Celine pondered for a while and then said, “Just as you expected, Mr. Laine, Mr. William is very opinionated about this plan. He thought we should investigate this properly. Even if we’re violating an agreement, we can only talk about this after we let Sena violate it first.

“His reason being that as long as Sena can float successfully, then the profits Sena will bring to Colossal Investments might be much more than 150 million.”

Jasper nodded and said, “Things will be as he said. After all, if Sena floats successfully, the shares of 25% would definitely be more than 150 million. What do the higher-ups think then?”

Celine’s expression looked solemn. She looked at Jasper and said, “I’ve already convinced the higher-ups, but Mr. Laine, I want to know how confident you are.”

Jasper chuckled softly. “100%.”

At one side, Miss Stone had been silent the entire time. However, at this moment, she displayed a cold smirk. “Mr. Laine, don’t talk big. In order to side with you, Miss Maynard has had to bear a very huge risk.”

Jasper furrowed his brows and looked at Miss Stone. He said coldly, “There are only advantages and no disadvantages to this plan no matter for Colossal Investments or Miss Maynard. This is a plan that benefits three parties, including me.

“Miss Maynard needs a huge contribution to stabilize her position, and there can only be one voice in the Terra region. It would either be hers or William’s. Miss Maynard, if you’re worried that this plan isn’t reliable, then you can say no. I’m not begging you to work with me!”

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After Jasper said that, Miss Stone had a horrible expression on her face. When she was about to say something, Celine said, "Alright, Miss Stone, your emotions are too stirred up."

Miss Stone looked angry, but she did not dare to say anything more. However, it could be seen that she hated Jasper to the bone from the way she looked at him.

Jasper did not know why this woman was so hostile toward him.

At the same time, Jasper's phone rang.

It was from Jack.

"I need to answer this call. Excuse me." After Jasper said that to Celine, he walked away to answer his phone.

Miss Stone looked at Jasper's back with rancor and could not help but say, "Miss Maynard, why is he so menacing? I can't stand him believing himself to be infallible. Who does he think he is?"

"He thinks he's all that just because of something he did. Miss Maynard, you're the general manager of Colossal Investments in the Terra region and he's still acting so cocky in front of you."

Celine looked at Miss Stone and said with an indifferent expression, "Firstly, he's not being cocky. You're the one who's deliberately infuriating others the entire time."

"You're minding too much as a secretary. Don't you notice that?"

Celine's words caused Miss Stone's expression to freeze. She was speechless for a moment.

"Mr. Laine, it's done!" From his voice, Jack sounded incredibly excited.

The main reason why Montagne Capitals invested in Sena was to make money. Now that Jasper was offering them a reasonable price and they've acknowledged Colossal Investments' background, Montagne Capitals did not hesitate too much before signing the agreement with Jack.

After Jasper heard this, he let out a huge sigh of relief.

Compared to Montagne Capitals, Colossal Investments was a harder bone to chew. However, his lie had finally become reality now.

"Send the copy of the contract to me." After Jasper said that, he hung up the phone.

Jasper then walked in front of Celine and said, "Miss Maynard, you want confidence, right? I'll show you right now."

After he said that, his phone buzzed. It was an MMS from Jack.

Jasper opened the MMS in front of Celine.

After the slow loading time, a contract appeared.

It was the agreement stating that Montagne Capitals had agreed to transfer their 34% shares in Sena to JW Capitals.

When Celine was about to let out a breath of relief after seeing this agreement, she suddenly noticed a detail.

“You signed this agreement today?” Celine lifted her head in shock to look at Jasper.

Jasper smiled softly and said, “It’s the truth no matter when it’s signed, right?”

Celine was a smart woman. If she could be crowned the Queen of Investment in her previous life and got to the position of executive chairwoman in Colossal Investments, it was proof that she was not just a pretty woman to look at.

After pondering for a while, she immediately understood what was going on.

“Good tactic, Mr. Laine!”

Celine sounded a little angry after she had been lied to. At the same time, her tone was also laced with admiration for Jasper, but at the end of the day, it sounded more complicated than that.

She did not expect there would be a day when she would be lied to.

However, this lie was not truly a lie.

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“Mr. Laine, can you tell me how you did it?” Celine asked.

Jasper smiled and said, “I told you this morning that I have 34% of the shares and then I told almost the same things to Montagne Capitals. Coincidentally, both of you believed me. So, my lie is not a lie anymore.”

Celine was not a petty woman. After Jasper explained things and she understood what was going on, she said sincerely, "Mr. Laine, your tactic is... amazing. Very old-fashioned."

Standing at one side, Miss Stone's expression changed. She yelled angrily, "You're a liar indeed!"

Jasper peered at her and said insipidly, "Did you not see my agreement? I already have the 34% shares. How am I lying?"

Miss Stone said coldly, "But you said it yourself that you didn't have it when you were here this morning. You admitted that!"

"The business world is like a warzone, and this is one of the tactics," Jasper said flatly, "You only have yourself to blame for being unable to see through this."

Miss Stone was so mad that her face had turned white. When she was about to say something, she saw that the way Celine was looking at her was becoming colder and colder.

Miss Stone felt flustered and quickly shut her mouth. However, she was cursing Jasper a million times in her heart.

Jasper ignored her. He looked at Celine and said, "Now, the basis for our collaboration has officially been formed. Miss Maynard, can we talk about the transfer of the shares now?"

Celine said indifferently, "There's nothing to talk about. We agree unanimously on your conditions. I've already prepared the documents too."

While she said that, Celine took out a transfer of shares agreement to hand it to Jasper.

After Jasper looked at it and made sure there was nothing wrong with it, he signed it instantly.

For now, Jasper had successfully pocketed Sena's shares that were stranded out there.

"The money will be transferred into your preferred account today," Jasper said with a smile.

"Mr. Laine, you already have 59% of Sena's shares now. May I know what you're going to do next?" Celine asked curiously.

Jasper chuckled lightly and said, "I'm going to send a huge surprise to Dane from Sena, of course."

Celine looked as if she was in deep thought. Finally, she smiled and reached out to Jasper. She said, "Even though there were a lot of ups and downs, no matter what, I'm still going to wish us all the best in working together."

Jasper reached out his hand to hold Celine's. He smiled and said, "Best of luck."

"I hope I still have a chance to work with you in the future, Mr. Laine. However, I hope such exciting things won't happen again," Celine displayed a look of terror and said jokingly.

Jasper chuckled lightly and said, "I'm sure we will have a chance to work together in the future."

When Jasper was about to leave, Celine walked him to the door and said, "Mr. Laine, William was warned by the higher-ups regarding this. He's furious now, so he might have some misunderstandings toward you. If you come across him in the future, you have to be careful."

Jasper looked deeply at Celine and said, "Miss Maynard, it seems that you're more than happy for me to be rivals with William."

Celine said calmly, "You tricked me as well, Mr. Laine. So I think we're even now that I've appropriately transferred some of William's anger onto you."

After laughing, Jasper said, "Sounds fair."

Celine smiled and said, "The enemy of my enemy is my friend. I hope to replace William's position, and since you've already offended William, then you should just go to the extreme. This way, we can be closer friends."

Jasper looked deeply at Celine. He felt that this woman was not so easy to deal with.

"Farewell."

"Safe travels."

While looking at Jasper's back, a complicated twinkle appeared in Celine's eyes. Suddenly, she chuckled softly and said, "This man didn't get angry even after I put it out in the open. He's such a sharp-witted man."

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"What right does he have to get angry?" Miss Stone finally found a chance to speak and said coldly.

"He's the one who tricked us first."

"But when we were directing William's anger to him, we didn't know he was setting this scheme and were still feeling pleased with ourselves like dummies," Celine said.

Miss Stone said angrily, "Miss Maynard, I told you we have to be careful of this man. I know for certain that he's not a good person."

“So you’re saying that I have a horrible perception of people?” Celine asked airily.

Miss Stone’s expression changed as she said hurriedly, “I didn’t mean that.”

Celine said coldly, “That’s why you’ll always be a secretary.

“There are no real friends or real enemies in the business world.

“Mr. Laine was indeed the person who set a trap this time, but did his trap hurt our profits? Not only did it not, but it also gave us a good chance to strike William’s prestige. This is a good thing for us.”

Miss Stone said aggrievedly, “I just can’t stand him.”

“I know my husband asked you to report to him about anyone of the opposite sex who appears around me, but I’m working, do you understand?”

After Miss Stone heard this, her expression changed.

“Miss Maynard, you’ve misunderstood—”

“You should know best whether I’ve misunderstood or not,” Celine said calmly.

“You don’t have to explain anymore. Since I’ve said it, it means that I’m very confident. Do you need me to show you the proof?”

“Our marriage is based on mutual benefits. We need each other and that’s why we got married. I’ll allow him to be a male chauvinist in the right amount, but I hope you can understand that if you infuriate me, there won’t be good outcomes for both of you.

“Especially you. You should know your position because you’re just a chess piece.”

After Celine said that, she turned around to leave.

Miss Stone stood where she was, and her expression fluctuated irregularly. After recovering from the post-traumatic stress, she gritted her teeth in rancor and said coldly, "Jasper, this is all your fault! Just you wait!"

...

After successfully buying 59% of Sena's shares, Jasper was in a great mood.

Even though he had spent 350 million on these shares, not only did he not lose money, but instead, he made a profit.

Once he successfully combined Sena and Terizone, this 350 million would be 3.5 billion or even more.

After he went back to the office, Jasper noticed that Theo and Zaine were here.

Logan was telling them about Dane swinging by. All of them had furious expressions on their faces. Even Theo, who just joined, had a gloomy look on his face.

After all, for these hot-blooded young people, it was not a good thing to be hacked and then get bullied by the other party.

"Damn it! If I was here, I would've beaten up that Warren guy until his mother can't even recognize him!" the hot-tempered Don yelled angrily.

Hudson was focused on his computer. He said without turning his head, "Then what? Get arrested? Do you think it's worth it to get locked up for a few days because of something like this? Don't you think people will laugh at you after word about it gets out?"

Zaine said while feeling pissed, "But you can't let him feel so pleased with himself."

"He won't be pleased with himself after tomorrow," Jasper walked over and said while beaming.

After they heard Jasper's voice, they lifted their heads to look over in surprise.

"Have we stabilized the machinery room?" Jasper asked.

Zaine said excitedly, "Yes, and it's all thanks to Theo. He wrote some codes which greatly increased our defense. If not, I think we would've needed to work overtime again tonight."

Theo said while feeling a little embarrassed, "No, no, it was everyone's hard work. I wouldn't have been able to do so much on my own."

Jasper smiled and said, "You don't have to be modest. Everyone has witnessed your ability."

After he said that, Jasper looked at Hudson. He said with a smile, "Hud, are you interested in going to Capital City tomorrow?"

At this critical moment, there must be something especially important for Jasper to ask Hudson to go outstation in Capital City. Hudson asked curiously, "Why?"

Jasper smiled softly and said, "Do you want to experience how comfortable the chair under Dane's butt in Sena's headquarters is?"

Jasper's words caused the entire office to go into a state of commotion.

"What do you mean?" Cameron widened his eyes and looked like a curious child.

"Why do I not understand what he's saying?" Logan asked foolishly.

Zaine scratched his head and said worriedly, "Mr. Laine, have you gone stupid from anger? It's not worth it to get sick from anger because of people like that. It's not worth it at all."

Daniel coughed awkwardly and said to Jasper, "Mr. Laine, Zaine is right. We'll just think of a way to get it back. We don't have to hurt ourselves."

Theo wanted to say something, but since he had just joined the team and had not fully blended in with them, he did not dare to talk bad about Jasper.

On the other hand, Hudson looked heatedly at Jasper like he had a lot of things to ask.

Jasper chuckled lightly and slammed his phone displaying the MMS Jack sent as well as the agreement he signed with Colossal Investments just now on the table.

"I'm Sena's boss now."

A tossed stone would cause a thousand ripples.

The entire house went silent. Everyone was staring at the photo on the phone and the freshly signed agreement. What was left was the sound of all of them there gulping.

Zaine then pinched Daniel who was standing next to him with all his might.

Daniel yelped in pain and broke the silence. He said angrily to Zaine, "Why did you pinch me?"

"I wanted to know if it's true. I thought I was too exhausted from working overtime that I started to hallucinate, but judging from your reaction, it seems to be true."

Cameron started at the agreement, and his saliva dripped down from his mouth. He said, "It's real. Of course, it's real. It's black and white, and there's also the official seal. How could he have faked this?"

Hudson looked at Jasper in shock and said in disbelief, "You bought Sena?"

Jasper pulled a chair over and sat down. He said, "Indeed. Sena has a big business now, and Terizone can't compare to them, be it talents or technology reserves.

"So, Terizone is not Sena's rival. It's a fact.

"After thinking about it, there just isn't a better plan. Since Sena is so great, then I should just buy it. After I buy it, then we'll be a family. We don't have to worry about them attacking us."

Did you hear what this man said?

He bought the other person's company because he disagreed with them?

Since they were too strong and he could not compare to them, that was why he bought their company?

This was as if he was too lazy to queue in the bank so he directly bought the entire bank to avoid queueing.

Yeah, there was no problem with that logic.

Zaine and the gang's hearts were shaking. Their throats felt dry, and they kept swallowing their saliva. They looked at the agreement and then back at Jasper. In the end, they drew long breaths and sighed.

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The next morning, Jasper and Hudson showed up in Cavern City International Airport with Julian.

After about half an hour, Jack hurriedly came out from the exit.

After the four of them met up, Jack solemnly took out a shares transfer agreement to Jasper.

“Luckily, I didn’t fail to accomplish this mission,” Jack smiled and said.

Jasper looked at the contract worth 200 million in his hand and smiled. He said, “Thanks for the hard work.”

Jack shook his head and said, “I’m just doing my job.”

Jasper said, “I’m going to Capital City with Hud now to incorporate Sena into our troops. Since we won’t be in Terizone, I’m going to trouble you to watch over it for me.”

Jack smiled and said, “Alright, I’ll keep an eye on it.”

The two of them shook hands. Then, Jasper led Hudson and Julian onto the plane.

...

A few hours later, Hudson felt his heartbeat fluctuating when he was outside Sena’s headquarters that was located in the best location—in the depths of the

bustling commercial district. He looked up at Sena's gigantic logo hanging above the building.

"Dane just went to Terizone yesterday. I didn't think that we'd come to his den today," Hudson said.

"How do you feel?" Jasper smiled and said.

Hudson's eyes looked firm as he said, "In the future, Terizone will definitely be more powerful than Sena!"

Jasper laughed. It was good that Hudson had ambitions. This was how the head of a future trillion-dollar company should look like.

The three of them headed into the building.

The moment they got through the door, Jasper and Hudson were stopped by two security guards.

The guards walked over. When they saw that they did not have employee tags and looked foreign, the guards immediately determined that they were not employees of Sena. They quickly asked, "Stop right there. What are you doing here?"

"We're here to discuss something," Jasper said insipidly.

"Register as visitors please." The guard was taking his job seriously. While he was at it, he also asked, "Who are you looking for? Do you have an appointment?"

"Dane Warren. I don't have an appointment."

Jasper's answer caused the guard to lift his head. He then scoffed. "You're looking for our chairman?"

“You’re looking for our chairman and no one’s here to welcome you? You guys look impoverished and yet you’re barging in here to look for our chairman with nothing?”

While he said that, the guard placed down the register book and waved his hand impatiently to chase Jasper and Hudson away.

However, the moment he was about to do something, Julian, who was eyeing covetously from the back, charged over and grabbed the guard’s arm.

The guard yelped. When he was about to escape, he realized that the man’s palm was like a pair of pincer pliers, gripping his wrist tightly. He could not escape from his grip no matter what.

“Damn it, let go of me!” The guard was nervous as he yelled.

In an instant, three to five security guards who were on duty came over.

They were looking at Jasper and the rest with unfriendly faces. One of them said, “Are you looking for trouble? Don’t you know where this is? How dare you behave atrociously at this place?”

“Julian,” Jasper said insipidly, “Don’t hurt anyone.”

Jasper was here to incorporate Sena into his troops. He did not come here to fight with the security guards.

Julian nodded and pushed the guard away. He backed away and stood next to Jasper with a calm expression on his face.

Jasper led Hudson forward with his hands on his back. With Julian around, the guards did not dare to stop them. They could only stare fixedly at the group.

When they got to the elevator, a staff member with some documents in her arms walked out just in time. As such, Jasper stopped her.

“Hello, which floor is the chairman’s office on?”

The woman blushed when she saw the elegant and refined man in front of her. She said, “16th floor.”

“Thanks.”

After thanking her, Jasper led Hudson and Julian into the elevator before pressing the button to the 16th floor.

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The 16th floor was the core office in Sena. There was a huge meeting room here as well as Dane’s office and the office of the chairman’s secretary.

The other higher-ups would be working on the lower floors. From this alone, Dane’s superior status in Sena could be seen clearly.

Inside the meeting room, all of the higher-ups in Sena were sitting upright and still as they listened to Dane’s speech.

“This time, we have to make up our minds to get rid of those little companies that will affect the development of Sena!”

After being humiliated in Terizone, Dane rushed back to Capital City that very night. He was so furious that he did not get a good night’s sleep.

Today, he called all of the higher-ups to have this meeting early in the morning.

He decided to teach Terizone a lesson to let them know that they would not have anything good awaiting them after offending him.

“We’re the ensign for the internet industry in the country! We’re the number one web portal among the four! In this country, it can be said that Sena is the boss!”

Dane coldly scanned the higher-ups in the room with an arrogant look in his eyes. His words sounded powerful and resonating.

“Sena is going to float very soon and once it’s done, all of you will be the higher-ups of a listed company. You guys will have vestings and it’ll be able to make you into millionaires overnight!”

The higher-ups were excited as they looked passionately and enthusiastically at Dane.

The news about Sena signing an agreement to float with Colossal Investments was not a secret in the office anymore. At this moment, everyone was calculating how much money they could make as a higher-up in a listed company after Sena floated successfully.

“However, before that, we have to crush Terizone! Then, we’ll dominate the instant messaging market in the country. Once we’ve done that, the stock price of Sena will be higher and the valuation will be much higher as well. Hence, you’ll get even more benefits!”

Dane looked at the excited faces of the higher-ups and laughed loftily. He was enjoying the feeling of being chased after and worshipped.

‘Jasper, I want to see how you’ll compete with me now!’

Suddenly, Dane felt a slight hint of remorse. He wanted so badly to get Jasper here to let him see how many talents he had under him and how much power he held.

If this power erupted, they would be able to crush Terizone into pieces in a blink of an eye.

At this moment, it was as if Dane's wishes had come true. Suddenly, the door was being pushed open from the outside.

Jasper had Hudson by his side and Julian behind him as the three of them appeared at the door of the meeting room.

"Are you having a meeting? Good, then I don't need to get all of you here one by one."

Most of the higher-ups in the meeting room did not know Jasper, but they did know what Hudson looked like as he was the company's rival for the past two days.

When they saw Hudson, they displayed extremely shocked expressions on their faces. They did not understand why he was in the meeting room of their company.

Now, this scene was like the leader of the enemy suddenly barging into the other troop's base camp when the two troops were facing each other and were about to go to battle and fight.

Dane was staring straight at Jasper, and his face looked like he had just seen a ghost.

"Jasper, what are you doing here?" Dane cried out involuntarily.

He then roared with a dark expression on his face after he came back to his senses, "Security! Where's security? Why did they just let irrelevant people

inside? Don't they know that the company is having a meeting with the higher-ups?"

Dane had a bad feeling in his heart when he saw Jasper and Hudson showing up all of a sudden.

At this moment, a group of security guards hurried over. While they were facing Dane's roars with their faces turning pale, they gasped and said, "Mr. Warren, t-they barged in forcefully."

Dane ignored the guard and looked at Jasper gloomily. He said with an insincere smile, "Jasper, who do you think you are? I went to Terizone yesterday so you came to my place today. Do you think we're kids playing house?"

Jasper walked into the meeting room with his hands behind his back and said dully, "The reason I'm here today is to announce a few things, and while I'm at it, I need to call a meeting."

Dane started guffawing from anger. "Is there something wrong with your brain?"

"This is Sena! This is my company and you're telling me that you're here to announce a few things and call a meeting?"

"If your brain is faulty, you should go to the psychiatric hospital for treatment! Stop causing a ruckus here, do you understand?"

Hudson looked coldly at Dane and said, "Dane, watch your mouth. If not, you'll be the one who's going to be embarrassed and put in an awkward position."

Dane chortled and pointed at Hudson to say, "Moore, when I started Sena, you were still in school. Since when do you have the right to speak to me?"

"What's wrong? Is Terizone struggling now? I went to you to purchase Terizone yesterday and you rejected me. Are you coming to beg me now?"

Dane chuckled coldly and said nonchalantly, “However, I won’t give you such a favorable price anymore. Five million. I’m going to give you five million for Terizone now.

“If you don’t agree, then get out of my company and wait for my Sena to crush your Terizone bit by bit!”

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Dane's arrogance and overbearingness that was well-known in the country's internet industry was vividly and thoroughly displayed here.

He genuinely looked down on Hudson and Jasper. Now he was trying to think of a way to humiliate them back after he was humiliated by them yesterday.

With a light chuckle, Jasper said insipidly to Dane, "So you think you're the only one who can come to Terizone unannounced and I can't come to Sena to reciprocate?"

Dane scoffed and said, "You're comparing Terizone with Sena? Are you insane?"

Not only Dane, but the rest of the higher-ups were also looking at Jasper and Hudson like they were idiots.

They felt that these two might have something wrong with their brains and came here to get insulted and humiliated.

"Indeed, Terizone is still small now, but after a few years, Sena won't even be fit to lick Terizone's shoes," said Jasper coldly.

Dane was staring blankly at him before guffawing loudly. The higher-ups were all laughing as well.

The entire meeting room was filled with their jeers and irreverent laughter.

Jasper shook his head amidst the laughter of Dane and the rest. He said, "Even though I want to use my ability to prove it to you, I can't wait anymore!"

Slam!

Two agreements were slammed down on the table.

“This is the stock transfer agreements signed by Montagne Capitals and Colossal Investments to transfer their shares to JW Capital. These two agencies have transferred their shares from Sena to JW Capital, and with their shares combined, it’s a total of 59%.

“So in short, I am now the biggest shareholder in Sena. I’m ordering a shareholders’ meeting right now!”

Jasper turned around and faced the higher-ups in the room who abruptly stopped laughing. Their expressions looked brilliant. Jasper’s tone was cold but calm. He was emitting a majestic and imposing aura of a sovereign king who towered above the world while looking down at it.

Dane stared at the two agreements on the table, his entire body shaking.

The incomparable shock made him feel as if he had been electrocuted. His brain and limbs felt numb.

“How is that possible?”

“Impossible!”

Dane howled madly. He grabbed the two documents and scanned the contents quickly.

Two statements were clearly stated in the agreements in black and white.

[Montagne Capitals will sell their 34% shares in Sena to JW Capital for 200 million.]

[Colossal Investments in the Terra Region will be selling their 25% shares in Sena to JW Capital for 1.5 million.]

Dane's hands were shaking uncontrollably. Blinded by his rage, he violently ripped the two agreements into pieces. He stared malevolently at Jasper like a hurt wolf and roared wildly, "These are fake! These agreements are fake!"

Jasper smiled lightly and said, "The ones in your hands were only copies. If you like ripping things up, I still have a lot, so you can rip them slowly. As for whether they're fake, you'll know after you make a few calls."

Dane stumbled backward. He almost lost his footing and nearly fell to the ground.

In the end, he clenched his fists and stared at Jasper to say, "How is that possible? I didn't get any news about this! Colossal Investments got Sena's shares in exchange for helping Sena float. How could they have transferred them to you? Are they not worried that I'll sue them?"

Jasper chuckled lightly and said, "Have you become foolish from anger? I already have 34% after Montagne Capitals transferred their shares to me, so I can make a one-vote veto and I vetoed Sena's plan to float. So, how are you going to float now?"

"So, it was destined for you to violate the agreement. As it turned out, my collaboration with Colossal was very delightful."

While he said that, Jasper shrugged and his face looked neutral.

Dane's vision went black, and in the end, he still could not resist the urge to fall back into his chair. It looked as if all of his energy, vigor, and spirit had been sucked dry.

He lifted his head to look at Jasper. His eyes were filled with extreme rancor. He said wretchedly, "What are you going to do now?"

Jasper looked at the higher-ups and said coldly, "Now, as the biggest shareholder of Sena, I suggest we have a shareholders' meeting right now.

"There are two topics of discussion for this meeting.

"Number one, proposal to dismiss the chairman and director-general of Sena, Dane Warren.

"Number two, proposal to combine Sena and Terizone."

The first of these two topics of discussion was to get rid of Dane.

The second one was to destroy the entire Sena.

All of the higher-ups were in an uproar. Their faces looked alarmed, and they did not know what to do.

Dane stood up suddenly and yelled with courage that he got from some unknown place, "Impossible! I won't agree to this! This is murder, and you're separating Sena!

"Even if you're the majority shareholder, you don't even have 67% of the shares so you can't achieve a two-third voting right. I can still reject your proposal!"

Jasper seemed to have predicted this. He chuckled lightly and said, "Alright, I announce that JW Capital will convertibly increase 300 million worth of shares for Sena. It will be diluted according to the corresponding proportion of the shares of the shareholders.

"Dane, it's either you follow and inject 300 million so that you can still be guaranteed one-third of the stock right, or my 59% will be increased to 85% after this injection."

Everyone in the room was silent, including Dane. All of the higher-ups had pale faces at this moment.

The silence was deafening.

After Jasper did this, it was as if a clap of thunder had struck down on top of Sena and it was going to turn over the entire company.

Hudson was excited after watching this. He felt that some hot blood had been washed off from a deep part of his heart, and he needed to pour out what was on his mind.

As a student of great ability and the fact that he had led Terizone from nothing to what it was now, Hudson was pretty familiar with the operation of the capital in a company.

The convertibly increased shares and fund injections were basically rogue strategies to hurt someone with money.

For example, if a company had a market value of one million and had two shareholders, they would both own 50% of the shares.

If one of the shareholders wanted to own a controlling number of shares in the company and they convertibly increased one million of shares, then the company's market value would increase to two million. The shareholder who convertibly increased the shares would have 75% of the shares while the other would have the remaining 25%.

This strategy would usually be used by extremely powerful shareholders. This would be a frequent tactic for them to control the company.

What Jasper was doing now was exactly that.

If they were going to hurt each other with capitals and compare the depths of their pockets, then Dane Warren could not defeat Jasper Laine.

After Jasper said that, Dane's face went gray. He knew he had failed by a landslide and there was no saving him now.

Never in his wildest dream would he imagine that Jasper would quietly complete the purchase of Sena in just one day.

Even if he did not convertibly increase the shares, his 59% of the shares would seal the fate of Dane's tragic ending.

Dane chuckled bitterly and looked at Jasper. He said, "You've won. You're savage. You're such a savage."

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"Everyone in the industry says that I always do things by fair means or foul, but they're all blind. Jasper, you're the true savage. You go for the neck immediately and don't leave any room to maneuver!

"Splendid! Tremendous indeed!"

Jasper had on an indifferent expression while listening to Dane.

There was no pleased look on his face nor modesty.

He looked as natural as if he was eating or drinking.

"Who's agreeing or disagreeing with the two proposals I made before?"

Jasper looked at the higher-ups of Sena while standing next to the table. His tone sounded calm, but there was great danger hiding in his voice.

No one dared to stand up and disagree with him. They knew once they disagreed, there would be only one ending for them.

To pack their things and leave.

“I’m forfeiting,” Dane closed his eyes and said as if he was submitting to his fate.

When the higher-ups heard Dane saying that, they all lowered their heads.

Dane stood up shakily and pointed to his seat. He smiled at Jasper and said, “This seat belongs to you now.”

Jasper did not decline. He walked straight to Dane’s seat and sat down.

At this moment, all of the higher-ups sighed internally. They knew that Sena had already staged a comeback.

The flag of the internet industry in the country and the head of the four web portals, Sena, had officially gotten a new boss.

This would be a huge piece of news that would shake the internet industry in the whole nation.

While sitting on the seat of honor in the meeting room, Jasper said flatly, “The decision has been made after the shareholders’ meeting and we’ll be dismissing Dane as the chairman and director-general of the company. After this, I’ll sign the official document to pass it down to every department in the company.

“Now, the company will stop all attacks on Terizone and stop the plan to float. The rest of the tasks in Human Resources will stay the same.”

When he said this, Jasper looked at the higher-ups and said dully, “There’s a change in the person with the highest position in the company and it will

undoubtedly affect the working attitude of the other employees. I hope everyone here can pacify the employees later so that they can carry out their jobs as usual.

“Even though the owner of Sena has changed, we still can’t relax about what should be done and what needs to be done.”

The higher-ups looked at each other, and someone even stole a glance at Dane.

However, they saw that Dane was like a cock that had lost in a cockfight. He had lost his spirit, vigor, and energy. He was sitting at one side like a puppet.

The higher-ups sighed, and it was unknown who took the lead to call out, “Yes, Mr. Laine.”

“Yes, Mr. Laine.”

All of the higher-ups agreed at the same time.

Jasper nodded and said, “Dismiss.”

The higher-ups walked out one after another. Before leaving, they would subconsciously look at Jasper and Dane.

One of them was full of mettle like a new king who just ascended the throne.

The other one had his head lowered in dejection after being kicked out of the position of power.

After the higher-ups left, this earthquake that started from the core of Sena immediately spread throughout the office.

After that, it spread to the outside world before finally shocking the entire nation.

Inside the meeting room, Dane walked out the room dispiritedly. He knew he did not have a place in Sena anymore.

“Mr. Warren, wait,” Jasper called out to stop Dane.

When Dane heard Jasper changing the way he addressed him, he clenched his teeth and turned around to look at Jasper. He asked, “Are you going to humiliate me again?”

Jasper said unenthusiastically, “I plan to invite you, Mr. Dane Warren, to be the new general manager of Sena. I wonder if you’re interested in this?”

Dane was startled after he heard that. He stared fixedly at Jasper, and his eyes were filled with doubt.

“Aren’t you going to kick me out of Sena?”

Dane was not the only one with this question, even Hudson was curious. He looked at Jasper curiously to know the reason.

Jasper said flatly, “I detest your moral character, Mr. Warren, but I have to admit that as the founder, you’re responsible for getting Sena to the scale it is now and its achievements.

“Do you think I purchased Sena just to kick you out and vent my anger? That’s too childish. You’re beneficial to the company, so I’ll consider keeping you. If you weren’t, then I’d kick you out even if you’re super close to me.”

Jasper said and stood up to walk to Dane. He continued, “Now, even though Sena’s owner has changed, Sena is still Sena. I still hope that it will continue to develop under your leadership.”

Dane’s body shook slightly. What happened today had too many twists and turns. Dane felt as if he was on a roller coaster, and his mood was fluctuating so rhythmically.

When he was feeling fully content with his achievements, Jasper purchased Sena.

When he was feeling mad and frustrated, Jasper gave him an opportunity.

Dane even felt as if he was a puppet under Jasper's control that would do whatever Jasper wanted him to.

"I..." Dane clenched his fists tightly and looked reluctantly at the meeting room as well as the bright and wide office.

This was all his blood and sweat.

"I'll do it," Dane closed his eyes and said.

Jasper smiled and reached out his hand to Dane.

Dane reached out as well to hold Jasper's hand tightly.

The two men looked into each other's eyes. Dane suppressed his anger and hatred, hiding them in the deepest part of his heart, leaving only conflicts behind.

In ancient times, Queen Boudica had suffered patiently but firmly resolved for revenge. Now, Dane Warren would be willing to bear the humiliation to save his skin for the time being in order to avenge himself in the future.

Jasper patted Dane's shoulder and pretended that had not noticed anything. His smile looked tranquil and unhurried.

...

Inside the chairman's office.

Of course, Dane would not be able to continue staying in this office anymore. After he packed his things, he went downstairs to find an empty office. He hung the plaque stating 'general manager' and went inside.

On the other hand, Jasper and Hudson were having tea in the chairman's office.

"Dane truly knows how to enjoy himself," Jasper smiled and said while taking a sip of the superior green tea.

Hudson looked admiringly at Dane's office with a floor area that was exaggeratedly large. There was a parlor, meeting room, and lounge inside his office.

When he thought back to his simple and unpresentable office, he sighed. "I wouldn't have known if I hadn't made a comparison. After comparing, Terizone indeed can't compare to Sena."

Jasper laughed and said, "You don't have to undervalue yourself. Even though Terizone's office is unpresentable, the feeling it gave me was much better than a bright and wide office."

Hudson nodded and smiled. He said, "I believe Terizone will soon have an office that's much more extravagant than this one."

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"You don't have to worry that I'll pay less attention to Terizone because I have Sena now."

Jasper laughed and said. It would be better for him to say something earlier.

“In the future, JW Consortium will keep Terizone and Sena as two separate companies, but the two of them will naturally be the closest allies.”

JW Consortium!

This was the first time Hudson heard Jasper saying this.

From here, he was able to know some of Jasper’s ambitions.

He wanted to turn JW Capital into a financial group that was built up of different companies!

This was not an idea that a normal person would have.

Hudson sucked in a deep breath. He decided that whether JW Consortium would be a reality or no matter what stage it would get to in the future, his Terizone must be the best among all of the other companies.

After coming out of the office, Jasper lifted his gaze to see Dane. He was standing at the door, hesitating whether to knock or not.

After their eyes met, Dane felt a little embarrassed.

“Is there anything I can help you with?” Jasper asked.

Dane said challengingly, “I need to report on some business.”

Report!

Dane had no idea when was the last time he reported something to someone. It could be years.

After starting Sena, he was always the person with the highest power and the person who people reported to.

Jasper nodded and allowed Dane into the office. He said, "What's wrong?"

Dane quickly recomposed himself and said, "My job scope in the office has changed, so who's going to be responsible for the work that's going to come in after this? What's the arrangement?"

Jasper said, "Still you."

Jasper looked at Dane who had a look of shock on his face and said enthusiastically, "I'll arrange someone to be the director-general of Sena. When that happens, you just need to cooperate with him."

Dane felt his heart tighten as he asked, "May I know who that will be?"

"Jack Tanner!"

Dane was proud and arrogant. He would not allow himself to surrender to Jasper.

Jasper knew this from the start.

In fact, Jasper had considered kicking Dane out of Sena before.

However, this would cause a very intractable problem for Jasper...

He did not have many people who could handle such a huge company like Sena.

Sena was such a huge company, so he would need a professional and experienced team to operate this company.

Jasper was not a god, so he would not be able to support Sena on his own.

As such, keeping Dane was one of his stop-gap measures.

Besides, it would be impossible for Jasper to completely trust Dane.

In his previous life, after Dane's Sena became a listed company, he had a huge conflict with the financiers because of his attitude. When they were at the most serious phase, he led his management team to threaten the financiers. He said if they did not fulfill his requirements, they would have a mass resignation.

This attitude had angered the financiers completely, so they kicked Dane out of Sena.

As the founder, Dane was fired by his own company. This was the first time it happened in the country and caused such a controversy.

As such, Jasper understood that Dane was useful but he could not give him too many responsibilities.

Terizone was slowly progressing now and with Hudson around, Terizone would be fine.

As such, Jack could finally make some time.

As for management, Jack's ability was enough to give Dane a crushing defeat. Jasper was reassured to transfer him to Sena.

Dane was stumped for words after he heard Jack's name. He eventually nodded, and Jasper could not tell whether he was happy or angry.

"I'll tell Jack to brief you later about what's going to happen next."

After hearing Jasper's statement that sounded like a dismissal, Dane turned around to leave.

"Mr. Laine, are you going to transfer Mr. Tanner to Sena?" Hudson asked.

Jasper nodded and said, "Back then when I transferred Jack to Terizone, I told you he was there to help you manage the company as he could use his experience in Weresoft to help you guys build a management system. Now, Terizone is tentatively stabled, so you alone will be enough."

Hudson sighed and said, "Jack and I had so much fun working together and we're pretty close in private too. I'm a little reluctant for him to leave just like that."

Jasper laughed and said, "Everyone is still under JW, so you'll still get a chance to meet in the future."

Hudson smiled and nodded.

After making the decision, Jasper called Jack and told him his intention to transfer him to Sena.

Jack was stumped for words, and it was evident that he was shocked. Then, he frowned and said, "Mr. Laine, I'm not complaining to you, but I just don't think I'll be able to break new ground within a short period after going to Sena."

Jasper smiled and said, "Sena is filled with Dane's people. Even if he has been demoted to the general manager position, he's still a core member. A leader who just fell from the sky like you will definitely not get the respect of everyone."

"So, you have to give me some support, Mr. Laine," Jack said jokingly.

"I'll authorize you as the director-general of Sena. You can go look for the core members you want. This way, you'll have power, and we'll see how long you need to take down Sena completely," Jasper said.

Jack's eyes lit up.

To be honest, he was longing for a platform where he could fully exhibit his ability.

Even though he was happy when he was in Terizone, at the end of the day, his hands and feet were bound.

It was different now that he would be transferred to Sena. Even though it would be tough because Jasper wanted him to break the ice and break new ground, this was a test and also an opportunity.

“Alright, three months! You’ll see results in three months!” Jack said seriously.

Jasper chuckled lightly and said, “If you don’t accomplish that when the time comes, you’ll get smacked.”

After he hung up the phone, Jasper went downstairs with Hudson for lunch.

However, his phone rang again.

Jasper took a look and it was from Dawson. He quickly answered the call.

“Jasper, remember what I told you back then about Easy Media? You need to close the deal as soon as possible. I received news that someone with an extensive background has met up with the King brothers and they’re planning to buy their company.”

After Jasper heard that, his face became solemn. He asked, “An extensive background? Do you know who that is?”

Dawson said, “I have no idea, but according to my friend, he’s the son of one of the rich families in Capital City. If we don’t get this right, it’ll be troublesome for us.”

Jasper frowned and said, “I’m in Capital City now. Give me the contact number, Uncle Schuler. I’ll handle this as soon as I can.”

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Dawson gave him an address before saying seriously, "Jasper, I have more than ten years of friendship with this friend of mine, so he's reliable. You can go to this place to find him.

"I don't think he'll lie to me. If the other party really comes from Swallow Capital Residence, then we'll just give up if we know we'll fail even if we give it a try.

"After all, there are still a lot of entertainment companies out there. If we can't buy this one, we can buy another. However, the people from the great institution are not easy to deal with and they're very demanding as well.

"We don't have to cause trouble to ourselves."

Jasper smiled and said after hearing that, "Don't worry, Uncle Schuler. I'll go about things while sticking to the norms."

Dawson laughed and said, "I know, but you don't have to be weak. We're not fruit cakes that will allow people to do just anything to us. Alright then, go and take care of your business now."

After he hung up the phone, Jasper tapped the surface of the desk with his fingertips. He looked as if he was in deep thought.

Even though Hudson did not know what was going on, from Jasper's face, he could tell he had come across a difficult problem. He became silent as well and did not disturb Jasper's train of thought.

According to his memories of his previous life, on the surface, Easy Media always had the King brothers as the person in charge.

However, Jasper had heard from some gossip forums that the King brothers came from an extensive background.

Back then, he thought it was just a joke from the netizens

However, from the looks of it now, it might be true.

No matter in which industry, Jasper knew that he would need to interact with people on a much higher level in the country if he had come to this stage. However, he did not expect this to happen this fast.

However, the sky was gradually turning dark and it was not convenient for him to go visit them now. As such, Jasper decided to only think about this tomorrow.

...

The next morning, he came out from the hotel.

Since Jack would be coming to Capital City today, Jasper arranged for Hudson to pick Jack up before familiarizing himself in Sena's office with Hudson.

On the other hand, he would go to East Quatre Road. There, he found an office building in the most well-known central business district in Swallow Capital.

'Rosy Commercial Consultants.' Jasper looked at the signboard and walked in.

"Hello, sir, who are you looking for?" the beautiful receptionist asked courteously.

"Jim Yapp," Jasper said.

The receptionist was staring blankly at him before quickly saying, "Oh, you're here for Mr. Yapp. Please wait."

After she said that, she made a call. After a while, she gestured respectfully for Jasper to follow her.

Jasper came to the door of an office after following the receptionist. Then, a portly middle-aged man walked out of the office.

“You’re Dawson’s son-in-law, Jasper, right?” Jim laughed loudly and pulled Jasper into the office.

“Hello, Uncle Yapp,” Jasper smiled and asked.

Jasper could tell that Dawson had a great relationship with Jim after Jim’s first sentence to him. If not, he would not directly call him Dawson’s son-in-law.

It was obvious that these two had discussed this matter before.

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Jim looked at Jasper up and down before saying in satisfaction, “Not bad, you’re young and have outstanding talents. An excellent young man like you is not easy to find even in Swallow Capital.”

Jasper smiled and said, “I just rely on my luck. I don’t dare to look down on everyone on earth.”

Jim chortled and said candidly, “People who don’t belong together, don’t get to live together. You’re just like Dawson when he was young. You’re talented and yet so humble.”

The two of them chatted for a while before Jim said, "Jasper, before this Dawson said you're planning to buy an entertainment company. I had asked everywhere about this matter.

"I think you know what happened in the end. Easy Media had every intention to sell, but the bosses of this entertainment company are brothers. Back then, they did not have a united opinion, so they delayed this for some time.

"After this delay, trouble arose. Another rival has appeared and he has such an extensive background."

When Jasper heard this, he asked, "Who is he?"

Jim chuckled and said, "Swallow Capital is not the same as other cities. There are a lot of high-ranking officials and big shots here. According to my knowledge, the one who appeared this time belongs to the second-ranking family in Swallow Capital."

Jasper frowned slightly.

The second-ranking family in Swallow Capital. Even the wealthiest family in the province would not be able to compete with them if they were placed in the same room.

"Plus, their family should have a very deep connection to the people who did publicity. Otherwise, this young master from the later generation would not want to buy a media company. After all, his family already has the resources, so it would've been easy for him to do this."

Jim's face looked solemn as he said, "So, Jasper, if you're very determined, we shall give it a try. If you think this is dispensable, I suggest that you give up."

Jasper smiled and said, "Uncle Yapp, since I'm here, I don't plan to give up so easily even if the other party has a powerful background. When it comes to

business, I can't stay away from it just because he has his eyes on it, right? There's no rule about this anyway."

Jim nodded and said, "Alright, I understand. If that's the case, I'll pull some strings tonight to invite the King brothers for dinner. What do you think?"

Jasper got up and smiled. "Thank you for going to all these troubles for me, Uncle Yapp."

Jim smiled and patted Jasper's shoulder. He said, "You're Dawson's son-in-law, so you're kind of like my nephew. Naturally, I'll help you if I'm able to."

The two of them walked out of the office while chatting. When they got to the door of the company, Jasper wanted to bid farewell to Jim when he heard an ear-piercing voice.

"Jim Yapp, people always say you'll get smarter as you age, but I think you're getting more stupid as you age. How dare you steal the business Mr. Combe has his eyes on?"

Jasper and Jim looked over to see a middle-aged man in his 30s walking over to them with a cold smirk on his face.

When Jim saw this man, his face fell. He smirked and replied, "I contacted Easy Media first, and it's Mr. Combe's business if he's interested in them too. Are you saying I can't even show an interest in them now? George, you're just a middleman, so why are you acting like a poser in front of me?"

George Powell scoffed and said, "You're saying it like you're so goddamn noble. If I'm a middleman, aren't you one as well?"

"The only difference between us is that I'm working for Mr. Combe this time. And you? Hurry up and tell your guy to tuck his tail between his legs and scam. Mr. Combe said if anyone dares to steal Easy Media from him, then it'll mean that they're deliberately embarrassing him!"

Jim had a horrible expression on his face, and he subconsciously peered at Jasper. There was restrained fear and anger in his eyes.

George was pleased with Jim's gaze. He looked at Jasper and said in disbelief, "Is this the person who wants to steal Easy Media from Mr. Combe? He looks like an idiot who still needs his bottle. Hahaha. What a joke!"

Jasper looked at George with no expression on his face. He said dully, "I had my eyes on it first, so if you're talking about stealing, I think your master, Mr. Combe, is the one who's stealing from me. Plus, who do you think you are? Do you think you have the right to interrupt us?"

After Jasper said this, George was furious.

On the contrary, Jim smiled and felt extremely pleased.

He said in his heart, 'Attaboy, he's not a coward at all!'

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George glared at Jasper ferociously and said, “Before you came out, didn’t your parents tell you to be more low profile outside so that you don’t offend other people?”

Jasper answered unenthusiastically, “The elders in my home did tell me to be humble and low profile outside. Plus, they also told me not to hold others in contempt so rashly.”

When George heard this, he thought Jasper was scared and lacking in confidence. Just as he was about to say something after smirking, he heard Jasper continue talking.

“But they only told me that I should be courteous to humans. If a dog keeps barking madly at me, I can just kick it away.”

George’s words that were on the tip of his tongue were then stuffed back into his throat forcefully. In an instant, his face looked extremely dark.

Even Jim was stumped for words. Then, he guffawed and felt extremely carefree.

George was his rival, and even their companies were in the same building.

There were a lot of enemies in the same industry, but one could know how horrible their relationship was just from the looks of it.

Jim had contacted Easy Media and this man in front of them named George was coming between them right now while using Mr. Combe to separate them.

He was just using Mr. Combe’s power and influence to mock and ridicule Jim for the past few days.

Today, Jim did not expect he would be able to vent his anger through Jasper.

Jim's laughter caused George's face to become even darker. There was a hint of coldness in his eyes that were glaring at Jasper.

"You little idiot, aren't you afraid that people will step on you for being so cocky in Swallow Capital?"

Jasper looked coldly at George and said flatly, "Kindness is always returned tenfold, but if you dare to cross me, you'll get a tenfold return as well."

"How cocky! You're so young yet you're already such a gigantic poser.

"You should know that Swallow Capital is not as simple as you think it is. There are people you can't afford to offend. If you get stepped on, you can only lie on the ground and beg for mercy." George smirked, and his eyes were cold.

"Of course, there are a lot of people who'll step on me in Swallow Capital, but I can guarantee that you're not on the list. You're just a hired thug who barely wormed into their circle."

Jasper shrugged, and there was an insipid look on his face. He was not even concerned about George at all.

This kind of person was just a hired thug. His next meal depended on his boss' mood. No one could insult Jasper even if he was in Swallow Capital.

Plus, he could not mess up the purchase of Easy Media because of someone like George.

Naturally, Jasper would not show him respect.

"W-Who are you calling a hired thug?"

George felt a fire of rage surging from his stomach and it was heading straight to his head.

He had been mingling in Swallow Capital for so many years, and aside from those members of the aristocratic families who came from the Residence, he had never seen such an arrogant person before.

Plus, he had asked around about the buyer who contacted Jim and knew he was not from Swallow Capital.

In addition to that, he was definitely not someone from the Residence.

As such, George had no comebacks after Jasper kept calling him out. He felt as if he had been slapped a few times across the face and was in fiery pain.

“You little idiot, I’ll teach you that you can’t be too arrogant in Swallow Capital!”

After a cold chuckle from George, he turned around and yelled at the outside of the building.

After a while, the door of a van outside opened and five to six burly men walked out. They all made their way over.

“Little idiot, it just so happened that I went out to settle some business and brought my men out for a meal. It’s your unlucky day,” George laughed nastily and said savagely.

When Jim saw this, he frowned and barked at George. “Hey, Powell! What are you trying to do? There are security cameras in the building and you’re trying to attack us here? Are you insane?”

After a scoff, George said coldly, “Shut up! You best f*ck off. Let me tell you, Mr. Combe has got my back and if you spew more bullsh*t then I’ll f*ck you up too!”

Jim's expression was gloomy. He said to Jasper in a deep voice, "Jasper, run back into the building. Run to my office and lock the door. Don't open the door if it's not me.

"I'll handle them. I've been in Swallow Capital for so many years. He won't dare to do anything to me."

When Jasper saw that Jim was still helping him so sincerely at this critical moment, he felt slightly touched. He said, "Uncle Yapp, don't worry. They won't do anything to me."

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After Jim heard that, he said angrily, "He won't do anything do you? George is not a good person. He went to jail when he was young because he fought with someone. Plus, he has Mr. Combe's support now.

"You're young, so don't get so hot-blooded and impulsive. It's not embarrassing to admit defeat at this moment. You don't need to suffer this."

Jasper shook his head and walked in front of Jim. Now, he was protecting him.

"Julian!"

Jasper called out.

Julian had been repressing it for a few days now, feeling pins and needles all over his body. He could not hold it in anymore. He stepped out, looking at George and his gang coldly.

There were five beefy fighters next to George, so the man was extremely confident. When he saw what Jasper was doing, he could not help but burst out laughing. "Idiot! You only have one person and you dare to f*cking fight with me?"

"Men, kill that kid. I want to step on his face and ask if he still has the guts to be so arrogant!"

After George said that, the five men walked over with malevolent looks on their faces.

Julian looked at Jasper. He was asking Jasper whether he should cripple these people.

Of course, Jasper did not want to get into trouble with the law because of these thugs. He said flatly, "Go easy on them. Just teach them a lesson."

Julian sighed in disappointment. He turned around and cracked his neck. Cracking sounds that sounded like beans getting stir-fried in a hot pan were heard from his body.

With a low growl, he charged at the five of them like a wild beast out of its cage.

It was evident that he was not afraid of the other party having more numbers than him.

Those five fighters were dazed.

These people always depended on their numbers when they fought, and their opponents would admit defeat even before the fight started. They had never seen the other party charging at them with such vigor even when there was only one of them.

"Damn it, go! Cripple him!"

George roared nervously.

At that moment, the two parties were tangled in a fight.

Jim, who was being protected by Jasper, was extremely anxious. He did not expect Jasper to be so impulsive. He felt that something bad was going to happen tonight.

If Jasper was beaten up by George at this place, then how would he be able to face his best friend Dawson?

When he thought about this, Jim gritted his teeth and turned around to run to the lobby of the building. He opened the fire cabinet and took out an ax. He decided that he would not let anything happen to Jasper.

However, when he was walking over with the ax, he saw George's men lying on the ground. They were wailing and begging for mercy.

Jim was holding the ax after having made the decision of burning their boats, but now, he was staring blankly ahead.

This turn of events... Why was it different from how he imagined it would be?

Jasper saw the ax in Jim's hand and felt touched. He burst out laughing and said, "Uncle Yapp, Julian is my bodyguard. He knows how to fight. He's great."

At that moment, Jim did not know what to say.

Aside from Jim, George felt as if he was watching a movie. How would a normal person in real life defeat five people at the same time?

At this moment, Julian walked over to him.

George was so scared that his entire body was shaking. Julian's emotionless eyes caused him to feel chills down his back.

"Get away from me! Don't come any closer!"

George yelled before turning around to run away.

However, the moment he turned around, he felt the back of his neck tightening. Then, he felt as if he was flying when Julian grabbed his neck and reverse slammed him in front of Jasper.

With a loud thud, he fell flat on his face.

Jim's face twitched. He was feeling pain for George as well!

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George felt as if his organs had shifted out of place. His stomach was churning, and he felt horrible.

He tried hard to get up but his entire body was limp and powerless. He lifted his head with all his might but could only see Jasper's leather shoes.

Jasper took a step forward and squatted. He bent over to look at George, patting his face.

"You had a lot of fun calling me little idiot, huh?"

George gritted his teeth tightly, but at this moment, even if he was resolute, he did not dare to speak anymore.

“You kept saying that the stakes are high in Swallow Capital. Were you having fun acting like a poser?”

George was gasping for air while enduring the pain in his chest and stomach. He opened his mouth challengingly and said, “Just kill me or hack me into pieces if you dare!”

“How stubborn.”

Jasper smiled, and his eyes went cold instantly.

“You’re just a thug of the lowest level in Swallow Capital’s society, so why are you acting like a keelie in front of me?”

A keelie was a dialect and slang in Swallow Capital, meaning an old fox or a person unfit for society.

Jasper lifted his hand to grab George’s cheek and forced his head up to look into his eyes. Jasper said insipidly, “Yes, the stakes are high in Swallow Capital, but it has nothing to do with people like you. Don’t think that just because you’ve been in Swallow Capital for a few years that you’re a big shot here.”

George was shaking all over. He did not know whether he was trembling because of anger or pain.

He felt that Jasper’s statement had crushed his dignity into pieces before slamming them on the floor to get stomped on.

George wanted so badly to have a dagger in his hand so that he could kill Jasper for making him feel this way.

“Mr. Laine, let me remove one of his arms.”

Julian had been pissed with George's arrogance for a very long time. When he saw that he was still looking at Jasper sinisterly with hatred on his face, he could not help but propose.

In Julian's heart, Jasper was his savior—someone he respected the most in his world. He would not allow anyone to insult Jasper.

He owed his life to Jasper, and he was not just saying that.

If they were in a life and death situation one day, he would be willing to take a bullet for Jasper.

When George heard this, the scenes of Julian fighting his five fighters until they were battered and bruised as if he was the God of War flashed across his brain. Then, he saw Julian walking over to him with eyes that were so icy they looked like they could kill.

George was petrified.

He had been in jail before and knew that some people really had the guts to kill.

Plus, now Julian was saying that he would cripple one of George's arms.

George did not doubt that if Jasper nodded, Julian would really do it.

His intense fear washed away all of his hatred. His eyes were now filled with terror as they shook.

"No, no! I was wrong! I was so wrong!"

George completely became a coward.

“Sir, my good sir, please don’t let him cripple me. There are security cameras all around the place. A big shot like you shouldn’t have to get into trouble with the law because of a minor character like me, right?”

When George saw Jasper’s calm and unchanged expression on his face, he quickly yelled at Jim, “Mr. Yapp, please stop him. Don’t make this into something big!”

Jim wanted so badly to spit on George’s face right now. He had seen a lot of shameless people before but he had never seen anyone as shameless as George.

However, George was right. If Julian really did something to George, then Jasper would get into trouble because they were not at the feet of the emperor.

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“Jasper, don’t act rashly,” Jim said softly.

Jasper chuckled lightly. He had not planned to do anything to George from the start.

The difference between an adult and a child was that one of them knew how to weigh the pros and cons. They would not be blinded by momentary emotions.

If he crippled George, he would feel great. However, what was going to happen next?

He would not be able to escape the consequences of his crimes.

It would be such a tremendous loss if he caused Julian to get convicted because of a minor character like George.

However, Jasper did not mind scaring him a little.

“Tell me, who’s that Mr. Combe who’s behind your back?” Jasper asked coldly.

George did not dare to hide anymore. He spilled everything as if he was spilling a bag of beans.

“Mr. Combe is the second son of the Combe family. He just came back from studying overseas. Since most of the big shots from the Combe family are involved in public relations and Mr. Combe has a celebrity girlfriend, he plans to get into the media industry.

“Mr. Combe contacted me through someone and asked me to look for a media company for him. Coincidentally, I was watching Jim during that time and knew he was looking for a media company too. As such, I contacted Easy Media following his clues. In the end, Mr. Combe was satisfied and that’s how this happened.”

Jasper’s eyes looked cold. He stood up and said to Jim, “Uncle Yapp, I think this is more complicated than we thought.”

Jim looked coldly at George who was on the floor and said, “I didn’t think that everything started because this b*stard was coming between us. I was wondering why it was such a coincidence that Mr. Combe got the news the moment I contacted Easy Media.”

Jasper peered at George who was lying on the ground and did not make a peep. He said flatly, “Get lost.”

After George heard that, it was as if he had received the greatest pardon in the world. He scrambled to get up from the floor before limping away.

On the other hand, the other five fighters helped each other up from the ground before running away too.

Julian looked at the figures of the people who were running away. There was a hint of regret in his eyes... He was still reminiscing this fondly because he did not have enough.

At a distance, George went into the car and slammed the door heavily. His racing heart finally calmed down.

After the fear went away, the bone-deep hatred started surging from within.

He turned his head and glared at Jasper who was at a distance away with rancor in his eyes. He despised him so much that he almost crushed his own teeth.

“B*stard, I’ve been mingling in Swallow Capital for so many years and I’ve never suffered such a huge loss before! I was even beaten up by an animal!”

At this moment, the bruised and battered fighters all got into the car as well. They were all looking at George with resentment.

“What are we doing to do now, boss?”

One of the fighters asked with his fangs baring. When he opened his mouth, it had tugged the wound on the corner of his mouth. He sucked in a deep breath from the pain.

Even though George wanted so badly to slap each and every one of them and call all of them good-for-nothings for embarrassing him, he knew he could not do that. Otherwise, his popularity among them would disappear and if that happened, who would still want to work with him?

George controlled his bad mood and took out a briefcase from the compartment of the armrest. He then took out wads of cash for them. “This is for your medical expenses. You guys should recuperate for the time being.”

The fighter who was talking before took the cash happily. When he was holding the cold hard cash in his hands, the wounds on his body did not feel so painful anymore.

Even though they had gotten the money for their medical expenses, they were still pissed. After all, they were beaten up and lost their dignity as well!

“Boss, we can’t just let this go.”

George laughed sinisterly. “Of course. I’m going to see Mr. Combe now and I’ll add more details to the story. I want to see if that little idiot can still jump around so arrogantly after this! We’re working for Mr. Combe now, and he’ll definitely step in regarding this matter. I want to see how he’ll continue being so arrogant then!”

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Jasper and Jim bade farewell downstairs of the building.

“Uncle Yapp, I still have something I need to take care of. I’ll go handle it now,” Jasper said with a smile.

Jim nodded and said, “Alright, go on then. I’ll make an appointment with the King brothers later to see if we can get them to have dinner with us tonight.”

Jasper said, “Alright, I’ll wait for your update.”

Looking at Jasper and Julian’s figures, Jim felt deeply moved. He took out his phone to call Dawson.

“Dawson, you’ve got yourself a piece of treasure. Your son-in-law is really something else!”

...

After Jasper bade farewell to Jim, he went back to Sena immediately. Coincidentally, he spotted Hudson and Jack walking out after finishing a meeting. When he saw their glum faces, he knew something was wrong.

“What’s wrong?” Jasper asked.

“The people in Sena all have different minds! Some of them are willing to side with us while the others are gearing more toward Dane. Now, there are two sides,” Jack said with a complicated look on his face.

“It’s simple. Punish one of them as an example to others. If it doesn’t work, tell them to get lost.”

Jasper made a straightforward decision and smiled at Jack. He said, “We just got here, and we can’t keep pandering to them. I didn’t give you this power for no good reason. You should use it whenever you see fit.

“Remember, we can’t be overly cautious when we’re doing things. Especially you. You promised to manage Sena properly for me! I’m waiting to see the results!”

“Roger!”

Jack nodded. He could not help but feel impressed with Jasper’s decisiveness. The biggest taboo of a company was to have big changes. If they did not execute it perfectly, it would affect the company greatly and cause them huge losses.

Hudson was standing at one side where he was looking at Jasper with admiration too. He felt that the tactics of this 20-something young man were so scary sometimes!

However, he had to admit that Jasper had a huge plan in mind.

While the three of them were talking, Jasper's phone rang.

It was from Jim. Jasper quickly answered the call.

"Uncle Yapp, are there any updates from Easy Media?"

Jim answered, "I just contacted them but we can only talk to them face to face depending on the situation. It seems that they don't really want to talk to us! What do you think?"

Jasper narrowed his eyes and said, "Uncle Yapp, why do you think they don't want to talk to us?"

Jim said without hesitating, "Perhaps something is going on or perhaps they have another arrangement... Wait, are you saying that they might be in contact with Mr. Combe?"

Jasper said unenthusiastically, "Yeah. The Combes were already planning to come between us anyway. Plus, George, the man who showed up today, is not a good person. He might have talked bad about us after we left. Or perhaps, the Combes are the local influencers of Swallow Capital. If we and the Combes both want to buy their company at the same time, who do you think they'll decline?"

Jim was breathing urgently now. He said in a low voice, "It's going to be very troublesome if that's the case."

At this moment, Jasper was the one who was comforting Jim instead. He laughed and said, "Uncle Yapp, don't worry. As long as there isn't a deal, we still have a chance."

Jim said in a low voice, "The King brothers are bad cookies too. I'm afraid they might raise the price in this situation."

“You get business from a discussion. If one raises their price, the other will make a bargain by slicing it down the middle. It’s not something unusual.”

Jim chortled and said, “Jasper, I can’t view you as a young man in his 20s sometimes. You act more like someone around Dawson and my age. You’re too calm and unflustered.”

“Because I know getting angry and anxious won’t help with our case now.”

After chatting for a while, Jasper hung up the phone.

Jasper rubbed the bridge of his nose. It did not matter if the King brothers were talking with Mr. Combe tonight or what they had already talked about. Jasper could not do anything about it now.

Jasper lifted his head to look at the two men in front of him. He was troubled when he thought about the matter with Easy Media. He said, “Hudson, Jack, you guys continue talking. I’ll go back to the hotel to rest.”

“Alright, we’ll settle this as soon as we can.”

After Jasper went back to the hotel, he took a shower and felt much more refreshed. He sat in the hotel alone to think about the purchase.

Jasper did not have many ideas about the purchase of Easy Media for now.

Jasper had no idea what their biggest competitor, Mr. Combe, was planning to do as well.

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As such, he needed to prepare and think about a lot of things.

Easy Media was definitely the most reputable entertainment company. If they could buy it, it would be very helpful to the entertainment group section of Jasper's plan.

This was why Jasper had never considered buying another company.

Although the current Easy Media was far less powerful than in his previous life before he was reborn, it already had a rudimentary form and held a lot of contracts with celebrities who would be popular in the next two years.

This alone was a huge hidden wealth.

If he considered another company, Jasper would need to spend ten times or even 100 times more effort and capital in order to achieve what Easy Media had now.

Therefore, Jasper had made plans. If Easy Media was really not available, he would directly expand Advent Entertainment Group in Harbor City and use Harbor City as a springboard to directly enter the market in Mainland.

However, he still needed to think and carefully weigh his decision regarding this. Otherwise, if he made a mistake, he would lose everything.

...

The core business district was near Workers' Stadium in Swallow Capital. It had always been a paradise for the hedonistic sons of Swallow Capital's rich families to eat, drink and have fun.

There was a small shop where one could drink for 100 Somer Dollars, and there was also a high-end club with bottles of wine selling for 100,000 Somer Dollars each.

Here, the luxury cars and beautiful women were the most indispensable, as well as sons from rich families.

In a high-end clubhouse without a sign, a group of men and women were huddled together. They were chatting in the innermost private room.

After the door of the private room was pushed open, a sturdy and impressive-looking young man in a white suit walked in.

He looked very handsome. The only flaw was his hooked nose that destroyed his face with a sunny disposition, making him look sinister and vicious.

“Mr. Combe.”

“Mr. Combe.”

The moment he came in, everyone in the room greeted him respectfully.

Hector Combe nodded and took out a cigarette to dangle it between his lips. A nearby young man quickly took out his lighter to light up the cigarette for him.

“Mr. Combe, that middleman named George has been waiting for you for quite some time now. He said he has something important to tell you.”

Hector lifted his eyebrow and said nonchalantly, “I asked him to do something and he’s taking his sweet time, yet he’s always running to me to take the credit for other people’s achievements. Let him come in.”

After a while, George walked in from outside. He needed to nod, bend down, and smile whenever he saw someone.

When George saw Hector, he bent down and walked at a faster pace. He got in front of Hector and called out respectfully, "Hello, Mr. Combe."

Hector glanced at George and said, "You have a wound on your face. Did you get into a fight?"

George's sadness came pouring out of him as he said with a bitter expression, "Mr. Combe, you have to stand up for me."

Hector said in annoyance, "What do I have to do with you getting beaten up? What do you mean by standing up for you?"

George said, "You have no idea. I ran into Jim Yapp today and coincidentally, the person who entrusted Jim to steal Easy Media from you was there too.

"He's a young man who looks like he's in his 20s. He even had a bodyguard with him. He was insufferably arrogant like he was above the law and natural morality."

George tried to make himself look pitiful and kept adding in details as he said, "I ran into them so I planned to scout out some information. However, after a while, that person named Jasper Laine started yelling at me.

"I said I'm working for Mr. Combe but I guess it would've been better if I didn't tell him because after I said your name, Jasper became even more arrogant. He said you should go talk to him yourself if you have the balls. He said you have such an exaggerated opinion of your ability for fighting over Easy Media with him."

George carefully glanced at Hector's face and realized that the man was without an expression. As such, he continued, "How would I be able to endure listening to that? So, I fought back, but before I could even say anything, he asked his bodyguard to hit me until I became like this."

After telling the story with some additional details, George tried hard to make himself appear as a poor man who got beaten up just because he stood up for Hector.

After he said that, Hector laughed.

He leaned against the sofa, and his fingers were fiddling with the cigarette. He said to George, "Are you done?"

George nodded and answered vigilantly, "I'm done."

Hector then violently slapped George across the face and roared, "You're a f*cking piece of trash!"

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His sudden roar that came without a warning sign shocked everyone in the room. Everyone turned around to look at them bewilderedly. Then, they looked at George who was holding his face with pain and grievance with pity in their eyes. They shook their heads at the same time.

Mr. Combe was hot-tempered and arrogant. This was not the first time he hit someone without any warning signs.

"You said you're working for me and those people named Jasper and Jim hit you. It means they're indirectly slapping me across the face! And you just came back after getting f*cking beaten up? How do you even have the guts to come back?"

Hector grabbed George's collar with sinister eyes.

"Don't you know how to get a few people to kill him?"

George trembled as he looked into Hector's icy gaze. He said with a shaky voice, "Mr. Combe, I-I was wrong."

"You good-for-nothing!"

Hector pushed George away, and his eyes were twinkling with an icy glint.

"Jasper Laine? I've never heard about this rat before and he dares to fight over this with me? How ballsy."

After he said that, Hector took out his phone to make a call with a gloomy look on his face.

After a while, the call went through.

"Mr. Combe, is there anything I can help you with?" Jim's neither obsequious nor supercilious voice sounded from the other end.

Hector smiled sinisterly and said coldly, "I don't care who you or that son of a b*tch Jasper are, but if you want to fight against me in Swallow Capital, you need to know your place!"

"Today, I'm having dinner with Easy Media. Don't you guys want to buy Easy Media as well? Alright, don't say that I'm not giving that son of a b*tch a chance. Ask him to show up if he has the guts!"

"In Swallow Capital, nobody dares to fight me for what I want. Tell that son of a b*tch what I said. If he has the balls to show up tonight, I'll respect him for being an honorable man before I kill him. If he doesn't have the guts to do so, then I'll kill him directly!"

On the other end of the phone, Jim had a complicated look on his face after he hung up.

How would he not know that this was a banquet set up to attack a guest?

However, this was the chance for them to meet the King brothers. He had to tell Jasper no matter if he was going or not.

As such, he immediately called Jasper and told him about Mr. Combe's phone call.

"Jasper, this is a trap."

While listening to Jim talking on the phone, Jasper stood in his hotel room while facing the bustling night view of Swallow Capital. His face looked as calm as water.

"I'll go!"

Jasper only said these two words.

Jim's words were all stuck in his throat after Jasper's two words. He could not speak after a very long time.

"Jasper, have you thought about this? This is a dinner with a dangerous agenda, not an ordinary dinner. It's obvious that Hector wants to do something bad to you tonight. I'm afraid it's going to be troublesome... Don't be impulsive because you're being blinded by anger." Jim was still trying to talk him out of this.

Jasper said flatly, "Uncle Yapp, I'm not going because of my so-called dignity, but if we don't go tonight because of this, the King brothers might think we've given up. Hector would then be able to get Easy Media without lifting a finger."

Jim heard that and sighed. He said, "Jasper, to be honest, I suggest that you look for another company. You won't be able to buy Easy Media so easily. Hector is... not that easily defeated."

Jasper chuckled and said, "Uncle Yapp, give me the address. I'll go alone."

Jim said angrily after he heard that, "What are you talking about? Do you think I'm afraid of death?"

"Uncle Yapp, this is my business. I don't need to involve you in this for no good reason," Jasper said.

Jim said in a deep voice, "Enough. I've already been involved right from the start. How will I be able to face other people if I run away the moment we're faced with danger? Wait for me at the hotel. I'll drive over and pick you up."

After Jim said that, he hung up the phone.

Half an hour later, Jasper got into Jim's Audi.

After getting into this high-end Audi, Jasper laughed and said, "Uncle Yapp, I guess you made quite a lot of money these few years."

"Are you mocking me?" Jim glared unhappily at Jasper and said, "Compared to you and Dawson, what my consultant agency makes is just pocket money to you two."

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Jasper smiled and said, "We're making money, but Uncle Yapp, you're making connections. You may not be able to do a lot of things with money, but it's easy with connections."

Jim smiled and said, "Do you know about consultant agencies?"

Jasper said after shrugging, "I know a little bit."

The two chatted, and after about an hour, they arrived at the place where Hector and the King brothers had arranged to have dinner together.

"The Prince Mansion?"

This place was not a star-rated hotel, nor a well-known restaurant, but a private guild with the characteristics of Swallow Capital.

Looking at the tall vermilion gate in front of him and the large stone lions sitting on both sides of the door, for the first time ever, Jasper felt the difference between the life of the upper-class in Swallow Capital and other cities.

If one were to say that the gentries in Harbor City were mostly known for indulging in a life of modern luxury, then at Swallow Capital, there was a solid foundation here.

At least, modern metropolises such as Harbor City and Waterhoof City certainly did not have places like Prince Mansion.

"At the end of the 16th century, this was the old house of a Scandinavian prince. Hagen was his last name. It was originally a tourist attraction but was later bought by a businessman with an extensive background to build a private guild."

Jim was very familiar with this place, and his tone sounded inexplicably complicated. "In Swallow Capital, it's not uncommon to be able to go to a hotel to eat a meal worth tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands. However, it's true power when one can enter such a place.

"The chef here worked in the kitchen of a palace before and he's not open to the public. Only naturalized members can come in. The annual fee for a membership card in this place is one million Somer Dollars, and yet it's still an ordinary card of the lowest level."

Jasper asked, "Do you fit the requirements to be a member here?"

Jim quickly chuckled and said, "You think too highly of me. How would I fit the requirements? If you want to join as a member in this place, one million is just a base fee. The most important thing is that you need to have an invitation from a member who's in the middle level or above before you can enter.

"With your father-in-law's assets, he only can barely join as the lowest ranking member if he's not in another city but in Swallow Capital.

"You have to know that if you're in another city and you have a billion Somer Dollars' worth of assets, it's a different concept from if you're in Swallow Capital. A billionaire in Swallow Capital has resources and connections that people in other cities can't match."

Jasper understood.

In his previous life, there were a lot of rumors about the various clubs and clubhouses for the rich and powerful among the upper-class in the country.

For example, there was Club Tarzan in the business circle. Wayne, Hudson, and Warwick's chairman at that time were all members.

Club Gelb was another supercilious club. Most of their members were from Swallow Capital Residence. It could be said that it was where the bigwigs gathered.

Jasper remembered that Henry was a top diamond member in Club Gelb and held a very high rank.

After they stepped into the door, the place was decorated like a classic courtyard of a mansion in Swallow Capital. A staff member came up to them to politely ask if they had a reservation or a member card.

Jim mentioned Hector's name and said they were invited here.

The staff then led the two of them into the inner courtyard.

The winding corridor was circuitous, leading them to a secluded and quiet place.

Aside from Prince Mansion's historical and cultural value, its floor area in the main district of Swallow Capital was enough to give it an astronomical price.

If one could make this place a private guild, then one could only imagine how powerful the boss behind it was.

Jasper and Jim pushed the door open and walked in after they were brought to a small separated courtyard.

The courtyard was deep.

In this extravagant courtyard, the scenery was refined and there was also meticulously decorated greenery. Under the sky roof in the middle, there was an interesting and appealing round table.

Hector was sitting in the main seat, and on his left, there were two middle-aged men in their 40s who looked kind of similar.

On his right, it was George whom they had met before. He was carefully sitting on the stool with just half of his buttocks as he laughed along with Hector.

Jasper's eyes scanned past the King brothers and George before finally landing on Hector.

On the other hand, Hector was also looking at him up and down.

When George saw Jasper, his eyes went red. He suppressed his anger and hatred to say to Hector, "Mr. Combe, that's Jasper."

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Hector glared coldly at George and said, "I'm not blind."

George nodded and bowed to agree with him. Then, he turned around to look at Jasper with rancor in his eyes.

George laughed malevolently and said to Jasper, "I thought you wouldn't have the balls to come. Not bad, you're pretty ballsy."

Jasper said calmly, "I'm doing legal business in the capital and didn't do anything to violate the law, so why would I be afraid to go anywhere?"

Jasper peered at Hector who was sitting at one side. He knew he was the young master of the Combes. He chuckled lightly at George, saying, "I said that you're a hired thug and you didn't admit it. From the looks of it now, you have no choice but to admit it"

"You!"

George's face was flushed red, but he did not dare to do anything impulsive. He quickly turned around to look at Hector. "Mr. Combe, it's this guy. Not only is he disregarding you, but he even wants to steal Easy Media from you!"

After he said that, George looked at Jasper with a pleased look on his face because he knew that after this, Hector might crush Jasper under his foot.

What did it matter if Jasper had the strength? Mr. Combe was the local young master of Swallow Capital. He could crush Jasper under his foot at any minute.

After Hector heard this, he scoffed. He looked at Jasper and said, "Since you know he's my hired thug, then you should also know you need to see who the

dog's owner is before you hit it. I don't care that you beat George up, but you still dared to beat him up even after he said my name. That means you're disrespecting me."

Hector picked up a wet tissue to wipe his hands. His eyes looked sinister as he said gloomily, "And anyone who disrespects me in Swallow Capital will pay a terrible price."

Hector's arrogance and audacious character caused Jim and the King brothers who were silent the entire time to have subtle changes in their expressions.

Jasper was the only one looking nonchalant.

"Of course, I won't bite back at a mad dog that wants to bite me. Instead, I'll kick a few of its teeth away. As for how the owner feels? You're the one who didn't tie him up properly so I just kicked him."

"F*cking bullsh*t!"

George was livid. He stood up suddenly and pointed at Jasper before roaring, "Who do you think you are? You keep repeating the word mad dog. Who are you calling a mad dog?"

"The one with the biggest reaction," Jasper said insipidly.

George felt his breathing become hitched as he stared fixedly at Jasper. He chuckled coldly and said, "You're still so arrogant now that you're here. You're really heedless of consequences!"

"Do you know where this is? Do you know that people like you will never be able to eat here if it isn't for Mr. Combe?"

"Do you know how big of a disparity you have with Mr. Combe?"

“You’re just a person with limited vision. Don’t think you’re at the top of the world just because you have some coins. There are more people better than you in this world. There are no disadvantages to going out to see the world to gain more experience.”

George had a pleased look on his malevolent face. He displayed a look as if he was towering above everyone while he looked askance at Jasper.

“Mr. Combe was right. You’re just an idiot. Mr. Combe is the one who’s so generous in giving you a chance to see him. If it were up to me, I’d just crush you to death with a flick of my wrist. Do you even think you’re worthy of speaking to Mr. Combe?”

Hector had a satisfied look on his face while he listened to what George said.

Why did he need a hired thug like George? It was to speak on behalf of him when he was in situations where he was unable to.

It was obvious that he felt amazing after George kept sucking up to him.

Jasper sighed and said, “It’s rare to see someone feeling so superior as a dog.”

George was pleased, but in the next second, his expression froze. The changes in his expression looked very interesting.

“You little b*stard, what did you say?!”

George’s face looked so malevolent it was scary. He wanted so badly to swallow Jasper whole.

“Did you not hear Jasper calling you a dog?”

Jim smirked and said, “As someone in the same industry as you, this is the first time you’re making me feel so f*cking embarrassed to be in this industry. Look at

your spineless self. You want so badly to lie on the floor and lick Hector's shoes clean, right?"

What Jim said almost caused George's lungs to explode from anger. He looked at Jim with bitter resentment and roared wildly, "What are you so pleased about? Is it your turn to speak?"

"Enough."

Hector said insipidly.

He looked at Jasper and Jim with an astonished look in his eyes. He said, "Don't ask for a mile when we've already given you an inch. This is Swallow Capital, do you understand?"

"Um, Mr. Combe, Mr. Laine, since we're here to talk business, why don't we get into the topic?"

One of the King brothers, Leo King, said awkwardly to help to resolve the dispute.

To be honest, he really did not want to get between them. At this moment, he was secretly feeling remorseful for waiting for a better offer.

Life at the Top Chapter 295

If they knew Hector would be so demanding, then they should have just immediately sold it.

For now, it would be very difficult for him to get away from this situation.

He could not afford to offend Hector and he did not want to know who Jasper was anymore because from what he could see right now, Jasper was definitely not Hector's rival.

That was why he did not even consider getting in contact with Jasper. He even made the decision that if Hector did not cut the price down too low, he would just sell the company.

Leo was thinking this while bracing himself as he saw that the two of them were already in a state of mutual hostility.

It was none of his business if these two fought to their deaths, but since he was here, he would be undoubtedly involved in it too.

Leo could not afford to provoke these men.

Hector laughed at Leo's statement and said, "Right, we don't want word about this to go out and have people call me petty for not allowing someone to eat."

After he said that, Hector waved his hand. "Serve the food."

The servers quickly brought out all kinds of food. They all smelled, looked, and tasted great. It would be difficult for them to find such food elsewhere.

However, no one at the table had the appetite to eat.

Hector said, "I'm determined to get Easy Media so please, Mr. Kings, give me a good price."

Leo and his brother, Noah King, looked at each other. They had already thought of a price on their way here.

"500 million."

To be honest, the maximum market price for Easy Media right now was approximately 400 million.

By asking for 500 million, they were giving themselves a huge leeway.

However, Hector frowned and was dissatisfied to hear the price.

He expected to take down Easy Media with 200 million.

Even though he was one of the members of the Residence and his family was pretty powerful, when it came to money, he did not have that much.

His family would only be able to handle 200 million.

However, Hector did not care. He was clear that the King brothers were not idiots. As long as he said something, they had to sell and even if they did not want to, they would have to sell it to him all the same.

“Deal.”

When Hector was about to say something, Jasper’s one word shocked everyone at the table.

His clear and sonorous voice was filled with unquestionable certainty. Everyone looked over, their eyes all on Jasper.

Jasper looked calm and was even in the mood to enjoy some duck breast. Yes, the food cooked by a chef who previously worked in a palace was indeed amazing.

At this moment, Leo, who just proposed the price, saw Hector’s face getting darker and darker. He looked as if he was going to explode at any second, and at the same time, he looked as if he was going to start crying internally as well.

'Damn it, my asking price is obviously fake. Jasper, do you have too much money that it's starting to burn a hole in your pocket?'

Jasper was willing to spend 500 million to buy Easy Media, and of course, Leo did not have any opinions about that. However, Hector was still here and if he were to reach a deal with Jasper, this would not be a matter of 500 million.

"Mr. Laine, I..."

Jasper immediately interrupted Leo and said with a raised eyebrow, "Didn't you just say 500 million, Mr. King? I think this price is very reasonable so I can make a deal with you right now. We can sign the contract now and I can transfer the money to you immediately."

"..."

To be honest, this was the most straightforward business transaction Leo had done in his 40 years of living.

If Hector was not sitting here, he wanted so badly to hug Jasper and kiss him a few times.

However, he only wanted to stand up and run away now.

He did not dare to offend Hector.

With a loud slam, Hector slammed his fork on the table and looked at Jasper with dark eyes. He said frigidly, "Laine, are you sure you want to fight me over this?"

After slowly taking a sip of the lobster bisque, Jasper did not even raise his head before saying insipidly, "Since we're doing business, of course, there will be buying and selling. Mr. King proposed a price and I'm willing to pay it. What's the problem with that?"

“Mr. Combe, if you’re not happy, you can compete with me. Just name your price!”

Life at the Top Chapter 301

Old Master Law was an exceptionally talented big shot, while Old Master Combe was a close second.

According to their statuses and identities, Jacob did not even have the qualification to fetch Henry from the airport.

However, Jacob was an ambitious man with a meticulous mind. He had paid a pretty heavy price in exchange for a chance like this. He even brought his little brother along.

It was so that they could fight for a chance to leave a good impression of themselves in front of Henry.

After he greeted Henry, Jacob did not get a reply after a very long while. When he was about to lift his head in curiosity, he heard Henry snort coldly from his nose. "The f*ck you're looking at? I'll kill you if you look at my sister with such a perverted gaze again!"

Jacob felt his heart racing frantically. He turned around to see his brother Hector looking infatuatedly and lifelessly at Anna!

Jacob's heart almost leaped out of his chest after he saw this. He lifted his hand to slap his brother across the face.

"You disappointing moron! Do you think you can look at Miss Law as you wish? Apologize now!"

Hector had never seen such a terrifying gaze from his brother before. His face turned white from terror, and he did not have time to care about the pain on his

face anymore. He quickly lowered his head and apologized sincerely, "I-I'm sorry!"

Jacob and Hector were shaking all over. They were facing the Laws, and if they offended them, they might be done for.

Right now, Jacob regretted bringing his disappointing brother along. He wanted so badly to kick him to death at this moment.

Henry smirked. The hedonistic traits in his bones were about to take effect when he heard Anna saying indifferently, "Let's go. We've been on the plane for a few hours and I'm tired."

After Henry heard this, he pressed his lips together and he did not want to look into this matter anymore.

However, it was pretty fun looking at the two ants shaking in fear.

Right, not a lot of Mainlanders could be evildoers like Jasper.

When Henry thought about his bad experience of being tortured by Jasper until he was shaking in fear, he suddenly felt dull and insipid.

"Let's go. Let's go."

He waved his hand impatiently and led Anna to walk forward.

Behind them, Jacob and Hector both let out sighs of relief at the same time.

Jacob then turned his head to glare coldly at Hector. He said icily, "You'd better f*cking watch yourself next time!"

“I don’t care how many women you mess with out there, but you need to remember what kind of women you can’t touch. Don’t you know who Miss Anna Law is?”

“If this happens again, the family and I can’t save you!”

After Hector was done being scolded, he lowered his head deeply and said, “I won’t dare to do it again, Jacob.”

“Hurry, let’s get these two VIPs to the hotel. I heard Mr. Law is someone who loves having fun as well. Tonight, I’ll invite them to have some fun in the club.

“Think of some ways to get that Jasper person to come as well.”

After Hector said that, he was stumped for words. He asked, “Are you sure this kind of situation is suitable, Jacob?”

After a cold chuckle, Jacob pointed at Henry’s figure in front of him and said, “A big shot young master like him filters everyone before making friends. If we don’t show some of our power in Swallow Capital, do you think he’ll treat us as humans?”

“Don’t you have beef with Jasper? Good then, get him over tonight. We’ll destroy him in front of Mr. Law and at the same time, we can show him the power of the Combes.”

Hector’s eyes lit up as he lifted his thumb. He said, “Jacob, you’re the best. You’re killing two birds with one stone.”

Life at the Top Chapter 302

The Combe brothers were still mumbling when they heard Henry's impatient voice from behind them.

"Are you limping? Why are you so slow?"

The brothers responded and quickly jogged over. They were holding the Laws' suitcases and being eagerly attentive.

While following behind them, Hector was holding a big suitcase. Even though it was heavy, he was elated.

After all, this was Mr. Law's suitcase. Not everyone was allowed to carry his suitcase.

His eyes kept shifting mischievously. Hector was thinking about how he was going to humiliate Jasper tonight.

"That'll teach you a lesson for being so arrogant, you little idiot. Tonight will be the night you die!"

When Hector thought about his amazing fantasies, he let out a sinister laugh. He was so elated that he could not wait for tonight to come.

...

Jasper was in his hotel room looking at the report in his hand that Easy Media had handed over to him.

He was thinking about sending this report to Advent Entertainment Group over at Harbor City. After all, they were also in the entertainment industry, so they were experts compared to him.

Plus, as for the reorganization of Easy Media, he had to ask for advice from Advent Entertainment Group as well.

While Jasper was pondering about this, he received a call from Jim.

“Uncle Yapp, how is it? Did you get George’s company?” Jasper asked with a smile.

Jim answered, “Everything is done and I’m now reorganizing the staff. I owe you big time for this.”

Jasper got up and poured himself a cup of tea. He said, “Don’t be so courteous, Uncle Yapp. If I’m helping you, it means I’m helping myself. You have so many ways and information in Swallow Capital. Can you help me contact some headhunting companies? I need some professionals managing the entertainment company for me.”

Jim said, “No problem. I’ll contact you when I have news. However, I just got Hector’s call.”

Jasper lifted his eyebrow slightly. He had been waiting for a few days but Hector had been quiet this whole time. It did not seem like he was going to do anything but he had finally appeared now.

“He asked us to go to the Hoary Stock tonight. I know this place. It’s a small clubhouse founded by Hector and the members of the Residence. You can eat, drink, and have fun over there. It’s kind of like their base.

“So, I don’t think anything good is going to happen tonight since they’re asking us over.”

Jasper said insipidly after hearing what Jim said, "What else did he say?"

Jim smiled bitterly and said, "Indeed, I can't hide anything from you. He said if we don't show up, he'll attack my company first and then shut me out.

"People in my industry will certainly encounter some problems and we can't handle an inspection. I plan to find a few friends to see whether they'll help me muddle through this."

Jasper could understand the bitterness in Jim's words. He said, "Uncle Yapp, you don't have to find someone. I don't think your friends will offend the Combes for you. We'll just go."

Jim quickly said, "Jasper, this is different from last time. It's more dangerous now. If we go, we'll definitely suffer a loss. We can't go!"

"Uncle Yapp, we can't hide from this kind of people. The more we hide, the more they think we're scared and they'll become more intense.

"The only way to defeat them is to attack them back."

Jim was quiet for a while. He gritted his teeth and said, "Okay, I'll listen to you. Let's do it! Worst comes to worst, I'll just close down this company and go back to the province to live off your father-in-law!"

Jasper laughed and said, "I'll wait for you to come pick me up in the evening."

Around evening, Jim drove to the hotel to pick Jasper up.

This time, Jasper brought Julian who had nothing to do as well.

On the way there, Jim looked anxious.

“Uncle Yapp, how did you become friends with my father-in-law? He must have looked down on you.”

After interacting with each other these few days, the two had become close. As such, Jasper started making jokes with Jim.

Jim said unhappily, “I’m the one looking down on him! Who does he think he is to look down on me?”

“You two are completely different people. Uncle Yapp, you’re too cautious and it can be said that you’re a little timid and overly cautious. However, my father-in-law is bolder than you,” Jasper said.

Not much needed to be said about Dawson’s boldness. If not, he would not have hastily gone into investing and almost got all of his assets scammed off him.

Life at the Top Chapter 303

The fact that he was dabbling in the real estate industry was also because Jasper had given him the idea. After investigating and realizing its potential, he immediately started up a company for it.

In comparison to him, there was indeed much Jim had to learn.

Jim gave it some thought and realized that Jasper was right.

He smiled. “That’s just the kind of person he is. I can only attribute our years of tight friendship to fate. I must say that you two are very alike.”

Jasper smiled. "I'd like to think that we're more skilled at discerning. There are some things that you just can't give in. You take one step back and you'll end up taking more until you fall off the cliff when you run out of steps to take.

"No one's going to pity you right now if you're not willing to fight."

Jim fell deep in thought at that last remark and nodded in agreement. "Yeah... After meeting so many people of such influential family backgrounds in Swallow Capital all these years, I'm starting to feel a little lost as well. I'm always afraid that I'll accidentally offend someone."

"I think your profession plays a part in this too. You're a business consultant, after all. It wouldn't be good for you to offend your customers." Jasper smiled and gave Jim some kind words so that he would not feel embarrassed.

"Oh, Jasper! No wonder Dawson, that old fella, likes you so much. No one's ever been as successful as you at such a young age! I wouldn't say that your ability is any less than Dawson's back then. Yet I can't even find a tinge of an arrogant flame in you at all."

"This old fella has truly found himself a treasure this time!" Jim exclaimed enviously.

"Haha, you're too kind, Uncle Yapp. There's not much to me for me to be arrogant about, since there are definitely people much greater than me. They're just keeping an even lower profile, that's all..." Jasper stated with a slight smile.

It was not an act, for Jasper truly believed from the depths of his heart that he was just a speck of dust in the world right now. His goal was to become a worldwide conglomerate.

All he had accomplished up to this point was nothing in comparison to those conglomerates. After all, what these conglomerates controlled were the economies of multiple countries!

Those were the true big shots, and Jasper refused to live a simple and plain life now that he got to start all over again!

He had to grasp every opportunity there was so that he could make his way to even more sophisticated levels step by step!

“You’re too humble, Jasper. But it’s not a bad thing. It’ll do you youngsters no good to be so arrogant anyway...”

Jim nodded, sighing internally in admiration. He did not dare to imagine how much more sophisticated Jasper could get if he kept on going at this rate!

As they spoke, the two arrived at a luxurious-looking structure next to the Workers’ Stadium.

“We’re here, Uncle Yapp.”

The four-story building was not tall, but it did take up a large flat of land. There were three entrances and exits to the garden behind it. The mere building itself was extremely pricey.

On the door were the words ‘Hoary Stock’ and there were two servers at the door.

“The Hoary Stock is not open to the public, gentlemen. Please show your membership cards,” a server requested courteously.

Jasper glanced at Jim. There was no reason for him to have a membership card at all.

“Hector told us to come in,” Jim stepped up to speak.

The server was stunned for a moment before an eerie smile graced his features. His attitude was no longer as polite when he replied simply, “You must be Jasper

and Jim, then. You can just go inside. Mr. Combe has already informed us of your arrival.”

Jasper did not delve into the change in the server’s attitude and entered the doors.

On the other hand, Jim glared at the servers who were looking down on them before he quickly followed Jasper inside.

“Jesus, why on earth are those two even pretending to be cool? They’re already dead men walking,” murmured the server who had been glared at with his head down.

Behind them, Julian suddenly halted and turned to look at the servers indifferently. He was smiling as he walked through the doors.

The server was about to speak only to be shocked when he found that the solid bronze handle had been bent out of shape from Julian’s abnormal strength.

His complexion paled, and the server was too taken aback to speak. All he could do was watch as Julian followed Jasper and walked farther away.

Jasper entered the doors only to come to a halt just as he entered the large living room.

A stream of water suddenly fell from above without warning and splashed the area just before Jasper’s feet.

Had Jasper not stopped in time, he would have been drenched by now.

Jasper looked upward unfeelingly and saw Hector with a hand on the second-floor railing and an upturned bottle of mineral water.

Hector laughed mirthfully as he threw the bottle right before Jasper. He spoke in neither a bright nor sinister tone. “You’re in luck today. Come on up, I can’t f*cking wait for you to present your head on a silver platter!”

Life at the Top Chapter 304

Julian looked up to glare furiously at Hector as he stepped on the bottle of mineral water that bounced onto the side of Jasper’s feet.

All it would take was a word from Jasper and Julian would dash upstairs to beat Hector up.

“What’s this? You brought a dog with you today?”

Hector scoffed at Julian’s fierce glare without a care.

Jasper motioned for Julian to calm down as he walked up the stairs to the second floor. Standing before Hector, he asked while unfazed, “Is that all you’ve got?”

Hector was infuriated by Jasper’s carefree expression and smiled wretchedly. “Who are you faking this strong facade for? You won’t even get the chance to cry later when I’m done with you!”

Jim was shocked when he witnessed how Jasper was a moment away from being drenched in water and he could not help but speak, “Watch your words, Hector. Know your boundaries.”

Hector merely glanced at Jim coldly and sneered, “What are you so impatient for, old man?”

“Relax. The two, no, the three of you are going to die tonight!”

“You’re not the only one who wants me dead, get in line. Not like any of you have ever gotten your wishes fulfilled, though.” Jasper chuckled lightly.

Hector squinted and stared at Jasper with a smirk. “Don’t worry. I’ll make sure you won’t get to see tomorrow’s sunshine.”

“That’s why people say that water runs deep in Swallow Capital. Don’t think so highly of yourself just because you’ve earned a bit of money. Even the toughest and fiercest bow down to me here at Swallow Capital. How many lives do you think you have, to act so pretentiously in front of me?”

Hector smirked when he finished speaking and turned to enter the largest private room.

Jim walked over and whispered to Jasper, “I have a bad feeling about this.”

“It’s okay,” Jasper replied calmly, “I’d like to know what tricks he has up his sleeve.”

With that, Jasper then followed Hector into the private room.

It was a large private room, big enough to host a party of more than a dozen people, but there was only one young man sitting in the middle of the sofa now.

Hector walked over and leaned down to whisper to the man with whom he shared quite a few facial similarities. “He’s here, Jacob.”

Jacob looked up and saw Jasper enter the room with the other two in tow.

He smiled and walked over to stand in front of Jasper and Jim.

Jim's heart squeezed at the sight of Jacob. Of course, he knew the man. He was Hector's older brother, and three, no four times more the trouble than his younger sibling.

"Jim Yapp, is it? I've heard of your name. You've worked quite a while in Swallow Capital, haven't you?"

Jacob smiled and continued to speak, "The business you do has no reason for you to provoke me, so why are you so impatient to get yourself killed?"

At that, Jacob lifted a leg and kicked Jim's stomach without warning.

Jim shouted at the pain and curled to wrap his arms over his stomach. Agony was written all over his face.

However, Jacob showed no signs of stopping as he continued to speak coldly, "You could've lived healthily just fine, so why the hell did you have to provoke my brother?"

He raised his hand to slap Jim.

The moment he raised his hand, Jasper grabbed his wrist with a death grip.

"You're going too far!" Jasper stated.

Jacob glared at Jasper coldly and flung his hand off with a sneer. "Who do you think you are? Who are you to interrupt me?"

Jasper ignored him and helped Jim stand. The man sucked in a cold breath at the pain. He asked kindly, "Are you alright, Uncle Yapp?"

Life at the Top Chapter 305

Jim shook his head and forced a smile. "I'm fine."

"Don't worry, I'll get them back for that kick," Jasper promised.

Before Jim could speak, Hector began to snicker by the side after hearing that remark.

"On what grounds? Don't you know that tonight's the night the three of you useless pieces of sh*t die?"

Hector smiled as well and spoke arrogantly, "The Combe family isn't one trash like you can afford to provoke."

"You're Jasper Laine, right? I hear that you're rich. Who knows if your money can save you tonight or not, hmm?"

Jasper looked at Jacob calmly and asked, "This is what you brothers prepared for me tonight?"

Hector mocked, "Still so arrogant even though you're a dead man. Just kill him, Jacob. These kinds of people won't know they're screwed until it's too late."

Jacob smiled and glanced at Jasper coldly. "Don't worry, we still have another distinguished guest tonight. You three dogs will be the entertainment I provide my extinguished guests."

He raised his hand to point at Jasper. "I want you to walk out that door on your knees later."

Jacob's phone rang right after he spoke. Looking down, his expression changed and he turned to tell Hector, "Stay here and watch them. The guests are here, I'll go bring them up."

Jacob then rushed out the door.

Hector grinned maniacally as he looked at Jasper. "I've been waiting for this moment the entire day today. Just you wait, you'll know very soon that you can be as arrogant as you want in front of me, but you're just a useless piece of sh*t in comparison to our honorary guest!"

Jasper ignored Hector and helped Jim to the sofa at the sight of the other's ashen complexion. "Should I send you to the hospital first, Uncle Yapp?"

Jim shook his head. "I won't be able to walk with my joints and bones like this, but I'm fine. I can still hold on."

Jasper nodded. "Just hold on for a little longer, then. We'll decide what to do after I'm done dealing with this."

Hector guffawed. "Motherf*cker! You're moments away from death and you still don't seem to regret a thing, do you? Deal with this? I'm the one finishing you three dogs here!"

At the same time, at the entrance to the Hoary Stock Clubhouse, Jacob courteously opened the door of a Benz that had stopped outside.

"Mr. Law," Jacob greeted with a charming smile.

Henry glanced at the clubhouse disdainfully and pursed his lips. "This is it? The place you said is going to be full of fun?"

Jacob quickly replied, "I'm sure you've seen your fair share of things since you grew up in Harbor City, Mr. Law. How would I dare one-up you like that? This is just a simple reception, as a host to his guest."

Henry scoffed. “Stop pretending to sound f*cking eloquent when you aren’t. I don’t like fake b*tches. Since you were attentive with my lodgings and stay here, I’m just returning the favor by taking a look.”

“Yes, yes, of course.”

Jacob led Henry through the doors. As they walked up the stairs, he spoke in a meaningful tone, “I found a few beauties for you, Mr. Law. They’ll arrive shortly. We can wait in the private room first. I still have a few stupid f*cks to deal with, but you’re welcome to stay and watch.”

Henry squinted and glanced at Jacob. “Showing off your strength in front of me now, are you?”

Jacob’s heartbeat faltered and he immediately disagreed. “You’ve misunderstood, Mr. Law. I wouldn’t dare.”

Henry scoffed. “I’ve seen enough of this behavior, but I don’t care about it. Stupid f*cks are everywhere. I’d like to know how you plan to deal with them, though. I suppose it’s entertaining enough, let’s go.”

Jacob was elated, and he politely pushed open the private room doors while speaking in a bewitching tone, “Don’t worry, Mr. Law, I’m sure you’ll be entertained.”

However, just as the doors were pushed open, Jacob suddenly realized that Henry was rooted where he stood by the door.

Jacob looked up in confusion to see Henry wearing an expression of utter fright as he stared at Jasper in the private room.

‘Does Mr. Law recognize Jasper?’

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Henry felt his scalp grow numb. 'Why was Jasper here?'

Jasper was the one the Combe brothers were dealing with!

Henry had not jumped at the sight of Jasper, but it was a close call.

His first thought was a reflection of how there were so many coincidences in the world.

Henry wanted to speak, but he saw the look Jasper gave him.

With a gulp, Henry forced the words on the tip of his tongue down his throat.

Jasper was stunned when he saw Henry as well.

The only difference between them was that Jasper reacted quicker and gave Henry a warning glance when he realized that Henry was the aforementioned distinguished guest the brothers spoke of. He hinted to Henry not to expose their relationship.

If the distinguished guest was anyone else, then Jasper might have had to put some effort into this.

Yet luck seemed to be on his side when Henry walked in. Jasper could not help but feel... that the Heavens wanted to teach the Combe brothers a lesson tonight.

The silent communication between Henry and Jasper went unnoticed by Jacob and Hector.

“What’s wrong, Mr. Law?” Jacob asked carefully.

Henry gave Jacob the weirdest look and pointed at Jasper. “This is the person you’re dealing with?”

Jacob’s heart dropped at the question and he subconsciously nodded. “Yes.”

“Good job!”

Henry chuckled gleefully and gave Jacob a big thumbs up.

Henry meant it. He was indeed impressed by Jacob at that moment.

Of all the people to offend, he just had to choose the most unfortunate one of all. Henry glanced at Jacob, realizing that he was indeed a mere mortal. Why was he so impatient for death?

Forget everything else, but even Mitch and Zane from Harbor City had yet to take a breather after Jasper forcibly dragged them under his feet.

Either Mitch or Zane alone was more than enough to completely overpower Jacob.

In face of Henry’s praise and the large thumb in front of him, Jacob could not help but feel that something was off.

Jacob’s heart shuddered as he thought back to how Henry had stared at Jasper for a long while outside the door earlier and he asked carefully, “Do you recognize him, Mr. Law?”

Blood drained from Jacob’s face in fear. He was utterly screwed if Jasper turned out to be Henry’s friend.

It was just like selling coffins in front of Hades himself.

Henry snickered and glanced at Jasper. Seeing how the latter did not react, Henry knew that Jasper was about to start ostentatiously tricking people again.

There was no reason for him to put a damper on Jasper's fun since past tragic experiences had taught him that he would be the only one suffering in the end.

"Nope, not at all."

Henry replied with a fake smile and moved to sit on the couch loudly. Crossing his legs, he pretended not to know Jasper at all.

Jacob's heart settled back in place at Henry's actions. He internally scoffed for spooking himself. He even almost gave himself a shock.

'Exactly, who's Jasper? How could someone like him be acquainted with Mr. Law?

'One of them is a divine being, and the other is the muck of the earth!

'There's absolutely no reason for these two's paths to cross.'

With his heart settled, Jacob glanced at Jasper sinisterly and smirked. "I'll give you a chance to beg for mercy, Jasper. How about that?"

Jasper glanced at Jacob calmly and replied in an unaffected tone, "Oh? Didn't you say you were going to kill me?"

Jacob laughed aloud and gave Hector a look.

Hector snickered and walked toward the coffee table in front of Jasper, putting his leg on it. Pointing to the space between his legs, he snickered and spoke, "Crawl between my legs and my brother and I will give you the chance to beg for mercy."

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Jasper looked at Hector, his gaze calm like a lake of dead water.

“What if I don’t want to crawl?” Jasper asked instead.

Jacob scoffed. “Do I look like I’m giving you an option to choose from? Stupid!”

“Either beg for mercy today, or I’ll call someone to close yours and Jim’s company down. Jim will have his license revoked! Trust me, I can easily do all of this and more!”

Jacob spoke with an arrogant laugh, “Your relationship with Jim is great, right? His wife and child are both in Swallow Capital, and I think his son’s doing his second year in a reputable high school. I’m afraid his wife and son will only suffer if I send word out!”

Jacob leaned into Jasper as he spoke and scoffed. “By then, not only will your company suffer, but Jim’s entire family will also fall apart because of you!”

Jim’s expression shifted as he roared, “Come at me, you coward! You think threatening my kids makes you so great?”

Jacob straightened his back and spoke coldly, “Why the f*ck would I care whether I’m playing fair or not when we’ve already made it clear that I won’t go easy on you guys tonight, you dumb f*ck? What, your brain’s f*cked over too now?”

Jacob then pointed at Jasper and asked, “So, are you crawling or not?”

“If you are, then f*cking get to it. Or you can choose to walk out of here on your knees and wait for me to take revenge!”

Jacob then turned to look at Henry and spoke, "You've never seen someone crawl between another's legs, have you, Mr. Law? You'll be able to see it soon, haha."

Henry clamped his mouth shut and shrugged, neither agreeing nor disagreeing with him.

Jasper did not say anything, so Henry would continue acting.

Even so, he really wanted to grab the wine bottle on the coffee table and swing it at the back of the two idiotic Combe brothers' heads.

"I did some investigating," Jasper started to speak while looking unaffectedly at Jacob.

"You Combes have produced quite the results when it comes to promoting through word of mouth, that's why both of you work in the media industry. You have quite the amount of media companies under your name and you earn quite a bit every year."

Jacob narrowed his eyes at Jasper and scoffed. "What's the point of saying all this now? What, are you afraid? You want to give the company back? Sure, but you owe my brother 20 million worth of compensation for moral damage. Then I'll let you go."

Hector's eyes shone and he immediately agreed. "Exactly. 20 million is already taking pity on you. Give me back my company and I'll let you go once my mood gets better. Or you can say goodbye to your only son."

Jasper sighed. "It'll be much easier for me to strike back when you've got your own businesses in the media industry. Just wait, okay?"

Jasper looked up to meet Jacob and Hector's eyes, and he spoke coolly, "Or you can also use your self-righteous ways to try and defeat me. Every man for himself."

Jacob and Hector's expressions darkened, and they spoke coldly, "You really don't know when to quit, do you?!"

"You think you can fight me in Swallow Capital? On what basis? It'd be easier for me to crush you than an ant in Swallow Capital! You're ridiculous. Go back and wait for your company to close down!"

"You're the one who's actively searching for death, Jasper. Don't blame me for leaving you with a remarkable lesson. I'll have you know that your tricks and your capital is nothing more than a fart to me!

"Or do you think you have the connections to deal with me? Let me tell you, people connect in circles and trash like you will only find friends that are equally trashy. As if you'd find someone who dares to stand up against me!"

"Pfft..."

Henry spat out the water he was drinking right at Jacob's face as the other talked big of himself.

Instantly, Jacob had his face drenched.

Henry stared at Jacob with dark eyes. 'Jasper's friends are trashy? So you mean I'm trashy too?'

With Henry's personality, there was no way he would endure this.

Had Jasper not given him a look when he first entered, Henry would have ended these two brothers on the spot!

"Mr. Law, what are you..."

Jacob wiped his face. As he was arrogant and proud, this was the last thing he expected. He asked reflexively.

Before he could complete his sentence, Henry had already sent a large slap across his face.

“Mr. Law your motherf*cking foot! How dare you call me trashy, you motherf*cker? F*ck you and your entire f*cking family, b*tch!”

Henry got up spitting expletives from his mouth. His gaze was ice-cold, and one slap across Jacob’s face was hardly enough to satiate his anger. Henry raised his leg and kicked Jacob onto the floor, bringing Hector down with him.

Following that, Henry turned to look at Jasper with an innocent look on his face. “Jesus, these two f*cking idiots. I really couldn’t hold it back anymore, Jasper, I’m sorry!”

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The room fell silent and the air seemed to freeze around them.

The atmosphere of the room turned extremely weird.

It took a while before Jacob and Hector, who lay dazedly on the floor, finally realized what was going on.

At that moment, even idiots knew that Henry and Jasper were acquainted!

Not only were they acquainted, but their bond was special too.

Otherwise, Henry would never apologize to Jasper with that temperament of his.

Jacob shivered, wondering just what kind of devil he and his brother had provoked. He was someone that even had Henry minding his opinion and emotions.

“Mister... Mr. Law, what...”

Jacob covered his face and stuttered.

Before he could finish his sentence, Henry kicked him in the face again.

It was a harsh kick, one that immediately gave Jacob a nosebleed.

“I f*cking told you not to call me Mr. Law!” Henry’s gaze was filled with anger.

Plopping down on the sofa, he spoke with a sneer, “How could I possibly accept such an honorary title from brothers as awfully great as the two of you?”

“Don’t you know who he is? What a good job you did there. Not even I dare to provoke him yet the both of you act like you’re some divine entity. One calls him a piece of trash and the other calls him a stupid f*ck. How about the both of you open up your f*cking eyes and look carefully who the piece of trash and the stupid f*ck actually are here?”

Jacob and Hector stared at Jasper in shock.

‘How could it be?’

‘Just who is this person?!

‘Isn’t he just some rich businessman?’

“What a couple of stupid f*cks.” Henry scoffed. “Has it never crossed your stupid f*cking minds how he even has so much money despite his age? You think people without skills can do that?”

“You two act like you’re on top of the world just because you’re from the Residence but do you honestly think that the money you have in your pockets can compete with his? Are you telling me it’s never crossed your mind at all?”

Henry’s words had both Hector and Jacob’s heart thumping erratically in their rib cages.

‘That’s true. If he had no skills at all, then how could he have pulled out 600 million at such a young age to buy Easy Media?’

That was a point that the two brothers had neglected to think about.

Jasper smiled and spoke, “Don’t listen to his bluff. I’m just a pretentious person whose company you’re going to close down. You’re also going to screw Jim’s family over, right? What else?”

Jacob shivered and glanced at Henry secretly. The sneer on the other’s face shot his fear and unease off the roof.

“Who are you?”

Jacob suppressed his fright and anger to ask.

His dignity did not matter at that moment, for he just wanted to know who Jasper was.

Hector looked at Jasper with the same frightened and unsettled gaze.

He felt as if this ant he could so easily crush in his hands had suddenly transformed into a powerful dragon.

It was too big of a difference for anyone to bear.

“Is my identity that important?” Jasper asked plainly.

Henry pursed his lips and turned to Jasper. "Why are you wasting so much time on these two stupid f*cks? As if they'll know who the f*ck you are. They're just ignorant idiots. I say, you should just end their lives straight away and move on."

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Jacob and his brother's complexion paled. The brothers would have just laughed it off if anyone else had said so, but this was Henry Law. The man had the ability to make his words become a reality.

Jacob evaluated the current situation and flipped himself over. Ignoring the blood on his face, he bent over and bowed to Jasper, apologizing in the most sincere attitude possible. "I'm sorry. My brother and I have offended you. I apologize for our actions! Please forgive us!"

Jasper looked at Jacob calmly and smiled. "Not bad, so you do know when to be humble. Well, don't you look sincere while apologizing? I'm sure you're scolding me to hell and back internally though, aren't you?"

Jacob frantically disagreed. "No, no, I wouldn't dare. You're a man of great virtue, Young Master Laine. How would you waste your time on being calculative with minor characters like me? Let alone would I dare stay angry at you."

Laughing, Jasper replied, "I'm not a young master at all. I'm just a simple man from an ordinary family. I can't possibly compete with you people, so don't call me Young Master Laine."

"Please forgive me and my brother, Mr. Laine."

Jacob turned to look at Hector who was still dazedly lying on the ground as he spoke. Fury suddenly surged through him and he raised his hand to slap Hector across the face.

“Are you stupid? Apologize to Mr. Laine right now!”

As if he had just awoken from a dream, Hector clenched his teeth and stared at Jasper. Indignance burned in his heart.

“I’m sorry!” Hector stood next to Jacob with his head down as he apologized unwillingly.

Jasper ignored the two who were bent over in apology and instead turned to look at Jim, the man who still had not snapped out of his shock.

“I promised I’d get them back for that kick, Uncle Yapp.”

Jim took in Jasper’s smile. He would have shot up in joy had his stomach not hurt too much to stand.

In less than three minutes, the entire plot had taken a harsh turn and changed the course of decades of history.

Having made his living in Swallow Capital for so long, he knew better than anyone how the caste system pressurized people within its social circles.

While Jacob and his brother were not prominent figures among the other members of Swallow Capital Residence, they were overwhelming and bossy kings when it came to anyone else.

‘Who’s Mr. Law? This man seems to strike fear into the two brothers.

‘What’s more terrifying is Jasper. A man who this Mr. Law treats so respectfully, just who is he?’

Jim found himself unable to see through his old friend's son-in-law.

"Jasper... I..." Jim was a little scared.

"Don't worry, Uncle Yapp. They won't dare do anything to you," Jasper replied calmly.

Seeing the calm expression on Jasper's face, Jim took a deep breath to control the excitement and fright he felt.

He turned to look at the Combe brothers who both sported uneasy expressions on their faces. Resentment and infuriation bubbled instantly within Jim.

Without anyone behind his back, Jim had to bend to everyone's will because he was not strong enough to stand on his own.

'Now that I have Jasper, what more do I have to fear?'

At the thought, new hatred added to old resentments and they overwhelmed Jim, who lifted his leg to kick Jacob in the stomach.

Jacob yelled painfully at the kick and staggered backward, only for his knees to wobble before he kneeled onto the floor.

Watching Jacob grab his stomach and crouch forward before his eyes, Jim realized that he had never felt as joyful in decades.

"You had fun when you kicked me, didn't you?!" With a wretched expression, Jim went over to deliver two more kicks.

Hector's complexion paled sickeningly as he watched how Jacob yelled in pain yet still refused to fight back. He turned his head and made way for the door.

However, Julian was standing by the door the moment he turned around, like a statue of a mythical God.

The strength was zapped from Hector's legs and the man fell on his knees with a thud before Jasper. "I'm sorry, Brother, please don't hit me... I'm sorry. It's my fault for being so blind, damn my stupid f*cking eyes. Please, forgive me!"

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Jasper crossed his legs and looked at Hector, his expression unfazed while the other continued to beg him for mercy.

Beside him, Henry opened a bottle of brandy and poured Jasper a glass.

The sight made Hector shudder.

Within their circle of trust fund babies, one did not pour alcohol for just any other person.

Henry's actions were a statement that Jasper held a higher position than he did.

Jasper, however, did not think much of it. If anything, Jasper only looked at the glass in distaste.

"I don't drink brandy."

Jasper would occasionally sip on red and white wine, but he preferred to keep a respectful distance from foreign alcohol.

Henry pursed his lips. "This bottle costs 160,000. I can't even afford this normally."

Jasper smiled. "I didn't know that there's alcohol even Mr. Law can't afford."

Henry's expression darkened. "You know very well how my old man likes to control my allowances. Not to mention that my sister refuses to help me financially either. I'm her brother!

"On the topic of alcohol, my old man has two crates of 30-year-old whiskeys from his boss when he came to Swallow Capital 30 years ago. There's no way he'd let me drink it just like that, but that's what we had when you came over for dinner those two times.

"I'm sure my old man will say yes if you remind him of it the next time you come over."

Henry's eyes shone as he schemed with Jasper, plotting how he could get his hands on his father's alcohol.

He had no idea that their exchange was causing shivers to run up Jacob, Hector, and Jim's backs.

'This old man Henry is speaking of.

'It has to be Zachary Law, the man of the Law family.'

Henry's words had given them information that would stun the entire circle of trust fund babies in Swallow City.

Not only was Jasper and Henry close, but the former was someone who could easily walk in and out of their house!

'The Law family had invited Jasper over to dinner twice!

'What does that mean, you may ask?

'That means that Jasper is more than just Henry's friend. Jasper is friends with the Law family!

'This is a completely different concept!'

Jasper's identity and status had instantly and infinitely shot up.

No one in their generation could enter the Law family's house as they pleased, or was even considered a family friend of the Laws.

Jacob and the other two's emotions were still in havoc when Henry spoke again.

"My sister came to Swallow City too. She's resting in her hotel room now. All she does every day is rush me to wrap my business up so I can bring her over to you and give you a surprise. How about you come back with me later? We'll give her a surprise this time."

" ... "

" ... "

" ... "

Jim, Jacob, and Hector all looked at Jasper with strange and complicated gazes. They finally understood who Jasper was.

He was the Law family's son-in-law!

Now everything made sense.

"She's here too?" Jasper exclaimed in shock. "Alright, let's wrap this up then."

With that, Jasper stood up and walked over to Jacob and Hector. The two's faces were drained of color.

“To be absolutely honest, I’m just a mere businessman. The main reason why I don’t want to come in contact with members of the Residence is because of how troublesome it is.”

Jasper’s words were met with weird expressions on the brothers, but the two had nothing to say.

“But trouble just like to look for me when I refuse to look for it. Say, for example, the two of you.

“Not that I’ll be afraid when trouble comes knocking at my door. Just because I don’t actively look for trouble doesn’t mean I’m afraid of it. That’s my motto.”

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At that, Jacob forced himself to speak, “Mister... Mr. Laine, this is indeed my and my brother’s fault. Please forgive us this one time. I promise that we won’t trouble you again.”

Jasper smiled.

“I believe you.”

Jasper’s words had Jacob and his brother breathing a large sigh of relief.

“That everything you say right now is the truth, but I can’t be certain that one day you won’t think back to the humiliation you felt tonight and come up with a plan to trouble me. I told you, didn’t I? I don’t like trouble.”

Jasper’s tone was getting progressively harsher.

Jacob wiped the blood from his face and begged again, “Please, Mr. Laine. I promise that we won’t trouble you again.”

“If I tell you to leave the media and entertainment industry, will you?” Jasper asked.

Jacob’s expression changed.

The industry was the Combe family’s main source of income. He earned tens of millions of profit annually from the few companies under his name.

This was not a question of whether he was willing to or not since it interfered with his family’s roots. He did not have the right to decide.

“Seems like you won’t.”

Jasper took in Jacob’s expression and stated faintly.

“Since you’re unwilling to leave on your own, I’ll just have to kick you out myself.”

Seeing Jasper’s firm attitude, Hector opened his mouth to protest by the side,
“You’re going too far, Jasper!”

Hector did not hold back. ‘So what if Jasper is formidable? He’s still an outsider and I refuse to believe that the Law family will sever ties with us just because of him.’

They would apologize if that was what he wanted, but there was no way the Combe brothers would agree when told to cut a source of their family’s fortune.

“I’m going too far?”

Jasper looked at Hector intriguingly and replied in an unaffected tone, “Out of everyone here, you’re the last person who has the right to tell me that I’ve gone too far.”

Jacob held Hector back before his brother could refute and turned to look at Jasper. “We’ll apologize if that’s what you want, but I cannot agree if you want us to exit the media and entertainment market.

“Leave the Combe family some dignity, Mr. Laine. Let’s just end this here before we pass the point of reconciliation. It’ll do no good to either of us.”

“Good, you’re alacritous. I like talking to alacritous people.” Jasper chuckled and pulled out his phone.

The first call he made was to Easy Media’s general manager.

“There’ll be a meeting at the conference room tomorrow morning at eight o’clock and I want all department deputy managers and above in attendance. It’ll be a video call with Harbor City’s Advent Entertainment Group, previously known as Gladness Movies. Contact the technical department in advance so they can set things up.”

With that, Jasper then made the second phone call without even a glance at the ugly expressions the Combe brothers sported.

“Ryder, it’s me, Jasper. There’ll be a video conference at 8 a.m. tomorrow with Mainland’s Easy Media that I’ve already bought. The meeting will discuss mainly the partnership between the two media companies to develop the entertainment industry in Mainland as well as canceling the three media companies in Swallow Capital.

Jacob looked at Jasper in utter shock.

That moment, he finally knew that Jasper was the hidden owner behind Harbor City’s Gladness Movies!

Harbor City’s entertainment industry was more than ten times more developed than Mainland, and Gladness Movies was one of the top four companies in Harbor City. Naturally, the fact had Jacob stricken.

While the three companies under Jacob’s name did require his family’s resources to develop the way it had today, to compare it to Gladness Movies would be comparing a village community to an urban group.

Incomparable.

That was not all, for Jasper then turned to ask Henry.

“More than half of Mainland’s media companies are in partnership with those in Harbor City, hoping to exchange a spot in the market with resources. Could you help me send the word when you return to Harbor City?”

Henry chuckled and replied, "Sure, their companies in Harbor City will definitely be at an impasse. But I don't think you need my help though, just having that Ryder dude of yours send word on your behalf should be good enough. Your name hits stronger than mine when it comes to the big shots in Harbor City."

Jasper laughed and turned his wrist to show the back of his hand. "Alright then. We're done here, let's go."

Henry got up and followed Jasper out. Jim quickly followed after as well.

Just as Jasper got to the door, he heard Jacob roar at him from behind.

"Do you really want to go that far, Jasper?! You won't get anything out of cornering the Combe family!"

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Jasper pulled the door open by its handle and turned to glare at Jacob and Hector with a wretched and fierce gaze.

"F*cking childish."

Then he turned and left.

The luxurious private room was suddenly empty, leaving Hector and Jacob to stand embarrassingly alone inside.

Hector glanced at Jacob's bloodied and pitiful face. He handed a few pieces of tissue to his brother and whispered, "Here, Jacob. Wipe the blood off your face first. Should we go to the hospital?"

Jacob could feel his face and body burning with pain.

“Motherf*cker...” Jacob wiped the blood off, his eyes flaring red with anger.

“And Jim f*cking riding on their coattails!” Thinking about how more than half of his injuries were caused by Jim, Jacob wanted nothing more than to drag Jim back and cut him to death.

“F*cking hell, Jim’s nothing more than a piece of trash! Hitting and kicking you just because Jasper and Henry were here, he must have a f*cking death wish!” Hector clenched his teeth and spoke.

Indignation flared within him, and Jacob spat out the words resentfully, “Jim’s just a nobody, we can deal with him however we want. The problem here is Jasper. There’s too much about him that we don’t know about. I didn’t expect him to be so strong!”

Fear flashed through Hector’s eyes. “What do we do now, Jacob? Jasper didn’t look like he plans to let us go at all... Not to mention that he still has Henry supporting him.”

“Let’s go home first. We’ll discuss this with Dad,” Jacob clenched his teeth and spoke.

Hector shuddered and replied with fear, “Dad’s going to kill me when he finds out.”

Jacob glared at Hector and growled. “We would never have gotten to this point had you not provoked the wrong people outside, you useless piece of trash!

“You heard the call Jasper made just now, didn’t you? Harbor City’s Gladness Entertainment Movies is his too. We have nothing to fear when it comes to Easy Media, but how long can my companies hold on if his company from Harbor City steps foot here?

“Does this look like a problem either one of us can deal with? I’d rather we confess now than confess when we’ve gone beyond the point of saving. Go home with me now!”

...

“Are you sure you don’t need to go to the hospital, Uncle Yapp? It’s better to let a doctor take a look.”

Jasper asked Jim kindly after descending the stairs in the clubhouse.

Jim shook his head and smiled. “It’s just a small injury. I’ll be fine after a bit of rest.”

Jasper nodded. “Alright then. I still have other things to do, so I’ll have Julian send you back.”

Jim hummed in acknowledgment and glanced at Henry not too far away carefully. “Jasper, about you and the Law family...”

Despite the truth written before his eyes, Jim still could not believe that Jasper was so close to the Law family.

Especially when it came to Jasper’s attitude. Jim could tell that they were more than just friends.

It was very unusual for the son of such a prominent family to treat Jasper with not an ounce of temperament but instead with respect and slight fear.

Jasper smiled and replied, “I spent some time in Harbor City and worked with the Law family before. It’s something Dawson knows about.”

Jim nodded in understanding and reminded, “Be careful then.”

Jasper gave him a small smile. "I know my limits."

Jim still wanted to ask Jasper what his relationship with the Law family's daughter was, but he sighed and swallowed his words back when he saw that Jasper was already walking toward Henry.

Despite without the qualifications to be a part of such a high social class, Jim had made a living in Swallow Capital for so many years now that he knew relationships of husband and wife were mere lies to feed the common folk.

All those truly with power and authority were surrounded by women.

Especially when it came to members of the Residence. If they came from a wealthy family, women were something they did not lack.

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Especially rich daughters who were flirty and had family backgrounds prominent enough to scare people to death.

For a young and rich man like Jasper who was skilled and mature in the ways he acted and dealt with issues, he was a promising talent worth the investment of these rich daughters.

Still, Jasper's love life was not something an outsider like Jim could give his two cents on.

Getting into the car with Henry, Jasper turned to ask him, "Why did you come to Swallow Capital?"

Henry did not hide it from him and instead leaned to chuckle by Jasper's ear. "We've got a big thing lined up this time. You know how Swallow Capital was approved to host the Olympics?"

Jasper nodded. There was no way he would not know about something when the entire country was celebrating it.

However... Jasper suddenly widened his eyes.

The Law family did more than real estate, for they also dabbled in the sports industry. The Law family had been the one to take on Swallow Capital's Olympic Village project in the past life.

It was a large project that cost 30 billion!

What mattered the most was not the size of this project, but how much one could potentially earn from it.

It was a national-level project and countless people had their eyes on it, probably everyone in the entire country did too.

The prestige and brand effect of its completion was enough to urge countless real estate businessmen to fight for it even at the cost of making a loss.

Now that he thought about it, after Swallow Capital was approved to host, there were only less than eight years before the Olympics.

It was indeed time to begin planning for Olympic Village.

"Olympic Village?" Jasper asked.

This time, Henry was the one whose eyes widened in shock.

“No way! All I did was tell you about Swallow Capital being approved for hosting the Olympics and you already thought of Olympic Village?!”

Henry really wanted to open Jasper’s skull to take a look at what was inside.

Before he came over, his dad Zachary had called him over to the study. It had taken him a long time before he understood what Swallow Capital being approved for hosting the Olympics had to do with his family.

Even then, he only understood because his dad had told him straight up.

Yet Jasper got the meaning in such a short amount of time. Henry could not help but suspect if his IQ was truly that low.

Jasper knew he guessed correctly by Henry’s reaction.

He smiled and replied, “Why did Uncle Law trust you with such an important project?”

Henry’s expression darkened and he replied disgruntledly, “What’s wrong with me? It’s not like I lost an arm or a leg. What’s wrong with me being the representative?”

Henry felt discouraged when he saw how Jasper looked at him with a shadow of a smile on his lips.

“Fine, fine. I’ll tell you the truth. I’m actually here to scope out the competition since the entire project is technically on paper but yet to be confirmed. When people are truly fighting for it, then Dad will come and secure the project himself.”

Jasper nodded seriously. “That makes more sense.”

“ ... ”

“It’s more than just the Olympic Village this time. There are still a few main stadium structures that we’re interested in. Like the swimming, track, and archery venues.”

Jasper shook his head. “I think you should put your focus on a few projects that you’re certain about. The entire Olympic stadium will be an immense project as a whole and there’s no way one person can finish the entire cake. You’d die from planteration, you know?”

Henry’s eyes widened in horrification when he looked at Jasper. “That’s literally what my dad said! How on earth do you do that?!”

Life at the Top Chapter 314

Jasper merely smiled at Henry’s shock and asked, “Do you think the Law family is the only one with their eyes on this project?”

Henry replied subconsciously, “Of course not. I already heard from some other families that are just as strong as the Law family.”

“Exactly my point. Cake is meant to be shared with everyone, be it the Law family or other families as well. Everyone will have to discuss and compromise for it to work. You take a slice here, and I’ll take a slice there.

“But if someone decides to be greedy and wants to monopolize the entire cake, then everyone else will be without cake. Who else but him would deserve the beating, then?”

At that, Jasper turned to Henry and spoke intently, “We don’t garner hatred of the majority.”

Thoroughly impressed, Henry gave Jasper a big thumbs up. “That’s what my dad said too. I’m impressed, man. You’re good with stocks and you also understand traditional business too.”

Jasper merely smiled but remained silent.

From what he remembered of his past life, the Law family had only gotten the Olympic Village project but not any of the other venues.

The Law family even had a big issue at the end with the Olympic Village project alone.

After racking his brain, he then remembered how there was a small rumor about a mismatched distribution of profits. A lot of people were disgruntled because of it, so they started sabotaging each other. They ended up fighting so badly and involving the higher-ups that it was only resolved by the leader on top.

From how it looked now, everyone seemed to have their swords out and were ready to fight before it officially began. Things seemed way more complicated than what he had heard in his previous life.

Now Jasper wondered how he too could get a slice of cake with the Law family’s help.

It did not matter even if the Olympic Village was out of the question, for being in charge of even a single venue was tremendous news.

A stadium was not to be underestimated, for these main stadiums had ended up being renowned locations in his past life. The Olympic Stadium, however, had fallen short of its expectations due to all sorts of reasons.

The track stadium, for example. Many might not know where one was referring to by that, but everything would change if you named it differently. Say... the Honeycomb Stadium!

The stadium for water-related competitions as well, also known as... the Aquatic Center!

Still, all of this required further planning.

...

At the Westin, Anna was very surprised and elated to see Jasper.

Yet with her character, there was no way that she would run over to hug him without care like a little girl.

Such was the case when they bade farewell at Harbor City's airport. A hug from behind was the most that she could bring herself to give.

This was the biggest difference between Anna and Wendy as well.

Perhaps it was due to their upbringing, so Anna was more introverted and could control her emotions better while Wendy was more extroverted and obvious when it came to her likes and dislikes.

"Why are you here in Swallow Capital?"

Anna pushed Henry out the door and closed it behind her with practiced ease, completely ignoring Henry's impatient knocking outside. Lifting her hand to tuck a strand of hair behind her ear, Anna asked gently.

"Would you believe me if I said I was waiting for you?" Jasper teased.

Anna pursed her lips and glared at the man's lack of self-restraint, but she did not reply.

Jasper immediately gave in at the sight of Anna's alluring and charming reaction. "I actually came here to buy Easy Media."

“I told you that I plan to buy an entertainment company in both Harbor City and Mainland, then develop both sides to enter the entertainment market together.”

Anna asked, “Did it go smoothly?”

“More or less. I’ve gotten everything done.” Jasper smiled.

Nodding, Anna suddenly pardoned. “Give me a moment.”

Then she rushed out the door.

Jasper had no idea what Anna went to do, but she had her reasons why. As such, he sat down on the sofa in the living room and waited for her to return.

Upon leaving the room, Anna went to knock on Henry’s door.

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Henry lay on the bed angrily and indignantly while bemoaning. He was Anna’s brother, and as her brother, he brought Jasper back only to be treated no more like a driver who said sister proceeded to get rid of once Jasper arrived.

Then he heard knockings on his door. Excited, Henry wondered if his sister had finally found her conscience and came to apologize as well as invite him to join their conversation.

‘Hmph!

‘Now do you remember what I’ve done for you?

'Now, you're sorry?'

He would stand his ground and make sure his sister knew that it would not be so easy to beg him for his forgiveness.

With that, Henry opened the door, his arrogance slightly slipping into his supposedly stoic facade.

"Are you here to apologize—"

"Where's the Lafite you brought over from Harbor City?" Anna fiercely cut Henry off and forced the other to swallow his words.

Henry's eyes widened as he asked warily, "What do you want? I saved that Lafite for myself!"

"Give it to me," Anna replied emotionlessly.

Henry's expression darkened. Had she no respect for her brother?!

"You wish!"

Henry decided that he would fight to the death for his dignity.

Anna smirked. "Are you sure? Dad told me to watch over you before we left. Or should I call Dad and tell him that you're spending every night drinking and have forgotten what you came here to do?"

Henry's lips paled in anger. "That's a lie and we both know it!"

"Do you think Dad's going to trust me or you?" Anna's lips quirked at a devilish angle.

Thinking about how this was the first time his dad had given him such an important job and how his sister's false accusation would easily screw him over... Henry's lips paled further.

"Screw you!"

Stuffing the bottle of wine into Anna's arms harshly, Henry's expression darkened. "You don't even drink alcohol, what do you want my Lafite for anyway?"

"Jasper likes red wine." Anna carried the Lafite in her arms and turned to leave with a chuckle.

Stunned, Henry stomped his feet angrily. "What the f*ck, you're doing it for him? Jesus Christ, at least invite me too! That's an '82 Lafite! I only have three f*cking bottles myself!"

Henry marched out of the room indignantly and followed Anna tightly.

Anna ignored him and returned to the room, waving the bottle of red wine before Jasper's eyes as if in wait for praise. "An '82 Lafite, wanna try?"

Then, she casually pointed to Henry for him to open the bottle.

Henry found the bottle opener, and he felt his heart cry silently.

'What the f*ck, how could she cheat my wine off me?!

'Then treat me like I'm her waiter!

'I'm your brother here! We're related! By blood!'

Jasper smiled. He took a look at Henry's extremely stormy expression and got a gist of what was happening. "Great, I'd like to discuss with Henry about securing the Olympic Village project."

Henry's ears perked up as he grinned.

With Jasper's help, his chance of success would now increase by more than 50%.

He wanted to ask Jasper, 'Would you like something to go with your wine, Brother-in-law? I'll buy it all for you right now...'

It must be known that Henry currently had no doubts when it came to Jasper's ability. He admired the man extremely and wished to become a man like Jasper!

"Quick, Jasper... tell me your thoughts!"

Life at the Top Chapter 316

In the hotel room, Jasper and Henry clinked their wine glasses.

“Logically speaking, with the news of being approved for hosting the Olympics still fresh, it should still be a while before the construction plans for the Olympic Village and the other stadiums begin. What else did your dad ask you to do?”

Henry nodded. “Nothing we know is certain yet, but we have to get in on it somehow. Dad says that since it’s such a huge project, it’d be better if I come over and give my stand earlier rather than too late.

“And for us who want in on it to hand a planning report to the people in charge of it all.

“The people in charge want to adopt as many ideas as possible since this is a huge stadium we’re constructing. It’s not a design a company or two can come up with from the top of their heads. Every stadium has to be the best of the best.

“That’s why every party is given the chance to hand in a report, suggesting the design, location, and even the name. Since all of this can be shown through a report. Even though the people in charge didn’t say it, everyone knows that it’ll bring great benefits if your proposal gets chosen.”

Jasper’s eyes glowed. “Do you have a proposal yet?”

Henry replied honestly, “Something this big must be designed by a professional team, but there’s only so many sophisticated designers in the country. There are too many people fighting for them and even though the Law family are close with a few of them, nothing’s been promised yet.”

Jasper nodded in understanding and added, "Tell me when you're starting. I might have a few ideas that can help."

The overall plan for the Honeycomb Stadium, the Aquatic Center, and the Olympic Village were all in his mind.

After a round of realistic suggestions, Jasper had the most suitable design proposal and the biggest grasp.

All he had to do was hand in the proposal with content from his previous life and it would definitely be chosen.

"You know about designing too?" Henry seemed suspicious.

Jasper smiled. "Not about designing, no, but I do have ideas."

Henry shrugged. He was about to speak when his phone suddenly rang.

Seeing that it was an unknown number, Henry did not want to pick it up at all. Yet every time he hung up the call, the other party would just call again.

"What do you want? It's the middle of the night here! You'd better have a good f*cking reason to be calling me so late or I'll f*cking kill you!" Henry roared into the phone angrily.

The other party must have said something, for Henry's brows arched slightly and his expression turned intrigued.

A short moment later, Henry's tone softened as he chuckled. "I wouldn't mind meeting you in person, of course not. But I have to tell you that all I'll be doing if I come, is watch. I'll still have to ask if the man himself is willing or not."

Henry then handed the phone to Jasper and mouthed.

'Combe!'

Taking the phone, Jasper greeted, "Hello, this is Jasper Laine."

The deep voice of a middle-aged man came through the speakers. Without an ounce of anger or arrogance, the man sounded very polite.

"Hello, Mr. Laine. This is Hendrik Combe, Hector and Jacob's father."

Jasper raised his brows slightly and replied in a faint tone, "How can I help you, Mr. Combe?"

Hendrik replied, "I believe that there has been a misunderstanding between you and my sons, Mr. Laine. They've told me the basic details of what happened when they returned home tonight.

"I only recently realized how arrogant and bossy my sons have been acting outside and I cannot be more remorseful about their actions. I hope that you can accept my apology, Mr. Laine, and forgive my sons for their ignorance."

Jasper gave a small smile and replied, "Hector and Jacob are both adults, Mr. Combe. It's only right that they bear responsibility for their own actions. You shouldn't trouble yourself to clean up after their messes."

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Hendrik replied sincerely, "It's my responsibility as a parent to teach my children what is right and wrong. Peace is important when it comes to us businessmen. Another friend is one less business enemy.

“You seem to be interested in developing in the media and entertainment industry, Mr. Laine. How about this. Since I do business in a similar field, we can agree on a time and talk about it in person?”

“We’re planning to hold a huge banquet in celebration of Swallow Capital being approved to host the Olympics. We could talk about this, Mr. Laine, and your company could host this banquet if you’re interested.”

Jasper gave it some thought, and Hendrik did not speak anymore. Instead, he waited quietly for Jasper’s reply.

It may seem like silence but in truth, Jasper and Hendrik were both testing each other. Basically, if Jasper responded, then it meant that he had no desire to fight the Combe family beyond the point of reconciliation.

This was the world of adults. Love and hatred did not exist, for everything was merely a transaction of benefits.

If I had more power, then you would have to give in.

If you had more power, then there was no one to blame but myself for my failure.

This was something both Jasper and Hendrik were very well aware of.

A short moment later, Jasper chuckled and replied, “I’d be an idiot not to take up your offer considering your compromise, Mr. Combe. How’s tomorrow sound?”

Hendrik smiled. “Alright then, tomorrow night it shall be. I’ll fetch both you and Mr. Law, then. What a coincidence that I’m attending a gala tomorrow night and most of the people in attendance are those within the industry. We can get to know each other better.”

Jasper gave a polite but noncommittal reply before hanging up the phone.

“What does Combe want?” Henry asked.

Jasper replied faintly, “To resolve the resentment, perhaps.”

“Perhaps?” Henry was stunned. “His attitude was great though. Didn’t he say he wants to write this whole thing off?”

Jasper laughed. “He plans to have me host the celebratory banquet for Swallow Capital hosting the Olympics in return for leaving his sons alone. It might not seem like much of a trick, but he wants to announce it at the gala tomorrow night of all time and places. Don’t you find it weird?”

Henry frowned. “Most people would beg to keep this under wraps, so why would he want to announce it at a gala? Has he gone mad?”

Anna interrupted, “From what I can tell, the host for the celebratory banquet has most likely already been decided. After all, this is a boon to both the host’s fame and fortune. Everyone’s going to be fighting for it no matter what. Especially when it’s about something as grand as Swallow Capital being approved for hosting the Olympics.

“The person who has already been decided will likely be present, and you’ll be targeted tomorrow night.”

Jasper nodded at Anna’s analysis. “That’s what I’m thinking as well.”

“What the f*ck?! The Combes’ old man is even more difficult to deal with than his stupid f*cking sons. How could he be so vile? I’m calling him and scolding the f*ck out of him.” Henry was pissed.

“Calm down.”

Jasper stopped Henry.

“This is still just a guess. Even if this is the truth, it’s still a hidden plan. Unless that is, we turn against him straight away and we meet the fight head-on.

“What Hendrik means is that they’re going to hand out the benefits, but whether we reap them or not will depend on our own ability. There’s no way he can take them back even if we don’t manage to reap them since the Combe family has already been kicked out of the equation with this incident alone.”

Henry’s expression darkened. “Isn’t this letting him off too lightly? We don’t even benefit from this at all then!”

Jasper narrowed his eyes. “The world is hardly as benevolent as we make it out to be. It’s not going to be that easy for him to shift the blame.”

Life at the Top Chapter 318

Inside a family compound in Swallow City.

Hendrik put down the phone, his expression calm.

Jacob and Hector looked at their father apprehensively. In the end, it was still Jacob who bit the bullet and asked, “Dad, did he agree?”

Hendrik answered calmly, “He agreed.”

Hector breathed a sigh of relief when he heard this. Nonetheless, he could not resist sneering, “And here I was, thinking he’s so capable. . Doesn’t this show that he’s afraid of falling out with us? We’ve given him a way out to save him any embarrassment and he’s accepted it, —at least he’s being sensible..”

Hendrik eyed Hector coldly and scolded him, "How did I ever produce such a mentally deficient son like you?"

Hector did not know where he had made a mistake with his comments. His face betrayed his dissatisfaction but he did not dare to provoke Hendrik.

"He's smart, that's what he is! You think he's afraid? If he was afraid, tonight he wouldn't have made a move to crush the several media companies that our family owns," Hendrik said angrily.

"He's already taken whatever revenge necessary on the two of you. Since that's over and done with, he isn't afraid of whatever we do next; he's confident he can handle it. However, he's conveniently taking this way out because we brought out benefits or exchange!

"Compared with giving vent to a moment of anger, it's the benefits you obtain that are the real deal. When will the two of you finally understand this? This is what people refer to as knowing when to advance or retreat, boldly and astutely! !

"Look at the two of you—what do you know? All you know how to do is to be jealous of each other and vie for favor like cats and dogs. And you still think you're such big shots?"

Jacob asked, "Then what should we do tomorrow, Dad?"

Hendrik lit a cigarette and took a long drag. He said solemnly, "I've relinquished the celebration banquet that's being held in honor of the successful bid for the Olympic Games."

Jacob's expression changed when he heard this. "Dad, this banquet is really important. Who knows how many of the big shots will be watching it? Besides, didn't we already ask the Turner family to host it? If we go back on our word, we're not going to be able to face the wrath of the Turner family."

Hendrik gave a cold laugh. “Since I have the right of approval, I have no opinion either way whether it goes to the Turner family or to Jasper. Whoever gets it—well, that will depend on how capable they are.”

Jacob pondered for a moment. The more he thought about it, the more he felt that it made sense. Pleasantly surprised, he exclaimed, “Dad, you mean you’re going to let them fight it out between themselves?”

With a mocking laugh, Hendrik scoffed, “You think it’s so easy to obtain benefits from the Combe family?”

“When the banquet begins tomorrow, both of you keep a low profile. Don’t act like big shots and don’t say anything you shouldn’t be saying. Tomorrow, we’re not the main focus—that should be the Turner family and Jasper, maybe even Henry... We’ll just be spectators.”

.....

The next day, Jasper went to Easy Media first to hold a video conference.

However, for this meeting, Jasper temporarily deferred his conquest of White Media Company. Instead, he focused on the integration of resources between the two companies.

Jasper’s initial plan was for the Mainland and Harbor City companies to develop side by side and advance together in the domestic entertainment market .

Particularly with regards to the Mainland market, he had the advantage of his memories from before his reincarnation. He was very much aware that the Mainland entertainment market would be an extremely large one in the future, worth hundreds of billions. Such a large slice of the proverbial pie needed to be prepared for in advance.

Although the film industry in Harbor City was now going into a decline, the entertainment industry consisted of more than just movies.

What was more, there were far more celebrities in Harbor City than in the Mainland, and their popularity was also significantly higher. An alliance between these two companies, therefore, would be able to achieve unheard-of results.

Furthermore, even when weakened, the strong were still strong. With the top four large film companies in Harbor City operating together, developing the Mainland market would be much easier..

Life at the Top Chapter 319

The meeting that was initially scheduled for three hours lasted the entire day.

At the end of the meeting, the two companies had drafted an outline for their development in the next two years. Besides, Advent Entertainment Group would also send out a management team to aid Jasper in seizing Easy Media in a death grip.

Although the top executives of Easy Media felt somewhat begrudging about their diminution of power, no one dared say anything as Jasper was now the big boss. They had to accept reality.

After the meeting ended, the car the White family had dispatched to pick up Jasper was already parked in front of the company.

Jasper realized there was only Henry inside upon getting in.

“Anna doesn’t like these elite gatherings. Some of her close friends back in university came to Swallow Capital for their development, so she has headed out today to meet her friends. She asked me to inform you that she won’t be going,” Henry explained.

Jasper nodded and thought for a moment. He then called Julian and told him to keep an eye on Anna and protect her.

Although no one in Swallow Capital had the guts to bully Anna, at the end of the day, this was not Harbor City. If any shallow local thugs wanted to cause Anna trouble, everything could be settled with Julian around.

Jasper and Henry arrived at a restaurant about half an hour later.

The gate looked ordinary and so was the quadrangle, but it was located in the central area of Swallow Capital. It was only a ten-minute walk from the imperial palace.

Even now in the year 2000, the housing prices here had already exceeded 100,000 dollars per square meter.

The housing in this area could not be purchased with money even if one was rich in the future. No housing property would drift into the market at all.

“When my grandfather and father came to Swallow Capital earlier on, they liked the dishes from Shallow Grass Hall the most, apart from the state banquet. It can be considered the true first-rate private kitchen.”

Henry moved closer to Jasper as he began to flaunt his insight.

“I heard that the dishes here are not priced at all and what you eat depends on the head chef’s mood. You only deposit the money to the head chef’s account after the meal. A dollar is not too small, one million is not too much. I heard that a boss once paid ten million for a six-course meal.

“However, most people who can afford to come here for a meal are not so high-profile. Usually, a few hundred thousand dollars as a token of thanks suffices.

“I reckon Hendrik has paid quite a price to organize the banquet here.”

Jasper nodded as he listened. The two of them crossed the tall door sill and entered the quadrangle.

A rubble wall came into view as soon as they entered. This kind of wall in the quadrangle was designed for a purpose. They were also called retaining walls and were used to block off the cold winds during winter and keep the space from freezing up.

After going around the rubble wall and along the glazed tile corridor that was carved with dragons and phoenixes, they walked through the twists and turns until they arrived at the inner section. The winding path led them to a quiet and secluded place. The uniqueness and ingenuity of the quadrangle were revealed for all to see.

“Find out later if there are any houses with quadrangles for sale in Swallow Capital. I can buy and keep them,” Jasper suddenly said to Henry who was beside him.

Henry looked at Jasper weirdly and asked, “The prices of houses with quadrangles in Swallow Capital are now outrageous. Even those smaller ones with poorer geographic locations have base prices of tens of millions. Are they worth it?”

Jasper smiled and said, “Don’t worry, no matter how high the prices are, it’s cheaper to buy them now. The prices in a few years will be even more outrageous and they’ll be even more highly sought after.”

Henry nodded. After going through so many things, he would rather doubt that the sun was square than Jasper’s insights in investments. He silently kept this matter in mind.

The two of them walked along the corridor and went around the rockery and pond. As soon as they arrived outside the door of a guest room, they heard the vigorous voice of a man from inside.

“Where did this sorry lot of people come from? The party will be arranged by the Turners. Whoever takes that away from me is disrespecting the Turner family. Who is so brave as to stop me from taking care of my business in Swallow Capital? Why don’t they cut their own coat according to their cloth?”

Life at the Top Chapter 320

Henry, who was outside, called out, “Hey!” He immediately pushed open the door when he heard the voice.

“Which idiot is making a ruckus here? Turner family this, Turner family that, what’s the matter? Is the Turner family so great that they can ascend to the heavens?”

Henry’s words drew everyone’s attention in the room.

Hector and Jacob were sitting obediently on the side. A middle-aged man with white hair and a steady presence whom Jasper did not recognize was sitting in the host’s seat. It seemed that the person was Hendrik.

On Hendrik’s left sat a young man in his 30s. He was dressed exquisitely, but obstinance was written all over his face. At this moment, he was staring at Henry with a flash of cold light in his gaze.

This person should be the person from the Turner family who was speaking before.

Upon seeing Henry and Jasper, Hendrik stood up with a smile and said, “Young Master Law and Mr. Laine, you’re here.”

Hendrik walked over as he spoke. He first reached out to Jasper and said, “Mr. Laine, I, Hendrik Combe, actually invited you two to the banquet today to bury the hatchet. I thank Mr. Laine profusely for showing up.”

Jasper shook hands with Hendrik and said coolly, “This banquet that you’ve so meticulously prepared is wonderful, Mr. Combe. Of course, I had to show up.”

Jasper’s words were meaningful. Hendrik smiled and pretended that he understood nothing.

“You’re very welcome, Mr. Laine, Mr. Law, both of you come here and quickly have a seat.”

As he led the two of them to have a seat, Hendrik approached Erik. He patted Erik on the shoulder affectionately and said, “This is the Turner family’s young master, Erik Turner. Everyone’s part of the same industry here. I’m sure there might even be opportunities for collaboration once we have a chat with one another.”

As soon as these words were uttered, Erik sneered and said, “Not every Tom, Dick, or Harry deserves to have a meal with me. I despise filth immensely.”

Upon hearing this, Henry immediately narrowed his eyes to reveal an ominous glint.

He had always been the one who said such comments to others. Since when was it someone else’s turn to turn the table against him?

“Aren’t you pretty f*cking insolent?” Henry sneered and said.

Erik darted a look at Henry and said indifferently, “Henry Law, don’t think that the Law family is all that great. The person who others respect is Old Master Law, a heroic figure. What does that have anything to do with you?”

“At the end of the day, the Law family only has some power in Harbor City, but you’re really taking advantage of their influence after coming to Swallow Capital. Who the hell do you think you are, Henry Law?”

“F*ck you!”

Henry nearly flipped the table on the spot. “Who the fuck do you think you are? Aren’t you still bearing the Turner family’s name when you come out of the house and put on an act? Who do you think you’ll be if you leave the Turner family?”

“Who I am isn’t up to you, a son of a b*tch, to tell me. Do it if you have the guts. If I wuss out, then I’m no longer a Law!”

Erik scoffed and said disdainfully, “How childish.”

With that said, Erik turned his head and said to Jasper without even glancing at the fuming Henry, “Are you the one who wants to snatch the Olympic celebration banquet from me? What’s the matter? Do you feel like you’re living too comfortably and are looking for excitement?”

Jasper chuckled and said calmly, “I don’t know whether it’s excitement or not. I only heard a mad dog barking non-stop.”

Henry instantly perked up. He taunted Erik, whose face took on an unsightly expression, “He’s talking about you. As a dog that can only bark, why don’t you bark a few more times for us to hear?”

There was a flash of dark gloom in Erik’s eyes. He sneered and said, “It seems that there really are people who look down on the Turner family, eh?”

Jasper said indifferently, “So what if it’s the Turner family? Has this dinner party been written down in a contract and given to the Turner family?”

Erik was taken aback when he heard this.

In Swallow Capital, all the Turner family had to do was give a notice about any project that the family had an eye on and no one would dare to make them look bad. Even more so, no one would fearlessly try to snatch the project away from them.

As such, how could there be a contract signed beforehand?

That was why Jasper's words had truly touched a weak point.

Erik turned his head to look at Hendrik. The former put on a false smile and said, "Young Master of the Combe family, how about we hurry up and draw up a contract?"

Life at the Top Chapter 321

When Hendrik heard what Jasper said before, he was already nervous.

He knew that Jasper could definitely see through his tricks, but he did not expect Jasper to strike back so soon.

The words that he so casually mentioned had placed him in a difficult position.

Hendrik smiled and replied to Erik, "Mr. Turner, let's take it easy. Didn't I call both parties over so that everyone can take a seat and discuss a solution together?"

Erik slammed the table and said coldly, "Stop bullsh*tting me! Combe, do you take others for fools?"

"I know you're planning not to offend either one of us and have the two of us fight it out before signing the contract with the winner. You won't have anything to lose this way. Are you trying to get smart with me?"

Hendrik looked calm, but he was extremely tormented on the inside.

Erik's words had driven him into a corner.

However, the one who instigated everything was Jasper.

Sure enough, one should not look down on people and treat others as fools. Sooner or later, one would be fooled as well.

Hendrik was somewhat regretful.

He could not afford to offend either Erik or Jasper. This was initially a game of sitting and watching in safety whilst the two of them fought, then reaping the rewards when one of them won. One misstep and he had drawn the fire upon himself. He had basically tied a noose around his own neck.

Just when Hendrik was about to break out in a cold sweat, Erik suddenly laughed. The latter stared at Jasper and spoke insidiously.

“Laine, I have a habit and that’s regardless if I want it or not, no one else can take away whatever I have my eye on!

“However, since you want to take it away, that means you’re the enemy!”

As he spoke, Erik stretched out his index finger and pointed at Jasper. “It’s been a while since someone dares to snatch something from me in Swallow Capital. Combe is nothing good, but you, maybe you’re nothing at all!”

Jasper looked at Erik plainly and said calmly, “So what if I want to take it?”

Erik laughed out loud upon hearing this. He then stared at Jasper ferociously. “Then, you should go to hell!

“The Turner family is not comparable to these pieces of trash like the Combes. If you offend me, I can make you suffer a pain worse than death!”

Henry clicked his tongue and sneered, “If I didn’t know any better I would’ve thought that you’re the king. How arrogant of you. Don’t be all bark and no bite. What do you wanna do? Come on, do you think I’m afraid of you?”

Erik gave Henry an insidious look. The former then stood up and said, “Sure. Come on, let’s see who’ll chicken out in the end.

“Mr. Laine, you’ve recently acquired Easy Media, yes? Consider it my defeat if your company is still in business tomorrow!

“Also, Combe, you played me for a fool. Just you wait, I won’t let you off the hook either!”

Erik smashed the cup and stormed out after he said that.

The atmosphere in the room fell into an unprecedented silence.

After a long while, Jasper looked at Hendrik who wore a gloomy expression. The former chuckled and said, “Do you know what it’s meant by tying a noose around your own neck, Mr. Combe?”

Hendrik gritted his teeth and said nothing.

Jacob could not help but say, “Don’t be so pleased. Erik won’t let you off the hook now. Let’s just see what will happen to you.”

Jasper chuckled and said, “I’ve offended all kinds of people since my debut. There aren’t over 100 of them in total, but there are at least 80 of them. Erik is not the first nor the last, let alone the strongest.

“I have a solution to my grievances with him, but the Combe family is done for.”

After saying this, Jasper got up and turned around to leave.

Henry also stood up and spat on the father and sons who were wearing unsightly expressions. “You three idiots, are mental handicaps also inherited? Scheming when you’re so incompetent yourselves, do you think of yourselves as Napoleon? What a joke. Just wait for your deaths!”

Life at the Top Chapter 322

Jasper asked Henry with a deep expression as they exited Shallow Grass Hall, “How much do you know about this Turner family?”

Henry’s expression was ugly as he said, “They’re difficult to deal with. The power of the old master in their family is no less than my grandfather’s.

“There’s this one thing he said that isn’t wrong. The main power of our Law family resides in Harbor City. In Swallow Capital, however, the Turner family can be said to be the stronger family.

“There are a total of three generations in the Turner family now and Erik Turner is the most brilliant of the third generation. They’ve been involved in business and politics since the second generation, basically combining the two.

“The Turner family is very strong especially in terms of capital. You know of Empire Bank, yes? Their family is their second-largest shareholder. Not to mention that the largest local media company in Swallow Capital, Motley Media, is also owned by the Turners. Erik Turner is primarily in charge of it.”

After reaching this point, Henry frowned and said, “The strength of their family is inviolable. Motley Media is a listed company and its market value is less than two billion dollars.

“But it was handed over to Erik to manage. On the one hand, Erik has the capability. On the other hand, it also shows that the Turner family’s capital is solid.”

Motley Media... Empire Bank... Jasper frowned. Motley Media was nothing, but being the second-largest shareholder of Empire Bank, this meant something.

The banking industry had always been an exclusive industry for those with large capitals. Ordinary people simply could not engage in it.

Thinking of the rumors involving the two companies from his previous life, Jasper suddenly asked, "Does the Turner family still have a holding corporation?"

Henry was surprised. "How did you know? Few people know about this. I only heard some news of it when my dad talked to me about it before. Navy Capital Holdings Group belongs to them.

"This Navy Capital Holdings Group is very low profile. Even within the same industry, not many people have heard of it, but their capabilities are simply outrageous. The group is involved in high-end industries, such as insurance, banking, and securities. They only engage in these big businesses."

Jasper exhaled and said, "This explains it."

"What's the explanation? What did you think of?" Henry asked curiously.

Jasper said with a smile, "It's nothing. I'm thinking of a way to deal with Erik and now I have an idea. Since Motley Media is a listed company, it's easy to deal with. It won't be a big deal since the market value is around two billion dollars or more."

Henry heard this and frowned, saying, "Motley Media may be nothing, but this is the Turner family's property. If you move against Motley Media, the Turners can mobilize huge funds to support it at any time. In the end, the ones who may fall into the pit may be us."

"A family like the Turners won't get into a full-scale war with us over trivial matters," Jasper said indifferently.

"And if they really do that..."

Jasper's voice was lowered as he clenched his fist lightly. His tone was gentle but forceful as he said, "I can raise at least ten billion in a week. If that doesn't work, we'll go to Harbor City. I'm confident we can at least get 30 billion in capital.

"With more than 40 billion in funds in this domestic plate of the industry, I have the confidence to be able to flip their table even if God is right in front of me."

Henry listened till his blood surged. He could not help say, "Rest assured. Even if it's 50 billion, much less 30, our Law family will definitely fork it out."

Jasper chuckled and patted Henry's shoulder.

Prosperity brought friends and adversity tested them. The Law family was definitely his most steadfast ally and Jasper knew this fact well.

"There's no need to be so pessimistic. Things have not reached that point. We have an ace in the hole so we need not be afraid of the other party raining an all-out war on us. But in any case, I will definitely move against Erik's Motley Media," Jasper said lightly.

Back at the hotel, Anna, who had already returned, quickly learned of the situation.

"Those Turners are intolerable bullies." Anna's expression was ice-cold.

"Do you want to go up against Erik Turner?" Anna asked Jasper.

Jasper nodded and said apathetically, "I've never been one not to return a favor."

Anna smiled and said, "Good. Wait for me for a while."

After saying this, Anna left to make a phone call.

On the side, Henry looked on and was shocked.

“My little sister doesn’t usually have a bone to pick with others but when she’s angered and does take action, her methods are more aggressive than anyone else’s,” Henry said to Jasper quietly.

Life at the Top Chapter 323

Puzzled, Jasper asked, “From what I can see, she’s not someone who starts a fight with others easily or uses underhanded means. Do you really need to be so afraid?”

“Damn, you may think that you’ve seen how she does things, but you don’t know that she has a really broad network. I don’t know how many resources she has, but she can basically settle the issue for me whenever something happens to me...”

As Henry said this, he seemed to have realized that saying so would greatly affect his reputation as the big brother.

He let out a dry cough before continuing, “Anyway, my dad even told me before that if Anna had been born before me or if she was a boy, then I wouldn’t have stood a chance at getting the Laws’ inheritance. I’m sure you know what this means.”

When they were talking, Anna came back and stared coldly at Henry. “Did you say something nasty about me?”

Henry quickly laughed dryly and said, “No, I didn’t. I was praising you.”

Anna snorted, then walked up to Jasper and said, “As Erik is involved in the media industry, he keeps close contact with those in Harbor City. I just contacted

a person who was once in frequent contact with him and he holds compromising materials on Erik, which I think will be useful to you.”

Henry cocked his ears when he heard what she said. He asked curiously, “What compromising materials? Normal materials are useless when you’re dealing with a man like that.”

Anna sneered. “A material of him fooling around with a few ladyboys after taking drugs. Is this enough?”

Jasper, “...”

Henry, “...”

The usual news about corruption and bribery would have no effect at all on children from aristocratic families.

However, if the news of Erik fooling around with some ladyboys after taking drugs spread to the Turner family, Erik would be done for without needing Jasper to do anything at all.

Most of the time, the struggles and conflicts in a wealthy and distinguished family were particularly tragic. Even so, most of the seniors would be glad to see it happen. After all, this was just like the law of the jungle. The winner who survived the struggle would also be the strongest and the most capable of leading the family toward a glorious future.

It was precisely because of this that the compromising material on Erik was enough to have him consigned to eternal damnation.

Jasper looked at Anna with a bizarre expression. ‘She has really powerful means,’ he thought.

It only took her a few minutes to obtain such materials?

Anna blushed a little, and she explained in a low voice, “Actually, I don’t usually do things like this.”

As she was saying, she looked at Jasper uneasily. She appeared afraid that she would ruin her image in Jasper’s eyes.

Jasper coughed to clear his throat and said slowly, “I believe you.”

At this point in time, the esteemed and most ruthless queen of JW Consortium had exhibited her power for the first time.

In the future, there would be people in JW Consortium who would be brave enough to slam the table and argue with Jasper. There would also be people who would stick to their own principles and chose not to do things for Jasper’s sake.

However, no one dared to offend Her Majesty Anna Law... No one could compare to her ruthlessness.

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

The sun was shining brightly when Jasper received a call from a senior executive of Easy Media, saying that the company had recently made a cooperative negotiative but their partner had breached the contract completely, causing them to suffer heavy losses.

No doubt, Erik had started taking action against him through Motley Media and the Turners’ powers.

In response to this, Jasper gave all Easy Media employees a holiday.

Now that he had a plan to deal with Erik, nothing he did would affect his plan.

He would let him enjoy himself first. It was also the perfect time for the employees to take a break. Then, he would reorganize!

He turned on the computer in the hotel room.

From this moment onward, the domestic stock market would set off another bloody storm!

Life at the Top Chapter 324

Following the good news of the Olympic Games, the domestic stock market thrived during this period with the stocks booming.

Jasper pulled out Motley Media's stocks and studied the short-term trend carefully, realizing that there were obvious signs of a dealer in Motley Media's stocks.

This dealer was different from the traditional dealers who would buy stocks at a low price and then raise the price and pull out.

This dealer in Motley Media was probably a long-term one. He was constantly absorbing the retailers' stocks. Seemingly afraid of being discovered, this was all done in an extremely subtle manner, hence there was no major stir in the market.

As time went by, Motley Media's stock price would gradually rise.

The stock investors had not noticed it yet because the dealer's movement was extremely subtle and done with enough patience.

When the stock investors finally realized the decreasing circulating stocks and increasing stock prices, that was when Motley Media would surge into a hot stock.

After living two lifetimes and accumulating more than 40 years of experience in the stock market, Jasper knew that this dealer could only be one person.

The Turners themselves were speculating this stock.

It was strictly forbidden for shareholders to speculate their own company's stocks.

Without hesitating, Jasper transferred one billion in funds into his security account, and he began to buy the retailers' stocks at a lower price.

Unlike other dealers that moved stealthily, Jasper placed a large buy order directly.

The entire tape of more than two billion surged up a bar after Jasper threw in a big order.

At the same time, Jasper gave a call to Jake Cullen, who was far away in Harbor City, and ordered him to enter the market with his traders at the same time.

Not only that, Henry, who had been displeased with Erik a long time ago, joined in as well.

However, to avoid the spread of this impact, Henry did not involve the Laws. Instead, he used his own network to build a team of traders with his own money and began buying Motley Media's shares.

All three parties attacked in unison, and Motley Media's stock price soared. In just half an hour, the dealers noticed something amiss and began to increase their efforts to acquire more stocks.

Unfortunately, they were too slow. Motley Media's stock price had hit the limit up before they could acquire any stocks.

“That’s the end of today’s battle.”

Jasper shut his computer, turned around to take a cup of hot tea that Anna made him, and thanked her with a smile.

Henry was a bit displeased. “Why is there even a darn limit up setting? We still need to wait several more days before we can buy enough stocks.”

Jasper laughed and said, “When two armies confront each other, they pay attention to pre-planning and the mobilization of resources. A few months is simply not enough for preparation. This is already considered fast enough.”

Henry curled his lips and stood up, saying, “I’m going to participate in a meeting about the construction of Olympic Village and several other venues today. Basically, it’s just to discuss with the higher-ups each of our opinions for reference.”

Jasper said, “Hold on.”

While talking, Jasper took out a folder and handed it to Henry. He said, “Take this with you. I pulled an all-nighter for this. It’ll probably help you in your meeting.”

Henry opened the folder curiously, and after taking a few glances, his eyes widened.

Although Henry did not understand architectural design, he, who grew up in the Law family, knew more things than most people. He could tell at one glance if a design was good or bad.

At the sight of the document that was in his hand at the moment, Henry could feel his scalp tingling.

Life at the Top Chapter 325

“Aquatic Center... Honeycomb Stadium... You designed these yourself!?” Henry said, looking at Jasper in astonishment.

Anna grew interested when she saw this and walked over to take a look.

She had a background in fashion design, and although it was a completely different concept from architectural design, she understood how this worked by analogy. Anna was relatively better and more professional at visual perception than Henry.

She could tell at a glance that this was the most creative design ever.

Not only did it carry a profound significance that many people in the country cared a lot about, but it was also a stroke of genius design in terms of aesthetics.

“This document is worth a lot of money,” Anna exclaimed.

Jasper smiled and said, “I guess you can say that I had a sudden burst of inspiration. This is just my suggestion. I have no idea whether this architectural design can be realized nor do I know anything about the specific design. We will need professionals for it.”

Henry said excitedly, “I’m quite confident now that I have this document. I’ll show this document to my dad later...”

“By the way, I told my dad about you last night and he said that he’ll come to Swallow Capital to discuss this with you. He wants to invite you to become a shareholder so that we can make a fortune together.”

As Henry spoke, he looked rather troubled, saying, “I thought our family will be the one to help you make a fortune this time, but with this document, I have a feeling that you’re the one helping our family instead.”

Jasper smiled and said, “Without the Laws’ resources, JW is far from qualified to participate in such a major project domestically. I call this mutual benefit.”

Jasper was not trying to sound polite either. Without the Laws, it would have been really difficult for him to have a finger in every pie.

It was a good thing that the Laws were willing to bring him along.

In business, apart from mutual friendship, profit was the most fundamental.

Being a freeloader once or twice was fine, but as time went by, it might not necessarily be good for the relationship between both parties.

In Jasper’s case, this document’s creativity that was adopted from the future had placed him in a win-win situation no matter who he worked with, and this was what made Jasper so valuable.

When both parties’ values were evident, only then would their cooperation be lasting and loyal.

When Henry got the document, he was really excited to carry his family’s huge burden. He walked out of the hotel to attend the meeting without stopping to rest.

Anna invited Jasper out for a walk as well.

Of course, Jasper did not refuse.

The two walked downstairs while talking and laughing. As soon as they walked to the hotel lobby, Jasper saw Erik sitting cross-legged while looking at him with a

smug expression on his face. From the look on his face, anyone could tell that he was intentionally waiting there for him.

“Hey, I was wondering why Henry is so close to you. It turns out that you’ve moved in with the Laws eh, boy toy?” Erik said in a lukewarm tone. Looking at Anna’s face as she smiled like a blooming flower while standing next to Jasper, a touch of jealousy and greed flashed in his eyes.

As Erik spoke, he stood up and put his hands in his pockets. He walked over sullenly.

“Do you know how powerful I am now, kid? If I say that your company will go bankrupt, it’ll go bankrupt. All of Easy Media’s deals have fallen through, right? Hahahaha!

“This is only the first wave!”

Erik was both triumphant and arrogant. “Next, relevant departments will investigate your company. If they find something illegal, then you’ll have to face the consequences!

“It’s not too late to beg for mercy. Why don’t you get down on your knees and bark like a dog? If I’m happy with your barking, I might consider letting you off.”

Erik leaned over slightly, moved his annoying face toward Jasper, and said sarcastically, “Are you mad? That’s how powerful I am! No one can save you even if you die of anger, hahaha!”

Life at the Top Chapter 326

Facing Erik's aggressiveness, Jasper stepped back slightly while furrowing his brows. He looked a little disgusted. He even pulled Anna with him.

It was like he had bumped into a stinky beggar on the streets, afraid that he would get choked by the pungent smell.

Jasper's actions triggered Erik.

"What do you mean by that? What do you think I am? A beggar or a bug?" Erik said sullenly.

Jasper said mildly, "Looks like we're on the same page. Otherwise, why would you say words such as beggars and bugs?"

"Pfft." Anna could not help but laugh.

Erik's gaze grew darker and colder.

This was how it was with men's conflicts. When a woman was involved, the conflict between both men would intensify manyfold.

Besides, Erik hated Jasper's guts.

At this moment, Erik felt that Jasper had trampled on his dignity.

He was very upset. He clearly had the upper hand. He had even taken the initiative to come up to taunt Jasper, so Jasper should be the one to get mad instead.

“What are you so proud of?”

“You must be hopping mad inside but you’re pretending to look calm, huh?”

Erik sneered and said, “When Easy Media is destroyed, I’d like to see how you’re going to keep pretending!”

Anna looked at Erik indifferently and said, “We don’t even know who will win yet, why are you so eager to show off?”

Erik glanced at Anna, and for some reason, Erik would put away his vicious and arrogant aura when facing her. He was afraid that he would seem too presumptuous.

However, this was something he had never felt before when he faced Henry.

It was clear that Erik was more apprehensive of Anna than Henry.

“Anna, this is between Jasper and me. It has nothing to do with you,” Erik said in a deep voice.

Anna said coldly, “Jasper is the Laws’ ally. If you lay a finger on him, you’re laying a finger on the Laws. Who are you to say that this has nothing to do with me?”

Erik’s complexion changed slightly when he heard what she said. He pointed at Jasper and said, “He’s just a boy toy, no? You must be out of your mind, Anna. You can get all sorts of men with your family background and appearance, why choose this idiot?”

Anna’s expression sank as she said coldly, “Watch your mouth, Erik Turner! You’d better clean that mouth of yours!”

Erik’s face was as black as ink as he gritted his teeth, feeling wronged as resentment bubbled within him.

He could not believe that he was swallowing his anger like that, so afraid to even irritate Anna at this moment.

At the sight of this, Jasper could not help but look at Anna in a new light. After all, she had always been meek and obedient in front of him.

What earth-shattering things had this woman done before he met her?

She had her big brother completely wrapped around her little finger.

Now, even Erik, a fearless trust fund baby, revered her?

At this point, Erik's phone rang.

Erik quickly connected the call to get himself out of the embarrassing situation.

The person on the other end said something and Erik's expression started sinking at a rate that was visible to the naked eye.

After a while, Erik hung up and looked at Jasper coldly. "You're acquiring Motley Media's stocks?"

Life at the Top Chapter 327

Jasper said mildly, "I thought you received the news a long time ago. Are you only receiving the news now? Looks like things aren't going so well for Motley Media's chairman, eh?"

Erik gritted his teeth.

Indeed, although he was Motley Media's president, there were many people in the Turner family who were unhappy about this and often set up obstacles to hinder him.

This was such an important matter yet he was only informed about it now. Clearly, someone had put obstacles in his way.

Erik said with an ice-cold face, "How dare you attack Motley Media, Jasper Laine?! You must have a death wish."

Jasper said insipidly, "You should have thought of this when you attacked Easy Media. I was just taking necessary countermeasures.

"What's wrong? Only you can fight me and I'm not allowed to fight back? I didn't know this logic exists."

Erik was so furious he burst out laughing. "Do you think you're capable of fighting back? You can't even recognize what's good for you. You're simply seeking your own doom!

"How many people gave up resisting and knelt down to beg for mercy when they found out that I'm going to deal with them? Who the f*ck do you think you are, Jasper? How dare you fight back?!"

Jasper looked at Erik coldly and said, "I'm sorry, but I'm an unyielding man, so it's impossible for me not to fight back."

Erik flashed a sinister smile and raised his hand, pointing at Jasper while saying, "Okay, an unyielding man, huh? Sure, let's see who will be the last man standing!"

After saying these words, Erik turned around and left with a gloomy expression.

He was vigilant about the sudden jump in Motley Media's stock price but never would have thought that Jasper would be so bold to touch Motley Media. He did

so with such decisiveness too. It seemed like he needed to go back as soon as possible to deal with this matter.

In addition to that, he must punish Jasper for his arrogance!

After walking out of the hotel's entrance, Erik's eyes shifted and he made a call immediately.

"It's me, Erik.

"I heard that Jasper is really close to Jim Yapp... Yes, teach Jim a lesson and let him know that he will face very serious consequences for following the wrong person."

When Anna saw Erik leaving in a rage, she said to Jasper, "This person is an extremist. He can do anything. He won't let this matter drop so easily."

Jasper said nonchalantly, "What can he possibly do? Does he think he can shut the domestic stock market down after what happened there? He can't stop this from happening. If he uses other means to deal with us, then we'll just endure it.

"When we have enough stocks in hand after a few days, that's when it'll be his doom."

Anna nodded in agreement.

...

In the evening, Jim was driving to the entrance of a reputable high school while humming.

It was his son's birthday today and he and his wife had decided to host a celebration for him.

In addition to that, Jasper had helped him tremendously during this period of time. He had successfully acquired George Powell's consulting company. With his company's smooth development, business was booming. Everything was moving in the right direction.

Therefore, Jim was in a good mood. He was wondering if he should invite Jasper over tonight as well so that his family could thank him themselves.

At the thought of this, he asked his wife who was sitting at the front passenger seat and holding a cake to keep an eye on the entrance of the school while he gave Jasper a call.

As soon as the call was connected, several burly men suddenly surrounded the car from all sides. Before Jim knew what was happening, both car doors were opened and he heard his wife yelp.

Anxious, Jim tossed his phone aside, and before he could say anything to those men, the clubs they held in their hands started raining down on the couple.

In a shopping mall on the other side of Swallow Capital, Jasper listened to the commotion coming from the phone. He heard the cursing and yelling of strangers as well as Jim's screams.

"Jim is in trouble!"

Jasper stood up abruptly, anger coursing through his veins.

Life at the Top Chapter 328

It was in the hospital when Jasper saw Jim again.

Covered in blood, Jim was lying weakly on the hospital bed. He had just regained consciousness after receiving emergency treatment.

When he opened his eyes and saw Jasper, Jim asked hastily, "Jasper, my wife..."

Jasper pressed Jim down and said, "Don't worry, she's fine. Her injuries are less severe than yours. They're just superficial wounds. The doctors are treating her wounds as we speak."

Jim breathed a sigh of relief.

"Dad!" A teenager squeezed through the crowd and walked over while choking with sobs.

Jim consoled his son and said, "I'm okay."

Jim spoke to his son for a while before sending him out to check on his mother. He then turned around to say to Jasper, "I'm sorry you had to make this trip, Jasper."

Jasper said, "I should be the one feeling sorry. You're in trouble because of me. I didn't know where you were, but someone called the cops in the end. It was only after the hospital called me that I rushed over."

Jim sighed and said, "I was about to pick up my son from school today and planned to invite you over for dinner. I didn't expect this to happen. It's the Combes, huh?"

Jasper did not intend to tell Jim about the Turners lest he felt more pressured.

“It’s not the Combes. I’ll take care of this for you. They won’t give you trouble anymore.”

Jim said to Jasper seriously, “I think these people are trying to warn you, that’s why they attacked me. These people can do anything. You must be careful.”

When Jasper saw how sensible Jim was, he said earnestly, “I’ll pay attention to that. The doctor said you need to be hospitalized, so while you’re recuperating in the hospital, I’ll ask Julian to take your son to school and pick him up after.”

Jim said in a hurry, “No, they aren’t bold enough to attack a child. That’s just plain cruel. Julian needs to protect you because you’re the one who is in most danger right now.”

Jasper said seriously, “I have my own means. Don’t worry about it.”

“Oh, what sort of means? Let’s hear them.”

A grating voice was heard.

The door of the ward was pushed open and Erik walked in grinning from ear to ear as he stared at Jim who lay on the bed with gauze and bandages wrapped all over him. He tutted.

“Tsk, ts, look how pitiful you look. You must be Jim, right? Does it hurt? Hahaha.”

Jasper stood up and looked at Erik, saying, “You’re more shameless than I thought.”

Erik roared with laughter and asked, “Are you angry?”

As he said that, Erik moved closer, looking carefully at Jasper and saying in surprise, “Are you really angry?”

“Then it’s really worth it. I did so many things and even came over in person just to see the angry look on your face.”

As Erik spoke, he laughed and said smugly, “The angry and helpless look on your face just makes me so f*cking happy!”

“Do you really think you’re capable of making me mad?”

Despite Jasper’s calm tone, his aura revealed that a storm was brewing.

Erik sneered. He was filled with contempt and disdain as he said, “I feel sick when I look at your pretentious face. I’m pissing you off on purpose. What can you do?”

Erik patted the hospital bed and sneered. “This is just a warning, kid. You’d better keep this in mind and be smart. Close position for all the Motley Media stocks you acquired today.

“Otherwise, no one knows who will be the next one lying on the hospital bed next time.”

Jasper said in a lukewarm tone, “Is that why you’re here? Just to tell me to sell off Motley Media’s stocks?”

Erik said sullenly, “What else? Of course, I’m also just dropping by to see you tremble in fear.”

Jasper smiled lightly. “Well, I’m not trembling in fear. You must be really disappointed, huh?”

“Oh, right, there’s even more disappointing news for you. I won’t sell off Motley Media’s stocks and will instead increase acquisition.”

Erik’s complexion darkened gradually. “So you’re going to fight me to the end, huh?”

Jasper pointed at Jim who was on the hospital bed with an edge in his gaze. “You’ll pay for his and his family’s injuries sooner or later!”

“Idiot!”

Erik sneered, “Who the hell do you think you are? Since I’ve done it, that means I’m not afraid of your so-called retaliation!

“Since you insist on fighting with me, sure, bring it on then. Don’t think I won’t touch you just because you bought some f*cking stocks of Motley Media. I won’t hesitate to end you!”

Jasper looked at Erik coldly. “I’ll be waiting for you to make a move then.”

With a sneer, Erik said, “Let’s hope you can still act so pompously in front of me the next time we meet!”

At this moment, Jasper’s phone rang.

It was a call from Anna.

“I’ve contacted several friends. Several domestic brokers who hold Motley Media’s stocks have agreed to transfer the stocks to us at about 15% premium, which will cost about 60 million in total.”

Jasper said calmly, “Take it. I’ll transfer the money to your account later. Make the deal as soon as possible.”

Anna said softly, "Okay, I'll get it done soon."

"Thanks," Jasper said.

Anna chuckled and hung up.

Erik stared at Jasper coldly. His instincts told him that the call Jasper received had something to do with him.

"Whose call was that? What did you do this time?!" Erik asked sullenly.

Jasper shrugged and said mildly, "Nothing. I just bought some shares of Motley Media from a few big brokers. My acquisition speed was too slow, so it would be easier if I acquired their stocks directly."

"Jasper, you have a f*cking death wish!" Erik roared.

Life at the Top Chapter 329

Erik was eager to end Jasper's life right now.

He was clearly at an advantage every time he came to Jasper. He would try to mock Jasper and then admire the exasperated look on his face so the man would regret going against him.

Toward the end, however, he would always be the one who ends up suffering a crushing defeat.

He had indeed gotten an exasperated reaction out of someone, but that someone was him instead!

He had been warned by the elders in the family today because of the unusual jump in Motley Media's stocks.

If news that Jasper had acquired Motley Media's stocks from these brokers spread out...

His family would no doubt be skeptical of his ability to continue leading Motley Media.

Erik never would have expected Jasper to act so quickly and decisively, going straight to the brokers to acquire stocks.

One must know that those brokers were blood-sucking vampires who would ask for more than 10% or 20% premium or they would not sell their stocks.

However, facts had proven that Jasper did buy them!

"Are you crazy? Do you have too much money with nowhere to spend?! Why are you spending several hundred million dollars to acquire Motley Media's stocks just to hammer the market?! Is it really necessary to cause destruction for the both of us in which you'll have to suffer heavy losses as well?"

Erik stared ferociously at Jasper and raged.

Jasper smiled and said slowly, "Is several hundred million dollars a lot? Will the young master of the Turner family even care about the loss of hundreds of millions? Well, I certainly don't. There are always ways to earn money, but not many opportunities to watch the fascinating expressions on Young Master Turner's face."

Erik gasped, feeling a malicious fire surging from the pit of his stomach. It made him feel so uncomfortable that it was like he was being pricked by needles.

If he could, he would certainly choke Jasper to death right now.

He had never loathed a person this much.

“Jasper, nothing good will come out of this for you. Why don’t we each take a step back?”

A flame of humiliation flickered in Erik’s eyes. In his opinion, he had saved Jasper’s dignity big time by saying those words.

“Each take a step back?”

Jasper smiled and pointed at Jim who was lying on the hospital bed. He said, “Sure, why don’t you pay back the injuries you inflicted upon him inch by inch, and when you’re done paying them all back, I’ll then discuss with you how we can both take a step back?”

Erik clenched his fist tightly, staring coldly at Jasper with a sharp gaze. “You really want to have a life and death struggle with me, huh? If all else fails, I’ll just go back and admit my mistakes then use the Turners’ resources! When the time comes, you won’t be able to end this even if you want to!”

“Erik,” Jasper said lightly, “I’m afraid that you still don’t understand. From the moment you sent someone to beat Jim up, the fight between us had already begun!”

Erik did not say any more. He glanced coldly at Jasper then turned around and left.

In the ward.

Jasper watched calmly as Erik left the ward, his eyes as cold as an iceberg.

“Who is he, Jasper?” Jim finally asked.

Jasper gave Jim a reassuring smile, saying, “The mastermind behind all this, but it’s fine now. I have ways to deal with him. I’m sorry for dragging you down with me.”

Jim shook his head and said, “I’m not afraid, but you, Jasper, have to protect yourself. These people will do anything.”

Jasper smiled and said, “I know my limits.”

Life at the Top Chapter 330

When Jasper returned to the hotel, Henry was seen boasting to Anna about his extraordinary achievements in the meeting today and how great of an achievement he had made.

“The magnate that presided over the meeting praised me three times in a row for the excellent plan I gave them and said that he’ll give careful considerations for it. Other families and all those idiots in the company are just a bunch of dumb geese. Oh, that was so incredibly cool, hahaha!”

As she drank her juice, Anna frowned at Henry who was standing in the center of the living room blabbering away. She said, “You’re blocking the TV.”

Henry walked away cursing and scolding.

Anna glanced at him with a lukewarm gaze and said, “You only got the chance to be in the limelight because of the creative design Jasper gave you. You must remember his kindness.”

Henry said enviously, “Oh, enough, Sis. If we both fart, then my fart will always be the smelly one while Jasper’s will be the fragrant one.”

Anna frowned and criticized him, "How vulgar!"

After thinking for a while, she said again, "You're right, though."

Henry nearly vomited blood out of anger.

Jasper came back at the right time, and Henry ran over with a serious expression.

"I heard that the idiot Erik came again today?"

Jasper nodded and roughly told him what had happened.

Henry roared with anger, "F*ck, he's so arrogant! Should I get some men to put him in a sack and toss him into the sea?"

Jasper was caught between laughter and tears. "You look pretty skilled. You must've used this method many times before, huh?"

For the first time ever, Henry was honest. "I've used it many times indeed, and it works every time."

Jasper waved his hand and said, "This is an underhanded trick used by kids and is better kept under the table. It's no fun, and they'll also have something to use against you."

"The Turners sickens me. They turned up at the meeting today as well. Damn, they're all the same, arrogant as if they're kings themselves. Like us, they're also trying to snatch the Olympic Village project."

Henry said with a sullen expression.

"They won't be able to snatch it away," Jasper said lightly.

Since learning about the Olympic Village project, Jasper had regarded this as something that was in his grasp. He would never let anyone touch it.

This was related to his business topology, so even if a much higher-level force came into the picture, Jasper would not give in to them—let alone the Turners.

...

In one of the villas in Swallow Capital, Erik slammed the wine glass in his hand down. The more he thought about it, the more upset he was. He walked back and forth with his hands behind his back and suddenly took out his phone.

“It’s me, Erik.”

“How can I help, Mr. Turner?” On the other end of the phone, a senior executive of Motley Media was heard saying reverently. This person was also Erik’s trustworthy confidant.

“There’s an unusual jump in the company’s stock price today and it has brought a terrible impact. Keep a close eye tomorrow. If the other party continues to acquire stocks, then we will sell the shares on hand. But if he sells his stocks directly, then we will use the company’s funds to take over,” Erik said in a sinister voice.

The senior executive said hesitantly, “Sir, taking over isn’t the main issue here. It’s illegal for the other party to buy and for us to sell. If the Securities Regulatory Commission catches us, then we will be in big trouble.”

Erik roared furiously, “This is my decision. I’m informing you, not discussing it with you. I, the chairman, am responsible for the consequences, so what are you afraid of?! Have you forgotten that I’m a Turner?! Who will have the audacity to control me?!”

Life at the Top Chapter 331

The next morning when the stock market opened.

Jasper was sitting in front of the computer with two other computers connected to Harbor City's trader teams that both Jake and Henry recruited.

At this moment, everyone's gazes were burning into Jasper as they waited for him to give orders.

"We currently have 29% of Motley Media's stocks in our hands, but they're still not enough, so our task this morning is to continue to acquire the stocks and get Motley Media's stock price to limit up within one hour."

Jasper's calm voice was heard, and the two professional trader teams from Harbor City entered at the same time.

At the same time, Jasper operated using his own account.

When the three parties entered the market at the same time, Motley Media's stock market suddenly surged.

Meanwhile, in Swallow Capital where Motley Media's headquarters was located, Erik was walking back and forth in the office with a sullen expression.

Not far away, three professional traders were staring at the market. Erik's confidant and senior executive, Kingston Pitt, stood nervously behind the traders while staring at the computer screen.

"They've made a move!" Kingston said suddenly.

Erik, who was already anxious to begin with, suddenly raised his head and strode over quickly.

“Which direction is it? Buy or sell?” Erik asked nervously.

Kingston grimaced and said, “There are three big orders at the same time, all of which are buying!”

“Buy!” Erik paled. Jasper had still chosen the outcome that he least wanted to see.

“That darn idiot. Where does he get his money from? Does he just throw tens of millions without blinking at all?!”

Cold sweat was seeping out of Kingston’s forehead as he stared at the market, saying, “Sir, the stock price has risen by 4%. What do we do now?”

Erik gritted his teeth and said, “What else? Sell the company’s shares. Since he wants to buy them so much, we’ll sell them then. Let’s see how much he can buy!”

Kingston looked bitter. They would be dead if they were caught by the Securities Regulatory Commission for carrying out such blatant violations.

Erik had the Turners to fall back on, but he did not. Perhaps, he might even be the scapegoat.

In any case, Kingston dared not disobey Erik, so he immediately ordered the traders to start releasing the company’s stocks.

At the same time, there was an unusual jump in Motley Media’s stock market.

“Mr. Laine, there are changes to the market. A big player has released stocks.” Jake’s voice could be heard from the computer, sounding a little intrigued.

“This large amount happens to be the number of stocks acquired by all three of our accounts combined. Looks like the other party is attacking with a target in mind, hoping to hedge our order.”

Jasper nodded and said lightly, “Erik is using his company’s stocks. Gather the evidence and hand it to the Securities Regulatory Commission.”

“Sure.” Jake narrowed his eyes and smiled.

Harbor City’s stock market had been recovering these days. Although it was great to have money coming in constantly, he simply had no chance to make a move.

Now that there was finally a chance for him to go to the ‘battlefield’, how could he not be excited?

The buyers headed by Jasper and the sellers headed by Erik fought fiercely on Motley Media’s stock market.

At this moment, all the flashy tactics were useless. They were simply competing to see who had more capital.

Erik was constantly selling while Jasper was constantly buying.

When the transaction volume between the two parties reached 200 million, Erik roared in the office.

“Where did this idiot get so much money from?! It has already hit 200 million and he’s still buying!”

Kingston wiped the cold sweat off his forehead and said, “Sir, Jasper already holds more than 35% of the shares. If this continues, your position as the largest shareholder will be threatened. It’ll all be over by then.”

Erik took a deep breath, and even his gaze was faltering.

Life at the Top Chapter 332

“F*ck, you think I don’t know that?!”

Kingston clammed up immediately, afraid to say anything more.

After walking irritably for two rounds, Erik murmured, “35% of the shares, huh? This idiot is already the second-largest shareholder in Motley Media. What exactly does he want to do?”

“Was he just trying to intimidate me when he said he’ll hammer the market but he’s actually just trying to acquire Motley Media?”

This thought frightened Erik so much that sweat was seeping out of his forehead and even his hair stood on end.

If Jasper was only trying to hammer the market, then the truth was that Jasper would suffer losses with the Turners as he was inflicting harm on them and himself at the same time.

Erik would only bring hundreds of millions worth of losses to the family.

However, if Jasper’s goal was to devour Motley Media whole, then the Turners would lose Motley Media’s ownership right. That would be Erik’s doom.

His family would definitely not forgive him!

Erik subconsciously wiped the cold sweat from his forehead. This had never happened before. He felt a trace of regret for provoking Jasper. This person was simply too difficult to get rid of.

At this moment, Motley Media's trading volume was enlarged infinitely due to the buying and selling contest between both parties.

However, the stock price continued to stabilize at a fairly reasonable value because Erik continued to sell regardless of the cost.

Ring...

Erik's phone started ringing.

After taking a deep breath, Erik connected the call.

The unflustered and thick voice of a middle-aged man could be heard coming from the other end of the call.

"Erik, what's going on with Motley Media's stock price?"

There was a trace of horror on Erik's face as he said, "Dad, it's Jasper. He's colluding with the Laws to attack Motley Media."

"Nonsense!" Brad Turner's voice was full of anger.

"Our main goal right now is to get our hands on the Olympic Village project and the Laws are our greatest enemy. I don't want any issues cropping up at this critical juncture!"

Erik said reluctantly, "But I can't just sit and watch Jasper snatch the qualification to host the celebratory banquet. My reputation in Swallow Capital will be greatly affected."

“Is your reputation more important or our family’s interests?!” Brad said solemnly.

Erik gritted his teeth, afraid to talk back.

“Alright, I want you to stop immediately. Don’t give yourself trouble because of trivial things, you hear me?”

As he listened to the voice on the phone, Erik let out a wry smile and said, “I’m afraid it’s too late, Dad...”

“Jasper now owns 35% of the company’s shares and is still buying. If this continues, Motley Media will change ownership.”

Brad was furious. “You own 70% of Motley Media’s shares, how did he get 35%?!”

As he said that, Brad realized what was going on and asked in a sullen voice, “Did you touch the company’s stocks?”

Erik’s lips trembled. He was too afraid to speak.

After a while, Brad was heard roaring from the other end of the phone, “You rebellious child! Get your *ss back here at once!”

After hanging up the call in a crestfallen state, Erik had yet to have the time to breathe when he heard Kingston’s hopeless voice saying, “The stock price has hit limit up!”

“Jasper... now owns 40% of the company’s shares!”

With a thump, Erik slumped to the ground. It felt as though the sky had become overcast as well.

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“The total investment is 1.25 billion. I invested one billion and you 250 million, Henry.”

Jasper closed the computer, got up, and smiled at Henry. “Soon, this 250 million dollars will double up to at least 500 million.”

Henry asked curiously, “Aren’t you going to hammer the market? Why are you only buying today?”

Jasper said, “I initially planned to hammer the market, but I had a feeling that Erik won’t give up so easily, so I tried to buy when the market opened. However, I didn’t expect Erik to actually operate illegally and use the company’s stocks to hedge against me.

“In that case, I changed my plan as well. I’d buy as much as he has and the increase in the equity ratio will directly threaten the Turners’ power over Motley Media. If I can control Motley Media, that’s when the Turners will feel the pain.”

Henry came to a sudden realization and then smiled while saying, “I’ve collected all the evidence you want and will soon submit it to the Securities Regulatory Commission.”

Jasper chuckled and said, “It’s better to pass it directly to the senior executives of the Securities Regulatory Commission via special channels. Otherwise, the Turners might place obstacles in your way.”

“Don’t worry!”

Henry said in a vicious tone, “Now that we have conclusive evidence, I’ll make sure Erik suffers!”

After Henry went out to carry out the task, Anna walked into the room with her hands behind her back.

“Like what you told me to do, I’ve asked someone to send Erik’s compromising materials to the Turners. My dad will talk to the Turners later,” Anna said softly.

Jasper laughed and said, “The Turners won’t be able to solve this without paying the price this time.”

Suddenly, Anna’s phone rang. After connecting the call, she said a few words before passing the phone to Jasper.

Jasper answered the phone and could hear Zachary’s voice.

“It’s me, Jasp.”

Jasper said in a hurry, “How are you, Uncle Zachary?”

Zachary laughed and said, “I know all about the things you did. Good job! You’ve done really well.”

Jasper laughed and said, “I’m grateful that you’re not mad at me because I’ve brought trouble to the Laws, Uncle Zachary.”

Zachary said sternly, “What nonsense, we’re a team now! There’s no distinction between us. What do you mean you brought trouble to us? It’s good to have multiple friends in the business field, but if they offend us, then tolerating them constantly will only make others look down on us.”

Jasper replied, “That’s right.”

Zachary joked, saying, “Initially, I sent Henry to Swallow Capital to train his ability to work alone.

“I didn’t expect this kid to be so lucky to meet you there too. With your help, things have gone very smoothly, but the goal of training him hasn’t been achieved.”

Jasper said helplessly, “It’s just a coincidence. There will always be opportunities to train him.”

“I’ll take your word for it. I’ll leave this to you, then,” Zachary said.

Realizing that he had been tricked by Zachary, Jasper laughed and said, “You’re really cunning, Uncle Zachary. I have no choice but to agree, huh?”

Zachary laughed and said, “Let’s talk business. Two things: I just received news from Swallow Capital’s higher-ups. They’re really happy with the idea you proposed.

“This will greatly ease the process of us getting the project, and it’s all thanks to you. Anna told me that the design you gave is simply genius and impeccable.”

Jasper said humbly, “I was just lucky. Actually, I know nothing about designing, but the construction of Olympic venues is of great significance, so the higher-ups not only need to consider the creative part of it but also the culture and tradition. I paid more attention and spent more effort in this.”

Zachary laughed and said, “In any case, what you did is truly outstanding and is beyond the reach of ordinary people. You don’t have to be humble.”

As he spoke, Zachary switched the conversation around and said, “What is the outcome you’re hoping to see for the Turners?”

Jasper said mildly, “Erik beat my friend and his wife to the point that they’re now hospitalized. I hold a deep grudge against him because of this. I want him to pay. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.”

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Zachary said in a deep voice, "Okay, I know now."

Jasper suddenly said, "Uncle Zachary, would you please tell the Turners that Erik must pay the price but I have no intention of becoming the Turners' enemy?"

Zachary was silent for a moment and praised him, "Jasp, sometimes I can't believe that you're only in your 20s. Your sense of propriety and your ability to make a correct assessment of the situation is proof that you're destined to reach a peak where others can only look up to."

...

In the Turners' courtyard.

Erik stood in the living room covering his red and swollen face. His head was hung low as he shuddered, too afraid to say a word.

Brad was sitting on the couch with a sullen expression while getting coaxed by a woman sitting beside him.

"There, there, Erik has learned from his mistake. Others will laugh at us when they see you hitting your son who's already in his 30s."

Brad snapped. "Look at what has become of your son because you spoiled him too much! If he's bold enough to violate the law so flagrantly, he'll turn the world upside down in the future."

The woman motioned at Erik with her eyes and said, "Hurry up and apologize to your father, Erik."

Brad snorted coldly. “Apologize to me? He has already messed up! Do you really think the Laws are that easy to deal with?”

“Someone from the Securities Regulatory Commission called me and said that the Laws refuse to let this matter drop. They insist on having Erik take responsibility. I’d like to see what you’re planning to do about that!”

Erik was taken aback when he heard what Brad said and yelled angrily, “Jasper is always turning to the Laws whenever something happens. How useless can he get?!”

“You never learn!” Brad was so mad that he raised his hand and slapped Erik on the face.

“If you weren’t so obsessed, would Jasper even have a handle on you? If he doesn’t have a handle on you, would the Laws complain about you with such righteous indignation?”

It was at this moment that an old man who looked like a butler walked in. He leaned over and spoke into Brad’s ear.

Brad asked in a deep voice, “Where’s the person who delivered the item?”

The butler shook his head and said, “He left after delivering the item.”

After speaking, the butler handed him a folder.

Brad said in a deep voice, “Play it. Let’s have a look.”

The butler responded and turned around to take out the CD from the folder. He brought a laptop over and started playing the contents of the CD.

At the sight of this, Erik had a premonition that something bad was going to happen.

“What is this?” Erik asked.

“It’s about you,” Brad glared coldly at Erik and said in a deep voice.

Erik quivered. He knew what he had done. He had committed countless crimes before. If someone had dug them all out, then it would be the end for him.

In no time at all, the computer started playing the videos on the CD.

The first footage was a surveillance video, and Erik could be seen sitting on a couch in a dimly lit room.

Soon after that, Erik started taking drugs. Then, a few people of unknown gender sashayed inside and Erik began fooling around with them.

Erik paled at the unsightly scene playing out on the computer, his eyes twitching furiously. Brad was so furious that he was shaking all over.

The butler hesitated for a while and said, “Master, the man said that he has not only given a copy to us, but he has also given a copy to the family as well. I think it has been delivered to Old Master Turner by now.”

Brad abruptly grabbed the laptop and slammed it on Erik’s head while roaring angrily, “Idiot! You idiot!”

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It did not hurt when the laptop hit him, but it did break Erik’s last line of defense.

He howled and screamed, “That’s impossible! This was years ago. How could they have taken this video?!”

“What else is impossible!?” Brad pointed at Erik, livid with anger.

“Were you still expecting to hide such a disgraceful thing after doing it?! Even Old Master Turner has received a copy. What are you going to do now?!”

Even his wife’s complexion had turned pale. She said in a hurry, “Brad, if Old Master learns that Erik took drugs and did such a disgraceful thing, he’ll drive us out of the house for sure. Hurry up and think of a way.”

Brad roared, “Think of a way? What can I possibly come up with? I’ll suffer too, not just this idiot!”

“You know how aggressive your uncles are at fighting with me. In order to promote you to Motley Media’s chairman position, I spent so much effort, paid a huge price, and this is how you repay me?!”

Brad raised his foot and kicked Erik on the stomach. The latter screamed and fell to the ground, wailing. “I know I was wrong, Dad. Save me.”

Brad stared coldly at the wretched-looking Erik, feeling extremely disappointed.

He would rather have Erik grow a spine at this moment because that would at least show that he still had the courage to accept the consequences of his actions.

However, Brad was both furious and helpless when he saw the unbearable sight of his son, one whom he previously had high hopes for.

He was not actually going to ignore his own son, but this problem was just so big that even he found it impossible to cope.

After going through decades' worth of life's ups and downs, Brad had not felt so lost in such a long time. Never in a million years would he have thought that he would experience it again, and because of his own son too.

At this time, the butler quietly walked over and stretched out a phone, saying, "A call for you, Master."

Brad said impatiently, "I'm not taking it. Tell them I'm busy."

The butler whispered, "It's from the Laws."

Brad's expression sank, and he answered the call.

"You're still busy as always, eh, Brad? You don't even have the time to answer my call?" Zachary teased.

Brad's expression was dark and gloomy. His smile did not reach his eyes. "Well played, Zachary. You have something on that incompetent son of mine, huh? What do you want? Spit it out."

Brad was insinuating that the Laws were really shameless for laying a finger on a junior like Erik, which was an indirect mockery against Zachary.

Zachary did not care at all, but instead, he grinned and said, "You've misunderstood me, Brad. This has nothing to do with the Laws. We're just running errands. Jasper, that young lad, is still the more capable one.

"I learned about the incident just moments earlier. Gosh, I feel good after hearing about it. What do you think about this young lad's tactics? Don't you feel embarrassed at all, Brad?"

Brad nearly crushed the phone in his hand and gritted his teeth while sneering. "Stop being so sarcastic, Zachary. Tell me what you want."

When Zachary heard how furious Brad sounded with nowhere to vent, he felt so refreshed it was like he was drinking a can of iced coke on a hot day.

Generals would fight against generals; soldiers with soldiers. Henry and Erik found each other an eyesore, while he and Brad had countless conflicts before as well.

Most of the time, he would have the upper hand, though only by a very small margin. He had never managed to make Brad so upset before.

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Zachary, who was feeling refreshed, said cheerfully, “The Turners must withdraw from the Olympic Village project. As for the other venues, we will compete based on our own capabilities.”

Brad flew into a rage, saying, “You’re making an unreasonable demand!”

Zachary said mildly, “You can’t say that, Brad. Listen, the CD that’s meant to be sent to Old Master Turner’s house is still with my men. You still have a chance to redeem the situation.

“It’s your decision whether you want to solve this between you and your son or cause a stir in the entire Turner family.”

Brad narrowed his eyes when he heard what he said.

If the materials were sent to Old Master Turner, then he would be doomed for sure. He would certainly not let Zachary get what he wanted, but there was now a glimmer of hope. He was hesitant to pelt a rat for fear of smashing the vase beside it.

As for the Turners’ pillar, Brad knew better than anyone what the upright and plainspoken Old Master Turner would do to his son once the materials reached his hands.

After taking a deep breath, Brad said in a deep voice, “This is the only condition you have?”

Zachary was not surprised by Brad’s compromise. He continued happily, “This is just my own condition. After all, this is still a grudge between Jasper and Erik. My nephew wants me to pass on a message to you too.

“The wrongful act that Erik committed will be returned. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. However, he has no plans of becoming the Turners’ enemy.”

Brad sneered when he heard what he said. “You can press Brad’s face on the ground and bash him up. Jasper is considered the best among his peers. Is that all he wants? To bash him up?”

“He doesn’t want to be the Turners’ enemy? Easy for him to say. Everything he’s doing shows that he’s going against the Turners.”

Zachary’s smile diminished as he said insipidly, “If this is the attitude you have, then I don’t think there’s a need to discuss this anymore. I must remind you that Old Master Turner is a hero whom I respect, but none of his descendants have the guts.

“Don’t underestimate others just because you’re born in Swallow Capital. Why don’t you go and find out what kind of reputation Jasper has in Harbor City and the things he has done?”

“If you want to fight, then bring it on. If you lay a finger on Jasper, then you’re laying a finger on me, Zachary!”

“Let me tell you one last thing. Old Master Law is very fond of Jasper. You can say that he thinks highly of Jasper. If worst comes to worst, my old man and I will make a trip to Swallow Capital and face the Turners personally. Who do you think will suffer the worse defeat when that happens?”

Having said that, he hung up the call.

Brad held the phone, gasping for breath.

There was anger, astonishment, and disbelief on his face.

He could not believe that the Laws would actually say things tantamount to starting a full-scale war with the Turners.

As the head of the Laws, Zachary would not joke about something like that.

If he laid a finger on Jasper, then the Laws would definitely start a war with the Turners.

At the thought of this, Brad smashed the phone in his hand.

“What the hell did you do to Jasper?!” Brad stared at Erik coldly and roared.

Erik stammered and said, “I didn’t do anything, really. I just hired someone to beat up one of his friends and got him hospitalized.”

Brad pointed at Erik furiously and yelled, “Go and apologize to Jasper immediately. If he wants you to eat muck, then you’d better eat it before you come back or even I won’t be able to help you with this!”

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Erik trembled all over, clutching his red and swollen face. He said unwillingly, “You want me to apologize to him? I would rather die.”

“Then die!” Brad roared and gave Erik a cold look.

“You idiot! That’ll teach you. Before you offend someone, find out who he is first!”

“Who else could he be? He’s just a boy toy clinging to the Laws. He’s just slightly rich.” Erik gritted his teeth.

Brad was so furious he laughed out loud. “Boy toy? Slightly rich? Do you think you have the ability to make the Laws start a full-scale war for you?”

When Erik heard what he said, he felt as though he had been struck by lightning. He said incredulously, “The Laws are starting a full-scale war with us because of him? Are they out of their minds?”

Brad sneered, “Zachary is an old cunning fox. A really sharp-witted one too. Do you think he’s crazy? He’s smarter than anyone!

“If he can speak on Jasper’s behalf and is willing to pay such a price, then that just proves Jasper is worth a lot to the Laws!

“What about you? Look at you, you’re already in your 30s and still can’t do anything right. I don’t expect you to accomplish anything great, but at least stay out of trouble!”

As he said that, Brad demanded while offering no room for doubt, “I want you to go and settle this dispute with Jasper at once. I don’t care what conditions he gives, you’ll agree to them all or I won’t be able to help you when your grandpa finds out about this.

“You know how your grandpa is. If he knows that you took drugs and messed around with those people, you’ll get kicked out of the house!”

Erik quivered all over. Although it was really humiliating for him to yield to Jasper, this was the only option he had at the moment.

He gritted his teeth and said, “Fine, I’ll go!”

...

In the hospital. Jim’s ward.

When Jasper walked in through the door with Henry, Jim quickly sat up. At the sight of the fruits Jasper was holding, he hastened to say, “Your presence is more than enough, why are you still bringing me things?”

Jasper smiled and said, "These are to replenish your vitamins. Do you feel better now?"

Jim smiled and said, "Much better."

Jasper introduced Henry to Jim, saying, "This is Henry, the son of the Law family in Harbor City. You've met him before. Now the Laws are doing investments in Mainland, so you may have the opportunity to work together in the future."

Judging from Henry's status and temperament in the past, Jim would normally be someone beneath his consideration.

With Jasper as the introducer, however, Henry did not mind having Jim's back in the future.

Henry handed out a business card and grinned. "Let's keep in touch."

Jim took the business card with both hands emotionally and said awkwardly, "I don't have a business card with me right now. I'll give you a call later and you can save my number. I'm pretty confident about running a business consulting firm. I'll need your guidance and help in the future."

Henry grinned and said, "Sure."

Jim knew that Jasper wanted to compensate him. Having a top resource such as Harbor City's Law family was better than giving him cash.

If he could just take a tad of resources that slipped out of the Laws' fingers, it would be more than enough to sustain his company.

If it were not for Jasper, it would be impossible for him to make contact with big shot young masters like Henry, let alone have the Laws take the initiative to give him a business card.

At the thought of this, Jim could not help but give Jasper a grateful stare.

As they spoke, there was a knock on the door of the ward.

Julian walked into the ward and said to Jasper, "Erik is here, Jasper."

Jasper nodded, indicating that he understood. However, he did not mention that Erik could come in.

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Julian understood what Jasper meant. He walked out the door and said to Erik who was standing at the door with a sullen expression, "Wait here."

Erik took a deep breath, feeling deeply humiliated. He was surprised that Jasper would put on airs and deny him entry even when he had personally turned up to apologize.

"How long am I supposed to wait?" Erik asked through gritted teeth.

Julian said mildly, "He didn't say. Just wait here."

"You!" Erik flew into a rage and glared viciously at Julian, eager to kick him.

While Erik grew impatient, the door of the ward opened and Henry walked out grinning from ear to ear.

He took out a cigarette and lit it with a lighter, exhaling a puff of smoke on Erik's face.

Arrogant and presumptuous!

“Sigh, this ordinary cigarette is dull and tasteless no matter how expensive it is. It must be cooler to take drugs, huh?”

Henry laughed.

Erik’s face was so dark that it could absorb all the light around it. “Stop being so proud, Henry. Who are you being sarcastic to?”

“Talking to you,” Henry said in a free and easy manner. “I’m nothing compared to you, though. How can you bring yourself to mess around with ladyboys? You’re f*cking dope.”

Erik glared at Henry with spiteful eyes. He gritted his teeth without a word.

He knew that the more he spoke, the possibility of him being humiliated would be even bigger.

When Henry was done smoking, he clapped his hands and said, “Go in then. My brother-in-law is waiting for you.”

Erik could not stand it anymore and flew into a rage. “Why didn’t you say it earlier!?”

Henry grinned and said, “You didn’t ask.”

Erik glanced bitterly at Henry, then drooped his head and walked into the ward.

Never in Erik’s wildest dreams would he have expected himself to stand outside the door ‘asking’ to meet Jasper, even more so in such a humiliating way when he was left to wait outside the door for more than ten minutes.

At the sight of Jasper sitting on a chair next to the hospital bed, the fear in Erik's heart overwhelmed his hatred.

After all, Jasper's means were simply too cruel.

In just a few days, Jasper had forced him every step of the way to a point where he needed to show up here and beg for mercy.

With his fists clenched, Erik threw caution to the wind and walked straight to Jasper, saying, "I was wrong, Jasper. I give up. Please forgive me."

Jasper was calm as if he did not hear what he said at all. Instead, he asked Henry who was leaning against the door with his arms crossed, "What are we having for dinner?"

Henry thought for a while and said, "We've been eating western food these days and the food just tastes so bland to me now. Should we have something more exotic?"

"Venison then. Venison barbeque," Jasper proposed.

Henry's eyes lit up. "Sure!"

Erik stood in place, his entire body going rigid. He did not know whether to leave or stay. He had never felt so humiliated in his life.

He took a deep breath whilst trembling, staring straight at Jasper. He said, "You've won, Jasper. I admit that I'm not your match and shouldn't have attacked you. What do you want to do to me? Be quick, why must you torture me?"

It was only then did Jasper look straight into Erik's eyes. He said mildly, "Young Master Turner, you have such an important and noble identity, why would I torture you? However, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. He and his wife are still lying on the hospital bed. Why don't we settle this first?"

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Erik turned to look at Jim as he lay on the hospital bed, his eyes twitching wildly.

He took a deep breath and said, "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth? Why don't you ask someone to beat me up then?"

"That's a good idea," Henry said with a grin, "I meant to hire someone to put you in a sack and then soak you in the sea for a few hours to cool you down, but someone refuses to let me do it."

As he said that, Henry shrugged, looking as if it was a shame.

Erik gritted his teeth with a sullen expression. He had never seen anyone so arrogant, telling to his face that they planned to soak him in the sea?

This was simply a humiliation to Erik!

He looked up at Jasper, knowing that he was the person who would ultimately decide his fate.

Jasper, however, turned to Jim and asked, "Uncle Jim, what do you plan to do? If you want to return the punches then just say the word and I'll get it done immediately."

Erik gritted his teeth. He could tell that Jasper was serious about it. As long as Jim nodded, then he would not be able to escape the brutal beating he would get today.

Jim was lying on the hospital bed, feeling a little flattered.

He did not expect himself to one day have the power to decide Erik's life and death.

It might sound a little exaggerated to say life and death, but the brutal beating he had suffered was enough to leave anyone's life hanging by a thread.

He did not expect an insignificant figure like him to one day experience this high point in life.

For some reason, Jim had a sudden realization that nothing in this world was constant.

After thinking for a while, Jim smiled at Jasper and said, "Forget it, Jasper."

Jasper raised his eyebrows slightly. When he was about to speak, Jim spoke again.

"Jasper, this is what I really think. If revenge breeds revenge, will there ever be an end to it? That doesn't mean anything. It's only natural for us to retaliate after we're bullied, but we can always adopt other means.

"After all, harmony is the most important thing in the business field. I'll let you decide the specifics of what you want to do. I don't have an opinion on this."

Jasper nodded when he heard what Jim said.

On the one hand, Jim had considerations about his company in Swallow Capital. This was a small piece of land. If he pressed Erik's face to the ground and bashed him up, he would feel great about it but it would be difficult for him to guarantee his safety in the future.

What was more, even if he was not afraid, what about his wife and kids?

This was the most practical consideration for a middle-aged man who had experienced the harsh reality of society.

On the other hand, Jim might also have other reasons for not offending the Turners too much.

Jasper understood Jim's goodwill.

Erik breathed a sigh of relief after hearing what Jim said.

He could not help but look at Jim again. Well, he was not exactly grateful, though. Jim was already lucky enough not to be squashed to death by a prodigal son like Erik.

Jim's words had put out the thought in Erik's mind about striking him, though.

Jim was, after all, the most insignificant character in this ward—one that was beneath Erik's consideration.

"Five million," Jasper said.

Erik looked up at Jasper incredulously.

This huge affair could be solved with only five million?

Erik did not know if he should laugh at Jasper for being an idiot or if he was simply too lucky.

"Five million for the medical expenses. This is the compensation for Uncle Jim," Jasper said flatly, seemingly seeing through Erik's thoughts.

Erik gritted his teeth. The joy that had just surged through his heart was gone without a trace.

The medical expenses alone were five million bucks? He was simply demanding an exorbitant amount.

Erik could not care less about this bit of money, though. He simply wanted to solve the problem now. As for the rest, he would think about it next time.

Therefore, Erik nodded immediately and agreed.

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Jim looked at Jasper gratefully, knowing that the latter was helping him.

He had gotten five million as compensation for being beaten up.

Despite having a net worth of tens of millions, five million in cash still felt like a Godsent.

Such great benefits were scarce.

“So about the celebratory banquet...”

This time, Erik interrupted and replied, “It’s yours. I have no right to fight you for it.”

Everything had stemmed from this banquet, and Erik no longer wanted to fight for the right to host the banquet anymore. In hindsight, he should never have gotten himself into so much trouble now that he knew what would happen.

“Then all that’s left is Motley Media.”

Jasper glanced at Erik calmly, his gaze slightly intrigued.

“You have two options. One, I buyout Motley Media.”

Erik’s expression darkened at that. Motley Media was a company his family had given him. Any blunder he made would directly affect his position in the family.

Not to mention that Motley Media had a market price of two billion and was an important asset to the Turner family.

In addition, the past two huge wars had pushed Motley Media’s market value to almost three billion now!

No matter what, there was no way the Turner family would simply hand Motley Media over. This was a responsibility that not even his dad, Brad, could take up, let alone Erik.

Instead of running his mouth, Erik waited quietly for Jasper’s second option.

“The second option is that the Turner family buys the 40% stocks I have on hand for two billion.”

The second option forced Erik into an absolute corner.

“Two billion? That’s too much!” Erik exclaimed, aggrieved.

No matter how rich the Turner family was, there was no way they could just take two billion out like that.

Especially not when Erik was far from being a representative of the Turner family.”

Jasper replied calmly, “Is it? Two billion is nothing in comparison to your future, Mr. Turner.”

Erik clenched his teeth. "Please, Jasper. Give me a discount. I don't have two billion to take out."

Jasper replied calmly, "Sorry, no negotiations."

As he stood in place, Erik felt his scalp go numb. It was a frightening amount of money and he did not have the authority to give Jasper a reply.

Seeing Jasper's expression, Erik knew that there was truly no room for negotiations.

Taking a deep breath, Erik spoke grimly, "Give me some time. I have to discuss this with my dad."

"Go ahead." Jasper smiled. "I'm an understanding person most of the time."

Erik felt his legs give out and while he did not fall back onto the floor, it was a close call. Jaw tight, he walked out of the hospital room.

Erik closed the door behind him. Henry looked at Jasper with his eyes shining. "I thought you were joking when you told me that my 250 million investment would double to 500 million. You were serious?"

Jasper smiled. "What more are you waiting for when there's a perfectly plump sheep lying on the slaughter table waiting for you to slaughter?"

Henry guffawed. "You'd better not forget me when you've got these great deals again."

A few minutes later, Erik returned and handed Jasper his phone. "My dad wants to talk to you."

Jasper received the call and greeted, "Hello, Mr. Turner."

On the other end, Brad's voice drifted over calmly. "I didn't know that you're Harbor City's stock god and the host behind Harbor City's market rescue plan, Jasper. I'll take my disappointing son's loss against you in my stride, but I do hope that you can be the bigger person and forgive him."

Jasper replied calmly, "You're too kind, Mr. Turner. I've already stated my conditions. It's up to you whether you wish to agree to them or not."

"I agree. Two billion will be wired to your bank account tomorrow, and whatever resentment there is between you and my son gets written off."

"Thank you, Mr. Turner!"

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Hanging up the call, Jasper handed the phone back to Erik.

“Let’s move on from this incident, then.”

Jasper replied faintly, “Of course. But if you don’t think this is fair, you’re always welcome to keep handing me benefits, Mr. Turner. You’re always welcome.”

Erik gnawed his molars indignantly as his expression hardened. “Asking for two billion right off the bat, aren’t you afraid it’ll come to bite you back in the *ss?”

Jasper chuckled. “Bite me? Money that I dare to ask for has never come to bite me back.”

Erik glanced at Jasper intently and turned to leave without another word.

After Erik left, Henry narrowed his eyes and spoke, “I really want to kidnap that man right now. Something tells me we won’t be seeing the last of him.”

Jasper merely sighed. “We’ll just have to hope that he isn’t an idiot...”

Henry thought about Jasper’s meaningful words and asked, “You mean to say that Brad won’t just give up so easily?”

Jasper replied with a shocked tone, “You actually got it right this time!”

“F*ck you too, you b*stard! What am I to you, an idiot?” With a dark expression, Henry left the room in a huff for a smoke.

...

The incident with the Turner family had come to an end.

This time, Jasper earned one billion while Henry earned 250 million.

In addition, Jasper had also gotten the rights to host the celebratory banquet for Swallow Capital gaining approval to host the Olympics.

The biggest benefit of all was that the Turner family had withdrawn from competing for the Olympic Village project.

While this did not mean that the Law family was guaranteed to take over the 30 billion Somer Dollars project, at least one of their strongest competitors had left the competition.

While it hurt the Turner family to let go of the project, both the Turner and the Law families were well aware that the Olympic Village project was not a simple project any family could easily take on. No one knew what the future held.

Such a project definitely required the supervision of higher officials, and one's family's identity would only prove to be shackles instead of a boost when communicating with such high officials.

After all, the people in charge might not choose to split the entire cake with formidable families only. It was just another tactic to control the balance of benefits.

That was why the Turner family gave it up and moved on. From their understanding, even if they did not give it up, it was still unlikely for them to get the project.

If that was the case, they might as well put their focus on fighting for other stadiums.

All in all, it could be considered a huge win for Jasper and the Law family.

The following morning, Jasper held a conference meeting in Easy Media once he received the two billion from the Turner family.

He gave all the employees a few days worth of holidays, and the moral decline within the company was dramatic. All sorts of rumors began to fly around.

Most of them spoke of how their new boss, Jasper, had offended some big shots in Swallow Capital. Now, the entire company was going to close down with Jasper's impending bankruptcy.

It was a matter of their salary, so all the employees were waiting for Jasper to explain himself.

Yet in face of such rumors, Jasper did not clarify anything at all.

Instead, all Jasper did was release the news that he had gotten the right to host the celebratory banquet.

Everyone present was surprised, and the senior executives in the conference room looked at Jasper as if he was a divine god.

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The approval to host the Olympics was the biggest news within the country right now, and it would not be an understatement to say that the entire country was rejoicing.

Meanwhile, their boss had so easily gotten the right to host the banquet.

The fact that they had become senior executives of a media company meant that they were all veterans who knew this unique media industry like the back of their hands.

Naturally, they understood the value of hosting such a banquet, and that there was endless competition for the right to host.

To think that their boss had gotten the right among so many formidable forces, just how able was this man before them?

Once it clicked, everyone started looking at Jasper differently now.

The meeting proceeded with a breeze, for everyone was passionately discussing how to manage the banquet. Everyone fought to give ideas that would make a bang. It was because if Jasper was satisfied with them, it meant that their future in the company would be unlimited.

The stronger the company grew, the more the senior executives earned. It was a straightforward concept.

“I have an idea.” Jasper knocked on the conference table to get everyone’s attention.

Jasper began, “Since I’m not very familiar with the daily operations of the media and entertainment industry, I’ll leave most decisions to you instead of interfering with everyone. Let the specialists specialize, is my working motto.

“Therefore, instead of listening to my suggestion as an order from the chairman, it’d be better if you took it with a grain of salt like an opinion from an outsider. Perhaps consider it but don’t force yourselves to implement it.”

The vice president smiled and replied just as Jasper finished speaking, “Do tell, Mr. Chairman. Everyone here knows of your ability and I’m sure whatever suggestions you give will be great.”

Everyone’s envious gazes fell on the vice president just as he finished speaking.

Everyone wanted to apple-polish, but the vice president was quicker and had gotten the chance first.

Seeing Jasper smiling at the vice president, everyone was exceptionally envious... 'Indeed, all sorts of bosses like being fawned over!'

They were infuriated to know that a thief had stolen their chance.

"I suggest that we host this celebratory banquet in partnership with Harbor City's Advent Entertainment Group. Both companies are brother companies under my name, so there wouldn't be any sort of competition between them or the like. Even if there is, it would still be friendly competition."

Jasper spoke his thoughts, "Be it celebrity resources or experience in hosting large-scale banquets, Easy Media still needs to learn and borrow help from large companies in Harbor City.

"So with Advent Entertainment Group available for the taking at Harbor City, this is our best chance for both companies to partner up and host the banquet well.

"I don't think there's much I need to tell you about the importance of the banquet, but high officials all have their eyes on us. This is the company's top priority for the time being and all resources we have should be prioritized for this project."

The senior executives all agreed with Jasper's suggestion.

Ignoring Jasper's status, the mere suggestion itself was purely advantageous. Everyone seated was understanding men, and no one rejected his suggestion.

After the meeting, Jasper left Easy Media.

Such a sophisticated and large-scale banquet should require at least a few months' worth of planning, but its importance had resulted in the higher-ups advancing its date to as soon as possible.

Countless issues were involved, and Jasper could not follow up with each one.

All he did was decide the major direction it should take. He would leave the rest for the professionals in both companies.

Jasper returned to the hotel and entered his room, only to be stunned by the sight of someone he had never expected to see.

Wendy!

Sitting by the open bar in the living room and working on her laptop, Wendy looked up at the sound of the door opening and was faced with Jasper. He was completely shocked once he entered the room. She smiled beautifully, and the sight was enough to launch a thousand ships.

“Are you surprised?” Wendy closed her laptop and her snow-white wrists came to support her face. She blinked, like an adorable and cheeky little fairy.

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“I am... Why are you here?” Jasper asked.

Scrunching her nose, Wendy replied, “Dad rushed over right away when he heard that Uncle Yapp was admitted into the hospital. And since the nationwide supermarket industry conference will also be held in Swallow Capital, we decided to come here earlier.”

“Where’s Uncle Schuler?” Jasper asked, taking off his jacket and hanging it on the rack.

“He went to the hospital to visit Uncle Yapp. The two old friends were talking and since I’m not interested in hearing old men reminiscing about the past, I decided to come here first,” Wendy replied with a smile.

Jasper nodded in understanding before he suddenly realized. “How did you get in here? You don’t have a room card.”

Wendy gave Jasper a crescent-eyed smile as she replied darkly, “Miss Law opened the door for me.”

Jasper’s footsteps halted as he walked toward Wendy, and he felt his heart drop. He had a bad feeling about this.

It felt like something terrifying was about to happen.

From the guest room, Anna’s voice sounded.

“Who are you talking to, Miss Schuler? Is Jasper back already?”

Anna’s voice crushed the last shred of delusional hope in Jasper’s heart.

The scene he feared the most of two polar forces clashing against each other had finally occurred.

Jasper had begun to worry long ago what the scene of Wendy and Anna’s first meeting would look like.

He imagined it to be an exciting fight.

The biggest thing that Jasper had done since he started his road to the top of the world might have been the plan to save Harbor City’s stock market.

Hundreds of billions in funds had been taken out to fight Wall Street’s large investors who had a terrifying sum of wealth as well.

All he felt then was excitement but never fear.

Yet right now... the great Mr. Laine was afraid.

Truly, he was a little terrified.

It was because neither Wendy nor Anna was an ordinary everyday girl.

They each had their own tricks and were incomparable to one another.

Jasper rubbed the bridge of his nose and turned to look at the room.

Anna was donned in her favorite red one-piece dress, and she held a tray of tea as she walked over with a smile.

“Thank you for the trouble, Miss Law.” Wendy got off the open bar and approached Anna. Be it Wendy’s tone or her choice of words, she acted with the air of Jasper’s other half.

Anna smiled softly and replied, “Not at all. Jasper likes tea, so I tend to bring tea leaves with me wherever I go. That way, he’ll get to drink tea whenever he gets back.”

Anna shot back sharply, refusing to back down.

Seeing how the two women smiled, the sight alone was something so breathtaking that ordinary people might live their entire lives without ever getting to enjoy such a scene.

However, Jasper could not bring himself to enjoy it.

All he wanted to know at that moment was what Anna and Wendy had talked about and done while he was gone.

From how the two acted, it seemed unlikely that they would start a physical fight.

Jasper felt a little better at the knowledge of that.

Anna put down the tray and elegantly poured a cup of tea with practiced ease. She passed the cup to Jasper and spoke gently, "Earl Grey, made from the most superior black tea leaves that were plucked straight from a renowned place in Harvey City. It's said that they only produce around two kg of it every single year. Here, try it."

Jasper took the cup, and as he moved, he felt Wendy's faint gaze fall on him.

Clearing his throat, Jasper replied, "Thank you."

Wendy let up the pressure she placed on him at his understandingly polite attitude while he distanced himself from Anna.

Anna smiled and replied, "There's no need for thanks between us."

Jasper smiled bitterly. Anna was putting him in more trouble here...

As expected, Wendy frowned.

No woman would stand and watch as another woman provoked her.

It was the same logic as no man would ever let another man provide for his woman before him.

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It was the same idea.

At that moment, neither Anna nor Wendy cared how beautiful the other looked. They were both shameless witches in the other's eyes.

A flask of tea was shared between the three of them.

In a little less than half an hour, Jasper found himself fully understanding what people meant when they said 'minutes ticked on like hours'.

Wendy kept her cool the entire time, seeing that the last thing she should do as Jasper's other half was to cower in fear. She had to defend her position.

Meanwhile, Anna drank tea and began to search for topics of interest. Wendy would reply and give her own two cents without an ounce of fear.

Jasper, however, was completely isolated, for the two women had tacitly decided to ignore him.

Half an hour later, Anna finally got up and excused herself. "I'm a little tired, so I'll get back to my room now."

'You should've left long ago.' That was what Wendy thought internally, but she merely replied with a sympathetic expression on her face, "I've had a lot of fun talking to you, Miss Law. We should do this again sometime."

'How about we don't...'

Jasper wanted nothing more at that moment than to toss Wendy to the North Pole and Anna to the South Pole so the two would never meet again.

Anna gave a small smile. "Sounds great. I had a lot of fun talking to you today too, Miss Schuler. We should talk more in the future."

Anna then turned to Jasper and asked softly, "Won't you send me off, Jasper?"

Wendy clenched her fist angrily at her suggestion and bit her red lip, but she otherwise remained silent.

Jasper got up and smiled dryly. "I'll walk you out."

The two walked out the door in a line, and Anna slightly closed the door behind her to block Wendy's line of vision.

Wendy clenched her teeth and was overwhelmed with the urge to run over to look at what the two of them were doing, but she forced herself to maintain the air of 'generosity' around her.

At the door, Jasper was about to speak when an air of perfume ambushed him. Anna suddenly appeared in his arms.

With her hands wrapped around Jasper's neck, Anna blinked at Jasper. "Was it exciting?"

Jasper did not know whether to laugh or to cry as he pulled Anna's arms off. "Stop playing around!"

Ignoring the fact that there were surveillance cameras in the corridor, Wendy was just on the other side of the door. The last thing Jasper wanted to do was taunt Wendy's limits right under her nose.

"Coward."

Anna mocked and said, "I'm leaving for Waterhoof City tomorrow to attend a fashion show on behalf of my teacher. It'll be three to five days before I get back."

"Wait, really?" Jasper could not hide the surprise in his tone when he asked.

Then, he felt slightly regretful.

As expected, Anna was teasing him with her gaze.

"Okay, I'll stop. Go comfort your girlfriend."

Anna then turned and left.

Jasper rubbed his cheeks with both his hands at the sight of Anna's retreating figure and turned to push open the room door. He saw Wendy with her arms crossed while looking at him calmly.

Jasper felt a little guilty when he realized that Anna's perfume still lingered around his neck.

"Go take a bath. You must be tired after working all day."

It surprised him that Wendy did not question him at all, nor did she interrogate him about his relationship with Anna. Instead, what came out of her mouth was a caring suggestion.

Jasper looked at Wendy and asked, "Is there nothing you want to ask me?"

"Not really." Wendy sat back on the bar chair and opened her laptop with a blank expression on her face,

"There's no way a man like you would lack flirty women by your side, even my dad told me that."

Wendy smiled confidently and said, "But I trust you. I trust that you won't betray me, right?"

Despite Wendy's choice of words, Jasper still heard the slight hint of a threat in her tone.

At that, Jasper smiled dumbly and agreed, "Yes! Of course not!"

He turned without hesitation and left. Time to take a bath!

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It was evening by the time Dawson returned.

Anna had to prepare for the fashion show the following day at Waterhoof City while Henry had some family friends to entertain on behalf of the Law family.

As such, Jasper left them alone and went to dinner with Dawson, Wendy, and Julian in tow.

They found a simple restaurant and ordered their food. Dawson turned to Jasper, saying, "You must be exhausted with how busy you've been lately."

Jasper smiled. "I'd rather be busy now while I'm still young. Having nothing to do, on the other hand, makes me feel uncomfortable."

Dawson smiled. "Men at your age should indeed put their focus on work. That's how I started too. Don't worry, I'll watch over other things for you."

Jasper poured Dawson a glass of wine. "I feel pretty bad about what happened with Uncle Yapp."

Dawson waved his hand dismissively. "Don't worry about it. We've been friends for decades, I know what kind of person he is. Not to mention, if we're looking at this more realistically, he did suffer quite a bit this time but he has earned more from this.

"In this case, he should be thanking you instead... All he did was praise you when I visited him in the hospital. You might as well be some divine being to him at this point."

Jasper smiled. "I've already smoothed the incident over, and even if there are still some loose ends to tie, I don't think he'll be in the crossfire anymore."

Dawson nodded and spoke warmly, "Tell me if there's anything I can help you with. I might not be able to help much when it comes to contacts in Swallow Capital, but I promise I won't just stand by and watch."

Jasper did not reject his help and thanked him seriously. "I will."

After dinner, Dawson suddenly turned to Jasper. "There's a supermarket conference I have to attend tomorrow and people in charge of large chain supermarkets within the country will be there. It's more or less a chance to expand your circle of contacts, so how about you come with me tomorrow?"

Jasper nodded.

"Are you coming with, Wendy?" Jasper turned to ask.

Wendy shook her head. "I've applied for Swallow Capital University's MBA seminar and it's the opening ceremony tomorrow. I'll be busy the next two days."

MBA was also known as Masters of Business Administration. To have such a masters at this age was a great advantage.

However, it was also far from cheap. Especially when it was Swallow Capital University's MBA seminar. It cost almost one million a year for tuition fees alone.

Not that the cost mattered to Jasper and Wendy.

In addition, since seminars like this were expensive, those who applied for one had to go through a stern screening. Those who did get accepted were a new level of promising talents in society.

These 'classmates' were all undoubtedly valuable contacts to have.

Jasper exclaimed in shock, “MBA? I see. It’d be nice to sit in and listen, but you have to be careful. Some men like to sit in just for the sake of having something to brag about and you never know what tricks they have up their sleeves.”

Jasper’s stern expression did not look like he was joking. Wendy smiled and answered, “Don’t worry, I know what to do.”

The following day, Anna left for Waterhoof City early in the morning. Jasper wanted to send her off, but she had left long before he arrived and without a goodbye.

Henry stayed up late entertaining guests and was completely passed-out drunk. He continued to sleep past noon for he had more entertaining to do in the afternoon. As such, Jasper left him alone again today.

Such tasks were the rich kids’ version of ‘serious work’.

Jasper got Julian to follow Wendy as she went to enroll at Swallow Capital University, while he followed Dawson to the supermarket conference.

The conference was held on the executive conference floor in a five-star hotel.

As it was a conference for a nationwide industry, it had to be sophisticated enough.

A member of the staff from the organizing party led the entire way and Jasper got a grasp of Dawson’s status in the supermarket industry.

The two entered the hotel, and after Dawson’s identity was revealed, a man who appeared to be the person in charge immediately rushed over. He handed them the two qualification certificates for the conference. Then, he led Jasper and Dawson upstairs.

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Lights shone brightly in the conference hall, and there was a podium at the very front. Around the room were buffet-style tables for refreshments and there were waiters all around the hall for guests to request help from.

“Quite the number of people are in attendance for the conference this time. Even the owners and senior executives of private state-owned and joined venture chainstores like Kaymaroon, Carrefour, Somer Resources, TR-Mart, and Somer United Stores will be here today.”

Dawson turned to tell Jasper before they walked through the door.

“Is something big about to happen to the industry? Why else would there be such a grand conference?”

Jasper knew that for at least 15 years until online shopping completely monopolized people’s expenses, the supermarket industry had always been thriving.

Moreover, its unique business model guaranteed a large amount of cash flow to the supermarket industry. Supermarkets were the only business that had creditors but not debtors.

It was a promising industry.

However, Jasper did not want to dabble in this industry for now as every industry had its own specialized techniques and Jasper did not do things unless he was absolutely certain of its results.

All he felt now was pure curiosity.

Dawson smiled. "I heard that they're deciding to develop a standard within the industry for everyone to abide by."

While Jasper did not work in the supermarket Industry, he had dabbled in similar industries and immediately understood what this so-called standard referred to.

It was essentially a binding curse bigwigs wanted to give their industries so that they could benefit by gathering as many resources for themselves.

"They wish," Jasper replied faintly, not rooting for it.

Developing standards within an industry was something that required the discussion of the entire country. Competitors should not be allowed to play judge at all.

Dawson smiled noncommittally. "My thoughts exactly."

As they spoke, the two entered the conference hall.

Dawson's arrival had brought over a small wave of guests.

"You're finally here, Dawson. I heard that you've been doing great with your real estate business lately. I almost thought that you wouldn't come since the supermarket industry is on a way smaller scale," a middle-aged man who approached them laughed while speaking.

Dawson smiled and walked over. He reached out to shake the person's hand. "I started off with the supermarket industry, so how could I let go of it just like that? There's no way I'd miss this conference."

"Here, let me introduce you. This is Jasper, my daughter Wendy's boyfriend.

"This is Mr. Chris Quarles! He's one of the big shots in our industry, Jasper. You might want to acquaint yourself."

Under Chris' curious gaze, Jasper reached out humbly and greeted, "Hello, Mr. Quarles."

Chris reached out to shake Jasper's hand. "Not bad. You have promising talent, young man."

Jasper was a generation below his and still young, so Chris did not focus too much time on him. The fact that Chris greeted him politely already spoke volumes.

He turned to crack a joke with Dawson. "Your angelic daughter already has her marriage partner decided, Dawson? My son's still in high school, though. I'd ask you to reconsider him if he wasn't so young."

Dawson replied calmly, "I'll let the young ones decide this for themselves. Plus, Jasper fits right into my requirements."

Seeing how Dawson favored Jasper, Chris glanced at the latter again but changed the subject.

His smile fell as he leaned toward Dawson worriedly. "I got wind of what's happening, Dawson. It's not in our favor at all."

Chris had just finished speaking when a burst of powerful laughter boomed from behind.

"If it isn't Dawson from Schuler Group! I heard you almost got scammed by a few hundred million? I told you, didn't I? We've got to know how much we're worth and don't dabble in things we don't understand. Look at you, why won't you listen? What's with all this real estate business? No one's going to pity you when you make a loss, you know."

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By the time such targeting words were said, the person saying them had arrived in front of Dawson as well.

Dressed in a black suit from a sophisticated brand, his hair was slicked back without one strand amiss. One glance was all it took to tell that he was a very successful middle-aged man.

He had very prominent features, the most impressionable ones being the sharp and defined brows which added a tint of fierceness and frost.

Jasper did not need Dawson to introduce him.

This was Sebastian Walker, the owner of Kaymaroon.

Both TR-Mart and Somer Resources, renowned supermarkets in the future, had yet to make a big name for themselves in the year 2000. The largest supermarket during this time was Kaymaroon.

At the topic of Kaymaroon, Sebastian was indeed an able man.

Born a nobody, Sebastian single-handedly turned Kaymaroon into the country's biggest supermarket chain in the year 2000 from a mere city workshop.

Moreover, the popular commercial complex concept after 2010 was also first introduced into the country by Sebastian from abroad.

However, Sebastian's conceitedness had made him neglect the fact that the country and its citizens' spending was far inferior to what the situation overseas was. Thus, his advanced concept had only fallen short in the end.

The price he paid was Kaymaroon being the first supermarket defeated by online shopping.

According to history, Sebastian was currently at the pinnacle of his career, so it made sense that he was very proud of himself.

Against Sebastian's harsh words, Dawson showed no sign of a reaction.

"You seem to be very interested in my development, Chairman Walker."

Sebastian laughed aloud and replied, "Of course, you're my old rival. How can I not worry about whether a loser like you is enjoying the last years of his life?"

Dawson's eyes slightly narrowed as he replied calmly, "Thank you for your concern, but you should take care of yourself."

Sebastian's forced smile fell and he suddenly turned to Jasper. Realizing that there was nothing special about Jasper, Sebastian smirked mockingly. "What's this? Did Chairman Schuler bring someone new over as well?"

"Don't you know to greet people when you see them?"

Jasper looked straight at Sebastian. Evidently aware of the fight between the two men, Jasper merely replied, "My apologies, but I don't know you."

Sebastian burst into laughter. "I'm the host of this conference. What are you doing here if you don't recognize me, then?"

"Sebastian! Jasper is someone I brought over. If this is what you believe, then there's no need for us to be here at your conference!"

Dawson suddenly spoke and moved as if pulling Jasper out the door.

Chris, who had been chuckling bitterly by the side, suddenly persuaded by saying, “Dawson, hey, come on. Let’s not be so rash, okay? We’re here to attend a conference, it’s a good thing. Relax, okay, let’s calm down.”

Pulling Dawson to sit as he spoke, Chris then turned to say to Sebastian darkly. “How about you greet the other guests, Mr. Walker? We’ll talk later?”

Sebastian scoffed. “What big shot are you pretending to be in front of me when you’re just a loser who has been hiding for the past ten years?”

“How do you even have the shame to bring someone new here? Do you not have any dignity? Ever thought about how his impression of you will shatter when you make a fool of yourself in public again?”

Sebastian then turned to leave.

Dawson’s expression was blank, but his eyes were icy.

Chris smiled bitterly and comforted him. “You know that Walker is just arrogant by nature, Dawson. Just ignore him.

“A lot of people are for this industry standard and those of us against it make up the minority. There’s no way we can stop him if you leave.”

Jasper suddenly spoke, “We can stay to have a look.”

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Dawson slowly nodded his head after hearing Jasper putting it that way. He let out a sigh and said with a bitter smile, “Actually, ten years ago, I got into a fight with Sebastian Walker. It’s just that I ended up losing that fight.”

Chris Quarles backed him up by adding, “It wasn’t actually a loss. In that fight, you actually showed your imposing momentum.”

As he was saying, Chris spun around and said to Jasper, “Ten years ago, no one ruled over the supermarket industry in the southeast province yet. The Schuler family’s supermarket and Sebastian’s Kaymaroon, which were the only two supermarket companies that entered the southeast province at the same time, competed with each other for the top spot.

“Both of them wanted to take over this huge market and keep it to themselves. Hence, the two companies could not stop a fight from breaking out between them.

“The competition had been a cruel one. When it was very aggressive, both parties were basically losing in order to take control over the market. Your father-in-law was very kind and was a steady man in battle. He was very tolerant of the suppliers, and that’s why many people supported him.

“But Sebastian was different. He was more domineering. Basically, he’s the kind of person that says he’s the only one who can rule the world. Therefore, not many people supported him.

“When your father-in-law was about to emerge victorious, a big boss from Swallow Capital suddenly took out a huge sum of funds to support Kaymaroon. With this, your father-in-law could no longer win against them and lost that battle.

“It was very unfortunate for your father-in-law. Ever since that time, he had never shown up in the market within the province. If not, no one could say for sure who will be the head of the current supermarket business within the country.”

Dawson said with a smile, “Those are the old stories. Why bother mentioning them?”

Jasper spun around and asked Dawson, “Is it because Sebastian threatened you?”

Dawson sighed and said, "You can't say that he threatened me. I'll just put it this way. It was an agreement in a bet. Whoever lost the bet will not be allowed to expand their market."

"But such an agreement doesn't take effect under the name of law, right?" said Jasper, frowning.

Dawson said with a smile, "Of course not. But I'm a man of pride. Besides, I'm sick of it as well. Keeping the market going on within the province is more than enough to keep the Schuler family alive, and I also get to spend more time to keep Wendy company too."

Jasper nodded and said with his gaze looking dark, "I'll avenge you!"

Before Dawson even spoke a word, Chris laughed. "Young man, do you know what kind of person Sebastian is? Do you know about the huge support he has? Ten years ago, your father-in-law was already no match for him. Things are still the same now. Your father-in-law couldn't handle him back then, what more you?"

"It's a good thing to be ambitious, but young man, you should be more down-to-earth and hardworking."

Jasper could make out that Chris and Dawson had a very good relationship. Chris said those comments with kind intentions, but it was not pleasant hearing them.

Jasper was beyond the state where someone could persuade him with just words. At that moment, he merely let out a smile to show his gratitude to Mr. Quarles.

Chris had been doing business his entire life, and it was impossible for him not to realize that Jasper did not heed his words at all. He shook his head, feeling that the youngsters nowadays were way too arrogant. However, he did not want to waste a single breath talking about it.

After all, Jasper could be Dawson's son-in-law in the future. He had nothing to do with them anyway. He would not stop Jasper if he wanted to boast or get himself humiliated before Sebastian.

While they were talking earlier, the forum had officially begun.

Sebastian, as the leader and also the organizer, would naturally be the first to give his speech. The entire forum was centered around him.

After spewing a whole load of rubbish for nearly half an hour, Sebastian cleared his throat and said, "I believe everyone has already gone through the contents of the standard for the nation's supermarket industry that I gave out earlier.

"I dare say this standard will definitely be great news that will benefit the industry!

"In the standard, I've set up a department with a committee to manage our supermarket industry. I vote myself for the position of chairperson of the committee.

"Now, let us start voting. This standard is suggested by me, Sebastian Walker, and naturally, I should be the chairperson. Everyone, please vote for me, thank you!"

As soon as Sebastian was done with his speech, a huge group of people whom he had bribed earlier immediately voiced out their support.

The situation looked good for him.

Chris and his gang who did not support him all sat on their seats with awful looks on their faces. However, no one dared to take the lead.

Just when Sebastian felt that everything was settled, a clear voice was heard ringing across the entire scene.

“I object to it!”

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”Object?”

Once the voice of objection was heard, it immediately attracted everyone’s attention. Everyone was aware that Sebastian’s status in this industry was very high.

Only a handful of people dared to go against him when he spoke.

Including Sebastian, nobody expected someone to be so daring at that moment to jump out and object.

‘Isn’t this just like wanting to slap Sebastian on the face in public?’

Exasperated, Sebastian looked over only to find out the one who stood up to talk was the young man beside Dawson.

Suddenly, Sebastian’s expression became dark.

The scene at that moment was very quiet. Everyone was sneaking a peek at Jasper, including Sebastian who was wearing a very awful expression.

Most of the people were looking forward to seeing how things would turn out.

Amidst the crowd, Chris came to Dawson and said into his ear with shock on his face, “Is this brat out of his mind? Why don’t you stop him?”

Dawson smiled calmly, and said, “Why should I stop him?”

It was as if it was the first time Chris was getting to know Dawson. “Judging from Sebastian’s temper, do you think he’ll let Jasper off the hook? Isn’t he your daughter’s boyfriend? Are you just going to watch him dig his own grave?”

‘Even the Turner family was forced to step down by Jasper, what more Sebastian who’s alone?’

Dawson was feeling thrilled, but his face did not show signs of it.

At that moment, Sebastian spoke.

“Dawson is the one who brought you here, right? You’re just a brat who hasn’t even gone through puberty. Your seniors don’t dare say a word, yet you think you have the right to talk?”

His comment immediately exposed Jasper’s identity. Everyone was surprised, and following then, everyone’s gazes on Dawson became ambiguous.

The conflict between Dawson and Sebastian was not a secret in the industry. Those who were in the industry for some time would know about it. More so, those who could come to participate in this conference were all big bosses in the supermarket industry.

“I’m representing Schuler Group, so why is it that I don’t have the right to talk? Since it’s a conference for the industry, then as one of the companies in the industry, it’s only natural that Schuler Group has the qualification to express their ideas.”

Jasper raised his head and looked straight at Sebastian who was on the podium and said with an appropriate attitude.

“Could it be that Chairman Walker is so domineering that you won’t even allow anyone to talk? Since that’s the case, if you really succeed in being this so-called chairperson, aren’t you going to be a tyrant in the future?”

The words Jasper said had bruised his ego. Sebastian's expression changed drastically.

Initially, those who were against him were already not few, but at this moment, Jasper was still fanning the flames.

Subconsciously, he glanced over at the scene. Indeed, most of the people had a hesitant expression plastered on their faces.

Sebastian took in a deep breath and said through gritted teeth, "Don't go talking nonsense. Of course, I'll allow others to talk. Besides, I'll be glad to accept good ideas. As long as it's a good opinion, I'll accept it."

"Then please accept my opinion. I object to this industry's standard because I think it's not going to benefit the development of the supermarket industry. Besides, this is just a trick for you to monopolize this industry."

Jasper's voice could even make the ground tremble.

However, no one expected anything good out of him.

They all just thought of Jasper as a silly brat who did not think things through before making a move.

Chris also shook his head while smiling in mockery.

"This silly brat. Is he saying that we, who have lived almost half of our lifetimes, are not able to see through the scheme as thoroughly as a young lad like him?" Chris tilted his body and said to the chairman of another supermarket company beside him.

"Youngsters are that easily triggered. He's too impulsive." That person shook his head and agreed to Chris' words.

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”Sigh, soon, he’s going to pay the price for his arrogance and foolishness. Sebastian will definitely not let him off the hook,” said Chris calmly.

“Utter rubbish!” Sebastian slammed on the table hard. He stood up like a furious male lion.

Sebastian roared as he pointed at Jasper, “Who do you think you are? Back when I was running my business, you were still in diapers. Since when is it your turn to be pointing fingers at me and criticizing me?”

At that moment, Dawson stood up as well and said coldly, “Sebastian, please mind your words. I’m still standing here well and alive. I’ll not tolerate you bullying the younger ones.”

Sebastian laughed out loud and said, “Oh my, after blasting the young one, now it’s the elder’s turn to show up? Dawson, do you really think you’re some big shot? Even with that little capability you got there you weren’t my opponent ten years back. Just how courageous are you now to go against me?”

“Believe it or not, tomorrow, I’ll just enter the market in your province and drag the entire Schuler Group down. How difficult do you think it will be for me to do so, huh?”

Dawson’s icy cold gaze fell on Sebastian as he said, “Feel free to test it out. If I even frown, I’ll not call myself a Schuler!”

Sebastian sneered. He got down from the podium and walked his way to Dawson. He said coldly, “Hey Schuler, I guess you really haven’t learned your

lesson. It looks like the lesson I taught you ten years ago wasn't terrible enough for you, right?"

As Sebastian was saying, he chuckled before continuing, "Do you know why your wife suddenly died of a heart attack ten years ago?"

His comment made Dawson's eyes burst with light as he kept staring at Sebastian. Judging from his body that was trembling slightly, Dawson's emotions were very much agitated at this moment. It was just that he was refraining himself.

Jasper, who was listening beside him, became serious as well.

All this while, he knew that Wendy was raised by a single parent. Regardless of it being his past life when they both had never communicated with each other or in this current life where they were both together, he had never heard Wendy mention a word about her mother.

Dawson had never mentioned his wife as well.

All he knew was that Wendy's mother had passed away a long time ago.

Jasper did not ask as well. After all, it was a very depressing incident for the father and daughter.

However, looking at the current situation, it seemed that the death of Wendy's mother that year was rather suspicious.

After letting out a burst of mystifying laughter, Sebastian said proudly and arrogantly in the ears of Dawson and Jasper with a voice that only the three of them could hear.

"Didn't you find it weird? All the while, your wife only had a mild cardiovascular malformation. Living up to 60 or 70 years old shouldn't be a problem, but then her illness deteriorated and ultimately, she passed away.

“That’s because I summoned a few men. Initially, I thought of just scaring her, but who knew she f*cking had a heart attack as well. Once she heard the fake news that I told her about you meeting with an accident during a job outstation, coupled with the fact that she was being kidnapped, she really got terrified and died on the spot!

“If it wasn’t for that, I think it wouldn’t have been so easy for me to win against you. However, even the gods were standing on my side, hahahaha!”

Sebastian’s words and laughter were like a spell, unlocking the puzzle Dawson had been struggling himself with for the past ten years. At the same time, it lit up the flames of rage within him as well.

“Sebastian!”

Dawson, who was so mad that he had lost all rationality, roared. He extended his hands vigorously and grabbed Sebastian’s collar. Raising his fist, he was about to swing his punch.

However, given that Sebastian was so daring to blurt out such a comment meant that he had come well prepared. The security guards beside him immediately rushed over and halted Dawson with all their force.

Dawson kept struggling. Due to the rage and agitation, his complexion was unusually red. Both his eyes were engorged with vessels. He opened them wide while staring at Sebastian as if he was about to engulf him.

Even though he was mentally well prepared, Sebastian was still shocked to see Dawson’s current look.

Subconsciously, he took a step back and ordered a few security guards to restrain Dawson. A few people then surrounded both Dawson and Jasper.

After adjusting his collar, Sebastian looked at Dawson and said with an arrogant smile, “Do you know why I’m only willing to disclose it to you now?”

“Because I want you to know that ten years ago, you couldn’t win against me, and right now, you’re still a piece of trash in my eyes!”

Sebastian raised his hand and pointed at Jasper as he was saying. He then added with a cold smile, “Young man, do you see that? This is what you call tactics. You’re just a brainless kid who stepped out without knowing anything. Don’t you know that you’re being used by your father-in-law?”

Jasper gave off a scary gaze. He glanced at Sebastian and tried his best to talk in a calm tone, “To be honest, you’re the first person to make me this mad. I’ll surely serve you well.

“I’ll make you wish you were never born!”

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Jasper's comment changed everyone's view of him.

In their opinions, Jasper, as Dawson's future son-in-law, would not even have the right to enter the conference if it was not for Dawson.

However, right now, even Dawson was unable to do anything to Sebastian. What more Jasper?

'Still being able to say such ruthless comments when both parties have demonstrated a huge gap in their capabilities only means that this is a brainless performance.'

Amongst the crowd, Chris shook his head. He thought to himself, 'Dawson has always been a clever person so why did he get himself a stupid son-in-law?'

As for Sebastian, his gaze was dark. He stared at Jasper and let out a creepy smile, looking just like an emperor on his throne listening to the provocation of a beggar.

"Hey b*stard, who do you think you are?" Sebastian smirked while saying it.

"Even your father-in-law is just trash in my opinion, let alone you? If I were you, I'd just advise your father-in-law to know his standing and not go against me. Or else, the golden cash cow you've searched so hard for might just be destroyed by me.

"You really don't fear anything. Isn't it better to stay in your house and guard that tiny piece of land of yours? You'll still gain tens of millions of profits annually. It's more than enough for you to live your life. Why do you insist on taking the limelight?!"

Dawson stared at Sebastian coldly. His eyes gave off a sense of franticness and revealed a grudge that went all the way deep into his bones. “Sebastian, I, Dawson Schuler, swear that I’ll make you wish you were never born! I’ll make sure to avenge Linda!”

Sebastian laughed out loud and said, “You’re just a f*cking piece of trash to me, yet you still want to seek revenge? It’s better if you use this opportunity and go back and pack your stuff. Ensure all the cash in your bank account is secure. Perhaps you’ll still be able to live your last days in a better way as well!”

“I, Sebastian Walker, will keep to my words. Once the industry standard is approved, the supermarket under you will immediately be the target of attack of the entire industry.

“Also, regarding your supermarkets within the province, even though I’m not interested in them, I believe others are. It just so happens that I can give them out to everyone as a gift from me.”

As Sebastian said, he shifted his gaze over to Jasper. He chuckled and said, “Do you see this, young man? Your useless father-in-law can only roar away, but what about it? With just a simple manner, I’ll be able to corner him to a state he can’t counter-attack.

“That’s all there is to your father-in-law, so what about you? Right now, have you come to realize just how cruel this community is? The world of the upper-class is way more dangerous than you think. The rich father-in-law in your eyes is nothing but a tiny ant.

“You’re even thinking of making me wish that I was never born? What a joke. How many years has it been since I met such a foolish person? Why don’t you look at yourself in the mirror? What a joke!”

As Sebastian was saying, he squinted his eyes and glanced at the surrounding crowd. He was using Dawson and Jasper as examples, punishing them so he could warn everyone.

Only in this way would he be able to take control of others, and in the meantime, he could proceed with his plan smoothly!

“You’re Dawson’s son-in-law, but don’t ever follow in his footsteps.”

Sebastian revealed an evil smile while saying it. He stared at Jasper and said thoughtfully, “Take good care of your wife, don’t let her follow her mother’s footsteps. If that time ever arrives, it’ll be too late to regret!”

After Sebastian finished talking, he lifted his head and laughed wildly. He was utterly arrogant.

The people surrounding them exchanged terrified looks with each other. They were all feeling depressed at the same time.

Even though they hated Sebastian’s dominance, they also pitied Dawson and Jasper for what they were experiencing. However, at this moment, they could only sigh internally.

It was because none of them dared step out and defend them both at that moment as it would also mean going against Sebastian.

Nothing good would follow it.

Chris also sighed. He looked at Jasper and noticed that the young man’s face did not carry a trace of remorse or any horrified emotions. His expression appeared calm.

“Could he be so mad that he’s gone crazy?” Chris shook his head. “He’s still too young. He needs to gain more experience.”

It was as if Sebastian was done showing off, so he said with a cold smile, “Still hoping that I’ll wish I was never born? Wait for a few more days and we’ll see who will have that wish! Stupid!”

After saying it, Sebastian spun around and returned to the podium for the meeting.

However, at that moment, Jasper suddenly pushed the few security guards who were blocking him with much force. He sprinted ahead, and his body pounced forth like a cheetah.

The distance between Sebastian and Jasper was only three to four meters apart. Jasper rushed over in a blink of an eye.

He raised his hand, clenched it into a fist, and threw his punch.

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All of the moves were done smoothly.

That heavy punch smashed right on Sebastian's terrified face.

Before Sebastian could even let out a shriek, his entire body moved backward and his face tilted to the side after getting punched. Blood spat out from his mouth, splattering on the people beside him and on their meticulously custom-made suits, leaving striking marks on them.

Sebastian dropped to the floor, and only then did he let out a terrible shriek and roar.

Chaos suddenly broke out within the crowd of people. A few security guards who had recovered from the shock quickly pounced and grabbed hold of Jasper with everything they had.

However, even with that measure being taken, Jasper still managed to land a few kicks on Sebastian's body.

The crowd was thrown into havoc, and amidst the noise, Sebastian's roar was heard. "You son of a b*tch, I want you dead so badly! I want you dead!"

Jasper freed himself from the restrictions of the few security guards. Seeing that they were still attempting to surround him, Jasper gave them a cold glare.

"Get lost!"

It was a low roar, yet Jasper had demonstrated his dominance. Ever since being reincarnated, his aura revealed that he was at the top of the hierarchy and asserted the power of his wealth that was worth billions.

In other words, one could easily feel the domineering aura from him even if he was not triggered.

What was more, Jasper was currently exasperated.

The few security guards looked at each other. They did not know why, but they felt frustrated even though they were dealing with someone who was almost the same age as them.

It was as if they would end up in deep trouble if they disobeyed him.

The security guards gulped their saliva and hesitated, not having the courage to move forth.

Jasper's icy cold gaze then landed on Sebastian.

Sebastian had been disgraced, his face covered with blood. His left cheek was swollen after being punched by Jasper, while the other side of his face was

covered with a red bloodstain. He also had a posterior molar tooth that fell out after the beating.

From the few kicks Jasper inflicted upon Sebastian's body, his suit that he cared so much about was all full of shoe marks now.

Sebastian was currently looking even worse than a beggar who failed to snatch some food. At this moment, he was far from keeping his elegant composure.

Sebastian's body was fumbling. After entering the industry for tens of years, he had never endured such a beating.

It was done in the public's eye too! 'How am I going to face the public in the future?'

Jasper did not continue going forth to beat up Sebastian.

At the end of the day, the business world had its way of settling grudges and arguments. Brawling was just because of a spark of emotional agitation.

Jasper's intention was not to make Sebastian lose his pride nor suffer.

He wanted him to lose his fame and fortune as well as everything else he had!

At that moment, Dawson also pushed away the person who was yanking him and stepped into the scene.

Dawson looked at Sebastian delightfully and said to Jasper, "Let's go. About the issue that's coming up, we'll have a thorough discussion about it later when we return."

Jasper nodded, and together with Dawson, they spun around to leave.

The other people dared not block them.

As for Sebastian, he was staring at the back figures of the two men. His eyes were gleaming with deep-rooted cruelty and grudges.

“Just you guys wait and see! I’ll deal with you guys till you’re dead! I’ll make you both kneel before me and beg me!”

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After exiting the hotel, Dawson pulled Jasper over and casually found a stall to have supper.

Just like that, the father-in-law whose net worth was over tens of billions and his son-in-law casually sat at the stall selling supper and started drinking beer. They ate cheap grilled meat too.

Jasper knew that Dawson was not in a pleasant mood, so he did not say much and got the boss of the stall to serve some peanuts and pickles that need not be cooked. He also ordered a dozen bottles of cold beer.

Accompanying the father-in-law and getting drunk together was one of the things a qualified son-in-law should do.

They opened up the beer and gulped down half of the bottle. Dawson held onto the bottle and hit it hard on the oily table.

He loosened up his necktie and unbuttoned one of the buttons on his shirt collar. Dawson lifted his eyes and said to Jasper with a bitter smile, “Was I really that embarrassing today?”

Jasper shook his head and said seriously, “Not at all, you’re the man!”

Dawson smiled and said, “Wendy’s mother, Linda, had followed me since she was 19 years old. She was the daughter of a lecturer in a university. Back then, I was just a poor brat from the village with nothing.

“But it was nothing like those stories. Her whole family supported her decision and treated me very well. Besides, the very first fund I had for my business was also provided by her dad. He took out the money with his salary and savings to aid me.

“Even though Linda was born with congenital cardiovascular malformation, it wouldn’t affect her daily life. The doctor mentioned that there was no cure to this disease but she could at least be able to live up to 70 years old.”

At that time, the boss of the stall served the grilled meat. Jasper took two bites of it. Then, he lifted his bottle of beer and clinked it with Dawson’s before drinking. “It’s a wonderful story.”

Dawson drank all of the remaining beer in one shot and let out a long sigh before saying, “Yeah, it’s wonderful. Even though Linda’s parents were very supportive of us, their relatives and Linda’s pursuers and friends all looked down on me.

“With Linda’s status, she could definitely find a better husband. For the first few years after our marriage, all of her friends were living much better lives than us.

“In order not to let Linda feel that she was having it worse than others, I worked my *ss off to earn more money. It was then that I started to neglect her.”

Dawson’s hand was clenching the bottle of beer. His fingertips became white because he was exerting too much strength.

“Ten years ago, at the most crucial time when I was competing with Sebastian, I lost everything in a single night. All the outsiders were saying it was because Sebastian obtained the financial support of a big boss from Swallow Capital.

“But I know that it was only part of the reason. The most important thing is that Linda got a heart attack and she just passed away without any prior symptoms, leaving behind me and Wendy who was only very young at the time.”

Dawson’s gaze was filled with sufferings and remembrance. “Ever since Linda married me, she had never once lived a happy day. In the end, she just left the world like that. It was because of her passing’s impact on me that I failed to win against Sebastian.

“I’ve thought it through. As a man, we shouldn’t have the right to be talking about our careers if we can’t even take good care of our wives and children. Hence, I’m now placing more of my attention on Wendy. She’s my only hope.”

Dawson’s body slightly trembled when he was saying that. His tone started to sound like he was choking. “All this while, Wendy and I thought that the heart attack was just an accident that occurred coincidentally, but now I know that it’s all because of Sebastian. He was the one behind this entire incident!

“He ordered people to kidnap Linda. Linda, who was already frightened, was then told that I was met with an accident. How could she have accepted such a huge shock? It was no wonder that at the time, Linda’s main attending doctor said that before she died, she had suffered from a huge shock and torture. I couldn’t think things through at that point!

“But now I understand. I’ve thought through it. It was all because I was a fool who wanted to find success in my career, who self-proclaimed to be smarter than others, and who boasted about having never been defeated!”

Smack!

Dawson raised his hand and gave himself a tight slap.

Subconsciously, Jasper wanted to stop Dawson’s hand. When he raised his eyes, however, he saw the man who would never furrow his brows and always looked like nothing was able to defeat him with his face covered in tears.

It was not an embarrassing thing for a man to cry.

He was strong. It was just that the incident had triggered him to be depressed.

Seeing Dawson in such a miserable state, Jasper's heart was dwelling with a sense of respect for him that he never had before.

He was a man who had lost his wife ten years ago, a man with a net worth of billions but never showed off.

He was a man who was able to feel regret and suffered because of his late wife who passed away ten years ago.

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Regardless of anything else, Jasper felt it was all worth showing some respect for.

“That is why, Jasp, you have to remember. As a man, you must protect your family well. Regardless of how tired you are or how you're suffering, having a complete family and making your wife and children happy is what defines a successful man. Don't be a failure like me!

“I'm leaving Wendy to you, so you must treat her well.

“Uncle Schuler, I'll take revenge on your behalf. About your daughter, I'll treasure her forever,” Jasper looked at Dawson with a serious look and said softly.

Dawson started at Jasper, absent-minded. After some time, he suddenly laughed out loud. He wiped off his tears and said, “Let's drink!”

“Let’s drink!”

Jasper discarded his bottle and picked up a new one. The two men held their bottles of beer like they were holding glasses and drank.

That night, Dawson got drunk and was a mess after their drinking session. He passed out cold.

It was Jasper who piggybacked him all the way to the hotel room.

Wendy, who came back early, was puzzled. Seeing Dawson drunk and in that state made her anxiously run to him to look after him.

“Did you guys go for a conference or for a drinking session? My dad’s drunk to this state and why do you carry a strong scent of alcohol as well?”

Wendy took a warm towel and wiped Dawson’s face as she tilted her head to lecture Jasper.

Jasper spun around and headed toward the washroom to wash his face. After feeling slightly refreshed, he said, “We met a few old friends and our dad got excited, so he drank quite a lot.”

Jasper purposely emphasized the words ‘our dad’ with a teasing expression.

Wendy’s little ears twitched when she heard the words ‘our dad’. Her cheeks noticeably flushed red.

“What nonsense are you muttering about?!” Wendy took the towel and jumped up, glaring at Jasper as if she was blaming him.

After what had happened that day, Jasper’s emotions were unstable as well. At that moment, he saw the gentle Wendy under the lights. He suddenly stretched out his hands and held the shy lady in his arms, hugging her.

Wendy's body was stiffened. Even though she was shy, ladies were born with a much more sensitive sense. Instinctively, she noticed that Jasper had something going on in his mind.

Wendy let down her guard and tried her best to use her gentleness to comfort Jasper. She said gently, "Is something troubling you? You can tell me."

Jasper smiled and shook his head.

He did not want to reveal the truth to Wendy. That was the agreement he had made with Dawson.

After all, ten years ago, Wendy had already endured a huge shock once. Now, if he were to tell her that it was all an evil scheme and her mother's death was caused by someone else, it would be too big of a burden for her to endure. It would be too cruel to her.

"You should take care of things around here first. I'll head back for a moment," said Jasper softly as he released Wendy.

Wendy blinked her eyes and nodded.

She was a bright lady and did not question any further. Every man would have their own burdens. All she had to do was provide him with warmth when he needed it and not pester him with questions.

As he walked out of the room and locked the door, Jasper's smile on his face suddenly vanished. It was replaced with a quiet yet cold expression. Flames of rage were dwelling within him.

Julian, who was guarding outside the room, came over with a cold gaze. As a professional, it only took him one glance to know that Jasper was all set to lay a finger on someone.

"Who is it, Brother Laine?" Julian asked calmly, giving off a murderous aura.

Jasper tapped on Julian's shoulder and said with a smile, "You don't have to make a move for now. It'll only soil your hands going against scumbags, and that will just make them look like someone of a higher status."

Life at the Top Chapter 355

After returning to the room, Jasper thought it through.

'It's not going to be easy going against a supermarket company like Kaymaroon.

'The important thing is its size which places it in a very cumbersome position.

'If it was smaller, then I could just squash it immediately.

'If its volume is any larger and is listed, then by just using capital means and a few days of tradings, it'll be enough to take them down.'

However, Kaymaroon was not lacking in any cash. Besides, the supermarkets could be found in many other cities and the only way to defeat them in the shortest time frame would be by using an unusual method.

Jasper's first call was made to Jim.

Even though Jim was still in the hospital, he had almost recovered.

After understanding Jasper's intention, Jim did not give it another thought and immediately gave his word that he would present all the business information regarding Kaymaroon in front of Jasper.

“Actually, with such a huge company, it’s easy for us to investigate because their territory is very wide and they’ve communicated with lots of people. It’ll be a piece of cake to check on them. One night’s time is all I need.

“On the other hand, those small companies from small areas will be much more troublesome because they’re not famous and have only communicated with a limited amount of people.”

After listening to Jim’s explanation, Jasper nodded in astonishment.

Even though he possessed the memories from his previous life, it was just an advantage. At the end of the day, he was still a human and not some kind of god. There were still lots of industries that he was not familiar with.

For example, the industry of a business consulting company was very important, but in Jasper’s previous life, he was not involved in it at all. On the other hand, Jim was very familiar with the industry.

Jasper suddenly felt that he had made the right choice by investing in Jim. In the future, following the development of JW Real Estate, there would definitely be more enemies who would show up. Having Jim’s strength would allow him to have miraculous effects when handling most of the cases.

Besides, Jim had earned lots of money now and even taken over George’s company. It would only be a matter of time before he occupied the top position among similar industries in Swallow Capital.

The next morning when Jasper woke up, he was informed by Julian that someone from Jim’s company had been waiting for some time.

Jasper had the hotel serve breakfast and met up with the assistant chairman of Jim’s company while he was at it.

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Laine.”

The assistant chairman had a very polite attitude. It was obvious that he had been reminded by Jim beforehand.

Jasper nodded and said, "Let's hear about the situation."

The assistant chairman presented a very thick folder of documents. After Jasper took out the documents from inside, he glanced through the information while listening to the assistant chairman's report.

"According to the information that we found, Kaymaroon currently has 123 supermarkets throughout the nation, excluding the six supermarkets that are under renovation and two other supermarkets that are undergoing a negotiation regarding investments.

"All these supermarkets are mostly located in the first and second-tier cities. Among them, 60% of the supermarkets are operating very well, 33% have a monthly revenue of more than 20 million, and only about 15% are making a loss.

"According to our professional estimation, the overall market value for Kaymaroon won't be less than four billion while the company's current financial flow is around 1.5 billion. Their monthly profit is about 40 million."

Jasper looked at the information, nodded, and said, "Not bad, the report is very professional and detailed."

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The assistant chairman wore a delighted expression and dared not delay a single moment.

“However, it’s not that Kaymaroon doesn’t have any problems. We found out that they’re facing a very high risk of getting themselves involved with a huge debt.

“First of all, each of their supermarkets closes their cyclical accounts with their suppliers every six months, which is four months more than the standard compared to other businesses of the same industry. Changing the period of each cycle to half a year is still in the midst of being approved by the public. Regarding this point, because of their large sales volume and strong ability to conduct sales, all the suppliers can only go along with it.

“Every half a year, they will have to spend at least two billion for the payment. According to our investigation, it’ll be time for them to make their payment after another half a month, at most.”

Jasper tapped on the documents while listening and said, “You’re saying that currently, the assets in Kaymaroon’s account are actually not adequate to make the payments to the suppliers? Even after taking into account all of the income from all the supermarkets for this coming half a month, they’re just barely managing?”

The assistant chairman nodded and said, “Basically that’s it. Also, they got a 600 million loan from Commercial Bank, which they have three years to pay back. Beginning next year will be their last term to pay back the remaining amount which is 220 million including interest.

“According to the data from the investigation, Kaymaroon also has a very serious debt to bear from the private loans they took. The total amount of it is still under

investigation, but we can be sure it's more than 800 million, which is a very heavy burden."

"A company which has a market value of four billion turns out to have a debt of 1.4 billion, and from this amount, at least 800 million were taken from private loans with high interests. Sebastian really is one daredevil," said Jasper calmly.

"Initially, Kaymaroon was just a huge company with a strong ability to gain profits, but the main issue with the company lies with the person named Sebastian. He's a gambler. He's famous for being a brazen boss in Owl City. He goes to Owl City once a month. Each trip he makes, he either wins or loses billions of dollars."

Jasper's brow was slightly raised, and he circled the word 'gamble' on the information sheet.

"I remember he has someone backing him up back in Swallow Capital. Did you manage to look that up?" asked Jasper calmly.

Ten years ago, during the battle between Dawson and Sebastian, someone from Swallow Capital offered a helping hand to Sebastian by providing funds at the eleventh hour. Jasper would be sure to include that point in as well.

"I've looked into it."

The assistant chairman did not let Jasper down and said with a low voice, "It's mentioned on the very last page."

Jasper immediately flipped to the very last page of the document. He looked at the contents on it and an expression that no one expected to see was plastered on Jasper's face.

"The Combe family?! Hendrik Combe?!"

The assistant chairman nodded and said, “Hendrik and Sebastian have a relationship that no one is aware of. They’re brothers-in-law. Sebastian’s wife and Hendrik’s wife are siblings.

“Also, it was Sebastian’s nephew, Hector, who introduced him to Owl City. They both don’t just share a simple nephew-uncle relationship but they’re also gambling buddies. Or else, how would a brat from the village come to know about places like Owl City?”

After more than ten minutes, the assistant chairman left the hotel suite politely. After closing the door cautiously, he left the scene joyfully.

In the suite, Jasper gradually squinted his eyes and dialed Hector’s number.

After half an hour, Hector, with a perturbed look on his face, and Jacob slowly made their way to the entrance of the hotel room.

“Brother, Jasper is looking for us, but what’s the reason behind it? Haven’t we settled the grudge between us?”

“Even Erick Turner was squashed by him. I heard that it was Brad Turner who showed up in the end and paid huge compensation to Jasper. Only then was the issue resolved. I’m really scared of him now.”

Hector said with a teary face.

Jacob was calm and said, “You’re the one who he called. How am I supposed to know when you don’t even know the reason? Anyway, let’s just go in. Remember, we need to behave appropriately later. Don’t go around calling him by his name. You must greet him as Mr. Laine!”

As the brothers were talking, the sound of the hotel room door being knocked on was heard.

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Julian opened the door and the Combe siblings bowed to Julian with smiling faces.

As the second generation of a rich family, they were well aware that it was easy to meet up with the lord but the assistant beside the lord would be difficult to deal with. If they were to offend Julian, this bodyguard of Jasper's could easily speak ill of them in front of Jasper from time to time. That would be the worst case that they would be regretful of.

"Come in, Brother Laine is waiting for you guys."

Julian said it calmly and did not bother with the two of them.

Hector and Jacob dared not waste a single second and ran into the waiting area. They stood politely in front of Jasper and asked, "Nice to meet you, Mr. Laine."

Jasper spun around and looked at the siblings. 'I haven't seen them in a few days. They don't seem to be different but their attitudes have changed drastically.

'They suddenly have the desire to live now.'

"Are you guys so scared of me?" said Jasper playfully.

Hector smiled awkwardly and said, "To tell you the truth, Mr. Laine, we're slightly afraid."

Hector also added in a better manner, "Previously, us siblings, especially me, did not know our standings and offended you, Mr. Laine. Fortunately, Mr. Laine was generous enough to forgive us and let us off the hook. Now that we're meeting you again, we do feel a little scared."

Jasper smiled but did not doubt the sincerity of the two siblings.

“That’s right. As children of rich families, you have your targets set high up and are able to trample over others with the authority of your family background, but it’s also because of this that you’ll feel fear more than the ordinary person. You’ll even be able to see through things better.

“I have a small favor to request from you two. I believe you’ll be able to get it done properly.”

After listening to Jasper’s comments, both Hector and Jacob were delighted and sorrowful at the same time.

They were delighted because they were able to get on Jasper’s good side. Regardless of the consequences to themselves or their family, it was definitely a good thing.

At the same time, they were sorrowful because Jasper had requested them to do him a favor. ‘Regardless of how small the favor is, I don’t think it’ll truly be such a small favor?’

Given Jasper’s capability, they no longer dared to be suspicious of him.

It was just like what Jasper said. They would fear outstanding figures like Jasper more than the average person because they were very well aware of the authority possessed by the likes of Jasper. They could easily crush the Combe siblings.

Hector and his brother were feeling anxious. After hesitating for a long time, it was Jacob as the elder brother who took the lead and spoke, “Please name your order, Mr. Laine. As long it’s within our capabilities, we brothers will be sure to settle the matter for you.”

Jasper sat on the sofa and pointed to the opposite, beckoning Hector and Jacob to have a seat.

Jasper asked while looking at Hector, "Do you know how to gamble?"

Hector was dumbfounded. Subconsciously, he nodded. "I know a bit of the game."

"Do you know how to set up a gambling event?" asked Jasper.

Hector reacted to his words. Jasper wanted him to set up a gambling event to set others up.

Regarding the issue of setting others up, as long as one had spent quite some time gambling, they would come to realize it as well. 'As long as it involves gambling, there will definitely be set-ups.'

It all depended on how large the bet was and the tactics of the banker.

"I do!" Hector said ruthlessly through gritted teeth.

Jasper snapped his fingers and Julian walked over while presenting a copy of the documents. From the documents, he took out a sheet of information and threw it on the coffee table in the middle of the three people.

That sheet of information was the biodata of Sebastian with his picture on top of it.

Upon glancing at Sebastian's name and picture, Jacob and Hector's pupils immediately shrunk.

"Your uncle will be the target of the set-up this time," said Jasper calmly.

Hearing Jasper pointing out their relationship made Hector reply with a bitter smile, "Mr. Laine, I wonder what my uncle has done to offend you? Can I apologize to you on his behalf?"

Jasper raised his hand to stop Hector from talking and replied calmly, “This is not a matter of me taking offense. It’s something related to revenge, involving someone’s life. You guys can’t afford to be the middleman for this. The same goes to your dad, Hendrik Combe.”

Hearing the comment made Hector and Jacob exchange looks at each other. Both of them felt a chill crawling up their spines, all the way to the depths of their souls.

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”From what I know, the relationship between you guys is not that good, right?” said Jasper calmly.

The corners of Hector’s eyes twitched, and he said with a dry smile, “Well, we did have a huge fight two years ago, and it ended with an unpleasant outcome. But after all, as someone of the younger generation like us, to be so calculative with our own seniors seems to be rather—”

“I won’t make you guys do it without any rewards. I’ll give you 20% of shares of Jim’s business consulting company. I plan to develop that company aggressively in the future, so don’t think that the 20% of shares look trivial. Once it develops in the future, it’ll grow to be much better than those trivial products you guys make.”

Jasper raised one of his fingers, and after he was done saying, he raised a second finger.

“After you’ve settled this issue, whatever amount Sebastian loses from this set-up, you guys will take away 30% of it.”

After saying it, Jasper looked at Hector and Jacob calmly with a composed expression.

Hector and Jacob exchanged looks with each other. They could no longer reject the temptation of the huge profits.

The cash was the second reason. It was way more meaningful to them to be able to have shares in Jim's company.

'What does this even mean? It means that Jasper is willing to take us for a ride with him.'

Regardless of it being Jasper or Henry, with these two mighty beings here, Hector and Jacob would have a bright future. They would gain benefits whenever they were any leftovers from them.

"Mr. Laine, can I give my dad a call?" Hector said.

Jasper extended his arm, showing that he could leave to make the call.

Hector bowed with the utmost respect. Then, he filed out the room.

After a few minutes, Hector returned. He took in a deep breath and said to Jasper with a deep voice, "Mr. Laine, when are we going to start?"

Jasper smiled and got to his feet, saying, "The earlier the better. Also, I admire the fact that you guys know what's the right thing to do now. The Combe family will be sure to have a bright future if it's in the hands of you two."

...

After seeing the Combe siblings off, Jasper came to Dawson's room and briefly explained the entire incident.

"You've already contacted Jim?" He could not help but ask after hearing from Jasper that he had promised to give out 20% of the shares of Jim's company to the Combe siblings.

Jasper said with a smile, "Yes, I've already contacted him. Uncle Yapp is very satisfied with it. You might think that he's on the losing end because of the 20% of shares, but in the future, it'll be guaranteed as insurance in Capital City. The Combe family will never let him be on the losing end."

"You have your point. After all, you won't have the time to keep an eye on him. This plan might just work out," said Dawson while nodding his head.

Dawson praised and looked at Jasper while adding, "You're getting the hang of it. I'm relieved."

Jasper said calmly, "One should be flexible at using tactics. There are lots of methods to go against someone like Sebastian. But in order to achieve the greatest effect in the shortest amount of time, I will only have to resort to using methods that he can't see coming.

...

At another hotel, Sebastian was frantically calling his underlings in his company.

"Hurry and come up with a plan for me. I want to take over the market that belongs to that b*stard, Dawson Schuler!

"I don't care what price I need to pay! Within half a year, I want Schuler Group to go bankrupt!

"Contact all our resources. We have to crush the supply route of Schuler Group. Whichever supplier dares to supply to the supermarkets of Schuler Group will be going against Kaymaroon!"

After putting down his phone, Sebastian loosened his necktie. His face revealed a scary smile.

"Dawson Schuler, you're 100 years away from challenging me!

“Also that brat named Jasper. You two sons of b*tches, I’ll see just when you’ll come to kneel before me and plead with me!”

Coincidentally at that moment, his phone rang.

After looking at the incoming call, a smile was plastered on Sebastian’s face. His tone was extremely gentle as well. “Oh Hector, are you looking for me to head over to Owl City with you? I’m rather busy these two days.”

“Uncle, I know you’re very occupied but I’ve got a spot for a game in Swallow Capital. They’re all big bosses and they’re betting a very huge sum. I’m asking to see if you’re interested to join?”

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Sebastian’s eyes were sparkling after hearing Hector’s comment.

He had not been gambling all because of the conference and the issue of going against Dawson. He had been itching to gamble that he could barely hold it any longer.

Even though he had a serious gambling addiction, he was still considered to be quite rational.

“That doesn’t sound like a good idea with everyone there being a stranger.”

Sebastian’s tone was slightly hesitant. He was not a fool who had just entered society. He was aware that even family members would also end up arguing when it came to gambling. As such, he thought he should be more cautious when gambling with strangers.

Hector said with a smile, "Uncle, we all know each other very well. We'll be doing it at my villa on the outskirts. It's extremely safe. It's just that we lack a player. That's why I'm asking to see whether you're interested. If you're not, then forget about it."

Hearing it made the hesitancy in Sebastian's heart vanish into thin air. He quickly replied, "I'm interested!"

At seven in the evening on that day, Sebastian arrived at the villa in the car Hector had sent with one million in cash.

"Uncle, only one million? Won't you embarrass yourself here?"

Hector greeted Sebastian at the entrance of the villa. He looked at the box in his hand and said disdainfully.

Sebastian burst into laughter and said, "It's just to play for fun. I don't plan to gamble with a huge sum. I'll return once I've lost it all."

Hector chuckled and said, "Alright then. My brother is also inside. Let's go in, everyone has arrived."

Hector let out a cold smile when he saw Sebastian's back figure that was entering through the door eagerly.

Sebastian was still being cautious with Hector, and the latter noticed it. However, Hector knew best what sort of attitude Hector would have on the gambling table.

This time, he had gotten the top 'actors' in the industry to help him out with this set-up and he was fully confident in it.

Sebastian entered the villa. The gambling table was set up, and three men were sitting on the sofa chit-chatting.

There were also a few gorgeous ladies who were in charge of serving drinks.

“Allow me to introduce you. This is my uncle, the boss of Kaymaroon.”

Jacob immediately got up and said with a smile when he saw Sebastian entering.

“Uncle, this is the boss of Hayes Mining Company from the Southwest Province, Hayes Lawson. There are tens of coal mines under him. He’s truly a big boss.”

“This is the boss of an investing company, Jordan Zinn. There are two listed companies under his name.”

Hearing the introductions sent Sebastian’s heart pumping hard.

‘These two people have a net worth that’s comparable to mine.’

He then looked at the chips that they brought. Each of them was starting with five million as the minimum bet.

At that moment, Sebastian regretted bringing so little cash and felt as if he had lost his dignity.

Hayes urged with his southwest slang. “Let’s begin since everyone has arrived.”

Hector came over as well and the four of them went to sit at their respective seats.

Each of them brought their boxes, opened them, and placed them at the side of their legs. With the four boxes combined, there was a total of 150 million in betting funds. When piled up, the money was stacked into a few piles and was eye-catching.

Hector waved his hand, and a middle-aged man who looked like the dealer walked out. He was in charge of distributing the cards.

Hector leaned on the chair and giggled while saying, “The old rules. We’ll be starting with 100,000. There’s no limit to winning, and those who have lost everything will withdraw. Who wants to check the cards with the dealer?”

Jordan immediately raised his hand and said, “Young Master Combe, you’re the one organizing this gambling session, so of course, there won’t be any problem with it. There’s no need to check.”

Hector noticed that Hayes and Sebastian were not saying anything. He then said with a smile, “Old rules, we’ll change the cards after every ten rounds. Even though everyone is friends here and no one will pull any tricks on each other, but still, we have to follow the rules.”

After talking, Hector gave the dealer the signal to distribute the cards.

Jacob sat on the sofa and took his sweet time to make himself a cup of tea. He squinted his eyes and witnessed the gambling session unfold with a calm expression.

...

It was the next day and the sky was slightly bright. The villa was misty, and the floor was full of teacups and cigarette buds.

However, the four men were still very energetic.

Hayes was exasperated and shoved the cards in his hands away. He said unsatisfactorily, “What the f*ck, I’m so unlucky today! Three players losing to one player?!”

Hector and Jordan’s expressions looked awful.

Only Sebastian was laughing out loud.

At that moment, the boxes beside the three men's legs were empty except for Sebastian's. The bundles of cash could not fit in his box and were scattered all over the floor by his feet.

He had won 16 million in cash.

Sebastian did not expect himself to be this lucky. That night, he got whatever card that he desired. Even if he occasionally got fewer points, it was either his opponents had even fewer points than him, or they dared not bet with him and immediately forfeited that round.

"Oh my, I'm just lucky today. It's been a while since I've had a good time gambling." Sebastian had a delightful expression and looked refreshed.

"Well, we've lost everything. Why don't we call it a day for today?" Hector said calmly.

Jordan got up and said in an unpleasant tone, "End it, end it. I've long ago been feeling sleepy. Next time, I'll be sure to win against you!"

Sebastian also got up and smiled. He said, "You're always welcome."

As they were talking, the gambling session came to an end.

At the entrance, Hayes and Jordan's cars had already left. Hector was slightly envious as he looked at Sebastian ordering his chauffeur to move the money. He said, "Uncle, you really are lucky."

Sebastian smiled proudly and said, "Those two fools don't even know how to play. Even though I only had a few points, they still didn't have the guts to bet with me. I got lucky a few times."

"It's all because you're great at it, Uncle," Hector said with a smile.

At that moment, all of the cash was moved to the car. Sebastian got in and stretched his head out, saying to Hector, "Next time, remember to invite me."

"Sure, will do."

Hector squinted his eyes as he smiled while watching Sebastian's car drive away.

He spun around to enter the house. Jacob was already awake and having his breakfast. He had one of his legs over the other.

"Has he left already?" asked Jacob.

"Yeah."

Hector nodded and said with a cold smile, "Right now, he must be looking forward to the next gambling session."

"Even though Mr. Laine is not here, it's like he has predicted that Sebastian will have a change in mindset. His confidence in human psychology is way too creepy."

Jacob shook his head and said, "Hurry and give Mr. Laine a call. Report the current situation to him. We have to take the next step soon."

...

In the office of Easy Media, Jasper was on his phone as he threw a dart right at the bullseye. He said calmly, "If you want to fish, obviously you have to give the fish some bait. In the afternoon, I'll get someone over to deliver another 300 million."

"This 300 million..."

Jasper pulled out the dart on the red bullseye and continued calmly, "...is the hook to kill Sebastian."

After hanging up the call, Jasper spun around. Someone was already standing behind him politely.

"Mr. Laine, you ordered me to get in touch with those private loan companies who loaned to Kaymaroon. They've already given us a reply.

"As long as we can pay one million to each of the companies, they'll immediately ask Kaymaroon to pay their debts.

"The debt is theirs in the first place. We're spending money to make them ask for their debts in advance. In this world, no one will reject such a great offer, let alone these vampires who give out loans with high interest."

Jasper sat on the boss' chair and said calmly, "Give them the money. Once they receive the money, they should bear in mind what they're supposed to do!"

Life at the Top Chapter 360

On the third day, Sebastian was subconsciously looking at his phone.

There was no message on it.

He was feeling slightly frustrated.

Winning money through gambling could be addictive. Besides, the addiction was a very wonderful experience.

Ever since he won that 15 million during the previous gambling session, Sebastian had been waiting for Hector's call every day.

However, in these two days, it was as if Hector had gone missing. He had not received any news from him.

This made Sebastian anxious.

Even though he kept telling himself that it was great enough to have won 15 million and it would be best to stop now as he had earned this amount effortlessly.

However, Sebastian kept thinking that if he were to continue gambling, he would have won more.

The last time, the capital he brought was way too little, which made him scared when placing his bets. I made him unable to feel the thrill of the game.

Just as he was thinking about it, Sebastian's phone rang.

It was from Hector!

Sebastian immediately felt joyful and quickly answered the call.

"Uncle, Hayes and Jordan lost a lot of money during the last gambling session and they're not satisfied with it. They've accumulated some funds during these few days. Same old place this time, and they're saying that it's to be a revenge game. But this time, their capitals are a bit too high. They're determined to win their money back. Are you coming?"

Sebastian laughed out proudly and said, "Would I be scared of them? They're just people who have lost to me!"

...

It was still in the same villa. The gambling session had started, and the game was heating up.

It was just that this time, Sebastian was not that lucky.

It had just been an hour since the start of the gambling session and he already lost two million.

Even though it was just a small figure when compared to the 15 million he had won previously, it was still a bad start.

“Eight points, big,” the dealer said calmly. He seized all the chips from Hayes and Jordan, passing them on to Sebastian.

Seeing that he was able to win a round made Sebastian let out a sigh of relief.

With just one round, he had won 400,000.

The degree of excitement in the game could be seen.

“What the f*ck, this is ridiculous! You’re able to win this as well?” Jordan frowned and said unpleasantly.

In the previous round, he only had seven points. He barely made it but still lost the round.

Sebastian chuckled and said, “You can’t stop it when luck just decides to rush to you.”

“Better not be too full of yourself,” said Jordan with a stony look.

The gambling session continued. After three hours, Sebastian did not just win back the money he had lost previously, but he also made more than ten million.

“Today’s the day I make a fortune.” Sebastian laughed arrogantly as he managed to gobble up all the cash.

Hayes slammed the table and said through gritted teeth, “Son of a b*tch! I don’t believe I’ll continue being unlucky. Change the damn cards!”

Hector raised his eyelids and said calmly, “Mr. Lawson, you can’t do this. We’ve already agreed on the rules to change the cards every ten rounds. This is just the eighth round and you’re requesting to change the cards? Are you suspecting that I’m pulling a trick on you?”

Hayes said with his eyes reddened, “You both are uncle and nephew. How can I be sure that there are no tricks up your sleeves?”

Hector squinted his eyes and stared at Hayes, saying, “Mr. Lawson, you’d better talk with facts. If we wanted to set you up, we wouldn’t have exposed our relationship at the beginning. I let you know about it to prove that we’re innocent. You shouldn’t play if you can’t afford to lose!”

At that moment, Jordan came to take control of the situation. He said, “Please refrain from getting violent. You two, please calm down. Well, it’s unavoidable that we’ll be angry since we’re losing money during this session. Anyway, Mr. Lawson doesn’t mean it that way.”

“How about this, Young Master Combe? Just change the deck of cards. There’s no big deal about it.”

Hector snorted and said, “This will be the only exception.”

After he spoke, he ordered the dealer to open up a new deck of cards that was still sealed up.

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Sebastian watched the entire incident unfold before his eyes. He silently mocked Hayes for being a sore loser. Nevertheless, he was now completely relieved about this round. All traces of doubt in his heart had completely disappeared.

The round continued till late into the evening. Throughout this period, the expression on Sebastian's face gradually darkened.

What goes around comes around. He was starting to lose money now.

It was as if a spell had been cast on him. All the cards he had were all low-ranking. He hardly had any high-ranking cards. His opponent could either have higher-ranking cards than him, or completely give up on the game.

Meanwhile, the money by his side continued to dwindle. He had more than 20 million dollars during his peak, and now there was only a measly 100000 dollars left.

"Oh, my good luck is here," Hayes chuckled. He spread out his cards. His cards were of the highest rank; He had won the round.

Sebastian lost all the remaining money that he had.

Hayes lit a cigarette in satisfaction. "Chairman Walker, are you out of money? What do you say, should we just end here?" He asked Sebastian.

Sebastian unbuttoned the buttons around his collar harshly and said in distaste, "I'm just having a spat of bad luck. What are you being so proud of? I won all this money from you guys a few days ago, don't you remember? I'm just returning some of it to you right now!"

Sebastian then pulled out a cheque book from his coat. He filled in a cheque and slammed it onto the table. "Here's a 20 million dollar check! I'll exchange it with someone that has cash!" He announced through gritted teeth.

Hector Combe responded cheerily, "This is my villa. Of course I have cash. Someone come over and give my uncle 20 million dollars in cash."

Hector proceeded to take the cheque after speaking.

After ensuring that the money by his side had been replenished, Sebastian hollered in determination, "Let's continue!"

He lost this 20 million dollars within 30 minutes.

Even Sebastian, who had experienced all sorts of situations, was a little short of breath.

He had lost 20 million dollars in 30 minutes. This was a humiliating loss.

"F*ck, it's so hot in here. Why is the air conditioner set at such a high temperature? Can't bear to pay the electricity bill?" Sebastian turned around impatiently and cursed at a waiter.

Despite his aggravation, the waiter did not dare to utter a single word. Instead, he lowered the temperature of the air conditioner in a hurry.

"Chairman Walker, don't throw a tantrum even if you lose money. Don't be a sore loser if you can't bear to lose," Hayes remarked as he burst out into laughter.

"Shut up!" Sebastian yelled, eyeing him coldly. He filled in another 50-million-dollar check. "Let's continue!" He said through gritted teeth.

Sebastian, who was beyond humiliated by his loss, seemed to have gone mad. He persisted till the end regardless of the rank of his cards.

In a situation like this, he kept losing more and more.

By the time midnight arrived, he had already written cheques worth up to 500 million dollars.

Hector had cashed in all the cheque on the spot through a special channel and had transferred all the money to a secret account.

Once again, Sebastian filled in another 50-million-dollar check. Hector knew that it was time to stop when the portal indicated that the cheque could not be processed.

“Uncle, this cheque cannot be processed.”

Hector’s words caused a wave of shock to pass through Sebastian, who felt like he had just woken up from a trance.

“How is that possible? There is around 500 million dollars in the account!” Sebastian shouted out in a shrill voice.

“You’ve already transferred out more than 500 million dollars. The cheque can’t be processed as the balance in your account is insufficient,” Hector said with a shrug.

Sebastian, who had been grumpy due to the heat, felt an icy sensation wash over him from head to toe. He felt like he been struck by lightning.

“What?!”

Sebastian’s voice trembled as he exclaimed, “I lost... 500 million dollars?!”

Right then, Jordan suddenly glanced at Hector and voiced out, “Since Chairman Walker has used up his money, shall we call it a night?”

Before anyone could reply, Sebastian got up in anger. “No! I lost such a f*cking large sum of money! My company will be in trouble! You guys intend to leave after winning all the money? Don’t even think about it!” He yelled in rage.

“I still have stocks! I will use the stocks for Kaymaroon registered under my name as collateral! I must turn this around!”

“Uncle, you’re going overboard,” Hector said with a chuckle.

Sebastian slammed his fist on the table and roared out maniacally, “What do you know? Without the 500 million dollars, I won’t be able to pay for my goods or repay my loans! If that happens, I’ll be doomed!

“I have extremely good luck! I’ll surely win all the money back! I want to turn this around! Which one of you dares to kick me out?!”

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“Uncle, nobody has ever leveraged the company’s shares. Furthermore, how do we estimate this valuation? This isn’t appropriate. Owning the shares won’t be of any use to us either.”

Jordan and Hayes both agreed with Hector’s words.

Sebastian turned around immediately and glared at Hector. “Hector Combe, have you gone mad? How can you speak for them at a time like this?!” He asked in infuriation.

“Uncle, that was basic reasoning. I’m not taking sides here,” Hector said calmly.

Sebastian gritted his teeth and tried his best to suppress his anger. "In that case, lend me a few million dollars for this emergency," he said.

Hector's expression remained calm and collected. "Uncle, I don't have that much money. I can't withdraw a few million dollars for you to lose it all. You should think about how to handle your upcoming problems," he said.

No matter how incoherent Sebastian's thoughts were, there was no way that he would not finally realize that something was not right.

The three people seated at the gambling table, and Hector in particular, were acting exceptionally odd right now.

Taking in a deep breath, Sebastian suppressed the uneasiness in his heart. "What do you mean?" He asked in a low voice.

He could not believe that Hector was bold enough to team up with an outsider just to go against him.

He was going against his father, Hendrik, by doing so.

"What do I mean?" Hector laughed. He took out a small black box from the portable air conditioner in the room and turned off a switch on it.

"I have blocked everyone's mobile phone signal in order to allow us to play cards in silence. Excuse me for pulling this small trick.

"Uncle, take a look at your phone at once. A lot of people should be looking for you right now."

The uneasiness in Sebastian's heart continued to grow. Just as he was about to say something, his phone rang loudly, as if on cue.

The caller was a close associate of his from the company. Without thinking much, Sebastian picked up the call.

“Chairman Walker, where did you go? The company is in a total mess. I have been calling you for four hours straight, but you didn’t pick up your phone!”

Sebastian spoke in a low, authoritative tone after listening to the anxious voice on the other end of the phone. “What is all the panic about? Tell me what happened immediately!”

“We’re done for, Chairman. All the private loan companies that we borrowed money from suddenly came over to ask for their payment. However, the company’s account doesn’t have your signature, so we couldn’t withdraw the money. Moreover, the finance department told us that the funds in the account kept declining. There are only a few hundred thousand dollars left in the account.”

Sebastian felt like he had been struck by lightning. He had turned all of the funds in the company account into cheques and had gambled it all away. The money was gone now.

However, the oddest thing was that the debts he owed the private loan companies had not yet expired. Why were they collecting the debts now?

“Aren’t the debts due in a few months’ time?” Sebastian asked, his throat dry. It felt like dark clouds were looming above his head, coming together to form a net that he could not escape from. The net was about to fall on him and consume him whole in the very next moment.

“I don’t know. They are disregarding the interest and demanding us to repay the principal right now. Since we couldn’t find you, they went to the supermarket to spread the news.”

“A dozen of employees are in charge of each supermarket. There are still dozens of people at the company headquarters. The incoming calls are about to blow up my phone!”

Cold sweat beaded Sebastian’s forehead as he listened to the news.

While his palms heated up, a chilling sensation washed over his head.

Sebastian hung up on the call while ignoring his close associate’s dire pleas for help.

He fixed a stony gaze upon Hector. “Hector Combe, what is going on right now?!”

Hector ignored Sebastian, who was on the verge of exploding from rage, and walked toward the door. He opened it straight away.

Sebastian’s gaze veered past the door and landed on the sofa in the villa. Jacob Combe, who was seated on the sofa, was having a cup of tea with a young man in a courteous manner.

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“Jasper Laine?!”

Sebastian’s heart lurched in shock. He felt like all the blood in his body was running cold.

He had never once expected Jasper Laine to appear here.

Hector walked out of the room immediately. He stood sturdily in front of Jasper and bowed to him courteously. "Mr. Laine, everything is completed," he said.

Jasper took a sip of his tea and chuckled. "Not bad,"

A look of satisfaction and happiness appeared on Hector's face after being praised by his master. These were the values of a treacherous b*stard like him.

Sebastian's temple throbbed at the sight of it all.

Jasper raised his head to look at Sebastian, who was overcome with mixed emotions. "Long time no see, Chairman Walker. Are you that surprised to see me here?" he asked indifferently.

Sebastian ground his teeth as he tried to suppress the overwhelming uneasiness in his heart. "Jasper Laine, how dare you appear before me when I haven't even bothered to look for you. Aren't you afraid that I'll kill you?" he asked in a voice that was totally devoid of warmth.

Jasper put down his cup with a chuckle. "With your IQ, I really wonder how you managed to operate a large-scale business like Kaymaroon. As to why I'm bold enough to show up here, don't you understand by now?"

Hector sighed as well. "Uncle, out of everyone in the world, you just had to get on Mr. Laine's nerves. I had no choice. I'll give you a piece of advice, hurry up and beg Mr. Laine for mercy. Maybe he'd let you off alive," he said.

Sebastian burst out in anger. "What f*cking bullsh*t are you going on about?!" He yelled while pointing at Hector and Jasper. "What on earth are the two of you up to?! What do you mean?!"

"You're asking me to apologize to this idiot? Have you lost it, Hector Combe?!"

"You're the one who's lost it!" Hector retorted matter-of-factly. "Uncle, you've offended someone that you shouldn't have offended. You're bringing about your

own destruction. Stop yelling now. Come over and admit your mistakes to Mr. Laine at once,” he said.

“Don’t call me your uncle! You f*cking teamed with outsiders to go against me! Do you still have the audacity to call me your uncle?!” Sebastian roared angrily.

Hector sneered. “Well, you’ve still offended Mr. Laine, Sebastian Walker. Why don’t you come over to apologize?” he asked.

Sebastian pinned a scorching glare upon Jasper. He gritted his teeth and exclaimed, “What is going on right now? Jasper Laine, give me an explanation at once!”

“Explanation? What explanation?” Jasper asked coldly.

“Kaymaroon has long been facing a major financial crisis. I just triggered it in advance. It would have happened sooner or later anyways. The sooner it happens, the sooner it’ll be resolved. I’m offering you a helping hand.

“As for all the gambling, you were a willing victim to my whims. You were the one who lost all your money through gambling. How can you blame that on me?”

Sebastian’s head buzzed as he pieced together everything that had happened over these past few days. Eventually, he realized that everything came together to form an elaborate scheme.

Feeling suffocated, Sebastian’s vision grew dark as his head spun. He widened his eyes and stared at Jasper. “Everything was part of your scheme?!” He asked in a shrill voice.

Jasper chuckled and said, “How can you call it a scheme? It was just a few of my business tricks. When it comes to schemes, you’re the true master here, Sebastian Walker.”

He had lost all of the company's liquid funds, and the private loan companies that the company had borrowed hundreds of million dollars from were all forcing them to repay their debts. After the news about this breaks out, the suppliers would surely go against them. Eventually, the bank would terminate their loans and request them to repay their debts after noticing the terrible situation that they were in.

This series of incidents would occur one after another...

Kaymaroon was on the brink of death!

Sebastian felt his scalp grow numb.

He had been coming up with an intricate plan to bring Schuler Corporation down. However, his own company had been stolen in the blink of an eye!

"Jasper Laine! You should f*cking die!"

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Overcome by immense shock, Sebastian was on the verge of collapsing.

He rushed forward in an attempt to pounce onto Jasper; He wanted to bite off a piece of his flesh so badly.

Jasper watched Sebastian rush toward him with a cold gaze.

However, Julian appeared in front of him before Sebastian could even reach him. Julian held his throat in a vice-like grip and raised him into the air single-handedly as if he were holding onto a dead dog.

Hector and the others gulped as they watched the scene unfold. They all stared at Jasper in fear without daring to utter a single word.

Sebastian was being choked, while Julian bore the weight of his entire body with just the arm that he was using to choke him. Sebastian suddenly felt breathless, his face flushing red at once.

“Let go of him,” Jasper said calmly.

Julian released his grip and Sebastian fell to the ground like a worthless, dead dog. Clutching at his throat, he took in large gulps of air.

Fortunately, Sebastian managed to calm down after going through such a ruckus.

He knew that there was no use in throwing a meaningless tantrum right now. Thus, he tried his best to raise his head and looked at Jasper. “Aren’t you just Dawson Schuler’s son-in-law? What gives you the right to order the Combes around?” He asked angrily.

Jacob shook his head and sighed. “You’ve really lost it. Don’t you understand by now? Shouldn’t you take a look at your opponent before going against them? Uncle, the amount of power that Mr. Laine holds is beyond your imagination,” he said.

“Forget the Combes. You heard of what happened to Brad and Erik Turner some time ago, right? They offended Mr. Laine and look what happened to them. They had to pay a compensation of a billion dollars. In the end, Erik Turner had to resign from his position as the chairman of Motley Media.

“Even the Turners have conceded. What can you do?”

Sebastian’s face instantly turned pale.

He stared at Jasper in disbelief. His gaze filled with shock. He looked like he had just seen a ghost.

“Who...who are you?! Why didn't you tell me that you had such a powerful background?!”

“Actually, you know everything about my identity. As for my background, I'm different from everyone else. I am my own strongest background,” Jasper said calmly.

Sebastian's expression changed at once. Finally, he seemed to have lost all of his energy. He lowered his head before Jasper and asked, “What do I need to do for you to let go of me?”

“Let you go? The thought never even occurred to me,” Jasper said, feigning a look of surprise.

Sebastian was stupefied. “Do you really want to have a battle of life and death?” He asked in infuriation.

“You don't seem to understand your current circumstances. What do you mean by 'battle of life and death'? You're already a dead man. There's no way you can come out of this alive,” Jasper said with a suppressed laugh.

Sebastian tried his best to control his rage and unwillingness. “How would you benefit from defeating me? Why are you being so unrelenting and cruel?” He asked, seething with anger.

“To be honest, defeating you doesn't bring me any benefits.”

Jasper said matter-of-factly while staring at him.

“However, since the grievances between us are many, I should seek the vengeance that I deserve, don't you think?”

Sebastian trembled upon hearing what he said. “Do you intend to take revenge for Dawson Schuler?” He asked stiffly.

“You killed the wife of my future father-in-law. Do you think that I’ll let you go?” Jasper asked.

Sebastian clenched his hands into fists. His body trembled slightly due to all his pent-up rage and overwhelming emotions. “What do you intend to do?”

“I want to see you lose everything that you have. That is the price that you should pay!”

Jasper stood up and slowly walked before Sebastian. Although his voice was calm and collected, his gaze was as frigid as an iceberg.

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“People like you think that they can do anything you want just because they’re rich. Your wealth is the source of everything you possess. Therefore, to you, money is even more important than your own life.

“That’s why the best way to deal with people like you is to have you watch yourself become a poor beggar. The pain and torture of something like that is a much more horrifying thought than death to you.”

Jasper then chuckled softly in front of Sebastian, who was quivering uncontrollably.

“You lost all of your liquidity, so you can’t pay off the debts that you owe the private loan companies. Those people will try to get back their money from Kaymaroon as soon as possible.

“Running out of money isn’t a problem. You can sell your goods as there are plenty of goods in the supermarket anyway. Hence, you’ll surely be able to recover some of your loss.

“After that, the bank will take note of Kaymaroon’s debt crisis. I’m sure they will immediately sue you and bring you to court.

“All of this will take place one by one after the sun rises tomorrow. In other words, your life is over.”

Sebastian stared at Jasper with a terrified gaze. He trembled in fear. “No, you can’t do this! This is impossible!” He shouted out.

All of a sudden, Sebastian got on his knees and kneeled on the ground. He grabbed the hem of Jasper’s shirt with both hands. “Jasper Laine, no, Brother Laine, Mr. Laine. You can’t do this to me, Mr. Laine. I know what I did was wrong. I deserve to die. I’m an idiot. I shouldn’t have gone against you!” He pleaded.

“I beg of you. Please let me go this once. I really can’t lose Kaymaroon! My competitors won’t let me go so easily, Mr. Laine. I beg of you, please spare me!”

Jasper fixed an icy gaze on Sebastian, who had started sobbing pitifully. “Ten years ago, there was a woman who had begged piteously in front of you as well. However, did you spare her life?” He asked stonily.

Sebastian’s voice quivered as he pleaded with Jasper. “I was blinded by my lust and greed back then. I really didn’t know that things would turn out this way. To be honest, I had no intentions of killing her at all back then. I just wanted to scare her,” he said.

“Who would have thought that she would suddenly get killed? Even if I was bolder, I wouldn’t have dared to kill somebody.

“I’m willing to take out half of Kaymaroon’s assets. No, make it two-thirds. I’ll give you two-thirds of Kaymaroon’s assets in exchange for my life. At least let me keep some of my assets. Mr. Laine, I was wrong. I was really wrong!”

Overcome by extreme terror and threat, Sebastian kneeled down on the ground and pressed his forehead to the ground repeatedly.

The sound of the forehead continuously banging against the ground echoed through the room. After a while, Sebastian’s forehead was matted with blood.

Jasper continued looking upon his actions coldly. He did not encourage him to keep going on nor reach out to stop him.

Sebastian’s fate had already been sealed. Even if he jumped and cursed, or knelt down to beg for mercy, nothing would change Jasper’s mind.

“Julian,” Jasper called out.

“Brother Laine,” Julian responded as he came forward.

“Take him outside. I don’t want to see him.”

Julian grunted a noise of affirmation before turning around to drag Sebastian, who was wailing in fear, to his feet. He then pulled Sebastian toward the door.

Initially, Sebastian pleaded with Jasper desperately. However, since begging had no effect whatsoever, he simply let go of all his restraints.

“Jasper Laine, you deserve a painful death! Remember what I said! I will never let you go even after I turn into a wandering ghost! This is a reminder of what will happen to you in the future! Don’t be satisfied just yet. Eventually, there will come a day when you’ll be trampled upon by someone else!

“You deserve a painful death!”

Julian threw him out of the villa with a loud crash. He then closed the door tightly.

“I can finally have some peace,” Jasper let out a soft sigh. He then turned around to look at Hector and Jacob Combe.

Fear and respect flashed across the two brothers’ gazes. They immediately stood up straight and displayed an obedient demeanor when they noticed Jasper looking their way.

“You guys did pretty well!”

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After hearing Jasper's words, Hector and Jacob felt rather touched.

Flattered, Hector immediately plastered a smile across his face. "It's all thanks to your detailed plan, Mr. Laine. We were just doing as you said. We didn't do much," he said.

Jasper smiled and replied, "Although I was the one who prepared the script, you guys needed to act your part well for this to work. Otherwise, this act wouldn't have succeeded.

"According to our agreement, you guys can take 30% of the 500 million dollars that Sebastian Walker lost tonight, and the rest will be transferred to the account that I have given you guys by tomorrow."

Hector and Jacob felt their eyes twitch after listening to what Jasper said.

They were not shocked because the sum was too small. Rather, it was too large.

They had previously thought that it would be good enough if they managed to squeeze out a hundred million dollars from Sebastian Walker via his gambling. In that case, they would get 30% of it, which would amount to thirty million dollars. It was not a large sum.

However, they had obtained 500 million dollars now. 30% of the sum was more than a hundred million dollars. They did not dare to ask for such a large sum of money.

"Mr. Laine, that's way too much. We didn't do much. Why don't we take 10%..."

Jasper interjected Hector while he was speaking. “There’s no need for this. I told you that I’d give you the money. No matter how much the amount, I’ll give you the share that we agreed upon. This is what the two of you deserve. Jim Yapp will send someone to contact you for the transfer of his company shares tomorrow.”

Jasper then stood up and walked toward the door. “Wrap up everything nicely over here. I’m busy with other stuff, so I’ll be going first,” he said.

Jasper led Julian out of the villa suavely.

Hector and Jacob met eyes. The excitement in their gazes was evident.

This was more than a hundred million dollars!

For a young man from a wealthy family like Hector Combe, this was an extravagant sum. Although the Combes were wealthy, Hector’s personal assets did not even reach a hundred million dollars!

However, he now had everything in the blink of an eye!

Hector felt like he was caught in a fever dream.

“Is this what it feels like to ride someone else’s coattails? This is f*cking amazing,” Hector mumbled.

Jacob gave their tasks more thought. He told Hector, “We should contact the two trustees that you found and tell them about the remaining tasks. After that, we’ll give them more money so that they can leave Swallow Capital and go overseas immediately. It’ll be best if they never returned for the rest of their lives.”

Hector immediately nodded. “Right, this is an urgent matter!”

...

Morning sunlight filtered into the restaurant through the tall floor-to-ceiling windows. Jasper and Dawson were chatting about the order of incidents that had occurred over these past few days.

“Sebastian Walker is done for,” Jasper said matter-of-factly.

Dawson was dazed after listening to what he said.

Dawson knew how hard it was to go against someone like Sebastian Walker. Strictly speaking, although there were many unknown factors surrounding the battle ten years ago, it was a known fact that he had lost to Sebastian.

However, Jasper had managed to defeat Sebastian in just a few days' time.

Dawson played out Jasper's plan in his mind repeatedly as Jasper briefed him about his entire scheme.

“Your plan was actually not that complicated. You succeeded because you managed to grasp the fatal flaw in Sebastian's nature. In the eyes of someone that has experienced it firsthand in the past, this scheme wasn't exceptionally complex.

“However, you did something that most people wouldn't. You centered your plan around the contextual circumstances and conditions. You came up with a plan that was tailored specifically to Sebastian Walker's unique characteristics. It would have been hard for him to not to fall for it. Excellent. This is simply excellent.”

Dawson praised him from the bottom of his heart.

Previously, he was just satisfied with Jasper. After all, Jasper was still a little too young and needed more real-world experience.

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Unknowingly, Jasper's achievements had already surpassed his own.

Dawson was both amazed and delighted. It seemed as if the heavens were not treating him too bad as they had delivered an impeccable future son-in-law like Jasper to his side.

Jasper laughed. "In truth, I had used some shady tricks. I could only resort to unscrupulous methods since I wanted to defeat him effectively within a short period of time. Alas, it was a disreputable plan, so it's nothing worth being proud of," he said.

Nevertheless, Dawson shook his head and said, "You're wrong. Regardless of the method that you used, the only criterion that determines success is the ability to achieve your goals.

"Winners all reach the top by stepping over the dead bodies of those that they have defeated. When that happens, people will just see their brilliant glory. Not many people would bother to look into their past."

Jasper nodded. Just as he was about to say something, a middle-aged man walked into the restaurant.

The man glanced at the table where Jasper and Dawson were seated at, then rushed toward them immediately.

Jasper knew this person. He was Chris Quarles. He seemed to get along with Dawson pretty well in the industry forum some time ago.

"Dawson, did you hear the news?!"

Chris sat down at their table with a shocked expression on his face. He turned around to face Dawson and spoke in a direct manner.

“Sebastian Walker is doomed!”

Dawson chuckled. “Has everyone found out?” He asked.

Chris smacked his thigh and said, “How can such a big issue be hidden from us? Sebastian Walker said that he wanted to hold another meeting today in order to specify the industry standards and the details regarding the election of the chairman of the board.

“Alas, we waited for a long time, but he didn’t show up. After that, we received the news regarding the closure of all of Kaymaroon’s supermarkets. The news also said that a lot of suppliers and private loan companies were looking for Sebastian Walker! “

Chris’s eyes glazed over in admiration. He lowered his voice and said, “You guys may not know about this. It is rumored that Sebastian offended a powerful man. That man was the one who caused him to go bankrupt.”

Jasper chuckled upon hearing what he said. News sure spread quickly within the business world. “Who’s this powerful man?” He could not help but ask him.

Upon hearing Jasper’s question, Chris spoke in an elder’s tone, “We don’t know either. We only heard that he is an extremely powerful man whose authority extends to the ends of the world. Thinking about it, if he didn’t have a strong background, how could he destroy Kaymaroon in just a few days’ time?

“That’s why young people like you should act humbler and keep a low profile outside. Don’t get on anyone’s bad side, because you’ll never know if the person that you’ve offended has the support of someone powerful. By then, you won’t even have the chance to feel regret. Do you hear what I say, young man?”

Just as Jasper was about to say something, Julian walked into the restaurant. “Brother Laine, Hector Combe is here. He wanted to ask you if you’re interested in Kaymaroon. If you’re interested, he can obtain full acquisition of Kaymaroon and hand it to you as a gift,” he told Jasper in a hushed voice.

Jasper pondered upon it for a while. “Should I give you a present?” He asked Dawson with a grin.

Jasper did not wait for Dawson to give him a reply. He held up a piece of tissue and dabbed at his mouth. After that, he got up and spoke to Chris, who was sitting down with a stupefied expression etched onto his face. “I have something to do, Mr. Quarles, so I’ll be leaving first. Your advice is absolutely right. I’ll make sure to remember it always,” he said.

After speaking, Jasper followed Julian’s lead. They went to meet up with Hector.

Chris felt like a fool afterward. He sat there and stared blankly into space for some time. He then turned around to look at Dawson, who was slowly enjoying his breakfast, with much difficulty. “It was Jasp...” he uttered slowly.

“He was the one who did everything,” Dawson chuckled. He loved looking at the expression on Chris’s face right now. “It’s a blessing to have such a capable future son-in-law,” he said in satisfaction.

Ring ring ring. Chris and Dawson’s phones rang simultaneously.

They picked up their phones. They had both gotten the same message from the person on the other at the end of the call.

Sebastian Walker committed suicide by jumping off a building.

He had breathed his last by the time people discovered his body.

Chris's mind buzzed loudly. He visualized Jasper's kind and warm face in his mind. He felt like he had just come face-to-face with God himself without knowing it.

"I... I've lived my life in total vain!"

Life at the Top Chapter 368

Jasper met Hector, who was waiting for him patiently in the hotel reception room.

"What happened?" Jasper got straight to the point.

"Sebastian Walker is dead," Hector said in a courteous tone.

Jasper was only just learning about this news. He frowned and asked, "He died just like that? Was it suicide?"

"Yes, I received the news half an hour ago. His body must have been transported to the morgue by now," Hector replied

"What a weak man," Jasper remarked. "Since he's dead, let it be. What does this have to do with what you told me?" He asked.

"I didn't expect for him to commit suicide just like that. I guess he didn't want to feel tortured. After receiving this news, I realized that we could do a lot in this situation," Hector replied hurriedly.

"Previously, Sebastian Walker held all the company's shares under the name of a distant relative last year in order to avoid loan risks. I know that relative. He listens to our orders well. Now that Sebastian is dead, Kaymaroon is fully owned by him in a nominal sense."

Hector's gaze flashed with glee as he lowered his voice and said, "I can transfer all those shares to your name, Mr. Laine."

Jasper sat on the sofa and looked at Hector with a small smile on his lips. "Kaymaroon's market value is around 4 billion dollars. Although it is now debt-ridden, there will be at least 2 billion in assets left after paying off the debts. Are you going to give it away just like that? Are you not tempted yourself?" He questioned.

Hector immediately explained, "We believe that maintaining a long-term cooperative relationship with Mr. Laine will bring much greater benefits than Kaymaroon."

Hector then continued to speak in an awkward tone, "Besides, to be honest, the two of us may be able to operate a company in the entertainment and media industry due to our family relations. However, we have no idea how to operate a company in the supermarket industry. Furthermore, Kaymaroon is such a large-scale company."

Jasper stared at Hector without responding. He seemed to be gauging the legitimacy of his words.

Hector's heart lurched as he felt Jasper's intense gaze fixated on him.

The truth was, before they came over, the Combe brothers and their father had discussed how best to deal with Kaymaroon.

The brothers had initially proposed taking the entire company for themselves. Even if they did not know how to operate it, they could still earn a large sum of money by selling it off.

However, this proposal was firmly opposed by Hendrik Combe.

From his perspective, this was an investment, or an entry permit. It was a ticket to board a big ship in the form of Jasper Laine!

The Combes would obtain greater benefits than this in the future.

Hendrik was quick to reject their proposal as he had way more experience than both of his sons. Furthermore, he was in a sensitive position, thus he had access to a lot of information that others did not.

Therefore, he understood just how terrifying the power that Jasper wielded was.

Hector also did not tell Jasper about something more important.

Jasper simply wanted to bring down Sebastian Walker. However, nobody knew about his true intentions when it came to Kaymaroon.

If the Combes angered Jasper by keeping Kaymaroon for themselves, what could they do?

Hector had thus decided to look for Jasper due to his worries and considerations.

“I’ll give you two choices,” Jasper said.

Hector raised his head to look at Jasper. The heaviness in his heart gradually vanished. It seemed like he had made the right move this time.

“Firstly, I could invest 1 billion dollars to acquire Kaymaroon’s shares. Although its market value is at least 2 billion dollars, it won’t be easy to sell the company off. Since this is the case, you guys won’t lose any money.

“Secondly, you can merge the entertainment company under the both of your names into Easy Media, and I will allocate 30% of the shares of Easy Media to the two of you.”

Even a fool knew that it would be wiser to choose the first choice. It was a cash transaction whereby they would gain both money and goods.

Nevertheless, Hector responded without hesitation, “I choose the second choice!”

If he chose the first choice, it would be a one-off transaction between both parties. After the transaction, they would both go their separate ways.

However, things would be different if he chose the shares. The Combes appeared to have lost out if they took the second choice, but Hector knew that Easy Media would become one of the country’s largest entertainment companies in the long term.

When that time comes, owning 30% of the company’s shares would be beyond valuable.

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Most importantly, this meant that the Combes would be in a mutually beneficial relationship with Jasper. They would become allies.

Hendrik had advised him to do this repeatedly before he left the house earlier.

Even so, Jasper was not surprised by Hector’s choice.

Given the Combes’ stable position and their copious amount of property, they were definitely not a short-sighted family.

Jasper could tell this from the way they went against Sebastian, who was their relative, without the slightest hesitation, and chose to work together with Jasper.

Profits were their main priority.

People like this were extremely sly and smart. Nevertheless, they were the easiest to control as well.

As long as he showed them sufficient benefits and the horrors of betrayal, they would remain his most loyal subordinates.

Jasper laughed as he stood up and extended his hand toward Hector. "To be honest, I wish that you'd chosen the first option, but since you've made your choice, let's work together," he said.

Suppressing the excitement in his heart, Hector clasped Jasper's hand with both of his hands. "Definitely!" He exclaimed.

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After Hector left, Jasper returned to Dawson's room. To his surprise, Chris was still there.

"Mr. Laine... Nice to meet you, Mr. Laine."

Chris bounced off his chair the moment he saw Jasper enter the room. He proceeded to greet him cautiously.

"You're being way too polite, Mr. Quarles," Jasper grinned.

Chris laughed along with him while he secretly gave Jasper a once-over.

He looked at his face and contemplated his personality.

No matter how he looked at him, Jasper looked like a completely ordinary person to him.

He was simply incredible. He managed to end Sebastian's life in the blink of an eye.

What kinds of skills did one need to have in order to do such a thing?

How old was he?

Jasper could not care less about the rich emotional drama that was playing out in Chris's mind. "Uncle Schuler, I intend to acquire Kaymaroon so that Schuler Corporations can take over its market. That way, you won't have any competitors in the national supermarket industry," he told Dawson.

Dawson frowned and said, "Kaymaroon is larger than Schuler Corporations. If we take over their market, we may not be able to operate well."

Jasper chuckled. "It's alright, we can just spend more time and allocate funds to sort out the matter," he said.

"Sure, but only under one condition," Dawson said after thinking about it for a bit.

"Uncle Schuler, there's no need to come up with conditions with it comes to the two of us. You can just tell me directly," Jasper said.

"Have JW Capital acquire 50% of Schuler Corporations' shares," Dawson suddenly said.

Jasper was stunned. He would never have expected Dawson to make such a request.

"Uncle Schuler, it seems like you're regarding me as an outsider," Jasper remarked.

Dawson waved his hand and said in a solemn voice, "Putting our personal relationship aside, business is still business. I'll have a big advantage if I exchange 50% of Schuler Corporations' shares for Kaymaroon.

“In any case, this will all belong to the two of you in the future. I’m just giving you some of it in advance. I’ve already made my decision,” Dawson said.

“Sure. In that case, I’ll let Wendy hold onto part of these shares in my stead,” Jasper said while sighing.

Dawson smiled as he poked Jasper. “This kid. You’re so slick,” he said.

Chris, who was seated beside them, did not dare to utter a single word. He had unintentionally witnessed the birth of the leading company in the domestic supermarket industry.

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Although there were some changes to the plan, at its core, it was still very much on track.

Schuler Corporations started as a company in the supermarket industry. Although, its acquisition of Kaymaroon was as though a small snake were swallowing an entire elephant, both companies were still from the same industry. Therefore, there would be no need for acclimatization.

Furthermore, Kaymaroon did not have a leader now that Sebastian was dead. In a situation like that, Schuler Corporations’ acquisition of Kaymaroon would not be faced with any problems.

In order to maximize Kaymaroon’s strength, Jasper and Dawson would be carrying out a joint investment to pay off Kaymaroon’s total debt, which amounted up to more than a billion dollars.

The merger between the country's leading supermarket company and Schuler Corporations caused an uproar within the industry.

After all, there had been no news of the merger previously. Sebastian committed suicide all of a sudden during his peak, while Kaymaroon's debt crisis soon followed suit. After that, Schuler Corporations announced that they had obtained all of Kaymaroon's shares and were going to formally acquire the company.

Before everyone could wrap their heads around this, both companies had already begun the handover process.

People now looked at Dawson Schuler differently.

Some even suspected that the man had something to do with Sebastian's death. Nevertheless, nobody had any evidence.

After Sebastian's death, Dawson became the leading figure in the domestic supermarket industry. However, he did not mention the establishment of industry standards, nor did he intend to become the chairman of the board.

As a result, the noise around the matter eventually quietened down. It was as if nothing had ever happened.

All that remained was to come up with the details regarding how the merger between Kaymaroon and Schuler Corporations should take place, and how to operate both companies to their fullest potential within the shortest possible time. In this regard, Jasper did not intervene much anymore.

"Why do I keep having the feeling that the two of you are hiding something from me?" Wendy asked while staring at Jasper suspiciously.

Jasper laughed. "You're so smart. How can I hide anything from you?" He asked.

Wendy was not fooled by Jasper's sugarcoated words. She huffed and said, "Although my father has been extremely busy these past few days, he has been

exceptionally energetic and passionate. He seemed so much happier than he was in the past. He was smiling in front of everyone!”

“Isn’t that a good thing?” Jasper joked. “You wouldn’t want to see him moping about everyday, right?”

“You’re so annoying!” Wendy exclaimed, glaring at Jasper. Since he kept avoiding the topic and seemed reluctant to tell her more, she did not bother trying to get to the bottom of it.

Thus, Wendy changed the topic. “Are you really going to send me to school today?” She asked excitedly.

“Yes, I’ll send you since I’m free today. I’ll be busy from tomorrow onward,” Jasper replied.

It had been half a month since Schuler Corporation acquired Kaymaroon. He had received some news from the Combes yesterday.

They told him that the higher-ups had decided to hold the gala in advance, and so, this task naturally fell on shoulders of Easy Media as they were the main organizer.

As a result, this made it even more difficult for him to cope with their tight schedule. Without much choice, Jasper resorted to asking Advent Entertainment Group to send most of their staff over to help out.

The venue confirmation, venue decoration, gala program arrangement, and the lineup of invited guests all had to be reported to the higher-ups for approval and for their consideration.

Those in lower positions were not qualified to make important decisions. Even so, Jasper had to be there to watch over the proceedings, and so he make provide the final say and compile everything into a plan report that would be submitted for approval.

The next day's agenda consisted of determining the list of invited guests. The higher-ups would also send someone over to participate in the meeting. Therefore, Jasper had to be prepared.

While they chatted, the car arrived at Swallow Capital University.

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After ordering Julian to wait for him in the car, Jasper walked Wendy into the campus of Swallow Capital University.

“A prestigious university with more than a century of longstanding history is indeed different,” Jasper remarked as he surveyed the pleasant surroundings and looked at the students, who were either walking by in a rush or strolling along while chatting away happily.

With Wendy walking beside him, the two of them easily attracted everyone’s attention. Anyone who passed by, regardless of age or gender, would glance at Wendy and do a double-take.

Wendy was evidently used to receiving such treatment. She told Jasper, “I’ve been studying here for a few days, and I think that the teachers in my classes are all extremely good. They’ve given me plenty of inspiration. Why don’t you come here and take an MBA to further polish yourself?”

Jasper shook his head and chuckled. “I can’t obtain the knowledge that I need here. Besides, it’s sufficient to have you here. I’d rather not come and waste my time,” he said.

Others polished themselves by obtaining a diploma to show to their bosses. If he obtained a diploma, who would he show it to? Therefore, Jasper had never considered doing such a thing.

Universities only taught students theoretical knowledge. However, you needed to have practical experience in the business world.

No matter how skilled one was in terms of theory, they could only be a capable manager at most. In reality, it was different if you wanted to be a good boss.

None of the powerful bosses out there had paved their way by being good in their studies.

Jasper had just finished speaking when a scoff rang out from beside them.

“There aren’t many people who dare to speak so boldly in the Swallow Capital University Campus. You said that you can’t obtain the knowledge that you need here? Given your bold words, I wonder which globally renowned university you graduated from?”

Jasper turned around to see two people. A young man and a young woman walked toward them.

The young man was dressed casually. His clothes and accessories were all of great value. Anyone could tell that he was not from an ordinary family at just a glance.

There was a beautiful and graceful woman standing beside the haughty and imposing young man. She exuded a good temperament, and was not dressed gaudily. According to societal standards, she was a girl with looks that were above average.

However, her beauty was overshadowed by Wendy’s presence.

Anna Law was the only person that Jasper knew whose aura did not diminish in front of Wendy.

Upon seeing Wendy turn around, the man voiced out, “Wendy, I offered to walk you to your classes before this, but you didn’t want me to. How did you meet someone like that?”

Wendy frowned slightly. “Ben, we’re just classmates. I don’t need to trouble you by asking you to walk me to my classes. Also, he’s my boyfriend. He’s not just ‘someone like that’. Please be more polite,” she said.

A slight furrow formed on Ben's brow once he heard what she said. He fixed an icy gaze upon Jasper.

He thought that Jasper was simply one of Wendy's pursuers, much akin to him. He had never expected for him to be her boyfriend.

Ben Hull, who was enrolled in the MBA course as well, had been crazily obsessed with Wendy ever since he first saw her.

He had seen plenty of pretty girls and all sorts of beautiful faces, but he had never once met a woman that moved his heart as much as she did.

Ben had done everything that he could to win her heart these few days, but Wendy did not show any form of reciprocation.

Her phone number was also in the address book of the class, which everyone had access to.

Nevertheless, the harder it was to obtain something, the more Ben wanted to get his hands on it.

However, Wendy Schuler suddenly had a boyfriend?

"You're really something, my friend. You even managed to win the heart of our class belle. However, you haven't replied me. Since you said that you don't like the courses provided on the campus of Swallow Capital University, which prestigious university did you graduate from? Please enlighten me."

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“I didn’t graduate from a globally prestigious university. I’m from an ordinary domestic second-rank university.”

Jasper did not shy away from the question regarding his academic qualifications.

He did not think that it was something to be embarrassed about.

One’s academic qualifications could only reflect one’s learning abilities when they were young. It could not determine one’s final achievements.

This was one of the criteria set by Jasper in the recruitment processes of all of the companies under him. His companies were not allowed to use academic qualifications as a mandatory requirement for recruitment.

Ben and the woman beside him instantly burst out into laughter after Jasper spoke.

“You were right about people nowadays, Ben. The less capable they are, the more they like to boast about themselves.”

The girl beside Ben remarked.

She looked at Jasper with a gaze full of disgust. It was as if Jasper exuded a terrible stench that would infect her if she so much as gave him a glance.

Ben chuckled and replied, “That’s why I told you that you have to be more careful when you go out next time. Some people are capable of doing anything just to get on the side of the rich and powerful. They love to brag in front of others and act all high and mighty despite being completely incapable.”

“Take me for instance. Although I graduated from Evergreen University through a full undergraduate course, I have never dared to say that the knowledge we obtain from university isn’t important. Only some people that have never experienced studying in a top university would be shameless enough to say that the syllabus taught in universities is useless.”

Ben grinned at Jasper while speaking. “I’m not talking about you, so don’t take it personally,” he said, feigning a look of compassion.

Unlike his words, there was a satisfied and mocking gaze in his eyes. He did not even bother to hide it.

“I value a person’s abilities and achievements after entering society more than a graduation certificate. Be it Swallow Capital University or Evergreen University, the school mottos of both these top universities are centered on the value of virtue over fame and fortune.”

Jasper’s tone did not waver in the slightest in the face of their overt mockery and taunts.

Ben’s expression darkened after he heard what Jasper said.

He had never expected Jasper to counter him using the words from the mottos of his two institutions.

Nevertheless, there was no way for him to refute Jasper.

The school motto of Evergreen University: Be virtuous and strive for self-improvement.

Did it not mean that one’s moral character was the most important thing?

A wise saying like that stood true in any given circumstance.

“You certainly have a way with words,” Ben said stonily with a smirk plastered on his face. His smile did not reach his eyes.

Ben’s cousin, Lisa Gardner, frowned. “You’re simply distorting the facts to justify yourself. I’ve seen a lot of people like you. People like you just want to gain attention by talking about morals and principles, when in fact, you’re just a dimwit,” she said impolitely.

“Even if I’m a dimwit, that has nothing to do with the both of you, right?” Jasper asked.

Feeling suffocated, Lisa choked on her words.

Wendy almost burst out into laughter at the sight of the unpleasant expressions on both of their faces.

Jasper had never been at a disadvantage when facing rude people like these.

“Jasp, let’s go. We have nothing more to say to them,” Wendy told Jasper.

Jasper nodded. He glanced at the two of them before attempting to leave with Wendy.

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Lisa, however, was unwilling to concede. She had never suffered such mistreatment before, so she stood right in front of the two and blocked their paths.

“What do you want?” Wendy was slightly annoyed and she frowned as she spoke. Her tone was no longer as polite as it was when she had tried to keep their relationship neutral before. Rather, it was fierce now.

“Look, Miss Wendy, we’re all classmates here, so I’m telling you that the man beside you isn’t worth your time! I’m only telling you this for your sake because I can’t bear to witness it anymore.” Lisa huffed arrogantly.

“Not everyone can enroll in MBA, and those who do are all formidable in either their academics or familial background. But look at that nobody next to you? All he has is talk—you’re just degrading yourself by being with him.”

“Don’t say that, Lisa. We have to respect Wendy’s decisions.” Ben laughed as he spoke, his expression polite.

“Perhaps Wendy hasn’t met many people before this, and her limited social experience is why she’s an easy target for others to trick. She’ll know that there are more outstanding people outside after broadening her experience, and she’ll soon know better than to be with some ignorant idiot.”

Lisa replied calmly, “It’d be too late then.

“My cousin’s liked you for a long time, Wendy, so how about you give each other a chance? Date each other for a while and I’m sure you’ll realize that he’s very outstanding. At the least, you’ll realize he’s much better than a nobody that’s all talk.”

Lisa sounded sincere, as if she truly believed that she was doing the right thing and was trying to save Wendy from disaster.

Yet, this only fueled Wendy’s displeasure and anger.

Right then, Jasper patted the back of Wendy’s hand to calm her down.

“Why am I the nobody that’s all talk?” Jasper asked.

As a man, there was no way Jasper would stand still as someone degraded him to this extent.

“We turn a blind eye and let you lie as you please, but you’re dead wrong if you think this makes you worthy to contribute to our conversation. If this is how you’re going to act, then I may as well make myself clear then. A nobody that’s all talk—that’s exactly what you are. Or are you telling me that I got it wrong?”

Lisa pointed at Jasper and interrogated him disdainfully, “Do you even know how much one year of MBA tuition costs? Do you know what kind of people the class is made up of?”

“You should know that, or you wouldn’t stick to Wendy so shamelessly, would you? You just like the fact that she’s pretty and rich. Did you think we couldn’t tell?”

“At least look at the mirror first. Do you think you have the ability to give Wendy happiness and the life she wants to live? It costs a million per year for an MBA, so forget everything else, can you even pay her school fees?”

Lisa scoffed. She looked down on Jasper just because she was from a higher social class and somehow that made her better than him. “You can’t even imagine how much money that is, but it is a different story for Ben. The President of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce is Ben’s father, and Ben is the heir to the QC Group!”

“Ben started in a position that nobodies like you could ever imagine ever since the moment he was born, so what makes you think you can fight with him?”

Then Lisa pulled out the car keys to a Maserati from her LV purse and spoke calmly, “Do you see this? A top-level Maserati Quattroporte, with an on-the-road price of 3.8 million. If you weren’t born with it, then you’d never have it no matter how hard you tried. You poor beggar.”

Jasper smiled and pulled out his car keys from his pant pockets and spoke, "And here I thought that it was something special. A car key, right? I have one too."

The huge Bentley logo, with angel wings spreading out on both sides of the letter B, was a symbol of wealth and dignity.

"It's no Maserati, but a Bentley has an on-the-road price of 5 million. A little more expensive than yours. What a shame that I didn't have it when I was young, but it's mine now."

Then Jasper shrugged and glanced at Ben and Lisa, who were both shocked and mortified. He reached out to wrap an arm around Wendy and smiled, his expression gentle and calm.

Ben stared enviously at the arm Jasper had wrapped around Wendy's small waist and clenched his fists. He had never felt so humiliated before in his life.

"Benny, is that... real?" Lisa asked embarrassedly.

"No way! Look at that nobody, even his clothes are cheap pieces you could buy from the streets. None of what he wears is over 200 bucks, yet you tell me he drives a Bentley? We saw them get out of an ordinary Buick at the gates!"

Lisa brightened at the memory, thinking that she had been played. She huffed angrily. "Exactly! Even if it was a Bentley, that'd still be Wendy's Bentley!"

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“Whatever helps you sleep at night, then,” Jasper replied plainly.

“But I’d appreciate it if you stopped pretending that you’re better than everyone else. You look immature.”

Jasper’s words infuriated Lisa.

“What did you say?!” Lisa screamed.

“I think you’re just humiliated because we saw through your lies.”

Then, Lisa sneered. “That has to be it, or how about you show us your driving license as proof?”

Jasper replied calmly, “You’re just going to suspect that I’m living off Wendy’s money when you see my name on my driving license, won’t you?”

“I could show you my bank account balance, but then you’d suspect that I faked that too. Or perhaps I had photoshopped it.”

Smiling, Jasper spoke plainly, “I don’t have to prove anything to you at all. You acting like you’re better than everyone just looks childish and stupid to me.

“I won’t deny that you have a great family background, but that does not make you nobles who are better than everyone else.

“People are people, and if you think being rich gives you the right to look down on people, then people richer than you will only look down at you in the same way. That’s karma.”

Ben replied coldly, "What are you trying to say, then? Lisa's right, you're just guilty."

"I don't need to hear your opinion or what you think about him," Wendy suddenly spoke, turning to look at Ben and Lisa indifferently.

"My relationship with him is our own matter, and I don't need, nor is it up to, you to interfere and decide on what should happen in it. Thank you for caring, but your so-called care has only made me feel uncomfortable. How about you take care of yourselves first?"

Wendy then turned to Jasper and said in a soft tone, "Let's go, Jasper. I'm a little tired."

Jasper nodded and left with Wendy, his arm around her waist.

Envious and furious, Ben's gaze was filled with fury and jealousy as he stared at the two exiting figures.

Especially the hand Jasper rested on Wendy's slim waist. It almost seemed like he was doing it on purpose to piss him off as, instead of letting go, Jasper immediately held her tighter.

"B*stard!" Ben clenched his jaw and growled.

Lisa tugged at Ben's shirt and whispered, "Don't worry, Benny, we still have time. We'll find a way to get him back for this."

Ben scoffed. "People like him will never have the right to be compared to me. It'll only be a matter of time before I make Wendy understand that I'm the one who's right for her."

Lisa nodded. "Yeah, I believe you."

Ben's expression smoothed out and he smiled. "Enough about me, how has your relationship with Mr. Erik Turner been lately? The family's been really eager to know how you're doing. It'll be great for the family if a marriage union with the Turner family is set in place."

Lisa smiled proudly. "It's going smoothly. We need the Turners, and the Turners need the support from the business people of Haddock as well."

"I don't know what happened but he doesn't seem to be in a good mood these days. He looks ready to kill someone every time I saw him. I'd say he got his d*ck cut off if I didn't know any better."

"It shouldn't be anything big though, Erik asked me out for dinner tonight."

Ben nodded, pleased by what he was hearing. "If you and Mr. Turner can take things a further step in your relationship, I'd say it'd be worth this MBA in Swallow Capital. Since we did all this just so you would have a reason to get closer to Mr. Turner."

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"Oh, and Benny, about the celebratory banquet for the approval to host the Olympics, our dads will definitely attend as representatives of the businesspeople of Haddock. Did you tell Uncle to add you to the list of attendees yet?" Lisa asked.

Ben sighed. "It's a very high-scale banquet, and our dads are only invited because they're the president and vice president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce. I'm not at that level of importance yet, so my dad said he'll apply, but fingers crossed for results."

“I think we should still go as long as there’s a way, even if we’re only going to be sitting at a corner behind. Considering its scale, everyone in attendance will be from rich families. It’ll do us good to meet a few powerful people here and there.”

Ben looked even more despondent when he heard Lisa’s words. “Theoretically speaking, yes, but it’s still a very high-class banquet and our statuses haven’t reached such a level yet. All we can do now is apply and see if fate will be kind to us or not.”

“Or I could tell Mr. Turner about it tonight during dinner? He might have a way considering how powerful the Turner family is in Swallow Capital. It shouldn’t be too hard for him to get our names on the attendance list, right?” Lisa suggested.

Ben’s gaze brightened as he nodded. “Yeah, that sounds like a great idea. Good luck tonight, then!”

Lisa smiled confidently. “As long as Mr. Turner has a say in this, then I’m sure I can convince him to help us.”

...

While dropping Wendy off in her classroom, Jasper became stressed.

“Don’t interact with boys so much, especially Ben. Don’t get too close to him, and call me if he bothers you again.”

After giving it some thought, Jasper added, “Maybe I’ll get Julian to follow you wherever you go. That should do the trick.”

Wendy looked at Jasper exasperatedly, and she immediately declined after realizing that many other classmates were looking at them curiously. “You’re starting to act like my mom. I know how to protect myself, so don’t worry, okay?”

“I should still have Julian follow you, though. You’re out and about all the time. You’ll be meeting all sorts of people outside too.”

Jasper smiled. “Don’t worry, as long as I don’t actively provoke someone, no one’s going to want to bother me here in Swallow Capital. I’m safe for now.”

Jasper was not lying. Now that the situation with the Turners was over, the Combe family had turned into his most loyal underlings. He had completely devoured the entirety of Kaymaroon. Jasper did not have any enemies in Swallow Capital for now.

Even if someone wanted to screw him over, they would not dare to do it now when Jasper was currently in charge of the celebratory banquet. Everyone was fighting to fawn over him and apple-polish the man.

Nothing was more important than the celebratory banquet!

This was more than a mere business gala, for it was an important event that would speak for the country’s might.

The higher-ups had told him yesterday of some big shots whose attendances were confirmed, and Jasper felt his heart shake in fright at the mere sight of their names.

Jasper was an outstanding person himself, but these bigwigs were all of formidable statuses. They were people Jasper had only ever seen on the news in his past life.

Outsiders could not possibly imagine the true meaning of the banquet and how aristocratic it was.

“Then I’ll get going first. Call me if you need anything, okay?” Jasper spoke.

Wendy nodded. Suddenly remembering something, she asked, “Oh, Jasp? Can I bring a few friends to your banquet? They’re good friends of mine and they’re hoping they can attend.”

Worrying that it would put Jasper in a tough spot, Wendy backtracked and said, "It's alright if they can't. I didn't tell anyone about it yet so they don't know that you're the host."

Jasper smiled. "That's fine. Hand me a list of their names later and I'll add it to the attendance list. It's just a few extra invitations, so don't worry about it."

"Okay!"

Wendy smiled at Jasper sweetly. She was in a wonderful mood considering how her boyfriend could so easily deal with the issue of being invited when an invitation to the banquet was something the upper-class outside was pleading to receive.

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Exiting Swallow Capital University, Jasper returned to the hotel to rouse Henry from his sweet dreams.

“Hey! What the f*ck man, f*ck you! I was having a nice f*cking dream there!”

Henry growled, angry and bleary-eyed.

Jasper took a look at the hickey left on his neck and huffed. “You’ve been spending these few nights drowning in women, haven’t you? The moment Anna left, you completely let go and do whatever you want.”

Henry’s pissed expression froze and he immediately denied. “Hey, I’m innocent, okay! I didn’t...”

Then as he spoke, he watched Jasper pick up a black bra with a trendy design by the bed with two fingers...

Henry immediately shut his mouth and tried to recall his memory. ‘Who did I bring over last night? Was it the innocent Annie, the sexy Angela, or the intellectual Catherine?’

‘F*ck! That’s too many women, I can’t even tell them apart anymore!’

As such, Henry decided he would not think about it and just block all of them. He could not believe he made a fool of himself in front of his future brother-in-law.

Jasper ignored the embarrassed expression Henry wore and decided to ask in seriousness, “Do you have a way to contact your grandfather?”

Henry was stunned. “My grandfather? I mean I have his assistant’s phone number, but why do you want to contact my grandfather?”

Jasper smiled. “I was hoping to invite him to the celebratory banquet next week.”

Henry shuddered, and the thick drowsiness muffling his mind immediately vanished. He instantly became filled with vigor as he roared, “Calling my grandfather over? Do we need to kill someone? The Turners? Yeah, man, let’s do it! I knew you wouldn’t just let the Turners go so easily. We’ll f*ck those motherf*ckers up so bad! The moment my grandfather is involved in this, they can kiss their wealth and status goodbye!”

Jasper took Henry’s phone and spoke exasperatedly, “Is your every thought just filled with bullsh*t like that? I might as well admit my loss if I have to involve Old Master Law just to fight someone.”

Henry was stunned. “Not at all. That’s how we all do things. We go to our parents when people bully us.”

As he dialed the number, Jasper spoke, “Seems like you’ve bothered him quite a bit for things like this, then.”

Henry looked embarrassed as he scratched his head. “No way. Others like to ask their parents for help, but I just turn to Anna instead. It’s embarrassing... but you know how it is in my family. My dad would break my legs and I don’t want to imagine what my grandfather would do.”

While Henry spoke, Jasper’s call with the old master’s assistant was connected. The phone was then passed to Old Master Law.

“Old Master Law. It’s me, Jasper,” Jasper greeted politely.

Old Master Law’s bright laughter echoed through the speakers. “You’re calling about the banquet, aren’t you, Jasper? Zachary told me about it yesterday. I was just about to have him tell you when you called me yourself.”

Jasper replied sincerely, "I've been thinking about it, and I realized that even though it's only right I tell Uncle Law in advance, I should still discuss this with you myself regarding inviting you to the banquet."

Old Master Law was extremely pleased with Jasper's detailed thoughtfulness and smiled. "Don't worry, I'll be there. One, to support you so that people won't look down on you, and two, there are also some things about the family that I have to talk to them about in Swallow Capital."

Jasper knew that he was referring to the Olympic Village. 'It seems like Old Master Law is planning to take the project for sure.'

"Alright then. I'll pick you up from the airport," Jasper replied happily.

Old Master Law chuckled. "No need. We'll get there ourselves. You don't need to fetch us at all. Aren't you busy enough right now? Just focus on your own things and push everything else to the side."

"I've already put a word in with Spencer, Joe, and Wallace for you. They'll be there too, so you don't have to call them," Old Master Law spoke gently.

Jasper was stunned. Old Master Law was doing more than just standing on his side. He had also gotten the rest of Harbor City's major rich families to support him.

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At the same time, Jasper was well aware that the more support he received, the more careful he had to be.

After all, while he and Spencer Boyle were acquaintances, he and Joe were practically strangers. The gap in their statuses was too large.

As for a big shot like Wallace, Jasper had never once spoken to the man at all. The only impression he had was of Kennedy, and even then it was not great. If anything, Jasper found Kennedy an extremely selfish hero.

None of them were easy to talk to.

With his own ability, there was no way Jasper would have gotten all four families to attend.

The fact that they were attending was all thanks to Old Master Law.

“Thank you.” Jasper gave his heartfelt gratitude.

Old Master Law smiled warmly. “What for? You’re being too polite to an old man like me.

“The four of us will be in attendance because we think you have promising talents. You helped the four of our families during that stock market war in Harbor City back then, so they’re just returning the favor.

“And at the same time, the celebratory banquet for gaining the right to host the Olympics is a large event. It’s good news for the country and its citizens. There’s no way we’d miss this out.”

Then, Old Master Law advised in a meaningful tone, “You’ve always had a good grasp of what kind of future you want for yourself, but remember that as much as this is a chance for you, it’s also a test. The smallest details can affect the majority, so be very careful and attentive.”

Jasper’s mind lit up at the advice. There was no reason for Old Master Law to say meaningless things considering his status and identity, so there had to be something more to his words.

He remembered how he had suggested to Zachary the possibility of a mole within the four rich families during Harbor City’s stock market havoc.

Hearing Old Master Law, it seemed like he had an inkling but was not certain yet.

‘Could it be Spencer Boyle?’

‘Joe Langdon?’

‘Or Wallace Langdon who always kept a low profile?’

Jasper shook his head and did not delve deeper into the issue. He turned to the phone and replied, “I understand, Old Master Law. I’ll keep a closer eye out.”

The old master smiled. “Don’t think too much about it. You’re still young, still in the developmental stage. Growth is a process, so give it some more time and no one will be able to hold you back.

“Henry didn’t cause you any trouble there, did he?”

At that, Jasper glanced subconsciously at the hickey on Henry’s neck and the woman’s undergarment on the floor before replying with slight embarrassment, “He’s still the same, but it could be worse.”

“This child.” Considering who Old Master Law was, he understood what Jasper meant immediately and had Jasper pass the phone to Henry so he could speak to his grandson.

Henry immediately felt goosebumps across his skin when he saw Jasper passing the phone to him instead of hanging up after they were done with their conversation.

He stared at the phone in Jasper’s hand in fright as if it was a bomb.

Still, he did not dare to make the Old Master wait, so he stuttered as he took the phone and wailed as he greeted his grandfather.

Jasper had no way of knowing what the old master told Henry over the phone, but seeing how wilted the man looked after he hung up, Jasper knew that Henry had been taught a lesson.

Henry felt Jasper’s gaze and shrugged, not embarrassed in the slightest. “You get used to it. After all, I’m in Swallow Capital now and it’s not like I’ll get physically hurt from a scolding.”

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The following day, Jasper arrived at Easy Media half an hour before the scheduled meeting was about to begin.

Ryder, who had arrived long before him, brought his team and a few senior executives over to greet him.

“How’d it go? Was it smooth?” Jasper shook Ryder’s hand and asked with a smile.

Ryder looked exhausted, but his expression was one of excitement. “It was very hectic, to be honest. The people in Easy Media can’t really do much since they don’t have experience in hosting large-scale banquets like this.”

At that, the face of the vice president of Easy Media flushed as he stood by the side.

There was not much he could say since Ryder was the president of the company in Harbor City. There was no way he would come after his spot in Easy Media if he wanted to make money.

Plus, everyone had seen the strength Ryder’s team had.

No matter the place, people tended to be impressed by people with true skills.

“Mr. Lawrence is right. We’ve realized how much we lack in that sense and we’re embarrassed.”

Thinking Jasper would scold them, the vice president was shocked to hear Jasper reassure them instead. “Don’t worry about it. Everything starts from nothing before it can grow into something. With your experience now, you’ll know what to do next time.”

Jasper then turned to the vice president seriously. “Easy Media should learn from Mr. Lawrence and their team humbly. This is an opportunity any other company could only wish to have, understood?”

The vice president immediately brightened up and replied, “Understood, Mr. Laine!”

Jasper nodded then walked toward the meeting room with the large group of people in tow. “Has the representative the higher-ups sent reached yet?”

The vice president shook his head. “We’ve sent someone to fetch them, but they’re not here yet.”

Jasper glanced at the time. 'The meeting is in less than ten minutes and they're still not here yet?'

Just then, Jasper received a call from Jacob.

"Mr. Laine, the representative sent to attend the meeting with Easy Media this time is my dad's absolute rival. He thinks that you only got the right to host because we teamed up, so he might cause you some problems."

Jasper finally understood. That explained why the other party was being so high and mighty.

"Alright, I'll keep an eye out. It's already set in stone right now and no protest is going to change anything. Unless you're telling me he has the ability to make me give up my right to host?" Jasper spoke plainly.

Jacob smiled. "The invitations have already been sent out and the banquet is in less than a week. There's no way he can make you give your rights up, nor does he have the right to host the banquet even if he manages to.

"The most he can do now is supervise the meeting, especially the list of guests in case the company tries to play dirty. Not that he has the say over who should or should not attend, since he'll have to hand the list to the higher-ups too. Basically, he's just here to be unreasonable and cause trouble. Don't take it to heart, Mr. Laine."

Understanding the deeper meaning underneath, Jasper smiled. "Alright, thanks for the intel."

Jacob hummed happily before he stuttered, "Uh, Mr. Laine? I was wondering if it'd be okay for me to go too?"

The Combe family had performed very well this time, and this mere phone call from Jacob had already reduced a lot of Jasper's issues. Naturally, he would not be calculative regarding such small matters.

“Sure. I’ll put you and your brother’s names on the list as well. As Easy Media’s shareholders, I see no problem in you attending a banquet hosted by your own company,” Jasper replied.

The mere fact that Jacob could attend was already something great and something that boosted his ego greatly. After all, the entire upper-class in Swallow Capital would be there, and everyone was proud to have their own ways to obtain an invitation.

However, since the guest list had yet to be finalized, most people who claimed to have been invited were just bluffing. Now, Jasper had not only promised his place in the guest list but his brother’s as well.

Jasper was being very nice to them.

Amidst Jacob’s repetitive thanks, Jasper hung up the phone.

It was time for the meeting to begin.

“It’s 8:30, Mr. Laine. They’re still not here yet. Should I urge their arrival?” the vice president asked carefully.

“No need. We’ll start on time. It’s not our fault he’s not here,” Jasper replied.

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Jasper did not entertain people who thought the world revolved around them just because they were of higher status.

Jasper had just finished speaking when the meeting room doors were pushed open and a middle-aged man entered the room with two other staff in tow.

The middle-aged man leading them was Jon Foxx, a man the higher-ups sent to go over the guest list.

“For a man so young, you sure have quite the temper, Mr. Laine. What’s this? I arrive right on the dot and you’re already so displeased. Who knows what you would’ve done if I came late?” Jon sneered at Jasper.

“Ted!”

Jasper suddenly frowned and shouted.

Ted was the name of Easy Media’s vice president. The man was wiping his sweat when Jasper called his name and it startled him. He quickly replied, “Present, Mr. Laine!”

“Why is there an unknown outsider in the company’s meeting room?” Jasper asked calmly.

Ted’s pupils constricted, and his complexion paled. His eyes darted toward Jon who was fuming. He bemoaned internally and bitterly. He wondered why he had to be caught in the crossfire.

“What are you saying, Jasper? I’m the team leader the higher-ups sent over to supervise the guest list. How dare you chase me out?!”

Jon pointed at Jasper as he roared, “Can you even bear the responsibility if anything goes wrong with the banquet?!”

Jasper smiled before he replied calmly, “Oh, so you’re the person the higher-ups sent to join the meeting. How am I supposed to know who you are when you just charged into my meeting room out of the blue and started reprimanding me about my temper without even telling me who you are?”

Jon's gaze turned cold as he scoffed. "Are you telling me I'm wrong about your temper? Don't think that because you're the host here that you can ignore the higher-ups' wishes. You're still too young to fight with them!"

Jasper merely replied, "I do respect the higher-ups. I just don't like pretentious people."

"What did you say?!" Jon clenched his teeth.

He had planned to make a fierce entrance and show Jasper his power. At the same time, it would be an attack on his own enemy, Hendrik Combe.

As far as he was concerned, there was more to the fact that Easy Media was given the right to host the banquet, and neither would Easy Media dare to step out of line.

However, Jon had not expected to go speechless from Jasper's chides before he could begin.

At that train of thought, Jon's fury flared.

"The company already informed you of the time and location of today's meeting three days ago. We also sent someone to fetch you and that's enough respect as it is. Yet you decided to take your own sweet time and be late, so tell me why do I have to wait for you?" Jasper asked calmly.

Jon replied coldly, "Can't there be traffic?"

"Sure." Jasper smiled and ignored him, turning to announce to everyone else in the room, "Let's start."

Eyes wide and speechless, Jon brought the two other employees with him inside. 'Jasper's just going to start the meeting when we're still standing at the door? He's not even going to ask us to sit?

‘What does he take me, Jon Foxx, for?’

His face was flushed red from being infuriated. Jon had never respected businessmen considering he had always found work with big shots.

He had always been at the receiving end of businessmen’s pleasantries, and he had never found himself at a loss of whether he should enter a businessman’s conference room or not.

“You’ve gone mad, Jasper Laine!”

Jon barked out angrily.

“Without me, any guest list you come up with is useless! They’ll never be approved!”

“And what kind of influential guests can you invite anyway? Who do you think will entertain a rascal like you when it comes to a banquet of this scale? You’ll need the officials to back you up anyway! You won’t get a single guest in attendance if you offend me, I’m telling you! You’re just f*cking yourself over!”

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The entire world would have their eyes on this banquet.

Firstly, it was of exceptional meaning and status, so it was only right that people paid attention to it.

Secondly, many were waiting to see how Jasper was going to make a fool of himself.

While Jasper would not have to bear any responsibilities if anything went south, there was no chance any media company under his name could work together with the higher-ups and officials in the future.

Within the country, a media company might as well close down if they got blacklisted by the officials.

Not to mention that there was still the guest list to worry about.

Without question, ambitious youths like Jacob Combe would do everything they could to get a spot on the guest list and Jasper could do nothing to hold them outside.

These youths had been asking around their contacts for a potential way in.

It was because this banquet would turn out to be a great chance to show their faces and broaden their contacts.

However, a banquet of such class could not possibly be made up of youths like Jacob.

That would be a joke.

To put it bluntly, they were not formidable enough.

As such, top-level big shots must attend as well.

Yet there was no way these big shots would ask to be invited themselves, so it was left to Jasper and the higher-ups to invite them.

Still, their attendance was not absolutely guaranteed.

Especially when it came to people of Old Master Law's fortitude. The officials could invite them, but if Old Master Law claimed that he was too tired and old to move, then there was nothing they could do.

Essentially, underqualified people would beg the hosting party for an invite.

While the hosting party would beg the true bigwigs to attend.

Jon's words were not baseless.

He did not believe that a youth like Jasper, a little brat he had never heard of, would be able to invite any big shots at all.

He would need the higher-ups' help in the end anyway.

By then, Jon would be able to tattle on Jasper to the higher-ups as he pleased.

Scoffing, Jon sneered at Jasper while waiting for the other to sob and beg him for forgiveness.

However, he only heard Jasper speak plainly.

"Whether I manage to invite them or not is my business. I don't need your input on the matter. Taking a step back, what makes you think you can invite guests that I cannot?"

Jon's eyes widened immediately and he stared intently at Jasper, wondering if he had heard the man wrongly.

After a while, Jon guffawed. "Fine! You think you're so great, huh? Well then, if you think you're so fine on your own, then I don't think the three of us need to sit in on this meeting, do we? I'd like to see what kind of guest list you can come up with!

“I won’t be the one getting the brunt of it when it turns out your guest list consists of just a couple of small-timers! I’d like to see how you plan to save yourself then!”

Jon spoke and turned to leave with his subordinates with the flick of his hand.

“Leave then, goodbye,” Jasper replied, unfazed.

Jon slammed the door angrily behind him as he left, and Jasper glanced at the senior executives in the room who all wore strange expressions on their faces.

Excluding Ryder’s team that came from Harbor City, Easy Media’s senior executives all looked worried and did not dare to voice their concerns.

“Don’t worry, everyone. I won’t make fun of such a big deal.”

They had no other choice but to believe in Jasper after the man’s reassurance.

After all, Jasper should be the one under the most pressure. He would be the one taking the brunt of it when everything came crashing down, not the subordinates.

“Show me the drafted guest list first. Let’s take a look at it,” Jasper instructed.

Ted, the vice president, was the person in charge of the list, so he immediately had someone display the drafted list on the large screen in the conference room.

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It was a guest list with more than 100 guests, most of whom Jasper did not recognize. Fortunately, their identities were stated beside their names.

It was just like Jon had expected. There were only a couple of small fries and no one formidable on the guest list at all.

Ted felt a little embarrassed. “Mr. Laine, these are all we could contact. They’re mostly presidents from chambers of commerce here and there, and some of them had also applied for an invite with us. After sifting through, these are who we have left.”

Jasper glanced at the screen and suddenly raised his hand to point at two names. “Ben Hull and Lisa Gardner, how did they get in?”

Ted immediately replied, “The Turner family brought them in.”

Watching the change in Jasper’s expression carefully, Ted asked, “Should I remove them?”

Jasper gave a small smile. “Leave them, they’re the children of the president and vice president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce in the Waterhoof City branch. I’d say they borderline qualify.”

Ted let out a sigh of relief.

After reading the guest list, Jasper then spoke, “It’s mostly alright, but there are too many of them. Excluding the people we’ve all decided should remain on the list, cut down two-thirds of everyone else and leave around 70 to 80 of them.”

Ted was stunned. “Isn’t that too little people, Mr. Laine?”

Jasper then pulled out two sheets of paper. “Then add the names on these two papers.”

Ted took the paper and projected the first list to the screen.

It was still quite an ordinary list with Jacob, Hector, Wendy, and a few of her classmates’ names. They were all children of renowned families and were considered outstanding if compared to the others on the main list.

The entire meeting room fell silent for a few seconds when the other list was projected, and everyone gasped in shock. Ignoring the fact that their big boss, Jasper, was present.

A shocking list of names appeared on the screen.

“Old Master Law, his son Zachary Law, and his grandchildren Henry and Anna Law!”

“Spencer Boyle and his son Eustass Boyle!”

“Joe Langdon and his son Kayden Langdon!”

“Wallace Langdon and his son Kennedy Langdon!”

In addition to the four household surnames were more than a dozen other densely packed names underneath. The fact that they appeared after the four rich families meant that the rest all held some form of high status in Harbor City.

One might even think that this was a national leaderboard of rich families within the country if they did not know better!

Everyone knew that those first four surnames belonged to the four rich families in Harbor City.

Even though it had only been three years since the handover of Harbor City, the other three families, excluding the Laws, had already done much business with the Mainland.

That was to say the three families had their eyes on the Mainland and were uncertain whether it was worth their trust and investment.

Yet Jasper was planning to invite all four families?

It was something that had never happened since the handover.

It would be earth-shattering news should it come true.

Everyone was speechless as they looked at Jasper with utter surprise in their eyes.

Ryder was the only one grinning silently. Having come from Harbor City, he was well aware of how influential Jasper was in Harbor City.

The mere fact that he had saved the city had put Jasper at a spot where he was worthy of inviting the four rich families.

“Mister... Mr. Laine. Won't the higher-ups tell us to redraft the list if we hand those names up?” Ted asked carefully.

He did not believe that Jasper would be able to invite people of such caliber, so he assumed that Jasper merely suggested these names in hopes that the higher-ups would invite them.

That was the only way it made sense.

The other senior executives let out sighs of relief. ‘Exactly, that makes much more sense. Or this would be an utter exaggeration.’

“Why would they tell us to redraft it? I’ve already contacted everyone, so just hand the list over to them.”

Jasper’s words struck everyone again.

“Just follow as I say and it’ll be fine.”

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Jasper did not plan to explain too much.

The only reason why no one had slammed the table and swore, calling Jasper a madman, was because Jasper was their boss.

‘The Laws, the Boyles, and the two Langdons!

‘Harbor City’s four main families are people with huge influences in the entirety of Terra, let alone Somerland.

‘And Jasper says that he has already confirmed their attendance?’

Everyone’s initial reaction was disbelief.

The gap in statuses was just too large.

While no one wanted to admit how lacking their company was, the reality was that in comparison to the four rich families, even the above par Easy Media was no more than a speck of dirt.

“Compile the list as fast as possible and hand it over.”

Jasper had set in stone the most important topic for the meeting and left no room for protest.

“We don’t have much time left. How’s the progress looking for everything else?”

The following few hours had Jasper participating in the preparation of the banquet.

While he did not understand the specifics, he had still reincarnated with the memory of what was going to happen in the next 20 years into the future, after all.

He had seen a considerable amount of large-scale banquets in his past life. Both the concept and creativity from 20 years later would certainly end up at the forefront right now.

Therefore, most of Jasper’s suggestions had enlightened Ryder and Ted quite a bit.

The atmosphere in the meeting room slowly returned to normal.

Ted immediately brought people to hand over the newly drafted guest list after the meeting was over.

Jon was waiting in the office when the higher-ups called him to tell him that the guest list had been sent over. Ecstatic, Jon ran over to their office.

“Mr. Williams, I heard Easy Media has sent the guest list over?” Jon asked the moment he walked through the door.

Mr. Williams was a majestic man over the age of 50. Jon saw him holding the list in his hand when he entered.

Meanwhile, Hendrik was laughing about something beside him.

“Yeah, it’s here.” Mr. Williams glanced at Jon calmly and spoke, “I heard you left before the meeting even started?”

Jon glanced at Hendrik, who looked unfazed, and knew that it was his rival who had tattled on him. His expression immediately darkened, but he forced a smile and replied, “It’s mainly because of that Jasper. That young man is too arrogant. He has no respect for anyone else at all.”

“Enough. Do you take me for an idiot?” Mr. Williams spoke plainly.

“I already know what happened. You’re the one who didn’t respect him first. They already told you the time and place a few days in advance. They even sent someone to drive over and pick you up. You’re the one who deliberately took your own sweet time and arrived on the dot. I wouldn’t let you in the meeting room either if it were me!”

Hearing Mr. Williams’ harsh tone, Jon was stunned for a moment and immediately replied, “Mr. Williams, I—”

Mr. Williams dismissively waved a hand to interrupt Jon’s explanation and placed the guest list before him. “Take a look at this.”

Jon took it and looked through it. A moment later, his eyes widened as he burst into laughter.

“Is this Jasper Laine crazy or something? He really put Harbor City’s four rich families and all these other rich families’ names on it. What, is he asking us to invite them?”

“I told you this Jasper Laine is still too young and immature, Mr. Williams. Just look at this! Does he even know what he’s doing?”

“He talks big and he’s expecting us, the higher-ups, to clean up after him? How on earth are we supposed to invite these people? What a mess!”

“We should deal with this problem sternly, Mr. Williams. This Jasper Laine will remain ignorant forever if we don’t teach him a good lesson.”

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Hendrik chuckled and spoke, “Don’t jump to conclusions so quickly, Foxx. Mr. Williams hasn’t even said anything yet.”

Jon halted mid-grumble and looked at Mr. Williams reflexively, only to realize that the other was frowning and looking at him with displeasure.

Jon immediately lost all bravery to speak, not knowing where he had made a mistake.

“The people from Easy Media have made it very clear when they sent over the list that we don’t have to invite a single person on the list. Easy Media has already contacted them and confirmed their attendance,” Mr. Williams spoke calmly.

Jon instantly paled and shouted in shock, “No way! There’s no way someone like Jasper could invite the four rich families!”

Mr. Williams replied coldly, “Are you suggesting that my eyesight and my hearing are horrible because of my age, or are you implying that Jasper is so gallant he’s making a joke about something like this?”

Jon sputtered and was lost for words.

With a scoff, Mr. Williams replied, “The older you get, the more close-minded you are! Leave! You don’t need to follow up on the banquet’s preparations anymore!”

Jon walked out of the office despondently and muttered under his breath with his teeth clenched fiercely and resentfully.

“Just wait and see, Jasper Laine! I won’t let you get away with this! There’s no way you’ll be able to invite all four rich families to the banquet! I’d like to see how you plan to save your dignity when you make a fool of yourself!”

...

At Swallow Capital University, the doors to the MBA refresher course.

Jasper was currently waiting for Wendy’s class to end.

The two of them had agreed to go out for dinner together.

The banquet was in two days and all the guests on the list had already received their invitations.

This MBA class was made up of formidable students. Four to five of them received invitations thanks to Wendy.

The rest of them had also received invitations thanks to their own contacts and ways.

Everyone was currently bragging about the invitation they had, leaving those without invitations embarrassed and disappointed.

In Swallow Capital right now, being invited had become a symbol of their strength.

Wendy walked out of the class excitedly and turned to Jasper happily. “My classmates are very grateful. They keep asking me how I did it but don’t worry, I didn’t sell you out.”

“How are you going to thank me, then?” Jasper chuckled.

Wendy took in Jasper’s gentle smile and her mind was filled with rather indecent thoughts.

She must have thought of something for her cheeks suddenly flushed lightly and she averted her gaze while muttering, “You rascal!”

Jasper felt very wronged considering the ‘rascal’ was completely unwarranted and he was about to speak when he saw Ben and Lisa walking over.

“What are you doing here again?” Lisa asked Jasper distastefully.

Jasper simply replied, “Fetching my girlfriend.”

Lisa scoffed. “I’ve never actually seen someone as shameless as you. You’re even calling her your girlfriend, did you not hear a word I said that day?”

“Sorry, I don’t have the habit of listening to flies whizzing around my ears,” Jasper replied.

Lisa turned slightly pale due to being infuriated and spoke angrily, “Who are you calling a fly?”

Ben spoke calmly, “There’s no need to be angry at the lower class, Lisa. You should take good care of your skin. You’re going to the banquet with Mr. Turner in two days, after all. People from the lower class like him will only get to watch it on TV.”

Lisa scoffed. “You can never be sure. With how good Miss Wendy’s connections are, who knows? She might even manage to get him an invitation.”

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Ben chortled at the suggestion. “So what if he shamelessly finds a way in? Think about the setting.

“Who’s going to pay him any attention, hmm? He can’t possibly introduce himself as Wendy’s boyfriend every time someone talks to him. The host will just think that he’s an idiot and throw him out! Hahaha!”

Lisa covered her mouth as she snickered. “Maybe no one will even talk to him at all? He’s just going to stand in a corner and take a few pictures so it’ll prove that he managed to smuggle into the upper class.”

Jasper calmly watched the two cousins’ performance and asked, “So you’ve been invited too? You’ll definitely be going, right?”

Lisa replied arrogantly, “Mr. Turner and I are close. We might even get married in the future, so what are two invitations? Of course, we’ll be going. Why, are you scared? Or are you upset that Miss Wendy didn’t get you an invitation at all, hmm?”

Jasper replied unaffectedly, “Neither. It’s nice to know that you’ll be going. It’d be a shame if you weren’t.”

Ben was sharply aware that Jasper’s words held more meaning to them than it seemed, but Lisa spoke before he could say anything, “Stop playing around. Oh, how I wish Wendy didn’t get you an invite this time.

“Then at least you’ll truly understand what the upper class actually is. It’s not something a nobody like you can pretend to be part of. You’ll only look like some cheap replica and make a fool of yourself!”

“The upper class?” Jasper asked and huffed a laugh. “Then I shall anticipate understanding what this upper class you claim is.”

Lisa scoffed. “Of course, you’ll anticipate it. What a shame that you can only dream of becoming a part of it one day.”

Lisa then turned to Wendy and chided even though the latter’s expression was completely indifferent. “I’ll say this again, Miss Wendy, but you should really consider it. Ben is more outstanding than that nobody in all sorts of ways imaginable. Why can’t you just understand such simple logic?”

“That nobody can’t do anything else except gloat baselessly. He’s just going to cling to you and feed off you. He’s not worth your time at all. Someone as outstanding as my cousin should be your correct match here.”

Wendy stared at Lisa coldly and suddenly sighed.

“To be honest, this is the first time I’ve met someone like you. Everything you talk about, you try and drag the upper class into it. Do you really think that you belong in this so-called upper class with your resources and ability?”

“The real upper class don’t act like you.”

Wendy’s words made Lisa’s expression turn sour. The woman glared at Wendy and spoke angrily, “I’ve been polite to you this entire time. What are you trying to say here?!”

Wendy scoffed. “All you do is mock my boyfriend and there’s only so much I can endure before you piss me off. Humiliating him is no different than humiliating me, and you expect me to welcome this, why?”

“You keep acting like you’re better than everyone else as if everything you say is for my sake. Let’s be blunt, what does my relationship have to do with you?”

Lisa was irked with humiliation. "I'd ignore women so easily deceived such as you had it not been for the fact that Ben likes you!"

"Then please ignore me." Wendy took Jasper's hand and spoke, "Let's go, Jasp. There's no point in talking to ignorant people like this."

"Hold on."

Ben called out after the two who were turning to leave.

Looking at Jasper calmly, Ben spoke, "Do you have the guts to take up my challenge for a fair fight? I won't hold my familial background over you, but I will make Wendy change her mind and choose me within three months."

Lisa scoffed. "You don't need a woman who won't admit to her mistake until it's too late, Benny. What fair fight? As if he's worthy of it."

"Enough, Lisa. I know what I'm doing," Ben spoke calmly.

Ben then turned to look at Jasper arrogantly and sneered, "Do you dare?"

Jasper laughed and replied, "A fair fight?"

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He waved his and Wendy's interlocked hands before Ben as he spoke, "Wendy isn't a piece of property. She's not something anyone can just buy over just because they're willing to propose a higher price. Plus, why would I need to take up a fair fight with you when I've already won?"

Jasper then pulled Wendy away. She had wanted to leave long ago.

A pair of cold eyes watched the duo leave, and Ben flushed in humiliation and fury. His molars ground together as he shouted, "You're just too much of a chicken, Jasper! Admit it!"

"You'd take on my challenge if you were a man!"

Jasper did not even look back as two words drifted over to them, "F*cking stupid."

"You're just afraid! You just don't have the guts to take me on!" Ben clenched his teeth and roared.

Jasper did not even reply this time and walked farther away.

Lisa saw the irritation on Ben's face and consoled him, saying, "Don't waste your time getting angry at people like them, Benny. From what I see, Wendy's just a stupid girl. She's not worth your effort."

Ben harrumphed, but there was indignance in his cold eyes when he spoke, "The more unattainable she is, the more I want her! I'm Ben Hull. Since when has anyone dared to humiliate me like this?!"

Lisa gave it some thought and spoke, "The banquet is in two days, Benny. We could contact a few friends then so that you can show off how capable you are in front of Wendy. Even if Jasper's there, what can a useless nobody do?"

Ben nodded in agreement and scoffed. "People with contacts and ability will always rise above in a society like this. He's dead wrong if he thinks bluffing will get him anywhere. We'll wait these two days out!"

"We'll leave the matter be if Jasper doesn't show up. We just need Wendy to understand that I'm the only one who's a proper match for her. But if he does

come, hmph! I'll make him pay for trying to force himself into this circle he doesn't belong in!"

...

Swallow Capital was known for its roasted duck.

Wendy was not a fan of French cuisine, nor did she like dishes that included a lot of deep-frying. As such, the renowned restaurant offering roasted duck became the best choice for the two's dinner date.

"Don't you find it weird? Coming to this renowned shop for roasted duck and a bowl of noodles instead of going to a romantic or grand restaurant? I'm on a date with my girlfriend here." Jasper chuckled.

Wendy merely pursed her lips and scoffed lightly. "But I like these dishes. What's so good about French or other high-class restaurants anyway? A simple dish of vegetables here boosts my appetite way more."

"That's fair," Jasper agreed.

Many customers were walking about as the two ate, most of whom were from foreign lands. There were quite a few TVs in the shop as well.

Be it the tourists or the news on the television, everyone was talking about the same thing.

Mainly, the celebratory banquet for gaining the right to host the Olympics. It was in a few days.

Under the vicious publicity of its citizens and government, the fact that Swallow Capital had been approved to host the Olympics had now turned into big news even within the country. In extension, its specially prepared celebratory banquet had also become an opportunity to show the world the country's prestige and might before the Olympics began.

“They’re all talking about the banquet you’re hosting,” Wendy whispered.

Jasper smiled. “Yeah. What a capable boyfriend you have, am I right?”

Wendy’s beautiful eyes shone as she glared at him. “Is everything prepared? This is something big. Be careful of any potential blunders, okay?”

Jasper chuckled. “Don’t worry. I’ll surprise everyone.”

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As expected, the celebratory banquet for gaining the right to host the Olympics had become a large event involving the entire country.

Entertainment, for citizens right now, was a far cry from the diverse options that would appear in the future. All they had were a few ways to have fun here and there.

The nightlife was mainly dancing at the disco or eating and drinking beer by barbeque stalls. Some larger cities might have karaoke rooms and people would drop by to sing a few songs.

That was all.

Thus, the moment news of the banquet was released, it instantly became a household topic within the country considering its link to the approval to host the Olympics.

Its influence could be considered second to only the annual New Year's Eve countdown on national television.

Still, the countdown was annual, but there was only ever this one celebratory banquet for having gained the right to host the Olympics.

It made the banquet much more special.

The following day, Jasper and Henry arrived at the airport together.

All the guests from Harbor City would be arriving at Swallow Capital today, so Jasper definitely had to pick them up.

However, Jasper was not the focus when he arrived at the airport.

Considering all four rich families would be arriving together, including a formidable senior like Old Master Law, Swallow Capital immediately resolved to give the highest standard of welcome once they got wind of it.

Disregarding the rest of the welcoming team, the mere fact that both Swallow Capital's mayor and deputy mayor were present meant that Jasper had to stand aside.

However, no one present was taking him lightly either. After all, the higher-ups were well aware that Harbor City's four major families and its top rich businessmen were here not for them but for Jasper.

Jasper had done something in Harbor City, and it was hardly a secret to the higher-ups.

As such, Jasper's arrival was also met with the mayor and his deputy's enthusiastic greetings.

As Old Master Law's grandson, Henry naturally joined in the conversations with a few of the big shots there.

"Jesus, just look at how enthusiastic they are with you. I'd say they all look like they want to lock you up in a little cage."

Henry spoke enviously when the two returned.

Jasper did not know whether to laugh or to cry. "What does locking me in a cage have anything to do with them being enthusiastic?"

"They'll lock you up so you'd work with them, of course! They've realized your capabilities and your influence," Henry explained.

Jasper smiled, but there was no shift in his expression when he replied, “They’re here because it’s your grandfather they’re welcoming. There’s no way I’d be able to speak to such big shots if I was on my own.”

Henry looked at Jasper’s calm expression and grinned. “Sometimes I really wonder if you’re a wise old man who has reincarnated into our timeline. We’re both youths, so how are you so outstanding, hmm?”

Henry would never have expected that a mere joke of his was actually the truth. Sure, Jasper was physically in his 20s, but his soul was of a wise old man who had experienced more than half a lifetime of events.

Less than ten minutes later, the special plane landed on the tarmac. Jasper and Henry followed behind the two major figures and were followed by the welcoming group.

With Old Master Law in front, the other heads of the four major families walked down the staircase. Swallow Capital’s two mayors stepped up to welcome them, enthusiastically greeting Old Master Law.

Despite this being the first time everyone was meeting each other, the older generation seemed to have a tacit understanding to all act like old friends and began to chat about.

Old Master Law excused himself and walked over to Jasper, patting his shoulder in an extremely familiar way. “We meet again, Jasper.”

Jasper greeted him politely. “I’m thrilled to see you still as bright and lively as the last time we met, Old Master.”

The old master chuckled aloud. “It’s still too early for me to rest when I see the citizens living better lives and our nation’s strength and influence growing each day.”

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Among the four families, the Laws were the most special and with the highest status in the Mainland.

He was no longer a mere businessman. In terms of status, his might be in an even higher position than both of Swallow Capital's mayors.

Regardless of whether his status was above or below the mayors', it was destined for his every action to be under public scrutiny.

Not only were the two Swallow Capital mayors confused seeing how close Old Master Law and Jasper were, but even the other three families out of the major four seemed intrigued at the sight.

Then, Spencer and Joe came over to greet Jasper.

Followed lastly by Wallace Langdon who he had never met before.

The stern and meticulous old man was followed closely by his son Kennedy. Now Kennedy, Jasper was acquainted.

"You're quite the outstanding young man," Wallace smiled and praised.

"Thank you, Mr. Langdon, but there's still a lot I have to learn from all of you." Jasper was still very attentive and detailed when it came to greeting people. His words were smooth in a way that made him seem much older than the 20-something-year-old he was.

Wallace chuckled. "Harbor City really is too small, especially in the past two years. I don't like how heavy and dead the air is. I'm glad there are youths like

you to liven it up. We've got to let them know that there'll always be someone better.

"I've also realized that the Mainland seems to be flourishing much more than we thought, considering how it managed to produce such promising youth like you. I'm certain that the Mainland market will be in for a great future.

"You should come in contact with more Mainlanders these days, Kennedy. Don't simply believe that the Mainland is behind us. Know that your roots and our ancestors were all from the Mainland. Not to mention the Mainland has a boundless future, and it'll only be a short amount of time before it surpasses Harbor City.

"With such a big market here, we can follow the Laws' footsteps and start investing in the Mainland as well."

Kennedy replied courteously, "Yes, Father."

Wallace's words had easily brightened up the two mayors' moods. The four families' approval of the Mainland was in extension approval to them as well.

It would be beneficial to the country and its citizens if they managed to use this opportunity and persuade Harbor City's four families and other important businessmen to invest in the Mainland.

With that being said, Swallow Capital's two major figures found themselves more fond of Jasper. They thought this young man was very capable, and under their nurturing, could turn out into a great asset.

Following the four major families were renowned rich men of Harbor City.

Among them was Bob Lancaster, the Smith brothers, Tenson Davis, and other names that he knew from his past life.

He had seen some of them before, but there were also those he never had the fortune of meeting.

Still, everyone was polite with one another.

After all, this was a situation where even true enemies had to force a smile at each other, or they would only be seen as unreasonable.

Not to mention that Harbor City did, in a way, owe Jasper, so even the Smith brothers who were a competing rival in the media and entertainment industry were very polite with Jasper. After a long conversation, they exchanged contact information.

After the short welcoming ceremony, everyone proceeded to get into their own specified cars before heading to the hotel.

Arriving at the hotel, Jasper then spoke with Old Master Law again. However, the old master was far from young and the long flight had taken a toll on him. Plus, he also had other important people to meet that afternoon.

As such, Jasper did not overstay his welcome and excused himself after a short chat.

Zachary was the one who sent Jasper out the door.

“How’s the preparation for the banquet going? It’s starting tomorrow, isn’t it? Is there anything I can help with?” Zachary asked.

Jasper smiled. “Everything’s prepared. I don’t think there’ll be any issues.”

Zachary nodded and smiled, looking pleased. “That’s great, then. We’ll talk more after the banquet is over. This is a grand event, so do your best and make sure it’s perfect!”

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The celebratory banquet for the right to host the Olympics was held the next day.

At this moment, Honeycomb Stadium still did not exist in Swallow Capital. As such, the place with the biggest stage would be Workers' Stadium.

The renovation for Workers' Stadium was stopped temporarily for an entire month because of this. After an intense round of preparation, they finally completed the entire layout for the renovation.

The event would be broadcasted live by CTV and 18 satellite channels at the same time. A lot of media personnel from within the country and overseas would arrive at the scene to carry out interviews and reports.

Swallow Capital would dispatch professionals to oversee the security and safety of the event.

Twilight shrouded this ancient city. There were blue and red lights shining everywhere, coupled with the flashes from the cameras of various journalists.

Workers' Stadium was filled with people. More than 10,000 spectators came here on account of its reputation, and they were making the stadium impenetrable.

After everything was ready, at 6 p.m., all of the esteemed guests with invitation cards arrived one after another.

On the two sides of the red carpet were numerous passionate citizens and journalists who were snapping photos furiously. All of the esteemed guests with invitation cards felt like celebrities. They walked with their heads high and chests puffed along the red carpet amidst the thunderous cheers. They felt that the life on top was so ordinary.

“What a huge scene.” After getting out of the car, Lisa mumbled to herself and looked at the scene in front of her with a shocked expression as she walked across the red carpet.

At this moment, the people next to her were her father and uncle. Ben was next to her as well.

“This host is pretty great.” Lisa’s father, Norman Gardner, experienced the same shock as he said that.

“Remember guys, just look and listen but don’t speak. This is not our house where we can run amok.”

Ben’s father, Ian Hull, said solemnly.

“Got it.” Ben nodded carefully. Suddenly, he pointed at a group of people in front of him and said, “Dad, Uncle, isn’t that the president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce? Should we go and say hi?”

Ian and Norman looked at each other. They went over and started exchanging conventional greetings at the same time.

Behind them, Ben asked Lisa, “Where’s Mr. Turner? I don’t see him anywhere.”

“Mr. Turner and the rest went in earlier. I’ll go find him directly later,” Lisa said softly.

Ben let out a sigh of relief. He mumbled, “Someone who can host an event like this is the true big shot. His background and power are so exceptional.”

When Lisa was about to say something, she suddenly saw a familiar figure from the corners of her eyes. She grabbed Ben quickly and said, “Benny, look. Isn’t that Jasper? Wendy’s boyfriend?”

Ben looked over immediately after he heard that. Indeed, he spotted Jasper who was speaking to Henry.

A smirk appeared on his face. After telling Ian and Norman, he grabbed Lisa to walk over to him.

At this moment, Henry was complaining to Jasper with reluctance on his face. He was the young master of the Law family, so it need not be said how big of his influence was. However, with his personality, he did not even want to interact with those big shots. He also resented these kinds of solicitous inquiries about someone's well-being to pander to someone.

"My brother, I really don't want to be at my father's side. There are big shots all over the place and I don't even dare to breathe too loud, so how will I ever have the chance to speak? Why can't I stay with you?"

"You have to go even if you don't want to. You're in your 20s. Are you going to stay a child forever?" Jasper said insipidly.

"You'll get used to these kinds of events sooner or later. If you really can't, get Anna to go. I wonder who you're going to cry to when Anna is the one who gets all of the family's property in the future."

After Henry heard that, he chuckled while shifting his eyes. "That works too. I'll be more than happy if you can get Anna to promise me enough pocket money every year."

After Jasper heard that, he looked at Henry and said seriously, "You're able to become a fully grown man because your father is reluctant to beat you to death. The love of a father is so amazing."

Henry's face fell. When he was about to say something, he heard a voice from behind him.

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“Oh, Wendy seriously got you an invitation card? And you have the guts to show up?”

Ben brought Lisa along. The two of them attended this banquet dressed in their fanciest attire and were looking at Jasper with contempt and disdain. Ben mocked, “I didn’t expect you to be so ballsy!”

Lisa covered her face and giggled. She said, “You’re even donning a suit. How ugly. Indeed, any low-ranking person would look like an insurance agent after wearing a suit. Did Wendy buy these clothes for you as well?”

The suit Jasper was wearing right now was the one Anna designed herself back then. Jasper had worn this back in Harbor City and this was the second time he wore it.

Young Master Law was already feeling pissed. When he heard the two of them saying Jasper’s clothes were ugly, a fire of rage immediately surged in his heart.

“Where did these two idiots come from? Don’t you have the ability to make discerning judgments? Can’t you see that I’m speaking to this man? F*ck off!”

Ben and Lisa were stumped for words after they were yelled at.

Ben looked at Henry with malevolence on his face. When he saw that Henry had an extraordinary temperament and a flamboyant, bossy aura, he knew this was not something that an ordinary person would have.

As such, he suppressed his displeasure and grunted. “Who are you? I don’t think I know you. Aren’t you going a little over the top for screaming at me for no reason?”

“And you’re not over the top for speaking like that, you bellend?”

Henry was thrilled. These two were obviously mocking Jasper just now with the way they spoke. As such, Henry smirked and said, “I want to scream at you, so I will. When I want to beat you up, I’ll directly put a sack over your head and throw you into the sea to feed the fish. Who do you think you are? Is it even your turn to spew bullsh*t in front of me?”

Ben’s face was flushed white.

He had never seen someone so arrogant before!

Henry immediately yelled at him after a disagreement and even said such horrendous things.

In the face of Henry’s arrogance, Ben thought his temper was considerably kinder and more virtuous in comparison.

When he was about to say something, Lisa said, “Benny, let’s not stoop down to his level. Just think about it, how good can a low-level person like Jasper be? One is of low worth and one doesn’t even have inner quality. Aren’t these two the perfect match?”

While she said that, Lisa smiled and said arrogantly, “We’re people on the high-level. These poor people only know how to yell at others, but they’ll never be able to get to the level where we’re at.”

Jasper burst out laughing after he heard that.

If they said Henry was someone from the low-level, then there would not be a lot of high-level people here at the scene currently.

This time, Henry was truly amused. Rather, he was so angry he was amused.

Henry lifted his finger and pointed at his nose. He looked at Lisa and said, "I've been living in this world for so long and this is the first time I'm being called a low-level person with no inner quality."

"B*tch, I'm giving you three seconds to tell me what your father works as, what kind of company the richest elder in your family has, and who do you have in your family."

Lisa's expression went cold. She scoffed and said, "Why? Are you going to compare your family background with mine? Do you even think you're worthy?"

"Compare with you? Are you worthy?" Henry pointed at Lisa's face and yelled, "You have a pretty face but you have such an exaggerated opinion of your own ability."

After he said that, Henry turned his head to look at Ben. He said frigidly, "And you, how about I castrate you and have you undergo a sex change?"

Ben and Lisa sucked in deep breaths. Their eyes turned red from anger.

"Damn it, what did you say?" Ben growled immediately.

"I said, I'm going to have you undergo a sex change! Then, I'll sell the woman next to you to a remote jungle somewhere! Do you understand?" Henry smirked. He had been feeling miserable earlier, but suddenly, these two wretched-looking tramps appeared and started acting like fools in front of them. If he was not going to teach them a lesson, who would?

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Ben and Lisa were so mad they were shaking.

They never had someone attacking them so wildly before in their entire lives.

Henry's top-notch arrogance and overbearingness that exuded from his body as a hedonistic son of rich parents managed to subdue them.

However, Ben was not able to endure this extraordinary shame and humiliation.

Ben looked straight at Henry and said coldly, "Stop yapping. Do it if you have the guts! Who do you think you are? If God's the boss then you're his second in charge? You don't know for sure who's going to kill who when that happens!"

Henry narrowed his eyes and smiled evilly. He said, "Alright, try it then. I don't know if I'm the second in charge if God's the boss, but I'm sure I can step on your face and spit on you!"

"Damn, we have a male and female dumb*sses here. If I don't kill you today, then my surname is not Law!"

Who was Henry Law?

He was the number one hedonistic son of rich parents in the country. If he were to act like a thug, even God would tremble under his feet.

Ever since he started to understand the world, the children from rich parents who had been bullied by him were enough to form a line.

Low-ranking people like Ben and Lisa were not even qualified to make a peep if they were arranged according to seniority.

Jasper patted Henry's shoulder when he saw that he was infuriated.

"Alright, don't make a scene. You can do whatever you want when we go out."

The only people in the world who could stop Henry aside from Old Master Law, Zachary, and Anna was Jasper.

There was no other reason apart from that Jasper used his own ability and power to truly make this young master surrender to him.

After Henry heard what Jasper said, he curled his lips. He used a dangerous gaze to look at Lisa and Ben before laughing eccentrically. "I'll listen to my brother-in-law today as a show of respect. However, we're not done yet. Just you two wait, dumb*sses!"

Ben scoffed. "Whoever chickens out is the coward!"

Lisa crossed her arms across her chest and looked arrogantly at Henry. She smirked and said, "I'll kill you whenever I want after I say hello to Mr. Turner."

"Mr. Turner?"

Henry scoffed. "Erik Turner? You think that fool dares to act up if you call him over in front of us? It just so happens that I'm pissed with him, so get him over if you have the balls!"

Lisa's expression changed. When she heard Henry's arrogant tone, she sensed that something was wrong. She asked, "Who are you?"

Jasper looked at the time and realized it was almost time. He interrupted their conversation and said to Henry, "We should go."

Henry grinned at Lisa. "My surname is Law. Go ask around how many people among the tens of thousands here tonight have Law as their surname."

After he said that, Henry and Jasper strutted away.

After the two of them left, Lisa turned to Ben in confusion. "Benny, he said his surname is Law, do you know him?"

However, Lisa did not get Ben's answer after a very long while. She turned around to look at him in confusion, but what she saw was Ben's pale face.

"Law? Could it be that he's one of the Laws? How is that possible? The Laws are one of the four rich families in Harbor City. Why are they here?"

When Ben said this, his entire body was shaking.

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Initially, he would not relate anyone with Law as their surname to one of the four rich families in Harbor City. After all, this was a rare surname but it was not so rare that it was non-existent.

There were a lot of people with the same first name and surname, let alone the same surname.

However, before he came here, Ben had heard his father saying that this event was extremely high-class. There was a possibility that the four rich families would be here.

After connecting the two, a horrifying thought appeared in Ben's brain.

"No. It can't be." Lisa's face was also white from terror.

"Don't overthink for now. Think of a way to contact Mr. Turner to ask whether the Laws are here. If they really are, then we have to think of a way," Ben said with a horrible look on his face.

...

At this moment, in the inner area.

Erik was sitting in his seat. Brad just got back after socializing with a few of his friends who were close to the family.

"We've underestimated Jasper." Brad sighed ruefully.

Erik grunted and said, "He's just lucky."

Brad glared at Erik and said angrily, "Why aren't you that lucky? Luck is also a kind of ability. You're several ranks lower than Jasper just by saying that!"

Erik said while feeling unconvinced, "Dad, why are you always diminishing my prestige by using someone else's ambition? Jasper used to step on our heads and ride roughshod over us. Are you going to treat it as if it never happened?"

Brad said coldly, "I'm teaching you how to grow. Do you know that Jasper got almost all of the aristocrats in Harbor City over to this event this time?"

"He got everyone from the four rich families. Everyone in those families is here. Old Master Law, Wallace Langdon, Joe Langdon, and Spencer Boyle. These four are all here. Your grandfather doesn't even have the power to invite them over let alone the two of us."

Erik was shocked when he heard that. "How is that possible? For what reason? Even if he has a close relationship with the Laws, Zachary Law showing up should already be the limit, right?"

"Old Master Law is not the only one who's here but the rest of the heads of the four rich families too? Dad, you're joking, right?"

Brad smirked and said, "I don't have the time to mess around with you. Didn't you see that your grandpa is here as well?"

"He didn't want to come, but if the heads of the four rich families are here and a lot of the big shots from the higher-ups have even decided to show up at the last minute, what more your grandpa?"

"The higher-ups have a very good impression of Jasper. You have to know that the four rich families represent Harbor City! Even though it has been three years since the handover, aside from the Laws from the four rich families, the rest of them have very ambiguous relationships with the Mainland."

“What can this prove now that Jasper is able to invite all of them over at once? It means that the four rich families are willing to work closely with the Mainland through Jasper. Don’t you understand what this means?”

Erik sat on the sofa limply. He muttered, “How is that possible... How old is he? What did he do... I don’t believe this...”

Brad sighed after looking at his dispirited and unconvinced son. He said, “I know you have a knot in your heart, but if you want to become stronger, you need to acknowledge that your enemy is also strong. Your progress will only stagnate if you keep looking down on your enemies.

“Back then, Jasper hosted a hundred billion market rescue plan in Harbor City. The entire upper-class of the city owes him a big one. This is the antecedent.

“Old Master Law admires Jasper. He’s so old yet he still used his status to help Jasper take hold of the situation. He even ran around and pulled strings for him.

“Jasper only has what he has right now after a combination of different elements. It’s not something that can simply be earned by luck as you said.

“That rascal is such an outstanding man. I wonder if you’re lucky or unlucky to have been born at the same time as him,” Brad said insipidly. There were sighs and laments in his tone.

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Erik’s face turned white. He never expected that he would hear such an extremely outstanding compliment for Jasper from the mouth of his respectable father.

“Mr. Turner, a woman named Lisa Gardner outside says she wants to see you.”

A man knocked on the door of the private room before coming in. He said respectfully to Erik who was looking anxious.

Erik frowned and looked slightly pissed.

He did not have time to get entangled with these women.

“Go. These businesspeople from Haddock might be useful for us,” Brad said to Erik.

Erik nodded gloomily and walked out of the door.

When he walked in front of Lisa, Erik had already put on a gentle and cultivated smile on his face.

“Anything I can help you with, Lisa?”

Erik suppressed his temper and asked gently.

Lisa’s panic was greatly eased when she saw Erik.

To her, there was no one and nothing Erik could not handle in this world. If he could not, then the Turners could!

Who dared to cross the Turners?

“Erik, I heard... the Law family from the four rich families in Harbor City is here, is that true?” Lisa asked.

Erik narrowed his eyes and did not answer her. He asked, “How did you know?”

Lisa's face turned white as she said, "Benny and I ran into someone with Law as his surname, we—"

Before Lisa could finish her sentence, Erik interrupted and asked, "Did you guys have a conflict?"

There were only three men in the Law family—Old Master Law, Zachary Law, and Henry law.

It was highly unlikely for Old Master Law and Zachary to have a conflict with people like Lisa and Ben. The only other possibility would be Henry.

With Henry's temper... Erik gritted his teeth. If he could not fight Henry, that son of a b*tch, then he wanted to skin him alive. However, he could not do that because his family did not have that ability.

Lisa bit her lip and nodded.

"That Law person was so arrogant. Benny couldn't bear it anymore so he scolded him. Is he really one of the Laws from Harbor City?" Lisa asked.

After that, Lisa pulled Erik's sleeve and said pleadingly, "Erik, you have to help me and Benny. That guy said he's going to sell me and send me to some remote forest and have Benny undergo a sex change. Judging from his expression, I don't think he's joking."

Erik did not have the mood to deal with Lisa courteously anymore. He flung Lisa's hand away angrily and pointed at her nose. He roared, "You're a f*cking dumb*ss! Do you think you're all that? You're just causing trouble left and right every day! And now you want me to fix this mess for you?"

"Do you f*cking know what kind of person Henry Law is? He's a lunatic. Everyone who crosses him won't have a good ending. How powerful do you think I am?"

“I can’t settle this matter with him, but even if I could, I wouldn’t! I already have a lot of things annoying the f*ck out of me and you two are still causing trouble for me? F*ck off!”

After Erik yelled at Lisa, he turned around and went back to his private room.

Lisa was dumbstruck and completely stunned.

She did not expect things to turn out like this.

The huge panic and humiliation caused Lisa’s expression to change.

She was extremely humiliated, and she contemplated for a very long time. She did not care anymore as she grabbed Erik’s hand hurriedly. She begged while sobbing, “Erik, you have to help me. We didn’t know who he was. How would we know things would become like this?”

“If you help me, I’ll let you do anything you want with me.”

When Erik heard this, his expression turned gloomy.

After contemplating in his heart, he was clear about Lisa and Ben’s power as businesspeople from Haddock. They were exactly what his family needed now.

As for Lisa, he was interested in her too...

If he just threw her away, all of those things he did back then would be in vain and it would be such a shame.

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“I understand. You should go back first. I’ll bring you to talk to Henry after the event to see if we can put an end to this.”

In the end, Erik gritted his teeth and said.

It was as if Lisa had grabbed a life-saving straw. She quickly nodded. “Okay.”

...

After Jasper’s involvement, not only did Dawson, Chris, and Jim get the invitation cards, but they even got a loge that was at the very front.

After bringing Wendy into the loge, Jasper said to her, “I still have a lot to take care of. You should stay here, I’ll come to you when I am free.”

Wendy said softly, “You should go handle your business. I’m fine here. I need to see a few of my friends later too.”

Jasper smiled and said, “Look at the sky ten minutes later. I have a little surprise for you.”

Wendy blinked curiously and asked, “What surprise?”

“I told you it’s a surprise, so of course, I can’t tell you what it is now.” Jasper pinched Wendy’s nose lovingly.

After he said that, Jasper greeted Dawson and the rest of them inside the loge.

“Dad, Uncle Yapp, Mr. Quarles, I’ll be going now. If you need anything, just tell the staff outside.”

Dawson nodded.

Chris quickly stood up. He nodded and bent his waist before saying respectfully, “Mr. Laine, just go ahead with your matters. We’ll be fine here.”

Jim was more relaxed. He chuckled and said, “Go on.”

Jasper smiled. After looking at Wendy, he left the loge.

After Jasper left, Chris was slightly relieved. After he sat down, he lamented to Dawson, “Dawson, your future son-in-law... is really something else!”

Dawson guffawed. His face was glowing and he was extremely honored.

“Of course! Who am I? Do you think I’ll find a bad future-son-in-law?”

Wendy blushed slightly. She said while feeling displeased and annoyed, “Dad, what are you talking about? Why do you keep calling him your future son-in-law? And what’s up with Jasper too? Why does he keep calling you ‘Dad’ as well? He called you that as a joke last time in front of me. Don’t you think he’s taking advantage of your daughter?”

Jim chuckled and said, “I want to have a daughter so I can get him to take advantage of her too. Unfortunately, I’m not blessed like that.”

“Uncle Yapp, you’re not setting a good example as an elder!”

...

6:59 p.m.

The event would start in one minute.

More than 10,000 people in Workers' Stadium went silent. They were waiting for the start of the event quietly.

At this moment, countless people who had worked tirelessly for months for this event were overwhelmed by emotions. This was the time to see the results of their hard work.

The audience who were in front of the televisions and the spectators outside the stadium were feeling excited and expectant as well. They were all waiting for the final minute to pass.

In the most honorable core area.

Old Master Law and the rest of the heads of the four rich families were chatting with some big shots.

"I wonder what kind of event Jasper has prepared. He's making an old fart like me so excited," the old master chuckled and said.

"I heard he has meticulously prepared a lot of segments. I think it should be great," one of the big shots said with a grin.

"A young man like him should train himself in situations like this. After all, the future depends on them," said another big shot.

Joe and Spencer looked at each other while laughing. "If this were someone else, they might not be able to handle this well. However, since it's Jasper, we're confident in this young man."

"Oh?"

The few big shots looked at each other. One of them chuckled and said, "I heard this young man did great during the financial crisis in Harbor City. We could only look at the reports while you guys were there to experience it firsthand. Why don't you tell us how it went?"

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At this moment, Zachary, who was sitting in a corner, was given a look by Old Master Law. He quickly got up and started telling them everything that happened back then.

After the big shots heard that, they nodded and said, "Not bad indeed. He's able to handle the pressure from the west. This young man has a great performance."

Old Master Law chortled and said, "Exactly what I thought. Since us old farts are still around, we have to check on these excellent young people and give them more responsibilities. That way, it'll be beneficial to the long-term plan in the future."

Kennedy was sitting in a corner. While listening to the big shots praising Jasper non-stop, he chuckled coldly in his heart.

'Praise him more. It's even better if you praise him to the heavens. The more he climbs, the harder he'll fall. He'll die an even more horrible death that way!'

The more expectations he had on him, the more pressure he would have. Jasper was in his 20s, not even in his 30s yet. Would he be able to handle such a heavy burden?"

Plus, there would always be people who did not like him.

For example, the two other big shots. They were smiling this entire time without saying anything.

...

“Sir, 30 seconds left.”

Ted Swanson said to Jasper respectfully.

Jasper nodded and told Ted, “We have to start on time. We can’t be late or early even for one second.”

Ted patted himself on the chest and said, “Don’t worry, sir. We’ve matched our watches beforehand so I can promise that we’re accurate to the second.”

“The people from Harbor City are amazing. The effects later will be so exceptional,” Ted said while grinning.

Jasper smiled and took a deep breath. He lifted his head to look solemnly at the night sky above Workers’ Stadium.

After today, no one else in this country would be able to compete with Easy Media.

After the last second, at 7 p.m. on the dot, the celebratory banquet for Swallow Capital gaining the right to host the Olympics officially started.

Boom boom boom!

A string of loud explosions came from nearby the Workers’ Stadium. A lot of citizens who did not know what was going on looked at each other. They had no idea what was happening.

“Look! Fireworks!”

An observant person pointed at the sky and yelled excitedly.

At this moment, on a piece of land that was covering tens of thousands of square meters nearby the Workers' Stadium, an array of fireworks that had been meticulously planned and arranged were firing at the sky at the same time.

Countless bright and splendid fireworks soared into the sky, exploding in mid-air and turning into incomparable huge fireworks. They were bringing the ultimate visual feast in the world to everyone.

These fireworks were specially ordered by Jasper by contacting the top domestic fireworks and firecrackers manufacturers.

There were a total of 100,000 fireworks, which cost Jasper more than six million Somer Dollars.

Everyone was immersed in this huge show.

At this moment, the array of fireworks that shocked the world during the opening ceremony of the Olympics in 2008 did not exist yet. Tens of thousands of live audiences and millions of audiences in front of their televisions watching the live broadcast were in awe of what Jasper had planned.

One could see the splendid fireworks no matter where one was in Swallow Capital. Plus, it was a sight to behold if one was near the stadium.

It was so shocking and even shook everyone's souls.

Then, the loud and clear national anthem played.

When everyone saw this scene and heard this sound, they could only feel their blood boiling and roaring in their bodies like never before. Then, an unspeakable sense of shock and pride emerged spontaneously from within.

Everyone was silent as they lifted their heads to look at the sky.

Suddenly, the fireworks stopped for a while.

Everyone was feeling excited and now they were all staring blankly at the sky. They were all wondering if the fireworks show was over.

It ended when everyone was at the height of their emotions?

Everyone was feeling dissatisfied.

However, before this dissatisfaction could spread to their bodies, strings of loud explosions sounded all of a sudden.

Now, they could only see fireworks soaring into the sky one after another. After precise planning, a fire dragon that was about 1,000 meters long appeared after the fireworks exploded in mid-air.

That was a dragon!

That was the totem for the Somer descents!

It was the mythical creature that was carved into the bones of all of the descendants of Somerland and it was the creature that protected their people for more than 1,000 years.

Now, in Swallow Capital, the mythical creature appeared once again!

The realistic and gigantic dragon spanned for a few thousand meters. It looked as if it was blessing the nation that would eventually stand tall on the top of the world after experiencing countless challenges in the storm.

Everyone's emotions skyrocketed to the peak at this moment.

A lot of people were shouting. They were cheering and in high spirits.

Not just them, but even the big shots were exclaiming in the core area of the Workers' Stadium where the four rich families were.

“Marvellous!”

One of the big shots who was sitting in the middle with Old Master Law on his left side exclaimed one single word after not speaking for the entire time.

Old Master Law was satisfied. There was a constant grin on his face this whole time.

At this moment in Dawson's loge, Wendy covered her mouth and was looking at the gigantic dragon in the sky in shock and disbelief.

Other people might not be able to see it, but she could see it clearly. On the tail of the dragon was a letter 'W' that was crafted with the utmost care.

This was the surprise Jasper was giving her.

This was the gift that he was giving her in the full view of thousands of eyes as the entire nation celebrated.

At this moment, Wendy felt her heart melting. She wanted to immediately look for Jasper and then pounce on him.

The fireworks show gradually came to an end, and the top four hosts in the nation went on stage. The banquet officially started with their impassioned voices.

With the top hosts and all of the top celebrities in the Mainland and Harbor City gathering in one place, this banquet was destined to be remembered by a lot of people.

After the entertainment segment, the mayor of Swallow City went on stage to say a few words as the next to last item on the program.

On the other hand, Jasper stayed under the stage quietly. As the organizer, he would need to appear on stage later to make a speech in front of everyone in the nation.

The mayor of Swallow Capital ended his speech while holding the microphone amidst everyone's cheers. Then, he said, "Now, let's welcome the organizer of this banquet to say a few words on stage!"

Everyone was craning their necks longingly. They wanted to see who was the person who had presented them with such an incomparable visual feast.

Especially the fireworks show that was unforgettable for the entire nation. It could be said that not only did the organizer successfully organize a banquet that was meaningful, but he also pushed this banquet to a peak that had never been reached before.

The spotlight was shining down on the entrance of the stage where a young man walked up the stage confidently and energetically.

His steps were steady. Even if countless eyes were focusing on him, he was still unflustered this entire time.

When Wendy, who was in the loge, and Anna, who just got here, saw his figure, their eyes twinkled. It was as if their love for him was going to overflow from their eyes.

At this moment, they wanted so badly to announce to the world that this was the man they had their eyes on!

This was the man who was destined to be the center of attention anywhere in the world!

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At the same time, Lisa and Ben, who were worried about offending Henry, saw Jasper's figure as well.

They felt their scalps getting numb as if they had just been electrocuted. They cried out in surprise and disbelief involuntarily.

"It's him!"

"Do you guys know him?"

Ian and Norman asked quickly when they saw Ben and Lisa's reactions.

Putting aside the rest, the organizer of this banquet was destined to flourish after this.

If their children were able to have some connections with someone on this level, would it mean that their family was in luck?

Ben and Lisa looked at each other and saw each other's pale faces.

How would they dare to tell the truth? They had a connection with him, but it was a horrible one.

Lisa was beside herself when she remembered that she had called Jasper a low-level person and a hillbilly in so many different ways.

Yet, she was the low-level person now!

Perhaps the reason they were able to show up was not because of how powerful the Turners were, but it was that Jasper, the organizer, wanted to see their expressions after they knew the truth.

Lisa wanted so badly to crawl into a hole.

Ben also could not take this. He was almost drowned by fear and regret.

If he knew Jasper had such a scary background and identity, he would not have had the courage to pursue Wendy.

Now, these two had not even settled the matter of them offending Henry when it was suddenly revealed that Jasper was powerful and had such a huge background. They felt as if they were in a dream.

“This time... we’re in huge trouble,” Ben gritted his teeth and said with no color on his face.

Lisa thought about it and comforted him, saying, “Benny, don’t worry. There’s a way to turn this around.”

“What do you mean?” Ben frowned and looked at Lisa.

Lisa took a deep breath, and her eyes were twinkling wisely. She appeared to be farsighted at this moment. She said, “Actually, the person who’s the most difficult to handle is Henry. The rest will be easy once we settle him.

“Even though Jasper is much more powerful than we thought, so what? He’s not one of the four rich families. He’s just a person who’s trying to make connections with them at most. Even if he’s not the low-level person we thought back then, I don’t think he’s that powerful, right?”

Ben frowned and thought about it. He was not saying anything.

“Mr. Turner promised that he’ll help us talk to Henry. When that happens, do you think Jasper will be able to do anything when Mr. Turner shows up and warns him?”

Ben nodded slightly when Lisa said that.

“If that’s the case, Jasper is nothing. However, I saw earlier that he might be friends with Henry. I’ll go talk to Jasper later and you should go look for Mr. Turner. As for the rest, we’ll figure out what to do when the time comes,” Ben gave the final verdict and said.

...

At this moment, Erik was looking at Jasper who had the spotlight on him. Everyone’s eyes were on him as well. Erik’s face was pale, and he only felt his throat getting bitter and dry.

Even though he had been defeated by Jasper back then, he never accepted his fate and kept wanting to seek revenge this whole time.

However, at this moment when he was looking at Jasper, Erik felt a huge sense of helplessness.

‘We’re both young, but how can you be so much better than me?’

‘How am I going to seek revenge on you?’

He clenched his fists, and his heart was filled with unwillingness.

Everyone had always been jealous of him, and this was the first time he was jealous of another person the same age as him. Plus, this jealousy was bone-deep.

“Did you promise Lisa that you’ll help her talk to Henry?” Brad averted his unreadable gaze from Jasper and asked nonchalantly.

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Erik nodded and said seriously, “This is about the family’s collaboration with the business people from Haddock, so we can’t give up easily. If not, all that we’ve done back then would be in vain.”

“We can try. Your concerns are fine, but you have to be careful. If this is just about Henry, he’s just a hedonistic son of rich parents. If you can smooth-talk him, this will pass easily. However, if it’s related to Jasper, then you have to remove yourself from it quickly.”

When Erik heard what Brad said, his face looked bitter. He said miserably, “Is Jasper even scarier than the Laws?”

Brad said indifferently, “Henry is just a hedonistic son of rich parents and he values his image a lot. If you give him that, then everything will be dandy. However, how is Jasper the same? If he’s involved in this, this might not be a problem of showing him dignity or not.”

After a sigh, Erik slammed his fist down on his knee. His expression was gloomy.

...

Whether he was on good terms or bad terms with someone, at this moment, no one was able to stop Jasper from walking to the center of the stage.

After shaking the mayor’s hand intimately, he took the microphone. He thanked the mayor humbly before the mayor turned around to leave. Now, he was facing tens of thousands of audience members.

He had a confident and charming smile on his face. His alluring voice floated into everyone’s ears.

“Was the banquet tonight fun?”

In an era when people still gave solemn speeches on stage and no one was concerned about having interactions with the audience, Jasper’s opening words that were not a traditional greeting immediately made the audience members incomparably excited and refreshed.

“Yes!”

Resounding answers sounded from all corners, and Jasper almost drowned in the noise.

The smile on his face became brighter and brighter.

It was no wonder all of the main characters of the web novels he read before he got reincarnated would want to become a celebrity after they transmigrated or reincarnated. This was a pretty good feeling.

However, Jasper still felt that he did not like living under the spotlight. It would be fine to experience it once in a while.

He was more suitable to be the head of a financial group.

Handling wealth was even more meaningful than being a celebrity.

...

Jasper’s speech later was much more formal. After all, this was an official and formal event. It would backfire if there was too much entertainment.

Up until now, this banquet had reached Jasper’s expectations.

After his final line, the banquet ended perfectly amidst countless rueful sighs.

The live audience and honorable guests left the place in an orderly fashion. After Jasper ordered Ted and Ryder to assist the people exiting the place, he turned around and saw Anna who was standing not far away from him.

“You’re the most handsome one here tonight.”

Anna looked at Jasper and said with a sweet smile.

Jasper approached her and smiled. He said, “You said the press conference for your fashion line was delayed and you had to stay longer in Waterhoof City, so I thought you wouldn’t be able to make it today.”

Anna lifted her hand to tuck her hair behind her ear. She said, “Today is such an important day for you, so I’ll definitely come. I didn’t waste my time coming. It was amazing.”

“Thanks,” Jasper said with a smile.

At this moment, Anna heard footsteps coming. She turned around and saw Wendy. She smiled at Jasper and said, “Alright, go have fun with your girlfriend. I’m going to look for my dad.”

“Alright, I’ll call you later,” Jasper said.

Anna chuckled lightly before turning around and walking away.

After Anna left, Jasper turned around and felt his vision getting blurry. He took in a sweet smell and felt a soft body in his arms.

The sweet-smelling wind caressed his face and then, the beautiful woman said with joy and a slight hint of jealousy, “You looked happy talking to Anna.”

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Jasper hugged the woman in his arms and chuckled softly, "Did you spot the little surprise I prepared for you?"

Wendy raised her head from Jasper's arms. Her eyes were gleaming like stars and they looked as if they could talk. She said, "If you hadn't done this with such sincerity, I wouldn't let you off so easily."

Wendy ignored the astonished gazes of the staff coming and going next to them. She just rested her head on Jasper's shoulder with peace of mind. She closed her eyes slightly and murmured, "Sometimes, I think that I'm so lucky to have met you."

Jasper lowered his head to look at this woman's unmatched and incomparable pretty face. He said warmly, "I'll give you the best, no matter what. I already decided the moment I first saw you. Thankfully, God gave me another chance."

Wendy only thought that Jasper was talking about them meeting again after many years of graduating from high school. As such, she was unconcerned.

However, she would never know that the second chance Jasper spoke of spanned across two lifetimes.

"Will you go back with us later?" Wendy asked.

Jasper said, "I still have something to do and it'll be pretty late after I'm done. You should go back first."

Wendy nodded, and the two of them walked out of the hall together. However, they spotted someone standing restlessly on the other side of the corridor from afar.

Ben.

After seeing Jasper and Wendy walking out together, Ben quickly walked over despite the embarrassment and panic on his face.

“Mr. Laine, Miss Schuler, h-hello...” Ben greeted.

Wendy did not want to pay attention to this person, so she snorted and turned her head.

Seeing Wendy’s reaction, the corners of Ben’s mouth twitched.

“Can we help you?” Jasper asked lightly.

Ben heard the words and looked at Jasper’s expression seriously. He actually came to test Jasper’s background and attitude. If he took the initiative to apologize and Jasper did not embarrass him, it would prove that Jasper was just an organizer.

Perhaps, Jasper might not even dare to offend him at all. Then, he could let Lisa use her relationship with Erik to teach Jasper a lesson.

“I’m here to apologize for my ignorant words and deeds before, Mr. Laine. I really didn’t know who you were... so please forgive me for being ignorant and narrow-minded.”

Ben’s attitude seemed very sincere, but the gloomy expression in his eyes had revealed that he was not apologizing sincerely.

“Mr. Laine, forgive me for being ignorant. I committed such a gaffe before. I really didn’t know you had such an honorable status.”

“What status?” Jasper asked.

This question made Ben speechless.

At the same time, a fire of anger was rising within him.

Actually, he was not afraid of Jasper but Henry.

After Lisa's reminder, Ben eventually understood. What did it matter if Jasper was the organizer of the banquet? He was just someone trying to worm his way to forging a relationship with the big shots. It was likely that Jasper was not even capable enough to invite those big shots. It must be all thanks to the official authorities.

Otherwise, Jasper was a nobody. How old was he? Was he really able to have such a good relationship with the four rich families?

Ben would not believe it even if he was beaten to death.

'Damn, you're even putting on airs now!'

Ben cursed in his heart. He just felt so extremely pissed that he could not hold it in anymore.

At this moment, Lisa ran over angrily with another man.

She said loudly to Ben, "Benny, he really thinks he's all that just because we show him some respect. Isn't it just a banquet? What's so great about it? No matter how powerful you are, can you compare to Mr. Turner?"

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When she said this, she did not realize that Erik was shaking next to her upon seeing Jasper.

Erik had thought Lisa was asking him to help her deal with a small character.

Except for Henry and Jasper whom Erik did not want to provoke, he did not care about anyone else.

As such, Erik had responded positively and came straight over with Lisa.

However, before he even got close, he saw Jasper.

Before he could speak, Lisa, who was next to him, had already spoken.

Seeing Jasper's playful gaze, Erik just wanted to strangle Lisa and then turn away.

"What are you looking at?"

Lisa thought that Jasper was looking at her and sneered while folding her arms across her chest. "Were you looking forward to seeing our shocked and regretful expressions? Sorry, although we are surprised that you're the organizer, it's not a big deal.

"It's just a banquet. Do you really think you're all that? Those big shots showed up because of the officials. Do you think we'll be scared by you using powerful connections to intimidate us?"

"Can you shut the f*ck up?"

Lisa shuddered from shock after the loud roar.

She panicked and looked at Erik in disbelief. He looked like he was about to swallow her with those red eyes. At that moment, she felt like her whole brain was malfunctioning.

Why was Erik looking at her like she had just killed his father?

Erik truly wanted to kill Lisa now.

“Is this the small character you were talking about?” Erik asked and pointed at Jasper. His expression was blank, but his eyes looked sinister.

Half of Lisa’s soul had left her body after Erik looked at her. She nodded subconsciously and said cautiously, “What’s the matter?”

“What’s the matter?” Erik was exasperated and suddenly raised his hand to slap Lisa across the face.

Lisa’s earring flew away from the slap. Her meticulous hairstyle was also completely ruined, and she looked like a ghost with disheveled hair.

One could only imagine how powerful that slap was.

Lisa covered her face. She screamed and fell to the ground after getting slapped.

Erik was still pissed. He lifted his leg and kicked Lisa. While he was kicking her, he roared, “Did I tell you to f*cking cause trouble? Why don’t you f*cking look at yourself first? So many people can crush you to death and not get blood on their shoes. Who do you think you are?”

Lisa kept screaming while avoiding Erik’s foot challengingly.

Suddenly, Ben rushed over. He did not dare to stop Erik, so he could only stand in front of Lisa. He said while wailing, “Mr. Turner, what’s going on? Even if you want us to die, you should at least let us know why.”

Erik took a few deep breaths, pointed at the two of them viciously, and said, “If you want to die, do it yourself! Don’t f*cking involve me! I’m not tired of life yet!”

While he said that, Erik turned to Jasper.

Until now, Ben and Lisa were still dumbfounded. They did not know why their biggest supporter was suddenly attacking them so viciously.

“Jasper, I really didn’t know about this before.” Erik’s complexion was not looking too good. His face was flushed because of the fierce movements from before, but he tried to say this in the most tactful tone he could muster.

Jasper said insipidly, “I know. You’re not stupid enough to provoke me at this time.”

Erik took a deep breath, bowed his head respectfully to Jasper under the horrified gazes of Lisa and Ben, and said, “Thank you for your trust and understanding. I have no intention of being your enemy.”

After seeing this terrifying scene, Lisa even forgot about the pain on her body. She screamed, “How is it possible? Mr. Turner, who does he think he is? You’re actually bowing to him?”

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Erik did not even turn his head, but he wanted to go back and trample Lisa to death!

Was this dumb woman tired of living?

However, someone helped Erik to do what he wanted to do.

Henry brought two people over and waved his hands. Then, the two people skillfully took out a roll of tape. They directly sealed Lisa and Ben's mouths and tied their hands and feet before throwing them aside.

"Don't cause any trouble." Jasper frowned.

Lisa and Ben had always been clowns who could not make it anywhere. Now that the banquet had just ended, it was not Jasper's style to make a huge fuss about this at this critical moment.

Henry leaned against the threshold, lit a cigarette, and said with a smile, "Don't worry, I've done a lot of these things before."

As he said that, he swaggered over to Lisa and Ben, blowing a puff of smoke on their faces.

He raised his hand and patted their heads. "I did tell you guys that I wanted to get rid of you. Instead of running away immediately, you're still frolicking in front of me. Do you think I'm made out of clay?"

Lisa and Ben's eyes were filled with terror. They were struggling and whimpering constantly, but the tapes sealed their mouths and made it hard to hear what they were saying.

Ben was smarter, after all. He turned over and knelt on the ground. He kept groveling at Henry while pleading with his eyes.

Henry stood up straight, sneered, and said, “You know to beg for mercy now? What were you doing before? I’m a low-level person. I don’t have inner quality, so I can’t accept this.”

While he was saying that, Henry did not even look at Ben. He walked over to Jasper, narrowed his eyes, and looked at Erik with a serious expression. He said sternly, “Why don’t we settle this kid while we’re at it?”

When Erik heard these words, the hair all over his body stood up on end.

He genuinely did not doubt whether Henry was a man of his words.

Right now, Old Master Law was in Swallow Capital. If Henry really did something to him, the Turners might not be able to avenge him.

Now, the only one who could decide this matter was Jasper.

When he thought about this, Erik hurriedly said to Jasper, “Mr. Laine, I have nothing to do with them.”

He immediately changed from calling him Jasper to Mr. Laine.

The subtle change in the way he addressed Jasper reflected Erik’s desire to survive.

Jasper had a smile on his face. He was refined and elegant, so there was no hostility on his face.

“It’s getting late. You still have a lot to do, right, Mr. Turner?”

Erik breathed a deep sigh of relief when he heard Jasper’s words.

“Yes, I still have some things to take care of, so I’ll go first.”

Erik, who got a way out, took a deep look at Jasper. He then turned his head and walked away without looking back.

He did not even look at Lisa and Ben who kept asking him for help with their eyes while whining.

“The old master and the rest are waiting for you outside. They seem to have something to tell you,” Henry said to Jasper.

“Okay, I’ll go and meet them.”

Jasper said. Even with Henry’s presence, Jasper directly took Wendy’s hand and walked outside.

Lisa and Ben looked desperately at Jasper’s back. They were begging him to help them out of their predicament.

However, what they saw was the door opening and nearly 100 staff members outside standing respectfully in two rows. They were all bending over and bowing to Jasper.

“Hello, Mr. Laine.”

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This show of extravagance directly widened Lisa and Ben’s eyes. They were staring in disbelief.

Outside of the crowd, many honorable guests who were invited but had not the time to leave the scene were all on their toes. They were craning their necks to look at Jasper. It was as if they could reflect their status if they got closer to that grand show of extravagance.

Jasper was accompanied by Wendy. He had an elegant smile on his face and was calm and unhurried. His gaze would not change even if a mountain collapsed in front of him. It was as if nothing would be able to move him anymore.

“Everyone has worked so hard. Finish up early so you can go back and rest. Everyone will be given an extra three months’ salary as a bonus.” Jasper’s words caused hundreds of people to cheer and applaud.

Everyone looked at Jasper fervently with smiles on their faces.

Since ancient times, wealth had been able to move people’s hearts. In this regard, Jasper had never let his subordinates down.

Ben and Lisa’s faces were gray like ash. This time, they really understood what kind of person they had offended.

“See? This is the person you were looking down on,” Henry sneered.

He was also looking at Jasper’s figure, making no secret of his jealousy. “Damn it, even I feel inferior to him, let alone you two little shrimps.”

“Do you think that just because your parents are powerful that you can oppress and tyrannize everyone? How hilarious. Do you think your parents are better than my parents?”

“And Jasper got himself to this point without comparing himself to anyone. Even my parents treat him politely.

“Yet you little shrimps still looked down on him all day long even when he has such accomplishments. You have no idea that you two are just clowns to him. He doesn’t even bother to care about you.”

Henry’s words gave Lisa and Ben a huge blow. They lowered their heads deeply with gloomy eyes. They did not dare to speak and were also unable to speak.

“But I’m different.” Henry’s voice suddenly sounded like he was full of zest. He looked at the two with a smile and said, “I love to quibble with you. After all, I have no inner quality.”

Lisa screamed and looked at Henry in despair, her eyes full of pleading.

“Henry,” Jasper suddenly turned his head and called out.

Henry looked up.

“Be careful,” Jasper ordered.

Henry’s face darkened, and he said impatiently, “Yeah, yeah. Don’t be like a nagging mother.”

After the order, Jasper did not care what Henry would do to Lisa and Ben.

Just because Henry was a fiend in human form, it did not mean he was not smart in his own way. Although he was a little hedonistic, he never went all the way when he did something.

The most he would do was teach these two people an unforgettable lesson.

After passing Wendy to Dawson, the group exchanged a few words with Jasper before leaving in their cars.

Meanwhile, Jasper walked toward another passage. Old Master Law was still waiting for him and Jasper would not let him wait a long time for him.

As soon as he got there, Jasper saw Zachary and a middle-aged man who was about the same age as Zachary talking happily with each other. Beside the middle-aged man stood Erik with his head down.

“You must be Jasper. This is the first time we’re meeting each other but the second time we’ve dealt with each other.” After seeing Jasper, the middle-aged man walked up to him with a smile. He had cultivated a majestic temperament from being in a high position for a long time. Now, he was deliberately trying to get close to Jasper.

This voice sounded familiar to Jasper.

The Turners. Brad Turner.

“Jasper, let me introduce you. This is Mr. Brad Turner.” Zachary’s explanation confirmed Jasper’s guess.

Jasper smiled and stretched out his hand to shake hands with Brad. Jasper said, “Mr. Turner, it’s an honor to meet you at last.”

Brad laughed and said, “The new is constantly replacing the old. After seeing you, Jasper, I felt that I’m getting old and will soon be defeated by someone from the younger generation like you.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes when he heard the words that sounded unkind.

Life at the Top Chapter 401

As soon as Brad said this, the atmosphere between the four fell into an awkward moment of silence.

Brad smiled, but his eyes were full of profound meaning when he looked at Jasper as if he was waiting to see how he would respond.

Zachary had no expression on his face and was looking at Brad with a slightly pissed look in his eyes. However, he had always respected Jasper's image.

It seemed that as soon as Jasper spoke, Zachary would be able to say something to counterattack Brad.

After all, regarding how hedonistic Henry was, it was also passed down from Zachary.

Although the current patriarch of the Laws had, on the surface, withdrawn himself from this for many years, it could be said that the Law got rich because of the old master. Zachary was the second generation of the Laws in the true sense.

If this Mr. Law became ruthless, his methods would be countless times superior to Henry's.

As for Erik, there was no way for him to speak.

Erik just relaxed and looked at Jasper from the corners of his eyes, waiting for him to respond.

This awkward silence only lasted for a few breaths. Jasper smiled, saying, "No matter how strong the second generations are, they will always follow the

trajectory and experience of their predecessors. So, there's still a lot to learn, but the younger generation is also separated into different kinds, that's all.

"If I were to compare myself to Uncle Law, I think I still have a lot of room for improvement."

As soon as his words came out, Zachary was beaming with joy. Brad laughed along with him, but his laughter sounded a little awkward.

With that statement, Jasper had humbled himself, lifted Zachary, and made a comeback at Brad.

"Not bad. Very good."

Brad's words were full of significance. He turned his head and said to Erik, "See? I always tell you that there are people better than you out there and it's people like Jasper. You're about the same age, but there's such a huge difference between the two of you. You need to learn from Jasper."

Erik said respectfully after hearing the words, "I know, Dad. I will humbly learn from Jasper."

"Mr. Turner, you're over-praising me. I just have better luck and don't really have a lot of talents. You'll make me lose my sense of modesty if you praise me too much," Jasper said unenthusiastically.

Brad laughed and said, "You have accomplished such achievements at a young age, so it's alright even if you lose your sense of modesty because it is as it ought to be.

"However, Jasper..."

Brad's tone faded as soon as he switched the conversation to another subject.

“Our country is vast and rich, filled with outstanding people with great talents. We must always keep in mind the principle that there is always someone better than us in the world just like how I taught Erik. Don’t look down on everyone in the world just because of some achievements.

“Your generation is still young and has insufficient experiences, so making too many enemies is not a good thing.”

Jasper said insipidly, “Thank you for reminding me, Mr. Turner. I’ll keep it in mind.”

Zachary also spoke up at this time. He said, “Turner, I don’t like to hear that. Are young people still young if they’re not impulsive and have a pioneering spirit? It’s fine if they cause trouble, just treat it as gaining more experience. The people from the older generation like us will just bear it for him.

“If we can’t bear it, the old man is still around, don’t you think?”

Upon hearing Zachary’s words, Brad’s expression suddenly became serious. He looked at Zachary deeply and smiled faintly. “It seems that you Laws really admire this young man named Jasper so much that you’re even letting out such words.”

Zachary said calmly, “This is not my intention only, but also my father’s.”

Life at the Top Chapter 402

Brad looked at Zachary seriously. After a long while, he smiled. “Okay, very well.”

“No matter if you think it’s good or bad, this is how it is. The reason is very simple, you and I were once young and vigorous before, and we also caused a lot of trouble. Back then, we asked our parents to solve those issues for us. Now

that we're parents, we naturally have to take care of our younger generation. We can't keep letting our younger generation get bullied, at least."

Zachary looked at Brad directly, chuckled, and said coldly, "Turner, don't you think so?"

Brad took a deep look at Brad and Jasper before suddenly saying insipidly, "Erik, say goodbye to Uncle Law. We'll be leaving now."

After Erik heard that, he immediately said goodbye to Zachary respectfully.

"If you have something to do, go ahead. It's late and my old man is still waiting to say a few words to Jasper," Zachary said dully.

Brad snorted before turning around to leave with Erik.

After the two left, Zachary patted Jasper on the shoulder and said magnanimously, "Don't worry. Just attack Erik back if he dares to try and do something to you. If Brad has the nerve to go into court and deal with you personally, I'll go head-on with him. I've disliked him since the very beginning."

Jasper smiled bitterly. "Uncle Law, this was originally a matter between me and them. It's not worth involving the Laws in this."

Zachary said seriously, "You're wrong about this. Now everyone knows that you're an ally of the Laws. If you lose to Erik, then there's nothing to be said. You're just not capable enough. However, what do Brad's words mean?"

"He's 12 years older than you and keeps using his family's power to pressure others. Does he seriously think that you don't have support? I said that the younger generation should resolve their own grievances themselves. Does he think that I'm dead by putting his foot in as an elder?"

Jasper was also moved by Zachary's domineering words.

Ordinary people would not say such a straightforward statement so easily if they did not have a family that was as huge and powerful as the Laws.

Now that it had been said, it was final. Zachary would definitely support him to the end now.

“Okay, don’t think too much. Brad is not a fool. He’s smarter than anyone else, so you need to be more careful in your actions in the future and don’t let anyone get their hands on something that they can use against you. Let’s go now, the old man is still waiting,” Zachary said to Jasper warmly.

After Jasper heard that, he nodded. As they were walking and chatting, they reached a car.

The car the old master was sitting in was parked by the roadside, waiting for Jasper to come over.

Jasper opened the car door and apologized to the old master who was looking at him with a smile. “Old Master, there was a delay just now. Sorry for making you wait.”

Zachary, who followed him, saw Jasper being so tactful and added, “Brad just threatened Jasper.”

Old Master Law ignored Zachary and smiled gently at Jasper. “It’s okay, you can just go on with your business first. I just wanted to have a casual chat with you. If someone is using seniority to oppress you, you can look for Zachary. If he can’t solve it for you, come and find me.”

Jasper suddenly felt his scalp turning numb.

Sure enough, Henry’s fiery temper was inherited.

The old master was so old now, yet he was also a person who refused to admit defeat.

“Uncle Law and Old Master are speaking so highly of me. So, of course, I won’t impetuously rush headfirst into everything myself. When it’s time to ask for help, I won’t be courteous.” Jasper laughed.

The old master chuckled a few times and said with satisfaction, “Yes, this is the spirit that young people should have. Don’t be afraid of anything, and don’t go looking for trouble. If you think it’s right, do it.”

Jasper said, “Speaking of what should be done, I really have one thing I need to do and I need your help for that, Old Master Law.”

Life at the Top Chapter 403

Jasper’s words intrigued Old Master Law.

Although the two were decades apart and their position and status were also greatly different, the things Jasper had done so far proved that what he wanted to do next was not going to be easy for him.

“What is it that’s able to make you so serious? I’m interested,” Old Master Law said warmly.

When Old Master Law said these words, he actually believed that Jasper had probably encountered a difficult opponent and needed to use the power of the Laws to solve the issue.

The old master did not think there was anything wrong with this.

In his opinion, the better a person was, the more enemies they would have. If there were no enemies, it was either that person was invincible, or the person was simply a pile of mud and nobody had any interest in dealing with them.

Old Master Law himself only got to where he was now through dealing with one enemy after another.

However, what Jasper said next made Old Master Law's white eyebrows tremble.

"Old Master, regarding the burst of the dot-com bubble and the plummet of Harbor stocks, it's obvious that the Western capitalists have entered the market and are the ones responsible for these behind the scenes.

"Just like the year of the handover, their evil intentions are still alive. They're always trying to steal our economic results through such despicable means.

"This is equivalent to the Western capitalists viewing us as the livestock they've raised in captivity. When we grow fat and strong, they can open our doors at any time to take away all our hard-earned money."

The gentle smile that Old Master Law displayed in front of Jasper disappeared. Those eyes that had gone through countless vicissitudes of life were now full of resentment and unwillingness.

The Laws could stand out among the many wealthy families in Harbor City because Old Master Law was truly a patriotic businessman at heart.

He had shown his patriotism through practical actions. He had given up or even harmed his own huge profits for the collective benefit instead of just verbally expressing his patriotism like how some rich people clamored to do every day.

It was because whether it was the year of the handover or the financial crisis earlier this year, Old Master Law had long hated the Western capitalists.

"Jasper, you can even see through this scheme at your age. It's great." Old Master Law opened his mouth, but apart from his appreciation of Jasper, his tone was also full of helplessness regarding the reality they were facing.

“However, whether it’s Harbor City or the entire Mainland, the actual situation is that we’re still weak and poor. In the face of those with power, we have no way to fight back, and we can only endure this resentment for the time being.

“Only when we’re strong enough and have enough capital and power, then no one will dare to bully us.”

Jasper heard those words and said, “I can’t say for the others, but I can’t bear it.”

Old Master Law laughed. Instead of striking Jasper down, he praised him. “Yes, young people should have such vigor and energy.

“Us old people will be tolerant because we have to proceed based on the overall situation, but you’re still in the stage of developing yourself, and learning to hide your light under a bushel too early may not be a good thing.”

“Old Master, I’m going to do it,” Jasper said suddenly.

The smile on Old Master Law’s face froze for a moment. Although it was only for a few breaths, the uncontrollable emotions that were apparent on Old Master Law’s face was enough to show the impact of Jasper’s words on him.

“Jasper, don’t be too impulsive.” Old Master Law frowned.

A second ago, he was still complimenting Jasper for being an impulsive young man, but now, he had to stop him from being too impulsive...

“Old Master, I’ve thought it through. Even though it seemed that I had protected Harbor Stocks the last time, I actually know very well that I still lost a lot while fighting with the other party. Otherwise, the result would not turn out the way it did.”

Jasper’s expression was very calm. Ever since his debut, everything had gone smoothly for him, but this did not mean that he was invincible.

Life at the Top Chapter 404

He had also lost before. He lost to a trader behind the scenes during the fight between Harbor Stocks and the Western capitalists.

The opponent's advantage was too great and they got a decisive opportunity. If it had been someone else, they might only get a crushing defeat.

However, in Jasper's view, all of those were not reasons for denying failure.

If you lost, you lost. It was fine to admit it.

On the contrary, this would only arouse his fighting spirit.

Old Master Law looked at Jasper deeply and said, "Jasper, don't be too demanding of yourself."

Jasper shook his head and smiled. "No, Old Master, I'm not being demanding with myself. I know very well that there are people better than me out there. It's not shameful to lose once or twice.

"However, I need to get back this reputation whether it's because of my position as a person of Somer descent or my personal point of view."

Old Master Law frowned slightly and said nothing.

Jasper continued, "Old Master, you need to start from the present conditions, and your position and status as the elder generation are too sensitive. A slight move in one part may affect the situation as a whole, and it may become an international event, so you can't rashly take action.

“But I’m different. If you throw me to the west, how many people will know who I am? I’m still young. This is my advantage and my protection. If I go to the western capital market to do something, no one will take me to the international level to deal with me.”

Old Master Law said with emotion, “However, you have to be clear that once you do it, us old people can’t help you directly because of many complicated reasons.”

Jasper smiled and said, “This is my own matter, why would I need help from others?”

These words sounded plain, but in fact, they were overbearing.

Even Zachary, who was silent next to him, looked at Jasper in surprise.

Ever since knowing Jasper, Zachary had to constantly refresh his inner evaluation of Jasper, but after improving it time and again, Zachary still found that he had still been underestimating Jasper.

If Jasper’s life was not cut short, with this kind of aggressiveness, what would he achieve in the future?

Zachary felt that he did not dare to think about it.

Old Master Law was silent for a long time before asking, “What are you going to do?”

Jasper told him the plan that he had already reviewed countless times in his heart. He said, “What I’m doing now is to accumulate my own capital. The money I have right now is enough for me to live my life comfortably and it’ll be more than enough for generations to come. However, it’s still not enough to move Wall Street.

“So, I plan to accumulate more and when I have at least more than ten billion US dollars in cash on hand, then it’s time for me to start to carry out my plan to take down Wall Street. I’ll let them get a taste of having their riches ‘harvested’ by others in the market.”

Ten billion US dollars!

Was it a lot?

It was an astronomical number for most people.

However, in Jasper’s opinion, it was just a prerequisite for the execution of the plan.

Then, how big was his ambition?

Old Master Law looked at Jasper intently and could not help asking, “Do you really want to do this? Once you fail, you may get a crushing defeat and there will be no chance for you ever again.”

Jasper smiled and said, “For the sake of justice and self-interest, it must be done. Once I succeed, then it’ll be time for Jasper Laine to get a taste of being the richest man in Terra.”

Life at the Top Chapter 405

“Pretty ambitious.” Old Master Law smiled and praised.

Jasper chuckled and said, “Being the richest man in Terra is just a mid-term goal. I have a bigger vision. It’s just that those things seem to make me look like I’m biting off more than I can chew now.”

Old Master Law did not think so. He said in a warm voice, “A person should always have a short, medium, and long-term plan for his life and career whether they’re working or have a business in order to make money.

“A life without a plan will have no goals, and it’s also the easiest way to get lost and lose your heart. Only by knowing what you want all the time, you can concentrate more on achieving it.”

As he said that, Old Master Law looked at Jasper with encouragement and said, “Can you talk to me about your long-term goals?”

“Actually, I’ve asked Zachary to know more about your industry. I found that what you’ve done the most up to this point is investing in the industry. Also, you’re operating in the financial market and you’re not involved in any substantial industries?”

“This kind of approach is somewhat similar to some angel investment funds in the west.”

The old master was the old master indeed. His vision and manner of operating from a strategically advantageous position were really not comparable to that of the general public.

When ordinary people looked at Jasper’s current industrial layout, they might think that Jasper’s assets were too scattered. It would seem that he was involved in too many industries but he was not proficient in any of them.

This was taboo for people in business.

Since Jasper never had a core pillar industry, this meant that his comprehensive strength and anti-risk ability would be very low.

However, the old master had spotted something different.

Jasper sorted out his thoughts after hearing the words and then said, “I do plan to take this path, but it’s not comprehensive because to be honest, angel funds will be my core business but won’t be everything.

“My idea is to build JW into a series of groups. As long as it’s a leading industry, it’ll be involved. This will then involve all aspects of social development and people’s livelihood, so we still have to look at it as we go.

“At the end of the day, my idea is to build a modern and comprehensive commercial carrier so that JW will become a system and a global consortium that spans across different fields.”

In fact, Jasper’s idea came from the later generations where people were already familiar with many business concepts.

Take, for example, opening up the upstream and downstream industrial chains of high-end industries to achieve the industry’s ecosystem.

However, these concepts were too advanced. At this moment, even in the west, these concepts were still in their infancy. Even Old Master Law might not be able to understand it, so Jasper did not tell him about that.

However, with just what he had said so far, Jasper’s words were enough to shock Old Master Law and Zachary.

They knew that Jasper had great ambitions, but they did not expect them to be so big.

If it were someone else who said something like this in front of them, Old Master Law and Zachary would probably only think that the person was crazy.

However, Jasper was different.

Also, Jasper was the only one who could receive this treatment.

It was because they had watched with their own eyes how Jasper went from a little-known nobody to where he was now step by step.

“If this is successful, not only will you be the richest man in Terra, you might even be the richest man in the world,” Zachary exclaimed.

Jasper chuckled and said, “I don’t care about those false reputations, but when I can fight for that position, I will definitely fight for it!”

Old Master Law smiled and said, “We’ll talk about the future when the future is here, but your plan is very good. If there’s anything you need in the future, just tell us.”

...

“Preposterous!”

Life at the Top Chapter 406

Brad slammed his teacup heavily and spat out that one word in a deep voice.

Ever since coming back from the banquet, Brad's complexion had not looked good. The servants in the house dared not come close and only stayed away from him.

Erik stood at one side without saying a word.

Actually, he dared not say a word.

He saw with his own eyes how Jasper had echoed with the Laws to savagely mock his father.

At this time, Erik wanted so badly to hide so that his father would not take his anger out on him.

However, it was destined that he would be unable to escape.

"You're a bit older than Jasper but why are you like a piece of trash when you stand next to him?" The more Brad thought about it, the angrier he became. He pointed at Erik and berated him.

Erik smiled bitterly and said while biting the bullet, "Dad, how many people my age can compare to him?"

Brad's face was gloomy from dissatisfaction as he said coldly, "I only thought that this kid had amazing tactics before, but he's able to advance and retreat so tactically. But tonight, it seems that all of us had been fooled by him! It turned out this kid was hiding so many things up his sleeves!

“In the past, it was said that there were two people from your generation who made it big, one was from the south and one was from the north. At the age of ten, the heavens punished the first son of the first wife of the Browns from the north because he was an evildoer. In the end, he was wheelchair-bound for the rest of his life. Meanwhile, in Waterhoof City in the south, it was a little prince who was also the grandson of the supreme emperor.”

“These two people could carry out the resurgence for your generation, but now it seems that you need to add Jasper as the third person.”

The expression on Erik’s face suddenly changed when he heard these words. He said in surprise, “Even if Jasper is all that, he’s still a kid with no background at the end of the day. What qualifications does he have to compare with those two?”

Brad said coldly, “Do you still think he has no background? The Laws are enough of a background for him! What’s more, which of the four rich families in Harbor City did not show him respect?”

“And that was before tonight. After today’s banquet, the big shots in the loge were complimenting him non-stop. Although he did not declare his position, at least his name will be remembered.

“Who else can achieve this?”

Erik said with a jealous expression, “I still don’t think he can compare to the evildoer from the Brown family and the little prince from Waterhoof City. He’s still miles away.”

Brad snorted coldly. “Give him some time and it’s not impossible for him to become the third person.”

“Dad, look at his attitude toward us tonight. When he really becomes somebody in the future, I’m afraid he’ll make us suffer,” Erik said with a horrible expression.

Brad said gloomily, "Why wait until the future? Do you think Old Master Law came over just to cheer him on and show him support? An old fox of this level will have a purpose even when he's blinking."

"I received news that this time, the Laws intend to kick us out from the sharing of profits from the construction of Olympic venues."

Erik was shocked when he heard this. "What can we do?"

Brad became more and more impatient with his son who only knew to ask him what to do. "You're not a kid anymore, can't you think of a solution by yourself?"

Erik said helplessly, "So many people and things are involved in this and I don't have the ability for that."

"If you know that you don't have the ability, just study hard! Stop doing trivial things all day long. You're one of the Turners and you'll have far more rivals!" Brad said while feeling resentful toward Erik for failing to meet expectations.

After taking a deep breath, Brad continued, "Our old master will not stand by and watch this as it happens. The entire Turner family will do something about this."

"However, this time, not only have the Laws entered the game themselves, but the other three of the four rich families are also very interested. Presumably, the Laws did a lot of work in the middle. As you know, Harbor City is a very special place. People from the upper-class really hope to have closer ties with Harbor City."

"For this reason, the Turners won't be fighting alone. We can't let people from Harbor City devour all the benefits, but if this is the case, Jasper won't have the energy to solve it. As such, this matter is left for you to handle."

At this point, Brad was staring at Erik with his eyes burning. He said in a deep voice, "Even if you can't kill him, you have to hurt him so that he won't be able to recover from the damages for at least five years."

Life at the Top Chapter 407

With just a few words, Brad explained clearly the current treacherous situation of Swallow Capital.

No matter which country you were in, the Olympics was a big event.

What was more, it was being held in a country that was in urgent need of improving its international status.

In order to show the greatness of their great country and let people all over the world see their achievements, the Olympics would be the best opportunity to showcase this.

Therefore, this matter became the current major domestic event under global attention.

It was because of this that all aspects of the Olympic Games, from the venue construction to the theme design, would be treated with special care.

At this critical moment, Jasper was able to pull strings and make connections. Then, with the Laws mediating from within, he was able to introduce the top rich families of Harbor City to put in their funds.

This was a great thing since the big shots wanted the Mainland and Harbor City to merge more deeply.

As such, local citizens like the Turners were panicking.

They naturally did not want all the cake to be eaten up by Harbor City, so grouping together had become the best solution for this.

After listening to Brad's words, Erik also realized that in this situation, even a family as big as the Turners could not stay calm during a tense situation.

If they were careless, they were very likely to be overturned.

However, when Erik heard Brad asking him to deal with Jasper, he started feeling queasy.

"Dad, I-I'm not his rival."

Although it was too embarrassing for Erik to mention this, he thought about the consequences and felt it would be better to be honest.

After being struck down several times, Erik had lost the courage to face Jasper.

Brad was not surprised by Erik's reaction. He was not even angry. Instead, he said flatly, "Who said I want you to do it yourself?"

Erik pondered carefully. Then, he felt a flash of light go off in his mind, but he did not fully understand what it meant.

Upon seeing this, Brad's face became gloomy again.

He sighed deeply. He used to think that even though his son was not that outstanding among his peers, at least he was still excellent.

However, why did he look more and more mentally challenged after Jasper's appearance?

"You can use Lisa and Ben," Brad reminded helplessly.

Erik's eyes lit up when he heard this.

If he utilized these two people well, this matter would be much easier to handle.

“Besides, Ben’s second uncle is not easy to deal with. Go back and figure it out for yourself,” Brad said lightly.

The more Erik thought about it, the more interesting it became.

As long as he did not show up when executing this plan, even if he failed in the end, Jasper would not be able to trace this back to him.

The most important thing was that he would be hidden in the dark, while Lisa and Ben would be in the light. Erik could not think of how he would lose if he combined the power of the Turners with the Haddock businesspeople from the Waterhoof branch to handle Jasper.

“I got it!” Erik said with his eyes shining with excitement.

...

Although the banquet was over, Jasper had only started getting busy.

As long as he ordered someone to handle the finishing touches, his subordinates would naturally help him do it.

However, he could not find someone to help him socialize.

Life at the Top Chapter 408

Whether it was the four rich families of Harbor City or other local factions of Swallow City, they all suddenly became enthusiastic about Jasper.

For the next two days, Jasper rushed between various social occasions, most of which he would come back smelling like alcohol.

However, no matter what the occasion, Jasper always kept himself sober and did not get himself drunk.

Otherwise, he would make a laughing stock of himself.

In addition to socializing, Jasper put most of his energy and time on Wendy and Anna.

It was like these two women were magical. It was as if they had discussed with each other to take turns appearing next to Jasper.

As long as Jasper had one of them by his side, the other would never show up.

This situation only ended when Wendy was called back to the province by Dawson.

“Are you reluctant to leave your girlfriend?”

In the international airport, Jasper, who had just sent Wendy and the others off, got into the car and heard what Anna said.

“I’m having a headache.” Jasper rubbed his temples, pretending not to hear.

In the past few days, Jasper had to socialize every night. Even though he was able to handle his alcohol well now, the sequelae were also severe. The throbbing in his temples left him with no energy all day.

“You have to rest for a while now.” Anna sat next to Jasper and let Jasper lay down on her lap. She reached out and gently rubbed Jasper’s temples.

Jasper rested on the woman’s soft, supple, and smooth thighs. While he was enjoying the sweet fragrance pouring into his nose, he opened his eyes in surprise. “Your skills?”

“Your girlfriend taught me.” Anna chuckled. She looked down at Jasper and reached out to help him close his eyes.

“You’ve been drinking so much these days and can’t decline invitations. The four rich families are taking turns to invite you, and the huge families in Swallow Capital are all lining up to call you over as well. You’re a big hit now.”

“It’s important to socialize and it’s inevitable, but at the end of the day, your body is your capital, so that’s why I learned this skill from her. Is it okay?”

“Very good.” Jasper lay down comfortably and smiled.

“I’ll go back to the province soon. Swallow Capital is not my place, after all,” Jasper murmured.

Anna chuckled. “Just in time then. I was going to tell you that I’m going to Boston to study this Friday and won’t be back for a few months.”

“Why didn’t I hear you mention it before?” Jasper frowned. Hearing that he would not see Anna for a few months, Mr. Laine was a little unhappy. “Don’t further your studies. I’ll support you financially.”

Anna smiled and said, “You’re saying you want to support me the minute your girlfriend left. Don’t you feel guilty?”

“Why should I be? You’re studying fashion design, so I’ll just set up a company for you to manage,” Jasper said.

“All men are trash indeed.” Anna snorted. “Do you think I need you to support me? You keep saying things that don’t require capital while knowing that I won’t agree to it.”

Jasper was about to talk when the phone rang.

It was from Zachary.

Jasper did not dilly-dally and immediately picked up the phone.

“Jasper, are you busy?” Zachary asked.

Jasper did not dare to tell him that he was lying on his daughter’s lap while enjoying himself. As such, he said with a dry smile, “I just came back from the airport and I’m still on the road. Is there anything I can do for you, Uncle Law?”

Zachary said straightforwardly, “Come directly to the hotel where we’re staying later. The four families are here. We want to compete with the local faction to see how much we can get for the construction of the Olympic venues.”

Jasper said with a serious expression, “The local factions won’t let this matter go so easily, right?”

Zachary smiled and said, “That’s why we need your advice. The higher-ups are very happy with the Honeycomb Stadium proposal you submitted earlier. Everyone wants to hear your opinion.”

As he said, Zachary lowered his voice and continued, “The three other families are not so easy to deal with either. I proposed to let you in as well so we can count this as five stocks but none of them said anything. This time, you have to use your strength to convince them.”

Life at the Top Chapter 409

After Jasper hung up, Anna saw him slightly knitting his brows together as if he was thinking about some important things.

As such, Anna was sensible and did not speak as to not disturb his thoughts.

She just gently massaged Jasper's temples while letting him feel as relaxed as he could.

"What do you think about the other three from the four rich families?"

Jasper suddenly opened his eyes and asked Anna.

Anna knitted her black eyebrows together. After a little thought, she said, "To be honest, the relationship between the four families is very complicated. Most of the time, they're competitors. After all, Harbor City has limited space and there will be overlaps when it comes to their businesses.

"Among the four rich families, the Boyles are steadily deteriorating and their situation is very bad. As such, they're also eager to find new investment opportunities. But they're still making some profits because of the rebound in global trade in the shipbuilding industry this year.

"As for Joe, he's known as Half-the-Harbor Langdon, so you can imagine how huge his wealth is. However, his strength is the weakest among the four rich families and his foundation is also very shallow. He started from nothing and he got to where he was right now all by himself. For a long time, people from Harbor City actually didn't recognize him as one of the four rich men because of his lack of experience.

"However, I have a good feeling about him and my grandpa thinks so too. It's because he's different from the rest of them. He has an ambitious and ruthless spirit. He has a good eye. Plus, his ideas in business are not the same as the rest. They're more radical and suitable for the current business model.

"He has another big advantage and that's his age. He's 20 years younger than my grandpa and the others. Plus, he's not much older than my dad and that's his biggest advantage."

Jasper nodded appreciatively while he was listening to Anna's words.

Sure enough, none of the four rich families was easy to handle. Even Anna's vision was far beyond the one of an ordinary person because of the influence of her family's environment and education.

In the future, it would take just ten years for Joe's wealth to skyrocket. Once, he even got the highest status and position among the other three. This was the best proof.

At this time, it seemed that Joe, who had the weakest foundation, was actually the person with the most potential among the four rich families.

"What about Wallace?" Jasper asked.

Anna's expression became very strange as she said, "To be honest, us juniors hardly ever come into contact with Wallace. We just know that he's very low-profile, and he's very powerful in the Golden Peninsula. He's one of the heads of the rich families who conceals himself the most.

"Speaking of which, Grandpa and Wallace had beef for a few decades. It was the kind that can't be resolved," Anna said to Jasper with an extremely rare nosy expression on her face.

Jasper suddenly felt intrigued. "What happened?"

"My grandma... was Wallace's first love. I heard from my dad that my grandpa strapped explosives on his body and snatched grandma away from Wallace during their engagement ceremony."

Jasper's eyes widened, and there was a look of surprise on his face.

This was the first time he has heard of such secrets after living two lives.

Now that he thought about it, Old Master Law had also been a ruthless man in his early years. He was born negligible. In that chaotic era, he once monopolized the firearms business in Harbor City, Auma City, and Nawait.

In the earliest days, this old man, who was already showing first signs of his outstanding talent, had done a lot of transporting supplies and munitions to the Mainland.

Otherwise, Old Master Law would not be so respected by the higher-ups in the Mainland.

That was why!

It was also because a word from Old Master Law was all it took for Auma City's King of Gambling to no longer dare step foot into Harbor City for 20 whole years. He only dared to come after the old master died. This small detail was able to reflect the old master as a whole.

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As such, Jasper did not doubt Anna when she said that Old Master Law had snatched someone from the altar before.

"Um... I don't think it's too much to fight to the death for that matter," Jasper commented.

"At that time, my grandfather was only a commoner, but Wallace was a son of a rich family. Besides, Grandma and Grandpa really loved each other!" Anna could not help but side with her grandpa. "To me, Grandpa is the real man."

"But I saw Wallace smiling while chatting with the old master?" Jasper asked.

Anna replied, "That's nothing. Wallace personally came to deliver his gifts at Grandpa and Grandma's wedding."

"Heh." Jasper narrowed his eyes and smiled. "Wallace is such a character."

Anna's words raised Jasper's vigilance against Wallace to the highest level in his heart.

A person who, for decades, could endure the hatred of someone snatching his wife was either a fool or a peerless hero.

Would Wallace Langdon, who was once the richest man in Terra, be a fool?

He could only be a peerless hero.

...

The lounge of the hotel suite where Old Master Law stayed was filled with smoke.

In addition to Old Master Law, Wallace, Joe, Spencer, Zachary, and Kennedy were also here as the second-generations of the Laws and Langdons respectively.

When Jasper entered the room, everyone stopped talking and looked over at the same time.

"I'm sorry, everyone. I spent some time on the road," Jasper apologized.

"It's okay, we're just chatting, but there are some things that I want to ask for your opinion," Spencer looked at Jasper with a smile and said kindly.

Jasper just pretended that he did not know anything. He found a place to sit down and asked, "You're all my seniors while I'm just a little kid with little experience. How can I be qualified to give you advice?"

Spencer laughed and looked at Old Master Law. He said, "Law, this young man of yours is so incredibly humble. If the same thing happened to my child, they might have their nose up in the air already."

Old Master Law smiled slightly and said, “If you can’t provide advice, it’s good to give some new ideas. We’re just a bunch of old guys and all of our thinking has been solidified, so we can’t be as flexible as you young people.

“We intend to form an alliance, and the goal is the construction of Olympic venues. This project is worth trying whether it’s for fame or economic benefits.

“It’s just that there’s a problem now. The local factions in the Mainland don’t want us to participate. What do you think of this matter?”

While listening to Old Master Law’s words, Jasper raised his head and saw the encouragement in the old master’s eyes. He smiled and asked, “May I humbly ask whether you’re planning to devour this entire project?”

Spencer raised his hand and touched his head. He said domineeringly, “It’s fine if the four of us don’t make a move, but if we do, we naturally have to take all of it. There aren’t many venues in the first place. We don’t have enough to share internally, so how will there be any leftovers for others?”

Jasper raised his eyebrows slightly when he heard the words. After weighing the pros and cons inside his heart, he said something that emotionally moved everyone in the lounge.

“If everyone thinks that way, I think that a counterattack from the local support groups will definitely happen. When that time comes, our hope of winning will be almost zero.”

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When Jasper said that, Zachary, who had already informed him about the situation, felt his eyebrows tremble. Unexpectedly, Jasper's opinion was so direct and pessimistic.

Were the four rich families in Harbor City so weak even after joining forces?

Zachary felt that Jasper was underestimating the influence of all of the big shots in this room.

The other four heads' expressions did not change, and one could not tell how they were feeling.

After a long time, Spencer said, "Why do you say that? You must know that we're much stronger than the locals in the Mainland, whether it's capital or experience we're talking about it. We'll still have a great advantage, no?"

Jasper laughed and said, "We can't simply calculate this sort of thing based on the advantages we have in our accounts. Naturally, I believe that the strength of those locals can hardly compare to the four rich families. However, the problem right now is that since this is such an important matter. It would be such a headache even for the higher-ups to distribute the profits.

"You must know that the way we do things in the Mainland is different. A lot of things cannot be summed up based on experience in doing business abroad. Moreover, once commercial interests are sufficiently involved, political forces will also leave the playing field. This happens even in the west.

"Regardless of whether it's the local groups or the four rich families of Harbor City, whoever wants to dominate this huge profit will inevitably attract dissatisfaction from the higher-ups."

Jasper's fingers made a circle in front of him and then he cut it from the middle, saying, "The technique of checks and balances is also the technique of the emperor."

After hearing these words, Joe laughed and said, "Your opinion is the same as the result of our previous discussion."

Jasper looked at Joe. He did not think that Joe was forcibly acting like a poser with his remarks.

Would the four rich families be fools if they had status and wealth of this level?

Each of them was smarter than anyone else. Naturally, there was no need to say more about this kind of unsound truth.

Jasper knew that the truly intractable problems for the heads were yet to come.

Sure enough, Joe immediately said, "So in your opinion, how do we approach this and how much is reasonable?"

Jasper sighed in his heart. This was a difficult problem, and it would be difficult to predict no matter who answered it.

If it was just the Laws, then it would be easy to solve.

However, the problem now was that there were four rich families and there were many problems within this unformed alliance.

What was more, they were talking about sharing this with the locals now.

This was what the higher-ups had to consider, so how could it be Jasper's turn to rack his brains about this?

However, this question was brought to Jasper now and he could not pretend that he did not hear it. After a moment of silence, he said, “My opinion is to take less.”

The words ‘take less’ caused the heads of the four families to frown.

Jasper’s answer was obviously not in their interest.

However, everyone stayed calm and was waiting for Jasper to explain.

“Now our greatest advantage is the wealth in our accounts or so-called experience. These people are not lacking in those as well, at least the gap is not too big to be considered incomparable.

“Our real advantage is that the higher-ups hope to establish a good cooperative relationship with us so that we can return to the Mainland to invest. On one hand, it’s to drive the economic development of the Mainland. And on the other hand, it’s also to accelerate the integration of the two places.

“This is our real advantage, and to maximize this advantage, what we need to do is not to compete with others, but to take what we can and then put more energy into other regions and industries in the Mainland.”

With a confident smile on his face, Jasper said, “As long as we reveal this, we will gain a favorable impression from the higher-ups and the local faction will owe us a favor.”

Life at the Top Chapter 412

“The most important thing is that investment in other regions and industries in the Mainland is very promising. Our vision should encapsulate the whole country and not just the next Olympic venue.”

Joe's eyes flickered as if he was thinking about something.

Meanwhile, Spencer frowned and said nothing.

Only Old Master Law and Wallace still had no expressions on their faces, nor did they display their attitude toward Jasper's words.

Jasper sighed and said, "This is a choice of short-term and long-term interest. The construction of Olympic venues can of course get the greatest benefits in the shortest time. But in the long run, if we have an acrimonious falling-out with the local factions and excessively overdraw the favorable impression of businesspeople from Harbor City, it'll only be killing the goose that lays the golden eggs."

"Jasper, you're a bit of an alarmist."

The person who said this was Kennedy who had stayed silent this entire time. He looked at Jasper cheerfully and said calmly, "At the end of the day, the businessmen will solve the business problems by themselves. How will the higher-ups be bothered with so many things?"

"Of course." Jasper shrugged. "However, it also depends on when and where. You want to take down the construction of the Olympic venues so badly because it's of great significance, no? Since it's of great significance, how can you guarantee that the higher-ups will not personally split the profits themselves?"

Kennedy smiled coldly and said, "Jasper, who in this room has less experience than you? The reason we called you here is to flatter you. Don't take yourself too seriously."

Jasper said lightly, "Then, do I need to thank you, Mr. Langdon, for your support? Why don't you think about whether I need this or not?"

Kennedy's face darkened as he said calmly, "You're so hot-tempered, young man. Do you really think you're the chosen one just because you achieved some success during this period?"

"I dare not be the chosen one, but if you don't want to listen to me, you can leave." Jasper looked directly at Kennedy, not giving way.

"You!" Kennedy stood up suddenly, and the atmosphere between the two of them instantly became a state of mutual hostility.

"Ken."

Wallace interrupted Kennedy. After he called Kennedy by his name, Kennedy did not dare to say more.

After taking a deep breath, Kennedy smiled coldly at Jasper and sat back down.

"Okay, I think that's all for today," Wallace said insipidly.

"If we have any new ideas in the future, we can sit down and talk again."

Wallace's words ended this informal meeting.

After everyone left, Old Master Law called Jasper into the study alone.

"Jasper, how sure are you about what you just said?" Old Master Law asked.

"From my point of view, there's nothing wrong with the advice I gave," Jasper said confidently.

After nodding thoughtfully, Old Master Law said, "Then it's settled. The Laws are determined to get the construction project for Olympic Village. We estimate that the entire construction will be between 20 to 30 billion Somer Dollars and I plan to divide this into three parts.

“The Laws will account for 40%, Joe accounts for 30%, and you will account for 30%.”

Jasper raised his eyebrows and said, “30%?”

Old Master Law smiled and said, “Too little?”

Jasper smiled wryly. “It’s a bit too much. This project takes too much money and I need the money somewhere else.”

“The Laws will help you pay in advance in terms of the funds,” Old Master Law said in astonishment.

Life at the Top Chapter 413

Jasper hurriedly said, “No. If I take this offer, won’t I be getting this advantage in vain?”

The old master laughed and said, “Jasper, don’t you understand? Whether it’s the venue construction or Olympic Village, the Laws can’t devour them alone. Moreover, the construction of the Olympic Village is too large. As businessmen from Harbor City, Joe and I have already taken 70% and it’s already a lot.

“Meanwhile, you’re the local representative we elected.”

Jasper frowned and said, “I’m not in any faction.”

Jasper knew too much about how fierce the conflict between factions was. He did not intend to get involved unless it was the last resort.

“Jasper, you’ll find yourself to involuntarily be in many things when you reach a certain position. You’re from the Mainland, so you’ll naturally be regarded as being in the local faction.

“Plus, this is also to protect you. The others regard you as a local faction, but now you have a better relationship with us. When the time comes, you’ll be caught in the middle with enemies coming at you from both sides.”

Old Master Law cleared up the confusion in Jasper’s head.

“The surrounding of the local factions see me as an innate local faction, but in the eyes of their core, such as the W. Langdons, I’m on the side of Harbor City businessmen.”

Jasper frowned, his face thoughtful.

Old Master Law looked at Jasper with a faint smile. He did not disturb his thoughts and was waiting for him to continue his analysis.

“Caught between enemies... Who among the four rich families wants me dead? Is Kennedy so anxious?” Jasper suddenly looked up and said.

Old Master Law was really interested this time. “Why do you say Kennedy instead of Wallace?”

Jasper smiled bitterly. “Old Master, no matter how conceited I am, I’m not arrogant enough to think that Wallace needs to deal with me cautiously.

“On the contrary, it’s Kennedy. Ever since I met him, we haven’t been able to get along. Plus, judging from his attitude toward me tonight, he has tolerated me for a long time.

“As long as he has the opportunity, he certainly wouldn’t mind hitting me when I’m down.”

Old Master Law laughed and said, "Smart."

"In fact, this so-called alliance was initiated by Spencer by mediating and pulling strings in the middle of the proposal. The Boyles' focus has always been on the shipbuilding industry, but this industry relies too much on international trade. If there's turmoil, they're the first to be ruined.

"Spencer is now anxious to find other ways, but his ability falls short of his wishes. He wants to do it but he dare not try, so he proposed to make such an alliance. However, Joe and I are actually not optimistic about it.

"And you've analyzed the reason why just now."

Jasper sighed. "In that case, Spencer is probably also very dissatisfied with me as I broke up the alliance just now."

"If you're in our position, there's no satisfaction or dissatisfaction when you treat a person. It's nothing more than interest." Old Master Law waved his hand, and he was not bothered.

"I've discussed with Joe about the matter from just now. As long as you nod your head, it'll be done." Old Master Law smiled.

Jasper laughed and said, "I'm not in a hurry. After all, the whole plan doesn't even have a proposal. Besides, I don't think the locals will be willing to give up the Olympic Village."

"I'll let Zachary and the others follow up on this matter."

The old master got up and patted Jasper's arm. He said warmly, "Just do anything you want to do boldly. Young people should not be afraid of making mistakes. It's precisely that they have to make more mistakes while they're young so that they won't make any huge mistakes when they're old later."

Jasper got up and smiled. "Old Master, you should rest earlier. I'll remember your words."

Old Master Law smiled and nodded to Jasper before he walked out of the study.

At the entrance of the hotel suite, Zachary sent Jasper out.

"Uncle Law, you should go back too. You don't have to walk me out," Jasper said.

Zachary nodded. Then, he frowned suddenly and said, "Is Henry, that b*stard, doing something again?"

The image of Henry giving Lisa and Ben an evil smirk appeared in Jasper's head suddenly. He said embarrassingly, "He knows when he needs to stop."

"If he truly knows that, I wouldn't have to worry about him so much!"

"Their parents even complained to me, saying that Henry was carrying their son to the room where he stayed and threatened to mess their whole family up!

"What nonsense!"

Looking at the furious Zachary, Jasper silently wished Henry good luck in his heart. However, it was not strange for Henry to do such a thing judging by his temper.

"It has something to do with me this time, so you can't put all the blame on him." Jasper exculpated Henry.

Zachary frowned. "It has something to do with you? Then it seems that this kid is not completely useless. At least he knows who's close to him and who isn't now. Is he avenging you?"

If Henry were here, he would definitely wonder who was Zachary's biological son just from the difference in treatment.

"That kid still needs more training. You need to put in more work in this regard," Zachary said to Jasper.

Jasper nodded and smiled. "I'll treat him as my biological brother."

Zachary grinned. He was very satisfied with the answer.

While watching Jasper leave, Zachary suddenly said, "Be careful with the Langdons."

Jasper paused, nodded to Zachary, then turned and left.

In the car going back, Jasper was looking pensive.

Zachary's reminder sounded extremely unusual.

It was not about Kennedy, but about the Langdons.

Among these four families, there were two Langdons.

The other Langdon family was also cooperating with the Laws to develop the Olympic Village... This was going to be interesting.

When he was back in the hotel, Jasper had just stepped into the lobby when he saw Julian walking toward him. After Jasper saw his face, he sensed that there seemed to be an emergency.

"Jasper, I couldn't get through to you after calling you repeatedly. Something bad has happened," Julian said to Jasper when they met.

Jasper frowned and said, "I was in an important meeting and turned off my phone. What's the matter?"

"It's Henry, but I don't know what happened specifically... He just told me to find you as soon as possible. Jasper, hurry. Go up and have a look," Julian said.

During this time, the relationship between Henry and Julian was strangely well.

A top-notch young master and a top-notch master.

The two who were originally completely unrelated to each other actually had a common topic. Henry also liked this person who was ruthless but not talkative. The two had a good relationship in private, otherwise Julian would not be so worried about Henry.

"Let's talk upstairs."

Jasper said and walked into the elevator.

He had a hunch that his enemies had already begun to take action against him, and Henry might just be their attempt... However, who was so courageous to use the Laws as a touchstone for himself?

Life at the Top Chapter 414

After coming upstairs, Jasper saw Henry in the room. He was sitting on the sofa with a frown on his face.

"What happened?"

Seeing that Henry still had the mood to be mad, Jasper was a little relieved. It seemed that it was not a big deal, at least.

Upon hearing Jasper's voice, Henry raised his head. Only then did Jasper see his blood-red eyes.

"I got into huge trouble."

Henry gritted his teeth while feeling both regretful and angry. There was also a trace of inexplicable grievance.

"Do you think that you haven't been causing huge trouble already? In Anna's words, you grew up in trouble. What are you afraid of? Tell me what happened and I'll help you solve it." Jasper frowned.

Henry clenched his fists and punched down on his knees heavily. He then said in an extremely angry tone, "After I messed with Lisa and Ben a few days ago, I was in a good mood. So I went out to drink with my friends last night.

"However, I don't know what went on. The alcohol yesterday was particularly intoxicating so I got muddle-headed and I think I signed a few contracts... In Swallow Capital, I serve as the general manager of my family's branch here. The more I think about the contracts, the more I think there's something not right with them."

Speaking of this, Henry lifted his head to look at Jasper with fear and anxiety in his eyes. "The family's qualification for the application of the construction projects of the Olympic Village and the Honeycomb Stadium is all dealt with in this branch, and there's more than one billion in the account for the preparation of the project.

"If I had gotten confused and signed a contract that shouldn't be signed, my family will definitely suffer a great loss this time. I can't make a mistake at this critical moment."

While listening to Henry, Jasper's expression also gradually became serious.

If Henry had really, as he thought, stepped into a trap set by others, this matter would be very troublesome.

"The signature of the person in charge is only one of the prerequisites on the company's formal contract. They need the official stamp as well for it to take effect." Jasper frowned.

After finishing speaking, Jasper saw Henry rubbing his face in pain.

"Did you take the official stamp with you? Did you stamp it too?" Jasper asked.

Henry nodded with difficulty. His expression looked horrible, and he said with a lack of confidence, "According to the rules, the company stamp cannot be taken out of the company unless a special application is made. However, in some curious coincidence, I brought the official stamp out yesterday.

"I remember that I seemed to have stamped it..."

Henry finished speaking. His face was as horrible-looking as ash.

Jasper fell silent, pacing back and forth in the living room with his hands on his back.

Although his movements were slow, his brain was spinning fast.

He did not blame Henry. Although this kid really failed to live up to expectations, it had already happened. Even if Jasper chopped Henry into pieces, they still would not be able to change anything.

The top priority right now was to find a way to make up for it immediately.

"Where did you drink yesterday?" Jasper asked.

“The Dynasty in Santos,” Henry immediately replied. As he said that, he raised his head and looked at Jasper with hopeful eyes. “Do you have a way?”

“No.” Jasper shook his head, causing Henry’s eyes to go dark.

Life at the Top Chapter 415

“However, the most important thing now is to make sure whether you signed the contract last night, what contract you signed, and whether the bar has security cameras. The surveillance footage will be much more accurate than your memories. Let’s figure out what happened before we do anything.”

With the bar’s address, Jasper immediately picked up the phone and called Hector.

A local bully like Hector would be much more useful than any other person in this situation.

...

In a private club in Swallow Capital, Erik raised his eyes to Lisa and Ben who walked into the room while trembling all over.

These two people still had wounds on their faces. It was obvious that they had been beaten by the people Henry hired before.

“Did you get the stuff?” Erik asked.

Lisa nodded hurriedly. She took out a thick stack of documents from her bag and handed them to Erik.

After doing all this, Lisa took a step back and stood by Ben's side. The two looked at each other and noticed the panic in each other's eyes.

Erik took the documents and looked at the contents of the contract. As he flipped through the pages, the joy on his face became more obvious.

"I thought it would be just an attempt at best. I didn't have much hope for this but I didn't expect you two to actually succeed!" Erik said excitedly. Even the look he gave Lisa was much better now.

He stood up and touched the bruise on Lisa's face. He said softly, "How are you? Does it still hurt?"

Lisa shook her head. She was feeling aggrieved and sad. Then, she choked and said, "Erik, this is too serious. We really don't dare to get involved in this."

The smile on Erik's face grew brighter when he heard the words. He shook the contract in his hand and said, "You're already involved in this even if you don't want to. Yesterday, you took the drug I gave you, asked someone to get Henry drunk, and then made him sign this contract.

"So now, we're on the same boat. You have no choice but to do this with me to the end."

Lisa looked at Erik incredulously and said, "You told me yesterday morning that as long as we do this for you, we'll be able to get out of this and you'll get engaged to me too!"

Erik had a look of disgust in his eyes, but it was fleeting before a gentle smile appeared on his face. He said, "Of course, I'll get engaged to you. After all, you've helped me so much. Why would I abandon you?"

"However, you also know that we now have a common enemy. If we don't get rid of Henry and Jasper, we won't have a good life in the future. If you help me, it'll also mean that you're helping yourself."

As he said that, Erik chuckled, his eyes full of coldness. He looked at the contract in his hand and said coldly, “Now, not only have we obtained the Laws’ proposal for the Olympic Village, but we also got this stock transfer agreement!

“This is our biggest trump card. As long as we’re willing, we can completely crush the Laws’ entire plan. At that time, even my father will personally thank you two, let alone me.”

Lisa murmured, “Erik, are you giving this contract to your family?”

Erik narrowed his eyes and said coldly, “What’s the hurry? Now that we have the initiative, I also hope to use this contract to play with Henry and especially Jasper. Who does he think he is? How dare he climb up the ladder by stepping on my head?!

“This time, I want the two of them to pay for their arrogance from before!

“After squeezing their value clean, I’ll give this contract to my family. When that happens, Swallow Capital will only have my name while Jasper will be destined to be a poor little worm!”

Life at the Top Chapter 416

Santos. The Dynasty Bar.

At this time, it was approaching the evening and it was the peak hour for office workers to get off work. Meanwhile, the night owls were still sleeping, so the bar was very deserted.

At the entrance of the bar, Jasper and Henry got out of the car. Hector was waiting respectfully with a middle-aged man in a suit.

“Mr. Laine, Mr. Law.”

Upon seeing Jasper and Henry coming together, Hector hurriedly approached them and greeted them respectfully.

Henry was in a bad mood now, so he simply ignored Hector.

On the other hand, Jasper nodded and said, “Have you talked to them?”

Hector said hurriedly, “Yes, it’s done. This is Jared Wade, the owner of the bar.”

After hearing Hector introducing himself, Jared hurriedly bent over and said, “Mr. Laine, Mr. Law, hello. I’m the owner of this bar. If you need me for anything, just tell me and I’ll do it for you.”

If Jared was able to open a bar that covered such a large area in Santos of Swallow Capital, he already had more status and identity than most people in this society. He also drove a seventh-generation Mercedes S-Class, W140 series which was rarely seen in the Mainland nowadays. It was apparent that he was rich and powerful.

Yet, everyone would be afraid of comparisons whether it was money or power.

Jared tried his best to cling to Hector for his influence and status because Hector's status could help him operate his business smoothly.

However, Jared finally saw the true big shot today. After seeing Hector's careful and respectful look, Jared knew that these two young men in front of him were definitely not people he could afford to neglect.

"Thank you, Mr. Wade. What happened was my friend spent the night at your bar last night and something happened halfway. Now, we need to see your security footage. I wonder if it's convenient for you?" Jasper asked politely.

Jasper's code of conduct was not to be a flatterer when he was weaker than others, and not be cocky when he was stronger than others. As such, when he was facing Jared, his words made the other party feel comfortable.

Jared was taken aback and then said hurriedly, "Of course, it's convenient! Please come with me, sirs!"

They entered the bar and went straight to the surveillance room. Being the boss, Jared's instructions were immediately implemented. Soon, Jasper and Henry saw the entire bar's surveillance footage from last night on the monitor screens.

To be honest, the lighting in the bar was already dim and there were a lot of people dancing, so it should have been difficult to find Henry.

However, they did not expect that after the footage was released, everyone in the room discovered Henry immediately.

It was because this guy was too eye-catching.

Henry was standing on the sofa in the VIP deck. While on the soft sofa, he was surrounded by two girls as they held his waist while they shook theirs.

Meanwhile, Henry was holding a wine glass in one hand while pinching the chin of one of the girls with the other. He laughed maniacally and drenched her face with the wine.

Not only was the girl not angry, but she had a drunken expression on her face as she stuck out her tongue and licked the alcohol at the corner of her mouth as if she was intoxicated.

Next, Henry drew a large stack of cash from the wallet he carried with him. He then raised his hand and scattered the bills all over. In an instant, colorful banknotes began to rain down around him.

On the screen, the people around Henry were cheering wildly and scrambling for the money he was throwing out while he cackled maniacally. While looking at Henry through the screen, Jasper felt that Henry needed a good beating.

The expressions of the people in the room looked weird.

However, they forcibly held back their expressions.

Hector's eyes widened. To be honest, he felt that he and Henry were the same kind of people. Both of them were also second-generation young masters.

However, his idea of entertainment was like children playing house compared to what Henry did for entertainment.

He scattered money directly once there was a disagreement. Was this how the second-generation young masters of Harbor City had fun?

Life at the Top Chapter 417

Hector felt as if he had fallen behind the ranks and was dishonoring the reputation of second-generation young masters in the Mainland.

The expression on Henry's face looked a bit awkward. Although the sight of him acting this way was normal to him, he was not drunk now and was still sober after all.

The most important thing was that the death glare from Jasper was making him uncomfortable.

"Damn it, the f*ck are we looking at this for? Fast forward!"

Henry scolded the staff playing the surveillance footage with a dark expression on his face.

The staff quickly fast-forwarded the footage. As the footage jumped forward, it switched to Henry sitting on the sofa while holding a woman in his arms. They were feeding each other alcohol with their mouths...

Henry wanted to yell at someone.

He wanted to swear, Harbor City-style!

When Henry could not take this and wanted to continue fast-forwarding, they saw the woman who was in Henry's arms taking out a thick stack of papers before handing it to Henry.

"Pause."

Jasper and Henry said at the same time.

The footage stopped, and they could see that Henry's expression on the monitor was strange as if he was drunk but not really. It seemed as if he had fallen into a psychedelic state.

Meanwhile, they could vaguely see that there was a lot of content on the papers in the woman's hands. However, it was not clear what was on it.

"Can you zoom in?" Jasper asked.

Jared said awkwardly, "Mr. Laine, our surveillance cameras just provide a general view and there's no way to zoom in."

Jasper frowned slightly and motioned them to continue playing the footage.

In the footage, Henry did not read the contents of the contract at all before signing his name directly with a big stroke. When he was done, he took out a stamp and rubbed it against the woman's lips. With a touch of the woman's gorgeous lipstick on the official stamp, he slammed it down on the contract heavily.

After Henry had done all this, the woman passed the contract to a waiter. After the waiter took the contract, the two of them turned around and disappeared immediately.

"Who's that waiter?" Jasper looked at Jared.

Jared said hurriedly, "That person is called Mark Doyle. He came to work with us last month."

"Bring him over to me," Jasper said solemnly.

Hector was afraid that Jared would carry out his task sloppily after seeing Jasper's horrible expression. As such, he said, "Wade, hurry up and get him. Don't delay for even a minute or you'll be in serious trouble."

How would Jared dare to dilly-dally? He hurriedly ran out of the surveillance room.

Henry looked embarrassed. He sighed and said, "It's so f*cking weird. Even if I were to play around, I wouldn't have drunk so much. Why does it look like I saw a ghost last night?"

"You were drugged," Jasper said calmly.

Henry suddenly raised his head and stared at Jasper. He said, "Now that you've said that, I think it's really possible. I got up today and was so confused. What happened last night felt like a dream. I can't remember many details. I even forgot what the woman looked like."

"This was a conspiracy that was carefully arranged against you. The other party came prepared, so naturally, they would use some means." Jasper sighed.

Henry gritted his teeth and cursed, "If I find out who's behind this, I'll kill them!"

More than ten minutes later, the door of the surveillance room opened. Then, Jared kicked a young man into the surveillance room.

"Mr. Laine, Mr. Law, he's here," Jared said, pointing to Mark who fell on the ground with a look of horror.

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Jasper seated himself on the sofa. He was about to give Henry a meaningful look to ask him to go and inquire about the situation when he saw Henry already walking over with an expression as black as thunder.

Henry grabbed Mark's collar and hauled him bodily up from the ground. Fixing his attention on Mark, he growled "Boy, I'm not going to threaten you or intimidate you.

"But whatever I ask you after this, you'd better give me an honest answer. If you so much as keep even the smallest detail from me, I'll drag your whole family into the mountains and bury them alive!"

Mark was so terrified he almost wept in fear. What did Henry mean, that he would not use threats or intimidation?

Was this not the most f*cking barefaced, direct attempt at threat and intimidation?!

Under interrogation from everyone in the room, Mark did not keep anything back at all and readily revealed everything that he knew.

"Brother, boss, all I really know is this—honest. A young man informed me that in the evening, a woman would order a Pink Lady cocktail with double mint and sea salt. Guests who usually drink Pink Lady cocktails won't add sea salt to them, so that was considered to be something like a secret signal.

"After getting the signal, I was supposed to head over and she would hand me something. I was then supposed to bring it to the back door and hand it over to that young man. I don't know who either of them were, the man or the woman."

Mark trembled as he spoke, regret filling the pit of his stomach.

If he had known that he would end up like this today, just from earning that extra 1000 dollars, he would not have dared to take on the job even if he were beaten to death.

He had thought that he had made some easy money, but alas, there was no such thing as a free lunch, so to speak.

“Brother, that person gave me 1000 dollars. How about this—I give you the money and you don’t give me any more trouble? I’m just someone who came here from abroad to work. I can’t afford to offend any of you,” Mark pleaded with Henry as he swallowed and took the money out from the pocket of his trousers.

Henry’s expression was ominous. Cursing, he snarled, “The f*ck. Do you know that you helped someone to swindle me out of over a billion dollars yesterday? And in the end, you’re just giving me back 1000 dollars? You think I’m only worth that much !?”

“Let it be.” Jasper patted Henry on the shoulder and said, “It’s useless now even if you tear him to shreds. He’s just an errand boy. In the end, you’re still the one who’ll be disappointed.”

After pulling Henry away, Jasper asked Mark, “Would you be able to recognize the man you saw last night if you see him again?”

Mark seemed to sense that Jasper was the only ‘good guy’ present. Nodding his head as if kowtowing, he replied “I’m really good at identifying people—I’ve been that way since I was a child. I’ll definitely be able to recognize him!”

“Very well. For the next few days, you’ll stay here then. Don’t go anywhere. I may send someone to pick you up at any time.” Jasper gave Mark a smile.

Jasper then got up and glanced over at Jared. In a warm, amiable tone, he said, “Mr. Wade, this employee of yours is still useful to us. For the next few days, let him rest and not go to works. We’ll pay his salary. What do you think?”

Jared nodded hurriedly and bowed slightly, protesting, “Mr. Laine, please, what are you saying? He is my employee—of course I should be the one paying his salary. You mustn’t talk like that. I really don’t deserve such kindness from you.”

As he spoke, Jared turned to Mark and said pleasantly, “Markie, I won’t assign you to any of the shifts for the next few days, so you can have a good rest. Once you’re done helping Mr. Laine out, I’ll promote you to a foreman’s position, so work hard, alright?”

Mark, who had just received a blessing in disguise, looked both surprised and pleased. He nodded hurriedly in agreement.

Upon exiting the bar, Jasper’s party got into the car and left under Jared’s incomparably cordial and courteous eye.

On the way back to the hotel, Henry curled his lips and said, “Why did you treat them so politely? Look at that Wade—he couldn’t wait to lick your boots.”

Jasper said blandly, “Dealing with others can be as simple or as complicated as you make it. Previously, Mr. Wade helped you handle some business because he was under pressure from Hector Combe.

“However, if you really treat him like an underling and boss him around, he won’t cooperate with you, or he might even sell you out to others. Who do you think will be on the losing end then?”

Life at the Top Chapter 419

Henry raised an eyebrow and said, “Does he dare? Coincidentally, I’m so pissed and don’t know where to direct my anger. If he dares make any small moves, I’ll tear him down together with the bar.”

Jasper said as he rubbed his temples, “That’s the reason why you get into trouble easily. You can mess with the leader with no problem but it’s the uncooperative subordinates who will be difficult to deal with. Even if you tear him down after things are done, we would still have made a loss. Can you make up for it if you tear him down? You’ll only be able to give yourself a breath of release.

“If you were more courteous with him, he would respect you even more. He must definitely be thinking now about how he can help us handle things and protect our secrets. So, if things are successful, we wouldn’t even have any trouble with anyone. It’s a win-win situation.”

Henry did not respond to Jasper’s remarks. Hector, who was driving, instead looked thoughtful and seemed to understand from experience.

Henry said sullenly, “You people, your heads are full of twists and turns. I don’t understand it and don’t want to figure it out. I just want to get my hands on the person who messed with me and turn them into ashes!”

“I already have an idea,” Jasper said.

Henry’s eyes widened. If he were not in a car, he would have jumped.

“Then, what are you waiting for? Let’s go straight to his door and f*ck him up!” Henry shouted.

“What’s the rush?” Jasper glared at Henry. “If they dare do something like this, they would be prepared for the aftermath. If you go up to their door so recklessly and without any evidence, they’ll instead be the ones who have information against you. Who’ll be the one to lose their reputation and dignity then?”

Henry asked through gritted teeth, “First, tell me who it is.”

Jasper said lightly, “There are no few people in Swallow City who hate either you or me. At the same time, there are only a few who hate the two of us. Consider those who have the guts and capability to act, who do you think it is?”

Henry thought for a moment before asking, “Are you saying it’s Erik Turner?”

“It’s a 90% probability,” Jasper said calmly.

“Damn, I knew this kid and all his tricks would not be easy to deal with. To think that he backstabbed me two days ago, pretending to be all pleasing and nice but was already secretly conspiring! I will kill him one day!” Henry said angrily.

Driving in the front, Hector’s hands jolted till the point he almost could not hold onto the steering wheel firmly.

He had thought that he was just helping Jasper handle a small matter. He did not expect that he would become involved in a fight with Jasper, Henry, and Erik.

His small body would not be able to stand this battle of the titans.

“Hector.” Jasper’s voice sounded, causing Hector to immediately collect his thoughts.

“Yes, Mr. Laine, what are your orders?” he asked.

Jasper smiled and said, “I don’t have any orders but I would like to ask you for help. You heard everything at the bar previously. Please use your contacts and

check the surveillance around the back door of the bar. Work with Jared and locate the person he made contact with as soon as possible.”

After Jasper said this, Henry turned to look at Hector and patted his shoulder as he drove with a grin, “We had a misunderstanding in the past. But we’re all friends now that this misunderstanding is resolved. I’ll be the host the next time you and your brother come to Harbor City.”

Hector was taken aback for a moment before an unhindered smile broke upon his face.

This was a good opportunity to connect with Henry!

He did not bother about the battle between titans anymore and hurriedly said, “Okay! I’ll do it!”

Jasper chuckled and said nothing. Henry had used his wits well enough.

Life at the Top Chapter 420

If one could comprehend something when other people had guided them, that was being savvy—it was cleverness.

If one could subconsciously learn while actively applying something after another’s guidance and then immediately turn it into one’s own means of conducting everyday life, then that was wisdom.

As a first-rate heir, Henry had received the most elite education ever since he was young. Whether it was the influence of his family or his environment, he would only be smarter and have more advantages than ordinary people.

Not every heir or heiress was feeble-minded.

Henry was a little stubborn and mischievous, but it was undeniable that he was indeed a diamond in the rough.

He could shoulder great responsibility with a little carving and polishing.

Therefore, Jasper was very satisfied with Henry's performance now.

At the very least, Jasper finally had some confidence in Zachary and Old Master Law's expectations in letting him coach Henry.

A harsh beating from the real world was the best teaching material. Jasper reckoned that it might not be a bad thing to let Henry suffer a big loss this time.

After returning to the hotel, Hector rushed to work relentlessly while Jasper and Henry returned to the room to discuss the next strategy.

Fortunately, after Old Master Law came, Anna went to stay in the same hotel as Old Master Law to take care of him. Meanwhile, Henry stayed behind because he was afraid of getting lectured.

If Anna were still here, this matter could not be kept hidden for long.

"Right now, we can only locate the person first and see if we can follow the clues to come up with some evidence. The current situation is very disadvantageous for you and me. The main thing is we don't know what exactly they made you sign and how they're going to use these things."

Jasper analyzed as he sat in the study, pouring a cup of tea for Henry and himself.

Henry said with a grimace, "It feels like there's always an invisible bomb by my side."

At this moment in the hotel's parking lot.

Lisa and Ben were sitting in the car, and the atmosphere was somewhat heavy.

"Lisa, I feel like Young Master Turner is sending us to our deaths," Ben said with a dissatisfied expression.

Lisa took a deep breath. She stared at the tall and glorious hotel building in front of her and said, "What are you afraid of? We now have Henry's fate in our hands. What else do they still dare to do to us?"

Ben said with a frown, "But why didn't Young Master Turner come by himself to fish for information about Jasper and Henry and have us come instead?"

Lisa said through gritted teeth, "Didn't you hear Young Master Turner say that he has other matters to attend to? Cousin, don't think too much. Now that we've already gotten involved with this matter, it's impossible to pull out even if we want to.

"Do you think Henry and Jasper will let us go after everything has been exposed? If we don't do a good job for Erik, he won't even care about us when the time comes. We'd really be tethering at the end of our ropes then."

Ben made up his mind upon hearing this. With a deep voice, he said, "You're right, we have no choice now. Think about how Henry treated us before. Not only us, but even our parents were thoroughly disgraced! We must avenge them!"

The two of them got out of the car and entered the hotel after finishing their discussion.

Ben took a deep breath as he came to the door of the room. Just when he was about to knock on the door, the door opened from the inside.

Looking at the expressionless Julian, Ben said coldly, "Are Jasper and Henry here? I want to meet with them."

“Wait here,” Julian uttered the two words coolly, turned around, and entered the room.

Jasper’s voice came from the room after a moment, “Come in.”

“How arrogant,” Ben sneered and brought Lisa into the suite.

Jasper sat on the sofa in the living room of the suite, looking at Ben and Lisa who walked in.

“Where’s Henry?” Ben asked when he did not see Henry after sweeping his gaze around upon walking in.

“He went out to run errands,” Jasper said playfully, “I initially thought it was Erik behind the scenes, but I didn’t expect the two of you to be meddling in this too. Now that I think about it, Erik must be afraid to be exposed and criticized. He doesn’t dare to get involved in some dirty business, so the two of you are his best tools.”

Ben and Lisa’s complexions changed. The latter stepped forward and said, “I don’t understand what you’re saying.”

“It doesn’t matter if you understand or not. Anyways, you two have to make the purpose of your presence clear. If you have anything to say, just say it,” Jasper said indifferently.

Ben sneered as he stared at Jasper and said, “The way you pretend to be all dignified is really disgusting.”

“Your attitude was much better when we met backstage during the banquet a few days ago than it is now,” Jasper said playfully.

Ben was overcome by anger when he suddenly recalled the time he had apologized to Jasper humbly but still got humiliated.

“Don’t think that you can be so haughty just because you have power. I’m telling you, there are way more people in this world who have better means than you. Who do you think you are? Have you heard of the phrase ‘pride comes before a fall’?” Ben berated.

Lisa sneered and spoke up immediately after, “Yeah, I can’t stand people like you the most. Pretending as though you’re the most amazing person, aren’t you disgusting?”

“Erik asked you two to come to talk about this nonsense?” Jasper asked.

Lisa scoffed and said, “Of course not. We’re here today to inform you and Henry that Young Master Turner will get the stock transfer procedures done soon. When the time comes, everything you and the Laws did in Swallow Capital will be accredited to Young Master Turner.

“And the money... The Laws are really rich, huh? The account of the branch company in Swallow Capital contains more than a billion.

“Young Master Turner is also very interested in the Olympic Village project proposal. He asked us to send word to thank you for putting forward your plans and ideas, increasing Young Master Turner’s certainty in seizing the Olympic Village project.”

Jasper looked at both of them and said flatly, “Both of you tricked Henry into signing the contract with underhanded means, but that can be completely invalidated. Don’t you know the law?”

Ben let out a loud laugh and said, “File a lawsuit if you have the guts. We have time to engage in this lawsuit with you. It’s written in black and white with the company seal. Do you think the foul play can cover up the fact? Do you think the court will listen to your one-sided statement or look at the evidence?”

Lisa sneered and said, "Are you angry? I bet you must be so angry now, right? After all, you're about to lose such a big project, and that's more than a billion dollars worth of loss. If I were you, I might as well go and jump off a building."

"Haha, this is the consequences of going against Young Master Turner. Before this, you really thought that you were so great when Young Master Turner fell back a little bit. But you don't know that once he strikes, there'll be no room for you guys to even defy him!" Ben said proudly.

At this moment, the door was pushed open.

From outside the door, Henry sullenly threw in a man he had caught.

The battered man rolled and crawled his way into the room. As soon as he looked up, he suddenly locked eyes with both Lisa and Ben.

"It's you!"

"It's you!"

"It's you two!"

The three of them exclaimed simultaneously, their faces filled with horror.

Life at the Top Chapter 421

Jasper did not recognize the man Henry threw in.

However, seeing the furious look on Henry's face, Jasper knew that this man must be the one who had made contact with Mark last night.

Mark was first tracked down through the surveillance footage at the bar. Mark then identified the man who had made contact with him with the surveillance footage of the road outside.

Jasper had previously thought that this man was personally set up by Erik, but now it seemed that Ben and Lisa were the ones standing in between all this.

These two were the ones who had executed the plan.

"Why are these two idiots here?" Henry saw Lisa and Ben with their horrified expressions. He narrowed his eyes and asked.

Jasper smiled. He pointed at the man Henry threw in and said, "You'll have to ask him to find out then."

The man was also sharp. It was obvious that he had witnessed Henry's greatness before, so he did not keep anything from him at this moment. He just cried and said, "Sir, please spare me, sir. I'm just an errand boy, I don't know anything."

"It's the two of them!" The man pointed at Lisa and Ben and shouted, "These two found me the day before yesterday and told me to look for two suitable individuals, saying that they were going to set them up. So I went to look for people according to their plan and instructions."

“Although I was the one who found them, I don’t know anything about this, much less about them going against you, sir. Please forgive me. I was wrong, I know I was wrong.”

The man said while weeping bitter tears. He turned over and knelt on the floor. He groveled profusely to Henry and begged for mercy.

It was somewhat unbearable to look at this appearance of his.

However, Henry sneered and said, “Do you take me for a fool? When I f*cking grabbed you off a woman earlier, you had four to five thugs working for you. That’s not what you said back then. What’s the matter? Are you scared now that you’ve seen me mad and after I beat you up?”

Jasper had roughly guessed that after looking at the injuries on the man kneeling on the ground and the tattoos littering all over his exposed arms that this man was probably no good.

After Lisa and Ben found him, the three of them had also hit it off.

To say how much this thug knew would be overestimating him. In this case, however, he was the main culprit who set up Mark and the two girls. At least there was no denying that one of them was an accomplice.

At this moment, the expressions on Lisa and Ben could be described as spectacular.

They had never expected to be played like this when it was a situation that was supposed to be them showing off due to having the upper hand.

God knew how Henry suddenly caught the thug that they found.

The two were regretful. They should have cleared the traces and clues they left in the bar before.

“What the f*ck are you talking about?!”

Ben reacted immediately. He pointed at Kane and cursed, “I think you’re crazy, or are you tired of living? How dare you slander me?”

Fear flashed across Kane’s face when Ben said that, but compared to confronting Henry at this moment, Kane obviously found Henry to be more terrifying.

As such, Kane spoke through gritted teeth, “Ben Hull, don’t blame your pal for betraying you. I had already asked you guys if you wanted me to disappear for a while, but you guys were not willing to pay me 100,000 dollars in allowance for me to settle elsewhere. Now that I’m caught, I have nothing to say. Either way, you guys ordered me to do this.”

Ben turned pale and was so incensed he almost coughed up blood.

Life at the Top Chapter 422

Kane had indeed asked him earlier about whether he should get out of the country to lie low until the fuss died down, but he needed 100,000 dollars in funds to settle down.

Ben had thought that Kane was deliberately trying to blackmail him and when he thought of Erik who was still their backing, he ignored Kane entirely in the end.

Who would have thought that the outcome now would be Kane getting caught by Henry and Jasper?

At this moment, Ben not only felt angry and annoyed but also a little embarrassed.

“You f*cking shut your trap!”

Seeing that the matter had been completely exposed, Ben might as well throw caution to the wind. He sneered at Jasper and Henry while saying loudly, “So what if I used some tricks? Now that the matter is done, it’s useless even if you make a fuss about it!”

“On the other hand, I’d really like to see you both have a meltdown knowing that you won’t dare to do anything to me, hahaha!”

“Why is a Law like you so stupid? Taking the bait with just a few tricks and two women. You really think you’re all that with this kind of conduct? Let me tell you this, Law, if it weren’t for the Law family, you would’ve been done for early on being as stupid as you are!”

After Ben said this, he pointed his finger at Jasper and sneered, “The same goes for you. Don’t think of yourself as some maverick. There are many people in this world who are stronger than you. This bit of ability of yours is nothing.”

“Think you can act all high and mighty just cause you hosted the banquet? What in the f*cking hell? Those big shots at the party were all aiming for those at the top. How influential do you think you are? Let me tell you this now. You, Jasper Laine, are just a piece of trash in my eyes!”

After saying all this only did Ben feel the weight lift from his shoulders. All the frustrations and grievances that had been accumulating and repressed for so long were all vented out at this moment.

He felt light from head to toe, and it felt good beyond belief!

Just as he was about to admire Jasper and Henry’s unsightly faces, he heard Lisa shout in surprise beside him. Before he could turn his head to look, a fist had already hit him in the face.

The punch knocked Ben to the ground. Henry went over, raised his leg, and stomped on him several times.

Henry's ashen face looked really angered this time and he was nearly beating Ben to death on the ground.

Ben screamed miserably while Lisa panicked. She wanted to go over and hold Henry back, but Henry sent her flying with a slap.

"Fool, you have sh*t for brains! Go die on the street!"

"F*ck you!! Don't think that just because this is the Mainland that I wouldn't dare throw you into the sea to feed the fish! You even tried to set me up, I'll kill you!"

"Eat sh*t!"

Seeing that Henry was almost killing Ben, Jasper motioned to Julian who was grinning beside him to go up and pull him back.

Only then did Julian walk over and grab Henry who had gone almost mad

Henry, who was being pulled away by Julian, was still pointing to the ground at Ben who could not get up anymore. He cursed, "F*ck your mom! You're just a dog and you dare fight me? I even dare to tie your boss Erik up and feed him to the fishes, much less you!"

Jasper got up and walked in front of Ben. Seeing the other's bloody face and how he was struggling hard to get up, he slapped him on the shoulder.

Jasper took a paper towel and wiped the blood from Ben's face slowly, saying warmly, "Bring this message back to Erik. Since he's tired of living, I'll kill him now."

If he has any tricks, he should use them up fast because I'm afraid he won't have much time and won't be able to enjoy the gift that I'll be giving him."

Life at the Top Chapter 423

Ben looked at Jasper in horror.

Henry had given Ben quite the fright earlier, but when he looked at Jasper's calm and tranquil expression, he suddenly realized that the most terrifying person in the world was not the one who would hit you with a fist.

Instead, it was someone like Jasper, one who was clearly talking to you in an amicable manner yet could send chills down your spine.

Ben regretted provoking Jasper.

He also felt a great sense of remorse for seeking revenge after he was humiliated by Henry. Why did he not just grit his teeth and let this matter drop?

Now, he had not only turned into Erik's pawn, but he had also offended Jasper greatly.

If Erik won this battle in the end, then he would have nothing to worry about. If Jasper won, however, then Ben could not even begin to imagine the horrible consequences he would face.

It would definitely be more terrifying than death itself!

While gritting his teeth, Ben wiped the blood on his nose and stood up with Lisa's help.

“I’ll definitely pass on your message!” Ben spoke between clenched teeth.

“Hopefully you will,” Jasper said lightly.

Ben and Lisa dared not say another word. No one could tell for sure if Henry would rush over and beat them up again.

If they got beaten by Henry here, then there was simply nothing they could do because they could not return the punches at all.

The two held each other and walked to the door. As soon as they opened the door, they heard Jasper’s voice.

“Many times, you will only have one chance. I hope you make the right decision because the consequences will be really serious if you don’t.”

When Ben and Lisa heard what Jasper said, they trembled at the same time for some reason.

After taking a deep breath, Ben endured the pain in his body and said, “Thanks for the reminder, but the humiliation I received today will soon be returned to you twofold! Just wait and see!”

Having said that, Ben pulled Lisa out the door.

“Damn, he still has quite the guts to provoke me, huh?” There was a fierce and sinister look in Henry’s eyes. He looked as though he was about to rush over and beat Ben up.

However, it was at this moment that Jasper waved his hand and said, “Forget it, you’ve already beaten him once. If you beat him to death, things will not only get more difficult to deal with. It’s also not going to help either.”

“What should we do now?” Henry looked at Jasper.

Jasper did not answer Henry but instead looked at Kane and asked, "What's written in the document you gave Ben?"

Kane was frightened out of his wits by the way Henry hit Ben earlier. Although Kane was a hoodlum who had experienced street fights more ferocious than this, it still boiled down to who the other party was.

If it were an ordinary ruffian, then he would not even care if Henry beat him up or not, and if Henry crippled him, then Kane could just pay the fella some money.

However, the man that Henry bashed up was Ben!

Kane knew that Ben was a really wealthy trust fund baby. A young master like him could easily find someone to kill a gangster like himself, let alone someone like Henry who could easily trample Ben to the ground till he could not even move a hair.

Kane did not know Jasper and Henry's identities specifically, but after the incident earlier, he knew that these two were surely not people he could provoke.

"I..." Kane avoided eye contact, stammering for a very long time while unable to say a word.

"I don't know who you are," Jasper said in a calm and direct manner, interrupting Kane's stammering.

"But I can tell that you're not a good citizen who abides by the law. Trust me, if you upset me, then I have many ways to throw you in prison. You're not going to have an easy life either."

After hearing what Jasper said, Kane's complexion changed. When he recalled Ben's tragic end, the last bit of hesitation in his heart dispersed completely. He said, "When I handed the things over to Ben earlier, I took a few photos in secret."

As Kane spoke, he took out his phone.

Jasper took the phone while Henry quickly leaned over to take a look.

Life at the Top Chapter 424

Even though this was a pretty ordinary-looking Nokia, it was worth a great deal of money in this era.

Though the pixels were awful, the pictures Kane took were really clear, so the contents were still pretty visible.

“The stock transfer agreement and the proposal for Olympic Village.”

Jasper had already made guesses when Ben arrived, and the contract written in black and white that was presented before their eyes confirmed his speculations.

“Darn it!”

Henry was livid, and there was a flash of panic in his eyes. He gritted his teeth and hissed. “He’s tricky alright! He’s taking out his ultimate move already, huh?!”

“They’ve not only taken away the stocks, but they’ve also taken away the project proposal!”

“Never mind the stocks. Worst comes to worst, we’ll just lose a little over a billion, but we can’t afford to lose this project. This concerns the Laws’ business topology in decades to come. Even my dad can’t handle this, let alone me.”

Kane was frightened out of his wits when he heard what Henry said.

What family did he come from?

They did not even mind losing billions?

Kane would have thought that the duo was filming a movie had he not known that this was impossible.

“What happens now?”

In just a few minutes, Henry had already asked Jasper this question twice.

Henry did not even notice that he was completely regarding Jasper as his strongest backing.

His first reaction when something major like this happened was not to go to Zachary or Anna to discuss countermeasures, but instead, it was to ask Jasper for help.

Jasper pondered while frowning before saying, “We’ll wait.”

“Wait!?” Henry stared at Jasper with his eyes wide open. “The fire is already burning my bum and we’re still waiting? Are we waiting for this fire to burn me alive?”

“Impatience isn’t going to solve anything.” Jasper sighed. “Frankly speaking, we’re in an unfavorable situation right now. Erik has the upper hand, so we can only wait for him to make a move and think of a way to deal with it.”

Henry’s mouth twitched as he snarled. “We have nothing to lose anyway. Worst comes to worst, I’ll just go back and come clean about this to Grandpa. We’ll fight it out with the Turners. Let’s see who will beg for mercy first!”

Jasper smiled and said, “If the Turners intend to fight it out with you, they wouldn’t have sent Lisa and Ben at all.

“Erik did so of his own accord. His family probably doesn’t know about it yet. We can still save the situation.”

Henry sighed, then sat down on the couch dejectedly. He said in frustration, “It’s all my fault.”

Jasper patted Henry on the shoulder and said, “There’s no use in being depressed when things go wrong. First find a way to solve the problem, wait for it to pass, then look back and see what you’re lacking. Learn from your mistakes, and even if you paid a hefty price for it, it will not be for naught.”

As Jasper spoke, his phone rang.

He did not recognize the number.

When Jasper connected the call, Erik’s calm and relaxed voice was heard. “Mr. Laine, I heard that Mr. Henry has plenty of energy now, eh? I’m surprised he still has the energy to beat someone up.”

Jasper replied mildly, “Looks like Ben did a really good job passing on my message as soon as he left the door.”

Erik chuckled softly. “Of course. It’s just one sentence. It’s not that difficult for him to do.”

Jasper replied, “It’s not hard to pass on a message. What’s hard is how we’re planning to solve this.”

Erik laughed and said, “Don’t play dumb riddles with me. Let’s have a talk at 5:30 in the afternoon in the InterContinental Hotel, how’s that?”

“I’ll be there on time.”

Life at the Top Chapter 425

When Jasper hung up the phone, Henry asked him in a hurry, "Erik?"

Jasper nodded. "He invited us for dinner at the InterContinental Hotel at 5:30 in the afternoon."

"Hehe, looks like we're in for a negotiation," Henry said calmly.

"He holds the bargaining chip, so it's only natural for him to maximize his profits. Let's see what he says," Jasper said.

Henry exhaled deeply and said in a deep voice, "There's no need for us to humble ourselves either. I was the one who started this mess, so I'll take responsibility for it. Like I said, worst comes to worst, I'll just go back and come clean to Grandpa.

"We may be at fault, but Erik broke the rules first. Our family won't let this matter drop so easily. Do you think Erik has the guts to make the Laws start a full-scale war with the Turners?"

"No." Jasper shook his head and narrowed his eyes slightly.

"Things are very complicated in Swallow Capital right now. The local faction and Harbor City's businessmen all have their eyes on the Olympic construction project. A minor change can affect the entire project. If we can't handle this properly, then we'll be in big trouble. Therefore, we must keep the situation under control.

"We can't lower our guard either. Look, why don't you go and get a few things sorted out first?"

“First, transfer out all the funds in the company.

“Secondly, prepare an alternate project proposal for the Olympic Village construction plan.

“Thirdly...”

...

At 5:30 in the afternoon, Jasper, Henry, and Julian appeared at the InterContinental Hotel’s Imperial Ballroom on time.

The ballroom was big enough to accommodate more than 20 people dining in at the same time, but tonight, there were only six people in this vast area.

Lisa, Ben, Erik, Jasper, Henry, and Julian.

When Erik saw Jasper walking in, he laughed and got up to greet him, “Ah, our most distinguished guest. Please, come in.”

Henry looked coldly at Erik, who was full of smiles, and curled his lips. He said, “Stop pretending, Turner. We’re all the same, so why bother putting on a phony show? Who are you putting on a performance for? Seeing a hypocrite like you sickens me.”

Erik was nonchalant and continued to wear a smile on his face, saying, “I heard that you’re in a really bad mood these days, Henry, and they were right. Winter is slowly coming to Swallow Capital and the air is getting drier. Don’t get too angry or it’s going to be bad for your health.”

Henry almost lost it and was eager to hurl a punch at Erik’s face. He said through clenched teeth, “My mood has never been better. It’s so good that I can’t help but want to trample on your stupid face when I see you.”

“Are all people from Harbor City so low class?” Lisa stood up and said sarcastically.

Henry turned around abruptly and stared coldly at Lisa. “Looks like you’re itching for a beating because I didn’t beat you up earlier, huh? Do you really think I won’t hit ladies? Make me mad and I’ll hit you regardless.”

Lisa’s expression changed. Despite her anger, she was quite apprehensive of the madman that was Henry. She had just witnessed the horror this man could cause when he was infuriated.

However, Erik was present at the moment, so Lisa, who was fueled with a considerable amount of confidence, retorted, “What else do you know aside from hurling punches? Only incompetent people hurl punches.”

Henry snorted. “You witch! You must have a death wish, huh?”

At this moment, Ben pulled Lisa aside, motioning her to stop talking. He said coldly, “Sit down, Lisa. It’s no use talking to people like that. The angrier he is, the more guilty and fearful he is. Don’t you find it really interesting to see the look on his face right now?”

Life at the Top Chapter 426

As he had just gotten beat up by Henry during the day, Ben's nose was still wrapped in gauze. His voice sounded muffled when he spoke, but his gaze carried bone-deep bitterness.

Erik smiled slightly while looking at Jasper and saying, "I'm so glad you're here today, Mr. Laine. We can finally make negotiations. After all, negotiations are key to solving problems. If our negotiations don't work, only then we'll display our own ability. What do you say?"

Jasper said calmly, "Get straight to the point. Stop using two mediocre and insignificant characters to breed enmity. That's just plain boring. Make your offer."

Jasper's words were tantamount to the punches Henry hurled at Ben during the day.

Ben and Lisa's expressions changed immediately.

From Jasper's words, anyone could tell that he did not regard them as humans at all. How could they possibly stand the humiliation when he called them mediocre and insignificant characters?

With a bang, Lisa screamed at Jasper while pointing at him, "Who do you think you are, Jasper Laine? What are you so proud of? Don't forget that we still hold a bargaining chip that can cost you dearly. Aren't you afraid that this negotiation will fail and all your plans will fall apart?"

Jasper looked at Lisa and smiled. "Sounds good."

Sounds good?!

Everyone was dumbfounded.

They all looked at Jasper in astonishment, not knowing how those two words came out of his mouth.

Lisa was even more astonished. Jasper should have flown into a rage after hearing what she said, no? Perhaps he would even show humility. However, what did he mean by 'sounds good'?!

“Frankly speaking, Erik is the one who orchestrated this. You have neither the brain nor the guts. The only reason why you two are able to participate in this is that Erik doesn't want his plan to fall through or be exposed, nor does he want to stain his hands. You guys are just his gloves.”

Jasper smiled and continued calmly, “A pair of blood-stained gloves can be thrown away at any time. You must know your worth.

“If all fails, then I can just turn around and walk away, no big deal. Feel free to deal with the Laws yourself. Think about it, when that happens, do you think Erik will let you off? Or will the raging Laws let you off?”

A strange air lingered over Lisa, Ben, and Erik following Jasper's words.

They were swayed by the things Jasper said, and their distrust for each other intensified.

Lisa and Ben looked nervous as they stared warily at Erik.

Erik, however, looked calm. He stared at Jasper and said, “You're really great at sowing dissension, aren't you, Mr. Laine? Oh, I concede defeat.”

Jasper looked at Erik coldly and said, “I don't think it's necessary for us to eat this meal together. Tell us your conditions straight away. I'm a busy man. I don't have time to waste blabbering nonsense with you here.”

Erik smiled and said, "Since you want me to get straight to it, I'll dive right into it then. My request is simple. I can return everything to you but at a price of five billion. Also, I want you and Henry... to get down on your knees!"

The smile on Erik's face vanished abruptly when he said the last six words, his expression turning cold and sinister instead. He looked like a demon that had ripped its mask apart and was finally baring its fangs.

Lisa and Ben laughed wildly as soon as he said those words, gloating.

In comparison, Jasper and Henry's expressions sank deeply.

As for Julian, his entire being was enveloped in a murderous aura. As long as Jasper gave him the command, he would not hesitate to pounce on Erik and rip him apart.

Julian had now regarded Jasper as his lifesaver. When he started striking someone, he could not care less if the other party was a young master or if they had a noble status. In his opinion, it was just a matter of a click and twist.

Life at the Top Chapter 427

"Jasper Laine and Henry Law, you don't know what to say anymore, huh? Hmm? Are you still pleased with yourself? Still so full of yourself?"

Ben covered his sore nose and said bitterly, "Let's see whether you can keep being so arrogant. I'd like to see who goes down first!"

"Can't you hear? Are you deaf or are your ears full of sh*t? Young Master Turner asked you to get down on your knees!"

Lisa looked extremely complacent, eager to jump up and stare straight into Jasper's face. She said, "You were so full of yourself earlier, no? Weren't you all smug and self-righteous? You're really good at pretending, aren't you? Go on then, I'd like to see how you can keep pretending!"

"Wendy must've been blind to have fallen in love with you. I'd love to see the look on your face when you get down on your knees. I'll let Wendy know so that she'll realize what a wuss her man is. Hahaha!

"I bet Wendy will give up on you after that. Only I, Ben Hull, can be her Mr. Right—only I am worthy of her!"

Ben had gone almost completely insane, his anger and frustration exploding all at once at this moment.

He looked at Jasper and Henry ferociously then let out a burst of wild laughter. "I've waited for this moment for so long! When you go down on your knees, I'll take Wendy away and make you watch!"

Erik crossed his arms and said indifferently, "Looks like both of you aren't getting along very well, huh? So what's it going to be? When you're done figuring it out, I want you to get down on your knees and apologize to me.

"Oh, by the way, you said they're my gloves, didn't you?"

"I'd like to add one more condition. Not only do you need to kneel down to me, but you also need to kneel down to my gloves. If I'm in a good mood, then I'll return the things to you."

Erik was truly in a good mood. He hosted this banquet tonight especially to humiliate Jasper and Henry.

In his opinion, these two had no chance of making a comeback.

They had no choice but to do as he said.

Ben and Lisa looked at Erik gratefully.

“Thanks for giving us a chance to hold our heads up high, Erik,” Lisa said to Erik sweetly.

Ben also said emotionally, “That’s right. It’s all thanks to you, Mr. Erik. Hehe. Only a man like Mr. Erik is worthy of being a true magnate. You’re nothing compared to him!

“The only reason why you could be so complacent before this is because Mr. Erik didn’t want to argue with you. Well, he still managed to use his tactics to get you on your knees in the end, didn’t he?”

As soon as Ben finished his sentence, he felt an icy gaze on him. He looked at Henry, saw the latter’s gloomy expression, and took a step back subconsciously.

Ben was probably traumatized after Henry’s beating.

However, Ben quickly realized that he had the upper hand now. Henry would not have the guts to lay a finger on him at all, hence he went back to becoming bold and self-confident again.

“What are you looking at? If you think you’re so great, why don’t you try and hit me one more time?”

Henry took a deep breath and clenched his fists.

He had never felt so infuriated before.

Due to excessive force, his knuckles cracked like popping popcorns.

Nevertheless, he endured it all.

He gritted his teeth and swept his gaze across Erik, Lisa, and Ben coldly.

Just as Henry was about to speak, Jasper spoke.

“Julian, since he wants to be beaten up so much, we will fulfill his request.”

As soon as Jasper’s words left his lips, Julian, who could no longer stand it, rushed out like a tiger charging out of its cage.

It was a distance of seven or eight meters with a large round table that could seat more than 20 people in between.

Julian was seen taking large strides before leaping on top of the huge round table. He was extremely agile despite his tall and sturdy frame. In the blink of an eye, he had rushed over to Ben.

It was only at this moment that Ben had the time to react with a horrified expression.

However, Julian had already grabbed him by the collar, whirled him around, and slammed him on the dining table.

A loud crash.

The tableware shattered, and even the surface of the table cracked.

Ben let out an ear-piercing scream while lying amidst the shattered glass and a pool of blood.

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Everything happened so fast that Lisa only had time to let out a scream.

Erik's eyes twitched. He was feeling tremendously shocked on the inside but remained composed on the outside.

Even Henry was astonished.

He was surprised that Jasper, who had always played it safe, would suddenly choose to become more violent than him and do such a thing.

The most he had done was beat Ben up, but when Jasper asked Julian to do it, he was probably hoping that Ben would be beaten half to death.

"You're crazy, Jasper!" Erik chided with a stern expression.

"I'm crazy?" Jasper chuckled slightly and turned to look at Henry.

"When dealing with people, I told you before that you must use profit to lure the people beneath you so they will do things for you wholeheartedly."

As Jasper said that, he patted Henry.

"I will now teach you one more thing, one more way of dealing with people. When facing your enemies, never be softhearted and hesitant! Most importantly, don't give your enemies something to use against you. Worst comes to worst, fight them to death!

"When you're not supposed to give in, don't give in! Never stoop to compromise!"

Jasper narrowed his eyes at Erik whose expression was changing slightly.

“Otherwise, even if you manage to get through this entire ordeal, you’re not going to have peace of mind.

“A man can be beaten, scolded, or even have someone roll their eyes at him, but his knees and forehead must never touch the ground for anyone other than his own parents or ancestors.”

Henry looked at Jasper in a daze, realizing how different Jasper was at the moment.

Usually, others would see Jasper as a scholar holding the pearl of wisdom in his hands. He was always so calm and breezy, acting like nothing in the world could change his expression.

Right now, however, Jasper had turned into a mighty and powerful god of war. Although his aura was not too strong or vigorous, he was like a lofty mountain, standing in between heaven and earth like a point of navigation for sailors.

It was as if his presence could hold up the sky when it was falling down.

Henry, a male adult and a big-shot trust fund baby who had gotten himself into countless troubles in the past, actually felt an unprecedented sense of security in Jasper.

As long as this big guy Jasper was around, even if he poked a hole in the sky, Jasper would still be able to help him clean up the mess.

At this moment, Erik suppressed the astonishment and the trace of fear in his heart that he refused to acknowledge. He gritted his teeth, saying, “Jasper, are you trying to go down with me?”

Jasper said calmly, "You've overestimated yourself. This is just a company. I can easily get Henry to register another 17 or 18 companies. As for the project proposal, if you like it, then take it. You think I can't do a better one?"

Erik stared fixedly at Jasper, then suddenly raged. "Fine! Since that's what you said, I don't think this negotiation can go on.

"No more negotiations!"

Jasper suddenly raised his volume. "The Laws can afford to bear this loss, but after this, I can tell you clearly that the Turners and these two clowns will be the number one enemy of the Laws and all of Harbor City's business groups!

"Harbor City groups and me, Jasper Laine, will attack all industries of the Turners at all cost! From this moment onward, we will begin a full-scale war!

"Only one of us can win this battle. No peace will be made!"

His voice echoed in the magnificent hall.

There was central air-conditioning in this five-star hotel private room, so naturally, the air should be extremely cooling and refreshing.

Erik, however, felt a stifling feeling in his heart. It was as if he could not breathe.

Henry was so excited his blood started surging and boiling. He was eager to scream out at the top of his lungs to release the pent-up emotions inside of him.

Domineering!

Jasper was simply too domineering!

The amount of pomposity he had!

Henry stared at Jasper with bright eyes and thought, 'If I can one day be as pompous and domineering, I'll be sure to die with no regrets!'

Life at the Top Chapter 429

Erik's head began ringing.

He was puzzled.

He could not figure out why he had been forced to a dead end, unable to advance or retreat even though he clearly had the upper hand at first.

Had the script changed?

Erik was puzzled.

He thought he had received blessings from the heavens and the next thing he had to do was to humiliate Jasper and Henry before sending the documents to his family.

By doing so, not only would he reap the benefits, but he would also gain recognition from his family. This was simply killing two birds with one stone.

Though when he looked at Jasper at this moment, Erik had a sudden feeling that he had been too naive.

He could tell that Jasper meant what he said and would put his words into action.

However... there was no way he was going to miss out on such a Godsent opportunity!

“Who do you think you are, representing Harbor City’s business groups?” Erik sneered, still putting up a last-ditch struggle.

“I was the one who invited the four wealthiest families over. If it were the Turners, do you think they would entertain you at all?” Jasper said mildly.

Erik gritted his teeth, feeling as though he had been slapped hard in the face by Jasper’s words.

He was still struggling.

Jasper was right.

As a Turner himself, Erik had been hearing the elders in the family talking about this matter these days.

The four wealthiest families in Harbor City had gathered in Swallow Capital because of Jasper. This alone had left the tycoons extremely impressed and happy with Jasper.

This was because in a sense, this was the first time Harbor City’s top-notch elites in the business world had friendly contacts with their Mainland counterpart since the handover.

This was a strategic event involving figures from the highest level.

In other words, Jasper had made contributions to helping the country.

No matter how insignificant something was, anything that involved the country was a huge deal.

“Hah, Harbor City’s businessmen are really smart. Even if they came to Swallow Capital out of respect for you, you still have no right to say you represent them

because this involves going against the Turners. This is no small matter at all.” Erik forced a sneer, suppressing the anxiety and unease inside of him.

Jasper shook his head and said indifferently, “I don’t need to explain to you how I did it. But if you don’t believe me, you’re always welcome to have a taste of it.”

Erik clenched his fists, took a deep breath, and said in a deep voice, “What do you want then? How do you plan to solve this matter?”

“Simple, just return the documents to us and we won’t hold you accountable,” Jasper said flatly.

Erik was so furious he laughed. “Are you saying that I’ll return everything to you without getting a single benefit from it after all the efforts I’ve spent? Who do you think I am?”

“You know better than anyone how you got these documents. You stole my things and I’m being generous enough by asking you to return them without holding you accountable, yet you still want to walk away with benefits? Are you dreaming?” Jasper returned the question.

Erik said resolutely, “If you’re going to behave like that, then you might as well just forget about it. Let’s see who will have the last laugh.”

Erik knew that he must never agree to Jasper’s terms. Otherwise, he would forever be a laughing stock.

Also, if word got out in the future, how would his family think of him?

Regardless of what Jasper would do in the future, he would first hand over the documents to his family because at least that way, he would still have made a contribution.

Erik did not believe that Jasper actually had the ability to touch the resources of Harbor City’s business groups.

He was simply exaggerating.

Who did Jasper think he was?

He was nothing but a fellow with some stinking money.

In comparison, Harbor City's four richest families were all super-rich people.

Would they listen to a young junior like Jasper?

This sounded very much like a fairytale to Erik.

Jasper was not surprised by the choice Erik made either.

Life at the Top Chapter 430

This was within his expectation.

In fact, Jasper had already known from the start that he and Henry would not be able to handle this themselves.

He was only doing so much because he had other plans in mind.

Therefore, at this moment, Jasper did not say a word and only turned around to leave.

Henry seemed to have moved on as well. He glanced coldly at Erik before walking out.

Julian was the last to leave. Before he left, he even grinned at Erik.

“Hurry up and send that glove of yours to the hospital. He could be crippled for life if you send him too late.”

Having said that, Julian swaggered away without bothering to look at the abrupt change in Erik’s expression.

As soon as Jasper and his group left, Lisa shouted to Erik, “Erik, come and take a look! Ben has... He passed out. There’s so much blood!”

Erik’s expression changed. If Ben died here, then this whole affair would turn into a huge mess.

“Hurry up and call an ambulance!”

...

In the car on their way back.

“You killed Ben, Julian?” Henry craned his neck and asked Julian who was driving the car.

Julian said with delight, “I wouldn’t dare. Jasp only told me to beat him up, so I broke his tailbone. If he receives timely treatment, then half a year will be enough for him to recuperate. If his treatment is delayed, then he could be crippled for life.”

“Ouch...”

Henry gasped.

“Teach me this move someday, it’s so darn cool.”

Jasper thought that Henry had learned his lesson but he realized that he had underestimated this young man's spoiled nature. He did not take this matter seriously at all and was even eager to learn a new move.

"You won't be able to stand it, Young Master Law. Martial arts training is really hard," Julian said honestly.

"Do I look like someone who can't endure hardships?" Henry asked, unconvinced.

"Yes," Julian replied sincerely.

"You!" Henry was furious, then sighed and said, "You're right."

After making jokes with Julian, Henry turned to Jasper and said, "I've decided."

"What?" Jasper asked with a smile.

"I'll go straight to Old Master Law and confess everything." Henry sighed.

"You've thought it through? You're not afraid anymore?" Jasper asked curiously.

Henry said grumpily, "You think I can't tell that Erik, that idiot, isn't going to return us the things? He even tried to get us to go down on our knees! I'll f*cking feed him to the fish sooner or later.

"I can't keep this a secret for long. I may be afraid to go back and confess, but you've done so many things just to let me know that I have to pay a price for the trouble I've caused."

Henry's remarks made Jasper look at him in a new light.

"Not bad. I did so many things just to help you understand that there will be innumerable underhanded tactics in the ever-changing business world.

“Your grandfather will grow old, and your father can’t protect you forever. They will leave before you no matter what. You need to learn how to walk through the storm yourself.”

Henry nodded with a gloomy expression. Staring dazedly at the busy night scene of Swallow Capital and the endless stream of cars, he said, “Yeah, it’s time I learn something.”

Jasper was just about to console him by saying things like a prodigal who turned over a new leaf was more precious than gold or something along the line when the man’s face lit up a split second later.

“You can protect me forever, though? You’re younger than me, so you’re not going to die before me, right?”

“Julian.”

“Yes!”

“Stop the car and throw this idiot into the sea.”

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“C’mon, don’t do that! I was just joking. Besides, I’m usually the one who throws others into the sea. You’re my brother-in-law, you’re not going to throw me into the sea, are you?”

Henry said at once. He used to be and still was fearless, but when he was facing Jasper, he felt a sense of admiration and apprehension.

In fact, Henry always had a really simple outlook on the world.

He would strike anyone who was an eyesore to him, then go to his elders if things went south.

He had been guided by this logic for over 20 years of his life and the tactic worked each time.

Though many times, Anna was the one who played the role of Henry’s elder.

In fact, Zachary knew about all the trivial things he had done.

Old Master Law was equally troubled, but since he went through the same thing when he was young, with his son getting even better than him at this, there was simply nothing he could do.

Otherwise, he would not have handed the important task of educating Henry to Jasper either.

Anyway, when Zachary saw Henry walking through the door in the middle of the night and sitting on the couch dejectedly, smoking without a word, he felt his temples throbbing.

He knew his son all too well. Normally, when Henry behaved like that, he knew that he had done something so bad that even Anna could not solve it.

Zachary glanced curiously at Jasper. He did not understand why Jasper could remain so calm all the time.

He found a cigar and lit it before sitting down across the duo. He said, "Go on then, what did you do?"

Henry sighed. He looked at his father but hesitated to speak. He wore a sheepish look on his face, looking extremely sorry yet at the same time was too embarrassed to tell his elder.

Zachary's temples throbbed even harder now.

"Spill it!" Zachary roared impatiently.

"Sigh..." Henry sighed, his face full of bitterness. "Here's what happened..."

Half an hour later, Zachary and Jasper, as well as Henry with a slap print on his face, sat dejectedly opposite Old Master Law and sighed at the same time.

The three long sighs made Old Master Law frown.

After Zachary told Old Master Law the whole story, he rubbed his face and said with a wry smile, "Dad, I know it's inappropriate for us to trouble you when it comes to things like this, but it's different now. If the Turners send forth their old master, then with my identity, it'll be really awkward for me. So I have no choice but to ask you to step in."

"I was the one who cleaned up your messes when you were young. Now I also have to clean up your son's messes when I'm already so old. Do I owe the both of you something?" Old Master Law sulked.

Zachary, "..."

Henry, "..."

Jasper nearly burst out laughing.

After that, a solemn air hung over everyone in the room.

The most important thing at the moment was to solve the problem.

"Henry, you've disappointed me greatly this time," Old Master Law said, looking at Henry.

This time, the guilt on Henry's face was genuine. He stood up and said, "I know, Grandpa. I'll learn from my mistakes."

"Hmph." Zachary harrumphed, saying, "That Turner junior is really despicable. If he's already resorting to such dishonest practices at such a young age, I can't imagine what he'll do in the future."

"No matter how despicable he is, your son is the one who gave him something to use against him this time. You must admit defeat. Don't complain," Old Master Law said mildly.

As he spoke, Old Master Law glanced at Zachary and continued, "This is your son. The problem has to be solved, but the punishment will be carried out nonetheless. What do you plan to do?"

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Zachary gritted his teeth and said, "I'll dismiss Henry from all his duties and positions inside and outside of the company. I'll also suspend all his credit cards and property for half a year."

Henry's complexion changed. He was just about to beg for leniency when he saw the look in Jasper's eyes. All of a sudden, his resentment was swallowed back in.

He whimpered for a very long time and eventually squeezed out the words, "Got it!"

Henry's hatred for Erik had reached an unprecedented level.

Old Master Law nodded, satisfied with the outcome.

"Henry, give me a recount of the things Jasp did in the hotel earlier," Old Master Law asked suddenly.

Henry suppressed his annoyance and recounted Jasper's domineering and pompous actions earlier. He grew emotional all of a sudden. He narrated the things Jasper did with radiance and delight.

When Henry described the part where Jasper said that only one of them could win the battle and no peace would be made, Old Master Law slammed the couch's armrest and said, "Marvelous!"

"All young people should be this domineering and aggressive! You did a marvelous job, Jasp!"

Jasper laughed and said, "I was quite worried that you would blame me for being pompous just to intimidate him."

Old Master Law said, “Pompous? I told you that you’ve long been an ally of the Laws, and in the future, you’ll still be the Laws’ son-in-law. If you chicken out when you’re supposed to be tough, then I’ll scold you for sure.”

The word ‘son-in-law’ sent Jasper’s heart thumping wildly.

Had Old Master Law found out about the ambiguous relationship he and Anna shared?!

Jasper was a little guilty.

He was just about to speak when Old Master Law continued with a deep voice, “This problem isn’t going to be easy to solve.”

Zachary nodded as well and said, “The Turners are hard to deal with. Besides, Brad is a really cunning old fox. Then there’s also Old Master Turner. If things get out of hand, then the loss we’re going to suffer will be great.

“Even though this situation is difficult to handle, we must get it done immediately or we’ll be at a disadvantage if this goes out to the public.”

Old Master Law looked at Jasper and said softly, “What do you suggest we do, Jasp?”

Jasper mulled it over and said, “The Turners probably won’t fight us to the end. Harbor City’s business group is a sensitive topic at the moment and many tycoons are watching. They won’t take extreme measures during this critical juncture.

“I think we can still negotiate.”

Henry sulked. “What’s there to negotiate? Just start a war straight away. The Laws have never feared anybody. In Harbor City, even the three other families don’t have the guts to provoke us. If I do it, I’ll hire two men to drag Erik to the back of the mountain and bury him—”

“Shut up! Who said it’s your turn to speak?” Zachary shouted.

Henry clammed up and sat down grumpily without a word.

“Jasp,” Old Master Law said suddenly.

Jasper stood up and said, “I’m here, Old Master Law.”

Old Master Law said, “I need you to make an arrangement tomorrow. Send an invitation to Old Master Turner under my name and invite Brad as well as those involved in this affair this time. I’ll treat them to dinner but I want you to be the host.”

Jasper pondered and nodded, saying, “Okay, I’ll get it done tomorrow.”

Old Master Law nodded with a smile and patted Jasper’s arm amicably, saying, “Henry has failed to live up to my expectations, so I will need your help in many things. This child is perceptive, but before he’s enlightened, I’m not sure he’ll realize all the hard work you’re putting in.”

Jasper glanced at Henry and smiled. “Don’t worry, Old Master Law. He’s not so bad.”

Old Master Law waved his hand and said, “Okay, you should all go. Get it done tomorrow and remember, even though you’re sending out the invitations under my name, you must be the host. You’re the person in charge.”

Jasper nodded slightly.

Old Master Law was planning to lend him his prestige to intimidate the other party!

Life at the Top Chapter 433

Early next morning.

Turners' residence. Brad's house.

The scent of cigars permeated the air. Brad listened quietly as his son Erik retold the story of what happened.

"This is how it happened..."

Erik clenched his fists, and even at this moment, he still felt a stifling sensation in his chest.

"Jasper and Henry are too arrogant. They flipped the table straight away even when I held a trump card. They don't respect me at all!

"Where are we? Swallow Capital! Not Harbor City where they can throw their weights around as they like!"

Erik gritted his teeth and raged. "Dad, I must teach them a lesson this time."

Brad's face was clouded in smoke and his expression was hazy, but his voice could be heard. "Why didn't you tell me earlier?"

Erik paused and said guiltily, "It was already late at night yesterday. Plus, you just came back from working outstation, so I didn't—"

"What about before that? You should've informed me first thing when you got your hands on the documents!" Brad's voice was deep. "If this were something else, then forget it, but look what you got?"

“You got the Laws’ stock shares in Swallow Capital’s branch and their Olympic Village project proposal. These two things are of utmost importance. Did you think both of them will keep this between themselves and solve this with you in private? How naive could you be? I can’t believe you even turned up at their door.”

Erik said, unwilling to take it lying down, “I don’t think I did anything wrong. I never planned on returning the things to them anyway. I was just trying to swindle them before handing the things over to our family. What I didn’t expect, however, is that their heads are strong as steel. I can’t believe they want to fight me to death!”

Brad said coldly, “Why do you think you’re able to swindle them?”

Erik replied subconsciously, “That’s because these two things are extremely important. How can they possibly shoulder such a huge responsibility...”

At this point, Erik’s expression sank abruptly.

Noticing that Erik had finally gotten the point, Brad sighed and said, “You’re just getting it now, huh? This is what sets you and Jasper apart.

“I don’t care whether you’re trying to swindle them or whether you plan to hand the stock shares over to us. As long as you didn’t transfer the ownership first thing itself, they can evacuate the company and withdraw the funds at any time. What’s left for you will just be an empty shell.

“If I’m not mistaken, Jasper must’ve already ordered Henry to do so yesterday.

“Therefore, the company’s stock shares mean nothing. The most important thing right now is the project proposal, and confidentiality is the crucial element in a project proposal. Since you have already taken it away and read it, as far as the Turners and Laws are concerned, this proposal is already a piece of trash.

“Just with this point alone, do you think you still hold a card that’s powerful enough to intimidate them?”

“Therefore, the Laws are not actually going to suffer as much of a loss as you think they are, but due to the vile nature of this incident, they won’t let this matter drop so easily.”

As Erik listened to what Brad said, he recalled the various actions Jasper had taken. His face turned extremely gloomy.

He felt as though he had been fooled by Jasper completely.

“It’s precisely because of the vile nature of this matter that things are out of their control, so it must be resolved by the Laws’ elders.

“That little fox Jasper is really cunning. Do you think he would’ve dragged himself into this quagmire for no reason?”

“He wins both dignity and vanity, becoming more likable in the Laws’ eyes as well. When he abandons the entire mission, he’s not going to hate you, but instead, he will thank you for creating such a good opportunity for him.”

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Brad sighed, then looked at Erik with great disappointment before saying, “I thought you would learn from your lesson after what happened last time, and if worse came to worst, I figured you wouldn’t underestimate Jasper. That’s why I appointed you to handle Jasper’s affair.

“Looks like you’re still too immature. If you had handed over the documents to me as soon as you got them, then I would’ve locked the Laws’ branch account

immediately. A few hundred million would've been enough to bring pain to the Laws for a period of time."

The more Erik thought about it, the angrier and more regretful he became. He said, "I'll get it done now!"

"It's too late! The moment you invited Jasper and Henry for dinner, all the company's funds had been exhausted," Brad said flatly.

Erik said, unwilling to take it lying down, "What should we do now? We didn't even get any benefits and still need to be put in a tight spot?"

Brad said lightly, "Well, you can't say that we didn't get any benefits at all. Families like us and the Laws pay great attention to reputation. That's worth more than billions of dollars.

"If the news that you took all the shares from the Laws' Swallow Capital branch spreads, then Old Master Law's reputation will drop to at least half of what it was before. That will be our bargaining chip."

Erik's eyes lit up when he heard what he said and asked eagerly, "What do we do now, Dad? We must teach Jasper a lesson this time. If I don't trample him to death this time, it'll feel like a bone is stuck in my throat. I won't be able to sleep at night!"

Brad was about to speak when someone knocked on the door.

Erik frowned and grudgingly said, "I'm discussing urgent matters with my father, don't interrupt!"

Outside the door, the butler said reverently, "Master, a young man called Henry is here to send you an invitation."

As soon as those words were heard by those in the room, both Brad and Erik's expressions changed at the same time.

“Take him to the reception room, I’ll be there soon,” Brad said in a deep voice.

When the butler left, Erik said eagerly, “Dad, that brat is such an insufferable bully. How dare he come to our house?!”

Brad said solemnly, “The Laws have probably started taking action. Let’s see what they’re up to.”

Soon, Brad and Erik were at the reception room.

As soon as Erik entered the door, he saw Henry staring at him. His eyes were narrowed, and he was crossing his legs while shaking one of them.

He was like a jackal admiring its prey.

A wave of anger surged from the depths of Erik’s heart for no reason.

“Why are you looking at me like that?!” Erik asked with a roar.

Henry grinned. He was leisurely leaning on the couch and said, “Oh, so your face isn’t meant for people to look at?”

Erik’s eyes turned cold. He was just about to speak when he noticed Brad darting an indifferent gaze at him.

Erik gritted his teeth, swallowing his words grumpily and resentfully.

“Why are you here today, Henry?” Brad asked flatly.

“We’re hosting a banquet tonight and would like to extend an invitation to you, Uncle Turner.”

Despite addressing him as 'Uncle Turner' politely, Henry was not polite at all. He pulled out an invitation with a gold stamp on it and tossed it directly onto the coffee table.

The atmosphere in the reception room condensed following Henry's snobbish act.

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Erik looked at Henry's smirk and felt as though his chest was about to explode.

"This is Swallow Capital, Henry Law! You're at the Turners'! Not in Harbor City or the Laws' house! You'd better show my father some respect!" Erik raged.

"How am I not respectful?" Henry curled his lips and stretched, saying, "It's just because I'm a casual person. What's wrong? Can't stand it?"

Creak... Erik could not wait to punch Erik's annoying face right now.

Erik's face was flushed due to anger and grievances. It was really hard to hold back.

Henry was gloating even more when he saw Erik's expression. "Hey, Mr. Turner, you have a really ruddy complexion. Looks like you've been in a pretty good mood lately?"

Those words sounded so familiar.

Erik had said something similar to him just last night, a little over ten hours ago.

This alone made Erik feel as though his fury had burned off the last bit of sanity he had left.

“The Turners are not people you can disrespect. Do you think we will accept your invitation just because you delivered it to us? I’ll kick you out!”

After hearing Erik’s remarks, Henry sneered and said, “You’re really brainless, indeed. Can you take a look at the name inscribed in the letter before you speak?”

Brad had opened the invitation by now.

[Brother Jason Turner, it has been more than a decade since we last met and I can’t wait to see you again. Today, I specially invite you, Brother Jason, as well as your good nephew Brad and grandson Erik to have dinner together at six o’clock in the evening at Swallow Capital’s InterContinental Hotel’s Imperial Ballroom.

[Sincerely, Tom Law and Jasper Laine.]

When Brad saw the invitation, his face grew tense.

Jason Turner was Old Master Turner’s name.

Tom Law was Old Master Law’s name.

This was an invitation letter from Old Master Law inviting Old Master Turner to a banquet.

Brad had no right nor the guts to decline an invitation of such scale, let alone Erik.

What upset Brad the most was immediately after Old Master Law’s name was Jasper Laine’s name.

What was this supposed to represent?

It meant that Old Master Law had pushed Jasper up to a level that was much higher than Brad.

Erik walked over to take a look at the invitation, and just a mere glance was enough to turn his complexion ghastlier than if he were to swallow iron.

He was shocked, horrified even, by the fact that Jasper's name was able to follow closely behind Old Master Law's name. At least if Henry's name appeared here, he would not feel as conflicted as he did at the moment.

There was another thing that he found it hard to accept—the banquet was being held in InterContinental Hotel's Imperial Ballroom!

This was where Jasper had humiliated him last night.

Did Jasper choose the location, perhaps?

To humiliate him deliberately?!

Erik's head started ringing, and he felt a surge of blood rising in his chest, making him feel extremely uncomfortable inside.

However, Erik knew that neither he nor his father had the right to decline this invitation, hence he had no choice but to endure Henry's arrogance.

Clenching his fist, Erik glared bitterly at Henry. No one knew what he was thinking about.

"I'll take this invitation and inform my father at once. Please send my regards to Old Master Law, Henry," Brad said calmly, closing the invitation. His expression had returned to normal.

Henry chuckled and said, “Sure. I’ll definitely send your regards, Uncle Turner. Since I’ve delivered the invitation to you, I’ll leave now.”

With that, Henry stood up and swaggered toward the door. When he walked past Erik, he suddenly stopped in his tracks.

Henry leaned closer to Erik and smiled, saying, “Idiot, just wait and see. I’ll end you! Weren’t you so proud of yourself? C’mon then, let’s call our parents over and see whose parents are more dope!

“Old Master Turner may be really powerful, but you’re not his only grandson. My grandpa only has one grandson. How can you compare to me? Silly.”

Having said that, Henry walked off while laughing boisterously.

Erik paled abruptly, unable to hold back his rage any longer. He smashed his fist on the coffee table.

With a thump, Erik’s fist bled like a flowing river. The pain numbed his nerves, and his gaze grew even more bitter.

“I can’t take this lying down, Dad!” Erik roared.

Brad looked equally sullen, chiding him, “If you can’t even stand this, how are you supposed to achieve great things in the future? If you have anything to say, then we’ll talk after the banquet tonight. Don’t say anything, don’t do anything—just watch!”

...

In the evening at Swallow Capital’s InterContinental Hotel.

A Mercedes-Benz slowly pulled over in front of the hotel lobby. Immediately, a waiter trotted forward and opened the door respectfully.

The ones who got out of the car were Norman Gardner and Ian Hull's families. Ben was not present today because he was still being treated at the hospital.

"I'm sorry, sirs, InterContinental Hotel has already been booked today. Did you make a reservation? Didn't you receive our call?" the waiter said politely.

Norman frowned. He, who had been apprehensive for a day after receiving the invitation, grew confused. "Is there a mistake? The invitation states that the dinner is being held here, in the Imperial Ballroom."

The waiter was pushed away by the manager before he could speak.

"Looks like you're the distinguished guests here to attend the banquet. Come in. Mr. Laine has booked the entire hotel today so that we can serve you properly."

Under the manager's almost flattering and obsequious behavior, Norman and the group entered the hotel feeling quite confused.

Although Norman and the rest were also from wealthy families, they were only in charge of a branch of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce. Though they were capable, there was simply no way they could manipulate their way into Swallow Capital.

What was more, a large and renowned hotel like InterContinental Hotel could choose to ignore them completely.

They had never been received so respectfully by InterContinental Hotel's manager before either.

"Who did you say? Mr. Laine?" Lisa's heart clenched as she held the manager and asked.

The manager nodded and said, "Yeah. Didn't you already know that? Mr. Jasper Laine booked the entire hotel."

The group had already arrived at the lobby by now. Before they could express their astonishment at the fact that Jasper had booked the entire InterContinental Hotel, they were already greatly astounded by more than ten gorgeous waitresses who were standing reverently on both sides waiting to serve them.

Lisa stared blankly at the grand scene before her eyes. Although she was a trust fund baby herself, she had never seen such a grand scene in InterContinental Hotel.

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InterContinental Hotel had been operating for nearly a decade now and had received a lot of big shots in the past, but never had anyone booked the entire hotel for an entire day.

This was not just a question of money, but a question of status and identity.

At this moment, both the Gardners and Hulls felt a mixture of emotions.

Norman and Ian exchanged glances with each other, noticing the regret and unease from each other's faces.

When they received the invitation today, they had been so frightened that they nearly ran away from Swallow Capital.

That invitation was sent by Old Master Law himself!

If this invitation had come some other time, then it would no doubt be a great honor. Even the invitation card would be worth being framed and mounted to the wall.

Now was not the time, though!

The Turners and the Laws, both representing the local faction and Harbor City's business group, were currently fighting each other!

All the other magnates had hidden for fear that they would suffer, not to mention both of them who were only a tad bit bigger than a shrimp at best!

"Sigh, we really shouldn't have meddled in this in the first place."

In the elevator, Norman sighed with an obscure expression.

Norman felt a deep sense of powerlessness when faced with the two behemoths, the Turners and the Laws. He did not have the slightest courage to go against them at all.

However, now that he had chosen to stand with the Turners, Norman simply had no idea how he was going to respond to the banquet invitation.

“It’s too late for that.” Ian was calmer than Norman.

“Whatever happens later during the banquet, we will both remain transparent. Don’t make your stance easily no matter what both parties say later!”

After hearing what Ian said, Lisa said nonchalantly, “You’re making a fuss, Uncle Ian. The Laws must’ve deemed us worthy and that’s why they sent us an invitation. There’s no need to be so careful around them.

“Besides, you know how close I am to Erik. The Turners won’t just stand on the sidelines and watch the Laws bully us.”

Lisa’s words made Ian frown. He said flatly, “If the other party is really afraid of the Turners, then Ben wouldn’t be lying in the hospital right now.”

When he mentioned that Ben was currently lying in the hospital, Lisa’s expression sank. The fury in her eyes flashed as she gritted her teeth and said, “Ben is injured and I won’t let this matter drop so easily!”

As she spoke, the elevator door opened.

They were swept by a tense atmosphere.

Norman, Ian, and Lisa looked up and saw Erik and Brad confronting Henry and Zachary.

Although they had no idea what had just happened, everyone present on the scene was no fools and could easily tell that the air hovering over their heads was extremely tense.

“Erik!” Lisa called out to him, eager to show everyone that she shared a unique relationship with Erik. She rushed up to Erik and took his arm, asking softly, “Are you okay? ”

Erik was extremely annoyed, but he found it inappropriate to remove Lisa’s hands in front of Norman and Ian, hence he said with a cold expression, “I’m fine. I just bumped into an annoying man, that’s all.”

Lisa turned to look at Henry and sneered, “Look, you invited us and we came. Is this how you treat your guests? By blocking them at the door?”

Henry glanced at Lisa. “Shut your stupid mouth, witch. Know your place. Who says it’s your turn to talk?”

Lisa’s face changed abruptly. With the Turners as well as her elders around, Lisa was filled with a surge of confidence that she had never experienced before. She said at once, “The Laws invited me, so why can’t I speak?”

“Your grandfather sent the invitation, so who are you to criticize me? You’d better stop putting on airs and talk to me nicely. Otherwise, when I see your grandfather later, I’ll ask him what went wrong with his family education!”

As soon as she said those words, the expression of everyone on the scene changed abruptly.

Especially Norman and Ian. They knew that Lisa was in trouble and were eager to cover her mouth.

Was this the kind of thing that one could say casually?

Even Erik and Brad looked at Lisa as though she was an idiot.

Brad, especially. In order to gain support from Norman's Haddock Chamber of Commerce, he had even planned to make Lisa his daughter-in-law, but right now, it seemed like this woman was too risky to be married into the family.

Zachary looked at Lisa. Judging from his status and identity, nothing Lisa said could infuriate him, let alone make him strike or lecture her himself.

That did not mean that Zachary could tolerate it when Lisa insulted the Laws.

"There's something wrong with the Laws' family education? I suppose the Gardners have really good family education then?" Zachary asked mildly, looking at Norman.

Norman's complexion paled abruptly. He had already grown accustomed to all kinds of storms out there, yet even so, his legs still continued to shake and quiver.

"I can explain, Mr. Law. I've failed to discipline this young lady. I will teach her a lesson right away. I kindly ask you to let this matter drop. Take no offense at a child's babble—"

Before Norman could finish his sentence, Lisa said loudly, "You don't need to apologize, Dad. Do you remember how Henry treated us when he came to our house? He infuriated you so much and nearly put you in the hospital. He's even more arrogant out there!

"Since the Laws' elders are here today, I will say it!"

Henry narrowed his eyes at Lisa and asked, "I'm arrogant? How?"

Having said that, Henry raised his hand and struck Lisa's face without warning.

The slap came down so hard that half of Lisa's face nearly twisted out of shape.

There was a loud and crisp sound, followed by Lisa's ear-piercing scream.

Henry stared at Lisa and said coldly, "You witch! Do you really think I won't drag you to the back of the mountain and bury you alive, huh? You think I won't lay a finger on you just because your father and Erik are here?"

After the slap, there were strings of blood hanging on the corner of Lisa's mouth. She covered her face, her head ringing. Under the tremendous humiliation and pain, she felt as though she was about to go crazy.

"You're hitting me again, Henry Law? Are you going to put me in the hospital after hitting my cousin?"

"You witch! I guess you're not that dumb after all!"

Henry lifted his leg and kicked Lisa's stomach, cursing and roaring, "I don't usually hit women. But you're really something, aren't you? You forced me to make this exception for once. Motherf*cker, how dare you say that the Laws are uneducated?" InterContinental Hotel had been operating for nearly a decade now and had received a lot of big shots in the past, but never had anyone booked the entire hotel for an entire day.

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No one stopped Henry from slapping and kicking Lisa.

Even Norman himself could do nothing but suppress his heartache and fury.

After all, Lisa was the one who said the wrong things first, and Harbor City's top-notch aristocrats were right in front of him. Norman had neither the qualification nor the guts to go against Zachary.

Though when he noticed that Henry was planning to kick her a few more times, Norman had no choice but to step in regardless of his fear of the Laws.

He stepped in front of Henry and begged for leniency with a smile on his face, saying, "Calm down, Mr. Law. Calm down. My daughter doesn't think before she speaks. Don't argue with the likes of her.

"It's a great day today, let's not ruin our moods for trivial matters like this, shall we? I will apologize on behalf of my daughter."

When Henry saw how Norman was relentlessly apologizing, he sneered and said, "If your daughter was half as smart as you, things wouldn't have gotten to this point either."

Norman gritted his teeth in secret. The anger in his heart was boiling, but the smile on his face remained. "Please forgive my daughter, Mr. Law. Look, why don't we all go in first?"

Henry narrowed his eyes a little unwillingly. He had planned to use this opportunity to teach Lisa a lesson.

Henry had done many evil deeds since childhood, hence it was impossible for him to feel sorry for a girl, let alone appreciate her.

When fury tore through him, he did not care who the other party was and would hurl punches first thing itself.

What was more, Lisa had provoked and annoyed him over and over again.

Henry had tolerated her for a really long time now.

Just as everyone thought that this was all over, Imperial Ballroom's door opened.

Jasper and Anna walked out while talking and laughing.

"Why are you guys standing here and not going in?" Jasper swept his gaze across the scene and could roughly guess what was going on. Yet, he still asked the obvious.

When Lisa saw Jasper, her eyes turned scarlet.

In her opinion, Jasper was the culprit for all the things that had happened.

If it were not for Jasper, she and her cousin would not have provoked Henry, let alone be dragged into this series of events.

Now, her cousin was lying in the hospital unconscious while she was humiliated in public. Even her father was insulted by Henry.

Jasper was the culprit of all these things!

When she saw how intimate Jasper and Anna were, Lisa stood up immediately and screamed at Jasper's face, "Jasper Laine! Why are you still flirting with Anna when you're already dating Wendy? What kind of a man are you?"

Jasper frowned slightly, staring at the wretched-looking Lisa who had gone insane. He said indifferently, "Ms. Gardner, I don't think you should attend the banquet tonight in this state. I don't want you to startle both old masters or you'll be committing a huge sin."

Lisa sneered. She pushed away Norman whose face had changed as he made attempts to stop her. She screamed, "Stop pretending! Do you think I don't know that you're seducing women to climb the social ladder?"

"You approached Wendy in Mainland and Anna in Harbor City, both of whom are daughters of aristocrats. You're pretty smart, aren't you?!"

"I feel sick to the stomach when I see shameless men like you. Who are you trying to show, acting as if you're morally better than other people?"

"When a woman has fallen, we call her a loose woman. Do we have a term for a fallen man? A loose man?"

Lisa's sharp and maniacal voice reverberated throughout Imperial Ballroom's corridor.

Everyone fell silent.

Even Henry was staring at Lisa as though she had gone crazy.

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If he put their grudges aside, Lisa impressed him, actually.

She must have a death wish to speak to Jasper like that.

The last person who spoke to Jasper like that was probably buried in a grave with grass that was three feet high by now, right?

Lisa seemed to have gone all out.

She cared for nothing and pointed at Anna, saying, "Do you think this man is really that outstanding? It's all just for show!"

"I'm sure you don't know this, but he's dating another woman other than you and her name is Wendy Schuler! You? You're just a spare!"

Lisa's face was filled with maniacal resentment and thrill. It seemed as though she would never grow tired of smearing Jasper's name.

"How ridiculous! I can't believe that you, the Laws' daughter, actually got deceived by a man from the Mainland and don't even know you're an intruder in someone else's relationship. Don't you feel embarrassed at all?"

Norman's face was ashen, and even Ian looked ghastly pale.

They knew that this was all over now.

Anna looked calm. There was a bone-piercingly cold frost in the depths of her eyes.

“Are you a dead man, Henry?” Anna said faintly.

Henry quivered and pushed Norman away without a word, choking Lisa by the throat while sneering, “You really know how to seek your own doom.”

Knowing that things were going in the wrong direction, Norman pounced forward and yelled, “Don’t, Mr. Law! Please don’t. Stop for my sake.”

Henry pushed Norman away and sneered, “Do it for your sake? Who do you think you are? If you have the energy to beg me for mercy, why didn’t you use it to educate your daughter properly instead?”

Suddenly, Erik spoke, “Know when to stop, Henry.”

Henry turned around while narrowing his eyes, looking Erik up and down. He then grinned from ear to ear. “Are you trying to defend her?”

Erik’s mouth began twitching. He had no intention of intervening actually, but his father Brad gave him a look just now so he had no choice but to step forward.

“The Laws are the host for this banquet tonight and we’re just your guests. As the host, I think it’s a little too much for you to beat your guest. If you have anything to say, we can always talk after our meal, don’t you think? The old masters are waiting,” Erik said.

Henry sneered and said, “Stop talking nonsense. Why should I wait just because you tell me to? Who do you think you are?”

Erik’s expression sank. He was infuriated. Staring coldly at Henry, he said, “Our elders are here, it’s not your place to teach me what to do!”

Henry was just about to retort when Jasper walked up and patted him on the shoulder, beckoning him to let go.

Although Henry was displeased, he was willing to listen to Jasper and let go of Lisa's neck.

However, only seconds after Henry let go of her, a slap landed on Lisa's face.

Jasper was the one who hit her.

Lisa cried out. Henry had slapped the left side of her cheek, and now Jasper slapped the right side of her cheek. All of a sudden, her face was so red and swollen that it looked like a pig. Her gaze when she glared at Jasper was vicious.

At the sight of Jasper's cold eyes, however, Lisa was forced to swallow her resentment back in.

"This slap is to stop you from saying nonsense," Jasper said flatly.

Having said that, he did not spare Lisa another glance at all and turned around to say to Zachary and Brad, "It's almost time. Why don't we enter the Imperial Ballroom first?"

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Jasper's words eased up the tense atmosphere a little.

Zachary smiled, leading Henry and Anna into the room first.

Brad and Erik followed closely behind.

When Brad walked past Jasper, he stopped in his tracks and sized Jasper up and down. He suddenly said with a smile, "Would you like to come to the Turners' to have tea some time?"

Everyone else put on a skeptical expression as soon as Brad said those words.

What was that supposed to mean?

Was he trying to draw Jasper over to his side?

Was he trying to mess with the Laws?

Zachary, who had not walked too far yet, smiled without a single care. He then walked straight into the Imperial Ballroom.

If Brad's method was that useful, then he, Zachary, would have been doomed a long time ago.

Besides, the relationship between the Laws and Jasper was not a simple partnership that outsiders thought it to be. After going through so many trials and errors together, the Laws and Jasper had already become one.

Among the three other richest families in Harbor City, it was common knowledge that if anyone laid a finger on Jasper, then that person was also going against the Laws.

In other words, 'I, Zachary Law, have a gorgeous and outstanding daughter like Anna. What the f*ck do you have, Brad?'

Norman and Ian both looked at Jasper with a complicated expression.

They did not expect Jasper to be so outstanding that even Brad would extend an invitation to him.

This qualification was so rare that even the two of them who were from the same generation as Brad had never enjoyed such privilege before, let alone their peers.

When Brad finished his sentence, he stared fixedly at Jasper, seemingly looking forward to his answer.

Jasper was not surprised. He smiled and said, "Thanks for the invitation, Uncle Turner, but I have too much to do lately. If I can find the time to make a visit, I would love to drop by and have tea with you."

He was not disrespectful when he said those words.

It was enough to not make it too embarrassing for Brad as his 'elder', but at the same time, Jasper was not accepting the invitation either.

Speaking was an art, and Jasper had clearly gained full proficiency in this art.

Brad was not surprised when Jasper declined his invitation. He had even prepared himself for Jasper's curt rejection.

On the contrary, he now saw Jasper in a new light because his words did not leave him feeling humiliated at all.

He then smiled and patted Jasper amiably on the shoulder, saying, "Not bad. You're pretty outstanding compared to your peers. I'll be waiting for your good news then."

Brad left after saying those words.

He was, after all, at the same level and status as Zachary, so there was no need for him to be too affected by Jasper.

In Brad's opinion, Jasper and Erik's quarrel earlier was nothing more than a fight between children. It was not worth mentioning at all.

Generals would fight against generals, soldiers with soldiers. There was no reason for him, a general, to deal with a soldier like Jasper himself.

Following behind Brad, Erik twitched his mouth before walking ahead. He then said in a low voice, "You don't know how to appreciate what's good for you."

Jasper was still wearing a faint smile on his face as though he did not hear what Erik said.

When the Laws and Turners had entered the Imperial Ballroom, only Norman, Ian, and Lisa were left at the scene.

"Please enter," Jasper said to Norman and Ian flatly.

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Norman's expression shifted, and he stared at the embarrassed expression on his daughter's face with heart-wrenching pain. He took a deep breath and decided. "We won't be joining you for dinner later."

Jasper replied calmly, "Why not come in for a seat since you're already here anyway?"

Norman had a complicated expression on his face. "Benny's still in the hospital and he has an operation waiting for him. My daughter doesn't seem up for it today either, and I wouldn't want to make a fool of myself in front of the two old masters."

Jasper looked at Norman indifferently. "It's too late for you to regret it now that you've already chosen your stand. Did you think that retreating now will keep you out of the problem?"

Norman growled. "What do you want, then? A fight to the death?"

Jasper smiled. "Your words are a little too harsh for my liking. I much prefer peace, and I'm sure there's nothing that we cannot negotiate."

Just then, Ian walked over and stared intently at Jasper. "What do we have to do for you to leave us alone?"

Jasper smiled. "Isn't it too late to ask me this question? Plus, say that I let you off, what makes you think the Turners will too?"

"Then that is still a problem between us and the Turner family. What I'm talking about right now is your attitude!" Ian bellowed.

Jasper turned to Lisa and saw the utter resentment in her eyes before he suddenly spoke, "No room for discussion then."

Jasper never had the urge to bully people unwarrantedly, for he had always lived with the motto 'peaceful unless provoked'.

Yet that did not mean he was some saint.

He knew that if he did not completely destroy people who bore grave distaste for him, they would only cause him more trouble in the future.

Especially when it came to people like the Gardners and the Hulls. These people had both money and power and could create issues for him at any turn.

He knew that Lisa and Ian would not thank him for his mercy if he kindly forgave them but would only take advantage of it to recover and take revenge.

To prevent further complications, Jasper had to make sure that he completely removed any ability they had left to fight back or take revenge.

A flurry of expressions flashed through both Ian and Norman's faces when they heard Jasper's words.

There was regret, indignation, and most importantly, fury.

They felt that Jasper was looking down on them.

"If you think that you've already crushed both our families, then leave." Ian's expression calmed as he looked at Jasper coldly.

Jasper smiled and turned to enter the Imperial Ballroom.

Pushing open the door, everyone could be seen sitting scattered on the sofa in the magnificent and shimmering Imperial Ballroom. The round table had already been repaired after the fight last night, and there was no sign of any damage.

Once everyone was there, Jasper then notified the rest.

There was no way the old masters would wait for others at the hotel, so they would only arrive once they knew that everyone else was there.

More than ten minutes later, Jasper received a notification and relayed it to Zachary and Brad. Then, the three of them went downstairs together.

Jasper and Zachary conversed happily along the way, leaving Brad to glare at the two coldly and silently.

The three waited for a quick moment downstairs before two cars arrived, one closely behind the other.

Old Master Law and Old Master Turner alighted their cars at almost the same time. Both Zachary and Brad went to greet their fathers.

This was the first time Jasper had seen Old Master Turner. Age-wise, he appeared to be six to seven years older than Old Master Law. However, the man would live a long life. From what he remembered of his past life, Old Master Turner only passed at the age of 105 years old.

Now in his 80s, Old Master Turner was still a very lively man and there was no sign of senescence despite his head that was full of white hair.

Old Master Turner was the epitome of 'old but vigorous.'

Old Master Turner smiled and walked toward Old Master Law, reaching a hand out. "It's been over a decade since we last met, Tom. How have you been?"

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Old Master Law smiled, his expression lamenting as he took Old Master Turner's outstretched hand and replied, "You're right. Time flies. I can't believe it's already been more than a decade.

"We're both growing old and it's getting difficult for us to move about. With you in Swallow Capital and I in Harbor City, who knows when we'll meet again if not for this?"

Old Master Turner smiled. "Any extra day we have is a blessing considering our age, and every time we meet is one less time for the future. Who knows when the last time we meet will be? We've lost quite a number of our friends since we last met."

Old Master Law then pulled Jasper over and smiled. "In that case, then we've really got to thank this young man here. I wouldn't have had a reason to come to Swallow Capital if not for the beautiful celebratory banquet he hosted. He's the one hosting this dinner as well."

Old Master Turner turned to Jasper, and before the former could speak, Jasper immediately greeted him courteously, "Hello, Old Master Turner. I'm Jasper Laine."

Old Master Turner smiled and nodded before replying enthusiastically, "Good, very good. I've heard of you before. It was a very beautiful banquet you hosted. It's a shame that I was still in treatment and couldn't come to see it for myself, but a few of my old friends told me about you. You've done well, young man."

Jasper smiled. "The banquet was indeed a success, but I can't take all the credit. It was a joint effort with my colleagues, and I wouldn't have been able to host it

so successfully without the higher-ups' help and leadership. There's still a lot I have to learn. I wouldn't dare take all the credit myself."

Old Master Turner chuckled. "A young man like you should've gone to work for the government, not in business."

After a little more small talk, Jasper found an opportunity to suggest, "The wind's a little strong tonight, old masters. Perhaps we could move this conversation upstairs?"

Both Old Master Turner and Old Master Law easily agreed.

The small group made their way into the hotel, and not even the manager of the InterContinental Hotel had the level of importance to approach them. They had no choice but to maintain a distance from the group of stern strong men in black.

They shuddered internally at the identities of the two old masters, knowing that each of these seemingly normal bodyguards was palace guards. Specifically, they were the kind one could not push against, for they could very well legally kill you on the spot.

Looking past the guards' shoulders, they saw the two old masters laughing and joking as they walked in front. They left the formidable figures like Brad and Zachary to walk behind them as their juniors.

However, speaking with the two old masters was a young man like Jasper.

This scene had the managerial level of the InterContinental Hotel remembering Jasper's appearance and name deeply in their hearts. This man was the last person they could offend.

The two old masters conversed deeply throughout the way and there were no signs of any potential conflict between the two families at all.

There were no mocking undertones or targeting subtexts at all.

If anything, the two seemed like old friends catching up with one another.

Jasper listened quietly beside them and added a few comments from time to time when given the opportunity. The atmosphere around them was harmonious.

Between Zachary and Brad who were following behind them, they did not share looks, scoff, turn away, or anything of the like even though the two were not given any chance to join in their fathers' conversation.

If anything, Brad merely looked at Jasper's back with slight uncontrolled envy seeing as how the youth could easily join the two old masters' conversations.

'How did Zachary find such treasure?'

Brad felt his chest clench thinking about how disappointing his son was despite being the same age as Jasper.

It was a relief that Jasper was a Laine and not a Law, or that would give him a true headache.

Entering the Imperial Ballroom, everyone inside collectively stood to greet the two old masters.

Especially Norman and Ian. The two felt their hearts thump erratically when they saw how Jasper stood beside the two old masters when Zachary and Brad could only follow behind them.

'The importance of those two old masters...'

'No one would oppose to considering them national treasures!'

'So just what had Jasper done to be so adored by both old masters?'

"I see that everyone's already here."

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Old Master Turner smiled widely and spoke. Turning to Ian, he suddenly asked, "You're Ian Gardner?"

Ian had not expected Old Master Turner to call out his name and took two steps forward in surprise before replying courteously, "Yes, Old Master Turner. I'm Ian Gardner."

Old Master Turner nodded. "Haddock's Chamber of Commerce has been developing rather well these years. You've contributed a lot to your local economies. Especially the Waterhoof Branch, I heard that you pay hundreds of millions for tax now?"

Ian hurriedly replied, "Thank you for keeping an eye out for us, Old Master. It's thanks to having a good environment and policies from the higher-ups that we're allowed to develop."

Old Master Turner pointed at Ian and smiled at Old Master Law. "See? These people are the backbone of our country's business world. Not bad, right?"

Old Master Law asked intently, "Who's Gale Hurlbutt to you?"

Ian's expression turned solemn as he quickly replied politely, "Old Master Hurlbutt is the spirit of Haddock's Chamber of Commerce. He has already retired because of old age but he'll always be the honorary president of Haddock's Chamber of Commerce nationwide. He's my teacher."

Old Master Law nodded and ignored Ian's politeness, opting to turn to Old Master Turner instead. "Hurlbutt is a very sly man. He promised to send me some superior grade rosemary tea long ago but I haven't received it yet. You ought to ask him for me the next time you meet."

Old Master Turner smiled. "I didn't know you two had such a past."

Old Master Law ushered Old Master Turner to his seat. "It's already been years since then. He was doing business with foreigners and ended up getting kidnapped all the way there. I paid his ransom."

Old Master Turner replied intently, "You saved his life. Hurlbutt isn't being very kind then."

Ian, by the side, and Norman, who could not add to the conversation, felt their knees go weak at the words.

'This was Gale Hurlbutt they were talking about!

'Haddock's first rich businessman!' Both Ian and Norman were still children when the man dominated the business world.

Even though Gale had already retired, the man's students were all over the world. Ian and Norman were just two unremarkable students among all the others.

After the two old masters took their seats, everyone else began to take theirs according to their statuses and identities.

People could not randomly sit as they wished on such an occasion.

The two old masters sat in the middle, with Zachary, Henry, and Anna on Old Master Law's right.

Meanwhile, on Old Master Turner's left was Brad and Erik respectively.

Ian and Norman went to sit with the Turners without another thought.

This left Jasper to take the furthest seat from the old masters despite being the host.

As such, he had Anna on his left and Lisa on his right.

Seeing such a seating plan, Lisa suddenly stood up and said coldly, "I don't want to sit with a broke beggar!"

Lisa did not seem to have registered the dark void-like glares Norman and Ian were giving her.

After all, envy could turn a man crazy while hatred blinded all rationality.

She turned to Old Master Law and spoke, "You're a very respectable senior, Old Master Law, and it's precisely so that I must tell you. You and your family have been deceived by Jasper! He's a liar!"

Lisa then pointed at Jasper and shouted, "This man! While he flirts amorously with your granddaughter, he also has a girlfriend! How could someone like him appear here?"

"He's dating two girls at once. He's treating the Law family like they're a bunch of fools!"

"Wise as you are, Old Master, how could you be deceived by the likes of him?"

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The banquet's atmosphere immediately turned extremely weird.

Brad and Erik, the father-and-son duo, were looking at Lisa with complicated gazes.

Brad glanced at Lisa, then at Jasper, and suddenly felt the urge to thank the man.

Had it not been for Jasper, Erik and Lisa's wedding might have become a reality and he would end up having this thoughtless and brash woman as his daughter-in-law. It would wreak havoc on his peace.

'Thank goodness, thank f*ck!'

Brad let out a sigh of unexpected relief.

Meanwhile, Erik looked at Lisa as if she was a goddess.

Ignoring the words that she had said outside, it was a different story to claim that a wise man like Old Master Law had been deceived by Jasper and before two old masters too, no less.

Frankly speaking, Erik was not brave enough to do so.

Yet Lisa had done so and very clearly too. She seemed to be going all out, hoping to pull Jasper with her as she screwed herself over.

Norman felt the urge to slap this daughter of his, but he could not nor did he dare do so here.

In such a situation, no one dared to speak before Old Master Law spoke.

There was only one sole exception.

Anna.

Everyone watched as Anna slowly turned to look at Lisa and asked casually, "Who are you?"

Lisa stared at Anna, thinking that she had moved the other. She replied excitedly, "I'm Lisa Gardner. I take the same MBA class at Swallow Capital University with Wendy. That's how I know what kind of disgusting things Jasper, this b*stard of a man, have done!

"You would all have continued to be deceived by him had it not been for me! I'm helping you expose his true character!

"This man's just a playboy. He doesn't deserve your affections at all!

"Who is he to deserve them?"

Lisa's rapid-fire accusations came so fast one would think she said it all in one breath. Then, Lisa turned to look at Jasper, hoping to see humiliation and anger on his face.

Yet all there was on Jasper's features was serene calmness, and perhaps a bit of mockery one would have when they watched a clown make a fool of themselves.

Anna spoke, "I just asked you for your name. What's the point in telling us all of this?"

Lisa's maniacal expression froze, and she looked at Anna in disbelief. "Aren't you furious? He's cheating on your relationship!"

“What relationship?” Anna asked.

Lisa’s expression changed drastically.

Anna and Jasper had never once claimed to have an amorous relationship.

All of this was merely Lisa’s intuition and deduction as another woman.

However, she believed her gut feeling for her eyes told her that Anna definitely had feelings for Jasper.

Lisa was a woman, so she was certain of how women looked when they stared at a person they fancied.

That was precisely how Anna looked at Jasper.

She appeared focused and smitten. It was a sign of a woman deeply in love!

Yet she had never thought that Anna would argue with her in front of everyone.

“Jasper and I are just good friends. Wendy is his girlfriend and I knew that long ago. Wendy and I are great friends too, she’s a nice girl.”

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Anna’s voice slowly rang out.

“While I’m very grateful for your enthusiasm, I can’t possibly see how your attitude and actions are supposed to be in my favor. In fact, it seems to me that you’re just using this to attack Jasper. What right does a narrow-minded person like you have to sit here?”

Anna's words made Lisa feel utterly distressed.

Still, there was not a word she could say to refute Anna.

Anna had managed to corner Lisa from all sides.

She looked to Erik hopelessly, hoping her boyfriend could help her.

However, she only saw the man staring at the cutleries before him as if he was not involved in the matter at all.

Brad no longer hinted at Erik anymore either.

After causing such ruckus in front of the two old masters, it would no longer be acceptable for him to pull Norman and Ian to his side.

In fact, doing so might even make Old Master Turner suspect his ability to discern and choose teammates.

Erik's silence broke the last thread of Lisa's hope.

Her heart sank, and she looked at Anna's calm expression as well as Henry's mocking one. It was at that moment Lisa knew that she had pushed herself into the abyss.

Fear, regret, indignation, and anger surged within her, overwhelming Lisa and causing her to tremble.

Both Norman and Ian had gone pale as they sat on their seats. There was not a word they could say.

Just then, Old Master Law finally spoke. His tone was calm, but it was no longer warm and caring but frigidly cold instead.

“This child’s face seems to be injured. Perhaps you should bring her to the hospital to get her checked.”

That was his way of chasing her out.

However, Norman and Ian took it as mercy and quickly stood up. “You’re right, Old Master Law. My daughter really should get her injuries checked at the hospital. We’ll get going first then, goodbye.”

Norman then dragged Lisa toward the door.

Lisa struggled against him maddeningly. “No! I’m not going anywhere! Why do I have to leave? Jasper’s just a b*stard! Who is he to step over me, huh? Because they’re rich and powerful?! I’m not leaving!”

Slap!

Norman raised his hand and slapped Lisa across her face, his gaze looking chilling when he told her, “Shut up!”

Lisa wailed, her snot and tears dripping everywhere as Norman and Ian dragged her away.

It was only until they had left the hotel and sat in their car that Norman and Ian’s taut shoulders finally relaxed a bit.

Norman gave a long sigh as he glanced at his daughter who had broken down in tears. He thought of Ben who was still waiting for surgery. “We should never have come to Swallow Capital!

“Now my son’s lying in bed like a crippled man. Meanwhile, your daughter has gone mad and we even got ourselves into some big trouble!”

Ian clenched his teeth, his gaze filled with cruel fierceness as he growled. “It’s all Jasper Laine’s fault! Things wouldn’t have gotten so screwed if not for him!”

Norman had given up. “So what, Ian? What can we do? Jasper has the Law family supporting him. Didn’t you see how Old Master Law treats him? Not even his own grandson Henry gets that kind of treatment. What are we supposed to do?”

Ian clenched his teeth and spoke, “The Law family can’t protect him all the time. He’s still in the Mainland and the Laws are based in Harbor City. They’re too far away to do anything most of the time.

“And so what if it’s the Law family? There are enough problems for them here in Swallow Capital. The Turner family isn’t easy to deal with either.”

Norman’s eyes lit up as he whispered, “What are you thinking?”

Ian looked intently at Norman and replied deeply, “What, so you’re just going to move on and let him get away with it?”

Norman’s eyes were filled with heartbreak and fury as he glanced at his daughter who had completely broken down. With clenched teeth, he agreed. “Tell me your plan, then!”

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“The Law family is still in Swallow Capital. Besides, an intense struggle is taking place between Harbor City’s business groups and local companies. We must not get involved.

“Not only should we not get involved, but we should get out of Swallow Capital as quickly as possible because Zachary Law might come after us. That old dude was rich and famous 20 years ago, but his son isn’t even half as accomplished as him.”

Ian’s eyes glinted sinisterly as he continued saying, “We’ll return to Waterhoof City for now. The Law family can’t do anything to us while we’re there because it’s in the Mainland and not Harbor City, where they hold immense power.

“There are plenty of ways to deal with Jasper Laine. We won’t attack him directly for now. However, Benny previously tried to get the one named Wendy Schuler to date him. I’ve run a background check on her too. We know everything about her.

“Wendy has already left Swallow City, but Jasper is still there. We can take advantage of this opportunity to go after Wendy!”

Norman’s eyes brightened as he listened to Ian speak. He thought it was a good idea.

“One more thing. What’s Wendy’s background?” Norman asked carefully.

Ian smiled as he said, “She’s the daughter of the richest man of a province. Her father is Dawson Schuler. We would normally never dare to provoke someone of such a powerful background, but desperate times call for desperate measures. Anyway, we’re not afraid of him!

“Moreover, we’ll use some tricks from the dark side. How would he find out if he weren’t already paying attention?”

...

In InterContinental Hotel’s Imperial Ballroom, the banquet’s atmosphere regained some of its warmth after Ian and company left.

The two old men were still reminiscing about their sufferings in the past while Zachary spoke to Henry and Anna. Brad and Erik were also whispering to each other.

The party seemed lively, but everyone was only talking to those who were in their inner circle.

Except for the two old men, both Zachary and Brad seemed to think there was nothing to say to the other party.

As for Jasper, he ignored both parties and focused his attention on servicing the two old men.

He had brought along two bottles of aged 30-year-old brandy with him tonight. It was good alcohol and not the kind that anyone could get their hands on.

However, they were nothing to both Old Master Law and Old Master Turner.

Jasper poured the two men some brandy. If that tiny cup had been placed in front of him in his past life, it would be worth at least 2,000 dollars.

The two men were elderly and did not take much alcohol.

“This is good wine,” Zachary praised as he took a sip of the brandy.

“It has a mellow aroma and a fragrant taste. No wonder it’s been deemed the pride of Harbor City.”

Jasper smiled as he said, “This brandy is a good thing indeed. I’m feeling optimistic about the market outlook for alcohol and am planning to buy some shares for brandy in the secondary market. I think it’s one of the few shares worth holding on to for a long-term investment. Would you like to join me, Uncle Law?”

In Jasper's past life, the market price for brandy increased by 40% in just three months. With a horrifying share price of 1,400 US dollars per share, not only had it become the most expensive A-share, but it had even overtaken the Industrial and Commercial Bank of Somer to become the number one A-share company with a market capitalization of 1.8 trillion US dollars.

Yet, how much did a share for brandy cost now?

It had just entered the market and did not cost more than 31 US dollars for a share!

Not to mention the fact that it would drop to 20 US dollars per share next year.

In 19 years, its profits would increase by 70 times. That was enough for Jasper to enter the market.

Zachary's eyes lit up.

Even Old Master Law had praised Jasper's intuition in investing. The Law family was not strapped for cash now, but they lacked the opportunity to invest.

Thus, what Jasper deemed feasible was definitely a business that could earn a lot of money.

"Sure. Let me know when you're going to invest and I'll invest in some shares too," Zachary said as he smiled.

If an ordinary person said they were going to invest in shares during this age, they would probably only invest several million dollars. At the very most, they would invest several hundred thousand dollars.

However, Zachary looked at numbers no less than a billion when he decided to invest.

It was impossible to get hold of private capital for brandy when considering the special nature of its market, but it was still possible to get hold of shares worth several million dollars.

Erik, who was sharing a table with them, laughed coldly. The two seemed to be putting on a show for him.

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Investing in every single thing that came around?

Brandy?

They must be joking.

How much profit could a share in alcohol earn even if it were deemed the nation's pride?

If they had that much free time, they might as well start a business. That would earn them even more money.

Jasper was indeed the kind of person who walked on air after achieving a tiny accomplishment.

When Erik thought of that, he said, "I have a little knowledge regarding investments too. Brandy is a new addition to the stock market, and it's not performing well even though it's new. Its share price has been weak for some time.

"The stock market is in the early stages of becoming a bull market. Every share you see is profiting, and brandy is the only one that's not. Even so, you're saying it's worth investing in? What a joke."

Erik was very pleased with what he had said. He felt as if he had stolen some of Jasper's limelight for himself.

He could not let Jasper take all the credit. He, Erik Turner, had real talent too!

Jasper said calmly, "Every person has their investment strategy. Don't invest in it if you feel it's not worth it. No one's forcing you to."

Erik scoffed. "I think you're embarrassed. To be frank, you're quite good at hosting banquets, but you should give up on investing. It's a complicated place where not even I have the confidence in securing profits, let alone you?"

"Preposterous!" Henry tapped his fork against his glass and said mockingly, "Erik Turner, do you know what it means to show off your mediocre skills before an expert? How dare you say Jasper Laine knows nothing about investing in shares? The people of Harbor City would laugh their heads off if they heard what you just said."

The expression on Erik's face darkened as he said, "Did I say anything wrong? The share price of brandy has been dropping, but he said it's worth investing in. What's that if not bullsh*t? I dare say he knows nothing about investing just by that one sentence."

Henry was even more amused as he said, "I can't bring myself to expose your stupidity when I look at how foolish you seem now."

"Did you know he organized the Harbor City billion-dollar shares rescue plan some time ago?"

"Did you know he made his fortune from the stock market?"

"Did you know he earned several billion dollars in a night through crude oil trading?"

"What the hell does he know? If he knows nothing, you would know even less! You wouldn't know anything at all, you f*cking maggot!"

The expression on Erik's face turned into a gloomy, exasperated one after hearing what Henry said.

He knew Jasper was good, but he never knew that Jasper had made his fortune from the stock market.

Henry could not speak without thinking, given his identity and the current occasion.

Thus, what Henry said must be true.

This meant that he had indeed just shown off his mediocre skills to an expert in the most embarrassing way possible!

Erik's face was grim. He was in a sticky situation now.

However, he was also secretly surprised at the same time. Was Jasper so good in investments that he earned several billion dollars just through crude oil trading?

What was even scarier was the Harbor City billion-dollar shares rescue plan. He had heard about it even though he had been at the Mainland when it happened.

It was a huge event that caused huge stirs in the global financial market some time ago.

Jasper was the host for that?

What the f*ck, was he a god?

Was there anything he could not do?

Just then, Old Master Turner spoke up and helped him out.

“It's good that you young people are good at this, but you should also dabble in other industries. After all, money might travel quickly in the financial market but it

doesn't do much in actually boosting the economy or creating more job opportunities in the market.

“You youngsters should be more open-minded. The only way to become rich and benevolent is by giving back to the community.”

That light-hearted sentence Old Master Turner uttered was enough to put Jasper, who had been glorified throughout the entire banquet, in a precarious position.

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Everyone stared at Jasper. They seemed to be waiting to see how he would react.

Not even Old Master Law spoke as he was also gazing meaningfully at him.

Anna's eyes twinkled, and there were several times when she seemed to want to speak up and help ease the pressure Jasper was receiving from Old Master Turner. However, a strict look from Zachary stopped her.

Only Jasper could answer Old Master Turner now.

If anyone else spoke, it would mean they were disrespecting Old Master Turner.

The corners of Erik's lips turned upward into a mocking smile.

He had long since been annoyed watching Jasper be praised by everyone.

However, he now understood what it meant by 'the higher you climb, the higher you fall'.

Old Master Turner was still the best!

“You’re right, Old Master Turner.”

Jasper spoke as everyone stared. He was submissive from the very first sentence.

The crowd could not help but be slightly disappointed.

Erik’s disappointment stemmed from how Jasper had decided to be a goose. If Jasper had dared to go against Old Master Turner, he would have had the chance to not only reprimand but slap Jasper in front of everyone. That would have been so fun.

However, without waiting for anyone else to speak up, Jasper continued saying, “But as the greats who have come before me said, it’s permissible for a small portion of people to gain richness first, as they’ll be the ones who lead the majority population to shared prosperity in the future. It’s also one of the guidelines for the development of our economic policy.

“Financial activities can stimulate the economic market. When enterprises receive investments, they will increase the scale of their productions. Won’t that increase job opportunities? The activities in the market accelerate when it receives funds. Won’t that boost the economy as a whole?

“Thus, in my opinion, no matter what methods are employed, they should be valid as long as they’re both legal and logical.”

InterContinental Hotel’s Imperial Ballroom fell silent after the people present heard what Jasper had to say.

No one imagined Jasper would dare refute Old Master Turner to his face.

Old Master Turner had a serene expression on his face. No one could guess what emotion he was feeling.

However, Erik could not bear it and bellowed as he stood, “Jasper Laine! You should know your place. How dare you refute my grandfather?!”

“You said I should know my place?”

Jasper immediately retaliated by saying, “I’m just your average citizen. My parents were farmers, and I’m nothing more than a businessman. However, I must say what I think is right!”

Erik scoffed as he pointed at Jasper and said, “Hey, you’re making things more complicated than they need to be, aren’t you? You were still a nobody when my grandfather was out fighting on the battlefield. What makes you think you can go against him?”

“I’m trying to make matters clear because I respect Old Master Turner. In other words, if you were the one who had said such things, I wouldn’t even bother refuting you.”

Erik’s temper nearly erupted when he heard what Jasper just said!

“What the f*ck do you mean by that? Are you looking down on me?!” Erik gritted his teeth as he asked.

“Yes.” Jasper nodded calmly as he admitted it casually.

It was simple and straightforward, and its effects were immediate.

Erik completely lost control of his temper as he glared at Jasper and said coldly, “Don’t think you can be cocky just because you’ve gained temporary power. You’re still far from families like us who have been around for decades!”

“That’s the difference between you and me,” Jasper said calmly, “You open your mouth and speak only of your family, but I represent myself wherever I go!”

Creak...

Erik's eyes were bloodshot as his anger increased tenfold.

"Erik!" Brad said in a low voice. Erik was once again the loser in this conflict. He could not allow his son's big mouth to continue embarrassing him.

Otherwise, things would not end well for everyone.

Erik took a deep breath and laughed coldly as he said, "Let's see how long you can continue running wildly."

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Eric sat down after saying that.

Finally, Old Master Law spoke. He smiled as he said to Old Master Turner, "Brother Jason, it makes me happy to see how energetic these youngsters are. Don't you agree that these youngsters will be the ones who will further the development of our country in the future?"

Old Master Turner said softly, "I'm just worried that some will take the wrong path and find it difficult to turn back in the future."

The smile on Old Master Law's face gradually disappeared as he said, "Paths are created by man. Some might think that it's a cliff, while others view it to be a highway. We're old now and are no match for these youngsters in terms of vitality."

Old Master Turner glanced at Old Master Law as he said calmly, "Tom, I'll let you know my bottom line now that we're talking. We're all old men now, and I hope

everyone can evolve at their own pace without getting into arguments over the tiniest things.”

Old Master Law replied, “I agree wholeheartedly with this. Whether it be in the business field or anywhere else, every person has a place where they belong. One should not let go of what naturally belongs to them.”

“So, you’re going to fight till the end?” Old Master Turner frowned slightly as he gazed at Old Master Law.

Old Master Law might be old and skinny, but he was showing that he had gone through a lifetime’s worth of legendary ups and downs. He might seem like a skinny old man sitting at the head of the table, but the aura he emanated was as tall and majestic as a mighty mountain.

“I, Tom Law, would have starved to death on the streets if I had not fought!”

That was a heavy claim to make.

Not even Old Master Turner could brush it off.

As such, the frown on Old Master Turner’s forehead deepened.

No one could tell what he was thinking.

After a long while, Old Master Turner said, “We’re old now. Shall we let the younger generation deal with some things themselves?”

This statement intended to limit the severity of an unavoidable battle.

At the very least, influential old men like them did not need to enter the battlefield themselves.

Otherwise, the situation would worsen even more.

Coincidentally, this was what Old Master Law wanted.

He nodded as he said, "Alright, that's what I meant too. We should enjoy our retirement now that we're old. We should take care of these creaky bones and live an extra two years to take care of these youngsters."

When the two finally came to an agreement, Old Master Turner smiled as he stood and said, "In that case, I'll be taking my leave now. Thank you for your hospitality."

Old Master Law also stood. "Zachary, please send the guests off on my behalf."

Zachary stood and said politely to Old Master Turner, "After you, Old Master Turner."

Old Master Turner nodded and gave Jasper a meaningful look before he slowly walked away.

Brad and Eric followed right behind him.

Before leaving, Eric gave Jasper a murderous look. His gaze seemed as sinister and poisonous as a venomous snake.

As Zachary sent the Turner family off, Old Master Law called Jasper to him.

"Based on my understanding of your character, you would never have directly contradicted Jason Turner the way you just did," Old Master Law said gently.

Jasper smiled bitterly as he said, "Old Master Law, there are some things that no one will be able to do if I don't do them."

Old Master Law nodded in understanding as he patted Jasper on the arm, saying, "It's alright. Jason isn't so petty that he'll harbor a grudge against you because of this. Do whatever you need to."

Henry blinked and asked curiously, “What are you talking about? Why can’t I understand it? What does Jasper need to do?”

Old Master Law glared at Henry as he said angrily, “This is the difference between you and Jasper!”

Henry, who had ended up making a fool of himself, grumbled as he sank back into his seat.

Then, Old Master Law turned to Jasper and asked him a question that made his hair stand on end.

“That girl named Wendy Schuler, is she really your girlfriend?”

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Jasper felt awkward.

That was a difficult question to answer.

After all, Anna was sitting right there.

However, no matter what, Jasper had never thought of denying things.

This had to do with his principles.

Thus, Jasper nodded as he said, “Yes, we were classmates in high school before later going on separate paths before university. By chance, we managed to reconnect after graduating this year.”

Old Master Law smiled and said, "Not bad. Fate is the most important thing in a relationship between a man and a woman. If fate won't have it, they won't have a future together even if they see each other every day."

Anna interrupted and said, "They have a great relationship. I already knew about this back when Jasper was still in Harbor City."

Jasper gave Anna a grateful look.

Tonight was not the first time Anna had helped him out in regards to this matter.

Henry dangled a toothpick from his mouth and leaned against the back of his chair as he said nonchalantly, "Who cares if you have a girlfriend or not? My grandfather has three mistresses. And if we're talking about my dad, I think we all can guess whether he has a mistress or not..."

The things Henry said were so shocking that Anna immediately gave him a murderous glare.

"Why do you seem to hope that Jasper will have mistresses as well?" Anna smiled coldly as she asked.

Henry was stunned. It seemed unreasonable that his sister was choosing to direct her attacks on him.

Jasper was the one with a girlfriend, not him. If he brought up the topic of mistresses now, would that not give Anna leeway to butt into things as a mistress?

Yet, not only was she not grateful, but she was also glaring at him?

"Do you know what era you're living in now? Aren't you worried about being laughed at when you bring up the topic of mistresses?" Anna asked with a cold expression on her face.

Then, Old Master Law spoke up, “What Henry said makes sense. Both men and women should hold on to the relationships they cherish. Live your life for yourself, not for others.”

That statement seemed to have a deeper meaning to it. However, it was hard to tell if it was directed at Jasper or Anna.

However, the topic of conversation soon changed. No one brought it up again.

Old Master Law’s age could not be denied. When Zachary returned, arrangements were made for them to return to the hotel.

When they were in the hotel lobby, Anna smiled at Jasper as she said, “I’ll go back with my dad and grandpa. The two of you should get going too.”

Jasper nodded as he gazed at the woman before him and said sincerely, “Thank you for today.”

The corners of Anna’s lips curled upward. “What are you thanking me for?”

“...” Jasper was speechless.

He could not thank her outright for helping him cover up and smoothing things over, could he?

As if she could sense Jasper’s hesitance, Anna smiled slightly and said, “Alright, I was just teasing. I understand.

“Besides, this has always been something between the three of us—you, me, and Wendy. It has nothing to do with anyone else, and they have no right to use this to stir up trouble even if they’re family!”

At that moment, Anna was domineering like no other person.

When she finished speaking, Anna gazed bemusedly at Jasper as she said, “Indeed, many people in Harbor City have mistresses. The same thing happens in Mainland, just that they’re much more quiet and private about it over there. Most people are very open to having mistresses in Harbor City. Back in my grandfather’s day, it was legal to have concubines.

“What are your thoughts?” Anna asked meaningfully.

“I think what Old Master Law said makes sense. Let fate decide matters between a man and a woman. We should live our lives for ourselves and not for others. It’ll be fine as long as we think it’s fine.”

Jasper had thought twice about every word and spun them around his mind several times before he uttered them.

Anna glared at him as she said angrily, “I knew men were all b*stards! I knew you would never be able to satiate your appetite!”

Jasper hurriedly said, “I didn’t mean it that way. I’m just stating facts as they are.”

Anna burst into laughter when she saw how frantic Jasper was and said, “Alright, I’m not blaming you. I grew up in that kind of environment and have witnessed quite a few things myself. In terms of grandmothers, I already have three just from my dad’s side of the family.”

Then, Anna gazed meaningfully at Jasper as she said, “But times are different now. Don’t let your imagination run away from you. I might not be willing to do such things for you.”

While the two talked, Henry was wise enough to walk away and go for a smoke.

He had actually wanted to eavesdrop, but Anna’s glare was enough to scare him off.

As Henry smoked, he thought sadly to himself how his dignity as an older brother was diminishing day by day. It was not a good sign... even though he never really had much dignity as an older brother.

Zachary frowned as he sat in the car and watched his daughter speak to Jasper.

“What are you looking at? Anna’s growing up now. You can’t control her anymore. Did you think you could tie her by your side forever?” Old Master Law asked nonchalantly.

Zachary smiled bitterly as he said, “Jasper was originally the most suitable candidate, and I approved greatly of them. However, the problem is that he already has a girlfriend.”

“You’re holding that against Jasper? Perhaps you should introduce us to your mistress, Blair Callow,” Old Master Law said calmly.

The expression on Zachary’s face changed as he hurriedly asked, “Dad, how did you know?”

Old Master Law glared at Zachary as he said, “Did you think you could keep it from everyone and anyone? Anna’s mom simply can’t be bothered to get involved, and she knows she can’t do anything about it either. Either way, what gives you the right to judge Jasper when you’re the same?”

Zachary said indignantly, “How is that the same? Anna is my daughter and your granddaughter. How could she become someone’s mistress?”

“That’s not up to you to decide, nor is it up to me to decide. The decision is hers to make. What’s more, Anna has a fiery spirit. She might not want to be one even if you allow it. She has a mind of her own.”

Old Master Law said softly, “I won’t allow you to interfere with their relationship. No matter if it ends well or not, it’s up to them how they wish to proceed.”

Zachary said rather reluctantly, “But Dad—”

He had not finished speaking when Old Master Law interrupted, “You think Jasper doesn’t know what he’s doing? The worst thing you can do now is intervene. If Anna is okay with it, we don’t need to offend Jasper regarding this matter. Once a grudge over something like this is created, it can be held on to for life.”

Zachary sighed as he said, “I don’t feel good about it, but how can I separate the two lovebirds? I can’t bring myself to do that.”

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“I have to go now. See you.”

Jasper sighed as he watched Anna’s car drive off.

Since olden times, only beautiful women would not be disappointed.

However, Jasper got a headache when he thought about Anna who was always calm and kept a delicate distance from him. She had such a good gauge on their relationship that they never felt too distant or intimate with each other.

That woman was like poison, plucking at his heartstrings when he was not paying attention to her.

Most importantly, she knew what to do or say at the right time. She always had a good grasp of the situation.

She would make you think that she would do anything for you.

At the same time, she would make you think she would leave you at any time. It was how she kept you on your toes.

“Holy sh*t, did you drug my sister or something?” Henry asked as he leaned toward Jasper.

Jasper glanced at Henry before he asked exasperatedly, “Don’t you think the question should be asked the other way round?”

Henry’s lips twitched as he said, “That’s because you didn’t know what she was like before. I’m not one to brag, but have you ever met a man who’s at the right age but doesn’t want to date my sister? But she’s never given any of the men as much as a smile.

“Everyone says I’m stubborn and obstreperous, but if we were to actually take things seriously, I’m nothing compared to my sister.”

Then, Henry stroked his chin and said, “Sometimes, I think she’s a machine programmed to not have any feelings for men. Or maybe she’s a lesbian, and that’s why she doesn’t seem interested in men.

“But do you know how much she’s done for you ever since you two met? There’s so much you don’t know. Would she be this bewitched by you if you hadn’t drugged her?”

Jasper’s eyes followed the vehicle until it disappeared into a sea of flashing car lights. He smiled and said, “Do you think a relationship between a man and a woman is more like a battle or a game?”

Stunned, Henry had a serious expression on his face as he said, “Everyone has to strip naked before they fight, so I would say it’s a battle?”

Jasper, “...”

...

After the banquet that ended the night before, the situation in Swallow Capital began its turbulence the next day.

It was as if both the local faction and Harbor City's business groups had realized that a battle was inevitable.

Thus, within a single day, four branch offices of Harbor City's four richest families submitted their registration forms.

Their registered capital was all no less than a mindblowing 100 million dollars.

They were not only showing their attitudes, but it was also a declaration of war.

As for the local faction, they did not resign to their fate even as they faced the aggressive business groups from Harbor City.

They began continuous research and gathered the brains of each industry together as if they were determined to fight to the death with Harbor City's business groups.

However, even though the situation was tense, both the local faction and Harbor City's business groups maintained basic restraint and calmness. At least they had not begun fighting openly yet and were only flexing what they had at the moment. They were only showing off their assets and determination.

With the tacit understanding established between them, even if a fight broke out, it would be contained within a limit. At the very least, people on Old Master Turner's level would not be dragged into this.

It was what the top management had wanted.

It was an agreement all three parties could accept for the time being.

As for the Law family, they had fallen right into Erik Turner's trap.

That was undeniable.

However, the Law family's losses had been lowered to their very minimum after Jasper got involved.

The branch company's assets were all transferred elsewhere, and the project proposal was nullified.

This meant Erik had gotten nothing more than the shares of a shell corporation. They were worth nothing at all.

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The Turner family seemed to understand that too, which was why they had not even bothered to transfer the accounts.

They had also kickstarted the registration process for their newest company, which would be approved shortly.

“Both the local faction and Harbor City’s business groups have their eyes on the construction project for the Olympic stadium. However, the project has not been formally established yet. The most anyone can do now is wait.”

Jasper and Zachary were sitting in the study, exchanging their views on the current situation in Swallow Capital.

Zachary nodded and said, “Not bad. That’s what we considered too, which is why we’ve only just registered our company. There’s no need for operations yet. When the project is formally established and tenders are open to the public, that’s when conflicts will erupt.”

Jasper sighed. “It’ll take at most one year and at least half a year. That’s when things will start to get interesting. The year is quickly approaching an end, and there shouldn’t be anything else happening.”

Zachary smiled as he said, “We plan to return to Harbor City tomorrow.”

Jasper asked in surprise, “What are your plans for here?”

Zachary answered, “Not much is happening here now, but a lot is going on in Harbor City. Many things can’t function if I’m not present. Besides, Old Master Law is getting old now and is no longer accustomed to spending long periods away from home.”

Jasper smiled and said, "You're right. The air quality in Swallow Capital is not great. It's not a place suitable for Old Master Law to spend long periods in."

"I'm planning to have Henry take over the investments I made in the Mainland. Old Master Law, Anna, and I will take a plane back tomorrow. The three other families will be doing the same," Zachary said.

Jasper smiled. "He should have matured quite a bit after what happened this time."

Zachary lowered his voice and said, "I know Henry. He's not stupid, but his heart's just not in the right place. I deliberately did not place pressure upon the Turner family this time round so Henry can remember his lesson!

"We'll have to fight against the Turner family in either a year or in six months, whenever the project goes public. However, I can't deal with Erik personally. This is something Henry has to take care of himself.

"It'll be good for him if he can get revenge, but if he can't, he'll have to admit his shortcomings and return to his life as a rich kid in Harbor City. He won't be allowed to embarrass himself publicly anymore."

Jasper said seriously, "The Turner family don't have much to talk about in terms of benefits either. All Erik got were garbage shares worth absolutely nothing in a shell corporation. As for the project proposal, it was rendered useless the minute it got leaked. Neither we nor the Turner family will be able to use it again.

"This is merely to comfort them psychologically."

Zachary nodded and patted Jasper's shoulder. "Luckily we had you around this time. Else, the Law family would have embarrassed themselves thoroughly."

Jasper said sincerely, "It's my responsibility. In both love and reason, I will never abandon or ignore the family."

...

The next day, the Law family had a plane to catch in the afternoon. Jasper spent the morning talking to Old Master Law and left when he began to grow tired.

Jasper had just left the room when he met Anna.

"I'm going abroad for further training next week and might not be back for New Year's," Anna said softly as she stood in front of Jasper. She lifted strands of hair off her face with her hand.

"I'll go visit you," Jasper said.

Anna laughed softly. "You're not scared that your girlfriend will be jealous?"

"I'll bring her along," Jasper said after a moment's thought.

Anna stared at Jasper in shock. "You've got some nerve. Do you find it particularly exciting to cheat on your girlfriend when she's right in front of you?"

Anna had just finished speaking playfully when the man in front of her took a step forward and got even closer to her.

The height difference between them was immediately highlighted. Anna had her back against the wall and had no room to retreat. Jasper was merely a few inches away from her.

The man's strong body and steady breathing caused Anna to become flustered.

They were so close that she could even hear not just her heartbeat but also his heartbeat.

Their hearts were so close to each other.

She felt her chin being lifted upward flirtatiously. Anna was forced to raise her head, her gaze directly meeting Jasper's eyes.

Jasper's gaze was domineering as he stared at Anna and said slowly, "Did you think I can't make you submit to me?"

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Jasper's unexpected movements caused Anna to unconsciously tense her body.

She tried instinctively to push Jasper away, but when she put her arms on Jasper's chest, she realized that the little strength she had was not enough to push the man away.

Their warm breaths caused Anna to become even more flustered. Instinctively, she lowered her eyes and did not dare to make eye contact with Jasper.

"What, what are you doing? Let me go!"

Anna was mortified at how soft and tender her voice sounded.

It was supposed to be a strict statement, but it sounded weak and helpless when she said it. Conversely, it even sounded as if she was only pretending to resist.

"Are you scared?"

When he noticed the dramatic changes in Anna's mood, Jasper leaned over slightly and chuckled as he whispered into Anna's ear.

Anna felt Jasper's warm breaths envelop her ear as he whispered.

The man's burning aura made its way right into her ear.

When she felt his aura, Anna felt her limbs turn into jelly. There was no strength left in them.

Anna felt her heart racing as her entire body, particularly her face, turned warm. She did not need a mirror to know she was burning red.

Then, without knowing where she had gotten the courage from, Anna pushed Jasper away.

Jasper took two steps backward and smirked as he gazed at Anna.

The latter was panting as if she had suddenly gotten fresh oxygen again after being deprived of it.

Her cheeks were rosy, and her eyes reflected light like a lake at sunset.

She was so stunningly beautiful that the whole world stopped to look at her.

That was how Anna looked like now.

"Do you have a death wish?!" Anna glared at Jasper, but she knew she looked anything but threatening right now.

For some inexplicable reason, she had lost her dominating edge. Not only had Jasper managed to take advantage of that, but most importantly, she had failed to live up to her expectations.

He managed to break through all her defenses, and she was unable to even fight back.

It was a source of annoyance for Anna.

Anna turned and ran off after giving Jasper one last glare.

She seemed as if she were escaping from him.

Jasper watched her run off before he raised a hand to his nose. Hmm, her smell was still on it.

He had not suffered major losses this time!

He had to make sure the little vixen learned her lesson sometime soon.

Else, she was going to climb right over his head.

He could treat a woman with wholehearted kindness, but he would never be a lapdog.

That was Jasper's motto. He had enough of being a lapdog in his past life. After being given a second chance at things after losing everything he had due to being a lapdog, Jasper was determined to never take the same path as in his past life.

...

It was not clear if it was because she was embarrassed or angry, but Anna refused to meet Jasper's eyes even when it was time for her and her family to board the plane.

Jasper sighed as he watched the plane carrying the Law family soar into the clouds.

Regardless, matters at Swallow Capital had come to an end.

The Turner family had not yet been taken care of, however. Erik Turner was still eyeing them covetously.

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However, this was inevitable. The Turner family of Swallow Capital could not be compared to other smaller families. They had way more tricks up their sleeves than Jasper currently did.

Thus, if one wanted to get rid of Erik Turner, they would not be able to do that within a day.

All they could do was take their time laying things out.

Jasper had the advantage of reincarnation on his side. The rate at which his wealth increased was bound to exceed everyone's expectations. It would not take long before Jasper no longer needed to pay attention to these families.

"Will you continue staying at Swallow Capital?" Jasper asked Henry.

Henry's face radiated delight as he said happily, "There are still a few processes the newest branch office has to complete, so I'll be here for a while longer. I can only leave when everything has been taken care of."

"I'll be returning to Southeast Province soon. Come meet up with me once you're done with business here. The Southface River project we collaborated on is almost done but I need you to look over some developmental details before we can wrap things up," Jasper said instructively.

Henry pouted as he said, "Can't you make the decisions? I don't understand anything anyway. I sort of want to spend a few more days in Swallow Capital—"

"Swallow Capital is a messy place. Not only should you leave as soon as possible, but you should ensure you don't get into any trouble during the time you

have to stay here. Both Old Master Law and your dad have left, so no one can protect you anymore,” Jasper said as he frowned.

Henry raised an eyebrow as he said disdainfully, “So what? Since when has Henry Law required protecting when he goes to hang out?”

“How wonderful of you. Should we pay the Turner family another visit? I heard you were very high and mighty the last time you delivered them the invitation,” Jasper said calmly.

“...” The corners of Henry’s mouth twitched before he grumbled, “F*ck, it’s hard for me to deal with that idiot Erik when we’re in his homeland. I’m not being a coward this time, I’m just making a strategic decision to back off.”

“It’s good that you know to back off,” Jasper answered calmly.

“By the time you arrive at Southeast Province and do the last bit of work for the project, the year will have ended. When the New Year celebrations end and spring arrives, we can encash the project. We’re pressed for time, so not a single second can be wasted.”

“When are you leaving?” Henry asked.

Jasper thought for a moment before answering, “Probably tonight. There’s nothing left to take care of here and I haven’t returned to my company in the province for months. There’s a ton of paperwork waiting for me.”

Henry clicked his tongue as he said, “I don’t understand what you people are thinking. What’s the point of earning so much money when you don’t enjoy life and work yourself so hard that you can’t tell the days from the nights? You should enjoy life while you still have the time to do so!”

Jasper could not be bothered to pay any attention to the fool with twisted views.

...

After bidding farewell to those he had connections with in Swallow Capital and taking care of everything else, Jasper took a plane and left Swallow Capital.

Erik received that piece of news the minute Jasper left.

“What about Henry Law? Has he left too?” Erik asked.

The confidant who had come bearing the news answered respectfully, “No.”

Erik laughed coolly as he said, “Ignore Jasper for now since he has left. Someone will naturally cause trouble for him. As for Henry, arrange for someone to spy on him 24/7. Report to me immediately if anything happens.”

“Yes, Young Master Turner,” the confidant replied before leaving.

When silence returned to the room, Erik picked up the phone.

“Mr. Hull, it’s me, Erik.

“I just received news that Jasper has left Swallow Capital. You should set any plans you have in motion as soon as possible.

“Don’t worry, I’ll do my best to assist you in any way you require. However, this is still a grudge that’s between you and Jasper in the end. It’s not suitable for the Turner family to make a direct appearance for various reasons. I’m sure you understand.

“Alright, I’ll await your good news.”

Erik laughed loudly after he hung up the phone.

He had received a call from Ian and Norman last night indicating their intentions to launch an attack against Jasper.

This was right up Erik's alley. Naturally, he supported them fully.

Jasper was going to suffer major losses if he got these two powerful puppets to do his work for him.

Erik narrowed his eyes slightly as he mumbled, "Just wait and see, Jasper Laine. Soon you'll have to kneel in front of me and repent for everything you've done!"

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The plane landed smoothly at Province Airport.

Jasper had not informed anyone of his return this time. On one hand, he did not think Wendy needed to travel to the airport to pick him up. On the other hand, he wanted to give Wendy a surprise as well.

Jasper hailed a cab and traveled to the villas at Thornton Park. Jasper was going home.

"Mom, I'm back," Jasper said tiredly as he entered the house.

"Why didn't you tell me in advance? Hurry, go take a rest." Sally came to the door and took Jasper's luggage from him. When she placed it aside, she asked warmly, "Have you eaten yet?"

"I just got back from Swallow Capital. I ate on the plane," Jasper smiled as he answered.

Sally immediately turned and walked toward the kitchen when she heard that. She said, "That must mean you haven't had a full meal. I'll cook you some noodles."

Jasper knew his mom's personality. She would nag him endlessly if he did not eat that bowl of noodles, which was why he did not bother stopping her.

Jasper followed Sally to the kitchen and stood at the door, asking, "Where's Dad?"

"A distant relative of his passed away, so he went to attend the funeral. He won't be back for another two days," Sally answered while she bustled around the kitchen.

Jasper smiled. "Are you used to living here?"

"It's fine here, but I don't know that many people so it's kind of quiet," Sally sighed as she spoke.

"Even though I got to know a couple of tenants my age around here, they have to take care of their grandchildren and don't have much time to talk to me and ease my boredom. I feel so envious when I look at their grandchildren. They're so tiny and cute."

There was a hidden meaning in Sally's words.

As she spoke, she glanced at Jasper, trying to convey what she was not saying in words.

Jasper said with difficulty, "Well then, you'll have to continue being envious. I don't plan to have kids anytime soon."

Jasper's career was taking off now, and he was growing busier and busier by the day. He needed to focus all his energy on his work.

Furthermore, he was not even that old. He had not even begun considering marriage, let alone children...

Sally scowled as she said, "You're not that young anymore. Wendy is a good girl. You two should hurry up and tie the knot and have kids soon. I can take care of the child while you two work on whatever you need to. Isn't that a good idea? How long are you going to drag this on for?!"

"Are you going to wait until I'm so old that I can't take care of the children anymore?"

Jasper answered, "That's fine. We'll just get a nanny."

Sally nearly threw her spatula at Jasper's head. "Nonsense! Do you think a nanny can take better care of a child than me? I'm the kid's grandma. How could I let someone else take care of my grandchild?"

Jasper smiled bitterly. "We haven't even begun talking about that. I'll try my best, alright..."

After he wolfed down his noodles, Jasper immediately bounded out of his chair and ran out the door. He crept over to the villa where Wendy stayed.

Jasper had been planning to give Wendy a surprise, but he had not expected Wendy to not be at home today.

She had gone over to Dawson's place.

"My dad's blood pressure has been rather high lately and he hasn't been feeling well. I came over to take care of him." Wendy chuckled as she held the phone to her ear and spoke to Jasper.

"You silly thing. You should have just told me you were coming back."

Jasper sat in the empty villa and sighed as he said, "I wanted to surprise you... Is your dad alright?"

“He’s fine. The doctor said it’s caused by extreme stress and an irregular sleep schedule. He just needs to rest,” Wendy said gently.

Jasper massaged his forehead as he said, “He’s been really busy lately. The supermarket had a large expansion recently, and he’s in charge of the real estate business too. I’ll hire some people to assist him when I have time so that he can relax.”

“I brought it up before, but he refused. He said he doesn’t trust anyone to take care of the business while it’s still in the early stages. He’s been doing everything himself. Besides, I think there’s been some trouble going on in the Southface River project,” Wendy sighed as she said.

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“What sort of problems?” Jasper asked as he frowned.

Not only were the provincial government and its higher-ups in the department paying close attention to the Southface River project, but it was also currently the most important local project JW Real Estate had ever taken on. It did not make sense that there would be any problems.

“I think a real estate company from Waterhoof City is interested in developing the north bank of Southface River, and they’ve been in contact with Nauritius City’s government lately. The city hall is tempted by the favorable conditions they’re offering.”

“I’ll go check on them tomorrow,” Jasper said in a low voice.

The Southface River cut through the province. Its south bank was a wide, open area that was situated in a core area of the New City project. That naturally made it an important area.

However, the north bank was filled with mountains and would be a difficult piece of land to develop. Thus, it was not worth much.

However, a real estate company from Waterhoof City suddenly appeared and claimed to have an interest in developing the north bank. Without a doubt, that meant that they were challenging Jasper.

Jasper recalled his past life and confirmed that nothing like that had happened. This only further solidified his feeling that whoever was in the real estate company from Waterhoof City would not be a friendly face.

JW Real Estate had currently invested roughly 800 million dollars in the Southface River project. Nothing could go wrong with the project. Otherwise, the company would immediately collapse.

The next day, Jasper first went to sort out some documents at JW Company.

Jasper realized that although he had not been here, the office was in tip-top shape thanks to Wendy and Jack who had also been at Swallow Capital albeit for a short while.

The various departments were starting to fill up with employees and no longer looked like empty shelves. Instead, they had each started to function in their ways.

JW Company was now in control of various companies, including Terizone and Sena in Swallow Capital. Moreover, they also had a real estate company and an investment sector in the Mainland's stock market under their name.

All this needed large amounts of manpower and physical resources to operate.

Thus, the villa, which used to be spacious, was now starting to become a little cramped.

It was time to consider constructing an office building just for JW Company.

Jasper pocketed that thought as he drove to Dawson's house.

The smile on Wendy's face had not left from the minute she spotted Jasper's car parked downstairs.

All her love was on Jasper, who had just gotten out of the car.

"Tired? Come on in, my dad's waiting for you. We can eat shortly after," Wendy said gently as she took Jasper's jacket from him.

Jasper smiled and took Wendy's hand in his. "Come on, let's go in first."

Jasper's worries lessened considerably when he saw the healthy glow on Dawson's face.

"How's your health?" Jasper asked.

Dawson smiled and said, "It's just an old problem. I'll be fine after a couple of days of rest."

After they finished exchanging pleasantries, Jasper addressed the elephant in the room. "Tell me more about the real estate company in Waterhoof City."

The expression on Dawson's face darkened slightly as he answered, "Haddock Chamber of Commerce."

One simple name was all it took to clear the confusion from Jasper's eyes.

Ian Hull and Norman Gardner were the president and vice president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce branch in Waterhoof City. If the real estate company was from Waterhoof City and belonged to the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, then it was clear who was behind the scenes.

“Of course, it’s them,” Jasper said calmly. He had a neutral expression on his face that did not give his emotions away.

“What do you plan to do?” Dawson asked.

Jasper smiled as he said, “Of course, I’m going to fight. Have I ever been scared?”

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Dawson nodded in satisfaction when he saw how confident Jasper was.

“If you’re in the business world, you’ll meet all sorts of people, including royalty and smugglers. Competition among your peers is inevitable.

“It might be healthy competition among businesses, or it might be malicious competition with intent to suppress. There’s no way you’ll be the only person in an industry. Competition exists as long as you have peers.

“Competition itself is not scary, but you should always ensure you never underestimate your enemy and confuse yourself. No matter who the competition is, you must make sure you have a thorough understanding of them before fighting against them. Your mindset is the most important thing here.”

Dawson gave his diligent advice and said kindly, “If you’re going to take matters into your own hands, I can help by contributing ideas, but most of it will be up to you to handle.”

Jasper understood that Dawson was giving him a chance to gain more experience in fighting business battles, which was why he did not modestly decline. He smiled and said, “Alright, you should take this time to rest up. I’ll come to you if I face any further problems.”

Dawson smiled and said, “You’ve already proved your ability and vision in making money. You’re much more powerful than anyone I’ve ever met, but you still need a little practice in business battles. I’ll help keep an eye on things while I still can. You don’t need to worry.”

Dawson’s phone rang while he was still talking.

It was a phone call from the executives at JW Real Estate.

A moment later, Dawson hung up the phone. He had a grim expression on his face.

“The people from Waterhoof City are quite aggressive.”

Wendy hurriedly asked, “What’s wrong? What did they say?”

Dawson said, “The person in charge from Nauritus City’s government just called. Something about how the company that wants to develop the south bank intends to have contact with me because they plan to build a bridge across Southface River that will connect the south and north banks.”

“Build a bridge? Isn’t that what the city government is supposed to do? Since when were companies in charge of that? Our main goal as a real estate company is to earn money, and a bridge would cost a billion dollars at least. Why should we fund this?” Wendy asked indignantly.

Dawson smiled as he said, “Nauritius City’s government thinks it’ll definitely be a good thing if the south bank is developed as well. Not only will it build a better image for themselves, but they’ll also be able to boost the economy on the north bank, which is relatively backward as of this moment. There’s no reason why they wouldn’t want us to collaborate.

“This bridge is probably one of the things the real estate agents at Waterhoof City used to tempt the city hall.”

Jasper laughed lightly as he said, “How calculating of them. They’ll be the only ones gaining benefits from this bridge, but they want us to fund a portion of it as well. In the end, we’ll have paid for nothing while they get all the credit. Do they think everyone else is a fool?”

Dawson nodded. He was deeply impressed.

He said in a low voice, “But either way, developing the north bank is a project that neither Nauritius City’s government nor the Southeast Province City’s government can reject as it will boost their economy. We’ve already gotten the shorter end of the stick.”

“It doesn’t matter. They can approach us all they like. When will that happen?” Jasper asked.

If Ian and Norman were going to drive up to his door, there was no reason for Jasper to cower behind the door.

Thus, Jasper had never considered rejecting the approach.

“This afternoon at the conference room of Nauritius City’s government,” Dawson answered.

Jasper thought for a brief moment before he raised his head and said, “I’m fine with the time, but I get to decide where we meet.”

Dawson raised an eyebrow slightly.

Jasper continued saying, “We’ll set the location at the development site at the south bank of the Southface River. If we’re going to discuss the development of the south and north banks, we should do it where it’s happening. What can we discuss in an office?”

Dawson smiled and said, “Alright, that’s a good idea. That’s settled then!”

“I’ll have someone return the call immediately and inform Nauritius City’s government of our decision. Let’s eat now.”

...

Dawson was a well-known figure in Southeast Province, a territory that covered Nauritius City. When the call was made, the city hall only hesitated for a brief second before agreeing.

Jasper spent some time with Wendy before getting into the car and driving toward the development site.

Wendy did not follow along. Dawson had assigned the vice-president from the real estate company who was in charge of the Southface River project to go along with Jasper. The main reason was that an executive familiar with how the project was progressing needed to be there if any operational issues came up.

“Pleased to meet you, Mr. Laine.” The vice president was named Sean Tucker. He was an executive who Dawson had paid a hefty sum to hire from a state-owned real estate company.

Jasper smiled as he shook his hand and said, “Nice to meet you, Vice President Tucker. I’ll need to trouble you in answering any questions there might be regarding the business today. I’m not too familiar with that aspect.”

Jasper rarely made an appearance at JW Real Estate, but Sean knew the existence of this most powerful boss.

Dawson was only the CEO of the real estate company on paper. In actuality, the shares were all under Jasper’s JW Investment Company and Wendy’s name. Thus, Jasper was his actual boss in practice.

As such, Sean put on a respectful attitude as he hurriedly said, “That’s my duty. I’ll do my best.”

Dawson’s chauffeur was in charge of driving them. Usually, Jasper would have Julian act as both his bodyguard and chauffeur whenever he went out. However, Jasper had allowed Julian to take care of his sister during this time.

A bone marrow match had been found for Julian's sister, and she would be having her operation in two days. Jasper had not only paid for everything, but he also used Dawson's connections to form a team of the best specialists in the country to conduct the operation.

Jasper had also given Julian an additional sum of money to use to take care of his sister, Cathy.

Jasper was never stingy when it came to his subordinate's welfare.

An employee would only be steadfastly loyal to their employer if the employer helped solve their worries. Jasper, who had been an employee for the entirety of his past life, understood that thoroughly.

The Southface River south bank project was the largest investment Southeast Province had made since its establishment. The developmental funds required for the entire project were estimated to be around 15 to 20 billion dollars. Jasper had already invested eight billion dollars into the project. He had not included the Law family's investment of four billion dollars in that.

Even though they had not arrived yet, Jasper could see the development site in full swing as he listened to Sean's report in the car. The site was spread across 900,000 square feet across the entire south bank.

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"The whole south bank of Southface River will undergo development. The site is about 900,000 square feet. After meeting with the planning department, our current plan is to build an integrated city center right in the center.

“That includes a Central Business District, a CBD. The CBD will include two 20-floor commercial buildings and one 40-floor office building. These three buildings will serve as the core of the district. The remaining buildings will surround it.

“In terms of lifestyle, we plan to build four neighborhoods. One high-end neighborhood, two on the poorer end of the spectrum, and one for those in the middle. There will also be two large shopping malls, two kindergartens, and one elementary, junior, and high school each.

“Other supporting facilities such as hospitals, municipal offices, and bus lines have all been allocated into the budget.”

Sean could not help but become excited as he reported to Jasper. He said, “Mr. Laine, to be honest with you, I used to work at a state-owned real estate agency where I thought I had a lot of experience.

“However, our understanding of real estate used to be nothing more than the construction of a few neighborhoods or business buildings. At the very most, we would be contracted for multiple-use buildings.

“I only realized how much one can do as a real estate agent when I saw JW Real Estate’s proposal for the Southface River project. We’re constructing a miniature city!

“The person who came up with this concept must be a genius! He’s the epitome of what it means to be in real estate. All the other real estate agencies in the country seem like small fries and not worth even a glance to me now!”

Jasper chuckled when he heard that. Naturally, he was the one who had come up with the project concept.

Literally every city in every country in the world would look like that in the future. There would not be any surprise anymore. However, when such a concept was

introduced in a world 20 years before that time, Jasper would be the pioneer in the real estate industry. It was only natural that Sean was shocked.

Jasper smiled as he said, "There are still many talented individuals in this country. I merely drew on some experience I gained overseas and combined it with what the locals want to come up with this design.

"However, I'm still an amateur. This design was redone several times when it was delivered to the design institute before it got approved. You professionals will definitely have better ideas than mine once you gain some experience."

Sean was stunned. "Mr. Laine, you designed this?!"

"Yes." Jasper nodded as he acknowledged it.

Sean was convinced now as he said, "I finally know what it means when they say there's always someone better than you. My old friends in the industry have been asking me who came up with the design for Southface River for the longest time. It turns out it was you, Mr. Laine.

"Mr. Laine, JW Real Estate will become famous for sure once this project is completed. The entire country will learn about us!"

As they spoke, the car pulled to a stop at the development site.

Sean had already gotten in contact with the person in charge at the site.

When the car pulled to a stop, a line of engineers and their supervisors were at the car door, fighting for the chance to open the door for Jasper.

"Greetings, Mr. Laine."

"Welcome to the site, Mr. Laine."

“Please come on in, Mr. Laine.”

As they all spoke to him with respect, Jasper waved his hands and said, “I just dropped by to take a look. Are the people from Nauritius City’s government here yet?”

“They’ve arrived and are having a tour of the place now,” a supervisor said.

“Bring me over,” Jasper said calmly.

...

Ian was standing with his back to the Southface River. Inwardly, he was deeply shaken as he gazed at the huge site which stretched beyond where the eye could see.

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He was not the only one. Norman, who was with him, also had a tense expression on his face.

The person standing beside them was the person in charge from Nauritius City’s government, and he sounded somewhat delighted and proud as he introduced the two to the site.

“Excluding Swallow Capital, Waterhoof City, and Cavern City, the Southface River project is the most advanced and modern city construction project in the country.

“Furthermore, it’s also currently the most important project in the province. Once this project is completed, it’ll help enhance the province in terms of the level of influence and competitiveness!

“It’s currently about 40% completed, and we estimate it’ll be fully completed by the first half of the next year!”

Norman felt annoyed as he listened to him talk.

He and Ian had not made the trip from Waterhoof City to listen to people praise Jasper’s ability!

“I would never have believed a 20-year-old boy was in charge of such a massive project if I hadn’t witnessed it with my own two eyes.”

Norman spoke in a heavy tone.

“I always thought Dawson was in charge of this. Who would have imagined that Dawson is just a supervisor while the actual mastermind is Jasper! Seems like we’ve grossly misunderstood the dynamics between Jasper and Dawson.”

Ian spoke after a long pause, “Impressive.

“If Jasper goes on like this for another ten years, I’m guessing that not even we will have the guts to challenge him anymore.”

Norman huffed as he said, “I admit that he has potential, but he’s still not that powerful compared to us now. Most importantly, look at how old he is. What tricks could he have witnessed in his lifetime? We’ll have him running circles around us if we just put a little more thought into things!”

Ian smiled. He had the same thoughts as Norman before he arrived at the site.

However, for some inexplicable reason, he had a bad feeling now as he stood with his back to the Southface River. He looked at the construction site, which was slowly revealing its majestic aura like a giant beast.

The south bank was a pearl of great price. However, was it a wise choice to develop the north bank just to get back at Jasper?

Ian's emotions were turbulent. He felt as if he had boarded a train that had left the station and it was too late for him to get down.

Just then, the person in charge said, "Here come the people from JW Real Estate!"

Ian and Norman glanced over. They saw a crowd of people walking toward them, and among them was a young man they would recognize even if he had been burnt to crisps. He was surrounded by the rest of the people, just like how stars surrounded the moon.

Jasper strode toward them. His posture and movement conveyed his confidence.

Ian suppressed his emotions. There was no point in shying away now. The only thing he could do was fight to the death!

When Ian and Norman glanced at Jasper, he also noticed them.

Their gazes met mid-air. Electrical sparks seemed to crackle and flare in the silence.

When Jasper and his companions got nearer to them, they heard Jasper chuckling as he said, "Mr. Hull! Mr. Gardner! Why didn't you let me know in advance that you would be making the trip here from Waterhoof City? If word got out, people would accuse me of being disrespectful and mistreating my seniors who've come as guests."

Jasper's opening statement was nothing but respectful, and he had a friendly posture as he spoke.

However, Ian and Norman were experienced. They could sense the hidden sarcasm behind Jasper's speech.

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"This is an unfortunate misunderstanding. I initially thought Southface River was worth developing and had the south bank as my first choice. Unfortunately, luck wasn't on our side, and the developmental rights for the south bank have already been claimed. Thus, we can only go for the second best choice now and develop the north bank.

"I never thought that you would be in charge of developing the south bank, Jasper."

Ian had a slight smile on his face as he replied.

Jasper chuckled. "I think it's quite a good thing. I was just thinking about how unbalanced it would be if the north bank were to be a desolate area while the south bank became a modern city after the project is finished. It's a good thing now that your company has come forth and expressed interest in developing the north bank."

"It's good if you think about things that way. However, please don't think we're targeting anyone by coming here. We don't mean it that way," Ian said as he smiled.

Jasper laughed. "Of course not."

As the two chatted and laughed, everyone else spectating could sense the hidden edge in the peaceful, jovial atmosphere.

Including Sean, everyone from JW Real Estate had a hostile look in their eyes as they looked at Ian and Norman.

It was obvious they were here to take their business away from them and launch a fight against them. How could they have come with good intentions?

The atmosphere started turning weird too.

Just then, the person in charge from Nauritius City's government smiled and said, "Mr. Laine, you're one of the up and coming young entrepreneurs in the province. Now that Mr. Hull and Mr. Gardner have set their hopes on the future of the north bank, it would do both parties good to cooperate."

Jasper glanced at the person in charge and smiled slightly as he said, "We're all just going about our own business. Of course, I would never say no to anything that would help boost the province's economy."

The person in charge's face lit up when he heard that and said, "Mr. Hull and Mr. Gardner came up with a proposal some time ago. They plan to connect the north and south banks of the Southface River. A bridge will have to be built across the river to make that happen. What are your thoughts on that, Mr. Laine?"

Jasper said appreciatively, "That's a good idea! Once the bridge is built and open for access, the north and south banks of the Southface River will be connected. That will greatly boost the economy of the north bank. Of course, I approve of it."

Everyone's expression changed the minute he said that.

Everyone with a clear eye could tell that Ian and Norman had suggested building a bridge so they would also receive a share in the profits earned from the development of the south bank of Southface River.

The north bank was desolate because of the Southface River. It restricted the development of the few districts there.

Even an idiot could tell that the south bank would become the new province capital once the project on the south bank was completed. It would outshine all the other areas in the province.

Thus, if the bridge was constructed, all the north bank needed to do then was sit back and look pretty to receive a share of the profits.

It did not make sense for Ian and Norman to walk away with such benefits after Jasper had invested so much money into the project.

Thus, even those from city hall were ready to watch Jasper strongly oppose and even get into a fight with Ian and Norman over the proposal.

However, Jasper surprised everyone by immediately agreeing to the idea.

“Mr. Laine, is that what you really think?” the person in charge asked.

Jasper smiled and said, “I’m from Southeast Province, and I feel responsible for the development of the province. Why would I reject a plan to further develop the province? Of course, I’m being sincere about this.”

The person in charge sighed. “Alright, alright. The heroes are becoming younger and younger. No one can match the amount of generosity you have, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper chuckled as he glanced at Ian and Norman before saying, “However, I have two tiny requests and suggestions.”

Ian and Norman, who had not spoken a word since, glanced at each other. Their hearts skipped a beat.

They knew Jasper was no idiot and there was no way he had not realized why they proposed building the bridge.

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Jasper's straightforward attitude was causing them to feel uneasy.

However, now that Jasper had mentioned his two requests, it meant he was about to retaliate.

Ian and Norman made sure they were on high alert. They were interested in what Jasper would do.

"Please go on, Mr. Laine," the person in charge from Nauritius City's government waved a hand as he spoke jovially.

'Persuading Jasper' had been one of the items included in the task list their superior gave them. That was no easy feat.

It would be alright if the person was an average businessman as these people never dared go against the city hall. However, Jasper Laine was no ordinary businessman. Even though he was the person in charge from Nauritius City's government, he did not have the guts to act cocky to Jasper either.

However, he had not needed to say anything before Jasper indicated his interest and cooperation. How could he not feel happy? Jasper seemed like the most handsome man in the world to him right now.

"It's simple. Building a bridge is a good thing, and although I intend to support it, I currently have a project that requires several million dollars of payments every single day. Thus, I won't be able to support the project financially. That's my first request."

Jasper had a bashful smile on his face. He looked like a young apprentice who was bashfully telling his master that he was still inexperienced and needed much more practice.

“The second one is a suggestion. My suggestion is that this bridge extends to where the Southface River meets the sea. Not only will we be able to connect the north and south banks, but we’ll also be able to reach several islands.

“You should give it your all if you’re trying to do good. The people on the islands rely on ferries to travel, and they have no roads that lead to the outside world. How are we going to boost the economy that way? You’ll benefit more people if you extend the bridge to reach the estuary.”

Norman nearly started cursing when he heard what Jasper said.

That little b*stard Jasper Laine, he was throwing them under the bus!

Norman struggled to stop himself from punching Jasper as he watched the latter smile and talk.

The main reason for constructing the bridge was to milk the popularity that the south bank would accumulate. This way, they could attract some people over to the north bank, which was a desolate, backward place.

However, it would cost a lot to build a bridge. Ian and Norman had only mentioned paying for the construction of the bridge themselves to get into the city hall’s good books.

The problem was they could not bring themselves to fork out a fund of several billion dollars from their pockets.

Thus, they had found a loophole. They would get Jasper to fund the project as well.

Norman had been so pleased with himself after coming up with that plan.

If Jasper rejected his proposal, he would be placed in a bad light with the city hall as he would seem stingy.

It would be the best if he agreed to it, like someone who drank poison to quench their thirst. It would equate to him helping develop the north bank as well.

It was a plan designed to put Jasper in a sticky situation.

Norman never imagined that Jasper would be able to resolve the situation so easily.

Not only did he refuse to fund the project, but he even proposed they extend the length of the bridge to the estuary 40 miles away? Would that not mean he and Ian would be the butt of everyone's jokes if they failed to construct the bridge?

Would that not mean he and Ian would become the two idiots from Waterhoof City who came all the way to give the citizens of Southeast Province free benefits?

The expressions on Ian and Norman's faces turned even uglier as Jasper finished speaking.

The person in charge from city hall also fell silent as he glanced repeatedly at the two men. He seemed to be waiting for their response.

No matter what, it was undeniable that by pulling the carpet from under their feet, Jasper had caused Ian and Norman intense pain.

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“This is getting interesting.”

Norman said coldly, breaking the silence. He got angrier the more he thought about it.

“You’re not paying, but you’re deciding on the address. You have nothing to lose, yet we are still supposed to listen to you? What kind of logic is this?”

After hearing what he said, Jasper replied matter-of-factly, “Well, you guys want to build this bridge in front of the South Bank, yet I’m still supposed to welcome you guys happily? What kind of logic is that?”

Norman flared up in rage as his expression morphed into one of anger. “Jasper Laine, don’t be an ungrateful wretch. The construction of the Southface River Bridge has been approved by the city government due to the benefits it’ll bring to the people. Does it not hurt your conscience to reject this project because of your own personal interests?” He questioned.

“I don’t understand what you mean,” Jasper said calmly. “The construction of the Southface River Bridge is a good thing. I expressed my support for it as well. However, I suggested a location that’s more suitable for the construction. Am I going against my conscience by doing so?” He asked.

“Alright, if that’s the case, then don’t mention the construction of the Southface River Bridge in front of me ever again. Even if you are going to build it, don’t even think of touching a piece my land on the South Bank. Do you think that you can construct this bridge without my approval?” He added.

Norman’s expression darkened. “Jasper Laine, you’re just making things harder than they need to be. Do you want me to force you to do so?” He spat angrily.

“Do you think that you’re capable of forcing me to do such a thing?”

The expressions on both Norman and Ian’s faces changed after registering his words.

Ian smiled and said, “We are all associates. There’s no need to ruin our relationship over a small issue like this. Why don’t we forget about the construction of Southface River Bridge for the time being? We can proceed after you guys settle on a set of conditions that everyone agrees on.”

“There’s no need to discuss things any further. Don’t think that you can monopolize everything here, Jasper Laine. Don’t assume that I will find it impossible to destroy your project in the South Bank,” Norman said in infuriation.

“So, you want to destroy my project?”

Jasper narrowed his eyes at Norman and said in a controlled voice, “In that case, show me your capabilities. I really want to see what other tricks you can come up with other than the shady business that you’re currently involved in.”

“Jasper Laine,” Ian called out. “Young people like you shouldn’t be so hot-tempered. No matter the circumstances, Norman is still a few decades older than you. You should be more courteous toward him. Otherwise, it’d make you seem like an overbearing person,” he advised.

“You’re right, Mr. Hull.”

A faint smile tugged at Jasper’s lips as he said, “However, I’m afraid that some people might have lived their few decades in vain. He seems to think that he’s the smartest person out there, so why should I bother with courtesy?”

His words caused Ian’s expression to darken as well.

On the surface, Jasper’s words were directed at Norman. However, he was chiding Ian implicitly as well.

Beyond angered, Ian smiled. "Alright, let's meet again then. I believe that the chance to meet will arise very soon. The project in South Bank will commence tomorrow. We will become neighbors!" He said in a frigid tone.

"In that case, I wish you prosperity," Jasper told the both of them.

Ian and Norman snorted and left in distaste.

After they left, the person in charge of the project from the neritic zone city government smiled bitterly at Jasper. "Mr. Laine, we are in a difficult position between both parties. Please understand that our jobs aren't easy either," he said.

Jasper smiled and spoke to him with utmost courtesy. "Of course I do. The higher ups are in a tough position as well. All that we can do is try our best to share some of their burden," he said.

"How about this? I'll go back and look into it. The construction of a pedestrian greenway along the south bank of Southface River in conjunction with the government's greening project would be a good thing for the environment and image of the provincial government. JW Real Estates will assume full responsibility on this project."

The person in charge's gaze lit up as he stared at Jasper in admiration.

He had seen many capable young people. However, it was his first time seeing a young man like Jasper who did things with a certain degree of constancy and pride, but not to the extent of arrogance.

He thought that Jasper would completely disregard him due to the prominence of the project on the South Bank. He could even refute some of the things the city government had decided on during his relatively hostile interaction with Ian Hull and Norman Gardner.

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However, Jasper did not do so.

He knew how to grasp the overall situation well and pinpoint exactly what the city government wanted.

A person like this was a true talent.

“Alright, I’ll tell everyone the good news at once. It’s getting late, so I won’t take up any more of your time.”

Jasper smiled. “Work is the priority. I’ll arrange for someone to drive you back,” he said.

Without the need for further instruction, Sean Tucker immediately gestured at a few of his smart-looking subordinates, and someone accompanied the person in charge out at once.

After the person in charge left, Sean told Jasper courteously, “Mr. Laine, you have such powerful methods of handling things. Take that person in charge for instance, I thought that you wouldn’t treat him nicely even if you chose not to point out that they were being greedy by trying to gain all the benefits without offending us.”

“They’re just doing it because it’s their job. He plays a minor role—the higher-ups are the ones who made the decision. Besides, the higher-ups tend to consider things from a holistic perspective, so they naturally wouldn’t care much about our benefits. It’ll be alright as long as we’re clear about what we can and cannot concede,” Jasper replied in an even tone.

“But Ian Hull and Norman Gardner were clearly targeting us this time around. Despite this, the city government still decided to give them the right to develop the north bank. I can’t help but get pissed off!” Sean complained angrily.

Jasper narrowed his eyes and looked at the undulating slopes of the north bank opposite the river. He suddenly smiled and said, “That may not be a bad thing.”

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Inside the hotel.

Crash!

Norman Gardner smashed a wine glass against the ground. His face was flushed red due to his extreme rage.

“F*ck it! Jasper Laine, that b*stard! Does he really think that he’s that important?!”

“What did he mean by that? I lived a few decades in vain? How can an immature b*stard in his twenties say something like that?!”

Ian Hull looked at Norman, who was beyond agitated, and spoke calmly, “That’s enough, Norman. Being angry serves no purpose. Jasper Laine’s move was indeed something that we didn’t consider. Your anger won’t change the fact that we lost to him in today’s exchange.”

Norman unbuttoned the top button of his shirt. He took a few breaths before saying, “That’s why I’m mad about it. This b*stard is way too sly!”

“It’s alright. He just used some small tricks. We had never expected that he would agree to the construction of the bridge in the first place.”

Ian sneered, his gaze cold and hard. "We should just carry on with the original plan. Commence the development of the north bank immediately. On the other hand, find a way to mess with the South Bank!" He said.

"What about the person that I asked you to contact?"

Norman's anger seemed to reside as he thought of something. A smile formed on his lips. "I looked into it. Hero Company, which is owned by Mr. Cook, is JW Real Estates' cement provider, whereas Stellar Company is their steel provider. Meanwhile, they obtain other masonry and building materials from distributor companies in Andros," he announced.

"Stellar Company's steel and Hero Company's cement are both top brands within the industry. Jasper Laine is really willing to splurge on his project."

Ian chuckled. "Mr. Cook is from Haddock as well. I'll talk to him later on. As for Stellar Company, I recall that the vice president there is one of your associates, right? Can you talk to him?"

"We are as close as brothers. I can convince him easily!" Norman snickered.

"That's great. We should talk to all the other distributors in Andros as well," Ian said in satisfaction.

"I'll take away all of Jasper Laine's construction materials this time. Even if he gets his hands on something, they'll all be defective goods. Let's see how he intends to carry on with the construction after that!"

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“In Swallow Capital, Jasper Laine relies on the Laws’ support to show off in front of us. Let’s see how he intends to do so in the province! Without the Laws, there is no way that that b*stard and Dawson Schuler, that old scoundrel, is able to beat us!”

A hint of coldness flashed in Ian’s gaze as the corners of his mouth lifted slightly to reveal a devious smile.

“That’s right. This time, we must let Jasper Laine know that no matter how powerful he is, there’s always someone greater than him. Besides, he must pay several times over for everything that he’s done to us!” Norman responded.

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Meanwhile, Jasper met up with Dawson to tell him about the order of events that took place today after returning from the construction site.

“This is interesting,” Dawson said with a smile. He made a cup of tea for Jasper.

“My thoughts are the same as yours regarding the construction of this bridge. At best, this was just one of their tests. They never expected for us to agree to it in the first place.

“Besides, it’s impossible for the construction to take place without our agreement. They just wanted the Nauritus City Government to form a bad impression of us.”

Jasper replied calmly, “That’s why I proposed building a pedestrian greenway. The budget of the entire project should be around 10 million dollars. We can spend this money to get on the city government’s good side. After all, Nauritus

City is the provincial capital. We can't break off our relationship with the Nauritus City Government.

"Furthermore, this will effectively enhance the attractiveness of the entire project."

Dawson nodded and said, "That's right. You considered everything thoroughly. However, there's no need to pay it too much heed. After all, business is business. Anyone with a discerning eye can clearly tell that there is no reason to condemn us even if we disagree to it."

"I'm considering their backup plan," Jasper said while taking a sip of his tea. "They won't let this go so easily," he added.

"It's better to lay low for now.

"Although they're taking action now, we have a larger chance of winning. They should be more anxious than we are. It would be the best if we didn't do anything right now," Dawson suggested.

"After the construction ends in a few months, it'll be too late for them to do anything."

Jasper nodded. Dawson's thoughts coincided with his.

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In the Province General Hospital, Wendy brought some fruits into the intensive care unit ward.

Julian, who was looking after Cathy, got up once Wendy entered the room. "Ms. Schuler, why are you here?" He asked.

Wendy chuckled. "I was busy during Cathy's surgery, so I didn't have time to visit then. I came over to visit her now that her surgery is over," she said.

Wendy put down the fruits and took a seat on the chair that Julian had pulled out. Cathay opened her eyes weakly to look at her. "How are you? Are you feeling alright?" She asked Cathy.

A bone marrow transplant was a major operation. Cathay had just woken up not too long ago. She still could not speak, so she could only nod her head slightly or use her gaze to express her intentions.

"The doctor told us that the operation was a success. She can be discharged from the hospital after being hospitalized for observation for around half a month," Julian explained to Wendy.

Julian's eyes were red-rimmed. He bowed deeply to Wendy. "Ms. Schuler, you and Jasper are our saviors. Nothing we do will ever be enough to repay your kindness," he said.

"Don't say something like that. Jasp and I both truly admire your capabilities, Julian. I still need you to take good care of Jasp on my behalf," Wendy said, implying that there was no need for Julian to act so courteously.

"Furthermore, Cathy has been helping out in the company all this while. I'm well aware of her capabilities. Her work efficiency was simply affected due to her health problems. After Cathy gets discharged, she can officially join the company. I've already prepared a position for her," Wendy said.

Julian nodded gratefully. Although he was full of gratitude, he did not know how to express it due to his introverted nature. He then caught sight of the apple beside him. "Ms. Schuler, wait for a minute. I'll wash an apple for you," he said immediately.

Just as Wendy was about to say that it was not necessary, Julian picked up the apple and ran out of the ward.

Wendy smiled and shook her head. She knew that this was Julian's way of expressing his gratitude. If he rejected him, he may feel hurt.

Soon after, Julian returned empty-handed. His expression was slightly solemn.

“Ms. Schuler, did you offend anyone lately?”

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Stupefied, Wendy responded, “No, I’m always either at the company or at home. My life revolves around these two places. How could I offend someone? What happened?”

Julian’s expression became more serious. However, he was a smart man. He knew what he could tell Wendy, and what he could not. He smiled and responded, “It’s nothing. I was just asking. I dirtied the apple just now, so I’ll take another one. Wait for a moment.”

Julian picked up another apple. He then turned around and left the ward.

Wendy’s mind wandered as she watched Julian’s silhouette.

After walking out of the ward, Julian pulled out his phone and called Jasper immediately.

“Jasper, it’s me, Julian.

“Ms. Schuler came over to the hospital to visit my sister...Yes, her surgery is over...Yep, it was a major success. Thank you for your concern, Jasper...

“Jasper, I discovered that someone was stalking Ms. Schuler just now. That person was extremely alert. He ran away once he noticed me. I was worried that they had something else up their sleeves, so I didn’t go after him and came back to ensure Ms. Schuler’s safety.”

Jasper had just bid Dawson goodbye when he received Julian's call. He was on the way home at the time.

After listening to what Julian said, Jasper asked the driver to head over to the Province General Hospital immediately. "You made the right choice. Don't do anything for now. I'll head over right away. Let's talk after I arrive," he told Julian.

When Jasper arrived at the hospital, Julian was guarding Wendy closely in the ward.

"Jasper," Julian called out as he walked in front of him.

Jasper nodded as he patted Julian on the shoulder. He turned around to smile at Wendy and then walked in front of Cathy.

"Don't say anything. Just lie down and rest," Jasper said. He leaned down to press her back onto the bed after seeing her struggle to say something.

"You don't need to think of anything else. Julian is working by my side now. We have a pretty close relationship. Wendy told me that you have quite the talent in management as well. After you recover, I intend to let you lead the company's logistics department.

"This position comes with grueling responsibilities, so you must get well soon."

Jasper told her this in a joking manner. He then turned around to face Wendy. "Why are you here?" He asked.

"I should be asking you that, right?" Wendy asked as she cast a glance at Julian. Julian must have discovered something. He must have hid it from her and told Jasper instead.

"I just stopped by on the way to pay someone a visit," Jasper said with a smile.

“You’ve been so busy these past few days. I was afraid you’d forget, so I came over to pay Cathy a visit on behalf of the both of us,” Wendy explained.

Jasper nodded and said, “Wait for me here. Julian, let’s go out for a smoke.”

After speaking, Jasper attempted to walk out of the ward.

“Stand right there,” Wendy said, wrapping her arms around him. She looked Jasper in the eye and said, “You rarely smoke. If there’s something, you should just tell me face to face. Am I not allowed to know about this?”

Jasper smiled at her bitterly. He knew that there was no way he could hide something from the brilliant Wendy Schuler.

Although Wendy rarely expressed her opinions in front of Jasper, she was the one who made most of the company decisions when he was not around.

She was skilled in business management. Since she was capable of running a large company well, it went without saying that she was not someone that could be fooled easily.

After flashing a meaningful glance at Julian, Jasper took his place by Wendy’s side. They were not going to talk outside anymore.

“Ms. Schuler, I just found out that someone was stalking you. There were at least three people. They exhibited a high degree of professionalism, and they seemed to be imbued with a strong sense of purpose,” Julian said.

“They exhibited a high degree of professionalism?”

Jasper’s brows knitted together once he heard what Julian said. He replied in a low voice, “Tell me exactly what happened.”

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In a hotel within the province.

Ben Hull was resting on the bed in a suite that had been converted into a temporary ward.

His complexion was terrible after undergoing two operations. However, his gaze was even more terrifying.

Lisa Gardner and a man in his thirties, who looked a lot like Ben, were in the room as well.

This man was Hans Hull. He was Ben's uncle.

Hans' parents bore him at a relatively older age, so he had been spoilt since he was young. He had started looking for women when he was a teenager, and now that he was in his thirties, he had achieved nothing except for establishing himself as a renowned playboy.

Hans' complexion was pale due to his constant indulgence in debauchery all year long. His body had long been a hollow shell that was dominated by women. His gaze shone as he stared at the photographs of Wendy Schuler in his hand with a lustful gaze.

"Are you all rubbish?" Ben yelled at a man standing by the door.

"The Hulls spend so much to keep the lot of you alive. If it weren't for the Hulls, you would all have died from hunger on the streets. However, you can't even manage to follow a normal woman. You even got discovered by them. Why are you so useless?!"

Ben started coughing violently after yelling at the man due to his overwhelming rage. He had a hideous scowl etched on his face.

Lisa sighed. "Don't get all worked up, Benny. The doctor said that you have to control your emotions now," she said.

A spiteful and vicious expression formed on Ben's face. "This bunch of rubbish can't even follow a mere woman around. How could I not be angry?" He asked.

The man standing by the door looked extremely guilty. "Sorry, Young Master. We didn't expect a professional to appear in the ward. That person is really skilled. He saw through my disguise almost immediately. I had to leave first in order to not alert them," he explained.

"Aaron, you've been with the Hulls for a decade, right?"

Just then, Hans finally lifted his gaze away from the photograph of Wendy Schuler in his hand unwillingly. He raised his head to speak to the man standing by the door.

Aaron nodded and replied, "Yes, Second Master, it's been exactly ten years."

Hans snickered. "You know me. I can't let them get away with bullying my nephew. Moreover, I really like the woman of the man that bullied my nephew," he said.

"That's why I don't want to listen to any of your excuses or explanations. I'll give you one more chance. I want to see this woman lying on my bed in three days' time. Can you do that?"

The horrifying image of Julian flashed across Aaron's mind. Although the two of them had never gone against each other before, he knew a master when he saw one.

Aaron could tell that Julian was definitely a powerful fighter just from his physique and gaze.

He knew that he could not win against a master like him if he went against him alone.

However, Hans' frigid gaze caused Aaron to grit his teeth harshly. "Don't worry, Second Master. This time, I definitely won't make any mistakes!" He exclaimed.

Hans nodded after getting a satisfactory response from Aaron. "That's a good attitude. I don't care about the method, I only care about the results. You'd better not disappoint me," he said.

After speaking, Hans sneered coldly and gestured for Aaron to leave the room.

Hans stared at the photograph in his hands after Aaron left the room. "Ian and Lisa, the both of you have bestowed a huge gift upon me this time around. The moment I saw her, I felt like I had fallen in love," he said.

Lisa cast a disgusted glance at Hans. Any woman with a decent mind would stay as far as possible as they could from a man like Hans Hull.

Nevertheless, in name, Hans Hull was still her "distant relative". Therefore, she could only bite the bullet and tell him, "As long as you like it, Uncle."

Hans guffawed loudly. "I like it! I like it way too much! I've had my way with so many women that I'd thought that no woman would be able to shock me anymore. However, the first time I set my eyes on her, I felt that all the women that I've had in the past were all garbage!" He remarked.

Ben smiled. He did not seem to mind at all.

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Although Hans was Ben's biological uncle, he had a larger age gap with his father, Ian, than he did with him.

Therefore, in all honesty, the two of them could be regarded as birds of a feather.

Furthermore, Hans was the one who had brought Ben to his very first hook-up.

"Uncle, I wouldn't recommend someone of a subpar quality, would I? She's a woman of excellent quality. This is just her photograph. You are yet to see her in real life. Even I fell for her when I saw her in person."

As Ben spoke, a sinister smile formed on his face. "However, that man called Jasper Laine is Wendy Schuler's boyfriend. He's sort of difficult. As you know, my father and uncle have been going against him lately. Therefore, we will have to resort to tricks to kidnap her," he said.

Hans waved his hand at him. "What are you afraid of? Even if he's that powerful, he's just a young boy. With your father and uncle personally going against him, he'll be defeated for sure. How dare he go against the Hulls and Gardners?" He questioned indifferently.

Ben laughed and exclaimed, "You're really confident, Uncle! We just have to wait for the good news from Aaron now. When I picture the expression on Jasper Laine's face once he discovers that his girlfriend has slept with another man, I get all excited! Hahahaha!"

A vicious and venomous smile appeared on Lisa Gardner's face as well. "Once he realizes that he's been cheated on, let's see how high and mighty he'll be." She added.

Hans snickered as he gazed at the two photographs in his hand greedily. He then tucked them into his coat. It was as if he could feel pleasure by doing so.

His thoughts were now fully consumed by Wendy Schuler. As for Jasper Laine, he could not care less about him.

He was just a minor character. He could get away once or twice, but what was the use of that?

Throughout the years, he did not stop himself from setting his hands on someone else's girlfriend or wife right before their very eyes. Hans did not feel an ounce of guilt when he did something like that. Conversely, he felt beyond thrilled.

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Inside the ward.

After hearing Julian go through the entire incident in detail, a list of all the possible candidates who had sent someone to follow Wendy flashed across Jasper's mind.

It could not be Erik Turner. He was in Swallow Capital, so it was impossible for him have such a far reach. If he had done something like that, he would not have had such great progress in Swallow Capital.

Ian Hull and Norman Gardner?

These two people were the most suspicious as of now.

However, Jasper felt like there were still some problems that he was yet to discover.

Nonetheless, there was too little information at hand. There was no way for Jasper to pinpoint the perpetrator with complete certainty.

Despite this, he had inwardly increased his level of caution toward Ian Hull and Norman Gardner.

There were people who certain people who wanted to bring harm to Wendy. The Zions from Brac County were the perfect example.

This time, Jasper would make the people who wished to harm Wendy suffer more despair than the Zions did!

“Why don’t you rest at home for a few days, Wendy?”

Letting out a soft sigh, Jasper suggested to Wendy.

Wendy frowned slightly and said, “I still have a lot of tasks on hand at the company. I’ve been following up and handling a lot of the company matters. If I stayed at home, how would I be able to work?”

“There are so many people in the company. We will still be able to operate without you. Besides, I’ll be there,” Jasper said.

“We shouldn’t hide from them. They’re just following me, right? Let them follow me all they want. What can they do to me? If a small issue like this scares me to the point that I don’t dare to leave the house, what would I do in the future?” Wendy said in a tough, domineering tone.

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Jasper felt that Wendy made some sense.

Moreover, he did not want to force Wendy to stay at home in light of her insistent stance.

Wendy was one who could be persuaded by reason, but she definitely would not yield to a forceful approach.

After learning that someone was stalking her, there was no way that she would hide at home just because of it.

Dawson had previously told Jasper about an incident that took place when Wendy was sixteen years old. Back then, one of Dawson's business competitors intended to hire someone to kidnap Wendy in order to threaten him.

However, sixteen-year-old Wendy Schuler had insisted on continuing to attend classes with a taser and a knife in her bag.

At that moment, Jasper knew in his heart that although this young lady looked soft, gentle, weak, and appeared like an easy target for bullies, she was definitely not an ordinary woman who could be easily provoked.

If he were to draw a comparison between Anna Law and Wendy Schuler...

Anna Law was just like a poppy flower—she was beyond enchanting and charming. However, she had her means of poisoning others when they least expected it.

On the other hand, Wendy Schuler resembled a rose. She was breathtakingly beautiful, but there were thorns concealed under the fragrant scent of her petals. Anyone who dared to approach her without thinking twice were likely to get pricked till blood ran down their hands.

Jasper felt that he was a pretty lucky man. In front of him, Wendy had always hidden away her thorns and transformed them into a soft and silent layer of gentleness.

“No problem. Julian, you should stay by Wendy's side for the time being. Don't let her out of your sight,” Jasper ordered.

“Alright, Jasper,” Julian agreed with a nod.

However, Wendy had a different opinion. From her point of view, Jasper was in a position that was much more dangerous as compared to her.

If someone was following her around, it was likely that those people would make a move on Jasper as well.

However, just as she was about to express her thoughts, she caught sight of Jasper’s stern gaze, which was directed at her. She instantly swallowed all the words that she had intended to counter him with.

She knew that Jasper would listen to her most of the time. However, once he made a certain type of decision, nobody was allowed to question it.

“Alright,” Wendy said in exasperation.

After deciding on the plan, Jasper left together with Wendy.

Julian left with them as well.

Although Cathy needed someone to look after her during her recuperation period, Julian knew his priorities.

At the hospital, Jasper had arranged for a team of experts to observe and oversee the entire process of Cathy’s recovery. In addition to this, a few of the best nurses in the hospital were looking after her 24 hours a day.

Therefore, Julian did not need to worry about Cathy at all.

The three of them left the ward and soon returned home. Jasper and Wendy did not tell Dawson about this incident.

There was no need to add to his worries.

Jasper now had the ability to handle all the impending problems and crises that he faced. He did not need someone else's protection anymore.

On the contrary, he now needed to bear the brunt of all the problems in order to protect the people by his side.

The next day, Jasper and Wendy were just about to leave the house after having their breakfasts when Jasper received a call from Sean Tucker.

"Mr. Laine, we have a problem!"

Jasper frowned upon hearing what he said.

Sean then proceeded to explain the situation to him. There was a problem with the supply of building materials.

"I'll head over to the company at once."

Jasper arrived at JW Real Estates. The real estate company was yet to have a formal independent working space. Therefore, it currently worked from a temporary office that occupied two floors of Schuler Group's office building.

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As soon as Jasper walked into the company, he invited Sean and a bunch of executives that had rushed over from the construction site to gather for a meeting.

"Mr. Laine, we had originally agreed on the shipment of a batch of cement with Hero Company today morning. However, they didn't send out the shipment. We

tried to contact them by calling them, but they told us that the manager in charge of handling us had gone on a business trip and can't be contacted for now."

A person in charge stood up and announced. There was an unpleasant look on his face.

"Hero Company is one of the country's top large-scale cement suppliers. How can a single manager be in charge of handling the entire shipment? What about the other people?" Jasper asked.

"We couldn't get in contact with them. Meanwhile, the managers that that we did manage to contact after numerous tries told us that the company was facing a production shortage right now. Therefore, they have limited all of their distribution channels, and have no idea when they'll be able to distribute the supplies to us"

Jasper rapped his fingers against the table. His expression was dark and overcast. "Are there any problems with our payment for the goods?" He asked.

The person in charge reported, "There was absolutely no problem with the payment. We adhered to the contract strictly. We pledged two batches of goods, and paid for the first batch of supplies after the third batch was sent to us. There has been no problem until now."

Jasper nodded and said, "In that case, this isn't about money. What about the steel supplies? Are there problems with that as well?"

Another executive let out an audible sigh. "The situation at Stellar Company is pretty similar. We can't get in contact with the person handling our supplies. However, Stellar Company faxed us an official letter," he said.

"The letter said that several of the boilers at Stellar Company are under maintenance, so they are currently shut down and cannot be used for production. They are unsure as to when they can continue distributing the supplies as well.

“That’s right. There are no problems with the payment on this either. We fulfilled all of the criteria mentioned in the contract that has been agreed to in accordance with the market conditions.”

Jasper fixed his gaze on the person in charge of the procurement of materials for the Southface River project.

The person in charge, who was in his forties, did not dare to meet Jasper’s gaze at all. His forehead was beaded with sweat. With a bitter expression on his face, he said, “Not only are there problems with the cement and steel supplies, but our supplies of paint, thermal insulation, waterproof concrete, brick, stone and most of the building materials have almost all been cut off.”

No matter the reason, the procurement manager would be the first to be held responsible if there was a problem with the supply of building materials.

The procurement manager felt like burying himself in the ground right now.

Following his words, the atmosphere in the meeting room fell into a state of heavy, sinister silence.

Everyone directed their gazes at Jasper, who was seated at the head of the table, as they waited for him to come up with an idea.

Right then, Sean decided to bite the bullet after pondering it for some time. “Mr. Laine, it’d be reasonable if there were problems with procuring one or two of the building materials. However, the supply of all our building materials, regardless of the shipment size, have been cut off at the same time. It’s obvious that someone from the upstream supply chain is messing with us,” he said.

Jasper did not reply.

Anyone could understand something simple like that.

This move was not really very smart. In fact, it was rather barbaric.

However, it was still effective.

It was a trick that utilized a predatory pricing strategy to buy up the supply.

If they did this to a weaker opponent, their opponent would have lost all resistance instantly. They would be at the mercy of everyone else.

Previously, Jasper had used a similar method to defeat the Zions back in Brac County.

“It’s Haddock. Ian Hull and Norman Gardner are behind this,” Jasper announced in an even tone.

They were the only ones who go to such lengths in order to disrupt the Southface River project.

Jasper knew that they were about to unleash all their moves on him one by one.

Sean let out a heavy sigh, “Mr. Laine, what should we do now?” He asked.

“How long will the remaining building supplies at the construction site last?” Jasper asked.

Being the competent vice president that he was, Sean answered almost immediately. “The other building materials should be able to last for some time since we still have quite a number of supplies in the inventory. We should have enough to continue for up to ten or fifteen days. However, we use a lot of cement and steel supplies on a daily basis. As of now, our inventory of those will only last another four days,” he said.

“If we don’t receive a new supply of building materials in four days, construction will have to be temporarily suspended.”

“Under no circumstances can construction be suspended. If construction is suspended, a series of harmful chain reactions will occur, alongside drastic financial losses. This is exactly what our opponent wishes to achieve,” Jasper said decisively.

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Sean and a few of the executives looked at each other.

They all understood the reasoning behind their opponent’s actions.

The development of the Southface Riverbank was an enormous project. They would lose millions if they stopped the construction for a single day.

Nobody would willingly want to stop the construction unless the situation was dire.

However, their supply of building materials had all been cut off. It would be impossible not to suspend the construction site under these circumstances.

Nevertheless, Jasper did not leave them waiting for too long. He drew up a plan immediately.

“There’s a building material supplier called Ambition Corporation in Brac Country. The boss of this company is named Xavier Johnson. He’s one of my associates. Later on, the head of the procurement department will have to get in contact with him and ask him to supply us with building materials from the Brac County market.”

The head of the procurement department was overjoyed upon hearing this. “Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. I’ll handle this task well,” he said immediately.

Jasper massaged his temples and said in a frigid tone, "I've found the person that you need, and I'll give you his contact information later. All you need to do is make a few phone calls and assess the quality of the supplies. If you can't even do something like that, I'll need you to pack up and go home."

The procurement manager instantly flushed a bright red. Overcome with awkwardness, he could not say a single word.

"There's something else as well."

Jasper did not give him another glance. Although it was not his fault that the supply of building materials had gotten cut off, this issue had revealed that JW Real Estates' procurement department was seriously inadequate.

They did not even plan to look for another supplier after the original source cut off their supplies. This was the main responsibility of the department head.

However, this was not the time to penalize them. That would have to wait until everything was resolved.

"Since Stellar Company cut off our supply of steel, we should get in contact with Fortress Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. They are one of the largest steelmaking plants in the country as well. Even without Stellar Company, we can get our steel supplies all the same."

The procurement manager hesitated before saying, "Mr. Laine, we had to get quotations from both of these companies when we were selecting the suppliers. The quotation from Fortress Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. was 20% higher than that of Stellar Company. They didn't give us any room for negotiation either. Therefore, we eventually chose Stellar Company."

"If they find out that we were looking for them after having our supplies cut off by Stellar Company, I'm afraid that it will be hard to get a good price."

Jasper waved his hand and said, "It's alright. Agree to it as long as the price isn't too outrageous. If you aren't sure, you can discuss the matter with Vice President Tucker. Our current priority is to resolve the issue we are facing with our building materials. As for money, or difference of a few million dollars will not have much of an impact."

"Also, is the head of the legal department here?" Jasper asked.

A middle-aged woman, who was wearing glasses, quickly stood up. There was a cold and hard expression on her face. "Mr. Laine, I'm Sarah Lund, the manager of JW Real Estates' legal department," she said.

Jasper nodded. Among the several department heads, he was the most satisfied with Sarah Lund's performance. She had always acted in a calm and collected manner.

"We will go through the proper legal procedures when examining the contracts that we've signed with the original suppliers, regardless of the length of these contracts. There is no need to send them a lawyer's letter. The other party will not care at all, and there is no need to discuss it further. We will sue them, and reject all out-of-court settlements."

"Due to the cut-off of supplies, the losses faced by our company will have to be recovered from their compensation. This lawsuit is going to be a major battle. Don't refrain from causing a huge ruckus. The bigger the ruckus we cause, the better it'll be for us."

After registering what Jasper said, Sarah replied, "Mr. Laine, if we carry out our actions according to your conditions, these lawsuits will be delayed for a long time. We will accrue a relatively large cost as well."

"The lawsuit will just consist of a first hearing, a second hearing, and the final judgment. I have a lot of time on my hand. I have tons of money as well. Through these lawsuits, I want to tell all the companies working together with us that JW Real Estates will never give in to such rogue and lowly methods.

“Anyone who dares to breach their contract with JW Real Estates will have to be prepared to face our lawsuit till the very end.”

After the meeting ended, Jasper returned to his office.

Dawson had allocated an office room to him in JW Real Estates. It was usually empty except for the times that the cleaners would come in to clean up the room. However, the room was furnished with extensive facilities. There was even a brand-new television inside.

He turned on the television. The provincial news channel was playing right now.

As expected, the new content revolved around the development of the north bank of the Southface River.

Norman Gardner was on screen. He was standing with his back to the venue of the foundation laying ceremony, which had just ended. “The main goal we would like to achieve through the development of the North Bank is to revitalize the poor economic areas on the north bank of the province,” he announced with a cheerful smile on his face.

“Besides that, according to our plan, the North Bank will be transformed into a central city that will integrate daily entertainment, and leisure. It won’t lose out to the South Bank!

“I believe that the North Bank will definitely shine brilliantly in the near future.”

The landline phone on the office table suddenly rang.

The call was from the reception.

“Mr. Laine, Mr. Ian Hull said that he’s here to visit you.”

Jasper raised his brow. He had originally intended to shut off the television. However, he changed his mind and put down the remote control. "Let him in," he said.

Not long after, Ian Hull entered Jasper's office under the guidance of an employee.

Ian entered the room with a joyous smile splayed across his face. After catching sight of the news being broadcasted on the television, his smile instantly grew broader. He extended a hand toward Jasper and said, "Mr. Laine, are you interested in our North Bank project as well?"

Jasper laughed. "I was born and bred in the Southeastern district of the province. Meanwhile, you have come a long way from Andros to develop the relatively underdeveloped North Bank here in the province, Mr. Hull. Since you're bringing benefits to the Southeastern district, I have no reason not to turn a blind-eye to the project," he said.

Ian smiled cheerily and gave him a thumbs up. "As expected of you, Mr. Laine. You're a generous person indeed," he remarked.

"Mr. Hull, you didn't come here just to tell me this, right?" Jasper asked.

Ian sat down on the sofa and patted the armrest. "You sure do know how to enjoy yourself, Mr. Laine. This sofa must have been imported from overseas. It isn't cheap," he commented.

Jasper looked at Ian calmly without uttering a single word.

Ian laughed upon realizing that Jasper was not playing along with him. "Actually, I came here today to ask if you were interested in selling me your project on the South Bank, Mr. Laine," he told Jasper.

Jasper raised his brow and chuckled. "You have a pretty large appetite, Mr. Hull."

“After all, business is business. At first, I came over just to survey the scene without any other intentions. However, the more I looked around, the more I realized that the South Bank project really has large commercial value. In any case, it’d be difficult for your construction site to proceed with its construction work now,” Ian said indifferently.

“Why don’t you sell the project to me instead of holding on fruitlessly?”

“What makes you think that it’ll be difficult for my construction site to proceed with its construction work?” Jasper asked in an even tone.

Ian guffawed loudly. “Mr. Laine, we’re both smart people. Let’s speak in a straightforward manner. Without the building supplies, does your construction site intend to carry out the construction with rocks collected from the roadside?” He questioned.

“Mr. Hull, so how much do you plan to acquire my project for?” Jasper asked.

Ian thought for a while before replying, “300 million dollars.”

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300 million dollars.

At first glance, it sounded like a lot.

It would be considered a lot even twenty years into the future in the era Jasper had been living in before his reincarnation.

300 million dollars was enough for a family to achieve financial freedom. They would be viewed as admirable millionaires in everyone’s eyes.

Nevertheless, however he looked at it, the price of 300 million offered by Ian Hull sounded like a huge insult.

“I won’t say much about the value of the project’s development rights. Putting that aside, I have already invested 800 million dollars in the project alone, and I’ve made a follow-up investment of more than 1.5 billion dollars. Despite all this, you telling me that you’re going to buy this project for 300 million dollars. Mr. Hull, you have such immaculate decision-making.”

Ian chuckled at Jasper’s words. “Mr. Laine, I’m much older than you are. At first, I thought that you were really capable and wouldn’t need many tips on what to do. However, I’d have to teach you a thing or two today,” he said.

“The value of a commodity often isn’t based on its monetary value alone. Some things will end up being a bad project when placed in your hands. You simply don’t have the ability to make it work.

“In that case, it’ll be worthless burden to you.

“However, it’d be different in my hands. I can make it work. This is my personal ability. This is my capital. You can’t include this in the value of a commodity.”

Seated behind his office desk, Jasper fixed a calm and heavy gaze upon Ian.

After Ian finished speaking, Jasper questioned him in an indifferent tone, “From your perspective, is there no doubt that I’ll screw up this project, Mr. Hull?”

Ian let out an inward laugh as his gaze gradually hardened. “Stop being so pretentious, Jasper Laine. Isn’t it meaningless to do so? Your supply of building materials have been cut off, and I’m telling you that you won’t be able to purchase any building materials no matter where you go or who you look for!” He said.

“This is the definition of networking! This is what you call a resource pool!

“After all, I’m regarded as a prominent individual in Andros. Besides, given the reputation of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, who would dare to get on my bad side? Who would choose to supply you with building materials under the risk of offending Haddock?”

“How is the construction site going to proceed with its construction work without the building materials?”

Ian chuckled lightly. He looked at Jasper with a satisfied expression on his face. “In this world, you can’t do whatever you want just because you have the potential and have once received a few words of praise from others,” he said.

“If I gave a young man like you ten or twenty more years, or once you’re at my age, you may really become more powerful than me.

“However, you’re still way too young right now. You haven’t gone through the torments of society. You wouldn’t know how high and mighty the outside world can be. This incident should teach you a lesson.”

Ian got up as he spoke. He placed his hands on the office desk and stared down at Jasper from above. “You can only blame yourself for being way too reckless in Swallow Capital. You may not have thought about this, but although I may not have the ability to go against the Laws, it’s beyond easy for me to defeat you,” he said while snickering.

“Admit your wrongdoings in front of me, and apologize to my son. After that, hand this project over to me. I will let you keep your other businesses. Otherwise, I’ll make sure to take away everything that you have and turn you into a penniless loser!”

“Your threats are rather frightening,” Jasper remarked in an even tone.

“Young man, it’s important to know your own limits. Do you really have the ability to go against your seniors in the industry?”

Ian chuckled as he stood up and looked down at Jasper.

“Don’t be so conceited to the point that you forget your last name just because you’ve received some praise in the past. This type of behavior is dangerous. You’ll be faced with a huge problem sooner or later.

“You’re lucky that you met me. I tend to appreciate talented people, so I’m willing to give you a chance. Otherwise, do you think that you’d still have the opportunity to talk to me right now?”

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“That’s why I’m here to give you a final chance. Here is 300 million dollars. If you’re willing to bow to my conditions, take the money and hand the project over to me. If you’re unwilling to do so, the province may soon find itself left with only the Southface River north bank in a few months’ time. Haha, the south bank might just cease to exist.”

Jasper got up too. He looked Ian in the eye directly and said, “In that case, I’ll announce my stance here today as well.

“Since you’re not playing by the rules, let’s go against each other with the best of our abilities.

“I don’t have other abilities except being able to earn money fast. Even if I lose a few million or a few billion dollars, it won’t matter much to me!

“Since you’re so much older than me, I hope that you’re able to maintain the haughty sense of superiority that you currently possess, Mr. Hull. If you keep it up, you won’t lose too uglily when the time comes.”

Ian’s expression darkened. He glared at Jasper and growled, “Do you really intend to go against me till the very end?”

“I’m operating my business well, but you just had to go around causing trouble. You even resorted to using dirty tricks to cut off the supply of building materials to my construction site. Am I really the one going against you?” Jasper asked firmly.

“In any case, it’s good to phrase it that way as well, because I genuinely will go against you till the very end!”

Ian let out an angry bark of laughter. “Well, well, well, young people are hot-headed and stubborn indeed. I truly admire this attitude of yours. You won’t repent till you face total failure. Let’s see how this goes!” He exclaimed.

“I’m giving you a chance right now. You’re the one who rejected my act of kindness. When the time comes, you won’t even be able to find a corner to cry in peace!”

After Ian finished speaking, a knock suddenly rang out from Jasper’s office door.

“Come in,” Jasper said.

Sean Tucker entered the room with an overjoyed expression splayed across his face.

He was just about to say something when he caught sight of Ian Hull standing in Jasper’s office.

Being someone that was extremely observant, Sean could tell that the two of them had just been engaged in an unpleasant conversation at just a glance.

Just as he was questioning whether to discuss the news or not, Jasper told him, “If there’s anything to report, say it in front of Mr. Hull. There’s nothing that can’t be said anyways.”

Sean smirked and glanced at Ian with a satisfied gaze. “Mr. Laine, the company that you previously mentioned has agreed to our request. They promised to do their best to find building materials for us at cost prices.

“Furthermore, this company is really quite capable. Although it isn’t large in size, it’s deeply involved in the local market. The building materials that it can provide are enough to meet 80% of our needs.”

Since Ian was there, Sean was glad to announce the news before him in order to strike him with a blow.

However, Sean wasn't a fool. He wisely hid the key information, which were the names of Brac County and Ambition Corporation, so that Ian could not tamper with their plans.

Jasper was extremely satisfied with Sean's sensibility. He smiled at Ian, who had an unpleasant expression on his face. Mr. Hull, it seems like everything isn't under your control after all," he said.

Ian's face twitched in anger. His skin felt hot to the touch.

He did not expect Jasper to have come up with a plan so soon after he had cut off the supply of building materials to his construction site. This was right after he had told Jasper that nobody would provide building materials to him at the risk of offending himself.

"Right, Mr. Hull. I have a suggestion for you as well. I hope you take it into consideration."

Jasper looked at Ian and spoke in a slow and controlled tone, "I can acquire all of the businesses under your name for 3 million dollars, Mr. Hull. This proposal is effective in the long term. You can come to me and kneel down before me for 3 million dollars in cash on the day when you find yourself in a situation with no way out."

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Jasper's words caused Ian to launch into a fit of rage.

"F*cker, what did you say?!"

Ian glared at Jasper. His face was flushed red with anger.

He had gone through thick and thin in the business industry over the past few decades, and this was the first time someone younger than him had humiliated him to such a great extent.

“Just now, you offered me 300 million dollars in return for acquiring my South Bank project. At the end of the day, courtesy requires reciprocation. Since your family has a huge business, of course, you’d offer such a large sum of money. However, I’m not that generous since I’m just operating a small business. To me, 3 million dollars is enough.

“Of course, I can tell that the day that you’ll take me up on this offer will soon arrive. Rest assured that I will keep my word,” Jasper told Ian in a calm and composed manner.

Ian was about to explode with fury.

He raised a finger and pointed it at Jasper while letting out an angry bark of laughter. “Well, well, well! I’ve never been so humiliated in my entire life. Jasper Laine, you’re really one of a kind!” He shouted.

“Let me end things with this—I’d like to give you a piece of advice. Don’t act rashly just yet. I will immediately track down the company that dared to supply you with building materials. I hope your connections are strong enough to withstand this! Let’s see how it goes!”

Ian left the office with a grim expression on his face after speaking.

The outcome of this discussion was that both parties had completely fallen out with each other in the open. There was no need for false pretenses right now.

Despite this, Jasper could not care less about him. He simply asked Sean, “When will Ambition Corporation begin supplying us with the building materials?”

“They will begin tomorrow. Ambition Corporation is really a righteous company. Once they heard that the company was owned by you and that it was facing a

dire situation, their boss, Xavier Johnson, immediately offered us the most highly favorable terms,” Sean reported in excitement.

“Besides, instead of taking advantage of us when we were in a state of emergency, they charged us cost price. At most, they’d just earn a small sum for handling fees. What a rare opportunity.”

Jasper laughed. “Alright, noted. You can head out for now. Get in contact with Fortress Iron and Steel Co., Ltd as soon as possible, and inform me if there are any updates,” he told Sean.

After Sean left, Jasper called Xavier Johnson.

“Mr. Johnson, it’s me,” Jasper said with a chuckle.

“I heard about everything. Thank you for your help.”

The art of human interaction states that others will only help you out during emergencies due to compassion. It was not mandatory for them to help you out. Other than your own parents, nobody else was obliged to aid you in times of need. Therefore, Jasper sought to remember this favor.

Xavier Johnson’s clear, loud voice rang out from the other end of the phone. “Haha, you’re being way too courteous, Mr. Laine. I didn’t have the chance to thank you for everything that had happened back in Brac County previously. Now that I have the chance to repay you, of course I have to do my part,” he said.

Xavier’s words were sincere as well.

With Jasper’s help, Xavier now controlled the market for building materials in Brac County. Furthermore, he was on a roll as his business was gradually expanding beyond Brac County.

Even so, he did not have many opportunities to express his gratitude toward Jasper.

Jasper chuckled and said, "According to my subordinates, you're providing us the supplies at cost price, Mr. Johnson."

"I'm someone who values friendship over business. Besides, I'm indebted to you. How could I profit from you when you're in a tight spot? Moreover, it'll be beneficial for my business if the stock is sold off quickly. I can just sell off a large quantity of goods at a low profit margin," Xavier said proudly.

"In that case, I won't act all sentimental in front of you. Let's just say that Ambition Corporation will have the priority supply rights over all future real estate development projects in the Southeast district of the province that JW Real Estates handles," Jasper suddenly suggested.

"If we need building materials, we will contact you first. If you have any stock available, we'll purchase it from you. We'll only work with other companies if you're out of stock."

"Take a trip down to the province when you're free, Mr. Johnson. Let's discuss the details when we meet then."

Xavier's gaze lit up upon hearing what he said.

JW Real Estates was an up and coming company in the provincial real estate industry. The company was in charge of real estate projects in various counties within the province. However, the projects were all of different scales.

There was a locally renowned high-end residential area with a sea view under construction in Brac County. Currently, Ambition Corporation was also the main supplier of said construction site's building materials due to Jasper's help in the past.

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The most famous one would be the Southface River South Bank project in the province.

Xavier worked in the building materials industry and kept himself up to date on the happenings in the real estate industry. He and his business partners had also reached a consensus.

When the development project on the south bank of the Southface River was completed, JW Real Estates had a high chance of soaring through the ranks to become the leading real estate company in the province!

Ambition Corporation had a high chance of rising in its ranks rapidly if it got on JW Real Estates' good side now.

Completely caught by surprise, Xavier hurriedly said, "Thank you so much. I'll make sure to pay you a visit in the province once I've taken care of matters on my end."

Jasper smiled and replied, "You're welcome any time."

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While Jasper was still taking care of matters at the real estate agency, Wendy arrived at a spa retreat in the province.

Spas were still a novel and fashionable concept back in the 2000s. Most people did not even know what one was supposed to do in a spa.

Thus, a single visit to the spa was not cheap.

Its starting price of 3000 Some Dollars meant only the richest of the rich in the province could visit such places without any scruples.

Naturally, Wendy was among those people.

However, the reason Wendy had come here today was not to have a beauty treatment.

“Julian, you can’t come in with me.”

Wendy gazed helplessly at Julian, who was standing in front of her with a wooden expression on his face.

Julian frowned slightly as he gazed at the opulent spa.

He did not know what it was, but he could tell this was a place that women frequented.

“Ms. Schuler, I must protect you during these unstable times. Jasper has ordered me to remain near you.”

“We’ll have to take our clothes off inside. Everyone in there is a woman, and they won’t let a man inside.”

Wendy smiled as she spoke.

Julian frowned slightly and said, “Ms. Schuler, can’t you just not go in?”

Wendy shook her head and said, “We’ve lost our supplier for the site, and it’ll be particularly difficult to deal with the issue regarding our steel supply because there are only two manufacturers in the country who produce high-quality steel. We can forget about Stellar Company, and it’s not that easy to secure a deal with Fortress Iron and Steel.

“A university friend of mine owns this place. Her uncle is a general manager at Fortress Iron and Steel. I plan to meet and talk to her today.”

Julian pondered, “Couldn’t you have invited her somewhere else?”

Wendy glared at Julian and said, “We can’t be so high and mighty when we’re asking them for a favor. Besides, she’s an extremely busy person, and it’s hard to schedule a meeting with her when we’re in such a rush. I haven’t told Jasp about this yet, but I’ll let him know once I have more news about the matter.”

“Alright, it’s time. I can’t talk to you anymore, so wait for me outside, I’ll be fine. This is much safer than other places.”

When Wendy finished, she left Julian at the entrance and went inside.

Julian loitered around the entrance for a long time and glanced at the two gorgeous female receptionists who were staring at him. Sighing, he dutifully returned to the car and sat inside to wait.

The only thing he could do now was remain on high alert and keep an eye on any suspicious targets nearby.

Just then, in a ramen shop across the street, Aaron put down his fork and held a walkie-talkie to his ear as he said calmly, “Our chance has come. The target has strayed from her bodyguard and entered Heartland Spa Centre. Initiate mission, go!”

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Once Aaron finished speaking, he immediately got up and paid his bill. Then, he snuck over to the back entrance to Heartland Spa Retreat.

Two men who could only be described as having a shrewd aura were already waiting inside.

“Mr. Aaron,” one of the men walked up to him and greeted.

Aaron nodded and glanced at Heartland Spa Retreat’s outer walls. When he saw a water pipe snaking down the wall to the ground, he said calmly, “This is such an easy break in.”

“Is Fiona and everyone else ready?”

“Ms. Fiona has already entered Heartland Spa Retreat in her disguise. She should be locating the target right now.”

Aaron nodded and said, “Alright, we’ll stick to the plan. You two wait here and I’ll go in. Keep in touch constantly.”

Once he finished speaking, Aaron leaped upward and grabbed the pipe that was two and a half feet of the ground with both hands. He clambered up onto the ledge onto the second-floor window with the nimbleness of a monkey.

Then, he nimbly twisted and turned a couple more times before jumping into Heartland Spa Retreat through the half-open window on the third floor.

Once he climbed in, Aaron saw a woman wrapped in a plain towel lying on the bed.

The woman’s first instinctive reaction was to scream when she saw a large man jumping in through the window.

However, Aaron’s reflexes were quick. He immediately jumped over to the woman and covered her mouth with his hand. As he stared at her, he smiled and said, “Don’t make a sound, or you’ll die. Got it?”

The woman's eyes widened in fear as she hurriedly nodded.

Aaron smiled in satisfaction before giving the woman a sudden strike to the neck with the heel of his palm. Her eyes instantly rolled into the back of her head as she passed out on the bed.

After adjusting the woman's limbs so that she seemed to be asleep, Aaron strolled out of the room.

At that very moment, Wendy was chatting happily with a beautiful woman in an office on the second floor.

"Carol, business seems to be booming," Wendy said as she glanced around the lavish office.

Carol Murphy smiled as she said, "My husband is always busy with his business, and I needed to find something to do. I opened this retreat for fun, but never expected it to achieve such popularity.

"Queen Bee Wendy, you never visit me unless you need my help. Tell me, is there anything I can help with this time?"

Wendy looked slightly sheepish as she listened to Carol gracefully highlight half the reason why she had come to visit her.

"You make me sound like a mercenary when you put it like that."

Carol covered her mouth and giggled, "Imagine if I returned to uni and said that Queen Bee Wendy is a mercenary. Your suitors would be able to drown me with just their spit.

"Alright, alright. No need for such formal talk between us. I know you've been busy with your company recently, and don't have time for any unnecessary visits. Just tell it to me straight."

Wendy did not bother with formalities once she saw how direct Carol was, and immediately said, "Well, it's like this. I know your uncle is a general manager at Fortress Iron and Steel. My family has recently gotten into the real estate industry, and we require a large supply of steel. That's why I need your help."

Carol asked curiously, "If you need good quality steel, we've got Stellar Company and Fortress Iron and Steel in the country. These two companies are both open for business. Why didn't you get in touch with them via the typical methods? They wouldn't turn away a chance to do business, would they?"

Wendy sighed and said, "You don't understand. This entire thing is really complicated and involves competition in the business world. We no longer stand a chance of working with Stellar Company, which is why we've turned to Fortress Iron and Steel.

"Moreover, we're in a rush now and require a large supply. It wouldn't be possible to strike a deal with Fortress Iron and Steel in such a short time, which is why we've thought of asking if you could pull any strings."

Carol had a thoughtful expression on her face as she listened to Wendy.

Although she was curious as to what Wendy meant by "competition in the business world", she did not ask any more questions and merely replied doubtfully, "You know that my uncle is growing old now. He's planning to retire and doesn't have that much of an influence anymore."

However, when she saw the disappointed look on Wendy's face, she said, "How about this? Wait for me for a while, and I'll help you call him."

Wendy smiled and nodded. "If that's the case, let me thank you in advance."

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As Carol stood, she waved a hand and said, "No worries, I'm just making the call. It's up to my uncle to decide what will happen next."

As she lowered her head to look up his number, Carol opened the door to her office.

Carol had just stepped out of her office when a woman brushed past her.

While waiting for the call to be answered, Carol glanced at the woman who brushed past her and was walking toward her office. Frowning slightly, she said, "Stop."

The woman paused in her steps.

"What's your name? Why have I never seen you before?"

The woman stood with her back to Carol. She did not move nor speak.

A bad feeling washed over Carol as suspicion arose in her.

She was just about to go forth and interrogate the woman when a hand clapped down onto her shoulder.

Aaron's smiling face loomed near Carol's cheeks. He used his fingers to stroke Carol's smooth, beautifully maintained skin as he whispered, "Don't say anything. I don't plan to hurt anyone, alright?"

Carol's heart was racing as she felt overcome by fear. However, she managed to retain a shred of her rationale and strength, saying shakily, "Who are you? What do you want? Is this a robbery?"

Aaron chuckled and said, "This is a kidnapping. But don't worry, we're not kidnapping you."

Then, Aaron slung his arm around Carol's neck and walked back into the office with her. The distance between the two was intimate.

However, Carol's body was as stiff as a stick. She was basically half-dragged into the office.

Wendy, who had been waiting for updates from Carol, stood instinctively when she saw Carol being forced back into the office. She asked in a stern voice, "You are..."

The woman Carol had stopped earlier placed a dagger at Wendy's throat. Her ordinary-looking face was expressionless as she said, "Don't say a word or I'll kill you!"

Wendy took a deep breath and forced herself to calm down. She gazed coldly at the woman and at Aaron, who was holding Carol hostage.

"You really are beautiful." Aaron's eyes shone as he looked at Wendy. "You're the most beautiful woman I've ever seen."

Wendy curled her hands into fists and remained silent. She merely glared coldly at Aaron.

She understood that she was a lone, weak woman who stood no chance against two thugs with weapons. It was impossible to fight back against them, and the best thing she could do now was remain calm. She could not afford to lose her cool.

“You’re very smart not to scream and make a fuss. I’m not a patient person, you see.

“You might be beautiful, but that’s a shame because someone already has their eyes on you.”

Aaron shook his head regretfully as he spoke. Then, he used a karate chop to knock Wendy unconscious.

Wendy wavered and nearly collapsed to the ground. The woman hurried forth and grabbed her.

“Let’s go,”

Aaron said in a low voice and was just about to knock Carol unconscious when she let out a blood-curdling scream.

The expression on Aaron’s face changed slightly.

When the sound traveled down the stairs and into Julian’s ears, it was already a weak scream. However, it was enough to make Julian jump as if he had been electrocuted.

Eyes blazing, Julian seemed to transform into a human dragon as he barrelled straight into Heartland Spa Retreat!

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No one in the spa retreat could stop Julian.

In a few breaths' time, Julian had already raced to the second floor where the scream had sounded.

Ignoring the surprise and anger on the faces of the female customers and employees upon seeing him, Julian barged through the half-closed door to the office.

When Julian opened the door and saw an unfamiliar woman on the floor, he immediately raced toward the open window.

Looking down from the window, Julian saw a woman getting into a car. She was holding Wendy in her arms.

Aaron, who was sitting in the passenger seat, met Julian's eyes through the window.

Smiling, Aaron made a finger gun and directed it at Julian before pretending to shoot it.

He was being deliberately provocative.

The next second, the car's engine started and it raced out of the alleyway.

Julian's aura was like a wave crashing over the rocks.

Grabbing hold of the window ledge, he flipped out of the second-floor window. Julian did not seem to care that the window was seven meters above the ground as he landed with a thump.

However, the car had already rushed out of the alley and seemed to be escaping.

Julian was just about to run after them when two shrewd men surrounded him. Without saying a word, they started attacking Julian.

Julian was confident that he could defeat these two, but it would take up some of his precious time.

With his rage fueling him, Julian roared like an angered dragon and took out all his anger on the two men.

These two men had been placed there to delay Julian, acting as human shields.

Although they had mentally prepared themselves for this, the two still felt as if they were a boat stranded amid turbulent waves. They were about to break into countless pieces as they faced Julian's rapid attacks.

The two soon fell to the ground with blood dripping from their mouths as they stared at Julian with fear in their eyes.

They knew he was powerful, but they had not expected him to be this powerful.

...

At Schuler Manor in the province.

Julian landed on his knees with a thump.

When he knelt, the impact was so great he managed to create two craters in the ground. Cracks that looked like dense spider webs spread out from his knees.

The sharp stones grazed Julian's skin, and blood seeped through his pants before dyeing them red.

However, Julian did not seem to feel it.

He only lowered his head to Jasper and curled his hands into fists as he said in a quivering voice, "Jasper, I'm so sorry!"

Jasper did not have any expression on his face as he stared at Julian. He did not say anything.

Julian did not come up with any excuses for himself and only said, "Jasper, I know that not even my life can be used in exchange for Ms. Schuler's safety. I'll head out and look for her right now. I would much rather die outside if I can't find her! I'll come back and repent when I find Ms. Schuler!"

Then, Julian got up and was just about to head out.

"Stop."

Jasper's calm voice rang out.

"You're only one person. There are millions of people in the province. How much area could you cover alone? Stand here!"

Jasper's voice rose in volume.

"I didn't say I wouldn't blame you, but nothing will change even if you die now. What you should do now is remediate this with me!"

Jasper suppressed his rage and annoyance. His eyes were frosty as he took a deep breath and said, "Investigate! Investigate it for me! Look up all the license plates in the province, and more importantly, look up the hotel the Hull and Gardner family were staying in! I want a report within half an hour!"

Life at the Top Chapter 477

After Julian went out, Jasper took a deep breath and sat on the chair. There was a deep look on his face.

Nearly a year since his reincarnation, Jasper had grown accustomed to having everything under his control.

There were rarely situations of things happening beyond his expectations.

Today, Jasper suddenly realized that he was not a god and he had not done enough in many things.

Keeping Wendy safe was one.

Why did he allow Wendy to go out and run about when he had already discovered that someone was following her?

Even if it meant hiring bodyguards, he should have hired a few more female bodyguards to protect her!

At this moment, Jasper was extremely upset. He felt a surging wave of resentment and regret in his chest that were roaring like sea waves.

Successive victories had caused him to lose himself and become overconfident.

Right now, the question remained, where exactly was Wendy?

If the Hulls and Gardners did it, what would they do to Wendy?

Jasper was afraid to delve deeper into his thoughts. He was a little flustered now.

At that moment, the door to the study opened and Dawson walked in.

“Uncle Dawson.” Jasper stood up, looking guilty.

“Sit down.” Dawson waved his hand and sat down across from Jasper.

“I already know what’s going on and have sent someone to investigate it. You must not be thrown into confusion at this time. Remember, no matter who the other party is, they have their reasons for doing this. Before they reveal their purpose, we know that Wendy is safe.”

Jasper took a deep breath and blamed himself, saying, “Actually, there have been signs, but I was too careless.”

Dawson said in a rather understanding manner, “I know my daughter all too well. She doesn’t like being restrained and disciplined. Besides, she’s an adult who has hands and feet. What could you possibly have done? Tie her up?”

Jasper said in a deep voice, “I shouldn’t have been so careless at least. It’s all my fault!”

Dawson got up, walked around to the back of the desk, and patted Jasper on the shoulder. He said softly, “I understand how you feel. When Wendy’s mother had an accident back then, I sank into immense self-blame and agony for a very long time.

“As a man, this is the price you have to pay in order to protect your family and woman. Unless, of course, you’re willing to be an ordinary person who lives an ordinary life.

“However, how can you just be resigned to circumstances your whole life even when a storm strikes?

“I don’t blame you, nor will Wendy, but you must cheer up and use your fist to show those who have offended you that certain things can cost them their lives!”

Jasper raised his head and looked at Dawson. At this moment, Dawson's eyes were full of trust and encouragement. There was no hint of blame or criticism at all.

Jasper stood up and took a deep breath. Clenching his fists, he said, "I know what to do now."

Pleased, Dawson nodded and said, "Now that's the Jasper I know. Remember, no matter what you encounter, don't throw yourself into confusion because as soon as you do that, the enemy will have succeeded by more than half."

At this moment, there was a knock on the door.

A servant walked in with a folder and said, "Mr. Schuler, Mr. Laine, someone put this at the door just now. He said that you need to take a look at it and left after that."

Jasper took the folder and saw a compact disc in it.

He inserted the CD into the computer and clicked on the video file inside.

The screen flashed. It showed a room with a drowsy woman lying on the bed. That woman was none other than Wendy.

Ben's face emerged in front of the camera, and he was smiling triumphantly.

"Surprised, Jasper?"

"I don't know what you're feeling right now, but I can tell you that I'm enjoying myself a lot! Hahahahaha!"

Life at the Top Chapter 478

When Ben was done laughing, his expression abruptly turned cold.

He stared sternly into the camera lens as if he could look at Jasper across the screen.

“Don’t blame me for being mean, Jasper. You can only blame yourself for being too arrogant and too full of yourself. Who do you think you are?! I have many ways to teach you a lesson!

“I don’t have the time to slowly have fun with you, though. That’s why I’m using the easiest and harshest way to let you know that provoking me will be the worst mistake of your life!”

Ben’s expression grew darker with his words.

He then took out a piece of paper with a series of short numbers on it. His expression grew increasingly overbearing.

“Hurry up and add this KK ID number. Quick, I can’t wait anymore. I’m so excited to have a video call with you, to see you kneeling in front of me, crying and all snotty!

“Remember, you don’t have much time. Also, don’t try and find out my physical address. I’m hiding in a place where you can’t find me. I’m also not that stupid to meet you. This is your territory after all, no? Hahaha!

“But at the same time, I really want to see you get down on your knees and apologize to me. I’ll record it to admire it slowly once this is all over. So, add this KK ID number. You only have ten minutes!”

The video ended after that.

Jasper's eyes lit up gradually as he stared at the KK ID frozen in frame.

Was God helping him?

The video function was a new function that KK released recently.

Although the current network bandwidth was extremely poor, it was still usable.

Ben was so pleased with himself that he had lost his sense of measure. What he did not know was that he had just dug his own grave when he exposed his KK ID in an attempt to humiliate him.

Next, Jasper immediately did two things.

First, he summoned Julian back to wait in the room.

Secondly, he gave Hudson a call right away.

Hudson answered Jasper's call in no time at all.

"Hud, I need you to do something really important. I'll be having a video call with someone later. Can you retrieve the other party's IP address in the shortest possible time?"

Time was running out, so Jasper went straight to the point without having the time to exchange greetings with Hudson.

Hudson did not ask any questions and instead replied straight away, "This is technically easy and can be done, but do you need the IP address or the physical one?"

Jasper was delighted. "Can you get the physical address too?"

Hudson laughed and said, "Have you forgotten how powerful our technical team is now? As long as we can get the IP address, then we can find out the physical address in just a few minutes, provided that the other party isn't a master hacker, of course. Otherwise, it'll be more troublesome to track them down."

Jasper said, "The other party is bad at computer technology. Start locking on my KK and when I start the video call, I want you to track down the other party's physical address immediately!"

After contacting Hudson, Jasper logged in to his KK and added the other party's ID as stated in the previous video.

Soon, the friend request was approved.

A request for a video call was sent.

Dawson got up and walked out of the range of the webcam. He exchanged glances with Jasper, and they both nodded their heads. Jasper accepted the video call request.

Ben was seen alone on the screen.

He was sitting in a chair, looking expectantly at the screen.

Jasper saw Ben, and Ben obviously could see Jasper on his own computer screen as well.

Life at the Top Chapter 479

At this moment far away in Cavern City, Hudson picked up his phone and called Theo.

“Theo, call your technical mainstay to come to my office immediately. I need them to do something really important!”

A few minutes later, Theo brought several of Terizone’s most professional technicians to Hudson’s office.

Once Hudson explained what was going on, everyone switched on the laptops they brought with them and got to work immediately!

Theo smiled and said to Hudson, “Don’t worry, Mr. Theo. A rookie who has studied computer technology for two years can do stuff like that, let alone us.”

Hudson nodded with a smile and then said sternly, “This is the first time Mr. Laine has asked us for help to handle his private affair, so we must do our best.”

Theo gestured to show that he understood before getting to work.

The atmosphere in the office was tense.

“Start establishing a connection!”

“Scan the IP connected to the target’s KK account and server!”

“We have obtained the other party’s IP address successfully. Start tracking him down!”

At this moment in the province, Jasper and Ben had started their conversation.

Ben looked at his watch and chuckled. “Not bad. You’re more efficient than I thought. There are still two minutes before the scheduled time. Looks like you’re really anxious, huh?”

Jasper said coldly, “Cut the crap. I will not negotiate anything with you until I can confirm that Wendy is safe and sound.”

Ben’s expression gradually turned cold and sinister. He looked at Jasper and said arrogantly, “Do you think you’re qualified to make terms with me now?”

Jasper replied calmly, “I only saw a side profile from the video just now. How can I be sure that it’s Wendy? I must make sure that Wendy is in your hands and that she’s safe and sound and can speak to me. Otherwise, I’ll exit the video call!”

Ben’s expression turned cold. He then smiled in a sinister manner and said, “Okay, I’ll fulfill your request so you can die willingly.”

Having said that, Ben waved his hand.

The scene changed and Jasper saw Wendy with her hands and feet tied up. She was already awake and sitting on the bed guarded by a woman.

Wendy seemed to know that Jasper was looking at her. She was eager to speak, but her mouth was taped, hence she could not express herself at all.

“Let Wendy talk to me,” Jasper said coldly.

Ben popped up on the screen and sneered. “Don’t be so insatiable. I’m the one who holds the power right now!”

“I said, let Wendy talk to me!” Jasper raised his tone.

“Otherwise, I won’t agree to any of your conditions. I want to make sure that you didn’t do anything to harm her.”

As Jasper said those words, he looked at Ben coldly and continued, “Since you’re cautious enough to negotiate with me using video call and are making sure that you won’t be located, why are you afraid to let Wendy talk to me? Do you feel guilty?”

Ben roared with laughter and said, “Me? Guilty? I’m the winner! And you’re just a humble garbage insect. Fine, I’ll fulfill your final request.”

Ben waved his hand after saying those words, and the woman standing beside Wendy immediately reached out to remove the tape from Wendy’s mouth.

When Wendy was able to speak again, she did not yell or have a hysterical emotional breakdown. Rather, she said to Jasper calmly, “Don’t worry, Jasp. They just knocked me out and brought me over. They didn’t do anything to me. You must never agree to any excessive demands they make!”

At this moment, Jasper’s eyes flickered.

On his KK, Hudson had sent him a message and he was notified through the system.

[We found the address. Number 303, Building A, Warsaw Community, Habersham East Road, Southeast Province, Province!]

Life at the Top Chapter 480

Ben was being extra careful indeed.

He seemed to know that Jasper would check all the hotels' check-in records in order to track him down.

As such, he checked out of the hotel he was staying in and moved into a residential building.

To some extent, this had increased the difficulty level for Jasper to track him down.

What Ben did not know was that Jasper was Terizone's controlling shareholder, hence he could trace his physical location with his IP address.

After writing down the address quietly and handing it over to Julian calmly, Jasper said to Wendy affectionately, "Don't worry. I know what to do. Don't be afraid. I'll pick you up as soon as possible."

Jasper had just finished saying those words when Ben stood in front of the webcam.

"Alright, Jasper, stop playing out romance dramas in front of me. I'm not in the mood to watch. Now that you've seen her and talked to her, can we begin our negotiation now?" Ben said to Jasper eagerly.

Jasper looked at Ben calmly and said, "Go on then. Your conditions."

Ben laughed and said, "Simple. Get down on all four and apologize to me. Beg me for mercy. This is the first condition!

"As for the second condition, I want you to sign a project transfer agreement. Transfer the Southface River project to me at once!

"The third condition is, I want a compensation of one billion!"

As he spoke, Ben stared at Jasper on the screen with a grim expression before continuing haughtily, “All three conditions must be fulfilled. I’m not negotiating with you, I’m informing you of the things you must do.”

When Ben finished speaking, Wendy was already starting to resist by making a lot of noise before Jasper could even speak.

However, she could not say a word because the woman had sealed Wendy’s mouth with duct tape.

Jasper said calmly, “I need time to prepare and fulfill the second and third conditions.”

“That’s your problem!”

Ben raised his voice. “I don’t care what you do, but I must see results within two hours. Otherwise...”

Ben clapped his hands at this point.

In the room, Hans, who was eager to act, finally appeared.

“Let me introduce you to my second uncle.” Ben looked at Jasper and laughed wildly. “I don’t think I can even count the number of women my uncle has slept with. Would you like to watch my second uncle having fun with Wendy live on screen for you?”

Hans looked at Jasper on the screen smugly and curled his lips, saying, “So you’re Jasper?”

“How dare an insignificant character like you offend my nephew and the Langdons?”

Hans raised his voice abruptly, full of hostility and viciousness.

“How dare you? Believe it or not, I’ll dig your ancestors’ grave!”

In a place where the camera could not capture, Jasper clenched his fists firmly. His nails were digging into his flesh, and blood was flowing out of his wounds.

Despite that, Jasper seemed to have lost all sense of pain as he continued to cut deeper into his flesh. Blood had stained his palm, yet he still refused to let go.

It seemed as though only intense pain like this could help him suppress his emotions and avoid an outburst.

“Trust me, Ben, if any one of you dare to lay a finger on Wendy today, I’ll make sure you regret being born.”

Every word that Jasper said was squeezed out of his clenched teeth.

Not far away, Dawson looked at Jasper with an extremely complicated look.

He was furious and equally anxious too.

However, this was the first time he saw Jasper behaving like that.

As a businessman, or even a scholar, Jasper had always been calm, unhurried, and gentle.

Life at the Top Chapter 481

This was a quality in Jasper that Dawson was most impressed with.

It was because Jasper was different from everyone else.

The aura of a scholarly businessman he carried could not be cultivated. It could only come naturally.

Right now, however, Jasper resembled a lion that had been completely infuriated. He no longer paid attention to being elegant and easy-going. What was left in him was bloodthirsty fury and resentment for his enemy.

“Hahaha!” Ben looked at Jasper with great delight.

“You know what, Jasper? I’ve been longing to see this expression of yours even in my dreams. This look on your face gives me so much pleasure!

“It feels good to see you so furious like you’re about to rip me apart!

“It sure is worth it to have done so many tedious things. Hahaha!”

As Ben said those words, he sneered maliciously. “But you don’t seem to get it, do you? Right now, I, Ben Hull, have the final say!”

Ben then turned his head to say to Hans, “Uncle Hans, don’t you want to get intimate with our gorgeous lady? Why don’t you show Jasper that we are men of our word.”

Hans laughed, his eyes gleaming with a lustful glow. He said as though he had been thirsting for some action for a very long time, "I was already impatient. I would've pounced on her a long time ago if it weren't for you!"

After saying those words, Hans turned around and approached Wendy, revealing a greedy and obsessed expression.

He was almost drooling.

Ben stepped aside with a laugh so that Jasper could see what was going on.

Wendy was quivering all over. She kept backing away into a corner, her eyes filled with horror and despair.

Hans laughed wildly, and while walking toward Wendy, he said, "You're the woman of my dreams. Seeing you now makes me realize just how vulgar other women are. Only a woman like you is worthy of me.

"Give yourself to me, gorgeous. I'll give you a great time!"

At this moment, Jasper roared abruptly, "Ben, Hans, I agree to all of your requests!"

Hans wore a disappointed look on his face, but he still turned to look at Ben.

Ben, whose eyes were gleaming with greed, looked at Jasper and said, "You will get it done within two hours! Remember, you only have two hours!"

Jasper took a deep breath and said, "I've signed the project transfer agreement. How do I give it to you? If I were you, I would want to see the papers signed with my own eyes. Otherwise, I could always just sign a fake document, right? When that happens, all your effort will be wasted, don't you think?"

Ben stared at Jasper, sneered, and said, "Are you trying to pull tricks on me?"

Jasper said coldly, "You can send someone to me and watch me sign the papers. You don't have to come forward on your own."

Ben's eyes flickered. He was seemingly considering whether there were any pitfalls in this proposal.

Jasper said calmly, "If you want to take a bite, then you will have to take some risk. If you can't even bear the risk, then don't even think about getting my project."

Ben sneered and said, "Go out right now and someone will contact you on the South Street Flyover.

"Remember, don't play tricks with me or I'll make sure you watch me and my uncle toy with your woman."

Jasper looked at Ben coldly and said, "I'll keep my word, but before that...

"If you lay a finger on her, I'll make this a living hell for you even when I die."

Although Ben was extremely rampant because he was holding the winning ticket at the moment, he could still feel a cold chill running down his spine when he heard Jasper's words and saw the look in his eyes.

He felt as though the God of Death had locked eyes on him.

A moment after, Ben sneered. "Why don't you worry about yourself first?!"

Having said that, Ben ended the video call straight away.

Life at the Top Chapter 482

The video call ended.

Jasper stood up suddenly, looked at Julian without a single expression on his face, and said, "Do you remember the address?"

Julian nodded and said, "Yes I do."

"Bring more men with you."

Dawson said suddenly.

Julian shook his head and said, "No, too many people can startle the enemy away. I have the confidence to subdue them all immediately."

When Jasper saw Julian's fiery gaze and how he stared at him as if seeking his permission, Jasper spent a few seconds mulling it over.

He believed and understood that Julian was trying to make up for his mistake, but this involved Wendy's safety.

Jasper had let his guard down once, so he must not attempt this a second time while putting Wendy's life at stake.

"Uncle Dawson, send a few of your men. They will stay outside to offer defense. Julian and I will go upstairs," Jasper said.

Dawson nodded and said, "That will be the best option."

“You can go straight away. I will send out the orders and they’ll follow behind you. They will know what to do.”

As Dawson said those words, he patted Jasper’s shoulder and said in a deep voice, “Take care of yourself. I’ll wait for your victorious return.”

Jasper nodded, pursed his lips, and took Julian out of the study with a blank expression.

Jasper did not say a word because he was suppressing his emotions.

He was afraid that his emotions that were on the brink of exploding could burst out completely if he said too much.

This was something that he wanted to leave for Ben’s and Hans’ enjoyment...

...

“South Street Flyover? Benny, are you really planning to return such a fine woman to Jasper?”

Hans blurted out after Ben switched off the webcam.

He did not care about Ben’s plans. He was only concerned about Wendy, the woman of supreme quality.

If Ben was truly going to make a proper deal with Jasper, then all the thoughts and desires he had over the last few days would be for naught, no?

Ben smirked maliciously before standing up and coming to Hans’ side, saying, “Uncle Hans, since I’ve invited you over, I don’t think it is appropriate to send you back without giving you anything in return.

“I want those three conditions fulfilled. As for Wendy, we must get a taste too, of course.”

Ben stared at Wendy who was cowering in a corner, staring at him in fright and fear. He laughed hysterically.

At this moment, Ben could not see how contorted his expression looked. Like a psychopath, he was no longer the elegant man he used to be.

Hans laughed after hearing what Ben said. He patted Ben on the shoulder and said, “Not bad. It would be a shame to return such a beauty to him for no reason.”

As he said those words, Hans stared at Wendy with extremely lustful eyes. He said, “It’s a shame that we can only toy with a woman like this a few times. I was hoping to lock her up and play with her for a period of time until I got tired of her.

“But I don’t think I’ll ever grow tired of a woman like that, though?”

As Wendy listened to the obscenities and looked at the lustful faces of the men when they stared at her, she was flustered and panicked.

Wendy was just a woman, after all. Any woman would instinctively feel panic and fear in situations like that.

Wendy, however, did not let fear overcome reason. She worked hard to calm herself down.

Screaming and begging for mercy were useless at this moment. Wendy found it beneath her dignity to beg Ben and Hans for mercy. In her opinion, that was more painful than death itself!

Life at the Top Chapter 483

Wendy watched for an opportunity as Ben and Hans laughed triumphantly. When the woman guarding her was in a daze, she charged toward the window abruptly.

Ben and Hans had yet to react when the woman called Fiona, who was in charge of watching over Wendy, noticed that something was wrong.

She was about to chase after her when Wendy ran with all her might and at lightning speed before arriving at the window in the blink of an eye.

“Don’t come near me or I will jump off!”

Wendy shouted at Fiona.

As she spoke, Wendy threatened to jump off the building. Fiona halted in her steps immediately and said to Wendy, “Don’t jump! I won’t come near you!”

At this moment, Ben and Hans finally realized what was going on.

Everything happened so fast and no one expected that Wendy, who had initially lost all power to resist, would suddenly have such an outburst of energy.

When Ben saw Wendy standing by the window and a turn of her body could send her falling off the building, his eyes twitched. He asked coldly, “Must you do this, Wendy?”

Wendy sneered. “I will not be tainted by you even if it means that I have to die!”

Hans let out a crude peal of laughter, saying, "How can you call this tainted? This is obviously something that you and I will feel very good about, don't you want it?"

Wendy felt sick to her stomach. "You pervert! You don't deserve to be a man! The sight of you sickens me!"

Hans stared at Wendy with a malicious grin. "Well, well, little witch, aren't you a spicy little pepper? I wonder if you will be as spicy when we're in bed together in a while?!"

"The fierier you are, the more I will like it!"

Wendy looked at Hans coldly and said, "I told you, I would rather jump off the building and die than let you succeed!"

Wendy's eyes were filled with determination when she said those words.

She knew that she was not in a situation where she could fight back. If the men in front of her rushed up to her, then she would most certainly jump.

In her opinion, she would rather die than let any other men aside from Jasper touch her.

She was dead serious about this.

While Hans was talking to Wendy, Ben secretly darted Fiona a glance.

Fiona received Ben's hint and stealthily took two steps toward Wendy.

At this moment, Wendy was fully focused on Ben and Hans for fear that they would rush up to her without warning, hence she did not notice Fiona's movements.

In just a moment of inattentiveness, Fiona seized the opportunity.

Fiona was born a martial artist, so she was much faster than Wendy. In just the blink of an eye, she grabbed hold of Wendy's wrist and dragged her away from the window.

Wendy screamed and was just about to put up a struggle when a slap landed on her face.

The slap sent Wendy crashing to the ground, and a trace of crimson blood flowed from the corner of her mouth.

Wendy turned her head and stared at Fiona with frosty eyes.

"Oh, look at this face. It's such a pity." Hans sneered maliciously and walked over.

He bent over and was about to touch Wendy's face that was imprinted with five bright red fingerprints.

"Touch me and I'll bite off my tongue."

Wendy did not sound emotional at all. Surprisingly, she was calm.

That same calmness exuded a strong determination and will, leaving no room for anyone to doubt the authenticity of her words!

Life at the Top Chapter 484

Hans' hand froze mid-air.

He could tell that Wendy was serious.

If he touched her, she would actually bite her tongue off and kill herself immediately.

Hans found himself in an awkward position.

He coveted Wendy's beauty, but he did not want to sleep with a corpse.

Also, if Wendy died here, it would pose a huge problem.

"Uncle Hans."

Ben did not want Wendy to die here, hence he patted Hans on the shoulder to help him out of the awkward situation.

"Let's not irritate her too much. We have all the time in the world anyway. Watch how I'll deal with her."

Hans was able to get out of the awkward position he was stuck in with Ben's help. After pulling his hand back, he sneered and said, "How spicy! I've never played with a woman as spicy as you!"

Ben smiled and pulled out a small plastic bag from his pocket, which he took out a pill from. He said, "I've already made preparations earlier. I bought this thing at a huge price."

“When a woman takes this pill, she will remain conscious, but she’ll lose strength in her limbs. Her entire body will be so soft it’s like she doesn’t have bones.

“When that happens, you will have no choice but to watch how we toy with you. Also, it’ll increase the sensitivity of your nerve receptors manyfold. That’s like taking ecstasy!”

Ben laughed and said.

Hans’ eyes lit up, and he sounded pleasantly surprised. “Why didn’t you take out this good stuff earlier?”

Ben sneered. “Good stuff should only be taken out in the end, Uncle Hans. Don’t you think it’s fun to make her go through the despairing process by giving her a bit of hope and then dashing it completely?”

Hans patted Ben on the shoulder and laughed. “Not bad. That’s why I always say I like you the best compared to all the other Hulls.”

Ben sniggered. “Of course. How am I supposed to survive out there if I don’t have any tricks up my sleeve? Do you really think I’m just a puppet?”

As he said those words, Ben laughed strangely. “Uncle Hans, I’ll let you go first. Once this woman takes the medicine, her body will be softer than a snake. You can pick any position you like. She’ll be extremely sensitive and can open her mouth to speak and scream but not resist.

“Think about it, behind those murderous eyes is a flushed face and contemptible expression. She may hate your guts but she has no choice but to let you do anything you want to her. Isn’t that enjoyment at its best?”

Hans’ breathing quickened when he listened to Ben’s words. He nodded his head, his entire body heating up as he said, “Not bad! What are you waiting for? Give her the pill!”

There was a touch of horror in Wendy's eyes. She knew that Ben was serious when it came to things like that.

Now that he had taken out the pill, she knew that the pill's efficacy would only grow stronger, not weaker.

At the thought of this, Wendy stopped hesitating. A touch of sadness and despair surged in her heart.

The next moment, she made a firm decision to bite her tongue off.

Fiona was seemingly prepared for this and raised her hand to pinch Wendy's chin, preventing her from closing her mouth.

"Want to die? You must be dreaming!" Ben roared with laughter and walked over with the pill. He leaned over to stare at Wendy, his expression contorted like a demon's.

"If you want to die, you will have to wait after both of us have had our fun with you!"

"You can only blame yourself for following the wrong man. This is all Jasper's fault!"

Wendy stared at Ben with ice-cold eyes. As her chin was being pinched by Fiona, it was difficult for her to speak. Despite that, she still said word by word, "Jasp will not spare you!"

Ben let out a burst of wild laughter after hearing what she said. "Your Jasp will get down on all four limbs before me in a while! Don't worry, I'll make sure to record it and show it to you. We can enjoy it together!"

Ben stared at Wendy's beautiful face, his entire soul quivering. He said gently in an almost perverted manner, "Say, you may be pretty and fine, but why must you act so high and lofty in front of me? Why did you choose Jasper?"

Ben's voice rose sharply. He was almost screaming hysterically.

"He's nothing but a piece of junk! He's just a bug! A bug that I can crush to death easily!

"None of this would've happened if you had chosen me. So don't blame me for all that's happening to you now—blame yourself!"

After saying those words, Ben stared fixedly at Wendy, his gaze revealing a touch of obsession. He suddenly smiled like a psychopath.

"Now that things have gotten to this point, I'll destroy you if I can't have you. Do you know why I invited my uncle over?"

"That's because I want to destroy you completely from top to bottom, from head to toe, completely and thoroughly. I want to become the nightmare of your life. Since you don't love me, I'll make you hate me. At least you'll never forget me that way. Hahaha!"

Wendy looked at Ben and said, "You've gone mad. You've gone completely mad! You pervert!"

Ben laughed arrogantly. "Yes, I've gone mad. Yes, I'm a pervert! But so what? I'm in control of you. This lunatic and pervert will do whatever he wants with you!

"Why don't you enjoy the next few hours to come? Trust me, this will be a nightmare that you will never forget. Similarly, Jasper will sink into endless pain in the next few hours. Hahahaha!

"I'd like to see if Jasper would still want you once he learns that you've been toyed with by my uncle and me in all sorts of ways.

"As for you, I'd like to know if you'd think back to how shameless you were underneath me when you see him after this? Hahaha!"

As Ben spoke, he had already impatiently pulled out the tiny pill from the plastic bag. He raised his hand to pop it into Wendy's mouth.

Wendy struggled desperately and resisted. She knew that everything would be over for her if she was fed the pill by force. A nightmare that was more painful than death would come!

Hans stood behind Ben and watched the scene unfold with a sneer. The passion in his heart was almost reaching a boiling point. He was eager to pounce on Wendy and have the time of his life.

Boom!

At this moment, the door of the room was smashed into pieces by a figure!

With a bang, there was a loud crash.

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The door was blasted into pieces, and the figure smashed its way in fiercely.

Coincidentally, the figure crashed into the back of Hans, who was already impatient from waiting.

Hans was completely caught off guard. He felt as though he was hit by a truck from behind and rolled to the ground from the strong force.

After rolling on the floor like a bottle for quite some time, he finally let out a tragic scream.

This turn of events was too abrupt!

The place was seething with tension.

Ben turned around subconsciously and saw Hans lying on the ground screaming. On the other hand, Aaron's limbs were twisted like ropes, and blood was spilling out of his mouth!

Aaron was the one who smashed the door in just now!

A surge of unease rose in Ben's heart. He turned around and saw Julian charging in from outside the door like a demon.

Standing behind Julian was a darker figure.

At the sight of Jasper appearing behind Julian, the first thought that popped up in Ben's heart was, 'No way!'

How did Jasper pinpoint his location in such a short period of time?

However, as soon as the thought arose and before he could order Fiona to pick Wendy up to use her as hostage, Julian had already whizzed over after letting out a furious roar.

At this moment, Julian was charging over with endless fury. He resembled a humanoid beast, so how could Ben possibly be his match?

Ben could not even catch Julian's shadow when he felt a sharp pain in his mandible. He felt his world spinning as he flew more than a meter into the sky. His head hit the ceiling hard before he crashed to the ground abruptly.

Ben's eyes dulled as he lay on the ground, unable to get back on his feet.

Fiona was heard screaming hysterically. Ben turned his head to look with much difficulty and saw Julian grab Fiona's hand that was on Wendy's chin forcefully before twisting it 360 degrees like a rope.

Fiona had slender arms, but it was not a problem when dealing with three to five burly men. However, at this moment, it went without saying that her arm formed an extremely weird-looking and horrifying shape.

The bone on her elbow had broken through her flesh, the bone exposed. Blood was dripping from her pale white bones.

Julian then grabbed Fiona's throat with his other hand and lifted her entire body.

Fiona wanted to scream because she was being strangled but could not. The intense pain simmered in her chest, making her feel as though she was about to faint.

This was not over yet.

Jasper hurried in, turned a blind eye to the hellish execution ground, and rushed straight to Wendy.

He reached out and held Wendy firmly in his arms.

It was like he had found a lost treasure.

When he saw Wendy safe and sound, Jasper could finally put his mind at rest a little.

"Sorry I'm late. You must've suffered greatly."

Jasper said with a trembling voice.

As soon as Wendy saw Jasper, she felt as though all the pain she suffered was worth it.

“I was right. I knew you’d do your best to find me and protect me.” Wendy’s sobs sounded extremely weak.

After going through all the mental turmoil, Wendy felt as though she was put in a trance. Her entire body was worn out.

Had she not held on, she would have fainted a long time ago.

Jasper looked at the frail-looking Wendy. God knew what torment or suffering she had been through in just a few short hours.

He raised his trembling hand and covered the palm print on Wendy’s face. Jasper’s gaze was dark and cold. Like a frosty and treacherous spirit, he wanted to destroy everything.

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Despite that, he sounded extremely gentle. “Who did this?”

Wendy did not answer, but instead, she raised her arms and wrapped them around Jasper’s neck tightly.

Wendy had always been pampered since childhood and never suffered any hardships in life. At this moment, she finally shed all pretenses and cried out bitterly.

This woman might look soft and weak, but she could be strong and tough too—much tougher than any girl her age.

She would try and solve everything herself no matter what happened instead of going to Dawson and Jasper first thing itself.

This was her first time being kidnapped, and even though she was nearly ruined by Ben and Hans, both of who were extremely vicious and almost sadistic men, she knew when to advance and retreat without losing a sense of propriety.

When she saw Jasper, however, she could not hold herself back anymore.

She was just a girl in her 20s after all and would experience fear and terror just like everyone else.

Wendy trembled like a frightened little rabbit in Jasper’s arms, and her extremely aggrieved cries made his heart quiver.

Guilt and regret washed over him like a tide.

From the day he was reincarnated until now, fear was nonexistent even when he first started investing. He had used up all of his savings and one and only house loan, putting all of it into the futures market. He risked having his reputation swept away if he was not careful enough.

In Harbor City, fear was nonexistent even when he hosted a 100-billion-dollar rescue plan, running the risk of losing everything if he took one wrong step. Everything he fought so hard for would go down the drain.

In Swallow Capital, fear was nonexistent when he faced the Turners and the oppression of the aristocrats.

Right now, however, fear had washed over Jasper.

He feared that something would happen to Wendy.

He feared that irreversible things would happen.

Wendy was crying. After experiencing emotional turmoil and finally being able to vent out her feelings, she passed out.

“Guards!” Jasper held Wendy in his arms and shouted outside the door.

Two female bodyguards standing outside the door rushed in immediately.

“Mr. Laine,” the female bodyguards called out to him.

“Take Ms. Wendy into the car to get some rest. Has the doctor arrived?” Jasper said solemnly.

“The doctor has arrived and is waiting downstairs,” the two female bodyguards answered, carefully helping Wendy up.

Jasper stood up once the female bodyguards carried the unconscious Wendy downstairs.

He looked at Hans and then at Ben.

After taking a deep breath, he asked softly, "How do you wish to die?"

Hans was sweating profusely from the pain, but he sneered when he heard what Jasper said, paying no heed to it.

In his opinion, Jasper did not have the guts to lay a finger on him.

Ben, on the other hand, stared fixedly at Jasper and exclaimed, "How is this possible?! How did you find this place?!"

Jasper pretended as though he did not hear what Ben just said. He walked up to him, lifted his leg, and stepped on Ben's palm while muttering, "Was this the hand you used to slap Wendy?"

As soon as he said those words, Jasper stomped on Ben's palm and began grinding his foot hard.

"Arghhh!"

A bone-piercing pain gushed forth from the palm of Ben's hand and shot straight to his heart. He opened his mouth and let out a heart-wrenching scream.

The shrill cries could chill the hearts of those who heard it.

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The flesh of Ben's palm was ground vigorously by the heel of the leather shoe.

This degree of pain was one that hardly anyone could stand.

Ben's palm was lacerated and bloody at once.

Fresh crimson blood pooled around his palm on the floor, followed by the sound of cracking bones under the crushing and grinding of Jasper's leather shoe.

Ben subconsciously put up a fierce resistance, his other hand hitting and scratching Jasper's trouser leg frantically. He was trying to get Jasper to loosen his foot.

Despite that, Jasper's eyes grew even more sinister and colder as he stared at Ben with a blank expression. It was as if he was staring at a corpse. "Not this hand? Is it the other one?"

Julian tossed aside Fiona, who had now lost her ability to resist, and walked over. He raised his leg and kicked Ben's shoulder blades.

Ben let out a blood-curdling scream, his other hand going limp as well. Jasper raised his leg to step on that palm too.

Ben's face was filled with horror.

"No, I wasn't the one who slapped her!"

Ben spoke faster than ever before. He said frantically, "It was Fiona! That woman did it!"

“Wendy tried to jump off the building earlier so Fiona slapped her. I didn’t do it!”

Jasper looked at Ben without an expression on his face. He waited for him to finish before saying calmly, “Julian.”

Julian understood what he wanted at once.

Like Aaron, Fiona was simply a thug. A person like that was not worth having Jasper take action himself.

“Cripple both her hands.”

When Jasper’s voice fell, Julian had already walked up to the horrified-looking Fiona. Before she could say anything, Julian raised his hands and grabbed her arms.

Click!

Comminuted fractures of the shoulder blades on both sides.

That was not enough for Julian to release his pent-up anger. He grabbed Fiona’s slightly intact right hand and said indifferently, “This is the hand, right?”

Having said that, Julian crushed Fiona’s fingers one by one as she let out a horrible shriek.

Although her shoulder blades had comminuted fractures, her pain nerves were still intact, hence Fiona could feel the intense pain of her fingers being crushed little by little.

The pain nearly knocked Fiona out. She tried to resist, but her left hand was already twisted, not to mention her crushed shoulder blades. She had lost all ability to resist.

She could only watch as Julian crippled her.

Fiona had given up on all hope completely. She knew that it was all over.

Under the dual stimulation of her mind and body, Fiona spat out a mouthful of blood and fainted on the floor.

Ben saw the tragic state Fiona was in and felt fear enveloping her.

“What are you doing, Jasper?!” Ben screamed.

Jasper did not say anything. He bent down and grabbed Ben by the collar, lifting him from the ground. He then made a fist with his right hand. He exhausted all of his strength and hurled a punch on Ben’s face.

It was an extremely powerful punch.

Jasper had not practiced martial arts before, but he was now in the prime of his life. He had been exercising since his reincarnation, hence his punch was not one that ordinary people could stand.

Ben did not scream when he took Jasper’s punch. Instead, he fell backward.

Before he landed on the ground, blood spurted out of his mouth first.

Several white teeth were scattered on the pool of blood on the ground. The contrast of crimson and white had formed a ghastly sight.

“Huff... Huff...”

Ben lay on the ground, breathing hard.

His mouth was filled with blood, half of his face was numb, and every time he breathed, he would take in air that smelled strongly of metallic blood.

Ben raised his eyelids and saw Jasper walking toward him. With his mouth full of blood, he suddenly let out a smile.

He was no longer afraid or terrified at this moment.

Ben's smile looked like a blood bag that had been zipped open, horrifying and blood-chilling.

"Do you know what I regret the most, Jasper? I regret not taking action earlier and having a good time with your woman—what a f*cking regret!"

His words turned Jasper's expression dark and gloomy, though it was already blank to begin with.

"You will soon begin to regret more things, such as why you even came into this world." Jasper's voice was bone-piercingly cold.

Ben rolled over and lay on his back as blood flowed out of the corners of his mouth. He laughed with much difficulty to express his nonchalance and arrogance.

"Bring it on then! Let's see what you've got. Do you think I'm afraid!? Well let me tell you something, I'm not afraid at all! Why don't you try and kill me? Do you think you're bold enough to do it?"

"If you kill me, you'll have to pay with your life!"

Ben seemed to be certain that Jasper would not be bold enough to kill him, hence he laughed wildly. "You can only beat me up, then what? I can always find another chance!"

"This is the price you have to pay for offending me!"

"I want you to live under my shadow, forever!"

“You... Mm... Arghh!”

Ben was halfway through his sentence when Jasper kicked him in the mouth, kicking all the words back in.

This kick nearly sent Ben off the ground. His head was leaning backward and more blood spurted from his mouth. This time, even more of his teeth came off.

The intense pain contorted Ben’s face with blood dripping from it. He clung to the ground with all his might, glaring ferociously and bitterly at Jasper. His eyes were filled with madness.

“Jasper.”

Hans had no choice but to speak. He struggled to his feet and stood in front of Jasper.

Hans took a deep breath, gritted his teeth, and endured the pain on his body. He said to Jasper while gasping for air, “I’m sure you’ve vented out your anger by now. I advise you to stop. If something happens to my nephew, then even the gods can’t save you!”

Having said that, Hans narrowed his eyes slightly and stared at Jasper before sneering. “You can’t deal with the Hulls alone.”

Jasper looked at Hans coldly and said, “You once said that you’ve messed with many women before, right?”

Hans smiled triumphantly and said, “That’s nothing. I haven’t had the chance to mess with real women of fine quality yet, though. It’s okay, I still have plenty of chances in the future.”

The threat in Hans’ words was evident.

He stared at Jasper and said, “You should stop. I know we’ve crossed the line this time, but what can you do? Worst comes to worst, we’ll compensate and make negotiations with you. If you refuse to let this drop, then you will only suffer losses in the end!”

Life at the Top Chapter 488

After the initial panic, Hans was no longer afraid.

He had experienced similar things before.

Hans had plenty of experience getting caught on the spot when he tried to use dirty tricks to mess with other people’s wives or daughters.

So what?

He was a Hull.

He was Ian’s younger brother.

The Hulls were an integral component of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

He had experienced many things and settled all of them with money and authority.

As time passed, Hans understood how things worked.

It was no big deal for him to mess with women, not when he had attained equal status such as the Hulls...

The punishment he would receive was nothing more than compensation and compromises.

When the other party had received benefits, they would know better than to fight the Hulls to the end.

In Hans' opinion, the incident today was no exception.

This was Jasper Laine, but so what?

If a businessman wanted to survive in this field, he would know better than to fight the Hulls to the end for the sake of a woman.

Hans knew that he held the winning card.

The Hulls could just compensate them for everything that happened today in the follow-up negotiations.

He did not realize that Jasper's gaze was getting increasingly colder as he stared at him.

"Julian!"

Jasper let out a low growl.

"Yes!"

Julian's nerves were taut, ever ready to take action.

As soon as Jasper gave his orders, he could not care less who the person standing in front of him was.

Even if it was a man of high esteem, he would kill that man first before anything else.

The viciousness in Julian's heart was no less than that of Jasper's.

In Julian's opinion, this was all a result of his negligence.

He was even mentally prepared to kill everyone present and surrender himself to the authorities after that.

This was all to repay Jasper and Wendy for their help and to make up for his mistake!

"Castrate him."

Jasper's words were like a steel knife, piercing deeply into Hans' heart.

Hans' complexion changed for the first time ever. He took a step back in horror and raged, "Don't you dare, Jasper Laine!"

Up until now, he still thought that Jasper was only intimidating him. Once he had forced himself to calm down, Hans softened his tone slightly.

"Don't act on impulse, Jasper. The Hulls will not spare you if you do this. This means vengeance! Is it really necessary for you to do this for a woman? Think about it!"

Jasper looked at Hans and said coldly, "I'm a man who will not attack unless I'm attacked. If I'm attacked, I will certainly return the attack tenfold. Unfortunately, both of you have infuriated me completely.

"I didn't even know that I could come so close to losing my mind getting so furious about one thing..."

"Benefits? Compromise? They can all go and f*ck themselves!"

“The Hulls are not worth making compromises with. Even if a man of high esteem is the one standing before me today, I will still cripple you first!”

Jasper seemed to be talking to Ben and Hans, but at the same time, he seemed to be talking to himself.

A man needed to learn how to submit to reality.

A man would lick the dust before society.

A man would yield in exchange for a meal on the table.

In order to survive.

In order to live.

It was because he needed to bow down for his family, and only by doing so could he keep them safe.

Life at the Top Chapter 489

Just like how Jasper would talk and laugh with the Turners and pretend to be polite with Kennedy, someone he had a constant dispute with, even though they both wished to trample each other to death.

This was the adult's world, where interests were paramount. The higher one's opponent's level was, the less likely it was for them to tear each other apart.

If his family was no longer around, why would he still need to f*cking compromise?

Today, Jasper wanted the whole world to know...

That if anyone offended him, he would flip the table straight away and bring everyone down with him!

“Are you deaf, Julian?!”

Jasper’s roar brought Julian back from his reverie.

Julian growled and rushed up to Hans.

Hans was filled with horror. At this very moment, he finally realized that Jasper was serious and not just trying to intimidate him.

He was serious about doing it.

“Don’t, Jasper! No!”

Hans only had the time to say this before getting kicked on the lower abdomen by Julian.

It was an extremely forceful kick.

Hans’ stopped begging for mercy immediately as if someone had pressed the pause button.

His eyes widened, his mouth dropped open, and his wide eyes dulled.

In pitch darkness, he felt a piercing pain in his groin area.

The bone-piercing pain rose from his lower abdomen, spreading all over Hans’ limbs in an instant. There seemed to be a chord in his head, and under the intense pain, it snapped at once.

The pain was indescribable. He firmly clenched his injured groin area with his hands, his entire body arching in pain.

Hans' mouth was wide open. He tried to scream to express his pain, but no matter how hard he tried, he could only make huffing sounds from his throat.

Hans crashed to the ground on his side, his body twitching as though he was having epilepsy.

His face was flushed, his veins were throbbing, and huge beads of sweat filled his face.

Compared to the physical pain, Hans found it much harder to accept the fact that he could never use his lower body to commit sin again.

This realization was more painful than death for Hans who found pleasure in messing with women.

Jasper watched Hans pass out with a cold gaze and turned to look at Ben.

"It's your turn now."

Jasper murmured, squatting down in front of Ben whose face was now covered in blood. He said flatly, "The hatred in my heart has finally dissipated a little, but I still won't spare you so easily or it'll be a shame to waste all your effort in putting this show together."

Ben looked at Jasper and laughed hysterically.

His laughter echoed in the empty room, sounding eerie and terrifying.

Ben laughed to the point that he could hardly breathe before saying, "Bring it on. C'mon, kill me. Hurry up. Kill me. Hahaha..."

Julian walked up to Jasper, stared at Ben, and said in a deep voice, "Let me do it, Jasper."

"Are you planning to kill him?" Jasper asked calmly.

Julian said solemnly, "I'm not afraid of going to prison or shooting myself with a gun. I will bear all of it."

"It's not your turn to take responsibility for this," Jasper said flatly.

"Do you think that by doing so you can make up for your mistakes? Let me tell you that it's far from enough. You'd better stand there. Don't do anything without my command!"

Julian's body quivered as he looked at Jasper.

This big man's eyes turned pink, and he felt a lump in his throat. He clenched his fist firmly, unable to utter a word.

He knew that Jasper was trying to protect him. Jasper did not want him to go to prison for this.

Murdering someone could cost him his life.

What more if that person was Ben?

The Hulls were typical despots.

If Ben was murdered here, punishment would be carried out no matter who did it.

"For many people, killing him is the most merciful thing in the world, so how can I possibly let him have it easy?" Jasper said indifferently.

“Whereas for Ben, he has enjoyed the sense of superiority that came with being the son of an aristocrat his whole life. Don’t you think it’s relatively thrilling to see him lose everything and live on the streets one day rather than killing him?”

“Call Ian. Ask him to get here within half an hour.

“Even if the gods take the Hulls’ side, I will still tear them apart and throw them into chaos!”

Life at the Top Chapter 490

At the entrance of Warsaw Community, two cars slowly pulled over on the side of the road.

Sitting in the second car, Ian glanced calmly at a few cars that were parked not far away.

These cars had uniform sequential number plates, and each car was heavily guarded by several well-trained and serious-looking men.

Norman, who was sitting next to Ian, frowned slightly. He said solemnly, “Now that’s a tiger’s lair!

“What is Jasper trying to do? Why did he ask you to come to such a strange place?”

Ian said with a sullen expression, “I don’t know, but I have a feeling that something really bad is about to happen.”

Norman sneered and said, “What? You think he’s going to kill us? He won’t do that unless he wants to kill himself.”

Ian said flatly, “I don’t think he will. No matter how fierce competitions get in business, there’s always a rule. Even if we are openly trying to give him trouble, we will eventually find ways to solve it using business solutions. The same goes for him if he wants to give us trouble.”

Norman said with a frown, “But from the look of this place as well as the men in the cars, I don’t think he’s going to play by the rules. I think I should lead the bodyguards in front and go up with you.”

Ian shook his head and said, “No, that will only cause us to sink lower. Since he wants me to arrive within half an hour, I’ll go up and see what kind of tricks he’s trying to pull.

“Okay then. I’ll wait for you here. Give me a call if something happens and I’ll lead our men upstairs. I don’t think Jasper is that bold,” Norman said.

Ian was just about to get out of the car when he thought of something and dialed a number after taking out his phone.

However, the cold and consistent voice of the operator made Ian frown.

“Still can’t get in touch with Benny?” Norman asked, knowing who Ian was calling.

Ian nodded with a sullen expression and then suppressed the unease in his heart. He said, “Not just him, but even Hans isn’t picking up his phone. It’s like the two of them have disappeared.”

Norman said with a smile, “You still don’t understand Hans’ character, do you? They must have gone somewhere to party and have fun. They’re probably still lying on top of women right now.”

Ian snorted, saying, “They’re uncle and nephew too—how ridiculous!”

Having said that, Ian pushed the door open and walked toward Warsaw Community.

As soon as Ian appeared, he immediately attracted the attention of the bodyguards Jasper had brought.

They knew the situation well. One of the bodyguards walked up to Ian and said with a faint smile on his face, "Mr. Ian, Mr. Laine wants us to show you the way when you arrive."

"I'd like to see what sort of tricks you're trying to pull this time," Ian sneered and followed the bodyguards into the community.

Ordinary communities built before the 2000s were not equipped with elevators, so Ian followed the bodyguards up the stairs.

When they arrived on the second floor, Ian heard a shrill cry coming from upstairs.

The cries sounded extremely distinct because they came straight from the top of Ian's head on the third floor.

It was precisely of its clarity that Ian could tell it was his brother's voice!

What followed the scream was crying and cursing as well as begging for mercy.

Ian could vaguely hear his son's voice as well.

At this moment, Ian was suddenly flustered.

He started running, pushing aside the bodyguards who were standing in his way and rushing upstairs with a sullen expression.

Door 303 was closed, but Ian was able to push the door open easily and see what was going on inside.

What he saw made him gasp.

There were bloodstains everywhere, and the place looked like a massacre site.

Both Aaron and Fiona, the bodyguards he was familiar with, were thrown in one corner like two balls of meat. Crimson blood constantly flowed out from underneath their bodies.

If it were not for the rising and falling of their bodies from their breathing, Ian would think that they were already dead.

This was not the most horrifying of all.

The most horrifying thing of all was that he saw a stranger currently stepping on his brother without a single expression on his face.

Hans' face was bruised and swollen. He was holding onto the man's leg desperately, begging for mercy.

Although it seemed as though Hans had not suffered any trauma, his pale face and expression told Ian that Hans had suffered some sort of inhumane torture.

Most importantly, Ian saw his son Ben lying on the ground with his hands badly mangled and bloody. His body was trembling and convulsing constantly.

The strangest thing of all was that even though Ben had suffered such horrible treatment, he did not cry or scream, but instead, he was laughing hysterically.

On his blood-filled face was a ferocious smile, and the glint in his eyes revealed a deep-seated madness.

“Hans! Benny!”

Ian screamed.

Ian was just a wealthy businessman, after all. He had never seen anything as horrifying as this his whole life.

Had it not been for the challenges he faced in the business world all these years, which had helped toughen his heart, his legs would have turned to jelly the moment he saw this hellish scene.

Hans, who was being tortured so badly that he was eager to die immediately, turned his head around with much difficulty. The moment he saw Ian, the man in his 30s cried out immediately.

“Save me, Brother. Ask him to stop torturing me. Just kill me already. Hurry up and save me!”

Although Ian had always hated it when his brother committed all sorts of outrages, blood was still thicker than water. At the sight of the miserable condition Hans was in, as well as the state his son was in, Ian could feel himself going mad from the rage.

He turned his head abruptly, staring at Jasper who was sitting on the couch. The man was looking at him calmly and unhurriedly. Ian roared, “How dare you play dirty, Jasper Laine?! If I don’t make you pay for this today, then I swear that I, Ian Hull, am not a man!”

Life at the Top Chapter 491

Jasper was all the calmer when faced with the furious Ian.

Although Jasper had vented out a portion of his anger on Ben and Hans, that did not mean Jasper would let this matter drop just like that.

Who gave Ben and Hans the right to touch Wendy?

Just because they were born into the Hull family, they felt secure in the knowledge that they had the Hulls to fall back upon, hence they could do anything they wanted without consequences.

Like what Jasper said earlier, this time, he would tear the Hulls apart and throw them into chaos.

It was only by doing so would he be able to impede a future disaster.

He could also use this punishment as an example to warn his past, current, and future opponents.

If they wanted to deal with him, sure. They should just be blunt about their actions and intentions and take the gloves off.

However, for anyone who tried to touch his woman and cross the line, then Jasper's craziest revenge would await them!

Jasper still could not let it go, and he would not stop until he ended the Hulls!

"Make me pay?"

“Your brother and son are currently paying the price, and in my opinion, this is still far from enough.”

Jasper sounded calm and indifferent, not even remotely stirred by Ian’s infuriated roar.

Ian stared at Jasper with eyes full of anger and hatred. He pointed at Ben and Hans lying on the ground. At the moment, they looked nothing like humans. Ian was so furious that he laughed aloud. “Can you at least give a more decent excuse? What did they do to deserve this?”

“Do you even know the rules, Jasper? Business matters stay in the business field. If you’re bold enough to attack them today, I will use the same method to retaliate against you tomorrow!”

“You broke the rules first, so don’t blame me for not warning you!”

Jasper did not intend to have a meaningless argument with Ian. He motioned to Julian with his eyes.

After taking Jasper’s hint, he lifted Hans from his feet, tossed him to Ian, and said in a low voice, “Tell him all the things both of you have done!”

Julian’s words sounded like the curse of a devil at the moment, so how could Hans possibly defy him?

Almost immediately after Julian finished speaking, Hans made a clean breast of all the things he and Ben had done.

Ian’s expression grew grimmer and more sullen as Hans spoke.

Ian gritted his teeth, glaring at Hans and Ben while saying incredulously, “You... You!”

“I can’t believe you did something this serious behind my back!”

When he heard that Hans and Ben had colluded to kidnap Wendy and even nearly raped her, he felt as though he was about to have a heart attack.

Actually, the incident itself was not terrifying.

The most terrifying thing of all was that they had done something wrong and even got caught red-handed by Jasper.

If Hans and Ben had succeeded in carrying out the deed, Ian might be furious, but he would not do anything to punish them.

In a sense, the two of them would have successfully dealt a heavy blow to Jasper.

If that was the case, what Ian had to consider next was how to deal with Jasper’s revenge.

However, things were different now.

They had failed to carry out their evil deeds.

Similar to burglary, they were caught red-handed by the owner before they could even steal anything. The burglary had now turned into a robbery.

It was a completely different concept.

At this moment, even the astute and scheming Ian felt a little flustered.

However, Hans could not care less anymore. He crawled on the ground and held Ian’s thigh firmly. His face was all snotty and teary as he said, “I know I was wrong, Brother. They’re no humans. They drove Benny crazy and castrated me! You must save us.

“I’m your brother, and Benny is your son. You can’t just stand there and do nothing!”

As Ian listened to Hans, he raised his head abruptly only to see blood and flesh on Hans’ lower abdomen.

What was more horrifying than that was that from the moment he stepped in through the door, Ben had only been laughing the whole time. Not only was he laughing, but his gaze was also turning duller and duller.

Ben’s reaction made Ian feel as though his heart had been hit by a boulder.

Anger had set his sanity on fire.

Ian raised his head and glared at Jasper with bloodshot eyes, roaring in a hoarse voice, “Jasper Laine, you should have come to me regardless of the things they did! How could you attack them in private?!”

“You even castrated my brother and drove my son crazy?!”

“You have committed an unforgivable crime!”

“I have committed an unforgivable crime indeed!”

Jasper stood up suddenly, staring at Ian while raising his voice as well.

“So what if you’re the Hulls? Do you really think the Hulls own the whole world?”

“If your brother and your son have the guts to do this to my woman, then I don’t mind turning the Hulls upside down!”

“Do you think I called you here to hear you lecture me? I’m here to tell you, Ian Hull, that this isn’t the end yet!”

Ian's chest rose and fell sharply as he glared at Jasper. There was nowhere to vent out the pent-up anger inside of him, and the congestion nearly had him spitting out a mouthful of blood.

"You want to turn the Hulls upside down, do you? Bravo!

"You're pretty gutsy, eh, Jasper? I wonder if your ability even matches up to your words?!"

"You'd better listen up then. The Hulls will not let this matter drop! My brother has been castrated, and if anything happens to Benny, I will make sure to bury you alive!"

After hearing Ian finishing his sentence with a blank expression, Jasper suddenly let out a chuckle.

From the huge contrast in Jasper's expression, Ian felt as though something very bad was about to happen.

He would rather see Jasper roaring insanely than to see him so calm all of a sudden.

An opponent who had lost his mind was far easier to deal with than an opponent who could remain calm in the face of anger.

At this moment, Ian suddenly wondered if he could even walk out of Room 303 intact.

The idea of it had made Ian's nerves extremely taut.

If Jasper could bring himself to torture Hans and Ben to this extent, then he would have no scruples about leaving him with a 'gift' either.

At the thought of this, Ian quietly stretched his hand into his pocket and grabbed his phone. He had decided to notify Norman immediately when something happened so he could send someone over to rescue him.

Soon after that, however, the words Jasper said made Ian realize how wrong he was.

How very wrong indeed.

He had underestimated the terror that Jasper was capable of causing.

“Say, how many years of prison sentence do you think your brother and your son would get if I call the cops now?”

Life at the Top Chapter 492

Killing was always the most low-class solution to a problem for truly ambitious and ruthless characters.

Compared to killing, torturing was a more effective way.

Take for example, Jasper knew very well that when dealing with Hans and Ben, killing them would only help him vent out his anger momentarily.

After a moment of thrill, he would then face endless problems.

There were not many heroes today that could rob the rich to help the poor unlike in ancient times. It could cost him his life if he murdered someone.

Moreover, this was not in line with Jasper’s idea of putting them through utter misery.

This was the same for Ian.

Jasper could easily order Julian to cripple Ian.

What then?

The Hulls would still exist.

Ian would still carry out his revenge after that.

Therefore, Jasper had not planned to lay a finger on Ian from the beginning.

Ian was different from Hans and Ben. He was not a direct participant in this incident, nor did he have any knowledge of this incident before it happened.

Jasper was not trying to give Ian a way out, but instead, he wanted to rain blows on the Hulls via Ian.

It was only when the Hulls had nothing left that Ian and his family would finally feel pain and regret.

After hearing what Jasper said, Ian was abruptly stunned. He stared fixedly at Jasper and sneered. "Call the cops? Are you bold enough to call the cops after what you put them through?"

Jasper said calmly, "We're all adults, so stop having childish thoughts like that. Did you see me do these things with your own eyes?"

"No one died. This incident could very much turn into a scene where my men saw an unlawful act and bravely stepped forward to help out. That led to both parties getting injured. Maybe my men would even be awarded for their bravery?"

Jasper's words sent deep chills down Ian's spine.

He must admit that Jasper was capable of doing so.

Southeast Province was Jasper's stronghold after all.

More importantly, Dawson was there to back Jasper up.

That old fox had not shown up, but he had been in the Southeast Province for decades. Who knew how powerful he actually was?

Ian, who had been expanding his business in Waterhoof City for a long time, was very much aware of this.

No one was deliberately distorting the truth. What Hans and Ben did was an obvious fact, and a bit of investigation was enough to verify their crimes.

This was where the Hulls suffered the most disadvantage.

After weighing the pros and cons for a few seconds, Ian took a deep breath. He looked at Jasper coldly and asked, "What are you planning to do?"

He knew that there was still room for negotiations seeing how Jasper did not call the cops the first thing itself.

This so-called 'negotiation' was sure to cost the Hulls greatly.

In the face of Jasper's overt plot, Ian had no choice but to jump inside despite knowing that there was a trap in front of him.

Unless he was able to bring himself to watch his brother and son getting tortured then later thrown into prison.

"Within three days, the Hulls will get lost from Southeast Province."

Life at the Top Chapter 493

Jasper stated his conditions.

Ian nearly fainted from the lack of oxygen when he heard what Jasper said.

“I’ve dumped 500 million into the Southface River Project, and after adding the penalty fee for breaching the contract, my loss will stand at one billion at least. I have to leave just because you asked me to?!”

Jasper said calmly, “That’s your problem. You can most certainly ignore me, but one thing for sure is that I’ll throw your brother and your son into prison.”

“You!”

Ian was furious. He pointed at Jasper, almost wishing he could skin the man before him alive.

Jasper looked at Ian calmly and said, “This is just the first step. If you can’t even take this, then I advise you to dissolve all of the Hull family’s industries and hide far away.”

Ian was so furious he laughed aloud. “Ha! You want to drive us away and exterminate all of us, huh? Don’t forget that the Hulls are based in Waterhoof City, Jasper Laine. Your petty little trick isn’t enough to get rid of the Hulls!”

Jasper said impatiently, “I will only ask you once. Can you or can you not get out of the Southeast Province in three days?!”

Ian gritted his teeth, his body trembling slightly from excessive anger and agitation.

He really wanted to yell at Jasper's face and then turn around to walk away.

However, Hans, who was on the ground begging for mercy, and Ben, who had now stopped laughing but was sitting on the ground dazedly, made it impossible for him to walk away.

After a long silence, Ian gritted his teeth and said, "Okay, I agree to your condition!"

Ian endured the great humiliation and grief when he said those words. He stared at Jasper and said, "But I will not let this drop so easily! Soon, I will make you regret everything that you've done!"

Jasper sneered. "You and your son have said similar things many times. Aren't you sick of it at all?"

"I hope you keep your word because I will not let this matter drop so easily either. When I say that I will commit an unforgivable crime against the Hulls, I will make sure to do it in a clear-cut manner. I will be happy to see you put up a fight because the more you struggle, the more satisfied I will be. How will I put you in despair otherwise?"

Jasper walked off with Julian immediately after saying those words.

Ian stood alone in the room, so furious that he nearly spat out blood.

He looked at Hans and Ben lying on the ground with an exasperated expression. He wanted so much to lecture them for spoiling everything and being unable to achieve anything, though when he saw the wretched states they were in, the words simply hung at the tip of his tongue.

He knew that it was useless to complain now. It was better for him to think of what to do next instead.

"Benny, wake up. Can you recognize me?"

Ian walked up to Ben, knelt down, and shook Ben's shoulders while speaking to him.

There was finally a reaction in Ben's sluggish gaze as it slowly focused on Ian's face.

Ian was about to speak when Ben pushed Ian away abruptly, screaming, "Jasper! You're Jasper! I won't spare you! I'm going to kill you!"

As he said those words, Ben charged forward.

At this moment, Ben's bloodstained face looked extremely eerie. He seemed to have mistaken Ian for Jasper and wanted to kill him.

Ian was astounded, and it was also at this moment that he heard a bunch of footsteps. Norman had run upstairs with his men.

Norman was taken aback when he saw the scene in the room.

He quickly ordered the bodyguards to pull the maniacal Ben away, helped Ian up, and said with a trembling voice, "What... What happened?"

Ian's eyes were filled with tears as he watched the guards keeping Ben under control as he continued to struggle. His voice quivered when he said, "Hurry, send them to the hospital. Benny... Benny has gone crazy."

Norman's heart started beating wildly. He ordered his men to call the ambulance and turned his head to say to Ian, "I saw Jasper leading his men away. What happened?"

Ian gritted his teeth, a malicious glow glinting in his eyes. He growled, yelling, "That brat destroyed my brother and my son! He has destroyed them completely! I want him dead!"

Life at the Top Chapter 494

Jasper did not go anywhere nor did he do anything for the following two days, opting to stay by Wendy's side instead where he channeled all his focus on her.

He relayed the details of what had happened to Dawson after he returned.

Out of all the details was his plan on how to deal with the aftermath of the problem.

At that, Dawson merely told him to leave the matters of the Hull family in the Southeast Province alone.

It then dawned on Jasper the power his future father-in-law had in the Southeast Province.

It was just as Ian had worried. Dawson's power had been running deep in the Southeast Province for decades, and while he did not flaunt it all the time, his power was beyond imagination when he decided to use it.

"Jasper, according to the latest news, all of the Hull family's power and funds have been pulled out from the market in the Southeast Province."

Julian reported to Jasper in the backyard of the villa.

Jasper was focused on peeling the apple in his hands. The smooth apple continued to turn in his hand while the long strip of its skin fluttered in the air. The peel seemed moments away from breaking, but it did not happen even after he had completely skinned the apple.

After the apple was skinned, Jasper then cut it into small slices and fed them to Wendy before he replied, "This future father-in-law of mine sure is powerful."

Wendy had completely recovered after two days of rest.

The slap was the only physical injury she suffered, and she had spent the two days recovering from the emotional shock she received.

After all, Wendy was not just any woman. She had already readjusted and recovered from her emotional trauma as much as she could in the shortest amount of time.

Hearing Jasper, she chewed the apple as she replied nonchalantly, "My dad didn't do anything at all yesterday. All he did was sit in the office of the city's government for an entire day and the results are seen today."

"The Hull family has invested quite a bit in the Southeast Province. So with them pulling out, not only would the Hull family lose everything, but the Southeast Province will also be unable to come out of this unaffected.

"Ignoring everything else, the projects that have already begun are doomed to halt indefinitely. Even though the groundwork for the construction in the North Bank has just been completed, that's as far as its progress will go. So there's no way the city's government will allow such a thing to happen.

"That's why someone has to stand up to give the city's government a direction. The city's government no longer has the right to decide what happens anymore, and since there's no way the conflict between our families can be resolved, their only option left is to choose one of the two families to remain.

"In comparison to the Hulls, after weighing our odds against theirs, it's not a difficult choice the city's government has to make."

Jasper analyzed it clearly.

After speaking, he then saw Dawson walk in.

“Uncle Schuler.”

“Dad.”

Both Jasper and Wendy greeted at the same time.

Dawson nodded and smiled at his daughter before asking kindly, “How are you feeling? Any better?”

Wendy nodded. “Much better. I didn’t really get injured or anything. It shocked me more than anything.”

“That alone is enough to warrant the Hull family’s death,” Dawson replied indifferently.

Dawson turned to Jasper. “What will you do next now that the Hull family has pulled out of the Southeast Province?”

Instead of replying, Jasper asked, “The Hulls pulled out really hastily this time. It must be an effect of the pressure you put on them. I heard they took a flight out without even packing their luggage and things?”

Life at the Top Chapter 495

Dawson replied plainly, “They already had no choice but to throw away one billion of investment funds, so what’s a bit of luggage?”

Jasper commented indifferently, “At least they fled fast.”

The Hulls had managed to truly infuriate both Jasper and Dawson.

Jasper and Dawson would have no issue with others as long as they played according to the rules.

Yet the Hull family had ignored the regulations and overstepped their boundaries!

Not to mention that this overstep by the Hulls had been a trigger to both Jasper and Dawson.

“This is only the beginning. A loss of one billion is just a surface injury to them, it’s not detrimental enough. I’m going to break them apart next and thoroughly remove them from the market forever!”

Jasper’s unfazed tone was filled with determination.

Dawson nodded in agreement. “Deal with them thoroughly or you’ll be in for future complications. There’s no way the two families can reconcile anymore, so there’s no point in showing mercy at such a crucial time. Whatever you do next, make sure you do it quickly.”

Jasper smiled. “Don’t worry. I already have a plan and it’ll be set in motion very soon.”

Dawson pat Jasper’s shoulder in relief. “I’ve never questioned your work... but there’s something that I have to discuss with you about.”

“Now that the North Bank is deserted, the city’s government is being very ambiguous about their plans with it. As far as they’re concerned, since they’ve already given the land out, the advertisement that’s already published will be seen as a huge joke if they take the land back due to the Hull family pulling out from the contract.

“There’s no way the decision-maker in the city’s government will allow such tarnish. Especially not when the development of the South Bank is completed and everyone can see the situation in the North Bank.

“We wouldn’t be having this problem if the North Bank had never been put on the development agenda in the beginning, but since it’s already there and its groundwork is already completed, there isn’t much of an option left.”

Dawson’s words were very ambiguous, but Jasper could hear the intent behind them.

“So the city’s government wants us to take over it?”

Dawson smiled. “Correct.”

Jasper frowned. “You’ll need to invest 1.5 times of what’s been invested in the South Bank if you want to develop the North Bank. That’s not very beneficial.”

“Duality is present in everything. If you look at it from a different angle, the North Bank might not be as worthless as you think,” Dawson reminded.

Jasper arched an eyebrow. “Or perhaps, we could develop the North Bank with a completely different plan?”

“Say, for example, a villa district? There are a lot of mountains and trees there, and it’s just by the Southface River that’s surrounded by a few old villages. The economy isn’t flourishing there, but that’s also why it has maintained most of its natural ecological appearance. We might end up with a completely different effect if we develop it into a villa district for the rich.”

Dawson looked at Jasper in approval. “Good job, you’ve got a sharp and clear mind there. It took me an entire night to think of this.”

Jasper smiled. “I wouldn’t have thought of it if you didn’t remind me... but what about transport?”

Dawson smiled. "We'll charge it at a tenth of the normal price, just for formality's sake. Since the Hull family has already paid for it for us."

Jasper's eyes shone. "Then it's completely possible. Instead of business development, a villa district would greatly lower our costs and still complement the South Bank. With the North and South Bank together, we'd reap much greater rewards."

"And we'll be making it easy on the city's government." Dawson smiled.

Jasper nodded. "Alright. JW Real Estate will take this project, then."

Life at the Top Chapter 496

At most, the Southface River's North Bank project was an unexpected win for Jasper.

With it, he would attract more attention to the South Bank project, and the villa district in the North Bank would also be greatly anticipated in extension.

One could imagine that once the South Bank became the economic center of the province, the North Bank's villa district on the other side of the river would thus become a place where the top wealthy people in the area, or even the entire Southeast Province, would gather.

It was the same piece of land, yet it churned out completely different results in the Hull family's and Jasper's hands.

Not that the Hulls had not thought of turning the North Bank into a villa district. Since the Hulls had managed to make a name for themselves among Haddock's businesspeople and even found their footing in Waterhoof City, Jasper had never taken the Hulls to be idiots.

"The main thing is that both our families have different goals. The Hulls plan to develop the North Bank mainly to pick on our development in the South Bank. That's why they decided on a business center plan like the South Bank to compete with us. They were only trying to overwhelm our project in the south.

"But with the North Bank's development also up to us, we can have a business district in the south and a wealthy residential area in the north, so to shift the focus onto the Southface River. With developments on both left and right of the river, we'll create a high-end district within Southeast Province."

Jasper and Dawson came to a tacit agreement.

The North Bank project had thus fallen into JW Real Estate's pockets.

"But the most important thing right now is to completely destroy the Hull family," Jasper spoke calmly as he looked at the lush green land in the villa's backyard.

"I'm afraid that's something we can't do on our own."

Wendy had already retired for the night, and Jasper had sent Julian out on an errand. Dawson was the only one by his side.

Hearing Dawson, Jasper replied calmly, "Undoubtedly. After all, our power only goes as far within the Southeast Province, and our influence will only lessen once we're outside.

"To completely crush the Hulls, we'll need to get into Waterhoof City. That's where they've set up camp. They'll be the hosts there while we'll be their guests. It'll be much more difficult to follow out with our plan over there."

Dawson furrowed his brows. "With the information that we have now, the Hulls have completely given up their traditional business of tea-making within the country these two years and are focusing all their manpower into import and export trade."

"The economy of the country has been flourishing these years and there's a lot of goods with more demand than supply. They've earned a lot more from that, but there's still no increase in the supply of said goods. That guarantees the wealth of people working with import and export trade," Jasper spoke calmly.

That was the truth. According to his memory from his past life, the following eight years since the new millennium were classified as the golden eight years of the country's import and export trade.

As long as one had the connections to import goods from overseas, then even idiots could earn money without doing anything else.

Such a profitable business was then greatly sought out and its wave only receded when the Mainland started to use the real estate industry and railway-like foundational developments as its pillar to divert attention to domestic demand, bringing the country on a path of infrastructure frenzy.

“I don’t think there would be anything I could do if they’re making a fortune in a different industry, but I might have an idea if this is the import and export trade we’re talking about,” Jasper replied.

Dawson looked at Jasper in surprise but did not comment on it.

After a series of events, he knew that Jasper was no longer the humble stock genius he knew before.

The man now had his forces and secrets, and this was all the necessary development a business hero had to go through.

Even this fight with the Hull family was an experience he had to go through.

If it were not the Hulls, it would just be another family by another name. If it were not because of Wendy, then it would be due to some other reason of the sort.

No hero made a name for themselves with peace. The birth of a new force came with the downfall of a few, if not many, old forces.

“As long as you have a plan, then I won’t give too much input on it. Like I said, do what you think is right, and ask if you need it,” Dawson told Jasper.

Jasper nodded seriously. “Got it.”

Smiling, Dawson clapped Jasper’s shoulder and stood to leave.

Dawson had a change of heart after this incident for he realized that he did not have many opportunities to spend time with his daughter.

Perhaps it was to make up for it, or perhaps so that he could watch over Wendy as she recovered from her emotional trauma, but as long as he was free during these two days, he would spend time with Wendy.

By doing so, he had also managed to find time for Jasper.

Jasper was deep in thought for a moment after Dawson left. He decided to call Zachary who was far away in Harbor City.

With Zachary, there was no need for Jasper to speak too politely or apple-polish. He went straight to the point. "Uncle Law, would you be interested in doing a business in the Mainland that guarantees at least 500 million Somer Dollars per year?"

Dawson was right. They were not strong enough to completely destroy the Hull family themselves.

This was not called having an inferior complex but rather having a clear understanding of reality.

Not to mention that it was no easy feat to destroy the Hull family in such a short time while ensuring that the Hull family had no chance to fight back.

Jasper never had the plan to fight them alone with his bare hands.

It would be a shame not to use the resources the Law family could provide.

"What's the plan?" As expected, Zachary's interest was piqued by Jasper's proposal.

"As of right now, the Harbor City Group is fighting both openly and in secret with the local factions in Swallow Capital. It's going to be a long war, so there won't be any sign of wins or losses for a while.

“The part where Harbor City lacks the most is that they have no roots in the Mainland, so I’ve come to provide you a place where you can set foot in the import and export trade. Do you remember the Hull family, Uncle Law?”

Jasper smiled brightly and confidently.

Jasper alone was enough to pull the Law family into a partnership.

However, Jasper was still very aware that the Law family was not his. He could not take advantage of all the help they provided if he wanted to maintain this working partnership with them.

Everyone would only be satisfied and happy if both sides reaped benefits and rewards from the partnership.

Zachary smiled. “Of course, I do. What do you have in mind?”

“By getting rid of the Hull family, there’ll be an empty spot in the import and export trading market. The Law family can take all of that since I’m not interested in that industry. But I want all of the Hull family’s wealth!”

Life at the Top Chapter 497

Why was the import and export industry so profitable within the country now?

Firstly, it was because there was a lot of demand in the Mainland, and there was no worry that the imported goods would not be sold out.

Secondly, it was because of the unique policies stemming from unique national conditions.

Due to issues in the past, most of Harbor City's goods were duty-free. After the handover, the Mainland had then written Harbor City a very generous tariff treaty.

Thus, most businessmen in the Mainland who profited off import and export trade would have their goods shipped to Harbor City first and then sent into the Mainland as Harbor City goods."

By doing so, exploiting such a loophole of a righteous policy resulted in a 15-25% discount in taxes.

"The Hull family has placed most of their focus into the import and export trade, and the method they use is more or less what everyone else is doing too. They import the goods to Harbor City and then ship them to the Mainland. Doing this, they've managed to dominate the Mainland's market while paying an extremely low amount of taxes."

Jasper had known the inner working of the Hull family like the back of his hand.

"To get rid of the Hull family, attacking them from the Mainland would only give adverse results. The easiest way to do it would be to attack them in Harbor City, and I believe taking goods from a few ships in Harbor City shouldn't be too big a problem for the Law family, right?" Jasper smiled.

Pacing in his office, Zachary began to believe that Jasper's plan was doable.

"Not at all. But I'll have to look into how the Hulls deal with customs here in Harbor City before I can decide on a more solid course of action."

Jasper smiled. "It'd be nice if you could do it and give me an update as soon as possible. I'm ready to act anytime on my part. We should coordinate our attacks so that the Hull family are at loss as to who they're supposed to defend against."

Zachary fell silent for a moment. "What did the Hulls do to offend you, Jasper?"

Jasper replied calmly, "I won't stop until I've completely defeated this mortal nemesis of mine."

Zachary's footsteps came to a halt. Jasper had always been a gentle and humble man, so it was extremely rare to hear such ferocious words from him.

However, it helped Zachary understand Jasper's determination. In his mind, he increased the importance of this fight.

"Alright, I'll work with you on this. I'll update you right away once I've investigated things on my end. Oh, and I'll send Henry over to you as well, then. He should be done with his work over in Swallow Capital. It's best if you have one of us with you."

Jasper gave it some thought and replied, "Okay, then. I'll contact him directly after."

Zachary smiled. "You're not just representing yourself here, Jasper. You have the Law family behind you ready to move together. You can be a little braver, Jasper. Since us Laws have already invested in you, then there's no way we'd change our stand just like that."

Jasper smiled. "With your assurance, Uncle Law, then I see no need for me to worry about it anymore."

...

Waterhoof City, in the Hull family's house.

Pungent smoke swirled within the study that was much larger than any bedroom with nowhere to go.

Ian's expression was livid as he sat in the study. There was a cigarette between his fingers, burnt halfway through.

The ashtray beside his hands was already filled to the brim with cigarette buds.

Sitting opposite him was Norman, who was also fuming with anger.

“That little brat! He has no respect for people at all!”

Norman slapped his hand against the study desk heavily, his expression dark and sinister.

“That’s a whole loss of one billion Somer Dollars! That’s a good few years of hard work even if we split the loss between both our families!”

Life at the Top Chapter 498

“There’s also been news from the Southeast Province this afternoon, saying that JW Real Estate has officially taken over the developmental rights in the North Bank from the city’s government!”

“He did what? Who the f*ck does he think he is?!”

“We spent so much money to take over it and we even did the groundwork but now you’re telling me we’re just going to give it to the f*cking brat for free?!”

Hearing Norman’s continuous complaints, Ian clenched his teeth and shouted, “Enough!”

“What, do you want me to watch Hans and Benny go to prison even though they’re mentally unstable and crippled now?!” Ian glared at Norman indifferently and questioned coldly.

“If this is about your 500 million loss, then I’ll just pay you back in the future!”

Norman was stunned. Seeing how Ian’s gaze was void and devouring, he immediately suppressed the ire within him. He pushed his displeasure away to speak, “You know that’s not what I meant.”

With a harrumph, Ian spoke, “I know that you’ve lost a lot of money, but there’s nothing we can do about this. He got ahold of Benny’s and Hans’ Achilles heel. Don’t forget that the Southeast Province is their base. Pulling out was our only option.”

“So we’re just going to forget it like that?!” Norman asked indignantly.

“No way! Ignoring my dignity and the money we lost, I’m still going to take revenge for what he did to Hans and Benny if it’s the last thing I do!” Ian clenched his teeth and stood up, extinguishing the bud of his cigarette harshly on the ashtray.

“What do you have in mind?” Norman asked.

Ian walked over to the window and opened it with one hand.

The fresh and cool wind blew into the study and immediately cleared the stuffy atmosphere inside.

“I’m using every single resource I have on hand, and I only have one objective—Jasper’s company. Then, I’m making a trip to Suesville.”

Ian’s words lifted Norman’s spirits.

Suesville was right beside Waterhoof City, and most importantly, it was where Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s spiritual leader, Old Master Hurlbutt, resided.

“Do we need Old Master Hurlbutt just to deal with Jasper?” Norman asked.

He thought that Ian had lost his mind. Old Master Hurlbutt was Haddock Chamber of Commerce's only remaining veteran. He was their true spiritual leader.

Not to mention that Old Master Hurlbutt was an old man who had retired long ago. There was no way Gale would help the Hull family deal with Jasper.

Ian scoffed. "Do you know why our plan to target Jasper failed?"

Norman frowned and replied hesitantly, "Because Hans and Benny... were too rash?"

Considering Ian's feelings, Norman did not dare to speak his true inner thoughts.

He could not say aloud that those two idiots were morons doomed for failure!

"No. Disregarding the two of them, do you remember how fast it took and how easy it was for Jasper to deal with us targeting his building materials? Since that moment, our plan had already failed," Ian replied darkly.

Norman pulled out a cigarette slowly and lit it, falling silent and into thought.

"I've been thinking about it over and over. I realized that the reason why our plan to target Jasper failed is that we had been taking him too lightly! We didn't expect Jasper to deal with our tricks so quickly, and Hans and Benny were just a fuse at most.

"Had we not taken him too lightly, we wouldn't have to retreat from the Southeast Province overnight even with what the two of them did. We wouldn't have had to lose one billion either.

"So the very base of our problem is that we had underestimated Jasper's strengths! All past events have shown us that he's way stronger than we expected!

“Which is why this time, we’re going to launch a precise attack and end him once and for all! We’ll kill that f*cking brat!”

Life at the Top Chapter 499

Norman was stricken by Ian’s words.

“I’ll admit that you have a point, but are you really going to ask Old Master Hurlbutt in Suesville for help just like this?”

“This is too unrealistic. Old Master Hurlbutt retired a long time ago. There’s no way he’d help you for such a small issue.”

At that, Ian scoffed. “Of course, there’s no way Old Master Hurlbutt is going to personally lend me a helping hand. What I need is the old master’s influence. I want to gather everyone from the Haddock Chamber of Commerce!”

Ian’s eyes shone as he looked up at Norman. “Under those circumstances, just how difficult could it be to crush Jasper?”

Norman’s expression changed. “Say Old Master Hurlbutt gives the green light and we manage to borrow most of Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s strengths, still... We’re owing too many favors here.”

Ian’s expression turned wretched as he roared, “So what? I don’t care about anything else! I can repay the favors I owe and I can give whatever benefits they want, but there’s no way in hell that I’m going to forgive Jasper without taking revenge!”

No longer recognizing the familiar partner he once knew, Norman sighed.

To be absolutely honest, Norman was beginning to feel afraid considering how Ian's actions now were detrimental to himself as well.

Sure, they were all businesspeople from Haddock, but Norman was too aware of how the others worked.

Even if Old Master Hurlbutt gave the green light, it was unlikely that the others would do anything unless they were certain of a win.

They were not the kind to do anything without benefits.

As such, it was destined for the Hull family to suffer greatly this time.

However, Ian was currently blinded by his hatred and cared for nothing else. All he wanted was to get rid of Jasper once and for all. He was willing to pay whatever price for it to happen.

As such, Norman made the rational move and remained silent.

At the same time, Norman could not help but admit internally that he wanted to see such a scene play out... After all, the one suffering losses would be Ian.

No matter how close their families were, the Hulls would still be the Hulls and the Gardners would still be the Gardners!

...

The following day, Jasper appeared at the airport.

At the arrival hall, Jasper saw a tall and handsome man walk out casually from afar. He had a bounce in his steps, and there was a beautiful lady deeply immersed in a conversation with him by his side.

The two walked over to Jasper, and the girl bade Henry farewell before leaving with light steps when she saw Jasper.

“Bye, Mandy. I’ll call you.”

Henry waved the girl goodbye with a casual smile.

He then wrapped an arm around Jasper’s shoulder and boasted, “How’s that? I met the girl on the plane, a fourth-year student in Southeast Province Teaching Academy. She’ll be my source of entertainment while I’m here.”

Slapping Henry’s hand away, Jasper replied, “I’ll have to disappoint you then because you’re going to be busy very soon. Don’t think you’ll have the time to meet and have a relationship with that Mandy girl.”

Henry followed Jasper out of the airport and threw his backpack to the backseat of the car once he got close. He then stretched his body and laid on the Bentley’s passenger seat. With a grin, he asked, “My dad said you made enemies here. What happened?”

“I won’t stop until I’ve crushed them. Exciting, isn’t it?” Jasper spoke plainly as he drove.

Henry shuddered and sat up. “I thought my dad was kidding. How do smart and sly youths like you make enemies? I thought you were kind to everyone and don’t backstab people at all.

“Ah well, whatever. Just tell me where that f*cker is and we’ll go look for him right now. I’m going to kill that motherf*cker!”

Jasper glanced at Henry and smiled. “He’s in Waterhoof City, and he has his own forces. It’s likely that he has a lot of people helping him. Are you sure you want to go up to him and demand his death just like that? Just the two of us?”

Henry waved his hand dismissively. "So what? You remember Mitch Langdon? I fought that stupid f*cker seven, eight years ago. F*cking moron asked me to meet him at St. John's Road to negotiate and it was me against six to seven of them. I'm still right here, aren't I?"

"Why are you being so polite with me, man? We're closer than that. We'll just kill the f*cking idiot who thinks he's better than us! Helpers? Hah! I just need to make a call to Harbor City and I'll have trucks full of gangsters up here for you anytime."

Jasper smiled. "It's enough for me to know that you're willing to help. But I might actually need your help with a few things this time."

Henry grinned. "Finally, a time when you're the one asking me for help. Alright, just tell me what you need me to do. Who are we screwing over?"

"Ian Hull," Jasper replied.

Stunned, Henry gave it some thought. "Is this f*cking idiot related to the stupid f*cker, Ben Hull?"

"You've met him before. It's Ben's dad," Jasper replied.

"Good job, man. You're already targeting your elders now, huh? Hell yeah! That's my brother. I knew you wouldn't forget me when you're doing something like this. Though to be honest, I'm no longer interested in f*cking over those morons who are the same age as us," Henry chatted excitedly.

Jasper replied plainly, "I've already driven Ben crazy."

"..." Henry turned to look at Jasper in shock. "What the hell did you do? How do you even drive a person crazy?"

Jasper did not hold any details back as he told Henry what had happened.

Midway through retelling, Henry was already infuriated.

“F*cking hell! What f*cking brave idiots those two are! Is it so hard to follow the goddamn rules and not attack women? They’re even worse than me. They f*cking had it coming for them!”

“If anything, I’d say you went easy on them. I’d have killed those f*ckers and buried them in the mountains for good if I were you.”

Jasper replied, “What I want to demolish is the entire Hull family. That way, those two will also die with the rest of their relatives. What I did before was just collecting a little interest.”

Henry was excited. “Wonderful. So what next? I didn’t come all the way here to watch you f*ck people up. You’ve got to let me join you.”

“I still need to meet someone first and then we’ll head to Waterhoof City,” Jasper replied, his eyes slightly narrowed.

“Then you can make as much of a fuss when we get to Waterhoof City. You have the green light even if you want to wreak havoc.”

Henry’s eyes shone brightly as he started flushing in excitement.

“This is so f*cking up my alley. Who are you meeting tonight? Do you want me to come with you?”

“No, it’s okay. I’m just meeting an old friend, you don’t know him.” Jasper smiled.

The person he was meeting tonight was none other than John Jackson.

If history proved him right, then contacting John would provide Jasper with a trump card strong enough to rid the Hull family once and for all.

Life at the Top Chapter 500

That night, in a coffee house in the province, Jasper met with John after a long time.

“You’re finally back. I’ve called you to meet up so many times but you weren’t in the province.”

John laughed as he spoke, pulling Jasper into a hug when the two met.

Jasper chuckled. “I was working on something in Swallow Capital for a while, so it took me some time to get back... But I have to say that I was surprised to hear that you’re also in the province when I called. I thought you were still over in the towns.”

At that, John smiled. “Thanks to you, I got transferred to the city branch as their vice president in charge of the credit system. I just came back to the province to participate in the provincial ICBS presidential study meeting.”

“You got promoted? That’s got nothing to do with me. I’m pretty sure it’s all your hard work.” Jasper smiled.

John shook his head. “You know how it is with banks, we’re evaluated by deposit indexes. The accounts you opened with me alone already doubled, tripled our outlet’s indexes.

“Had it not been for such a great client like you, it’d be another five to six years before someone my age could ever be a vice president in charge of the credit system in the city branch.”

Jasper chuckled. “Tell me if you need to raise more deposits. I can easily get it done.”

Jasper's words were implicit, for he could indeed move at least ten billion worth of cash. Even if he had invested in something and it took up quite a bit of his funds, he still had Schuler Group which was a huge source of liquid funds.

With currently ten billion in his personal account, Jasper could easily meet the city branch's annual target.

John replied gleefully, "You've already done a lot for me and I don't want to bother you about this. Plus, you know how it is with target indexes, they change it every year. If we meet it this year, then they'll just raise it for the year after. I'd much rather it go slow and easy."

Jasper smiled. "Let's get back on topic. I came to look for you today because there's something I'd like to ask."

John immediately turned serious at that and replied, "How can I help you? Tell me and I'll do my best to help."

Having learned how the social system worked, John had long learned to speak according to the person he was talking to.

When it came to Jasper, John had no plans to hide anything.

If this was at the very beginning when the two were still using each other for mutual benefits, then the difference in their social standings and identities would now be miles apart with the rapid and continuous increase in Jasper's wealth.

However, Jasper had not once looked down on John even when the other was no longer useful to him. If anything, Jasper would still take the initiative to contact John every three to five days and catch up.

Plus, just as John said, Jasper had played a huge role in his promotion, though it was not by putting in good words for John. The bank's system worked by focusing on the deposits gathered.

Jasper's personal account had a few billion sitting inside, and John was well aware that with such a large deposit, there would definitely be other banks and other bankers trying to ask Jasper to deposit his money with them.

John might not even be able to provide the same amount of services those other banks could.

However, Jasper had never once withdrawn his money to deposit anywhere else. This was an achievement under John's name.

If anyone wondered what a favor was, then this was it.

Perhaps because he had seen enough of lies and deception, John exceptionally treasured his friendship with Jasper.

Jasper was not privy to the thoughts that ran through John's mind and smiled. "I remember you said something about having an old colleague who works as the office manager in ICBS' Waterhoof branch? I think it was during a dinner quite some time ago."

John was stunned and asked, "I do. Why are you asking now, though? Did something happen?"

Life at the Top Chapter 501

Jasper smiled. "This is of great importance. Tell me the truth, how's your relationship with him?"

John patted his chest and spoke, "I was the one who helped his daughter enroll in school. We've been friends for over 20 years. It's no problem if you're asking about something normal."

"That's great, then. Could you help me ask if their branch is intending to sell a piece of land around Pearl Tower?" Jasper chuckled.

In his past life, the ICBS branch in Waterhoof City had made a loss trade.

By the shore of Harpoon River, right next to Pearl Tower, was a piece of commercial land owned by ICBS' Waterhoof City branch.

With the piece of land next to Pearl Tower, which was a significant structure in Waterhoof City, an awkward situation emerged because no one dared to buy it despite their praises on how nice that plot of land was. Mainly, it was because no one could predict Waterhoof City's future.

Therefore, the ICBS decided to shift and sell the land to a state-owned real estate company at an extremely low price in the year 2002.

One may ask how much it was sold for.

230 million Somer Dollars.

This was the renowned Z3-2 land.

Construction to build the country's tallest high-rise building began in the year 2008. In Jasper's past life, everyone who went to Waterhoof City would undoubtedly take a look at the magnificent skyscraper.

It was Waterhoof City Financial Tower, which had a height of 632 meters and a whopping 119 stories.

There it stood, in Waterhoof City, looking at the opposite shore while rooted on the other shore of Harpoon River. It had Pearl Tower on its left and the building in a shape of an upward spiral on its right.

The building, before Jasper reincarnated, had collected up to a few million Somer Dollars worth of rent annually.

One would be an idiot to see an advantage and not take it.

Not to mention that Jasper had always wanted to build a large building for JW Company.

There was nothing more suitable than Waterhoof City's significant structure and what would be Waterhoof City Financial Tower in the future.

In addition, Jasper had asked about the plot of land at such a time for another important reason.

While that piece of land had yet to be sold off, it was still a plot of land next to Pearl Tower in Legends District. It was far from an unwanted plot of land.

There were also a few office buildings on it.

Those buildings were, coincidentally, Ian's and Norman's office buildings as well as the base for Haddock Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City branch!

As long as he successfully got hold of that plot of land, then he could easily uproot the Hull family and the Gardner family of Waterhoof City. He could also break up Haddock Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City branch.

He would earn a fortune while completely crushing the Hull family. This was Jasper's innermost intention.

Just then, John's call to his old colleague was connected.

A few minutes later, John looked at Jasper confusedly. "I've asked him, and there is a plot of land like you said. But my old colleague was curious since their branch had only just held a meeting deciding to sell it out. How did you know about this?"

Jasper smiled. "I have my ways, John. if you could help me all the way, I'd like you to come with me to Waterhoof City tomorrow and meet with this old colleague of yours. If possible, I'd like to sign that contract as fast as possible."

John grinned. "No problem. The branch has been wanting to sell that piece of land long ago, but you know how it is with systems and protocol. Now that they've finally had a meeting and decided to sell it, I'm pretty sure you can even negotiate for a lower price if you're adamant about buying it. I'll come with you tomorrow!"

Life at the Top Chapter 502

In Suesville, while Jasper and John were meeting.

As one of the two renowned older cities in Riversloth, Suesville's air of grace was a quality that most other cities did not possess.

In a gray-bricked manor hidden within the mountains and rivers in the outskirts of the city, Ian stood courteously in the middle of the traditional-styled main hall.

A few servants were waiting soundlessly at the hall's corners, waiting for orders.

Soon later, footsteps approached and were followed by a strong-looking old man who entered the hall from a room inside. The man had a head full of white hair and was wearing traditional clothes.

The man who seemed no different than any other old man who did daily morning exercises was Gale, the spiritual leader of the country's Haddock Chamber of Commerce

Despite being in his 80s, Gale was still very lively and full of vigor. While he did need a cane to walk, his pace was not slow at all.

"Mr. Hurlbutt..."

Ian felt his body become taut at the sight of Gale. He nodded and bowed courteously when he greeted.

Gale nodded and sat on his grandmaster's chair. He pointed at an empty chair beside him and spoke, "Come, sit and speak."

However, Ian did not move and only clenched his teeth to continue speaking. "Mr. Hurlbutt, forgive me for my shameless behavior, but I've come to ask you to get justice for me!"

Gale's white brows furrowed slightly.

While Gale had retired, his students could be found all over the world.

Ian was merely one of his many students, and as hardworking this student was, he was not one of the outstanding ones in comparison to the rest.

Yet to see Ian, a man in his 40s, tattle to him like a mistreated child, Gale immediately realized that something was wrong.

“What happened? Sit first and speak slowly,” Gale spoke gently and notified a servant to bring coffee over.

Ian finally sat and told him what had happened.

However, instead of Ian screwing with Jasper’s building materials, the story had changed to Jasper being arrogant and cornering them.

Then, it turned to the Hull family begging for mercy and giving in every time.

Ian had very rationally hidden the relationship between Jasper and the Law family since it was a significant relationship. After all, Gale might not wish to offend the Laws.

Ian also did not say anything about what Ben and Hans did to Wendy.

He claimed that he had started a small project in the Southeast Province and Jasper had stolen it from him with sheer dominance since they were in his territory.

“Not only that, but he also tortured my brother and my son. Now one of them is crippled while the other has gone mad!

“Oh, my poor son, Ben. Sure, he’s not some handsome youth, but he was still a polite, humble, and understanding boy. Now, he’s been driven mad!

“And my brother too! That Jasper just destroyed any chances my brother has of having children!

“Mr. Hurlbutt, he’s ending my Hull family bloodline here!

“And he still doesn’t plan to stop. He said he’ll come to Waterhoof City and crush all of us Hulls to death.

“I’m a man in my 40s. How am I supposed to just let him do what he wants? But Jasper and Dawson Schuler are very powerful while I’m all alone with no one to hang on to. I had no other choice but to come to you, Mr. Hurlbutt.”

Facing Ian’s agony, Gale remained silent as he heard the tale and did not comment.

Life at the Top Chapter 503

Having lived for more than 80 years, Gale had seen too many of such power struggles ever since he began to do business in the last era.

He did not need to think into it to guess that there was more to the story than Ian claimed.

While he did not know what kind of people the rest of the Hull family were, he knew very well what kind of person Ian Hull was.

“You are my student, Ian. You followed under me for seven to eight years before you made a name for yourself. I would like to think that I know you well.

“Perhaps in this incident, this young man called Jasper and Dawson Schuler have done you wrong, but can you be true to your conscience and claim that you were in the right this entire time?”

In face of Gale’s question, Ian clenched his teeth and replied, “I was doing my business properly, Mr. Hurlbutt. If I were to have offended them, then it would be taking that project in the Southeast Province and taking their benefits.

“But that’s just normal business competition. If I lost, then, of course, I wouldn’t be saying anything about it. I’d accept my failure.

“But they’re not following the rules here and they’re even using dirty tricks. Not only did they use their resources and power in the Southeast Province to pressure me, but they even crossed the line and hurt my family. They’ve ended the Hull family’s bloodline.

“This is more than just disrespect to me! They’re disrespecting all the businesspeople from Haddock!”

At that, Gale only laughed and looked at Ian intently. “So you are forcefully dragging the Haddock Chamber of Commerce into this?”

“You mean to say that if I do not help you today, then it will be the fault of everyone in the chamber? That it will be my fault?”

Ian immediately stood. “That’s not what I meant, Mr. Hurlbutt...”

Gale waved a hand dismissively and sighed. “I think I know very well whether that was what you meant or not, but I have decided that I do not wish to care so much about such matters anymore.

“Many of your classmates and seniors have come to me when they found themselves in trouble over the past few years, but when have you seen me helping them?”

“You must understand that I’m a retired old man. I no longer involve myself in business, nor do I wish to care so much about matters of the later generations.”

Ian felt his heart sink along with Gale’s words.

Finally, Ian clenched his teeth and turned to Gale. “Mr. Hurlbutt, my father told me before he passed that you owe him a favor.”

Gale's expression darkened.

The entire atmosphere in the hall froze along with his words.

Ian felt his heart clog his throat.

In front of his old teacher, Ian was well aware of how powerful this old man was.

One mere command from him was enough to turn Ian into a street rat the moment he walked out of those manor doors. Everyone would shun him.

Unless necessary, he did not want to threaten Gale.

After a long while, Gale spoke, "In specific, I owe your father two favors. The first was repaid when your father asked me to take you in as my student. The second favor, I never had the chance to repay him. Are you certain that you wish to use it?"

"Think carefully, for I will help you should you decide to use the favor, but you will no longer be a student of mine after this is over."

Ian's threat had evidently angered Gale, but an old man like him seemed to consider a promise heavier than his own life. As such, he let Ian make the decision.

Ian did not think too much of it and looked up at Gale with his jaw set. "Please help me, Mr. Hurlbutt!"

Gale did not seem surprised by Ian's choice. Both his eyes closed partially as he asked indifferently, "Very well. What do you want me to do?"

Life at the Top Chapter 504

Excitement and glee flashed through Ian's expression at Gale's words.

"I know that you've already retired for many years, Mr. Hurlbutt, so I wouldn't dare to request that you deal with this in person. Not to mention that Jasper's just a mere junior. He isn't worth you entering the business world again just to deal with him.

"Which is why I hope that you could ask a few of your students, my seniors, to spread the word so that they can support my next move."

Ian's understanding attitude slightly smoothed Gale's expression.

After all, considering his age, Gale was no longer as enticed by the prospect of money or benefits after experiencing so much of life.

However, his reputation mattered a lot to him.

Otherwise, he would not change his mind just because he owed someone a favor.

At the same time, the last thing Gale wanted to happen was for Ian to threaten him to reenter the business world.

Otherwise, Gale would truly turn into a huge joke in the business world. An old retired man in his 80s reentering the business world just to deal with a young man in his 20s.

"What is your plan? Tell me what you have in mind first, then I will think about who I should help you contact," Gale spoke calmly.

Ian took a deep breath to suppress the bubbling excitement within and replied, "Mr. Hurlbutt, I originally planned to use commercial tactics to win Jasper, but that method takes too long. When dealing with vile scum like Jasper, the only option is to match his vile tricks.

"I've thought about it, and what I need first is three billion Somer Dollars worth of funds. These funds will be used to attack Jasper.

"We have to account for Jasper's father-in-law, Dawson Schuler, as well. According to what I know, Dawson's Schuler Group is currently the largest supermarket chain group in the Southeast Province. Schuler Group has been expanding exponentially lately, and it has even acquired the largest supermarket business in the country.

"That means their supermarket company will currently be tight on cash flow. I remember that one of my senior classmates also works in the supermarket business. I can use the funds and the help of my senior to crush Schuler Group!

"Jasper will be even easier to deal with. With enough funds, I'll be able to get rid of all his assets in less than half a month.

"After all, there's too big a difference between his and Dawson's foundations. He's just a young brat in his early 20s. How could he have any backup plans or connections?"

Ian's words were filled with hefty amounts of confidence and pride.

However, he kept the most important plan to himself.

With the funds and support from the businesspeople of Haddock, he would be able to use all these connections to dismantle Jasper's capital chain in the shortest amount of time.

By then, both Dawson's and Jasper's businesses would suffer attacks from all sides. Their capital chain would rupture. After that, he would appear and

forcefully acquire all the businesses and assets under their names at the cheapest price.

In other words, he was planning to make the Haddock Chamber of Commerce into his weapon and pierce Jasper with it in the most heinous and abominable way. Then, he would sit and reap the rewards of others' hard work.

Ian did not feel an inch of guilt with his plan since he truly believed that he was entitled to these rewards and Jasper deserved these consequences.

Gale neither agreed nor disagreed after listening to Ian's entire plan.

Gale did not know, nor did he care, who Jasper was.

All that mattered to him was to go through with whatever Ian had planned so that he could return the favor he owed the Hull family.

Gale did not care who would end up suffering losses in the process, let alone the fact that Ian's plan was abominable and sinister.

"I will get you the three billion in funds you need and contact the people you require for this plan of yours."

Life at the Top Chapter 505

Beneath Gale's pure white brows were a pair of wise and experienced eyes. He looked at Ian indifferently and spoke.

"Like I said. After this, you will no longer be my student."

Ian replied calmly, “But you’ll always be my most respectable teacher, and I will continue to be a member of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce.”

“Haha...”

Gale smiled ambiguously and picked up the coffee cup by his side before speaking faintly, “The help you require will appear by tomorrow.”

Ian secretly clenched his fists to hide the excitement in his heart.

However, he could tell from the way Gale drank his coffee that he did not want to entertain him as his guest anymore.

Now that he had gotten what he wanted, Ian did not dwell and courteously bade Gale farewell. He quietly exited the century-old manor.

Returning to the car, Ian turned his head back to see the subtle silhouette of the old manor hidden away in a land of green. His expression was no longer courteous but rather wretched and fierce.

“Just wait, Jasper. Tomorrow, I’ll show you how stupid your actions are in the cruelest way possible!

“I’m going to make the three of you—you, that Dawson, and his daughter Wendy—kneel before Benny after I snatch everything from you, Jasper. I don’t care if Benny has gone mad and won’t be able to understand you, but you three are going to apologize and repent!”

He had already contacted the people for hire for that.

After he had prepared everything on his side, Ian would immediately attack Jasper’s and Dawson’s properties from all sides.

“You think you’re vile? You’re too young to know what’s truly vile!”

Taking a deep breath and closing his eyes, Ian shook excitedly at the thought of his impending victory.

Just then, Ian's phone rang.

The urgency of his ringtone broke through the silence in the car and Ian's brows furrowed slightly at the sound.

Seeing the display, he realized that it was from his company's second-in-command.

Ian accepted the call without thinking too much.

"It's me. What is it?" Ian asked straightforwardly.

His current priority was to get rid of the b*stard, Jasper. As for happenings within the company, he could push off whatever he could.

"Something big has happened, Mr. Hull. Two of our cargo ships were seized by customs inspectors in Harbor City!"

Ian's eyes widened as he heard the words from his confidant.

"How could it be?! Our import and export trade has been steady this entire time, and the people in Harbor City have never come to trouble us before. Why did they suddenly detain our ships?!"

"Our people in Harbor City have already asked around, but the customs seem very adamant this time. They claim that they've found illegally smuggled goods on our ships.

"They're refusing communication and even issued a restraining order on our people there. No one's allowed to leave Harbor City until the incident has been fully investigated so they can be subpoenaed."

Ian felt his scalp grow numb as if he had been struck by lightning.

Life at the Top Chapter 506

“How could that be? We’ve been importing and exporting all this while and it’s always been through Harbor City! We’ve never had this problem before so why now?!”

“Did you contact the leaders we have there? What did they say?” Ian frowned and asked sternly.

The Hull family had already shifted their entire business focus from real estate in the Mainland to the import and export trade.

While it may not sound like a big deal that only two of their cargo ships were detained, those two ships carried hundreds of tonnes worth of goods. It was accumulated to a backlog of 600 million of the Hull family’s funds!

If something happened to this batch of goods, the Hull family would not be able to sustain such a huge loss no matter how wealthy they were. After all, there was still 500 million of the one billion Somer Dollars they had lost in the Southeast Province to account for.

“The same thing, Mr. Hull. The leaders aren’t willing to pick up our calls at all, and we don’t even have the opportunity to meet them... Excuse me for speaking excessively, Mr. Hull, but I think there’s more to what’s happening here.”

Ian’s expression darkened. He suppressed the unease and anger within him. “Tell me what you think of this.”

His confidant on the other end replied, “Ignoring our goods, Mr. Hull, there are no businessmen within the country in this industry who don’t smuggle at least some sort of goods. Ours are minuscule in comparison, and it’s an unspoken rule that both the Mainland and Harbor City’s customs are very well aware of.”

“But it’s because of this that we’ve never forgotten to tip them every month. This time, our ships are the only ones being detained and without us getting any wind of it at all. Aren’t they just targeting us here?”

Ian quickly calmed down after the initial panic. He snapped back to reality with his confidant’s reminder.

Indeed, this incident was too unexpected and there was no way it was pure coincidence.

However, Harbor City’s customs and their inspectors...

Ian came to a realization and hammered his balled fist onto his thigh. With his jaw set, he replied, “I know who did it!”

Ian had not expected Jasper to retaliate so soon, and straight at his weakness as well.

Having two ships detained when doing import and export trade came with huge losses.

Ignoring the 600 million worth of goods, all of which Ian had to shoulder, he also had to pay at least 200 million in compensation for the breach of contract in this partnership.

The most horrifying part was that once he was charged with smuggling, Ian’s name would then appear on the wanted list.

‘Jasper himself may not have the ability to influence Harbor City’s customs and customs inspectors, but what about the Law family?’

‘All the Law family need to do is put in a word for this to happen.’

At that moment, Ian realized that he was screwed.

“Alright. Make a trip to Harbor City right away... Actually, never mind. There’s nothing you can do even if you went over anyway. Instead, contact the corresponding people and see if you can try and get our men back.

“Bribe who you have to. We’ll be executed and shot the moment they have our men and everything gets confessed!”

After giving his instructions, Ian hung up the phone abruptly.

The unease and distress remained in Ian’s eyes even after he hung up the phone. After pondering for a moment, Ian decided that he would sound Jasper out. As such, he stepped on the pedal back to Waterhoof City and took the initiative to call Jasper.

The call was quickly connected.

“I hope you die in a ditch, Jasper!” Ian ground his molars and roared.

Life at the Top Chapter 507

Jasper’s calm tone echoed from the other end of the line.

“And here I thought you called to beg for mercy. I thought you’d call to ask for an easier and more painless death, but it seems like I misunderstood.”

Ian raged and growled. “Don’t think that I’d be afraid of you now just because you did something in Harbor City, Jasper. I’ve seen these tricks before. Do you think they’ll stop me?”

“Of course not.”

Jasper's tone was laced with deeper intent.

"It'd be too easy if I kill you off in one go. That'll be too painless, no? I'd much like to play with you slowly."

Ian scoffed. "So it really was you!"

"I know you're calling to sound me out, but I never had the intention to hide it from you anyway. I would've come looking for you at your house even if you didn't call me. It would only be a matter of time before you knew anyway, so you might as well just ask me straightforwardly."

Ian was stunned and he immediately caught on. He questioned Jasper coldly, "Come looking for me at my house? What do you mean?!"

Sitting at the rooftop bar on the 14th floor of the Peninsula Hotel in Waterhoof City, Jasper stared at the calm Harpoon River beneath his feet and the bright Pearl Tower on the opposite shore of the river. He chuckled. "I don't think I need to explain what I mean for you to understand, hmm?"

"I still have guests here, Mr. Hull, so I'll have to cut our conversation short. But tell your driver to drive a little slower and steadier on your way back from Suesville, Mr. Hull. It'd be a shame if you died in a car accident and missed out on the large play I'm putting on for you."

Jasper hung up the phone and stood to walk toward the entrance of the rooftop bar, approaching the man who was entering with John.

"This is Jasper Laine, the friend I was talking to you about, Vita. The youngest millionaire entrepreneur within our country," John introduced as the middle-man.

"Jasper, this is my old colleague, Vita Layne. The office manager of ICBS Waterhoof City branch. He's in charge of the branch's asset management office."

"Hello, Mr. Layne. I've heard a lot about you."

Jasper reached out to shake Vita's hand with a smile.

Vita was a slim and highly capable man in his early 40s, and it was evident that he had heard of Jasper on the way here from John.

ICBS was the first of the country's top four major banks, and as a senior executive of the branch in a financial center like Waterhoof City, Vita had seen his fair share of wealthy businessmen. It could be said that Vita's clients were all society's elites.

Still, Vita could not help the shine in his eyes when he first saw Jasper.

After all, Jasper was too young. The wealthy businessmen whom Vita met on the daily were all in their 40s and 50s.

If one wanted to start from scratch and accumulate a wealth of billions of Somer Dollars, it would take the average person a decade or two, if lucky. Growing rich overnight was a rarity that only existed in myths and novels.

However, Jasper was different from all the other wealthy businessmen he had met. Jasper was young and gentlemanly. Instead of a businessman, Vita felt that Jasper seemed more like a university student from a scholarly family.

Vita reached out to shake Jasper's outstretched hand and replied, "What a promising youth you are, Mr. Laine. I didn't believe it when John told me such an outstanding person existed. I almost thought that he deceived just to make me come."

Jasper smiled. "You're too kind, Mr. Layne. I just realized how similar our surnames are. No wonder I felt such a sense of familiarity when I first saw you, Mr. Layne. How about we sit down to talk?"

...

At the same time on the highway back to Waterhoof City, Ian found himself in a huge internal conflict triggered by Jasper's offhand comment. Meanwhile, the man in question was happily immersed in a conversation with Vita, oblivious to the effect of his own words.

Life at the Top Chapter 508

On the highway between Suesville and Waterhoof City, Ian told his driver to stop the car just as they arrived at the southern entrance of Suesville. His expression was cloudy.

The man was wondering what Jasper meant by his last words.

"But tell your driver to drive a little slower and steadier on your way back from Suesville, Mr. Hull. It'd be a shame if you died in a car accident."

'Was Jasper warning me?'

Ian took a long drag of his cigarette and looked up at the sky above. The highway stretched onward to the horizon, curving from time to time like a large dragon. The unease in his chest grew.

It was like there was a sinister plan waiting to devour him somewhere under the dark night ahead.

"Motherf*cker, this b*stard! If he has no qualms playing dirty and hurting Benny and Hans, then there's no saying whether he'll let me go unharmed or not."

Ian abruptly tossed the cigarette onto the ground and looked up at the driver. "Send me to the airport instead. I'll fly back to Waterhoof City. You can drive over."

The driver was stunned. “Mr. Hull, it’ll only take two more hours to drive back. If you choose to fly, with security checks and everything, it’ll take you at least three hours. It’ll be much more expensive too—”

“Enough. Just do as I say. Am I the boss here or are you?”

Ian chided darkly. He knew how stupid his decision looked to others, but he did not dare take risks with his life.

Especially not when he had already gotten Gale’s support. The large support would arrive tomorrow, and he would get to start his revenge plan against Jasper by then.

He would rather act foolishly than risk his life on this highway.

If Jasper turned out to be crazy and attacked him while he was on the highway, then he would truly be screwed.

After being chided, the driver did not dare to comment further and turned the car around, heading to the airport instead.

At the same time, Jasper and Vita’s conversation had slowly arrived at its climax with John’s input.

“As John’s old colleague, Mr. Layne, I’d say we aren’t complete strangers. I’d like to just get this out there. I’m very interested in the piece of land opposite where your branch sits.”

Jasper pointed at the right side of Pearl Tower, on the other shore of Harpoon River, as he spoke.

From the beautiful scenic pictures in his past life of the Harpoon River, the current view lacked a symbolic skyscraper—the Waterhoof City Financial Tower.

Where Jasper pointed was precisely where the tower would be built.

Vita smiled. “The land does belong to our branch now, and John has already told me of your intention, Mr. Laine. Our branch does intend to sell, but the price... It’s a little high.”

“The price, huh? We can always negotiate.” Jasper smiled.

The ICBS Waterhoof City branch had sold it at a final price of 230 million in his past life.

However, Jasper did not expect to buy the plot of land at such a price now.

After all, it only cost 230 million because the ICBS Waterhoof City branch had been searching far and wide for buyers while the plot of land was left unsold for two years. That was the reason behind the large reduction in prices when they sold it to a state-owned real estate company.

Even if the ICBS Waterhoof City branch was willing to sell the plot of land now, there was no reason for the price to be so greatly discounted.

“The branch has already evaluated the plot of land and we’ve decided that it’s worth 500 million Somer Dollars. However, since we’re doing market trade here, we also understand that we can’t just follow the evaluated cost. As such, we’ve come to the final price of 450 million Somer Dollars,” Vita spoke after a moment of thought.

Jasper turned to John to see the man nod almost indiscernibly.

It seemed that Vita was not playing any tricks on this issue and was speaking the truth.

Life at the Top Chapter 509

“Since you’re in charge of the asset management in your branch, Mr. Layne, could you give another discount on the price? After all, this is a valuable plot of land and it’s practically impossible for your branch to get rid of it so quickly,” Jasper spoke.

A business negotiation was an art of deception.

450 million Somer Dollars had not exceeded Jasper’s price, for the plot of land would easily appreciate, amounting to over tens of billions in a decade.

Yet if its price could be reduced, then he would be an absolute moron not to reduce it.

Vita was placed in a difficult situation.

In truth, the branch had been wanting to sell the plot of land a long time ago.

Its market price evaluation had long been completed before the meeting to discuss it being sold was held.

Vita was very aware that Jasper was speaking the truth.

This was a valuable plot of land, but it was difficult to sell.

In other words, those who could afford it might not be interested in the plot of land. After all, there was no guarantee about how Waterhoof City’s economic development area would turn out.

While most of those interested in the plot of land did not have the funds to buy it. They just want to make a cheap gamble at best.

Seeing Vita's inner struggle appear on his features, Jasper smiled. "I plan to move my company's headquarters to Waterhoof City in the future, Mr. Layne. Plus... for the latter half of next year, I think I'll need to borrow an emergency loan of about eight billion Somer Dollars.

"Of course, I'll have enough strength and assets as a mortgage, but I was wondering if your branch would be interested in such a business transaction?"

Vita's head shot up at the words, and he stared at Jasper in utter shock. "Do you mean it?"

When it came to working in a bank, attracting customers to make deposits had always been their most important goal.

Fixed deposits came with interest rates.

The bank needed funds from deposits for investments and financial management. This was how they earned an unfathomable amount of profits.

Among the banking businesses, the main source of profits was through commercial loans.

A commercial loan of eight billion Somer Dollars, 20 years into the future before Jasper reincarnated, was already considered a huge transaction. It was one which countless banks would pounce and steal if they caught wind of it.

It would be a great deal for Vita's future development if he managed to secure such a transaction.

"I wouldn't joke about something like this, Mr. Layne. Should you lower the price of this plot of land to its extreme, then that loan transaction belongs to you.

“I can sign a contract with your bank as well if necessary so that you can verify my assets and capital. I’ll sign the loan for eight billion Somer Dollars first, and I promise to take it before the end of next year.”

Jasper’s words quelled all of Vita’s doubts.

By stating that Jasper’s assets would first be verified before he was given the credit to the loan would destroy any risk of Jasper speaking baselessly or going back on his words.

“300 million! That’s the lowest I can go and the lowest price the branch is willing to offer. But it has to be paid fully and in cash. If you’re willing to accept it, Mr. Laine, then I shall persuade the bank tomorrow and try to sign that contract with you as fast as possible!” Vita spoke with his jaw tight.

Jasper’s eyes shone at the words.

He had not expected a discount of 150 million at all. This way, he would manage to save the interest for the eight billion Somer Dollar loan he would be taking to host the International Capital Carnival Feast next year.

Jasper smiled and stood, reaching out an arm toward Vita. He spoke, “It’s a pleasure doing business with you.”

Life at the Top Chapter 510

After a friendly negotiation with Vita, the trio’s conversation then shifted from business-oriented into something more laidback to better acquaint themselves with each other.

While they were talking about issues of faraway lands, Jasper was very willing to put a bit of hard work into what looked like nonsensical chatter.

Within the country, business was always a game of favors.

People like Vita were not eye-catching characters, and he would be considered as someone from the lower classes among those whom Jasper dealt with on a daily basis.

However, Vita held a very important position.

Even if Jasper had called for a meeting with the chief of ICBS' Waterhoof City branch, there was no guarantee that he could haggle the price to 300 million Somer Dollars.

Yet with Vita, he could.

While the chief of the branch would certainly hold more authority than Vita, the chief had much more things to think about. Vita was only in charge of this singular aspect, so mediation became much easier.

That was why, in some ways, the lackeys held more power than the boss.

With John here helping the process, Jasper hoping to get Vita on his side, and Vita hoping to have a millionaire like Jasper supporting him, the trio had a very joyful conversation.

The night deepened, and Vita bade them farewell first. John had a study meeting to attend the next day, so he left Waterhoof City for the Southeast Province overnight as well.

Jasper did not say much about it, considering his friendship with John ran much deeper than his friendship with Vita. The two shared tacit understanding, so there was no need for unnecessary pleasantries.

“Isn't he just the office manager of a branch? Why'd you spend five whole hours entertaining him...”

Henry immediately began to complain once Jasper returned, having lost his patience due to staying in the room for a long time.

“Characters like him don’t even have the right to talk to me in Harbor City!”

Jasper hung his jacket on the clothes rack and huffed a reply. “This infinitesimal character that you look down on just saved me 150 million tonight. You still think the five hours was a waste?”

“30 million in an hour?!”

Henry’s eyes widened, and he looked at Jasper suspiciously. “What kind of profitable business did you do? You’re not conspiring to commit crimes, are you?”

Jasper smiled. “We definitely are. Want in on it?”

Henry immediately shook his head vigorously. “Forget it. My dad’s going to beat me to death if he finds out.”

“Alright, enough joking around. How did the thing I asked you to do go?” Jasper asked.

Henry grinned and replied, “Don’t worry about it. I might not be able to do much else, but there’s no one better than me when it comes to playing dirty tricks. I’ve already found everything.”

Henry then tossed over a freshly printed research document and replied, “Everything you need is here.”

Jasper took the document. His tone was pleased when he replied, “Not bad. I’ll remember your hard work when this is over.”

Flipping through the document, there was an introduction to a character right at the start.

“Derick Mallin, 48 years old. He’s the general manager of the Hull family’s G.S. Trading Export Limited Company. He’s the aforementioned company’s second-in-command with a longstanding friendship with Ian, the company’s president. He’s the only confidante there is.

“Derick’s the one who deals with all of G.S. Trading Export Limited Company’s business transactions, so if you want to know whether the company’s doing anything fishy or problematic, Derick would be the one with the most blackmail material.”

“Think you can deal with him?” Jasper asked.

Henry pursed his lips and replied, “From what I got on Harbor City’s end, the man has migrated to Harbor City permanently with his entire family. He has embezzled quite a bit from the company over the past few years and all his family’s businesses are based in Harbor City. I can deal with him with my eyes closed.”

Jasper smiled. “He shot his own foot. I’ll leave this to you, then.”

Henry snickered. “What do I get in return?”

Jasper gave it some thought and replied, “I’ll let you join me in taking over a large fortune next year.”

“Deal!”

Life at the Top Chapter 511

Jasper had his own reasons to bring Henry over from Swallow Capital.

This Young Master Law might not be proficient in much, but he was a master at picking fights and stepping over people.

While Jasper could deal with people like Derick himself, it would be a waste of time.

Jasper was short on time now.

Ian must have acquired help from Gale when he took a trip to Suesville. That was something Dawson had stressed over when he told Jasper the news.

Jasper sincerely agreed.

Which was why he had to speed things up on his end, especially when it came to contacting ICBS' Waterhoof City branch. They had to keep a closer eye on the happenings in Harbor City as well.

People like Derick were most afraid of people like Henry, trust fund babies with huge familial support who were unafraid and brash. People like him were very ready to screw someone's entire family over at the slightest offense.

Not to mention that Henry was the most powerful of all trust fund babies.

Thus, Henry was the best person Jasper could get to deal with Derick.

Henry was very excited too.

“Hell yeah! I’m always wary when I cause trouble outside in case my family gets wind of it, but it’s all different now! This time, I’m being asked to screw people over!”

...

The following morning, Ian walked out of the airport with a stuffy head and reddened eyes.

He felt his old bones were about to fall apart with how hectic the night had been.

Suesville and Waterhoof City were very close, so only special domestic airlines were willing to fly between the two cities.

The flight itself took less than half an hour, meaning before the plane reached its highest altitude, it was already time to prepare for landing.

When Ian arrived at the airport, he could only purchase the earliest flight since he had not booked a ticket beforehand.

As such, he ended up waiting three whole hours in the airport before he boarded the plane.

Then the flight got delayed.

What should have been a two-hour car ride resulted in an entire night of torment for Ian.

The sky was showing the first signs of dawn when he exited Waterhoof City’s airport.

“Motherf*cker! Just you wait, Jasper!”

Furious, Ian shifted all the blame to Jasper.

However, today was not without any good news for Ian.

It was because the three billion in funds Gale promised had already been sent to his account!

This amount would turn into one of Ian's important weapons against Jasper. The existence of this three billion had thus helped Ian temporarily ignore the problem happening in Harbor City.

As far as he was concerned, all of this was Jasper's fault. As long as he dealt with Jasper here in the Mainland, then whatever was happening over in Harbor City would resolve itself as well.

In addition, a few of his seniors under Gale had also called him and expressed their support for him.

With all the gambling chips he had asked from Gale in his hands, Ian was no longer as irritable as before.

Taking a deep breath, Ian scoffed as he stared at the sky where the sun was rising from the east.

"Just wait, Jasper! The show is about to begin in a few hours! I wonder, would your tricks be faster, or would my weapons be deadlier?"

Life at the Top Chapter 512

With all his gambling chips in hand, Ian took his seat at the figurative gambling table and began to set up his trap.

Jasper did not waste any time either.

Jasper arrived at ICBS' Waterhoof City branch early in the morning.

With Vita's help, Jasper had a very joyful negotiation with the Waterhoof City branch.

At noon, Jasper paid the 300 million in cash and signed a land transfer agreement with ICBS.

Jasper then had his capital verified by the ICBS, which received a joint guarantee agreement issued by Schuler Group in the Southeast Province. He obtained a commercial loan credit for a maximum of 12 billion right off the bat.

Walking out of the branch's doors, Jasper shot Vita a smile. "That's one hell of an ambitious bank you work at."

While he only needed eight billion funds to kickstart his plan, the ICBS seemed to have more in plan for a 'cash cow' like him. They signed him the maximum amount of commercial loan credit the Waterhoof City branch was capable of—12 billion Somer Dollars.

Vita understood what Jasper intended to say and smiled. "It's mainly because we believe that Mr. Laine has the best assets and is worthy of our trust. Not to mention that with Schuler Group's joint guarantee agreement, we would easily provide a commercial loan of 20 billion if not for the matter of our limit.

"We would need the approval from the headquarters if that's the case, and it's a waste of time."

As a person who had lived two lives, Jasper was well aware of why these people completed the procedure in record time. Jasper chuckled. "I'm pretty sure you were afraid that I'd be tempted by the other banks, no? A 12 billion Somer Dollar loan, at the lowest interest rate possible, will still cost me 150 million. Let alone a 20 billion loan."

Vita laughed loudly. "The bank doesn't have much of a choice. The competition is too strong."

Jasper smiled but did not comment on it.

That was how banks worked. They would stuff your pockets full of money when you needed funds but would turn their backs on you when you needed to borrow money for emergency's sake.

Jasper was well aware that every industry had its own unspoken rules. This was just one of the bank industry's rules.

"Oh, right, Mr. Laine. There are still a few properties on that piece of land, mainly a few old commercial buildings. According to the contract, the property rights to those commercial buildings now belong to you, but there are a few tenants there. If you want to get rid of them, I'd suggest you do it as soon as possible."

Vita's words had spoken precisely of the main reason why Jasper wanted that plot of land.

"I've done some digging and I think there's a G.S. Trading Export Limited Company there? I heard they signed a ten-year lease in one go," Jasper asked, seemingly casually.

"They did. This business is actually one of our clients too. They borrowed two billion in funds from us for business operations. Their president, Ian, is an old acquaintance of mine. Quite the gloomy man, and I wouldn't say that we're close friends," Vita explained.

Jasper furrowed his brows slightly.

It was a pleasant surprise to know that the Hull family had borrowed a two billion Somer Dollar loan from the ICBS' Waterhoof City branch.

“I consider us friends, Mr. Layne, so I’ll let you in on something I found out. Lest your branch ends up suffering a loss,” Jasper suddenly piped up.

Vita was stunned. He had been present when they verified and investigated Jasper’s capital, so Vita was well aware of the horrifying wealth Jasper held in his hands.

Any news from such a young billionaire must be thundering.

As such, Vita immediately brightened up and spoke seriously, “Do tell, Mr. Laine. If your words ring true, then this is a favor I and the branch will hold dear and remember.”

Jasper smiled and waved his hand dismissively. “You’re too kind. I’m just telling you because I can’t bear to watch a friend get dragged into such matters.

“I heard that G.S. Trading Export Limited Company had two of their cargo ships, worth a total of 600 million, get detained at Harbor City. I think they’re suspected of smuggling.”

Jasper clapped Vita’s shoulder as he spoke. The latter was dazed by the news. Jasper continued to speak intently, “Their company has been keeping quiet about this and they’re trying their hardest to mediate the situation. But you know how it is with smuggling, it’s a big deal.”

Life at the Top Chapter 513

“I’d suggest your bank be extremely cautious when it comes to giving them loans because this isn’t a small amount. You’ll get in trouble too if they end up being investigated and the loans lead back to you.”

Vita forced his erratically thumping heart to calm and replied, "And I was the one who managed this transaction too! Forget everything else you've done for me, Mr. Laine, but if what you say turns out to be true, you've just saved my life!"

This was an astronomical loan of two billion Somer Dollars.

The ICBS would track down those accountable if anything happened.

As the manager, he would be the first one to be caught and would have to take the brunt of the blame.

Vita instantly broke into a cold sweat. He was exceptionally relieved, and he was also immensely grateful to Jasper.

"If you'll excuse me, Mr. Laine, I should report this to the higher-ups right now."

Jasper smiled. "Don't worry about it. We're friends, aren't we? There's no way I'd just stand and watch you suffer a loss when I've already got wind of such news. Go do what you must, I have my work to do too."

After professing his thanks, Vita rushed back into the branch building. Evidently, this matter would pan out in the shortest amount of time.

With the ICBS' capabilities, it would not take too long before they finished investigating the situation. By then, the ICBS would be the first to cause Ian trouble.

It would save him some work.

Jasper was pleased with this surprise reward.

However, that pleasure did not last for too long.

It was because both Dawson and Jack Tanner called him one after another.

All of Schuler Group's supermarkets within the Southeast Province were facing the attacks of their competitors at the same time.

In the supermarket industry, any competition was essentially done in the form of concession sales.

Concession sales were a normal activity among supermarkets.

However, it was very strange to see all supermarkets of different brands and sizes targeting Schuler Supermarkets at the same time with the same activity.

The attack had taken Schuler Group off guard, so the turnover for Schuler Supermarkets across the province was reduced by 50% in just one morning.

Such loss would only increase as time passed.

"It's evident that the Hull family is using their link with Haddock Chamber of Commerce to oppress us. We should still be able to deal with this for the time being, but problems will arise with our capital chain in half a month at most."

Dawson's words had Jasper frowning slightly.

"Mr. Laine, the businesses our JW Capital invested in has been subjected to our competitors' malicious tactics. Partners that have already signed contracts with us are breaching them and choosing to partner with other investment companies.

"While we won't lose too much from this, our investment credit will suffer greatly should this carry on.

"Moreover, smaller partnership companies of ours have been discriminated against and it's affecting their business. Any company is targeted the moment they're related to JW in any way."

Jack's report made Jasper reestablish how powerful the businesspeople from Haddock could be as a whole. They were way beyond his imagination.

Not to mention that Jack was still in Swallow Capital to oversee Sena, and he was only managing JW Capital remotely.

Still, the fact that Jack had received notice of this meant that the investment company had met a serious issue.

Life at the Top Chapter 514

Jasper did not have to worry too much about Schuler Group.

While the capital chain was taut, the group had a large market.

As the biggest supermarket business in the country, Schuler Group was only suffering the normal amount a group would when they acquired another company. Once Schuler Group got its cash flow back on track, its true force was something Jasper could never compare to.

Not to mention that Schuler Group had Dawson watching over it.

This incident made Jasper realize that his future father-in-law was the most low-profile and crafty man.

The power he held that was hidden from the public was unimaginable.

After getting rid of the Hanks family, Dawson's prestige and ability in the Southeast Province had long surpassed what he had accomplished in Jasper's past life.

With Dawson here, Schuler Group would surely be alright.

However, Jasper still had to be more cautious at his investment company.

“Stop business in the investment company for now.”

After a moment of deep consideration, Jasper gave Jack an order.

“Maintaining the signed partnerships we have is our main priority. Put all new business transactions on hold, and I’ll bring JW Capital on a path of speedy development after I deal with the root of this problem.”

Far away in Swallow Capital, Jack suddenly asked, “So someone is indeed targeting us then, Mr. Laine?”

Jasper smiled. “Our conflict is coming to an end soon, and it’s only a matter of time before we have to go through such a difficult process. So put all our new transactions on hold first. We won’t lose anything from it anyway.”

Jack nodded. “Alright, I’ll see to it. But Mr. Laine, I’m afraid that those seeking our investment will doubt our credit and ability if we suddenly stop investing in new companies now. It won’t be easy to convince them otherwise once doubt is planted.”

Jasper replied calmly, “There are too many people with plans and ideas to start up their own businesses but are vastly lacking in funding and capital. They’ll still come looking for us in the end.

“Take this situation as a chance for JW Capital to reestablish itself. We’ve been investing in all sorts of companies before, and while there are tens of companies under our name, less than a handful of them are actually meaningful investments.

“The investment company will aim for somewhere higher after this temporary hold in business is over, and we’ll stop investing in companies without much of a

future. I'd rather we have a month of no business than randomly investing in any company that crosses our path."

Jasper had long felt dissatisfied with the investment company, and while Jack was the one overseeing everything, Jasper did not blame him.

After all, Jack had been working in Weresoftware all his life until he came to work for Jasper. Jack was always looking for chances to prove his ability.

Not to mention that he had been working in a foreign business this entire time. It made sense that Jack was unfamiliar with the entrepreneur industry within the country.

So when it came to choosing companies to invest in, Jack was more focused on the short-term results.

Jasper had thought of it when he transferred Jack to help Terizone back then and stay with Sena as of now.

Jack was more suited in business management as compared to venture capital.

It was due to this understanding of the inner works that Jasper did not place the blame on Jack.

After all, Jack was not the only one at fault for the issue happening with the investment company; Jasper had been busy too and he had neglected its management.

Life at the Top Chapter 515

Moreover, while Jack had invested in many projects, most of them were profitable. There were only a few insignificant losses in comparison to the profits made.

“Alright, I understand.”

Jack replied embarrassedly when he heard the displeasure in Jasper’s tone.

Jasper sighed. “Most results aren’t caused by a single reason or person, Jack. Both you and I have our own shortcomings, and it isn’t too late for us to adjust with this opportunity.

“Don’t think too much about this. I’m well aware of how capable you are. And now that you’ve been given a platform where you can go all out and excel, I’m sure you’ll do great.”

Despite being a man in his 40s, Jack still felt his heart thrum in his chest at the words and replied sincerely, “Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. I’ll do my part well.”

Once he returned to the hotel, Jasper was met with a surprised, though expected, ‘guest’. Ian Hull.

In the same rooftop bar, Ian sat facing the river and raised his wine glass at Jasper who was walking over. He smiled sinisterly and began, “This was where you sat when you threatened me, huh, Jasper?”

Jasper plopped down on the seat opposite Ian and replied, “Threatened? I don’t think I understand what you’re saying. How could you accuse me of threatening when all I did was speak the truth?”

“Though I must say that I’m impressed, Mr. Hull. You managed to find me so quickly. I suppose your roots run deep here in Waterhoof City after doing business here for so long.”

Ian scoffed. “The Southeast Province is your territory, so I accept my defeat. But this time, you’re handing yourself over to Waterhoof City on a silver platter!”

Jasper shrugged calmly. “And you’re so certain that you’ll manage to devour everything I have?”

Ian guffawed. “You must’ve received news already, hmm? Let me tell you, I’m not the one attacking you this time. It’s the better half of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce that wants to get rid of you and your sly old man!

“Dawson should already feel the pressure by now. Did he tell you that he’s facing more than just competition from other supermarkets? Most of his customers are also buying expired goods and products without a manufacturing date, qualification certificate, and manufacturing company stated. They’re all complaining now.

“And your investment company too. You’ll receive the news very soon of someone reporting your investment company using investment as a guise when you’re actually using it to evade taxes. You’ll be investigated immediately!”

Seeing Ian’s proud and arrogant face before his eyes, Jasper replied calmly, “Schuler Supermarkets always abides by the industry regulations when it comes to the products they sell. There’s no way there would be expired goods or products without a manufacturing date, qualification certificate, and manufacturing company stated.

“As for my investment company, well that’s even more simple. Every Somer Dollar I own has its tax paid for.

“I’ve done nothing wrong, so there’s nothing I need to be afraid of. You can’t possibly think that this is all it’ll take to deal with me, can you?”

Ian scoffed. The smile still stayed on his face, but his gaze grew cold. “Are you actually stupid or are you just pretending to be stupid? Just because you didn’t do it doesn’t mean you don’t have to take responsibility here.

“After the investigations, even if the supermarkets are found to be following industry regulations and your investment company is proven not to be evading taxes, what would other people think?

“Reputation isn’t easy to build up, but it’ll only take a few days for everything to come crashing down.”

Ian tilted his head to take a sip of red wine and spoke leisurely, “I don’t need to use these tricks to end the both of you. Customers just need to know that Schuler Supermarkets have been investigated before for selling goods against industry regulations.

“And entrepreneurs seeking investments just need to know that your company has been investigated for using investment as a guise to evade taxes.

“These two rumors are enough to completely destroy your business credit.”

Ian leaned over to stare at Jasper as he spoke and smiled wretchedly, “So what if I’m blatantly framing you? What’re you going to do about it?”

Life at the Top Chapter 516

Jasper looked at Ian coldly. The man was growing more arrogant by the second. “You really do think that you can devour all my assets, don’t you?”

Ian snorted and returned to his chair. Picking up his wine glass, he laughed loudly. “You’re telling me you have another trick up your sleeve? Look around you, Jasper. This isn’t Swallow Capital, nor is it the Southeast Province. I’ll show you just how powerful the Hull family is!

“You drove my son mad! I’m going to make you kneel before him and prostrate in apology! I’m going to destroy you!”

Ian glared at Jasper through the transparent wine glass and scoffed. The latter was expressionless. “And this is only the first wave of my plan! I’m only going to continue attacking you from here on!

“So are you here to show off or are you here to mock me?” Jasper looked at Ian calmly as if whatever the man said was not enough to faze him.

“Or perhaps, you’re here to compromise?”

Ian’s expression froze.

His eyes drilled into Jasper, and at that moment, Ian wanted nothing more than to take a look at Jasper’s brain to see what was going on inside.

Jasper had got it right. Ian did not come over to boast or mock Jasper at all.

Such things were normal for youths like Ben, but for Ian who had seen his fair share of business struggles, he knew that he had to be careful until the last moment before victory was confirmed.

The only reason he would compromise was due to the importance of the two ships that were detained in Harbor City!

Ian scoffed and replied meaningfully, "It's always better to resolve conflicts than add to them. You've seen what I'm capable of, and to speak the truth, maybe I do need to put in a little more effort to completely crush you. But there's no way you'll ever be able to crush me.

"This is the difference between the both of us. We've got completely different foundations.

"You're just representing yourself, and Dawson Schuler too, at most.

"But I have the businesspeople of Haddock on my side. You screw with me, you screw with the entire Haddock Chamber of Commerce. Forget you, not even the Law family is powerful enough to counter them!"

Ian took a deep breath and stared at Jasper icily. Slowly, he began, "Leave my two ships in Harbor City alone and I'll consider not killing you."

"Why? You're scared?"

Jasper's three words had caused a drastic change in Ian's expression.

Glaring frostily at Jasper, Ian snorted. "Scared? Did you forget who's territory you're standing on right now?"

"Of course, I know that this is the Hull family's territory, but so what? I'm here anyway, aren't I?"

Jasper shifted to a more comfortable posture and looked at Ian before continuing plainly.

“Let’s be honest. These tricks you’re playing, they’re nothing grand at all but that’s because this is the best you can think of within such a short period of time, correct?”

“I can tell that you’re panicking, or you wouldn’t have come to me so hastily and tell me so much right after pulling out those small tricks of yours.”

Jasper then slightly leaned forward and chuckled, looking at Ian. “Just what are you so panicked about? Let me take a guess, shall I?”

“Could it be the two detained ships of yours in Harbor City? And the charge for smuggling goods?”

Jasper’s every word cut into Ian’s heart like daggers.

Ian felt his heart clench painfully.

Jasper’s words were the truth.

Ian was well aware that he had smuggled goods.

In those two cargo ships were a total of 100 million Somer Dollars worth of smuggled goods.

Considering the huge value, Ian was utterly screwed if it came to light.

Despite the flurry of emotions within, Ian’s expression remained indifferent.

Staring nonchalantly at Jasper, Ian scoffed. “What a vast imagination you have there. Do you think I’d be sitting here unharmed if I really smuggled goods?”

“You’re too naive, Jasper. The world is more complicated than you think. Everything you see is just the image others want you to see.”

Jasper nodded in agreement. "You're right, the world really is complicated. Or at least, your acting skills have opened a new world to me. I would've gone and turned myself in or fled long ago if I were you."

Narrowing his eyes at Jasper, Ian replied calmly, "So you're really going to fight until one of us gets completely crushed, then?!"

"I've already told you this back in the Southeast Province." Jasper's expression was still devoid of emotions.

"Then just wait and see! Even if I lose everything in the process, I'm still going to drag you under me when I fall!" Ian shot up and growled wretchedly.

"I'll increase my attacks on both yours and Dawson's businesses right away. How long do you think you'll last, hmm? One week? Two weeks?"

Jasper remained unaffected and carefree in the face of Ian's aggressive words.

Just then, Ian's phone rang.

Ian rejected it irritably but the other party only called again.

Frustrated, Ian picked up the call and growled. "I'm busy now!"

"Mr. Hull, I'm the person in charge of loan transactions in ICBS' Waterhoof City branch. I've called to tell you that our bank has found out about your company facing a severe financial and legal crisis.

"To ensure the security of our branch's loan, we'd like to officially inform you that our branch's contract with your company is to be fully terminated. You are to repay the two billion Somer Dollar loan within three business days!"

A strained voice echoed impolitely from the other end of the line.

Ian was rooted blankly in place before he suddenly roared angrily. “There’s a one-year loan repayment period stipulated in the contract! There are still a few months before the deadline! You have no right to terminate the contract now!”

“Please read through the contract carefully when you have time, Mr. Hull. The bank has the right to request repayment in advance if your company has participated in any illegal activity that could cause a problem with the bank’s loan!

“In addition to this phone call, an official letter will also be faxed to your company. We request that you treat the situation cautiously.”

Then, the person hung up on Ian.

Infuriated, Ian glared at Jasper with utmost ire. “You’re behind this too?!”

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Jasper merely chuckled when confronted with Ian’s anger. “I’m sorry, I don’t think I understand what you mean.”

Ian slammed his palm on the table with a loud bang, causing the snacks and wine on the table to splash and scatter all over the floor.

“Stop pretending to look innocent, Jasper. You were the one who leaked the news to the ICBS, right?! How else would they know about what’s happening in Harbor City if you didn’t tell them?!”

“Now they’re asking me to repay the loan immediately too! Why else would they react so quickly if you hadn’t done anything?!”

Ian glared at Jasper ruthlessly. Fury burned bright red in his chest, and he wanted to throw Jasper into the Harpoon River to feed the fishes.

Jasper shrugged and replied coolly, "I have nothing to do with the bank and your loan.

"The bank recognizes that you broke the law and they want you to repay the loan in advance. That's a matter between you and the bank. What does it have to do with me?"

Ian glared at Jasper coldly. If a look could kill, Jasper would have died thousands of times in Ian's hands by now.

"Don't be so proud, Jasper. It's just a two billion Somer Dollar loan!

"I'm Ian Hull, there's no way I'd be stopped by a mere two billion loan. If you think you can win me like this, then you can f*cking dream on!"

Jasper finally made a move in the face of Ian's words.

Ian watched Jasper arrogantly, waiting for a reaction.

He saw Jasper slowly pull out a document and place it on the table.

'Land Ownership Transfer Agreement.'

Ian's pupils contracted.

"I just bought a plot of land a few hours ago. Coincidentally, the commercial building for G.S. Trading Export Limited Company happens to sit on that plot of land."

Jasper smiled at Ian as the other's expression pulled tautly and became horrifyingly dark. "I think I just became your landlord."

At that moment, Ian's heart constricted.

The last thing he expected was for Jasper to find a way to completely uproot him.

This plot of land belonged to the ICBS, which was intending to sell it.

Ian was well aware of the fact.

A few months ago, Ian even contacted the ICBS to purchase this plot of land as he believed that this plot of land would only appreciate.

Even if it did not appreciate, it was still the plot of land his office building sat on and he would not make a loss.

However, the ICBS had yet to make a decision back then, nor had they agreed on a price yet, so the matter was left alone.

Ian had planned to talk to them about it again, but he did not expect Jasper to be a step ahead of him.

“The land is mine now, and in extension, so are all the commercial buildings atop it. There are still a few months before the lease you signed comes to an end, right, Mr. Hull? That’s okay, I’ll pay compensation according to the lease contract.”

Jasper smiled and tapped on the contract lightly. “It’s just a few hundred thousand dollars. I can easily pay you that amount.”

Ian flushed abnormally red, and his breathing turned heavy as he stared at Jasper. Clenching his jaw, he spat out the words from between his teeth.

“You’re going too far, Jasper!”

Jasper waved his hand dismissively. “Now this, I don’t understand. You’re the one who did all the horrible things. All I’m doing now is retaliate, so why are you accusing me of going too far?”

“Or are you saying it’s my fault for being bullied around by you, and I should just die because you want me to?”

Jasper flipped his palms upward. “What kind of logic is that?”

Ian glared at Jasper, the fury in his eyes bubbling over. “You’re not good enough to offend the entire Haddock Chamber of Commerce!

“This is my last warning. If you continue to act so ignorantly, you’ll be the one dying in a f*cking ditch in the end!”

“Have you gone mad or did I hear you wrong, Ian?”

Jasper looked up at Ian indifferently with a deep gaze.

“You’re the one standing on the edge of the cliff now, not me.

“I’d start thinking about how I’m supposed to defend myself if I were you, not sit here daydreaming.

“The moment your smuggling case is proven at Harbor City, your future will be set in place and there’ll be nowhere for you to run. What makes you think you’re the one winning here?”

Ian chortled and replied, “That’s why I said you’re too naive, Jasper. So what if they find out? You think that means I’ll have to pay the price?”

“It’s just 600 million, I can afford to lose it! I still have the Haddock Chamber of Commerce. I’m still a member, and I can still start all over again!”

“And as for the smuggling you’re accusing me of, I don’t know what you’re talking about. I hand every business transaction in my company to my confidant. Of course, he’ll have to go to jail for breaking the law. But what does that have to do with me?”

Ian stared at Jasper and tried to find even a shred of disappointment or frustration on his expression. However, he gave up in the end, for there was no shift in Jasper's expression after Ian's words.

"You're too naive, Jasper. What makes you think I'd do those things myself? I had already found myself a scapegoat in the very beginning. So what if they find out? It won't affect me anyway.

"Your plans... are futile!

"I am Ian Hull. I've been in the business world for decades. What makes you think a 20-year-old brat like you can compete with me, huh?"

Ian suppressed the anger within him and sneered coldly.

Jasper merely smiled and took the contract on the table before stating calmly, "Please do start thinking about moving, Mr. Hull."

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Ian's pupils contracted. He was about to say something when Jasper spoke again.

"Maybe you don't have to go through all that trouble. After all, even if you find a new place, who knows if you'll get to stay there, right?"

Ian felt a wave of unease rush over him at Jasper's subtle smile.

He could not help but feel like there was something he had forgotten, a weakness that Jasper had already gotten hold of.

Yet no matter how he thought about it, Ian still thought that everything was in his grasp.

“All you have is the ICBS’ loan, the two ships in Harbor City, and this plot of land. That’s just three axes and you think you can win me? You wish.”

Ian sneered when he was done, but his phone suddenly began to ring again.

Ian had heard no good news every time his phone rang today, and now that his phone began to ring incessantly once more, Ian did not want to pick it up at all.

However, the display on the phone stated that it was from the hospital.

Ian had no choice but to pick it up.

“Mr. Hull, I’m calling to tell you that Ben has run out of the hospital!”

A nurse’s agitated voice echoed through the speakers.

Ian was stunned for a moment before he exploded. “What do you mean he ran out?! He’s a patient, how could you let him run out? Are you stupid?”

The nurse replied indignantly, “We’re a hospital, not a detention center, Mr. Hull. The patient is in control of his own legs. Not to mention that Ben is mentally unstable and there’s no way we can watch over him every single second.

“All the more reason to watch over him if his condition is unstable! Do you think you can take the responsibility if anything happens after he has run out?!”

Ian roared.

The nurse on the other end did not dare to make a sound.

Taking heavy breaths, Ian knew that this was not the time to throw a tantrum. He clenched his jaw and ordered, "I'll be there right away. Go look at the cameras and find out where he ran off to!"

Ian then hung up the phone. Glaring sinisterly at Jasper one last time, he turned and left, leaving Jasper to simmer in his thoughts as he watched Ian leave hastily.

Although he did not hear what the hospital told Ian, Jasper could more or less guess what had happened from Ian's two replies.

'Ben ran out?'

'Where would a mentally unstable madman run to?'

Jasper did not dwell on the problem and instead called Henry.

"How's it going for you?"

In a high-end residential complex in Waterloo City, Henry was sitting with his legs crossed. He was grinning as he looked at the man kneeling in front of him. The man was having his face beaten up by two burly men. "Don't worry about me, I've got this."

Jasper smiled. "Have him turn himself over after you're done. Make him say what he has to."

Hanging up the phone, Henry snapped his fingers at Derick who was kneeling before him. "Hey, have you given it enough thought yet?"

Blood was dripping from the corner of Derick's lips, and the man looked conflicted. He did not dare to speak.

Henry pursed his lips. “Are you actually stupid or are you just pretending to be a f*cking idiot? Do you actually think that *sshole, Ian, is a good person or something?”

“I can promise you that he has already decided to use you as a scapegoat.

“I’ve already asked around in Harbor City. There’s no escaping the charge for smuggling. It’ll only be a matter of time before they issue a joint investigation with the Mainland, and by then, you can forget about walking free from this.

“They’ve also informed me that all the evidence they found points to you being the culprit behind everything. This means Ian has completely removed himself from the narrative while you’re still here putting your life on the line for him. Are you an idiot?”

Derick’s pupils contracted slightly at the words.

He did not know who this young man who suddenly came crashing at his door was, but from everything that had conspired since then, Derick knew that this was an arrogant young man who did things without caring about the consequences.

Most importantly, this young man also seemed to be very aware of what was happening in Harbor City as if he was the true mastermind behind it all.

Henry squatted in front of Derick and spoke, “I don’t like wasting my time, and my patience has always been horrible. Your wife and child are in Harbor City, right?”

“Do you think they’ll have a nice life if you went to jail for smuggling?”

Smiling, Henry patted Derick’s swollen face. “Think again. Work with me, and I’ll have Ian put behind bars. You’re just an accomplice. By turning yourself in and cooperating with the investigation, you’ll have a few years cut from your sentence.”

Henry then pulled out a check from his breast pocket and waved it in front of Derick.

“This check will be enough for your wife and kid to wait comfortably until your release.

Derick stared at the check, already enticed.

He knew that the things he did with Ian were illegal. It would be fine if they did not get caught, but a lot of trouble would come if they did get caught.

According to his understanding of Ian, it was very likely the man would make him take all the blame...

“I mean, you don’t have to agree. You could go ahead and get executed for Ian. I’ll try to send your wife and kid down to meet you as soon as possible.”

Henry’s last sentence finally made Derick speak.

“No! Don’t!

“I promise, as long as you do as you say, I’ll promise you everything!

“I’ll go turn myself in. I’ll tell them everything I know!

“Just please, don’t hurt my family. Keep them safe!”

Henry let out a sigh of relief when he watched Derick’s last defenses break down and begin to sob.

Honestly speaking, he was a trust fund baby, a son from a rich family.

His favorite pastime was to bully and oppress other trust fund babies of his same status, not ‘normal people’ like Derick as it made him seem classless.

Not to mention that he would never hurt Derick's family. Young Master Law was not a suicidal gangster. He was not that horrible.

Henry would be at a loss if Derick had still refused to speak.

Henry smiled, feeling pleased. He spoke, "Good. Don't worry. I promised you, didn't I? That's a basic ethic for high-class trust fund babies."

Henry then got up and gave the two subordinates a look. "Let's go, Mr. Mallin. We'll send you over to turn yourself in."

Life at the Top Chapter 519

It was already getting late when Ian finally found where Ben had run off to.

G.S. Trading Export Limited Company's rooftop was the last place anyone would have expected a mentally unstable Ben to appear at!

No one knew how Ben managed to walk tens of kilometers barefoot and alone to the office's rooftop.

When Ian rushed up to the rooftop, he was met with Ben sitting on the railing, dangling his feet in the air. The ground was tens of meters under his feet.

The sight had Ian's heart lurching to his throat.

"Benny! Come down from there!"

Ian yelled.

Ben turned around to see Ian and smiled dumbly. "Hey. Come and play with me, come and play."

Ian's heart hurt as he looked at Ben who was now dirty and unkempt everywhere since he had walked his way here. Ian's hatred for Jasper reached the extreme.

"Come down first, Benny. Let's go home, hmm?"

"Don't worry, Jasper, our enemy, won't get to be arrogant for much longer. He'll kneel before you and beg for forgiveness very soon!"

Ian spoke as he carefully approached Ben.

Initially somewhat calm, Ben's expression immediately turned wretched at the sound of Jasper's name. Crazy resentment and hatred flared in his eyes.

"Jasper! Jasper's the devil! I want to kill Jasper! I want him dead!"

While Ben was agitated, Ian quickly dashed forward and grabbed his son's waist tightly. He dragged him to safety.

Extremely triggered, Ben could not recognize anyone and began to scratch and claw all over Ian.

In a few minutes, after someone had finally come to pull Ben off him, Ian already had open wounds all over himself.

Ian panted and raised his hand to wipe the burning wounds on his face. He watched with anger and infuriation as a few people held Ben down as the man continued to struggle and shout.

"It's all Jasper's fault! Our family would never have to suffer like this if it weren't for him!"

The hatred Ian harbored for Jasper was indescribable.

Just then, someone came over and whispered, "Let's go downstairs first, Mr. Hull. We should send Young Master Hull to the hospital immediately considering his mental state."

Ian clenched his jaw and got up to speak. However, he frowned as if he had thought of something and asked, "Where's Derick? Why haven't I seen him at all today?"

The person shook his head. "I don't know. We haven't seen Mr. Mallin since yesterday."

Ian felt his heart thrum as an inexplicable feeling of unease appeared. He had someone call an ambulance while he dialed Derick's number.

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is unavailable right now."

The female automated intercept message fueled Ian's unease.

"What the hell are you doing, Derick?!"

Forcefully suppressing the unease in his chest, Ian was about to exit the rooftop when he saw two employees run up to him frantically.

"Mr. Hull, someone called Jasper and a person from the ICBS branch came over to ask us to repay the loan and hand over our office building!"

Ian's expression changed as he barked out with his jaw set, "So they're really working together! Where are they?!"

The rooftop doors opened just as Ian asked, with Jasper, Vita, and a few others entering together.

Ian scoffed. He was about to speak when he saw a large group of uniformed men appearing behind Jasper.

The sight of these people froze the expression on Ian's face.

One of the uniformed men walked over and asked Ian indifferently, "Are you Ian Hull, the legal personality and president of G.S. Import And Export Trading Company?"

Ian took a deep breath and forced the unease in his chest away to reply bravely, "I am."

The person waved his hand, and two of his subordinates immediately rushed over. They took one side of Ian's shoulders each and handcuffed his wrists.

Shocked, Ian struggled. "What are you doing? Who are you to arrest me?!"

The officer pulled out an arrest warrant sternly and explained, "This is your arrest warrant. We have enough reason to believe that you're involved in smuggling goods. Please cooperate with our investigation and follow us to the station."

Ian roared. "No way! Derick was the one who did everything! It has nothing to do with me! I'm a victim here!"

The officer replied coldly, "Derick Mallin is currently under investigation at the station. He has already testified against all your crimes. I suggest you stop making unnecessary struggles."

Ian was stricken, and his expression paled. He turned to glare at Jasper and roared, "This is all your fault, Jasper! Since when did you conspire with Derick, huh?!"

Jasper tucked his arms behind him and replied plainly, "This is where you're wrong. I didn't conspire with anyone at all. Derick Mallin was just enlightened and

refused to be your puppet anymore. He chose to tell the truth. That has nothing to do with me.”

Ian clenched his jaw and glared hard at Jasper, shouting, “Go to hell, Jasper!”

At that moment, Ben also saw Jasper from the side. With a sudden roar, he pounced at Jasper.

Jasper arched an eyebrow slightly but did not make any other move before Julian suddenly appeared from behind him. With the flick of a hand, Julian had Ben pinned on the floor.

Then, two other police officers ran over and cuffed Ben as well.

“Let him go, he’s not mentally stable!” Ian shouted.

“We’ll decide whether he’s mentally stable or not. But with the evidence we have on hand now, your son Ben is also involved in the smuggling of goods and must be brought away as well,” the officer stated emotionlessly.

Ian felt his world go dark and crash all around him.

He stared at Jasper and laughed pitifully. “You’d go so far to destroy everything I have, but what do you think you’ll get out of this, Jasper?”

Jasper looked at Vita calmly and asked, “Mr. Layne, I’d like to know what your bank thinks of my previous suggestion?”

Vita chuckled and replied, “Sigh. Our bank loaned Ian two billion Somer Dollars, and now we can only apply to seize all his company and assets. You’re a generous man, Mr. Laine. Since you’re willing to repay this loan for Ian, then it’s only right that all his assets go to you.”

Ian was about to explode with infuriation at that.

“You’re all bloodsuckers! My company and assets have a value of at least 3.5 billion Somer Dollars! What makes you think you can steal them with just two billion, huh?! In your dreams!”

“I disagree!”

Vita stated coldly, “I’m afraid it’s not up to you anymore, Mr. Hull.”

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“There’s hard evidence of you being involved in smuggling goods! All your accounts are now frozen, so how are you going to repay our bank’s loan?”

Vita stared intently at Ian, and his tone was extremely frigid.

“Two billion Somer Dollars is a huge sum of funds to a bank, and according to the contract we signed, the bank has the right to request to seize your company and all the assets under your name if we find ourselves in such a circumstance.

“Of course, since the sum in your personal account has been seized, we have no other option but to auction all your assets to prevent a loss on our side.

“Mr. Laine took pity on you and is willing to repay your loan, so it’s only right that we transfer your assets to Mr. Laine.

“If you’re unwilling, you’re very welcome to bring this to court with Mr. Laine when you’re released.”

Vita then smiled and continued, “That is, of course, if you get released at all.”

Ian ground his molars together and glared at Vita, roaring at the man. “You were nothing more than a dog wagging its tail when you f*cking begged me to take a loan! You’d even lick my shoes if I asked but now this is how you’re talking to me?!”

Vita’s expression darkened, and his voice turned icy. “I was just doing business. You didn’t have to listen to me if you didn’t want to, Mr. Hull. What you think doesn’t really matter anymore anyway.”

“Hahaha!”

Ian looked up at the sky and scoffed self-deprecatingly. He then turned to glare at Jasper. “What a well-thought-out plan you have there, so great that you’ve managed to destroy me and the entire Hull family while swallowing all of my assets too. So this was your plan?!”

“What grandeur, Jasper Laine!”

Jasper replied plainly, “Frankly speaking, I’m not actually attacking you. I don’t even want that bit of money the Hull family owns. If I didn’t have the habit of seeking profit returns with everything I do, I wouldn’t have even wasted my time on something as worthless as you.

“Plus, I’m saving you here. You would be facing more than just your assets getting auctioned off if I don’t repay this loan for you. The bank would sue you for loan fraud, now worsened considering the immense value of two billion. Coupled with you smuggling goods, you’ll be charged for both crimes and that’ll definitely guarantee you a life sentence in prison.

“You should be thanking me here.”

Ian’s expression twisted into a crazed one at Jasper’s words, and he began to struggle maddeningly as he roared at Jasper. “Just wait, Jasper! Do you think that you’ll be safe now that you’ve gotten rid of me?”

“Let me tell you, I have the entire Haddock Chamber of Commerce supporting me here!

“And my money, that’s Gale Hurlbutt’s money! Do you dare take his money too? He’ll f*cking kill you!”

Jasper huffed a laugh. “You’re talking about that three billion Somer Dollars, right? I’m sorry, but I don’t think you understand what’s going on here. I’m not the one seizing your bank account. Regardless of who gave you that three billion, the court will still take it as money you earned from smuggling goods.

“Considering how prestigious Old Master Hurlbutt is, I’m sure he won’t be calculative with a little brat like me.

“Most importantly, so what if he decides to be calculative?

“Do you think he’d want to clash with the Law family for a doomed pawn?”

Jasper’s words froze Ian’s crazed expression.

“The Law family. I knew it was the Law family! I knew it, that’s why they attacked my ships so quickly! You conspired with them long ago. You had already decided that you’ll split my assets!”

Jasper gave a small smile and ignored Ian.

Ian had lost to him ever since the beginning, and he was never worth any of Jasper’s concern.

Instead, Jasper walked over to Ben.

Ben’s condition was still unstable. He continued to struggle wretchedly, out of control. He was barking like a mad dog.

Seeing Jasper approach him, Ben's struggles doubled.

If Ian's struggle was because he had been blinded by anger and lost all rationale, then Ben's could only be described as the suicidal struggles of a madman.

The two burly men beside him seemed to have difficulty holding him down.

Julian walked over as well and stood next to Jasper, ready to protect the latter while whispering, "Be careful, Jasper."

Life at the Top Chapter 521

Jasper smiled. "It's alright. If I wasn't afraid of him when he was conscious, why would I be now?"

Seeing how there was not a shred of logic or humanity in Ben's crazy gaze, Jasper spoke plainly, "I've been suspecting that you're just pretending to be crazy this whole time, and now when I'm looking at you, I was right."

Ben did not react. He merely glared at Jasper like a predator watching their prey.

"You know what I think? I think you're just pretending to be crazy so you don't need to suffer legal consequences. But your dad is screwed. His crimes are enough for him to get executed and shot. Or maybe an indefinite sentence if he's lucky.

"But... To him, to me, and oh, to you, it's the same, isn't it? Indefinite sentence and death, not really much of a difference there.

"And as for your uncle, Hans Hull, his time will come soon."

Jasper quirked the corner of his lips. "After all that he has done, the only reason why he's still safe and sound is because of the Hull family. But this is the end of the Hull family. All his enemies and all those family members of women he has hurt, they won't let him get away with it.

"If you look at it from a different angle, you could say his fate would be worse."

Jasper let out a light exhale and chuckled. "The Hull family is over, as I promised you before... And now you, without the Hull family's protection, it's over for you too!"

At Jasper's words, Ben suddenly stopped struggling.

He stared at Jasper with emotionless eyes.

He stood there unmovingly like a plank of wood.

The abrupt change had everyone looking over and staring at Ben. Ian even closed his mouth mid-shout.

Under everyone's gaze, Ben suddenly smiled and asked Jasper, "How did you know I was pretending?"

At that moment, everyone was stunned.

Even the hospital had diagnosed Ben to have gone mad.

No one ever expected that Ben had been pretending all along.

Everyone's gaze when they looked at Ben was now filled with fright. They did not understand how a normal person underwent professional tests by machines and managed to fool medical science.

The only calm one was Jasper. "A madman, yes, and you managed to escape despite being watched over by so many people. All the way here, tens of kilometers away.

"If that was all, then fine, but you just had to run to your own company. Now that was worth a slightly deeper thought.

"You must've seen through my goals and plans, hmm? You came here to find Derick, didn't you? What a shame then, since I had never planned for Derick to come back here."

Jasper's words had Ben bursting into laughter, to the point where tears began to bead at the corner of his eyes. He pointed at Jasper and was short of breath from laughing.

"Good, good, very good! I thought I had managed to scam everyone but you're good, Jasper. Losing to you? I accept my defeat."

Ben suddenly turned to prostrate to Ian.

No one was suspicious of this action, and the two men who had been holding him this whole time reflexively let go as well.

No matter how terrible Ben was, he still had the right to be a filial son.

However, Jasper frowned slightly because he saw the eerie smile hanging on the corner of Ben's lips.

"No!"

Jasper suddenly shouted.

At the same time, Ben had a sudden outburst and stood up. He rushed toward the edge of the rooftop before anyone could react.

"I'll admit my loss to you, Jasper. But you can dream on if you think I'll let you torture me!"

Before the words could reach everyone else, Ben had already jumped off the rooftop...

Life at the Top Chapter 522

Ben jumping off the building was something no one had expected at all.

Even Julian only managed to run to the edge of the railing where he watched Ben fall with wide eyes.

“Ah!”

Ian howled loudly and heart-wrenchingly.

As if he had gone mad, Ian was suddenly filled with unimaginable strength in such a hopeless situation. He managed to shake off the two uniformed men who were holding him down. He rushed toward the railing.

Jasper had arrived as well.

Both Jasper and Ian saw Ben’s body freefall through the air and crash harshly against the ground.

There was a loud bang upon impact!

Fresh blood sprayed everywhere, and Ben’s body splattered all over the ground like a watermelon. His organs and blood exploded everywhere, up to a five-foot radius.

No normal person could bear to see such a scene.

Watching Ben die before his eyes, Ian leaned against the railing with his mouth wide open and his complexion ashen.

At that moment, Ian felt all the energy in his body zapped away. It was as if he had aged 30 years.

“He’s dead. He’s dead...”

Ian stared at Ben’s disfigured body downstairs and the crowd that was beginning to surround it. Falling back on his butt, Ian suddenly wailed.

Ian did not say another word when he was finally dragged away in the end.

It was as if his heart had died...

Jasper did not look at him anymore.

Jasper had long talked to Henry about this, and according to Harbor City’s laws, Ian would undoubtedly be charged with a life sentence. He had smuggled too high a value of goods.

It was fortunate that Harbor City had demolished its death penalty, or 200 million worth of smuggled goods would surely end in execution by shooting.

The officers brought Ian away. Having witnessed such a huge problem arise within the company, the other employees were filled with fear. They all left to search for new ways to make a living.

However, Vita did not leave.

Instead, he walked toward Jasper and spoke in admiration, “Everything has been dealt with, Mr. Laine. Just as you said, Ian can’t fight back at all... Thank you. If not for you, our branch would’ve surely been troubled with that two billion Somer Dollar loan.”

Jasper smiled. “It’s nothing. We’re all just taking what we need here.”

Vita chuckled loudly. “You’ve saved my life. I would’ve lost my job and even got put into jail if I couldn’t get such a large loan back.

“Ignoring everything else, you can trust me with transferring Ian’s assets to you. I promise you’ll be satisfied.”

Jasper shook Vita’s hand and replied, “That’s all I request, to have all of the Hull family’s assets. As for the specifics of it all, I don’t really care.

“But, Mr. Layne, do tell me if there’s any problem with the valuation of the assets. I don’t mind paying a little more if it means my friend can have it easier.”

Vita was very content with Jasper’s words.

While he had not participated in Jasper’s plan at all, following Jasper over here allowed Vita to understand a little bit of what had happened between Jasper and Ian.

Having worked in the system for so long, Vita had to be a sensitive and detailed man for him to rise to the position of office manager in charge of asset management.

Jasper had exposed a large smuggling case involving hundreds of millions in Harbor City and destroyed the entire Hull family in the span of a conversation.

The power involved in this incident was beyond what Vita would dare to imagine.

Still, Jasper was far from cold and overbearing with Vita. Jasper’s extreme politeness had Vita respecting Jasper even more.

While it was not rare for youths to be ambitious, the fact that Jasper remained so humble and understanding after he had achieved his ambitions spoke of how limitless Jasper’s future would be!

Vita decided internally that he would treasure Jasper as the other was a valuable asset. Vita smiled. "Understood. I won't let you suffer any losses no matter what."

In tacit agreement, both of them rejoiced.

Returning to the hotel, Jasper found Henry sitting with his legs crossed. He was happily watching television while waiting for him.

"Done?" Henry immediately walked over when he saw Jasper enter the room.

Jasper nodded. "It's all done."

Henry clapped his hands together and laughed aloud. "Great. Promise me, you'll let me sell the goods on those two cargos."

Jasper replied in shock, "Sure, I already promised your dad this anyway. But will he give them to you, though?"

Henry harrumphed and replied proudly, "Of course. Giving it to my dad means giving it to me. He told me to find someone to get rid of all the goods and we'll split the profit."

Jasper smiled. "The Hulls have a total of 2.5 to 2.8 billion worth of assets in the Mainland. After paying for the loan the Hulls own, that's still 500 to 800 million. Well, at least I didn't lose anything."

Henry's eyes shone. "Would you be interested in the import and export trade?"

Jasper glanced at Henry and asked intently, "What's your idea?"

Henry snickered. "My dad promised me over in Harbor City, so I've started to look for people. But seriously though, I just realized how good it is to do import and export trade in the Mainland. A few hundred million in a year, just like that."

Jasper replied, “No thanks, I’m not interested. You can go for it if you want, but I won’t suggest going too big with it. Something tells me that this industry might only last for these two years. Profit is going to drop when the craze is over.

“By then, your profits will decrease while you’ll need to increase your capital. You’ll be making several million with a capital of several hundred million. It’s not worth it.”

With memory from his past life, Jasper was well aware of the change the import and export trade would go through as the country’s market developed. Not to mention that with competition growing every day, doing business would become more difficult as time passed.

That was why he had never decided to dabble in an industry with such a short lifespan.

However, it was fine if Henry wanted to do it. After all, there was still profit to be earned—albeit not much.

Not to mention that Henry had the Law family supporting him and enough support from all sides. If anything, he could cooperate with the Boyle family, a tycoon in Harbor City’s shipping industry who ordinary businessmen in the import and export industry could only dream of partnering with.

Henry now hung on to Jasper’s every word.

Seeing such a reaction from Jasper, Henry fell deep into thought. “Sure. I’ll do as you say. I’ll take what I can get now so that profit can still be earned. We’ll deal with the future when the time comes.”

Just as Jasper thought that the case with the Hull family had come to an end, he received a phone call.

Gale Hurlbutt wanted to meet him!

Life at the Top Chapter 523

In the same traditional-looking manor in Suesville.

After receiving Ian here as a guest a few days ago, Jasper appeared as well.

Jasper had always thought that Law Manor was huge, but it paled in comparison to Gale's manor. There were five entrances and exits each, and a courtyard that occupied hectares of land.

It was evident that Gale had put a lot of his wealth into this residence.

Arriving at the entrance of the courtyard, Jasper found servants already waiting for him there.

After clarifying Jasper's identity, the servant then ushered Jasper into the manor that had hundreds of years of history.

After seven to eight minutes of walking and passing two artificial hills, an artificial lake, and two lake pavilions, Jasper arrived at the inner courtyard.

Between beautifully decorated buildings was another lake pavilion, one that Jasper found Gale sitting in.

Though his head was full of white hair, he was a strong man.

Gale was reading when Jasper walked over.

Glancing at the cover, Jasper realized that it was a thread-bound ancient book, a rare 'History of the North and South'.

Jasper walked into the lake pavilion, and Gale shut the book before turning to smile at Jasper. "You're here."

Despite not knowing whether Gale was a friend or a foe, Jasper still held enough respect for the Haddock Chamber of Commerce's spiritual leader. He nodded and replied, "Yes, I have."

Gale hummed and looked down to read his book again. He merely pointed at the seat opposite him and spoke, "Take a seat."

Jasper sat before Gale as ushered, and there was a small round stone table between the two.

Like that, half an hour passed.

Gale continued to focus on his book throughout that half an hour while Jasper enjoyed the coffee served by the servants. He did not mind the fact that he had to wait.

Half an hour later, Gale finally put the book down and sighed. "I'm growing old now. There are times when I end up forgetting things while I'm doing something else.

"Especially when it comes to reading. Interesting plots take up all my focus. I apologize if I have made you wait, Jasper."

Jasper smiled. "You still insist on reading every day, Old Master Hurlbutt. You're a role model to youths like me. I'm honored to be able to learn from you. I don't feel like I've been made to wait at all."

Gale smiled and placed the book down. "Among this compiled 'History of the North and South' is 'The Tale of Casey Charles'. The troop of white horsemen is truly fascinating.

“Now that I think about it, you share many similarities with Casey Charles, Jasper.”

Jasper immediately replied, “You’re too kind, Old Master Hurlbutt. The white-robed General Casey Charles was a legendary general. How could I possibly compare to him?”

Gale smiled. “Historians claim that Casey Charles was a cautious man. Dressed poorly and uninterested in musical instruments, he was a horrible archer and even worse on horseback. However, he was great at uplifting soldiers and urging them to do their best.

“You, on the other hand, are humble and low-profile. You have never flaunted your ability and while you are ambitious and young, you have never held it over anyone’s head. In terms of business tricks, you are understanding of what people want and you are good with scheming.

“Would you not say that you two have much in common?”

Jasper looked at Gale and replied calmly, “I’m honored that you’ve paid so much attention to me, Old Master Hurlbutt.”

Beneath Gale’s snow-white eyebrows were a pair of wise eyes that were now filled with intent as he spoke, “I did not know much about you in the beginning and then Ian came to look for me to ask me for help.

“I became interested in this young man who managed to corner my student, so I had someone ask around for me.

“It would be fine if I had remained ignorant, but the more I heard about you, the more intrigued I became. You’re an interesting young man... The Laws value you a lot as well, correct?”

Life at the Top Chapter 524

Jasper replied calmly, "Old Master Law is very kind, he's been watching out for me a lot."

Gale nodded. "Let us get back to the topic. You should know that Ian Hull is my student and a member of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce."

Jasper gave a small smile. "This is the first time I've heard that he's your student, but I do know that the both of you hold a close relationship. I knew about his identity as one of the business people from Haddock right at the start as well."

"Yet you wish to fight to the death?" Gale's eyebrow twitched as he asked.

Jasper looked at Gale, the older expressionless, and stood his ground. "He crossed my boundaries! He touched what he never should have!"

"The Hull family has to die!"

"If not the Hulls this time, then there would only be other families in the future."

Gale replied calmly, "Young man, both of you made names for yourselves in youth. But Casey Charles had only come into power when he was in his middle-ages while you came into power the moment you made a name for yourself. There is too much hostility within you."

Jasper shook his head. "I wouldn't say that I'm a hostile person, but it does depend on the situation. Are you perhaps planning to take justice for your student, Old Master Hurlbutt?"

At that, Gale looked at Jasper intently but did not reply right away.

As Jasper waited silently and without a word for Gale to reply.

The early winter air was slightly chilly as it swirled through the small lake pavilion. The sound of running water and fishes swimming drifted over from a distance not too far away, breaking the silence between them. The scenery around them was splendid but the atmosphere in the pavilion was far from relaxed.

It was as if the relationship between Jasper and Gale, or rather Jasper and the entire Haddock Chamber of Commerce, was to be confirmed in this short span of silence.

“I am not.”

After a long while, Gale shook his head. There was a tint of disappointment in his calm expressions when he continued to speak, “I do not like Ian’s sinister and cruel methods. Much of the way he does business is against the rules of Haddock’s Chamber of Commerce.”

“However, his father had done something for me and I owe the Hull family two favors. For the first favor, Ian’s father had begged me to take Ian as my student. I have accomplished that.”

“The second favor, Ian had begged me to help him. I have accomplished that as well.”

“Whatever relationship I have with Ian has ended.”

The atmosphere lightened with Gale’s words.

Jasper let out a slow sigh. To be absolutely honest, if possible, Jasper did not want to make an enemy of the powerful Haddock Chamber of Commerce at such a point in time.

After all, business people from Haddock were involved in a broad range of business and they were all over the world. Members of this Chamber of Commerce in influential positions in almost every industry.

It was very unbeneficial for a rift to appear between Jasper and the spiritual leader of businesspeople from Haddock while he was still developing his business.

“If that’s the case, then I’ll have a lot less to worry about. From what I heard, you were the one who gave Ian that 3 billion, Old Master Hurlbutt?” Jasper asked.

Gale smiled subtly and looked at Jasper. “Why? Do you wish to pay me back?”

Jasper was stunned. Before he could reply, Gale then waved his hand dismissively, “Forget it. I am but an old man, I have no need for such money. Not that I can bring it with me in death anyway.”

“I’ve never expected to get that 3 billion back after giving it to Ian. Let the money sign an end to this incident.”

Jasper nodded. “You’re a generous man, Old Master Hurlbutt.”

Gale chuckled and spoke meaningfully, “Still, you have gotten rid of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City Branch’s leading figure. Countless people have their eyes on the incident and they will focus on what happens to you ever since the moment you walked through my doors.”

“So promise me one thing, whether it is to placate the Chamber of Commerce, or to let an old man like me preserve my dignity.”

Life at the Top Chapter 525

“Please tell,” Jasper replied, sounding neither arrogant nor inferior.

In truth, Jasper had given Old Master Law a call when he made his way over to Suesville to meet Gale. He had also asked Old Master Law something, and instead of forbidding Jasper to go, Old Master Law said something intriguing.

“I don’t see a problem with you going to meet Gale Hurlbutt, Jasper. While that old man has a short temper, he sees his dignity as more important than anything else. There’s no way he would push that aside and do anything to you.

“Not to mention that you’ve really offended the businesspeople from Haddock this time. If you could get a positive reaction from Gale, then you’ll at least be safe from open attacks from the Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

“But be extremely cautious when dealing with Gale, Jasper. This man is very sly, and there’s more to him than his facade of being uncaring and retired.”

With those words still echoing in his ear, Jasper thought back to everything that had happened since he met Gale.

Jasper did indeed feel that Gale had more in mind for him, but there was no confirming whether they were good or bad plans.

Gale’s white eyebrows twitched slightly, and he smiled at Jasper. “Do not worry, young man. I am not the kind who would hold the fact that I am your elder over your head. If anything, I would propose a win-win bargain.

“I am sure that you are aware of Waterhoof City being our country’s financial center even without me telling you. There will only be more use for Waterhoof

City in the future and policies would only begin to favor the city more. It is a treasurable plot of land.

“Our chamber of commerce had initially planned the speed up development in Waterhoof City, but we had not expected a young man like you to appear mid-way and almost overpower our Waterhoof City branch’s forces in one go.

“Since this is a loss you caused, it is only right that you fix the issue.”

Gale’s eyes were filled with intent when he spoke. He looked at Jasper meaningfully. “I have decided to have you take the role of Waterhoof City branch’s vice president. You will be required to preside over the Haddock Chamber of Commerce as it integrates into Waterhoof City.”

Jasper was stunned.

He had prepared himself for Gale stating a large price to pay or that there would be a sinister plan in store for him.

The last thing Jasper imagined was for this old man to welcome him into the Haddock Chamber of Commerce while also giving him the position of Waterhoof City branch’s vice president.

As this position was out of his scope, Jasper frowned and shook his head. “I’m sorry. I’m not even a member of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce to begin with, nor do I have any plans to enter any chambers of commerce for the time being. Especially not as the vice president of a city as important as Waterhoof City... I don’t think that’s a good idea.”

Unsurprised by Jasper’s reaction, Gale chuckled and replied, “We call it a chamber of commerce, but it is more of a loose community than anything else. There are no limitations when it comes to the members. Of course...

“I could give you a formal promise if you require. The chamber will not force you to do anything you are unwilling to do.

“However, no matter how loose this community is, it is still an organization with centuries of history. I do not wish to see the Haddock Chamber of Commerce come to an end in my hands.”

“Waterhoof City is important, but there are too few people within the chamber suitable for such a job... You, however, are the best fit for the role.”

Gale turned to Jasper seriously before continuing, “Three years. I just need you to take the role for three years. Then you may leave if you wish.”

Jasper frowned. “What if I become the vice president in name only, Old Master Hurlbutt? What if I spend those three years lazing about and make no contributions at all?”

Gale smiled. “As I said, the chamber will not force you to do anything. If you do not wish to do anything for those three years, that is fine as well.”

The nicer Gale was being, the more Jasper wary Jasper felt.

Yet no matter how he mulled over it, Jasper could not find any obvious issues with the proposal.

Life at the Top Chapter 526

After a short moment of thought, Jasper decided that he would not start a rift with Gale, whose stand was still uncertain. He would be slightly kind to the old man unless absolutely necessary.

“Old Master Hurlbutt, I’d like to ask for some time to think about this,” Jasper requested.

Gale gave a smile and replied, “Of course. I must ask that you do not take too long to think, but I shall await your reply.”

“Three days, then,” Jasper promised, “I’ll give you a clear response in three days.”

Gale nodded as if he was certain that Jasper would agree.

Now that they had finished negotiating, Jasper stood up. “I’ve bothered you for too long, Old Master Hurlbutt. I shall take my leave now.”

Gale reached out gently to gesture Jasper to stop and handed the ‘History of the North and South’ to him. “I am gifting this book to you.

“Do take a read should you find yourself some free time. The history of the north and south was an important time for our country. It would do you good to understand more.”

Jasper took over the priceless and long out of print ‘History of the North and South’ and replied, “Thank you for your gift, Old Master Hurlbutt. I’ll make sure to treasure it.”

Gale smiled and waved him off. "You are free to leave then. I will not hold you here anymore."

Jasper bade Gale farewell and turned to leave.

Gale was calm as he watched Jasper's figure vanish into the corridor. One could not tell if he was angry or happy.

Suddenly, an old servant appeared by his side.

"Master, many of your students are greatly displeased with his cruel methods this time. Yet instead of teaching him a lesson, you gave him the branch's vice president's seat. I fear that many of them will be in an uproar," the old servant replied softly.

Gale replied slowly, "The ones complaining the most are the ones who saw an easy gain and decided to support Ian, only to lose the most. Correct?"

The old servant smiled. "Businessmen. They're known to seek quick benefits."

"There is nothing wrong with businessmen seeking quick benefits, but one must be aware of who their opponent is as well. If you have not the slightest understanding of risks, then there is no one to blame but yourself."

Gale replied calmly, "Ignore those who groan and howl in complaint. I am too old to listen to their cries anymore."

The old servant nodded and asked curiously, "What do you have in mind, Master? According to our information, Jasper is not a saint."

Gale smiled. "It is precisely because he is not a saint. How will an innocent lamb find their footing in Waterhoof City? I need an ambitious and ruthless predator for the job."

“Something tells me that this young man will surprise us all.”

The old servant fell deep in thought for a moment before he asked quietly, “What about the chamber’s opinions?”

“Press them down,” Gale replied, “I still have use for this young man. Without my permission, no one is allowed to act rashly.”

Gale sighed. “The chamber would not be so lacking in elites now if they were more hardworking. And an old man like me would not have to worry so much.

“If they are unwilling to fight for themselves, then they should just be content with what they have instead of pining for a spot they are incapable of filling. The vice president of the Waterhoof City branch is indeed a great position, but if the one sitting there is lacking, then they would only be signing a death wish for themselves. Ian’s situation is testament to that.”

Life at the Top Chapter 527

Once he returned from Suesville, Jasper immediately called Old Master Law and told him of the entire conversation he had with Gale.

“I think Gale wants to make me into his weapon, Old Master Law,” Jasper stated as he sat in the car, rubbing his temples.

Old Master Law’s bright laughter echoed through the speakers. “Don’t think too much about it. There’s a duality to everything. While it does seem like he intends to use you, this may also be an opportunity for you.”

Jasper frowned slightly. “What do you mean, Old Master Law?”

Old Master Law chuckled but did not explain further. Instead, he spoke deeply, "People as old as us don't make decisions with our own gains in mind anymore. We make decisions for the people after us.

"I, for example, make decisions with the Law family in mind. Gale doesn't have any family left, he's all alone. So the most important thing to him now is who to pass the Haddock Chamber of Commerce to.

"That's why he's doing everything he can to pave the rest of the way for the chamber. He might be using you in the process, but he could also use anyone else as well. His main goal is to lead the chamber to develop in the direction he wishes. He couldn't care less who sits atop it.

"The businesspeople from Haddock are a business organization. If the Hull family and Gale can use them as they wish, then why can't you?"

Jasper did not reply as he fell deep into thought.

Old Master Law knew that Jasper needed some time to digest and think it through, so he spoke gently, "Whether you think of this as a big deal or not is up to you. It depends on how you want to see it.

"Take your time to think clearly about it and plan well. Go for it if you think it's worth it, and reject him if you think it isn't.

"Instead of him using you, think of this as a transaction. As to how much you can gain from this, well, that will be up to you."

Old Master Law then hung up the phone.

Jasper calmly watched the highway flit by through the window.

The memory of his past life had given Jasper a huge advantage, and he was well aware that the current success he had was because he had been reincarnated.

No one was more certain of the future than he was.

However, his memory did not make him omnipotent. The Haddock Chamber of Commerce, for example. There was nothing of it in his memory.

All he knew was that there was a chamber of commerce in both his past and current lives.

There were similar chambers but were from different places and with different names.

It was up to him to dig up more intel on his own.

...

Returning from Suesville, Jasper arrived at Waterhoof City.

Both Dawson and Wendy had arrived as well.

They had not come for any special reason, but rather because Jasper had bought that plot of land. If he planned to develop it, it would surely be done by JW Real Estate. As such, Jasper decided to ask Dawson and Wendy for their opinions.

As the trio walked toward his plot of land by Harpoon River, Jasper asked, "Uncle Schuler, has the situation with the supermarkets calmed down yet?"

Dawson smiled. "It was never anything big to begin with. Those people can't do much damage. There's a small loss, but it's not a big deal."

Jasper nodded. "In comparison to the supermarkets, their attacks exposed quite a few problems with my investment company. I've got to put some effort there after this and reform it."

Life at the Top Chapter 528

“It’s expected that all sorts of problems will arise during a company’s inception. It’s a good thing that they’ve been exposed so soon. It’d be even more difficult to correct mistakes once they’ve become bad habits within the company and grow to a certain scale,” Dawson replied solemnly.

Jasper nodded in agreement. “That’s the idea... We’re almost there.”

The plot of land Jasper bought was within a few hundred-meter radii of Pearl Tower. It was two streets away from the Harpoon River and could be considered a golden territory.

When the trio arrived, what was once G.S. Limited Company’s commercial office now had its entrance closed and sealed.

The once busy office now fell into deep silence.

“I plan to get rid of everything on the land next year and build a skyscraper in its place!”

Jasper spoke in high spirits as the exterior of the Waterhoof City Financial Tower from his previous life appeared in his mind.

“The skyscraper will be Waterhoof City’s newest landmark, and it’ll stand right next to the Pearl Tower.

“If the Southface River project is said to make a name for JW Real Estate within the country, then this building will make JW Real Estate into one of the best modern and high-end real estate companies in the country that integrates property management.”

“It’s going to cost a lot, isn’t it?” Wendy was in charge of finances, so it was only normal she was sensitive to matters relating to money.

The great Miss Schuler had already been unhappy when she found out that Jasper spent a whopping 300 million just to buy a plot of land that could either appreciate or amortize.

She began to worry about the cost again when she heard Jasper’s expensive idea.

“The project hasn’t been planned or budgeted yet, but I’d say total investment would amount to at least six billion,” Jasper stated.

The Waterhoof City Financial Tower had cost 8.7 billion for its entire construction in his past life.

If Jasper was going to construct it, he would only construct one that was even better.

“I don’t mind spending money, since there are a lot of things that money can’t buy. The country’s real estate market will fully start in a few years and not even the rich would be able to buy such a high-rise building in Waterhoof City by then.”

Despite being prepared for an astronomical amount, both Dawson and his daughter were shocked when they heard such a monumental amount coming from Jasper.

“Six billion.” Dawson seemed to have envisioned a thundering skyscraper sitting on the plain plot of land before him. He asked, “Do you have that much money?”

“It won’t be wise for you to pour in all your liquid funds just to build a high-rise,” Dawson persuaded.

“The Southface River project covers a much larger ground and it only costs around two billion. It’s a large risk to invest triple of the Southface River project just for a building.”

Jasper smiled. “I get what you mean, that’s why I plan to start this project next year. I’m not planning to invest everything in one go either. It’ll be much easier on my shoulders if I split the investments in installments, and the time in between will be enough for me to earn what I invested back.”

Jasper’s eyes shone confidently.

An earth-shattering terrorist attack was due next year.

This was an attack on the United States, the strongest country in the world. It would lead to war in the Middle East.

Jasper did not concern himself with the terrorist attack or war overseas, but behind the incident came the skyrocketing prices of gold and international oil. Therefore, there were plenty of benefits to be reaped.

Jasper was now in need of money to develop this plot of land in Waterhoof City, so there was no way he would throw away the chance to earn big bucks.

Seeing how confident Jasper was, Dawson did not comment any further and merely smiled. “Alright then. Leave a few levels for Schuler Group when you’re done building this skyscraper, would you? Schuler Group’s headquarters won’t move, but it’d be nice to have such an office as well.”

Life at the Top Chapter 529

There was still a year until the development of the land in Waterhoof City.

As such, Jasper and the other two did not dwell in Waterhoof City for too long.

Vita would follow up with the Hull family's assets, so Jasper just needed to wait for the money to roll in.

As a result, the three of them returned to the Southeast Province after lunch.

While there was no longer any crisis with the supermarkets, Dawson still needed to be there to deal with the many issues that arose because of it. As such, he directly returned to the provincial capital.

Meanwhile, Jasper had been summoned back to Tefa City by his mom Sally.

Back in the villa in Tefa City, Jasper found both his mom Sally and his dad Charlie waiting for him in the living room.

"Did something happen? You sounded rushed on the phone," Jasper asked.

Sally turned to look at Charlie only to see her husband staring at her. Sally then spoke in displeasure, "You were the one who wanted to do this. But instead of calling your son and telling him yourself, you make me the one to do it."

Jasper sat on the sofa and took a few large gulps of water before he smiled. "Just tell me what's going on, Mom, Dad. Why are you hesitating in front of me?"

Sally then replied, "It's nothing, really. Do you remember that uncle of yours? Your cousin Darrel's dad."

Jasper gave it some thought. He did not have that many relatives, and there did seem to be such a person.

Be it his past or present life, there had not been many changes in his relatives.

Needless to say, he had lived horribly in his past life. Ignoring how people looked down on him, he was certainly prime material for people to talk and laugh about after meals.

Everyone essentially just lived their plain, boring lives without any large ups or downs.

“I do, why?” Jasper asked.

Sally explained, “Your uncle and cousin are coming over this afternoon. They said there’s something they want to talk about. But something tells me they’re here for you, so I called to see if you were free to take a trip down.”

Jasper frowned.

No one cared when you were broke, but everyone seemed to suddenly be friends when you were rich.

He was the epitome of a good-for-nothing in his past life, and there was no way any of his relatives would entertain him.

Yet now that he had brought his parents over to the villa, all his relatives seemed to have gotten wind of such news.

Jasper had long prepared himself to deal with relatives who would come and fawn over him now that he was rich.

Still, despite being prepared, Jasper could not help but feel uncomfortable by the idea of it. "I'm here already anyway, so we might as well just invite them over for dinner. We'll see how it goes from there."

"But I want to make it clear that regardless of whether I'm rich or not, or however successful my business is, them being my relatives has nothing to do with it."

"If they're really in trouble and they're here to borrow money, I don't have problems helping out. But if they're here to leech off me because I'm rich now, then I'm sorry, but no."

Charlie frowned and finally spoke after having stayed silent this entire time, "I wouldn't agree either if that was the case. But they're relatives, and since they've already come all the way here, it's only polite to invite them over."

Sally commented distastefully, "Look at you two, father and son. They haven't even said anything yet and you two are already defensive. What kind of relatives are you?"

"You two need to have a better attitude when they get here. Or do you want everyone to talk behind our backs saying that we're looking down on poorer relatives now that we're making money?"

Sally spoke as she got up to make the call.

The other family must have arrived at Tefa City in advance, for it only took them half an hour before they arrived at the villa.

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It was a family of three that arrived, including Darrel who Jasper had a slight memory of.

The moment they arrived, Sally immediately went over to greet them.

It was evident that the three of them felt nervous and cautious when they stood in the magnificent villa, for they did not even dare to speak too loudly.

The three of them would glance at Jasper from time to time, wanting to say something only to swallow their words back down.

“Sigh. I heard that Jasper has become an outstanding man and is earning so much money he’s making our ancestors proud, but this is way greater than what we expected. This villa couldn’t have been cheap, right?”

Darrel’s mom, Aunt Honey, spoke enviously.

Sally sat by the side, her expression filled with pride. Jasper being praised made her happier than when people praised her.

“Sigh, Jasper must’ve suffered quite a bit to earn the money he’s got today.”

“What’s the point with having too much money anyway? How can you even spend it all when you’ve made such a fortune?”

Sitting beside Jasper, Darrel carefully pulled out a box of cigarettes from his pants pocket. It was an unopened box of premium grade CW hard cigarettes.

It was evident that they had gone out of their way to buy it.

“A cigarette, Jasper,” Darrel courteously passed the cigarette to Jasper and spoke embarrassedly.

While Jasper did smoke, he did not do it daily. Seeing how polite and careful Darrel was being, Jasper took the cigarette and smiled. “What do you do now, Darrel?”

Darrel quickly replied, “I did two years of temporary work with the county government after I graduated college, but I resigned in the second half of the year.”

Jasper nodded. He was about to speak when Honey interrupted him, “Darrel just doesn’t know how to take it easy, Jasper. He has his mind set on doing business.

“He said he has his eyes on a shop in the county a while ago and now he wants to open a hotpot restaurant. Not everyone can open a hotpot restaurant, okay? But he’s just too stubborn to listen, and he even resigned without telling any of us. Now he’s saying he wants to open a hotpot restaurant or he won’t do anything else.’

Darrel looked determined. “You guys just don’t understand. I don’t just want to open any sort of hotpot restaurant, this is a special kind.”

Jasper was intrigued and asked, “Oh? What kind of hotpot restaurant do you have in mind?”

Darrel’s eyes shone at Jasper’s question. He pulled out a deck of pictures he had prepared from his pocket. Handing them to Jasper, he spoke, “This is what I saw in the large cities when I was in college. Look at them, they’re very different, aren’t they?”

Jasper took a look at the pictures and immediately had an idea.

While the hotpot restaurants in the pictures were not as systematic or standardized as they were in his past life, its trend toward becoming the country's number one hotpot brand was already visible.

This was Hello Hotpot.

It was a brand that truly introduced the F&B industry to the concept of service first.

“You want to open this hotpot restaurant? If I'm not wrong, I don't think they accept franchising,” Jasper asked intriguingly.

Ignoring everything else, the fact that Darrel was interested in Hello Hotpot right now had proven his eye for business.

Darrel was shocked. “You know about them too? They opened four outlets in Elden City. Have you been there?”

“Not myself, but I heard about it from a friend.”

Jasper gave a smile.

“Tell me how you plan on opening this. Will you completely copy their scale?”

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“I plan to persuade the boss of Hello Company to open a hotpot restaurant in our Faith County!”

Darrel’s eyes shone as he spoke.

“He has already agreed and promised to sponsor half the money. But following his requests, it’s very expensive to invest in one Hello Hotpot restaurant and I don’t have that kind of money.”

Darrel’s eyes burned into Jasper as he asked sincerely, “Jasper, I came here today to ask you for help.”

The elders must have stopped talking some time ago, for they were all listening to Jasper and Darrel’s conversation.

After Darrel had spoken, both Honey and her husband looked at Jasper pleadingly.

Jasper tapped his fingers on the pictures but did not speak.

Honestly speaking, Darrel could have just decided to open a normal hotpot restaurant or any other normal business.

In which case, Jasper would give him an amount he never expected to be repaid and that was that.

However, Darrel was interested in Hello Hotpot and even planned to open a shop here in the Southeast Province. Now that was interesting.

“How about this? I’ll give you two options to choose from.”

After a long while, Jasper spoke.

“Option one, as long as the money you require is under 200,000 dollars, I’ll lend you however much you need. You’ll have to pay me back someday but I won’t charge you for interest.

“Or option two, I’ll invest the money and you talk to the boss of Hello Company and tell him to directly do his business here in the Southeast Province. Scale-wise, my only requirement is that there be at least one in every prefecture-level city. I’ll deal with all the investment costs, and I can give you 10% of the shares.”

Darrel then fell deep in thought for a moment after Jasper listed his options.

“I’ll take option two!” Darrel looked up at Jasper with determination.

Jasper chuckled, his satisfaction with Darrel increasing.

People more concerned with immediate benefits would tend to choose the first option. After all, that was a solid 200,000 cash on hand.

However, while the second option only came with 10% of all the shares, any deeper thought would have the person realizing how much better this option was. One restaurant in every prefecture-level city in the province.

With such a large scale, 10% was much more valuable than 200,000.

Not to mention that once this project was completed, Hello Hotpot would become a large chain of catering brands in the province. It was much more sophisticated than opening a small restaurant in Faith County.

“A very wise choice.” Jasper nodded. “Take some time to talk it out with the boss of Hello Hotpot first. The only thing I’m contributing is the funding, and you’ll have to do the rest yourself. Prepare a whole proposal and send it over early next year.

“As long as I approve of it, then you’ll get the funds right away.”

Darrel flushed in excitement and nodded. “Okay! Thank you, Jasper, I’ll do my best.”

Jasper clapped Darrel’s shoulder and spoke, “You’re not doing anything for me. You’re doing it for yourself.”

Just then, Honey asked with difficulty, “How much would it cost to open so many restaurants, Jasper?”

Jasper gave it some thought and replied, “Including Nauritius City, the provincial capital, the seven prefecture-level cities in the Southeast Province... and personally, I think that there should be at least two restaurants in the provincial capital, so it’s a total of eight restaurants. Then including the construction fee and fixture expenses, I’d say no less than one million per restaurant.”

Thank goodness that this was the year 2000 when the cost for both rent and manpower was still cheap.

Had it been before he reincarnated, he would need at least five million per Hello Hotpot outlet.

Life at the Top Chapter 532

Such a vast amount shocked Honey and her family.

Even Darrel had not expected that this plan would need so much money.

“Wow! That’s more than eight million. How much money even is that? What if it all ends up in a loss?” Honey asked.

Jasper smiled. “That’s how business works, everything comes with a risk. Planning for the worst, then working to achieve the best is the only thing we can do.”

“Eight million. 10% of shareholder rights, that means I get 800,000 right off the bat?” Darrel gasped in disbelief.

Jasper replied calmly, “That’s only the beginning. Not to mention that we’re using the brand and skills from the boss of Hello Hotpot. He’ll still be the one in charge of training the employees, so his percentage of shares won’t be very low. This is something you need to talk to him about.”

Darrel scratched his head in embarrassment. “I don’t know how to do anything. What if I screw this negotiation up... This is way too much money.”

“How much money is involved here won’t change the outcome. I’ve heard of Hello Hoptpot’s boss. He’s an ambitious man. There’s something about you that he admires, or he wouldn’t have agreed to open an outlet all the way in one of the Southeast Province’s small counties.

“The most important thing is that he already has the desire to expand Hello Hotpot, he just doesn’t have enough funds. What you’re doing now is negotiating

with him on my behalf. You have the funds he needs, so you're the one with the initiative here. Don't forget that."

Jasper did not mind guiding his cousin a little more, or Darrel would only be picked apart until nothing was left if he ran up to negotiate with someone blankly.

While the final say in the project was still in his hand, Jasper had predicted that he would be very busy after the new year. He might not have much time to spend on 'small projects' like this.

Jasper sounded very professional when he spoke, with a few words here and there that made Honey and the rest confused.

While they did not understand, they found Jasper very capable. Respect filled their eyes when they looked at him.

After everything was said and done, the two families were relieved.

Sally said that she would prepare dinner, but Honey and her family made an excuse to leave, afraid that they would be intruding.

As such, Jasper decided for everyone and brought them all to a hotel for dinner.

After booking a private room in one of Tefa City's five-star hotels, Jasper brought them over.

Both Honey and her husband were immensely grateful for Jasper the entire way while Jasper merely smiled. He taught Darrel things he had learned from his business experiences. The latter absorbed the information like a sponge.

Upon arriving at the hotel, Honey's entire family was filled with admiration for Jasper.

Midway through dinner, Jasper received a call from John.

“John? What’s up?” Jasper asked with a smile.

The situation at Waterhoof City would not have gone so smoothly had John not been there to bridge the conversation with Vita. As such, Jasper was extremely grateful to John as well.

John’s chuckles sounded through the speakers. “I’m here at Clivia Hotel and I just saw your Bentley. You didn’t tell me you were back.”

Jasper glanced at his parents and replied, “I’m having dinner with my family. Are you at the hotel too? You can come join us if you want.”

John smiled. “I don’t think I’ll bother you for dinner, but could you come over to the room I’m in for a moment after you’re done?”

Hearing the heavy tone in John’s voice, Jasper asked, “Sure, I can. Did something happen?”

John sighed and replied, “Do you still remember Kai? The president of Ascendas Investment. We met him at Royce Villa, remember?”

“Something happened to him and he’s a step away from taking his own life at this point. We’re all old friends here and I can’t bear to see him so troubled, so I’m trying to persuade him not to do anything rash right now.”

Life at the Top Chapter 533

Kai, the president of Ascendas Investment.

Jasper did find this person slightly familiar.

From what Jasper remembered, he was a kind man who always smiled when he talked.

Jasper did not ask too much, for there were some things better said in person than on the phone. As such, he directly accepted the suggestion.

After eating with his aunt's family for a moment, Jasper then got up and excused himself.

Everyone understood that he was busy, so they let him leave.

Exiting the private room, Jasper followed the directions John sent him and arrived at a small private room upstairs.

Thick smoke was seen in the air of the small private room, and John could be seen drinking with Kai.

The scent of cigarette smoke and alcohol was heavy in the air. Jasper waved his hand before his face and spoke, "Are you guys trying to ascend to heaven?"

Seeing Jasper, Kai immediately shot up before John could say anything and greeted him carefully, "Mister... Mr. Laine, it's nice to see you."

Kai and Jasper were not close. If anything, they were acquaintances who had only met once before.

Jasper had a good impression of Kai for he and John had taken the risk of offending someone and stood up for him in Royce Villa.

Had it not been for that, Jasper would not be here today.

Looking at Kai's cautious behavior, Jasper knew that John must have said something before he came over. Disagreeing, Jasper smiled to say, "Relax, we're all friends."

Jasper then walked over to the table and sat down.

Kai immediately called a waiter over.

"Give us an extra set of cutleries and bring over your best dishes. Have your manager arrange everything. I have an important guest with me, so do your best."

Jasper looked at John with a subtle smile at Kai's arrangement and spoke, "You don't have to be so polite. I already ate downstairs."

John knew that Jasper had seen through him, so he went straight to the point instead of hiding from him though he was a little embarrassed. "Basically, Kai's investment company lost a lot in the stock market last month, Jasper.

"You know how it is with investments. Most companies tend to take the clients' money and put them in riskier shares. If they earn, fine. But if they lose, then the clients riot.

"Kai lost more than six million, four million of which are his clients' money. It should've been fine, but a large client suddenly wants to take their money back. They promised to put the money there for a year but the client now wants it back next week. This puts Kai in a lot of trouble."

Kai looked remorseful and regretful as John described his situation. He sighed, saying, "It's all my fault for being so greedy. I was making profits in the beginning,

but I thought that I could earn another five points, so I wasn't willing to take them out.

"Who would've thought that a few of them started dropping to limit downs in the end? I couldn't even pull out if I wanted to, and by the time I sold all my stocks, I'd already lost my capital's worth as well."

Jasper frowned. "That's just how investing in stock markets works. A slight mistake and you end up sucked dry.

"The problem isn't that you're greedy. You wouldn't have dared to invest in high-risk stocks if you were greedy, would you? You wouldn't make a loss if you had invested in something else.

"The problem here lies in the mind and the pattern of the stocks. You should know when to pull out and when to invest. If you get to the predetermined point, you should know to cash out and leave regardless of whether you earned a profit or a loss."

Jasper's nickname as the stock god back then was still a myth spread at the provincial capital. The man had now grown to be so much more and surpassed the person he used to be.

From John, Kai had found out that Jasper's net worth was now in the billions. He was of a much more sophisticated level than the two of them.

Therefore, Kai did not feel upset by Jasper's words and merely sighed again.

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“It’s too late to think about what we should’ve done now. But Jasper, we were thinking if you could lend a helping hand? It’d be fine if it was just Kai, but his family shouldn’t have to suffer because of it as well,” John spoke hesitantly.

Jasper smiled subtly at John and replied, “You’re too good of a friend, John.”

John waved him off. “Kai and I have been friends for more than a decade. There’s no way I can just stand aside and watch him kill himself.”

Jasper asked, “Then how do you want me to help?”

Kai and John’s eyes shone at Jasper’s question. Especially Kai, for he did not expect Jasper to be willing to help. Kai quickly replied, “I need an extra 3.5 million in funds, and I was wondering if you could lend me that amount? I promise I’ll pay you back once this whole incident is over, Mr. Laine.

“Honestly, 3.5 million isn’t a lot at all,” Jasper replied. Seeing the elation on Kai’s expression, Jasper quickly continued, “But I have a series of investments after New Year’s, so I don’t plan on lending the money.”

At that, both Kai and John’s expressions changed.

John quickly spoke, “But Jasper…”

“John,” Kai interrupted him, smiling bitterly as he spoke, “Mr. Laine has his own difficulties and reasons. I wouldn’t lend someone money if they asked for 3.5 million out of the blue either. Don’t make it difficult for Mr. Laine.”

John’s words were on the tip of his tongue when he sighed and swallowed them back, opting to say something else. “I went too far.”

Then, John raised a wine glass to Jasper. “Don’t say anything, Jasper. I’m sorry, I shouldn’t have forced this on you. I’ll down a glass as punishment.”

John then tipped his head back and finished it.

Jasper could not even stop him in time and smiled bitterly. “Calm down, let me finish talking first.”

His words instantly sparked hope in the two other despondent men who both immediately looked at Jasper.

Jasper turned to speak to Kai, “How many liquid funds do you have at hand now?”

Kai did not hide at all and replied, “I still have 800,000, but that’s all the funds I have. The client wants to take four million out next week, so I’ve only got the 800,000 until next Monday.”

Jasper gave it some thought and replied, “It’s only Wednesday today. Two business days until then, that should be enough.”

John quickly replied, “What do you have in mind, Jasper? Tell us, we’re really curious.”

Jasper smiled. “I think I can help Kai, but it’s a huge risk. A short-swing trade in the futures market.”

“If we’re lucky, we’ll manage to fill that four million gap you need. But of course, there’s also no absolute guarantee that the investment will work and you could potentially lose that 800,000 dollars you have as well. It’s up to you to decide.”

At that, John immediately stopped talking and turned to Kai.

This was an option of life and death. No matter how close they were, John was in no position to make the decision for Kai.

Kai struggled outwardly for a moment before clenching his jaw to reply, "That client is someone with an exceptional background. I'll be screwed if I can't pay him back anyway, so I might as well take a gamble with this 800,000 dollars then! I trust you, Mr. Laine!

"But I have to call someone to inform them first, Mr. Laine," Kai suddenly said.

Jasper furrowed his brows slightly. "Oh? Go ahead, then."

Kai took a look at Jasper's displeasure and quickly explained himself, "Don't misunderstand me, Mr. Laine. I trust you, I do, but we also didn't think you'd help us. That's why I contacted Mr. Ray, the best investor in the province, and asked him for help.

"Now that I've chosen to accept help from you, then it's only right I turn Mr. Ray down."

Life at the Top Chapter 535

'Mr. Ray?'

Jasper looked at John with confusion.

John quickly explained, "Samuel Ray. Remember Hugh? That man had some beef with you before. Hugh was crushed in the end, remember? So it was Samuel Ray who ended up taking his place in the end.

“I don’t think you know him, considering how he happened to be outstation when we went to Royce Villa that one time. His power was just slightly less that of Hugh’s, so he’s the top dog now that Hugh has fallen.”

John’s displeased tone told Jasper that this Mr. Ray was hardly an easy person to deal with.

At the same time, Kai’s call with Samuel was connected.

Kai first relayed his stand, which was met with Samuel’s chiding from the other end of the line. Samuel was so loud that both Jasper and John could hear him clearly.

“Look, Jones, logically speaking, this is your money. Whether you want to die with it or not is not my problem. But we’ve already come to an agreement, and I also counted your funds into this. We’re entering the market tomorrow and you’re telling me that you want out now?”

“Why, huh? Are you looking down on me or something? What, do you think I’m going to run away with your money?”

Kai looked angry, but under the pressure, he could only reply politely, “I, uh, Mr. Ray, it’s my fault for not thinking this whole thing through. But I’ve found another friend and we’ve also decided everything, so I won’t be giving you my money to invest.”

“How about this, I’ll treat you to an apology meal?”

Samuel scoffed. “Apology meal your f*cking ass. Do I look like I need a meal from you?”

“I’ve already planned everything and you’re just going to take that 800,000 dollars out of the equation at the last minute? Who the hell am I supposed to ask for compensation? Are you offering to pay?”

Kai harrumphed silently. There was always a limit to a person's temper no matter how good it was. Kai replied grimly, "All I did was discuss the possibility with you. Nothing had been set in stone yet. Not to mention that I was never told of whatever this plan of yours is. How could you ask me to compensate for your loss? Why are you putting the blame on me?"

"F*ck you, Kai! That loss last month should've f*cking killed you. Just go kill yourself, you stupid c*nt.

"And who's the f*cker who's helping you, huh? Tell me who he is. I'll f*cking kill that b*stard!"

Kai's expression darkened as he replied coldly, "I'm only calling to inform you, not to ask you for your opinion. I don't care whether you agree or not."

Kai then ignored Samuel's rage on the other end and hung up on the man.

Exhaling, Kai then turned to Jasper bitterly. "My apologies, Mr. Laine. I've made a fool of myself."

Jasper shook his head and stood. "Since we've already decided, then John and I will take a trip to your company at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow. We'll trade there."

Kai replied in excitement, "Okay! We'll follow your plan!"

Jasper smiled and shook Kai's hand before he turned to leave.

Kai's smile fell as the room to the private door closed. He sighed deeply and faced John, saying "I pray that you haven't found someone to brush me off, John. Here's hoping that Jasper's a capable man.

"Forget losing a fortune, I've even offended Samuel. I'm really going to be screwed if this goes wrong."

John clapped Kai's shoulders and replied, "Don't worry. As long as he's willing to do it, I've never seen the man lose."

Kai nodded. "I hope you're right."

By the time Jasper returned to his private room, dinner was almost over. The sky was dark, and it was also time for everyone to go home.

Darrel's family insisted on returning home for the night, so Jasper did not force them to stay. After giving a few extra words on what to do next, Jasper hailed them a taxi and sent them straight to Faith County.

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Life at the Top Chapter 536

John came to fetch Jasper the following day, and the two arrived at Ascendas Investment.

Ascendas Investment took up the entire top floor of an ordinary commercial building.

“Kai’s Ascendas Investment sure looks professional.”

Jasper told John as he took a glance at the pretty lady at the front desk.

John pursed his lips. “Kai doesn’t like being looked down on, so he tends to waste his money on formalities like this.”

Kai then walked out of his office to greet the both of them.

“Mr. Laine, John. Everything’s ready, should we go?”

Jasper glanced at the time, realizing that it was currently 7:40 a.m. There was still 20 minutes until the market opened, so he nodded and followed Kai into his office.

In the office, everything unnecessary had already been put away. All that was left was a large office desk with a few computers on it. The corresponding software had already been launched.

“Do you have the funds?” Jasper sat before the computer and asked.

Kai immediately replied, “All 800,000 dollars is in the account.”

Jasper was just about to speak when the office door was kicked open from outside with a bang.

Everyone in the quiet room was stunned, and Jasper's eyes flitted over to see a sinister-looking middle-aged man enter the room.

"Samuel!" Kai shouted in shock.

Samuel entered the room and scoffed at Kai. "Never thought I'd come and look for you myself, huh, Jones?"

Kai took a deep breath and calmed himself down. "This is my office, what are you doing here?"

Samuel merely sneered. "You f*cking went back on your word and now I have to cancel my entire f*cking plan. Of course, I'm going to ask you for compensation!

"Plus..."

Samuel glared at Jasper. "I'd like to know what kind of help you've got here. Someone even better than me, huh? Someone who has got you begging like a f*cking dog, huh?"

"A young man? Kai, you have sh*t for brains. You're going to get scammed before you know it, you idiot!" Samuel gave Jasper a once-over and turned to sneer at Kai.

Jasper frowned. "Could you get rid of unnecessary people, Kai?"

Samuel's expression changed as he pointed at Jasper. "I don't care where the f*ck you came from, you little brat, but I'm going to kill you if you dare to help Kai today!"

Jasper leaned back on the chair and spoke with interest, “Now you’ve got me curious. How exactly do you plan to kill me?”

Samuel scoffed. “At least ask around before you start doing business here. Do you even know who I am? I’m Samuel Ray! How dare you steal my business from me?”

Kai’s expression darkened. “Samuel! You’ve been taking advantage of my need for help, wanting to take a 30% commission regardless of whether I make a profit or a loss. Since I’ve already decided against working with you, I’d appreciate it if you were more polite!”

Jasper finally understood why Samuel was so infuriated. He piped up calmly, “30% commission. Are your hands made of gold, Mr. Ray? What’s with the high charge?”

Samuel’s expression darkened. “Has no one ever taught you the rules, young man? How much I charge for commission is my issue. But you’ve got to at least consider your own skills before you dare steal my clients.”

Jasper looked at Samuel meaningfully and spoke calmly, “I might not be very capable, but I’m definitely more skilled than you.”

Life at the Top Chapter 537

“You’ve sure got quite the galls for a young man!”

Samuel scoffed at Jasper’s claim.

“How much do you think you can help Jones earn with 800,000 dollars in funds, you brat? Don’t talk big if you don’t have the ability to back you up. You’ll have to pay the consequences for bluffing.”

Jasper looked at Samuel and chuckled. “You seem so certain that I’m unable to help Kai get his capital back.”

Samuel scoffed and pointed at the ashtray with more than ten cigarette buds in it. “I’ll eat the ashtray if you can do it.”

Jasper spoke calmly, “I don’t need you to eat this ashtray. How much did you lose last month in total, Kai?”

Kai replied embarrassedly, “Here and there, I’d say a total of more than six million.”

“Would you like to gamble, Mr. Ray?” Jasper slightly squinted his eyes at Samuel’s dark expression. “Kai lost six million and I have the remaining 800,000 dollars of his capital in hand.

“If I manage to earn this six million back for him today, you’ll pay me the amount I managed to earn. How’s that?”

Samuel could not help but chortle. “Who do you think you are, you brat? Do you think you can predict the future? Earning six million with a capital of 800,000 dollars, do I look like an idiot or are you telling me you print money for a living? You can’t even earn that much and that quickly from printing money!”

Jasper replied calmly, “Stop giving me all that nonsense. The more impossible it is, the more this benefits you, doesn’t it?”

Samuel scoffed. “Fine. I’ll bet, then. But what if you can’t do it?”

“Then I’ll come up with six million myself,” Jasper replied calmly.

Samuel's expression turned cold as he stared at Jasper. "Where the hell are you going to get that six million from? How do I know that you're not just pretending to be rich, huh?"

Jasper was speechless.

Ever since his reincarnation, he had fought with trust fund babies and stepped over wealthy businessmen. He had been on the receiving end of cold sneers and harsh words, but no one had ever accused him of pretending to be rich.

"I can swear on it."

John suddenly spoke.

John turned to Samuel calmly. "As the vice president of ICBS' Tefa City branch, I can testify that Jasper is able to pay six million Somer Dollars. Should an issue arise, you are welcome to take the money from me. Does this relieve you?"

Samuel pursed his lips disdainfully and replied, "Since when do you have a say in this, Jackson? You're just someone living on a salary. I could sell your entire family and I still wouldn't earn a fortune. Who do you think you are?"

John flushed in humiliation. "I still have quite the contacts here in Tefa City. Six million isn't a difficult amount to borrow considering my status here! Do not look down on me, Samuel Ray!"

Samuel scoffed and looked at Jasper. "These are the people you hang out with? How outstanding can you be?"

"Say what you guys want, but you're going to think that I'm too scared if I say no. Fine, then. We'll bet. It's just six million. I'll take it as your sign of respect to me."

John's expression darkened, and he almost asked Kai to throw Samuel out the door. However, seeing how Jasper had placed a bet with Samuel, he had no other choice but to push his anger down and watch the scene unfold.

“This is getting out of hand, John,” Kai nudged John and whispered.

John chuckled and whispered back, “What are you afraid of? Did you forget how Jasper had made a name for himself with a gamble the first time you met him back at Royce Villa?”

Kai was dazed for a moment, thinking back to how Jasper had turned the tables as the underdog and won Hugh. That had been the beginning of Jasper’s fame.

Life at the Top Chapter 538

With history testifying Jasper’s ability, Kai immediately nodded and relaxed. He replied with a grin, “Alright. Let’s just sit and watch, then.”

Not knowing what Kai and John were murmuring about between themselves, Samuel scoffed and growled. “What are you two f*cking idiots so happy about? You’re already screwed.”

“Watch your mouth.”

Jasper looked up from behind the computer and glanced at Samuel, speaking calmly, “What kind of bet will this be if you’re so noisy and affect me earning money, hmm?”

“Motherf*cker!” Samuel roared, his expression terrifyingly dark. He forced himself to calm down as it truly was not the time to say anything. He forced the words out with a huff, “Fine. I won’t say anything, then. I’d like to see how you’re going to screw yourself over. I’ll be waiting for that six million from you!”

At that point, Jasper no longer had the mood to entertain Samuel.

His focus was entirely on the screen before his eyes.

The display currently showed the official website of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The official website had the latest news released less than 20 minutes ago.

It stated that due to weather reasons, domestic cotton production was expected to shrink substantially with a 40% decrease in output than the same period last year.

When Jasper first reincarnated, he had written all the financial incidents that he remembered from his past life in a small notebook.

The cotton incident was among them, but it was only a small incident.

The only reason Jasper called it small was that the benefits from this incident were less exaggerated in comparison to the other opportunities.

Jasper might never have involved himself with this incident if Kai's affair had not happened at such a coincidental timing.

Seeing how things were now, winning this gamble against Samuel did not seem like a difficult feat.

In the year 2000, much had happened with the country's futures market. The cotton pricing incident before the new year would be the last monumental incident for the year.

The country's cotton production would shrink greatly, triggering the rise in prices for cotton's futures market. That afternoon, the official website would announce that import trade had been agreed on with a few other countries.

These two news announcements would cause the price of cotton to rise steeply and then crash down once arriving at the peak like a roller coaster.

“You operate it, Kai,” Jasper glanced at Kai and spoke.

Kai was excited as he ran over.

“Huh?! The price of cotton dropped?!” Kai shouted in surprise at the sight of the screen in front of Jasper.

Both John and Samuel were surprised by the news.

John laughed loudly and freely.

Meanwhile, Samuel’s expression darkened in anger. “You’re just lucky, you brat. But so what, news has already gotten out. The price will only rise if you enter the market now.”

Jasper did not seem to hear him for he turned to Kai calmly. “Don’t look at my screen. Keep an eye on your account. How much is the price for cotton?”

Kai quickly stared at the market and saw the frightening inflating line. “The market’s already reacting. It’s been ten minutes since the market started and the price has already risen by 2,000 Somer Dollars. It costs 14,500 now.”

Without much thought, Jasper immediately instructed, “Buy the entire position. Don’t leave a single cent.”

Life at the Top Chapter 539

At that, the three other men present were dazed.

Even John, who trusted Jasper the most, was shocked. He knew that Jasper was someone who would never hesitate once he found an opening, but he had not expected Jasper to be so brave.

“Won’t you give it a deeper thought, Jasper? After all, the bar for the futures market is too high. We only have 800,000 dollars. I’m afraid we’ll hit liquidation right away with the slightest pullback in price if we buy in the entire position.”

“That’s right, Mr. Laine. The prices have already risen by 2,000 Some Dollars. That’s a 16% increase. While it is exciting, the market price is bound to return to normal once it reaches a high enough amount,” Kai spoke carefully.

Samuel could not help but guffaw. “I can’t believe I actually got startled when you talked so big and surely just now. You’re just a useless nobody, after all. Hahaha!

“You’re f*cking stupid. Do you think you can just rush in because it’s good news? What do you take the futures market for, a taxi? Do you think the prices will spike just because it’s raining?”

“Do you even know what a pullback is? It’s rare for idiots like you to continue trading in the market when prices reach a certain high. There are people who’ve been holding futures stocks for a long time and if they see that there’s a profit, some of them will choose to sell. Most people tend to look at the trend first and then the price will of course drop back to normal. That’s called a pullback.

“Do you even f*cking understand me? A slight drop of 1,000 bucks will have your capital of 800,000 dollars hitting liquidation. It’ll be too late for you to cry then.”

Samuel then sneered at Kai. “You’ve wasted 40 years of your life, Jones. It’s still not too late for you to regret it now since you haven’t bought in. But I’ll be charging 40% for commission and procedures this time if you want me to help!”

Kai clenched his jaw quietly and turned to Jasper.

Jasper sighed and spoke, "If you trust me, then do as I say. If you don't want to trust me, then I'll get up and leave."

Kai fell silent for two seconds before he clenched his jaw and spoke, "I'll listen to you!"

"Then buy in."

Jasper shook his head when he looked at the market. There had been a 400 dollars increase in the price of cotton during the one to two minutes Kai hesitated.

People tended to speak of legends about the wealthy with envy, claiming that they only grew rich because they were lucky.

However, what they did not know was that luck had never played a part in becoming rich when it came to the financial market.

Even if you stood right where the wind blew and a chance had found its way to you, you still needed the courage to risk your entire wealth and life to catch it.

Or you would still be the plain, ordinary person you were.

Kai was not someone with that sort of bravery, so there was a limit to his success.

Seeing how Kai had begun to buy in, Samuel's expression turned colder as he sneered sinisterly. "Go ahead, then. Buy in, it's just 800,000 dollars anyway. I'd like to see if you're going to jump out from this window when you hit liquidation."

"Shut up!"

Under immense psychological stress, Kai no longer feared Samuel's power and shouted at him darkly, "This is my office. I can and will call someone to throw you out!"

Samuel took a deep breath and pointed at Kai angrily, "What the f*ck did you say? How dare you talk to me like that?!"

Kai's expression was dark as he ignored Samuel and turned to Jasper. "It's done."

Jasper spoke plainly, "People like to call the financial market a legal gambling table and they're not wrong. Especially the futures market that comes with the biggest risk.

"This gambling table has a daily cash flow of trillions of Somer Dollars. Money and lives aren't worth anything here.

"If you want to win, then these are the most important traits you need. You need to be crazy enough to sacrifice everything and the sensitivity of a monster. And perhaps a little bit of luck as well.

"If you want to be careful and risk-free, then you might as well deposit your money into the bank and wait for interest."

Kai was a good man at heart, so Jasper decided that he was worth a few reminders here and there. As to how much Kai understood, well that would be up to him. Jasper would not concern himself with it.

Kai seemed slightly confused while John fell deep in thought.

Life at the Top Chapter 540

Samuel, who heard Jasper's words, immediately scoffed. "So pretentious. Do you think you're the only one who knows how to bluff? We might as well ignore everything and throw all our money in one direction in that case, then! Do you think that'll secure your victory? F*cking hilarious!"

Jasper glanced at Samuel calmly and spoke, "That explains why you can only be all high and mighty within the county. I suppose there's a reason why you can't make it in the cities."

As if he had his tail stepped on, Samuel immediately shot up and roared, "You f*cking brat! What did you just say?!"

It was Samuel's biggest regret that he could not be a part of the city's circle of wealthy people.

The last thing he could tolerate was people telling him he was a county tyrant. He dreamed of nothing more than to enter an even more sophisticated social circle, but they all looked down on him.

At the same time, Kai suddenly shouted, interrupting Samuel's exploding anger.

"It's a pullback! The prices are pulling back!"

The crowd all turned to look, only to see the price of cotton on the screen make an abrupt turn at the peak of the market and begin to drop.

It was a 500 Somer Dollar drop right at the beginning.

Kai immediately lost 400,000 of the 800,000 capital that just entered the market!

This was what made the capitalization game so thrilling.

“Hahaha. I already told you two idiots that you’ll be screwed if you follow this f*cking idiot. You lost half your capital with a 500 pullback. Another 500 and you’ll hit liquidation!” Samuel chortled.

Even John, who trusted Jasper the most, felt his heart thump nervously as he sneaked glimpses at Jasper—what more Kai?

However, Jasper remained calm. “It’s going to be okay.”

Jasper had already expected all of this.

There would indeed be a pullback in the price of cotton, but Jasper could not remember when the pullback stopped.

However, Jasper was certain that the pullback was a minor one, and the prices would then skyrocket afterward.

The risk was not huge to begin with, but Kai’s previous hesitation had him entering the market after a 400 Somer Dollar increase. As such, the risk now seemed more dangerous.

Kai took a deep breath. It was too late for him to turn back now, so he clenched his jaw and spoke, “It’s alright, Mr. Laine. This was my choice and I can’t blame you even if I end up hitting liquidation.”

Kai’s words had Jasper reestablishing his impression of the other.

“Don’t worry.” Jasper chuckled and replied.

There was another sharp drop in the price of cotton once Jasper finished speaking.

This time, it was a drop of 480 Somer Dollars!

Kai's account showed a loss of 780,000, leaving 20,000 dollars left.

At the same time, Kai's phone rang as well.

It was a call from the trading center informing him that he was about to hit liquidation and they asked if Kai wanted to add more funds.

Kai was despondent as he did not have any more money to add in, so he hung up the phone amidst Samuel's mocking chortles.

"Mr. Laine, I'm afraid this time I'm really..."

Before Kai could finish talking, the screen showed a sudden spike in the price of cotton!

Life at the Top Chapter 541

The futures for the price of cotton suddenly began to increase after it had fallen from the peak.

The rise in trend was even steeper than its drop.

In a quick moment, the price had already increased by 1,800 Someer Dollars. Not only did it surpass the previous peak, but it seemed to be going strong as it continued to rise.

“It’s rising! It’s rising!” John shouted in surprise.

Kai stared at the market. Not only had all his losses returned to his account, but he had earned a few hundred thousand dollars as well.

If he sold his futures now, his 800,000 capital would become 1.48 million excluding procedural costs.

“It’s been less than an hour since the market opened. In only a few minutes, less than 20 since I entered the market...”

Kai stared at Jasper with disbelief.

As a man who worked in finance, he was no stranger to the stock market and futures.

However, despite working in it for so long, this was the first time he found out how much fun the futures market could be.

In less than 20 minutes, he now had almost twice his capital.

Not even by printing money could he earn so much so quickly!

“How... How are you so certain that it'll rise?” Kai was stunned and truly impressed with Jasper. His tone when he asked the question was humble and polite as if he was asking his teacher for help.

“Domestic cotton production has been expanding these years, and this year's output has accounted for 23% of the world's total cotton production.”

Jasper clicked on the statistics on the authoritative statistics website. Pointing at a report, Jasper spoke coolly, “So a 40% decrease in cotton production this year would directly cause a shrink in worldwide cotton production.

“The previous increase was a reaction within the domestic market, but the international market hadn't reacted yet.

“So we just needed to wait for the prices in the international stock market to rise. The funds and hot money will then flow toward the source of this entire incident, that is our domestic futures market.”

Jasper chuckled before continuing calmly, “If the country has enough funds to raise the price of cotton by 16% in around 20 minutes, how much do you think it'll rise when the international funds enter?”

Jasper's words stunned the entire office.

After a long while, Samuel ground his molars and broke the silence in a dark voice, “You're just lucky this time!”

“He managed to turn a 98% loss in the account to a profit of twice the amount lost in an instant. I'm pretty sure this is more than just luck,” John sneered at Samuel and spoke.

Samuel harrumphed silently, but he was internally stunned by Jasper's ability to turn the tables around. However, he still put on a stubborn front. "Don't forget that Jasper is supposed to earn six million today, or he'll still be the one losing."

Samuel glared at Jasper and scoffed. "Don't look so happy so quickly. Do you think prices can grow seven times from what they started as? What a joke!"

Jasper ignored Samuel and stared at the market changes on the screen before him. He was trying to recall everything he could about this incident from his past life.

From what he remembered of his past life, the domestic futures had reached a peak of 23,800 for the price of cotton. Later that afternoon, after the country came to an agreement with a few others about cotton import trade, the prices began to drop in retaliation."

If this were shares, then such a huge amplitude in a day would surely earn a lot of money.

After all, shares bought today could only be sold tomorrow. It was the only procedure.

Yet the futures market was different. Purchase and selling could be done at any time, regardless of its precedence.

As a result, huge amplitudes in price would generate a huge profit margin.

Life at the Top Chapter 542

"Keep increasing your positions. Use the funds you just earned to form a pyramid chain of positions," Jasper suddenly spoke.

The futures market had a very unique trading rule, which was investors were allowed to buy futures with the profit they earned—if any—even though they had not closed their positions yet.

In one way, this greatly increased their profits. Yet at the same time, it also added to their risks.

For example, after a revenue total of 1.48 million with his capital of 800,000, Kai had earned a profit of 680,000. He could use his profits to buy more futures.

However, doing so meant that Kai was putting himself at a higher risk.

After all, the moment the prices dropped beyond the position line, then Kai would end up having to liquidate as well.

Jasper's instruction had Kai's heart lurching in his chest.

While he was afraid of risks, Jasper had also just displayed his skills. As such, Kai stopped hesitating and clenched his jaw, doing as Jasper instructed.

Beside them, Samuel scoffed. "What kind of f*cking idiotic tactic is this? I've never seen anyone so unafraid of death like you. You're going to have to liquidate the moment the prices drop by 500 Somer Dollars if you buy in now.

"Listen to my advice, Jones. Just close your position. Leave now and you'll still have your 680,000 profit. Or you'll end up losing that 800,000 capital in a bit."

Already high-strung, Kai was easily pissed. He coldly replied, "I don't need your opinions about how I'm supposed to use my money."

Kai had already completed the buy-in by the time he finished speaking.

After that came Samuel's sarcastic comments while Kai and John watched in fear as the cotton futures price continued to rise steadily.

There were slight jumps and drops, but the price remained at around 16,000 Somer Dollars the entire time.

It was around noon when Jasper stood to stretch. "Time for the market to take a break. Everything else will continue in the afternoon. Let's eat first."

Samuel scoffed. "I'd like to see how you're going to die later!

"I can't help but feel excited thinking about how you're going to pay me six million Somer Dollars this afternoon."

Kai glared at Samuel coldly and turned to Jasper. "Should we eat lunch in a nearby hotel, Mr. Laine?"

Jasper shook his head with a smile. "It's alright. I don't have the habit of leaving the area when I'm trading, so let's just order food in the office. Have someone send three portions of food in, please."

Kai was stunned. He had planned to treat Jasper to something nice, so he was a little lost now.

Take-out food seemed too sorry a meal.

However, John interrupted with a smile, "Just listen to Jasper, Kai. Take-out food for three."

Kai glanced at Samuel who was flushing bright red at the moment and understood. Laughing aloud, he agreed. "Alright. I'll have someone get it done."

Still, there was no way Kai would actually order take-out, so he had an employee head over to the booked hotel and order the dishes from there.

In no time, delicious dishes were placed all over a table that had been put together in the office.

However, there were only three sets of cutleries even though there were four people in the room!

Seeing how Jasper, Kai, and John had each found a seat for themselves and began to happily chat with one another while eating, Samuel paled in envy and anger. He had been purposely left behind!

“How dare you humiliate me like this?!” Samuel roared with his jaw tight.

Life at the Top Chapter 543

Jasper picked up a piece of fish and placed it into his mouth. He looked at Samuel who was furious and spoke in a shocked tone, “Why are you still here, Mr. Ray? Did you want to eat with us too? Oh, why didn’t you say so earlier, Mr. Ray? We would’ve prepared a set of utensils for you too.”

Kai almost laughed aloud. Although he was joyful, he pretended to look sad. “That’s right. I would’ve brought you to a large hotel for a meal if I knew you were eating with us, Mr. Ray.

“How could someone as formidable as Mr. Ray eat take-out with people like us?”

John asked Samuel mirthfully, “Are you hungry from watching us eat, Mr. Ray? While I do want to let you sit, we don’t have another chair or another set of cutleries. If you don’t mind, Mr. Ray, you could wait until I’m done to use my chair and cutleries?”

Bang!

Samuel slammed a palm on the table and glared at the three of them furiously. He was seething, and he spat out the words from the gaps in his teeth. "Have your fun now, but I'd like to see if you three can still smile this afternoon!"

"There's no way you can earn six million. I've been investing for more than a decade and there has never been a time since I started working in this line of business that I've seen a seven-fold increase in prices! You're going to screw yourselves over, just you wait!"

"If you don't welcome me here, fine! I can leave. But I will be back when the market reopens in the afternoon. I'm gonna claim that six million Somer Dollars from you!"

With a furious expression, Samuel turned to leave.

"Hold on, Mr. Ray."

Jasper's voice sounded.

Samuel halted and turned his head to sneer at Jasper. "What's this, begging for mercy now? Sure, it's not too late yet. Kneel before me and beg and then hand me the six million. I can consider leaving you alone if you do that."

Jasper took a sip of his drink and spoke calmly, "You've misunderstood, Mr. Ray. I wanted to remind you to bring your checkbook when you come back in the afternoon. Six million and not a cent less."

The corner of Samuel's lips twitched as his gaze grew cold. His furious expression was slowly darkening as well.

"How about you worry about yourself first?! You'd better be able to take that money out later or I won't be blamed for f*cking you over!"

Samuel then turned and walked out the door.

Kai quietly asked Jasper after Samuel left, “Mr. Laine, are you certain about later?”

Jasper asked calmly as he ate, “Why, are you scared?”

Kai replied solemnly, “Of course, I’m scared. I’m putting my entire net worth and my life on the line here, but I won’t doubt you anymore, Mr. Laine. This is just pure nerves.”

Jasper smiled. “Before today, you two probably thought that it’d be impossible to earn six million with 800,000 in a day, right?”

Kai shared a look with John and replied in embarrassment, “Indeed. After all, I’ve never heard of such a thing.”

Turning 800,000 into six million was nothing. In two years, a venerable master would appear in the futures market, turning 1.2 million into 40 million in the short span of half a month. This was a record no one managed to break even until Jasper reincarnated.

Not that Jasper would tell the two of them that, of course. The man merely smiled and replied, “But you have hope now, don’t you? I’d say it’s worth the gamble if you’re hopeful. Miracles won’t happen to you if you’re not willing to take the risk or pay the price.

“Taking a step back, let’s ignore your 800,000 dollars for a moment. I have six million Somer Dollars and my dignity on the line here, so I’ve got this.”

Kai exhaled deeply at Jasper’s words and replied firmly, “Alright then, Mr. Laine. I’ll do whatever you say later in the afternoon. I won’t hesitate anymore.

“I know that I lost out on a few hundred thousand this morning when I hesitated for two minutes, but it definitely won’t happen again later.”

Jasper nodded. “It’s good that you know.”

The market had a lunch break of two and a half hours. Lunch took up about half the time, leaving more than an hour left before the market reopened.

Jasper lay on the sofa and spoke, "I'm taking a small nap. Wake me up when it's time."

Jasper then closed his eyes to rest.

Life at the Top Chapter 544

Looking at this scene, Kai pursed his lips slightly and asked John, "Is... is Mr. Laine always this laid-back?"

John gave a wry chuckle. "Perhaps extraordinary people have extraordinary traits."

As he spoke, John lay down on another sofa and advised, "You should also rest for a little. We still have business to handle in the afternoon."

Kai grimaced and replied, "I'm not in the mood for taking a nap. Both of you go ahead and rest; I'm going to look up some news on the internet."

Kai sat down in front of the computer as he said this. He began checking through and scrutinizing every bit of news related to the poor cotton harvest.

When the groggy Jasper was woken up by Kai, it was already 1.29 pm, just one minute away from the markets opening.

At practically the same time that Jasper woke up, the office door was pushed open, and Samuel walked in with a sneering face.

He took out a cheque from his breast pocket and slapped it down onto the table noisily, saying with lofty arrogance, “Open your sorry eyes wide and take a good look at this. It’s a cheque worth 6 million dollars. Take it if you think you have the chops.”

As he spoke, Samuel then sneered at Jasper. “It’s not too late right now for you to admit defeat and beg for mercy. If not, when you lose everything in just a little while, I won’t let you off so easily!”

Jasper did not even spare Samuel a glance. He turned to look at Kai and asked, “Has the market opened? What’s the price?”

Kai began eyeing the screen nervously. When he heard Jasper’s questions, he immediately responded, “The market’s open. It’s gone up by 20 bucks. It’s not that big of a margin.”

Compared to 16000 dollars, an increase of 20 bucks increase was, in truth, rather mediocre.

Jasper was about to say something when Kai suddenly shrieked, “There’s a long green line—it’s rising. A large buy order just came in—it’s still rising! It’s 17000 now!”

Jasper furrowed his brows. He walked over to the computer and saw that at present, the price of cotton futures had surged to 17050 dollars for every tonne and it was still going up.

In his previous life, the cotton futures had finally stopped at a price of 18980 dollars. It was then followed by an announcement and a sudden drop. The closing price that day had ended up being 12600 dollars.

Firmly remembering these crucial numbers, Jasper ordered, “Use the profits to keep buying in and adding to the position.”

They had already pyramided once that morning. If they were to do it again, the risk would be extremely high.

This time, however, Kai did not hesitate at all and used the profit they made from the surge in price to buy in again.

Samuel eyed Jasper coldly. He did not say anything this time; he merely bided his time patiently and waited to see when this young brat would lose everything.

This was such a high-risk venture that even a veritable god of stocks and shares would not dare play in the market. Did a callow youngster like Jasper think that he could?

Right after that, the price continued going up, from 17000 dollars to 17500 dollars, and then to 18000 dollars. It was like a slap in Samuel's face.

With one resistance point after another being broken, it was as if the flow of capital had gone mad, and everyone was beginning to rush into the futures market to get a piece of the pie.

Samuel stared at the 18800 dollar price and felt his heart race with trepidation and alarm.

In disbelief, he looked at Jasper, who had been calm and composed since the very beginning. His own heart was beating wildly.

At this moment, Samuel was not the only one—Kai and John were also about to lose their minds.

An hour into opening and their initial capital of 800,000 had grown to 3.9 million!

While Kai and John were trying to find words to express how much they worshipped Jasper, Jasper himself still maintained a tense expression.

“Now, close the position and sell it all off. Then, start shorting it..”

Jasper’s words hit all three people present like a lightning bolt from the blue.

Life at the Top Chapter 545

In Jasper’s previous life, the ceiling price of the cotton market this time was locked at 18,980 dollars then.

However, the price now was 18,800 dollars.

It seemed that there was still about a 200-dollar profit margin, but Jasper had never been an overly self-assured person.

This was because he found that his influence in the present time and space was becoming increasingly greater as he made use of his memory from his past life.

He had no way of guaranteeing that the price of cotton would be locked at 18,980 dollars this time around. If they missed the opportunity, leading to a monumental crash in the price, it would be difficult even if they wanted to sell it off by that time.

Regardless if it were his own investment or if he were helping Kai to ride out his difficult time, he would not rely on his past memories anymore.

When it came to profits, it was enough to be able to gain the most of it. One should never become too greedy for the leftovers.

At this moment, however, Jasper’s decision had stunned the three of them including Samuel.

Seeing the price suddenly spiking exponentially, Jasper informed them that they should close their position.

They could take it as safekeeping by taking the profits into their pockets.

Going against the trend and short selling, however, what the heck was this move?

Samuel's heart was drumming at first, afraid that he would lose his say, but when he heard what Jasper said, he could hardly resist the frenzy he felt. He let out a hearty laugh.

"Have you gone mad? You want to short sell at a time like this? Hahaha, what a joke! You really think you can predict the future?"

Samuel's expression was taunting and showed his delight. "Don't tell me you're afraid that you're unable to earn six million and will lose the bet, hence why you're now deciding to take a wild risk? Hahaha, young man, I may not like you but I have to say that you're courageous."

Taking in a deep breath, Kai looked at Jasper with a questioning gaze.

Jasper furrowed his brows and said out loud, "Did you forget what you told me before?"

Kai was filled with excitement from head to toe. He had indeed made up his mind back then that he would do whatever Jasper asked of him.

In this present situation, however, anyone with a discerning eye could tell that there would be an increasing trend. Jasper, on the other hand, wanted to act against the trend. Kai was in a dilemma.

"Kai, listen to him!" John said eagerly.

He was the one who had the most faith in Jasper, given he had seen Jasper perform miracles with his own eyes before. He could very well make it happen again.

With a sigh, Kai cursed before immediately doing as Jasper said.

“You’re mad, you’re all mad!”

Samuel looked at Kai as he closed their position before quickly selling it short. At last, he let out a hysterical laugh. “Though it’s good that you’ve gone mad. How would I win otherwise? This is so ridiculous, to actually be selling short at a time like this. Hahahaha!”

Regardless of what Samuel said, Kai had already completed the entire transaction.

Meanwhile, the entirety of the futures market had not fluctuated at all despite Kai’s entry of millions of dollars. It was like a drop of water in the ocean, there was not even a splash.

The transaction had been successful, but at this moment, the price of cotton was still rising.

Even though the increase was no longer exponential, people with discerning eyes would be able to tell that a rising trend like this would continue for a period of time.

Kai looked at the backend of his account. The numbers were red and in the losses. His complexion was pale.

In just a short moment after he closed his position, he had lost 400,000 dollars from his 3.9 million capital.

Although they were all profits, Kai still felt his heart bleed.

So much so that his thoughts were constantly churning. If he had not forcibly liquidated the position and held onto the remaining 3.5 million, he could have sustained himself through any of the imminent difficulties.

However, these were all just thoughts. If he had really done that, John, the only friend he had left, would definitely be the first to turn against him.

Life at the Top Chapter 546

Jasper, who was willing to lend him a hand during his most critical time, would never look at him again.

Taking a deep breath, all Kai could do now was to pray for the price to drop quickly.

However, things did not turn out as he wished. The price of the cotton futures continued to rise, slowly but surely.

As though to deliberately provoke Kai and Jasper, Samuel had gotten someone to send in a few luxurious meals at some point.

Samuel clicked his tongue and sighed as he sat on the sofa, eating caviar. "Ah, this is delicious, but it's a little expensive. You two could still afford to eat it before this, but after today, I'm not sure."

Kai gritted his teeth and stared fixedly at Samuel. He hated that he was unable to pounce at Samuel and beat him up.

Jasper, on the other hand, had been looking at the computer screen. He could not be distracted no matter what Samuel did.

When it was 2:30 p.m., the business department of the authority website that Jasper had been paying attention to finally published an information message.

[Half an hour ago, our country successfully signed a series of trade treaties with three neighboring countries, which includes the bulk cotton trade. It is predicted that after obtaining this batch of imported cotton, the future domestic cotton market will not suffer a major impact due to the lack of harvest.]

Kai almost leaped up with just a few words.

“Oh my God! This announcement!” Kai exclaimed, his voice cracking. His sudden yell surprised Samuel so much that the caviar in the latter’s hand fell to the ground.

No longer caring about the caviar, Samuel got up from the sofa and hurried to the computer.

One should never look down on the extent of the capitalists’ interest in the news. When Samuel ran over after the news was published, there was already a response in the capital in the futures market.

It fell!

It dipped off the edge of a cliff!

The price of cotton that had been steadily rising saw a reverse in the direction of its arrow and went into a precipitous decline as though someone had stepped on it mid-air.

The price of cotton had collapsed rapidly in a short period of time. A straight, downward line formed on the stock market chart.

Who knew just how many who planned to take advantage of the wave of the current market trend to make a big profit were now crying in anguish after having their accounts emptied in a snap?

Countless individuals were going bankrupt with every single second.

At the same time, there were also a very small number of people like Jasper who were earning abundantly with every single second.

Jasper noticed that although the trend of the cotton market was the same as that in his previous life this time, the final price was not 18,980 dollars. Instead, it had begun falling from 18,977 dollars.

Although the difference of only three dollars was innocuous, it was a good wake-up call for Jasper.

He could not be emboldened by his memories of his past life all the time. Many things had already changed in this life.

The impact of these changes would become greater as he grew his wealth and influence.

The price of cotton fell below 14,000 dollars from 18,877 dollars in just half an hour.

It was as if Kai and the others were able to feel the devastation and cries of countless people across the screen.

However, Kai had no other thoughts now. He could only look at Jasper as if he were a god.

“Mr. Laine, I’m thoroughly impressed. if anyone could foresee the future in this world, it would definitely be you,” Kai murmured.

Jasper chuckled. Seeing that the book capital had already reached 6.2 million, he said coolly, “You can be filthy rich in the previous second and penniless the next. You can be in high spirits in one moment before the world comes crashing down the next. This is the futures market—the riskiest, most thrilling game.”

Looking up at Samuel who was completely stunned, Jasper got up and picked up the check on the table. He said indifferently, “Thank you, Mr. Ray, for the gift.”

Life at the Top Chapter 547

Samuel stared at the garish numbers on the computer screen blankly. He felt like a mouthful of blood was rushing from his stomach straight to his throat.

“How is it possible? How is this possible!?” Samuel yelled in disbelief.

“How could 800,000 possibly turn into six million in a day? This is impossible! It’s a ruse, it must be a ruse!

“Did you deliberately use fake software to deceive me?” Samuel glared at Jasper fiercely and roared madly.

“Your imagination isn’t bad,” Jasper praised.

Kai, on the other hand, was not so good-tempered. He decided to close the position of the futures quickly before immediately withdrawing the money.

He pressed into the text message on his phone notifying him that 6.8 million had been credited into his account and then threw the phone in front of Samuel.

“Open your eyes and take a good look. Could this text message be faked?”

Samuel looked at the genuine text message on the phone and was completely dumbfounded.

“No way!”

Samuel thought of something and suddenly exploded. He stared at Jasper and growled, “Give me my money back!”

Samuel was rich compared to ordinary people, but it was not to the point where he could throw six million away like this.

Otherwise, he would not have gone to great lengths to try taking a 30% commission from Kai, much less stay in the office all day just for this bet with Jasper.

Samuel was worth a little more than ten million at best. Taking six million away from him at once was tantamount to taking away half his life.

In a fit of rage, Samuel completely tossed his dignity aside and reached out to grab the check from Jasper's pants pocket.

However, John stepped in and stopped in front of Jasper. John, who was tall and strong, looked very intimidating. He glared at Samuel and said, "What's the matter? You were willing to gamble but are now unwilling to admit defeat? You still wish to commit robbery in broad daylight?"

Samuel's face turned red with anger. He roared, "This is clearly a damned trap that the two of you had deliberately set up to trick me into the game! I won't accept it!"

"Mr. Ray."

Jasper spoke coolly.

"You seem to not understand something.

"No one dragged you into this bet. It was you who wanted to join in. Besides, until half an hour ago, you had been very sure that you would win and even fantasized about how you would spend the six million that you thought I'd lose to you, right?"

Samuel gritted his teeth so hard it creaked. He stared at Jasper coldly and said, "Kid, it's easy for you to take my money but it won't be easy for you to spend it. Since you dare take my money, beware of not being alive to spend it."

“Oh? It looks like Mr. Ray is planning to play some tricks?” Jasper chuckled and said coolly.

“Back then when Hugh lost the bet with me, even he didn’t dare owe me the bargaining chip he lost to me, let alone you?”

Samuel’s eyelids jerked upon hearing these words.

Samuel knew all too well the kind of person Hugh was.

It was Hugh who had held him down and made him forever the second-best in Faith County.

It was not that Samuel did not think of forcibly taking over the leading position. He had even tried several times but was oppressed by Hugh every time, making him suffer heavy losses.

Later on, Samuel became too afraid of Hugh, and only then did he give up his idea of fighting against Hugh.

However, Hugh had suddenly lost one day. It was an unexpected opportunity for Samuel. Not only did he take over most of Hugh’s businesses, but his own business had also flourished.

Samuel once thought he was the chosen one. Even though he did not make a move against Hugh, Hugh still dropped from the top of the ladder on his own.

Yet now, when he suddenly heard Hugh’s name from Jasper’s mouth, Samuel was a little confused.

“Who exactly are you?” Samuel stared at Jasper and spat out the words through gritted teeth.

“Samuel Ray, you’ve been too proud and unbridled all this while, which has made you supercilious. You don’t put anyone in your eyes at all.”

John said to Samuel coolly, a playful smile on the corner of his mouth.

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“He’s called Jasper Laine. Why don’t you go back to Faith County and find out who screwed Hugh Lewis over? That’s why merely for you, it’s still a little too soon.”

Samuel heard this and felt as if he had been struck by lightning.

Jasper Laine... He had heard of this name.

Faith County’s most famous stock god of the year. He heard that Jasper had even clashed with Hugh Lewis back then.

However, who the hell was Jasper Laine? He had never met him before.

That was because Jasper had already set off for the province when he returned from somewhere else. Later on, Jasper had been in Harbor City and Swallow Capital for some time before only returning recently.

There were rumors that Hugh had been taken down by Jasper, but Samuel only turned his nose at it.

He had fought Hugh for so many years when he was at Faith County and never once won.

Yet, some guy who had crawled out of God knew where could?

The truth was right in front of his eyes now, however, and Samuel had no choice but to believe it.

Immense shock and fear shrouded him. When Samuel raised his head to look at Jasper again, there was no longer the overweening attitude from half a minute ago.

“Mister... Mr. Laine, I... I didn't know you were...”

Samuel was even fumbling over his words.

He really could not muster up the courage to offend the person who could easily bring down Hugh Lewis.

“It doesn't matter who I am.”

Jasper glanced at Samuel and said faintly, “I had no interest in you, yet you were the one who kept looking for me for trouble.”

Samuel was almost in tears. He stooped down, apologized to Jasper with all his might, and said, “I'm sorry, Mr. Laine. I was truly blinded by anger just now. I didn't expect you to be Kai's patron. Otherwise, I wouldn't have dared to trouble you even if I were given three shots of liquid courage.”

Jasper said indifferently, “I'm nobody's patron. It just so happened that John asked me for help this time. Not to mention, Kai has quite a good character and is unlikely to be beyond redemption for just a single mistake.”

“Yes, yes, it's as Mr. Laine has said.” Samuel did not dare refute him and continued pandering.

Jasper stood up. He walked toward Samuel and said with a smile, “Do you still want to take back the six million dollar check?”

Samuel's expression was bitter. He had really messed up this time, and there was no chance for him to even say that he felt wronged.

"No, no, I dare not. I was willing to bet, so I'll admit defeat."

"That's great. I would like to thank Mr. Ray for his generosity. Coincidentally, I will pass this money to a relative of mine to invest in a hotpot business. Once it's successful, you have to come support it."

Samuel's face went taut. He did not know what Jasper meant but still replied carefully and respectfully, "Of course, I'll definitely be there."

"Alright, the matter here is resolved. I have to head back first." Jasper stretched his waist and bade farewell to Kai and John.

Kai hesitated before saying, "Mr. Laine, I only need six million. The 800,000..."

"Just keep it. With this personality of yours, you will still suffer plenty of losses in the future. I don't care about the 800,000." After saying this, Jasper left.

Kai was stunned. He did not know whether to cry or laugh.

Turning his head away, Kai said to John, "What should we do with the 800,000 dollars? I can't possibly keep it. Mr. Laine has already helped me so much. It's the same as him saving my entire family's lives."

"Isn't it simple? It's going to be New Year's soon. You could find an excuse to give a New Year's greeting and deliver the money to his door. It would be a gesture of good faith and thoughtfulness," John patted Kai on the shoulder and said with a smile.

Kai nodded in agreement and then said with a sigh, "It's so amazing. If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I would never have believed in Mr. Laine's ability. Not even in my dreams. It's such a shame that I doubted him before. I was such a... snob."

As soon as Jasper walked out of Kai's company, his phone rang. It was Wendy calling.

"Jasp, where are you? I'm at your place."

"Where are you? I'll come pick you up now!"

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After Jasper had picked Wendy up, she sat in the Bentley's passenger seat and blushed as she said, "Jasp, my dad said he would like to invite your parents to dinner after Christmas."

Jasper smiled as he said, "That's a good thing. When?"

"There are only four or five days before Christmas, so probably three days after that. Do you have any relatives you need to visit then? We can make further arrangements regarding the date," Wendy answered gently.

Jasper thought for a moment before saying, "No, we don't have any relatives to visit this year. My family has already discussed it among themselves. They were worried I wouldn't have time, so my relatives will be coming over instead."

Wendy blinked. "Is it because you're rich now?"

"If you're either powerful or rich, you'll get special treatment as long as you check off one of these boxes," Jasper said gleefully.

Wendy huffed and asked confusedly, "But my family home is always silent during Christmas, and my relatives rarely come visit. I used to be so jealous of the other kids because they got so much money during Christmas."

“Didn’t your parents give you any?” Jasper asked.

“Of course, they did. Never anything less than 10,000 Somer Dollars,” Wendy answered naturally.

Jasper, “...”

Back in the 90s, one was considered rich if they had more than 10,000 dollars in their account. Yet, the amount of Christmas money Wendy’s family gave was equivalent to an entire family’s savings?!

“I used to get ten or 20 Somer Dollars when I was younger. Then, when my family’s financial situation improved, I got around 50 to 100 Somer Dollars. You get 10,000 Somer Dollars in one go and you’re still jealous of other people?” Jasper asked gloomily.

Wendy replied confidently, “I meant that other people received money from many relatives, unlike me. I only ever received money from two people, my mom and my dad. After I lost my mom, my dad would give me 100,000 dollars every year to make up for it.”

“I don’t understand how you rich people live your lives,” Jasper said gloomily.

Both Sally and Charlie were extremely happy to see Wendy. Even Charlie, who was usually sullen, smiled happily at her.

“Wendy, why didn’t you let me know you were coming over in advance? I would have prepared you some food in advance. Have you eaten yet?” Sally took Wendy’s hand in hers and smiled as she talked to her.

It was not their first time meeting, so Wendy had long since become close to Jasper’s parents. Back when Jasper was in Harbor City, she had often come over to accompany them.

“I’ve already eaten.”

Wendy sat down and glanced meaningfully at Jasper.

Jasper then told his parents about how Dawson wanted to treat them to dinner.

“Ah, your dad was just nagging me about this two days ago. He said we should find a chance where we can all sit down and have dinner together. At least the parents on both sides could get to know each other better,” Sally said excitedly.

“I didn’t expect Wendy’s father to bring this up so soon. Charlie, shall we travel to the province three days after Christmas?” Sally turned and looked at Charlie.

Charlie was the head of the family, so they needed to get his approval.

After a moment’s thought, Charlie replied, “I’m fine with the date. Nothing else is more important than this. But Jasper, you should book the hotel we’ll eat at. I’ll pay for the meal.”

Wendy blinked and was just about to speak when Jasper tugged on her arm, saying, “It’s how we do things here. It doesn’t matter where we go. Besides, it’s a must for the man’s parents to pay. It wouldn’t make sense for the woman’s parents to make the arrangements.”

Finally realizing what was going on, Wendy said angrily, “What do you mean by the man and the woman?! My dad just wants to get to know your parents!”

As they chatted, Wendy heard from Sally that she was planning on going Christmas shopping. Thus, she readily volunteered to accompany Sally.

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“Sally, I heard that a supermarket on the west side of town is having a huge sale now. Everything is at least 75% off, and there’ll be lucky draws too. Let’s go together!”

Jasper was startled when he heard that and glanced suspiciously at Wendy. “The supermarket on the west side of town? That’s where Tefa City is. The only supermarket there besides the one your family owns is Walmart, right? Not only are you not going to shop at the supermarket you own, but you’re going to fund your competition’s supermarket instead?”

Wendy huffed and said, “I’ll go wherever the cheaper options are. Isn’t that right, Sally?”

Sally was tempted as well. “75% discounts, and there’ll be lucky draws too. What a bargain!”

Jasper sighed as he watched the two women excitedly plan their day.

Wendy was born with a silver spoon in her mouth. Back in the days where few families had savings up to 100,000 dollars, she was already receiving 10,000 dollars as presents.

As for his mother, he transferred around 50,000 to 60,000 dollars to her bank account as an allowance every month. She should have at least 500,000 to 600,000 dollars under her name now.

Yet, these two women were still attracted by discounts.

However, Jasper still felt grateful. He knew Wendy was doing this to please his mother, who had been born in a rural area and had to be frugal her entire life.

Jasper merely reminded them to be careful before he let the two women set off excitedly.

The issues that his mother previously had with her daughter-in-law, which had plagued Jasper in his past life, did not seem to exist this time around.

Julian naturally trailed after Wendy when they arrived at the front door.

Ever since what had happened the last time, Jasper would arrange for Julian to protect Wendy unless there were any special circumstances.

Sally also knew Julian as the silent but sincere bodyguard. She smiled at him as she said, "Jul, pick out anything you need later. I'll pay."

Julian blushed as he said, "Mrs. Laine, Jasper pays me quite a high salary. I can't even finish spending it."

As Sally dragged Wendy toward the door, she said, "Get your sister to come and celebrate Christmas with us. The two of you don't even have any other family members to spend it with. It must be lonely."

Julian said awkwardly, "Mrs. Laine, it's fine. We've always celebrated Christmas this way."

"Alright now, just go along with my plans." Sally was insistent.

Julian seemed like a reliable person to her, and both her son and future daughter-in-law's safety were in his hands. It only made sense for her to treat him well.

Besides, the two siblings did have quite a pitiful life...

Just then, Charlie beckoned for Jasper to sit down beside him on the couch.

“I have something to discuss with you,” Charlie said as he frowned.

When he saw the solemn expression on his father’s face, Jasper hurriedly asked, “What’s wrong? Did something happen?”

Charlie seemed to be having difficulty bringing it up.

Jasper grew uneasy as he hurriedly asked, “Dad, there’s nothing you can’t tell me. No matter what happens, you should always let me know about it.”

Charlie grunted for the longest time before he finally muttered, “Wendy’s from a rich family, and I even heard that her dad’s a tycoon. Should we prepare anything when we meet him? Should I get a new outfit? I’m worried I might embarrass you.”

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Jasper did not expect that this was what had caused Charlie to frown and stammer for such a long time.

Jasper did not know how he should react to that.

“Uncle Schuler is very easy-going, and he doesn’t have much of a temper. He’s a very nice person, so we can be more relaxed. Else, we’ll appear to be overly formal.”

However, Jasper did not think that Charlie would glare at him when he said that.

“Nonsense! We must be polite. Although we aren’t going to ask for her father’s blessing this time, it’s still the first time both side’s parents are meeting. How can we treat this casually?”

Upon realizing that Charlie was going to take this extremely seriously, Jasper said helplessly, “Perhaps we could prepare some gifts?”

Charlie pinched his chin and raised an eyebrow before saying, “He’s a tycoon and has probably received all kinds of expensive presents before. If we gave him wine and tobacco as we usually do, he would probably just laugh at us... Never mind, I’ll consult the elders and see what I should do in such situations.”

Jasper sighed and said, “Dad, what are you so nervous about? Uncle Schuler might be one of the richest people in the province, but I’m not that far behind either. We’re not trying to claim connections with him. There’s no need to be so nervous.”

“What? He’s the richest person in the province?!” Charlie immediately ignored everything else when he heard that, and his eyes widened as he spoke.

Charlie, who had been a farmer for most of his life until Jasper made it big, had rarely even seen a large stack of cash with his own eyes. The richest man in the province was on the same level as a king to him... They were all legends he had never heard of before.

“That was in the past. Right now, it’s probably me, your son.” Jasper grinned as he spoke and tried to ease Charlie’s stress and nerves.

However, Charlie glared at Jasper and said, “You’re still young, so don’t become cocky after a few accomplishments. He has been working hard all his life, do you think he’ll be easily defeated by you?”

Jasper had no way of convincing Charlie if he did not believe him.

If he combined the cash he had in both his personal property and real estate, Jasper felt that not only could he be named the richest man in the Southeast Province, but he could even be listed as the top three richest men in the country.

However, one should not reveal their wealth. It would be better for him to keep a low profile.

“Dad, I’m serious. There’s no need to be this formal. Just act as if I were introducing you to a friend. There’s no way he’ll look down on you because you’re a farmer, and you don’t have to restrain yourself just because he’s the richest man in the province. Do whatever you’re supposed to do,” Jasper advised.

Charlie did not say anything, but there was a stony expression on his face. Finally, he said, “You make it sound simple... Never mind, I can’t come to any conclusions with you. I should talk about it with your mom and then consult the elders back home.”

“Does my mom and the elders have experience befriending the richest man in the province and becoming family with them?” Jasper grinned as he asked.

Charlie took out a box of cigarettes and tossed one over to Jasper with natural movements. "I'll call your uncle and have him bring over the 100-year-old ginseng from home. You can't just buy stuff like this on the market, so it should be suitable."

"That's a family heirloom of theirs. Is Uncle willing to give it up?" Jasper asked cheerfully.

"Why wouldn't he be willing?" Charlie glared at him as he said, "You single-handedly helped his son's career. It's just some mountain ginseng, and it's not like we won't be paying for it. What is there to be unwilling about? I'll take care of this. You don't need to worry."

"Dad, who was the one who taught me to never expect anything in return when we do good deeds when I was younger?" Jasper asked as he crossed one leg over the other.

The expression on Charlie's face darkened as he raised his voice and said, "How is that the same? We're going to meet your future in-law! We have to adapt to such matters. Time is of the essence, and we can't consider that now."

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While Jasper and Charlie were talking, at the west of Tefa City in Walmart.

Wendy and Sally talked and laughed as they picked out items while Julian stood near them and stared at everyone who got close to them.

The second time he managed to scare a little girl to tears, Wendy turned and said helplessly to Julian, "Julian, can't you have a kinder expression on your face? Look at how scared that little girl was."

Julian said innocently, "I didn't mean to scare her on purpose. I just took another look at her because she seemed cute."

"You have no idea how scary you appear when you look at people," Sally said as she laughed. She picked up a foam pillow, which had just started gaining popularity in a small part of the country in recent years.

"Wendy, do you think these pillows are useful? Jasper's dad has some neck problems, and the normal pillows don't allow him to get a restful sleep. I heard that these pillows are quite useful in allowing restful sleep."

Wendy asked in surprise, "Charlie has neck problems? Has he gotten it checked out at the hospital?"

Sally smiled as she said, "There's no need to have it checked. He's had that problem for many years now because of his work. Back then, we had to plant several hectares worth of rice in a day, and we spent all that time hunched over working in the fields. It's not odd that we have problems with our necks and backs. It can't be cured."

Wendy picked out the best foam pillow and placed it in the cart. "Let's just buy one for the time being. I have a friend overseas, and I can get her to send one that was manufactured there to me."

"No need to go to such trouble," Sally hurriedly said.

Wendy smiled and said, "It's just a small matter. There's no need to be so formal with me."

As Sally gazed at the racks of goods in the supermarket, she asked naturally, "Do you need anything back home? Let's buy some for you to bring back home."

Wendy smiled as she said, "No need, Sally. I have everything. I don't need anything else."

Sally disagreed as she said, "I heard from Jasper that your mom passed when you were young, and your dad raised you alone. He's a man, and you're a girl who hasn't done any household chores in her life. There's no way the two of you would know if anything is lacking from the cupboards.

"I'll buy some things for you two. Both Christmas and New Year's are approaching. You should take this opportunity to replace some things."

Startled and touched, Wendy took Sally's hand in hers as she said, "Thank you."

After so many years, Wendy had already grown used to life without her mother taking care of her. However, she now got to feel the love and care her father could not provide from Sally.

It was the kind of gentleness only a mother possessed.

This sort of tenderness toward the smallest detail was the most touching to Wendy, who had lost the love of her mother more than ten years ago.

Sally patted Wendy's palm gently as she said softly, "From today onward, I'll be your mom. There's no need for us to be so polite ever again."

"Alright!" Wendy nodded and smiled happily as she answered.

When the two pushed their trolley to the check-out counter and stood in line, Wendy realized that a man in the other line was staring at her.

"Are you... Wendy Schuler? Is it really you? I didn't dare say hi!" the young, handsome man said excitedly to Wendy.

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In contrast to the surprise and excitement on the man's face, Wendy only had confusion written across hers.

The man did seem familiar to her, but she had forgotten who he was.

When the man saw that Wendy was not going to say anything else, he pointed to himself and said, "It's me, Jeremy Morris! I was a couple of months your senior back when you first started work at Commercial Bank. I taught you most of the ropes."

Not even in his wildest dreams would Jeremy have imagined he could meet the woman he had yearned for day and night again.

He had been doing well in his career lately, having secured a large project in the province. Now that he had been reunited with the girl of his dreams, Jeremy's eyes shone as he took pride in his success in both his career and relationship.

Wendy exclaimed, "Oh, it's you, Jeremy! Fancy meeting you here. It's such a small world."

Jeremy chuckled and gave up his spot in line. As he walked toward Wendy, he said, "Wendy, so many of your colleagues were sad when you resigned. I resigned as well a week after you left."

Wendy said courteously, "You're a highly competent man, Jeremy. I'm sure you'll do well wherever you go."

Jeremy chuckled and said gleefully, "It's not much, but I'm doing alright. My family is in engineering, and we managed to secure a huge deal in the province through some connections and contacts. I'm currently in charge of that project.

“Wendy, I’m not sure if you’ve heard of it or not, but it’s the Southface River project back in the province. The company where I work as a general manager is in charge of constructing a pedestrian greenway. It’s an investment requiring tens of millions of dollars. We’ll be able to earn quite a bit of money from it.”

When Wendy heard that Jeremy was one of the many contractors involved in the Southface River project, her liking toward Jeremy increased a notch. After all, he was working for her man.

“I heard that the outlook on the Southface River project is quite good,” Sally said as she smiled.

Jeremy pretended to smile humbly, but he then said with unmasked glee, “Yeah, did you know that the largest project in the province is currently the Southface River project? Whoever gets involved even the slightest with the project will be guaranteed an earning.

“So many people were fighting for the chance to build that pedestrian greenway. Thankfully, my family had some connections to one of the managers at the real estate agency. It’s how we managed to nab that deal.”

Jeremy did not mean anything by what he said, but those listening heard a deeper meaning in his words.

Wendy knew that Jasper placed a strong focus on the company’s integrity. He had emphasized in multiple meetings that no one was allowed to pull any strings.

All the company’s projects would be subjected to public bidding before they could proceed to the next stage.

However, from what Jeremy had said, he seemed to have gotten the project through the backdoor because of his relations?

That was unusual.

The expression on Wendy's face darkened slightly. She was about to try and find out who Jeremy was in contact with when Sally spoke first.

"You got this project through the backdoor?"

Sally knew that her son was in charge of the Southface River project, but she did not know how important this particular project was.

When she first heard from Jeremy that he was a contractor for a sub-project within the Southface River project, her liking for this person who was working under her son had increased, just like Wendy. However, she immediately became unhappy the minute she heard he had gotten the project through the backdoor.

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Any project that was obtained through the backdoor was not a good project to her. She might not know anything about buildings, but she knew that jerry-built building projects would only harm her son.

The expression on Jeremy's face darkened when he heard what Sally said. Frowning, he turned to Sally and said, "Who are you, old woman? What gives you the right to ask about how and where I got my project?"

An angry expression appeared on Wendy's face. "Jeremy Morris, watch your words! She's my friend's mom!"

"Friend?" Jeremy narrowed his eyes slightly.

It was nearing the end of the year now. Most people would be shopping for Christmas presents now if they were out.

The contents of Wendy's shopping cart proved that.

“Boyfriend or girlfriend?” Jeremy asked, his jealousy apparent.

Wendy replied coldly, “That’s none of your business.”

Wendy’s attitude proved Jeremy’s suspicions to be true. He had just been feeling euphoric and thought that his days of being successful in both his career and his relationship had started. Jealousy coursed through him when he learned that Wendy already had a boyfriend.

“Wendy, you know how I’ve always liked you since the day you joined Commercial Bank and we got to know each other. I still like you to this day. How could you have just found yourself a boyfriend like that?”

Jeremy frowned. His voice was filled with obvious contempt as he said, “I’ve taken up a project in the Southface River project. I’ll earn millions of dollars through this project. Where does your boyfriend work? Can he even earn a million dollars in his entire lifetime?”

“Wendy, times are different now. Only the rich can survive in today’s society. You’re so pretty, why should you find yourself a random man and suffer for the rest of your life with him? Why don’t you get together with me? Ignoring other things, at least you can enjoy a life that’s a cut above others.”

Wendy was shocked by how shameless Jeremy was. She scoffed and said, “A cut above others? How is it a cut above others? Is money that important to you?”

“Of course, money is important.” Jeremy pursed his lips and said earnestly, “You haven’t gotten to know the harsh realities of the world’s evils yet. I’m older than you by two years, and I’ve seen more things than you. You have to trust me. You’re no one if you’re poor, and you’re king of the world if you’re rich.

“Especially for a beautiful girl like you. If you don’t get a rich boyfriend like me, who else could possibly be a match for you?”

Then, Jeremy pointed at Sally and snickered as he said, "Look at your boyfriend's mom. Look at how she acts and dresses. She's no different from the farmer wives in the country. How could a family like that produce any riches?"

"Shut up!" Wendy was raging when she interrupted Jeremy and said, "Don't think you can humiliate anyone you like just because you've scored some wins! Do you think you're such a big deal just because you've got some money in your bank account? I don't care for it at all!"

Jeremy laughed as he said, "That's why I said you've never been out in the real world and don't understand just how cruel it is out there. But never mind, you'll slowly understand that in the future. But now, I can't stand to see you get fooled by the sweet nothings of another man."

As he spoke, Jeremy glared coldly at Sally and said, "Hey, old hag, go back and tell your son that he's an idiot to take Jeremy Morris' girl from him."

"Have him go take a stroll and learn about me. I, Jeremy Morris, have gotten to know many people through my projects in the province. I can quash your entire family by just calling up a few of my contacts. You'd better f*ck off while you still can!"

"You!" Sally was shaking from anger. Although she had been born on a farm and spent more than half her life in a shabby shack, she did not have the typical shrewdness of a farm woman. Conversely, she rarely got into a fight with anyone.

Sally had been alive for almost 50 years, but she had never been humiliated this way. She was so angry that she nearly passed out on the spot and could not even form a sentence.

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“What about me?”

Jeremy scoffed and said leisurely to Sally, “You’d better be careful, you old hag. Don’t make me angry. It’s almost Christmas now. I would consider myself unlucky even if you don’t think it’ll dampen your spirits.”

“Or do you want to squander my money? That’s fine too. If you get your son to f*ck off, I can give him tens of thousands if I’m in a good mood. That would be much better than him working his socks off and earning so little, right?”

Wendy gritted her teeth in anger as she looked at the gleeful expression on Jeremy’s face.

“Julian!” Wendy called out.

Julian, who had long since been unable to stand him, immediately appeared. He stared unblinkingly at Jeremy.

Jeremy, who had been wild with glee, sensed the unmasked hostility from Julian when he appeared. Jeremy frowned.

“Where did this idiot come from? F*ck off, can’t you see I’m talking?”

Jeremy had just finished speaking when Julian picked him up by the collar. He was raised several feet off the ground.

His shocking strength caused everyone who was watching to cry out in surprise.

“I’ll make you shut up forever if you say another word. Do you believe me?”

That one sentence was enough to shut Jeremy up.

Julian had already proven that he had the strength to do what he said he would do. The look in his eyes proved to Jeremy that this man, who had appeared out of nowhere, had the guts to do so as well.

“Julian, I don’t want to see him anymore,” Wendy frowned as she spoke.

Wendy might have an intense hatred toward Jeremy, but she did not get Julian to do anything extreme. After all, they were in a supermarket, and there were lots of eyes on them. Things would become difficult if any accidents happened.

Julian seemed to understand that too. Huffing, he tossed Jeremy aside. He landed sprawled on the ground.

“It’s best you f*ck off now, or I won’t let you be sprawled out so comfortably the next time,” Julian said coldly.

Jeremy scrambled to his feet and adjusted his collar. The fall had him grimacing in pain.

“Alright, just wait and see!” Jeremy glared evilly at Wendy and Julian before he turned and left.

“Sally, are you alright?” Wendy grasped Sally’s hand as she asked.

Sally waved a hand and sighed. “One can really meet all sorts of people these days. I’m fine, don’t worry. I was just so angry I couldn’t catch my breath just now. I feel much better now that I’m not so angry anymore.”

“Don’t worry Sally, people like him won’t remain gleeful for long,” Wendy said.

“Ms. Schuler, Mrs. Laine, I’ve already contacted Jasper. He should be here soon,” Julian said as he walked over.

Wendy said in surprise, “When did that happen? What did you call him for? It was nothing.”

Julian scratched his head and said, “I messaged Jasper when I saw him speaking rudely to Mrs. Laine... Did I do something wrong?”

Wendy shook her head. “You didn’t do anything wrong. You were just carrying out your responsibilities, and you were worried about us. I just think that we might be making a big deal out of nothing.”

Julian chuckled naively but did not say anything else.

Either way, he would still let Jasper know immediately if anything similar happened in the future.

As Jeremy grumbled and walked out of the supermarket, he thought about the incident and could not stand what had just happened to him. Fishing his phone out of his pocket, he began calling the people he knew.

Taking Julian’s terrifying ability into consideration, Jeremy made a couple of extra phone calls. When he finished his calls, Wendy and Sally were walking out of the supermarket. Julian was behind them, a large bag in his hands.

When Jeremy remembered that his men were almost there, he became gleeful again. Walking over to Wendy, he gritted his teeth and said, “Stop!”

Wendy frowned at Jeremy and said impatiently, “Why won’t you leave us alone?”

Jeremy gave a twisted smile and said, “Did you think you could beat me up and be done with me? How would I, Jeremy Morris, continue doing business if that was the case?”

Julian was just about to speak when a car’s headlights shone in their direction.

The bright light caused everyone to squint and look toward where the light was coming from.

Jeremy watched a car drive toward him and stop right in front of him.

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It stopped less than an inch away from his feet.

Jeremy was so shocked he took several steps backward before he roared, "Can't you see that there's someone here? Are you trying to kill me?"

Then, he saw the make of the car. It was a Bentley!

Only the richest of the rich could drive such luxurious cars worth several million Somer Dollars.

Cowardice immediately took over Jeremy as he took several instinctive steps backward.

When everyone who was with Wendy saw the Bentley, a smile appeared on their faces.

They knew that Jasper had arrived.

When the Bentley pulled to a stop, Jasper got out of the car and walked straight toward Jeremy with a nonchalant expression. He turned to Julian and asked, "Julian, is he the one who insulted my mom and Wendy?"

Julian nodded.

Jeremy had a confused expression on his face and was just about to speak when he got slapped.

Jasper's calm voice rang out after he slapped him. "So, you insulted my mom?"

Slap!

A second slap.

“You want to take my woman away from me?”

Slap!

A third slap.

“You said you would give me tens of thousands if I f*cked off?”

Slap!

A fourth slap.

“You think that you’re invincible after you managed to get a sub-project in the Southface River project through the backdoor?”

Four consecutive slaps were enough to slap Jeremy silly. As he backed away, he tried to use his hand to shield himself, but he could not stop Jasper from slapping him again and again.

Jeremy’s face swelled like a pig’s face after getting slapped four times in a row.

He no longer cared if Jasper had gotten out of a Bentley.

“What the f*ck, how dare you slap me?! Do you know who I am?!”

Jeremy roared as blood dribbled from his mouth. His eyes were bloodshot, and he seemed ready to eat Jasper alive.

“Slap you? That’s child’s play.”

Jasper laughed coolly and took out his phone. He dialed a number.

The call was answered after a second.

“Mr. Laine, it’s so late. What do you—”

Sean thought Jasper needed him to do something upon receiving such a sudden call. However, he did not have time to finish speaking before Jasper yelled, “Sean Tucker, are you having too much fun being the vice president? Would you like to move your ass a little? If that’s the case, you can go stand guard for me at the construction site tomorrow!”

Sean, who was back at the province, was so shocked he immediately sat upright on his bed and said humbly, “Mr. Laine, I don’t understand what you mean?”

“The project for the pedestrian greenway. Who’s in charge of it? How did those people become in charge of it?” Jasper asked.

Sean had a confused expression on his face. He was an executive who was in charge of the larger issues. How would he be able to pay attention to the tiny details? Thus, he could only say nervously, “Well, I’ll have to make some inquiries...”

“No need for that. I don’t care who’s in charge. We’re terminating our contract. Besides, whoever was in charge of sealing the deal will have to be fired tomorrow. From tomorrow onward, your most important task will be to conduct an office-wide investigation to see if anyone received bribes or kept the benefits of the contract for themselves!”

As he spoke, Jasper narrowed his eyes and looked at Jeremy who had already lost all color from his face. He said, “I don’t care who it is. If they’re discovered, throw them into jail using the evidence. I’ll throw you into jail too if you dare step out of line!”

Life at the Top Chapter 557

That one phone call was enough to knock Jeremy into an abyss.

He could not figure out how someone who had appeared out of nowhere could tear apart the project he had gotten for himself.

Such a person was either a lunatic who was really good at acting, or they were actually legit.

Jeremy glanced at the Bentley parked behind Jasper and gulped. He felt chills running across his entire body.

Could a lunatic afford to drive a Bentley?

Moreover, based on what had just happened, it was clear that this man was Wendy's current boyfriend and the son of the farmer woman he had just laughed at!

Jeremy was incredibly decisive when he realized he was in deep trouble. He immediately knelt before Jasper and said, "I'm sorry, I failed to recognize your talent. I looked down on you because of my own twisted views!

"I have a mouth too big for my own appetite!

"But that project is our family's lifeline. None of us went through any backdoors, everything was done properly through bidding. Please forgive me this one time..."

Jeremy spoke desperately, the sincerity and look of apology on his face were not faked at all.

Jasper watched Jeremy's performance calmly and waited for him to finish before he said, "Very well. I shall investigate if you got this project legally through a bid or not.

"If you did get this project through a bid, I won't hold anything against you. However, if bribery was involved, not only will the person who accepted the bribe face time in jail, but you will also suffer consequences as the person who initiated the bribe."

The expression on Jeremy's face changed when he heard what Jasper said.

"Who the hell are you?" Jeremy asked dazedly as he raised his head to gaze at Jasper.

"You have no right to know who I am yet." When Jasper finished that sentence, he ignored Jeremy and turned to walk to Sally. He asked, "Mom, are you alright?"

Sally shook her head and said, "I'm alright."

Jasper took Wendy's hand and escorted Sally back to the car. Julian, who was behind them, stood in front of Jeremy with a stony expression on his face as he said, "Didn't you say it was an impressive feat that you had managed to secure a contract in the Southface River project?"

"He's in charge of the Southface River project."

Julian did not give Jeremy's colorless face another look before he turned and left.

Jeremy could not stand even after the Bentley had driven off. He had a sullen expression on his face when he thought about how his world was going to collapse around him.

Soon, two vans pulled to a stop in front of Jeremy and several men jumped out from them. The leader ran over to Jeremy and was shocked when he saw the state Jeremy was in.

“Mr. Morris, what happened to you? Where’s the person who hit you? Don’t worry, I’ve brought all my men along with me. I’ll make sure justice is on your side.”

Jeremy was not in the mood to explain anything to these thugs and could only mumble, “Sh*t, I’m done for. My entire family is done for. What should I do?”

The man who was the leader of the thugs was confused, but he could more or less guess what had happened from what Jeremy said.

Could it be that Jeremy had angered the wrong person today?

This immediately caused the man to go on high alert. The way he looked at Jeremy immediately became less friendly as he asked probingly, “Young Master Morris, should we also leave now that they’ve left too?”

“Look, my men all abandoned whatever they were working on to come here. Do you think we can get some compensation?”

Jeremy shuddered and seemed to come back to his senses as he glared at the man. He roared, “What compensation? I let you eat and drink all you f*cking want but you’re asking me for payment now even though you didn’t do anything when I was in trouble? Do you think my money grows on trees?”

“F*ck all of you freeloaders! Would I be in this mess today if you weren’t circling me and dragging me into messes? F*ck off! All of you f*ck off!”

The expression on the man’s face grew ugly as he was berated in front of his men. He glared at Jeremy as he said, “Morris, I’m showing you respect by calling you Mr. Morris today. If I don’t feel like doing so, will you believe me if I say I’ll cut you to death?”

“You have to pay for us traveling out here today whether you want to or not! Or else, don’t blame me for not being courteous.”

Jeremy stared at the man in front of him and at his men who were staring greedily at him. He felt his vision go black.

...

Jeremy's issue was insignificant to Jasper.

However, this prompted him to sense that there was a major hidden problem in the real estate agency.

Just like how a problem had been discovered in the investment company back when he was battling the Hull family. However, the problem that was discovered in the real estate agency seemed to be even more serious.

"Jasp, what are you thinking about?" Wendy was sitting on a chair after she returned home, and she saw Jasper sitting at his desk with a dark expression on his face.

He had been maintaining that posture for almost half an hour ever since they returned from the supermarket.

"I'm thinking if the problem in the real estate agency is a major one or not," Jasper replied.

Wendy frowned when she heard that. "You mean Jeremy's case of bribing employees and getting hold of projects through the backdoor might not be an isolated one?"

"Isolated case?"

Jasper smiled.

Jasper had been reincarnated with his memories from his past life. He had seen too many cases of people taking advantage of loopholes and cases of corruption within a company.

When corruption happened, it was probably a whole nest of cases—the kind where you only needed to discover one case before you discovered the rest of them.

“The real estate agency might be a brand new company, but most of the middle and top managers were transferred over from Schuler Group. This brand new company would be the perfect place for these experienced people to get up to no good.”

Jasper said calmly, “After all, your dad has run Schuler Group for more than ten years. There’ll be far fewer loopholes there. But the real estate agency is different. A new business requires a new set of rules. The sly ones would easily be able to spot loopholes that benefit them.”

Wendy frowned as she said angrily, “My father only transferred those he trusted over to the real estate agency. They...”

Jasper replied calmly, “Take higher-ups like Sean Tucker, for example. He wouldn’t get involved in such matters for such measly benefits, but what about those in the middle level of management? You need to understand that mid-level management is what truly makes up the foundation of a company.

“If anything goes wrong there, it would be much more difficult to deal with than if one or two higher-ups got into trouble.”

“So what do you plan to do?” Wendy asked.

“We can’t be soft when dealing with corruption within the company. No compromising or indecisiveness is allowed. We have to deal with matters the way they present themselves.” Jasper massaged his temples as he smiled at Wendy

and said, “But tomorrow’s the last day of work. Everyone will be on winter break starting tomorrow. Let’s talk about this after New Year’s.”

Life at the Top Chapter 558

The end of the year was soon approaching. Jasper’s family had three important meals that they would always have at this time of the year.

The first one was on the 24th, Christmas Eve dinner.

Another one was on the 25th, Christmas lunch.

The last one was on the 26th, Boxing Day breakfast.

The south had just about the same traditions, but they just had the meals at different times of the day.

There were only a few days left before Christmas. Wendy had to return to the province to accompany Dawson. After all, even though he had not said anything about being left alone in the province, everyone knew he hoped his daughter would accompany him during this special day.

Jasper began preparing this year’s Christmas Eve dinner after he said goodbye to Wendy.

Although the Laine family wasn’t huge, as they were from the village, there were relatives who moved around and they all still kept close contact with each other.

Moreover, because they knew he had made it big this year, the majority of Jasper’s relatives suggested having this year’s Christmas Eve dinner at Tefa City for a multitude of reasons.

Sally and Charlie would not let go of this opportunity to have bragging rights in front of their relatives. Thus, they immediately agreed and expressed that they would pay for everyone's room and board.

Jasper did not mind. It did not matter if they were his relatives or tribespeople. Men could not survive in the world alone.

Jasper was willing to keep in touch with them too, but on the condition that they did not treat him as a cash cow just because he was rich now. If they did that, he would ignore them.

In his past life, he had seen plenty of people who held grudges because their relatives did not share their earnings with them after making it big in the world.

When faced with such relatives, Jasper's only reaction was to ask them to get as far away from him as possible.

"Dad, I know you and Mom want to look good in front of them. I've already booked three tables at Shangri-La Hotel. All you have to do is go over. Moreover, I've arranged for several cars to pick everyone up because there are so many of you guys. Someone will get in touch with you once you're there. I'll arrive slightly later."

Jasper sat in John's office and crossed one of his legs over the other as he talked to his mom, Sally, over the phone.

It was bustling and noisy on Sally's end of the line. A bunch of his relatives must have already arrived at his family's villa.

Once in a while, Jasper could also hear the sounds of a relative marveling and being blown away.

Even Sally's eyes were smiling as she said, "Alright, we'll get going right now. Hey, where did you get those cars from?"

Jasper smiled as he glanced at John and said, "I borrowed them from a friend. You don't need to worry about that. That's all for now."

After he hung up the phone, Jasper said to John, "Thank you so much for your help, John. Else I would never have been able to book that private room at Shangri-La Hotel. And thank you for those six BMWs as well. I would never have been able to procure them myself."

John smiled as he said, "I dare not take credit for this. I turned to Kai after you told me about this last night. That man is a social butterfly and has friends everywhere."

"His social circle has expanded since what happened the last time. He's extremely popular now and is the leader of the circle in Faith County."

Jasper said teasingly, "What about Samuel?"

John said happily, "Do you think Samuel would dare make an appearance while you're here? I heard from someone that he's planning to move to Dusk County."

"I don't have the time for him. He can move wherever he likes," Jasper said calmly.

John's voice was lowered as he said, "Jasper, Kai has been looking for the chance to thank you personally."

"Take this time, for example. The end of the year is right around the corner, and most people have already booked their rooms at hotels several months in advance. He went straight to those people with several million dollars in cash and half-bribed, half-fought them to get these rooms for you."

"The same goes for the cars. He spent the whole night running around before he got them all."

Life at the Top Chapter 559

“These are all insignificant, though. You’re a busy man with no time for these things. It doesn’t matter if we, your friends, help you take care of matters like these.

“But he still put quite a lot of thought into it, so how about we go visit him after Christmas?”

Jasper gave John a meaningful look and smiled as he said, “John, you’re playing mind games with me as well now. Kai doesn’t have such a simple purpose behind wanting to meet me, does he?”

John knew he could not fool Jasper and decided to say honestly, “Well, his main reason is to thank you. His other reason is that he would like to take Faith County’s resources once Samuel is gone.”

Jasper thought to himself for a moment. No matter how he advanced, Faith County and Tefa City would be his home base for a long time.

At the very least, his parents would retire here. They would not go anywhere else.

The company’s headquarters was in Waterhoof City. The amount of time they needed to spend there would be calculated in years. They would not be able to move away anytime soon.

Thus, it would be much better to have someone on his side take care of things than to have someone like Hugh or Samuel.

“Alright, just let me know in advance,” Jasper said.

John smiled when he heard Jasper's answer and said cheerfully, "Alright, I'll let him know he can come over for a visit."

...

While Jasper and John were chatting in the office, in the villa.

Sally and Charlie were happily leading a team of relatives out of their villa.

"Ah, Charlie, Jasper really has outdone himself. This is such a huge villa and in such a beautiful area! I wouldn't even dare dream to have this."

A woman turned to speak to Charlie, her envy evident on her face.

The people beside her all nodded in agreement and turned to gaze reluctantly at the villa they had just left.

Most of them had been born on farms. At most, they only managed to start a small business in Faith County. They were all your average families and had never been in such a luxurious neighborhood before. Thus, it was only natural they seemed like country mice on their first visit to a town.

Charlie felt extremely proud and was already inwardly rejoicing. However, he put on a calm expression as he said, "It's not much. It's just that our boy knows what he's doing. He's a big spender though, and I can't get him to stop no matter how I try."

"I wonder how Jasper is doing now? He must have still been in elementary school the last time I saw him, right? The years have just flown by. I remember saying he was a smart kid who would definitely make it big in the future. And look! I'm right, aren't I?"

"Exactly. I used to think Jasper was different from other children as well. He didn't talk much, but he was smart and always knew what to do."

“You don’t say, I remember when he was younger...”

Charlie and Sally exchanged helpless looks with each other as they listened to their relatives talk about how special, smart, and gifted their son was when he was younger.

Toadying to the rich and bullying the poor was man’s instinct.

Back then, their son had never been popular among the relatives. They had all said he was clueless and did not have it in him to make it big in the future.

However, they all seemed to have forgotten that now and were praising Jasper.

A young man standing on the edge of the crowd pursed his lips. Contempt was written all across his face.

‘What a bunch of ignorant hags they are! What’s so special about Jasper? My brother has already signed an agreement with a CEO and he’ll be opening multiple hotpot restaurants in the entire province next year! My brother will also be a CEO then! Let’s see if Jasper will still be smiling when the time comes!’

Terence’s disdain for Jasper increased as he thought that to himself.

Life at the Top Chapter 560

“You silly boy, what are you thinking about? I’ve already called out to you multiple times!”

Startled by that voice, Terence hurriedly turned to his dad and asked, “Dad, what’s wrong?”

Jasper's uncle glared at Terence as he said, "When will you grow up? Let's not talk about your cousin, Jasper. But even your brother has his own business now. Can't you learn from them?"

Terence said impatiently, "What do you know? I'm friends with... Never mind, you wouldn't know even if I told you. What did you need me for?"

Jasper's uncle said, "Did you bring the mountain ginseng as I asked you to?"

Terence hoisted the large box in his arms as he said, "Yes, I did."

Then, the expression on Terence's face darkened as he said reluctantly, "Dad, are you really going to give this heirloom to Jasper Laine's family? Is this necessary? This is our family's heirloom and can't be bought on the market no matter how much money you have. It's 200-year-old mountain ginseng—"

Jasper's uncle interrupted Terence and said, "Don't call him by his full name. Your cousin is older than you are, so what right do you have to call him by his full name?"

"You're a child who knows nothing. Just give it to Jasper once he arrives at the hotel."

Terence whined, "Can we give him something else? I want to give this mountain ginseng to an important figure I know."

"What kind of important figures could you know?!"

"I don't care even if you know God himself. You have no say when it comes to this mountain ginseng. Do as I say, or you'll face my wrath when we get back home!"

As he watched his father turn away from him and sidle over to Charlie, Terence hugged the box tightly. He lowered his head to mask the dark look in his eyes.

As everyone walked out of the villa and walked to the gate, they saw six shining BMWs parked by the road. Each car had its driver standing respectfully beside it.

The leader jogged over to Charlie and Sally once he spotted them, saying respectfully, "Sir, Ma'am, the cars have been prepared. Everyone only needs to get in now."

"Woah, a BMW! The mayor's son in the next town loaned one when he got married. It was such a rare sight then, and we weren't even allowed to touch it. Now, we get to sit in one."

A relative gasped in surprise beside Sally.

Everyone's eyes shone as they looked at the row of BMWs. Back then, it was already a considerable feat to own a car. Needless to say, they had never seen a scene as grand in front of their eyes before. There were six identical BMWs parked in front of them!

"Ah, what a wonderful son you have. I'm so jealous." Jasper's uncle sighed to Charlie.

Charlie smiled as he said, "Darrel is doing well too. You'll have the same opportunities in the future."

Always intent on maintaining his dignity, Charlie was extremely pleased with Jasper's arrangements. The smile did not leave Charlie's face as he gazed at the expressions on his relatives' faces.

There were a lot of people present, but six BMWs were just enough for everyone to fit in.

Terence got into the last BMW while clutching the box. He shook as he sat in the soft seat.

On what grounds?!

Back then, Jasper had not been as good as him in academics and did not have a silver tongue like him either. He had been the receiver of everyone's praises while no one even bothered to ask about Jasper.

Thus, even though Jasper was older than he was, Terence had never once respected Jasper.

Life at the Top Chapter 561

He believed that he would definitely make a fortune one day. He had been so full of himself that he only felt disdain when he heard that Jasper had made it big.

From his perspective, success as described by a bunch of poor rural relatives could not be anything special.

However, he was overcome with overwhelming jealousy after seeing the luxurious villa and the row of BMWs parked in front of it. It was luxury beyond his wildest dreams.

“Can’t he share some of his money with us since he’s that rich? We’re his relatives! All he does is flaunt his wealth! How can someone like that succeed in life? Even if he’s rich, it’s just temporary. He’ll lose big in the future!” Terence Laine murmured through gritted teeth.

.....

When Jasper arrived at Shangri-La Hotel, his relatives had already been there for more than 20 minutes.

Everyone sat in their respective seats while they engaged in noisy chatter.

Each and every one of them were trying their best to maintain their composure in front of each other. They tried their best not to turn their heads to look around, making it seem as if they often attended such high-end occasions.

However, the truth was that none of them had ever had a meal in a five-star hotel.

They did not even know how to use a napkin properly. Some of them stuffed it into their collars or put it under their dinner plates, whereas others used it as a towel to wipe their hands before balling it up and throwing it aside.

The three tables in the room had already been served with cold dish platters and drinks. The children stared at the exquisite dishes eagerly. However, the adults slapped their hands away when they reached out to grab the food.

Although the adults also yearned to try these exquisite cold dishes that they had never even seen before, nobody dared to touch their utensils before Jasper's arrival.

Even as a mere junior, he had the ability to make all the elders in his family wait for him before they started eating. This was the charm that money brought.

Jasper walked in through the entrance. Noticing the situation in the room, he laughed out loud. "Excuse me for being late, everyone. Why haven't you guys started eating?" He asked.

Jasper's uncle stood up and greeted him with a smile on his face. "We have just arrived as well. You're here, Jasp. Come here, sit down at once," he said.

Jasper looked at the main table. The seat to the left of Carson Laine, his father, was empty. The seat obviously belonged to him.

Jasper chuckled and said, "I'm a junior, so I should sit by the side. If I sit somewhere as prestigious as the main table, I might get criticized."

His relatives burst out into laughter as well. Terence Laine, who was seated at the end of the third table, fixed a jealous gaze upon Jasper. He sneered at him repetitively in his heart.

"Alright, everyone is waiting for you. Hurry up, all the seats are the same," Carson Laine ushered Jasper over to his side and forced him to sit down beside him.

After instructing the waiters to begin serving the dishes, Jasper chatted briefly with the elders seated at his table. He then stood up and raised his glass. "Everyone, today marks the end of the year for us. Let's leave the past behind and welcome new beginnings," he announced cheerily in front of his relatives.

"My alcohol tolerance is quite average, so I won't make an individual toast to each and every one of you. Therefore, I'll make a toast to all of you right now. Here's to new beginnings and peace in the new year."

Everyone showed a good response to Jasper's words. They stood up, and those who could drink alcohol drank from their glasses whereas those who could not drink sipped at their beverages instead. Nevertheless, everyone present emptied the content of their glasses.

Jasper put down his empty glass and was just about to return to his seat when Terence stood up at the end of the third table. He brought a large box over and told Jasper, "This is the wild ginseng that you requested from our family, Jasper Laine. I brought it for you today."

The tone of Terence's voice was stiff and rigid. He spoke to Jasper without an ounce of courtesy. It was as if Jasper had forced his family to hand over the wild ginseng.

Seated at the same table as Jasper, Jasper's uncle's expression changed immediately. He was about to reprimand Terence when Terence let out a cold sneer and began speaking.

"Now that you're wealthy, we don't even dare to say a single word when you take things from poor relatives like us. However, you already have so much money. Why don't you lend me some money? Five figures ought to do it. We are all relatives. You wouldn't have any objections, right?"

Life at the Top Chapter 562

After Terence finished speaking, the atmosphere in the room changed drastically.

Everyone's attention peaked as they stared at Jasper with widened eyes, waiting for his response.

Jasper responded with a smile. Instead of accepting the box, he looked at Terence and said, "I've spent most of my time out of town after graduating. I haven't come back in a long time. May I know who you are?"

Terence scoffed. "You're a prominent figure and a big boss now. Of course, you wouldn't pay attention to poor relatives like us. It's completely normal for you to forget," he said.

"I'm Terence Laine. I can be considered your cousin since Darrel Laine is my brother."

Jasper nodded in realization. "I remember that he has a younger brother. He called me not too long ago to tell me that he was rushing back by train. He said that he'd arrive a little later," he said.

Terence sulked and said, "Everyone knows that my brother will be running a large business very soon. He has attained an agreement with bosses from other localities and he'll be opening dozens of hotpot restaurants in the province next year. Of course, you'd care more about him.

"After all, you'll pale in comparison to him after his hotpot restaurant chain begins operating."

Terence's contemptuous words piqued Jasper's interest.

It seemed like Terence Laine still had no idea that he had provided his brother with the funds to start up his hotpot restaurant chain.

“Never mind, it’d be meaningless to talk about such things. In any case, keep this in mind. Don’t think that you can look down on your poor relatives just because you have some money. You’re so wealthy, but when have you ever provided us with any benefits?”

“I’m in a tight spot right now. Can you bear to lend me a few ten thousand dollars? Don’t worry about it, after my brother opens his hotpot restaurant chain, he’ll become a big boss too. He wouldn’t trouble you by refusing to pay back a measly sum of money like that,” Terence said haughtily.

“Terence Laine!”

Jasper’s uncle roared out in anger. There was an awkward and shameful expression on his face. “What nonsense are you going on about, you b*stard!? Apologize to your cousin at once!” He reprimanded Terence.

His uncle then turned around to face Jasper. He let out a dry laugh. “Jasp, I’ve spoilt him ever since he was young. Please don’t stoop down to his level. I’ll teach him a lesson after this,” he told Jasper.

Jasper waved his hand and looked at Terence with a cheerful grin. “How much money would you like?” he asked.

Terence rolled his eyes. Despite the anger blazing in his father’s gaze, Terence replied stubbornly, “At least 50000 dollars!”

Jasper nodded and grabbed a checkbook from his coat. He proceeded to fill in a check worth 50000 dollars. “Take this check. You can withdraw 50000 dollars from any bank at any time,” he told Terence.

“I’m not lending you this money, so you don’t have to return it to me. I’m buying this wild ginseng from you with this sum of money. That way, you wouldn’t be feel like I took advantage of you. How’s that?” He asked.

Terence sneered and said, “It’s no wonder that you’re so good at making money. You have such immaculate planning. However, don’t even think of using your devious schemes on your relatives. This wild ginseng is over 200 years old—it’s a real treasure. I’ve enquired about it outside, and I heard that it’s so rare that it can’t even be bought with money. If you want to buy it, you’ll need to pay me at least 100000 dollars.”

Jasper filled in another 50000 dollar check without saying a word. He handed both the checks to Terence and told him, “Here’s 100000 dollars you asked for.”

Terence noticed that Jasper was being extremely at ease right now. He did not even think twice before giving him 100000 dollars.

100000 dollars was a monumental sum of money for every average family out there.

At that moment, Terence grew disgruntled after realizing how rich Jasper was. Greed instantly clouded his thoughts as he raised his head indignantly and said, “That’s not enough! Give me 200000 dollars at least!”

Jasper chuckled lightly and put aside both the checks. “First, you wanted 50000 dollars, then you wanted 100000 dollars. I’ve given you everything that you asked for. However, you’re now demanding for me to give you 200000 dollars. Do you take me for a fool who doesn’t understand numbers? Since you’re not selling the goods, so be it. Take it back,” he said in an even tone.

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Terence's expression changed. Just as he was about to say something, his father slapped him hard right across the face.

A loud smack resounded throughout the room.

Terence was beyond stunned by the clear, loud smack. The twenty or so relatives in the room had looks of utter shock on their faces as well.

Disciplining one's child was a shameful act, and it was supposed to be done in the privacy of one's home. Furthermore, Terence Laine was already in his twenties. He was not at the age where he should be hit by his parents.

However, not only did his father hit him, but he had also done so in front of so many relatives. He did not show Terence even an ounce of respect. This showed just how fired up he was.

His father lunged over and grabbed the box from Terence. He was so infuriated that his voice was trembling. "What a rebellious son you are. I've raised you for nothing!" He shouted out.

He then turned around and handed the box over to Jasper. "Jasp, Terence is only acting like that because I haven't raised him well. Please don't hold a grudge against him. How could we sell this to you? How could we ask you for money in return for this gift?" He said apologetically.

Jasper did not want the ginseng at all. However, from his uncle's desperate gaze, he knew that this incident would not pass easily if he did not accept it. Therefore, he placed the box to the side. At the same time, he took out the two checks as well.

“Uncle, I intended to purchase this from you since the very start. Wild ginseng that is more than 200 years of age is indeed precious. Keep this 100000 dollars.”

Just as his uncle was about to say something, Jasper chuckled out loud. “Uncle, if you don’t accept this money, I won’t take this wild ginseng from you. Although we’re relatives, a sale is still a sale. It’s easy to get 100000 dollars, but getting 200-year-old wild ginseng is something that comes down to pure luck. I’m the one that has scored a bargain.”

Nobody could point out any flaws in Jasper’s reasonable argument.

Everyone agreed with Jasper inwardly. Although Jasper was wealthy, he did not look down on his relatives. His behaviors and actions were also extremely mature and well thought out. Thus, it was easy to get along with him.

The only person who thought otherwise was Terence Laine.

Terence clutched at his face. It stung to the touch. Although his face hurt from the slap, he was angrier due to the overwhelming shame that he had experienced.

“Father! He’s just using his money to placate us. Why should we fawn over him like this? Besides, he’s your junior. He has to address you as his uncle! Don’t bow down so pathetically in front of him. I wonder who’ll be bowing to whom after my brother returns and starts operating his business?!”

Terence yelled out while he glared at Jasper angrily.

After listening to what he said, Terence’s father was so enraged that he almost passed out.

“You b*stard, you’re really aa b*stard!” His father yelled at him while smacking his own leg. “Don’t you know that your cousin is the one funding your brother’s business?” He roared.

“You’re completely incapable. All you do is look down on others. You think others are looking down on you if they treat you with even the slightest disrespect. Why don’t you take a look at yourself instead? Do you have anything that’s worthy of other people’s admiration?”

“Jasp has already helped out our family a lot. Look at the things that you’ve done and said. Is this something that a decent human being would do? Why do I even have a son like you?”

Terence was stupefied after registering what his father had just said.

He only heard one thing clearly.

The greatest source of his pride, the business that his brother was about to start, was funded by Jasper Laine?

After experiencing the overwhelming shock and daze, not only did Terence not repent for his actions, but jealousy and rage instantly swelled up in his heart.

“In that case, Jasper Laine should have given me the money! I’m cut out to run a business! I can earn a fortune as well. Why did you offer it to my brother instead of me? Give me 200000 dollars, Jasper Laine. If you give me 200000 dollars, I’ll do better than anyone else!”

Life at the Top Chapter 564

Jasper stared at Terence in shock.

To be honest, he did not achieve much in his past life. He did not meet up much with his relatives either and had never interacted much with Darrel and Terence Laine. Therefore, he had no idea what their personalities were like.

In his current life, Jasper would like to think that he had met quite a number of people; He had also dealt with all sorts of people.

However, he had never expected Terence Laine to go beyond his expectations of what it meant to be shameless.

The last time that Jasper had felt this way was when he was dealing with Penelope Hunt and her family.

Even when compared to them, Terence Laine was still the gold-standard.

“Why should I give you my money if I’m wealthy? Furthermore, it’s 200000 dollars that you’re asking for. Don’t you know that the average salary for a job out there is only a few hundred dollars? It’s considered a huge benefit if you have a salary of a thousand dollars,” Jasper told him.

Terence sneered coldly and waved his hand. “Stop spewing such nonsense. Aren’t you filthy rich? We’re all relatives. Shouldn’t you help us out if you’re rich? Do you want to see us suffer due to poverty? You’ve helped my brother as well. In that case, it isn’t too much to ask you to give me 200000 dollars, right?” He questioned.

“I funded your brother simply because I thought that his business would be profitable. Besides, I did not lend your brother the money. It was an investment. In other words, I’d invest this sum of money all the same even if he was a mere stranger instead of Darrel Laine,” Jasper said calmly.

“I’m doing this because it’s business, not because he’s my relative.

“I can support you if you have the capabilities, business idea, and are willing to put in the effort. However, look at you. You’re incapable and you don’t have any plans. You’re only asking me for money. Do you think that my wallet is an ATM? Do you think that you can take my money whenever you want?”

“Everyone here is our relative. They all know my family’s situation. We were the poorest among everyone in the past. All of you were more well off in comparison to my family.

“Why didn’t you help out my family back then, Terence Laine?”

Jasper’s words rendered Terence speechless. There was no way for him to argue against that.

Jasper turned away from Terence, whose expression was tainted with anger. He looked around the room and gazed at each of his relatives’ faces intently. He then continued speaking in a loud, clear voice.

“Half of the people here are my elders, whereas one-third of them are around the same age as I am. The remaining third of them are my nephews and nieces. We all share the same origin. We’re all from the same family.

“I’m embarrassed to say that I’ve managed to achieve some recognition and success for our family. However, I’ll say a few words without shame today.

“Be it relatives or friends, my words to you are the same. I’ll offer my support to anyone with the capabilities, ideas, and is willing to put in great amounts of effort. However, anyone who thinks that I’m an easy target or believes that I’m obligated to give out money to everyone now that I’m wealthy should just save their efforts.

“That’s all I want to say. Don’t mind me. You guys can start eating and drinking. Anyways, I’ll take care of everything here. If the hospitality is inadequate, it’ll be my fault. You guys can scold me all you want. However, if you’re deliberately here to cause trouble, I won’t welcome or serve you.”

Back at the main table, Sally Lard tapped Charlie Laine. “Won’t it reflect badly on Jasp if he says something like this?” She asked him worriedly.

Charlie had an even and controlled expression on his face. "It won't reflect badly on him. He's simply stating facts. I don't think that Jasp said anything wrong. He has my support," he said.

After that, Charlie fixed a gratified gaze upon Jasper. "I'm old now. Our son has really grown up," he remarked.

The other relatives looked at each other in silence.

Jasper's uncle glared at Terence and growled impatiently, "Why are you still standing there? Scram!"

Terence's face flushed red in anger as he cast a vicious glare at Jasper. He then turned around and walked away.

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Of course, Terence did not have the audacity to stay there and eat with them. He left the room with a slam of the door.

Terence's father took in a deep breath and waved his hand. "Don't bother him. There's no need to pay him any mind. This kid is beyond salvation," he said.

Honey Sarratt dabbed at her tears in a corner of the room. She was terribly upset.

Charlie Laine and Sally Lard comforted Jasper's uncle and aunt respectively. Meanwhile, Jasper got up and went around the room to make toasts with everyone. Nobody seemed to pay any heed to Terence Laine, who had left in a storm of fury.

Although Terence Laine had caused an unpleasant dispute during the Christmas dinner, nobody showed any signs of unhappiness on their faces. Everyone quickly pushed the incident to the back of their minds.

Soon, the atmosphere at the tables became lively once again.

Although not everyone was happy throughout the course of the dinner, at least it ended on a good note.

After everyone finished their meals, Jasper arranged for them to stay in the Shangri-La Hotel. He booked a room for each family where they could stay up to three days and two nights. The decision to stay there was completely up to them.

In the afternoon, Darrel Laine, who had traveled back from another town in a rush, looked for Jasper hurriedly. He had obviously heard of Terence's incident from the day before.

"I'm so sorry, cousin. Sigh, I never expected that my brother would do something that immature!"

Darrel was evidently much more mature than Terence. He apologized to Jasper with a guilty expression on his face.

Jasper was sipping on a cup of hot tea to cure his hangover. He had drunk a little too much the previous night. He laughed upon hearing what Darrel said. "It's alright, I just assumed that I was fooling around with a child. You don't have to mention it... Anyway, how did the discussion go?" He asked.

A look of excitement appeared on Darrel's face. "Everything's almost done. The boss of Hello Hotpot said that he'll come over to visit you personally after Christmas. Regarding the ownership, he'd like to have 30% of the total shares. You will get 60% of it, and I'll have 10%. Is that alright with you?" He proposed.

Jasper laughed. "That's perfectly fine. I'll be getting the sum of money that is to be invested into your business within the next two days," he said.

Jasper then paused momentarily. He felt like thanking Samuel Ray for his extensive wealth.

“In that case, I’ll meet him next year. We will formally sign a three-party contract when the boss of Hello Hotpot comes over. After that, you can set up the company framework. I’ll make sure to credit the funds into the company account in due time.”

Darrel nodded gratefully. He then took out two familiar checks from his coat and handed them to Jasper courteously.

“What are you doing?”

Jasper asked. He laughed in amusement after taking a glance at the two checks that he had filled up himself.

“Don’t disregard me anymore, Cousin. We can’t accept this money from you no matter what. Please take it back!” Darrel said. He was adamant.

“You’re already our family’s saving grace. It would be inhumane if I accepted this money from you. Furthermore, my parents share the same sentiment.”

Jasper chuckled. He did not reject his request, but he did not accept the checks either. “After you set up the company, you’ll need to use a lot of money. You can treat this money as an additional line of sponsorship from me,” he said.

Darrel was stunned after registering what he had said. He wanted to say something else, but he immediately swallowed all his words after noticing the calm gaze that Jasper had directed at him. Thus, he nodded heavily and stopped being persistent.

At the same time, Terence Laine, who had left the restaurant in a fit of rage the night before, had gone to Nauritus City on his own. He had not contacted anyone after leaving that night.

He was there to meet someone. That person was a huge source of support that he had just come to know recently. Now, he planned to take revenge for the humiliation that Jasper had put him through.

Life at the Top Chapter 566

Within a high-end residential area in the province, Nauritus City.

Zayden Hanks now lived in a double-storey terrace house.

That was right. Zayden Hanks had returned from Harbor City.

Zayden Hanks had undergone a major transformation since the confrontation between the Hanks and Jasper Laine in the province, after being sent to Harbor City by his father.

He was much more thinner than before, and kept his hair long and tied into a ponytail at the back of his head.

The feminine clothes that he was clad in did not look out of place on an ordinary man like him. On the contrary, he emanated an indescribable sense of cold slyness.

Zayden's father, Sylva Hanks, was sitting in the room as well.

Sylva seemed to have aged by more than a decade within half a year's time. His slightly hunched figure was perched atop the sofa as he stared at his son, who was standing by the side of the window and looking down at the view of the Southface River.

"Zayden, why did you come back..."

Before Sylva finished talking, Zayden turned around and smiled at his father. "Father, I know what you're going to ask me. That's right, I've come back to avenge you and myself," he said.

Sylva's fingers, which had a cigarette in between them, trembled. A flurry of ashes fell onto the ground as he spoke in a bitter voice, "Things are different from how they were in the past. Too many things have happened in the past six months."

"Dawson Schuler acquired the country's largest supermarket chain and set up a real estate company with Jasper Laine. In addition to the supermarket industry, that newly set up real estate company has also risen to become the largest name among the real estate enterprises in the Southeast Province."

"You've seen the development site in Southface River, right? Those tall skyscrapers are proof of their capability."

"Their current strength cannot be compared to how they were in the past. We've lost to them back then, so what will change now?"

Zayden stared into the distance with dark eyes. He sneered at the sight of the development site in Southface River, which was now the talk of the town. "What a lively area. They haven't stopped the construction even though it's going to be Christmas real soon. It seems like they're extremely confident," he remarked.

"Once this project is completed, it'll be the largest signature project in the Southeast Province. Not only do the municipal and provincial governments greatly prioritize this project, even the officials from higher order associations are looking at the type of development that this project will bring to the Southeast Province in the future."

"I've heard from some old friends that once the project at the South Bank yields results, it's likely that it'll become a benchmark project for the construction of new urban areas in other cities within the country. By then, it's significance will greatly increase."

Sylva laughed bitterly as he spoke. "Given their current position, what right do we have to go against Jasper Laine and Dawson Schuler?" He questioned.

Zayden sniffed in distaste. "Father, don't trample upon your own prestige by amplifying their status," he said in a frigid tone.

"Jasper Laine mostly relies on the support of the Laws from Harbor City. Before gaining their support, he was nothing. Back then, he was simply a nobody in the Southeast Province."

As Zayden spoke, he shifted his gaze away from Southface River and turned to face his own father. "This time, I returned with the support of a prominent figure as well. I must go against Jasper Laine!" He yelled out in frenzy.

He recalled the humiliation that he had received back in the Southeast Province, which had caused him to run all the way to Harbor City. After that, Jasper Laine had continued to trample over him. While Jasper basked in glory after presiding over Harbor City's economic rescue plan, he could only tremble while hiding in the corner.

All of this distorted Zayden's psyche.

The more he hated and feared Jasper Laine, the more his facial features twisted in rage.

Eventually, his face twisted in infuriation to the point where his bloodshot eyes glinted red as if he were a wild beast.

"Father, don't worry. Jasper Laine has rose to success way too quickly. As a result, he has blocked the paths of many people out there. He has made too many enemies.

"Now, it's almost a given that many people out there want him dead. These people definitely outnumber those who support him!"

Life at the Top Chapter 567

“This time, I’m here on behalf of those people. With their support, Jasper Laine will nothing compared to me.”

Sylva’s eyes twitched as he looked at his own son. He seemed like a stranger to him.

Sylva sent Zayden to Harbor City because he wanted him to live peacefully for the rest of his life after moving to a new place.

However, Sylva did not know what Zayden had been through in Harbor City. He had no idea why he had returned this time without anyone knowing and with so much anger pent up within him.

“Even with that being the case, the Hanks are all living cautiously. Furthermore, I’ve offended Dawson Schuler, who has now risen to immense power. I no longer have the right to speak on behalf of our family, so I cannot help you,” Sylva said with a sigh.

Zayden snickered loudly. “Father, do you still not believe what I just said? The Hanks are nothing great. They have so little influence that it’s next to nothing,” he said.

“Besides, we couldn’t compete against Jasper Laine back when you still were in your prior position and were capable of using the family resources. How could we go hope to against him now?”

“However, this time, I have the Laines’ support.”

Zayden smirked coldly. He decided to reveal the truth to his father in order to win his confidence.

“The Laines? Which family are you talking about?” Sylva asked. He was slightly stunned.

Just as Zayden was about to say something, a knock on the door interrupted him.

“I’ll explain things to you slowly later on. One of my pawns is here right now,” Zayden said. He proceeded to open the door.

The person who entered the room was none other than Terence Laine.

“Mr. Hanks!” Terence Laine greeted Zayden courteously from outside the door.

Zayden nodded and broke out into a cackle. “Have you met Jasper Laine?” He asked.

“I’ve met him. Hmph, what a haughty and bossy person. He disregards everyone other than himself!” Terence exclaimed at once.

“However, he’s no competition to you, Mr. Hanks. He’s just a tiny ant on the ground. Meanwhile, someone like you is destined to soar up into the skies like a phoenix and become a prominent figure in the industry, Mr. Hanks,” Terence Laine remarked in a flattering voice.

Zayden chuckled without denying what he said. After letting Terence into the room, he told Sylva, “Father, this is Terence Laine. He’s Jasper Laine’s distant relative. If I’m not mistaken, he’s his cousin.”

Terence took a step forward immediately. He bowed down to greet Sylva. “Nice to meet you, Uncle Hanks. I’m Terence Laine, and I’m Jasper Laine’s cousin,” he said with a look of fondness and flattery on his face.

“Please sit,” Sylva said in an even tone.

Terence did not dare to sit down. Instead, he turned around to look at Zayden.

“Why are you looking at me? My father asked you to sit down,” Zayden said. He feigned a sullen tone, even though he was extremely satisfied with Terence’s behavior.

Terence nodded and bent down to sit right at the edge of the sofa.

“Since you’ve met Jasper Laine, I’ll tell you what to do next. Your most important task is to find a way to join one of Jasper Laine’s companies. It can be the investment company or the real estate company. Join the company first, as it’ll be extremely useful to us,” Zayden said.

An awkward expression appeared on Terence’s face when he understood Zayden’s request. “You should’ve told me about that in advance, Mr. Hanks. I got into quite an awful squabble with Jasper Laine today...” he said bitterly.

“I have a 200-year-old piece of wild ginseng back at home, which I originally intended to give to you. However, Jasper Laine, that b*stard, asked my father to give it to him. Being the coward that he is, my father gave it to him immediately.”

“I even got into an argument with Jasper Laine over this incident.”

Life at the Top Chapter 568

Terence continued blabbering on about the incident. However, he did not notice the darkening expression on Zayden’s face.

“You piece of garbage!”

Zayden roared out in rage, cutting off Terence’s speech.

He pointed his finger at Terence, almost poking him on the tip of his nose. “What did I tell you before this? I told you to leave a memorable impression in front of Jasper Laine. Is that how you intend to do it?” He yelled in rage.

“F*ck, this is just perfect. You’ve left a memorable impression on him indeed, but you won’t be of any use to me anymore!”

Zayden grew angrier the more he spoke. He raised a hand and slapped Terence across his ashen face.

A loud smack resounded through the room.

Terence’s head whipped to the side from the force of the slap. Instantly, he clutched his face and got up from the sofa in fear. “Mr. Hanks, I’m sorry. I messed things up because I didn’t know about your plans,” he said in a hurry.

“Sorry? It’s useless to apologize to me!”

Zayden scolded him in infuriation.

“Who do you think you are? Why would I ask you to approach Jasper Laine? I asked you to do so so that you would be able to formally join Jasper Laine’s company in the future and collude with me in private!

“Who allowed you to offend him? How dare a f*cking disgrace like you offend him? How dare you?”

Zayden was engulfed in fury. Terence was so frightened that he did not dare to utter a single word.

Right then, he could tell that he had caused trouble with his self-righteous actions.

“Don’t be angry, Mr. Hanks. Why don’t I try to mend my relationship with Jasper Laine?” He asked, a despondent expression splayed across his face.

Zayden sneered. “Someone like Jasper Laine can end you by just lifting his finger. How dare you conspire against him? Are you seeking your own death?” He asked.

Terence rolled his eyes and suddenly said, “Mr. Hanks, don’t panic just yet. There are still other methods to go about this.”

Zayden laughed stonily. “In that case, tell me. What other methods are there? I’ll forgive you if you manage to compensate for your actions,” he said.

Terence immediately replied, “Although I offended Jasper Laine, he really admires my elder brother, Darrel Laine. Previously, I told you that my brother is in talks to work together with a boss from outside the province. He intends to open a hotpot restaurant chain in the province.”

Zayden scoffed and asked, “Aren’t you embarrassed to talk about some small, lowly business like that?”

Terence laughed drily and said, “This may not seem like much in the eyes of a prominent figure like you, Mr. Hanks. However, I received news about something today. My brother’s business is being funded by Jasper Laine’s investments.

“Therefore, Jasper Laine still admires my brother a lot.

“Maybe we can target my brother instead. We can achieve your goals through him, Mr. Hanks.”

Terence’s words brought a shine to Zayden’s gaze. His anger subsided a little as well.

“Really? Are you sure that you didn’t mishear? Did Jasper Laine really invest in the business?” Zayden asked three consecutive questions.

Terence responded in a hurry. “No matter how courageous I am, I would never dare to trick you, Mr. Hanks. It’s a hundred percent true,” he said.

Zayden walked back and forth for a while. Suddenly, he raised his head and looked toward Sylva, who had not said a single word thus far. “Father, what do you think?” He asked.

Zayden knew that his father still outclassed him when it came to strategizing. At a time like this, he had no choice but to ask Sylva for help.

Sylva pondered upon it for a moment before speaking slowly, “Are you planning to first plant a mole beside Jasper Laine, and have that mole cooperate with you in your future plans?”

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Zayden nodded. He glanced at Terence and said, “Initially, I intended for him to act as our informant, but it looks like that won’t work anymore.”

Sylva chuckled. “If that’s your intention, I wouldn’t say that the plan is totally ruined. If you manage to take control of these two brothers, you can do things in the open and behind their backs. It may be unexpectedly effective,” he said.

Zayden’s gaze lit upon registering what he said.

Sylva did not say much due to Terence’s presence in the room. However, Zayden instantly made a 180-degree change as an idea popped up in his head due to Sylva’s advice.

After organizing his thoughts, Zayden looked at Terence and snickered. “How certain are you that you’ll be able to convince your brother?” He asked.

Terence peered at Zayden hesitantly after pondering upon it for a while. He could not bring himself to say anything.

“Why are you hesitating? Say it at once!” Zayden said impatiently.

“Mr. Hanks, I know that you’re a prominent figure with extensive capabilities. However, I don’t know if that will be enough to win over my brother. Besides, my brother has just received an investment from Jasper Laine. He’s currently preparing to start up his business, so I’m afraid it might difficult to convince him without a practical excuse,” Terence explained.

Zayden sneered and said, “You haven’t done anything for me yet, but you’re already requesting benefits?”

Terence shivered as he caught sight of Zayden’s cold gaze. “Give me two days, Mr. Hanks. Christmas is coming soon. I’ll think of a way to convince him,” he said immediately.

Zayden hummed nonchalantly and said, “You can promise him that I’ll give him double of whatever Jasper Laine is offering him. After we succeed, the two of you will enjoy plenty of benefits.”

Terence suppressed the excitement in his heart. “Thank you, Mr. Hanks!” He exclaimed courteously.

“Scram.”

...

Jasper did not know anything about Zayden’s return to the province. He was clueless about the fact that Zayden was currently coming up with a scheme to defeat him as well.

At that moment, he was having a discussion about work with Jack Tanner, who had just returned from Swallow Capital, at the investment company.

“Sena’s condition has generally stabled. Besides, it’s now the Christmas holidays, so most of the employees have returned to their hometowns for the new year. There are only a few employees on duty right now,” Jack said.

Jasper nodded and smiled at Jack. “You’ve worked hard during this period of time,” he told him.

“It’s just work. Furthermore, it’s not like I’m working for nothing. I’m being paid to do so. It’s my responsibility,” Jack replied.

Jasper massaged his temples and said, “I’ll still need you to be in charge of the work in Sena in the future. However, the investment company can’t be left vacant either. Do you have any close associates that would be able to share the workload with you here?” He asked

Jasper had long been dissatisfied with the performance of the investment company.

As the main boss of the company, it was impossible for Jasper to allocate all of his effort and time to the investment company. He needed time to handle other ventures as well. Therefore, setting up a senior management team within the investment company was a pressing issue that they had to attend to immediately.

Jack pondered upon it for a while. “I can inquire with some old friends. However, I’ll only be able to tell you the results next year. On the other hand, I’d suggest you seek out a professional headhunter company,” he said.

Jasper agreed with Jack. “Alright, I’ll hand this task over to you then. In short, it must be done as soon as possible,” he said.

After Jack agreed with his arrangements, he continued hesitantly, “Mr. Laine, I’m actually here today to ask you about your opinion on something as well.”

Jasper laughed and said, “Why are you still being hesitant in front of me? Ask me directly if you’re curious about anything.”

Jack asked, “Mr. Laine, have you ever considered letting Sena go through with its public listing?”

Life at the Top Chapter 570

A public listing!

It was the ultimate goal of any company out there.

Many benefits came from a public listing.

The most evident and important benefit was the ability to quickly obtain a huge amount of funds from the stock market.

With the support of countless shareholders and investors, the company would not have to worry about funding issues during its development.

However, a public listing came with its own set of problems as well. In theory, listed companies all faced the risk of being taken over by someone else.

Jasper had attacked companies through the financial market and brought forth their downfall by obtaining a majority stake in them.

Therefore, he had always been cautious about pursuing a public listing himself.

“Jack, we’ve talked about this before. The companies directly affiliated to JW will not be considered for public listings due to our company principles,” Jasper said in an even tone.

“I can understand your choice not to list the investment and real estate company. After all, you’re not lacking any finances in those. However, isn’t it a pity for companies like Sena and Terizone to not be listed?” Jack asked.

Jasper chuckled and said, “I have other plans for Terizone. As for Sena, I am currently the sole proprietor. I can withhold some of the shares and go for a public listing. As long as the shares are diverted to small stakeholders, a listing won’t affect my majority stake. Therefore, I can consider listing the company.

“However, it’s still not the right time to do so.”

Jack was stunned by Jasper’s words.

Nevertheless, Jasper had his own considerations as well.

“Currently, all listed Internet companies are facing the same problem. They’re all relying on their user capacity, empty promises and marketing techniques to attract investors. However, in reality, the inability of Internet companies to gain profits has not yet been fundamentally solved.

“Furthermore, Sena’s main operation is its portal business. Although its capacity has greatly increased after absorbing the users from Terizone, it’s still taking on losses despite being the ranked the top platform within the country.

“In my opinion, the portal website is not profitable. If Sena wants to be listed, it must be supported by a strong and sustainable profit margin. Otherwise, it won’t be able to withstand any external pressure even after it’s listed. Minor disturbances will easily result in heavy losses.”

Jack frowned and said, “You’re right, but everyone in the industry is facing the same problem...”

Jasper laughed and interrupted him. “Although everyone is facing the same problem, that doesn’t mean that we have to lower ourselves to their level. I have identified Sena’s profit point,” he said.

Jack raised his head in surprise. “Mr. Laine, you’ve found a way for Sena to make a profit?” He was shocked.

Jasper smiled faintly.

Of course, he had an idea!

Not only did this method make an Internet company profitable in his past life, but it was also responsible for creating the country’s richest man.

He was referring to the online game “United Legends”, that had been released by Senator Agency back in the year 2001.

The game industry was a vast blue ocean that no one has explored thus far. This was a space that would grow from nothing to a trillion-scale market in just ten years. To Jasper, it was a prosperous cornucopia.

Not only could it win over a large number of users, but the amount of profits it would generated was terrifying as well.

What was the value of digital goods?

A few lines of code, a few graphic materials, and a single server could create unlimited digital goods that could sell for tens of thousands, or even hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Only a fool would choose not to dive into this field.

Furthermore, in his past life, Jasper had experienced the rise of online games from a barren industry to its flourishing peak in just twenty years’ time. Jasper knew very well about the techniques that he could exploit to earn money from these players.

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In addition to that, “United Legends” was an online game that achieved unparalleled success within the country. Many innovative businessmen were transformed into millionaires through this game, which centered on players facing one another on the battlefield.

It was a game that was unique even within the global market.

“After the year-end holidays, I’ll make arrangements for you to head over to Coreana. You will find our profit point there. I’ll discuss the specific details with you then.”

Jasper chuckled as he decided to maintain the suspense.

He trusted Jack, but this was a matter that involved might lead to untold profits. Thus, Jasper was not willing to tell anyone about it in advance. Furthermore, there was no point in doing so either.

At that moment, nobody in the entire world would be as confident as Jasper was regarding the domestic gaming industry.

Although Jack was not clear about the entire situation, he knew that Jasper never bragged about anything without proper proof to back up his claims.

Jasper had proved countless times that he would fulfill every promise he made, regardless of how unbelievable they seemed at the time.

Therefore, Jack was extremely excited about this as well.

After quitting his job at Weresoftware, he was now working at Sena. Although Sena was one of the country's top Internet companies, it could not compare to Weresoftware at all.

Therefore, many people did not understand Jack's choice.

Although Jack was not vocal about it, he was under a considerable amount of pressure as well. He had been waiting for an opportunity to rise to success so that he could use empirical evidence to prove to everyone that he was not famous just because of Weresoftware. He wanted to show that he was extremely talented and capable as well.

Now that the opportunity to do so had finally arisen, he was beyond excited.

“Alright. I’ll leave first. I’m returning to my hometown with my family later for the year-end holidays. We’ll see each other next year then, Mr. Laine,” Jack said with a smile spread across his face as he got up.

Jasper took out a check, which he had prepared a long time ago, from his coat and handed it to Jack. “This is your year-end bonus,” he said with a smile.

Jack was stunned. “Hasn’t the end-of-year bonus been issued some time ago? What’s this, Mr. Laine?” He asked.

Jasper laughed. “You’ve followed me through all my endeavors this year. You’ve helped out at the investment company, Terizone, and now you’re helping out at Sena. Without you, I wouldn’t be able to handle so many issues. Take this as an extra bonus just for you,” he said.

Jack accepted the check and glanced at the figures scribbled on it, which would have come as a shock to any ordinary person out there. “In that case, I won’t reject it. Thank you, Mr. Laine,” he said in a sincere tone.

It was a ruler’s obligation to bestow a title upon those who valued their status, and present benefits to those who valued such gains. One’s subordinates would only work to the best of their abilities if they obtained tangible benefits.

Jasper had never been stingy with regards to this.

If he gave Jack one buck today, Jack would help him generate a profit of ten bucks tomorrow. Therefore, it was clear the correct move was when dealing with a man of Jack's abilities.

After sending Jack off, Jasper left the company as well. Since it was the holiday period, the office was completely empty except for the two foreign security guards that did not plan to return to their hometowns for the holidays.

Jasper walked along the river after leaving the company. There, he spent time thinking about how to deal with the various problems that had arisen in the investment and real estate companies. He needed to decide on the plan for Sena to enter the gaming industry by the beginning of the next year too.

At that moment, a loud cacophony erupted in front of him as he walked along the path.

An unkempt woman ran toward Jasper in a state of panic with a few hotdogs clutched in her hands. A middle-aged man with a white apron tied across his waist was chasing after her. He looked like the boss of a hotdog stall.

"Stop right there! This f*cker is back to steal my hotdogs again. I'll catch you today no matter what!" The middle-aged man yelled as he chased after the woman.

"Move away!"

The woman running ahead hurriedly shouted at Jasper, who was blocking her way. The moment he raised his head to look at her, both of them were stunned.

Jasper had never expected to cross paths with Penelope Hunt in a situation like this.

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Although both of them had changed a lot, Jasper and Penelope could still recognize each other at first glance.

Penelope froze on the spot. She returned to her senses after a few seconds, then lowered her head and prepared to run away.

Right then, the boss of the hotdog stall managed to catch up with her.

He grabbed ahold of the collar of Penelope's shirt and scolded her angrily. "F*ck, it's been three days. You've stolen the hotdogs from my stall for three consecutive days. Even if you want to steal, don't just steal from my stall alone. Do you really think that I'm that easily bullied?"

"I'll teach you a lesson today so you won't dare to ever steal from me again!"

After saying this, the boss, who had a tall and burly physique, raised his hand to hit Penelope across the face.

"Wait a minute," Jasper voiced out, causing the man to stop in his tracks.

The boss turned around to look at Jasper suspiciously. He toned down the ferocious expression on his face after noticing Jasper's immaculate dressing and outstanding aura. He frowned and asked, "What's wrong? I'm teaching a thief a lesson here. What does it have to do with you?"

Jasper pulled out a hundred-dollar bill from his pocket and said, "Since you said that she stole from you, I'll pay on her behalf. Don't hold a grudge against her anymore. It's almost Christmas, and you're out here trying to run a business. Don't bring bad luck upon yourself."

"Heh! It's a deal!"

The boss accepted the cash from Jasper happily. "I really bumped into a good person today. However, this is too much. I don't have enough change on me," he said.

"There's no need to give me any change," Jasper said. He glanced at Penelope, who was leaning away from him as she stood by the side. She had her head lowered and did not dare to look at him. "Take it as your compensation," he told the boss calmly.

"That's even better!"

The boss put the hundred-dollar bill into his pocket and cast a glare at Penelope. "You were lucky this time. If you ever steal from my stall again, I'll beat you to death," he warned her.

"That's enough. You've taken the money, and I've given you some extra as well. You can go now," Jasper said with a frown.

The boss grinned widely at him, then turned around and walked away happily.

"Why have you become like this?" Jasper asked Penelope, who was trembling with her head lowered, after the boss of the hotdog stall left.

Penelope continued to let her head hang low. It was as if by doing so, she was hoping that Jasper would not be able to recognize her. "I don't know you. You've got the wrong person," she said nervously.

Penelope then attempted to run away.

“Stop right there!” Jasper yelled.

Penelope stiffened, standing glued to the spot.

“Where’s your brother? What about your mother? Do they know that you’re living like this right now?” Jasper asked.

Penelope knew that she would not be able to evade this. Thus, she raised her head to look at Jasper, a despondent smile spread across her dirt-smudged face. “My mother has Alzheimer’s. She’s now bed-ridden as she can’t move anymore. My brother committed a crime two months ago and has been arrested,” she said.

A slight furrow formed on Jasper’s brows. In his past life, Calvin Hunt, Penelope’s brother, did not go to jail.

It seemed like after his reincarnation, the fates of many of those who were closely related to him in his past life have changed.

“Don’t you have a job? Your family has savings, right? How did you end up like this?” Jasper asked.

Although he had once hated Penelope Hunt and her family, and despised the way she would support her brother no matter the circumstances, those were all in the past now.

At the very least, Jasper did not any embarrassment at the hands of the Hunts during this lifetime.

Facing his wife from his past life as well as the woman that had been by his side for a few years of his current life, the woefulness in Jasper’s heart gradually overpowered the hatred he held for her.

After all, the two of them were on different levels right now. Their circumstances were different as well. Jasper had long since lost the rage and hatred he had for Penelope Hunt.

“It’s all because of Richton White!” Penelope blurted out, a vicious gaze in her eyes.

“After Hugh Lewis went down, there was nobody else that I could depend on. I got together with Richton White after that. I thought that he truly loved me, but he ran away after swindling me of all of my family’s assets and properties!

“Because of this incident, my mother was so angered that she eventually got Alzheimer’s. My brother fell to rock bottom as well. He joined a bunch of gangsters and messed around all day long. The gangsters beat someone up and ended up severely injuring someone. They ran away, but he had to take all the blame. I lost my job as well.”

She stared at Jasper. At that moment, her ex-boyfriend did not seem as mundane and unremarkable as he had been back in the day.

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The aura surrounding Jasper at that moment was already beyond what Penelope could fathom. However, she could tell that Jasper’s outfit was an expensive one. The man’s every move and even the simplest glance was filled with the prestige and aura of somebody of high-society.

In comparison, Penelope felt like a speck of dust in the mud while Jasper was a prince that towered over her.

There was nothing to compare between the two.

No one could possibly imagine that they had been a couple talking about wedding plans just a year ago.

Penelope shuddered slightly, but she did not know if she was shaking with resentment or regret.

Jasper lamented at the sight of Penelope, now as despondent as a beggar on the streets.

There were definitely no more romantic feelings between them.

Yet, the hatred he harbored for her seemed to have faded as well.

Jasper had once imagined that he would feel very proud as he stood before Penelope after he had finally made a name before himself. He wondered how it would feel to mock Penelope for looking down at him in the beginning, only to end up losing such a gem of a man.

However, even as all this was finally happening, Jasper did not feel even the slightest urge to mock her anymore.

He merely marveled at how fast the world could change.

“Take it.”

A wad of cash appeared before Penelope.

It came to total of around one to two thousand bucks.

“That’s all I have on me now. Go get nice clothes for you and your mom, and use the rest for Christmas presents. Regardless, things will get better next year.”

Jasper paused for a bit then continued, “John Jackson, the Vice President of the ICBS City Branch, is a friend of mine. He got promoted from Faith County, so he should still have a few contacts here and there. I could contact him when I get back to ask if he could assign you some temporary work at ICBS.”

“But you’ve got to work hard for it as well. Study hard and pass the test. The ICBS has an internal test before hiring any employees, but John will help prepare a path for you if you pass the test. That should give you a steady job.”

Seeing Penelope standing blankly in front of him, Jasper replied, “Then find someone nice and live a happy life.”

Jasper placed the money in Penelope’s hands and turned to leave.

Penelope stared at the banknotes in her hand, then looked up, only to see Jasper’s figure walking away.

It was a crowded street, with people bustling around her, ready to celebrate the joy of Christmas. Penelope watched as Jasper’s figure vanished before she suddenly mustered the courage she did not even know she had to run after him.

“Wait!”

Jasper turned around and frowned upon seeing Penelope panting hard from the run.

‘What more does this woman want? She can’t be so deluded to think that we’d get back together, right?’

Jasper did not say anything, instead waiting patiently for her to speak first.

“I’m not here for anything else. I just wanted to tell you, that when I was stea... I mean, buying things this morning, I heard two young men, who I think are brothers, talk about something. I think one of them was called Terence or something.

“The Terence guy was trying to prove something to the other, and claimed that some bigshot was going to come after you, and as such, he was asking the other man to join in as well.

“I don’t know exactly what they said, but I heard them say your name so I jotted it down... but then again, they might also just be talking about another ‘Jasper’ so...”

Penelope then bowed deeply to Jasper, then turned to run.

Jasper furrowed his brows slightly as he watched Penelope’s figure disappear into the crowd. Instantly, he fell deep in thought.

Penelope turned at the corner of the street and stopped to catch her breath, when she suddenly bent down to wail.

Whether she was crying out of regret or something else was probably something only Penelope would know.

Even so, Jasper and Penelope were both very well aware of the current situation.

That the two of them were complete strangers now. The last contact they would ever have had come to an end with this helping hand Jasper had extended her.

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Jasper’s and Penelope’s meeting was pure coincidence.

As far as Jasper was concerned, helping Penelope was at most, a final farewell to his previous life and his past.

After all, Jasper was not a heartless person.

While the two had not shared a very happy past, Penelope was, if anything, still the woman who had been by Jasper's side the longest.

Now that they each had their own lives to live, the least Jasper could do was bid that era of his life farewell.

Yet, Jasper had never expected Penelope to bring him such an important message.

'Called Terence or something?'

'Who else but Terence Laine, then?'

Naturally, the people Jasper first thought of when he heard Penelope's words would be the two brothers, Terence and Darrel Laine.

Taking a trip down memory lane, Jasper recalled Terence had never shown himself again after leaving the meal in a huff yesterday. Meanwhile, Darrel had been staying in Tefa City the entire time.

Upon returning home, Jasper called Julian over.

"Go poke around Shangri-La Hotel to see if Terence's come back or not. If he did, I need to know when he got back and who he's been in touch with since his return."

After receiving Jasper's instructions, Julian nodded and immediately went to investigate.

"Hold on."

Jasper called Julian back.

“Keep a low profile. Don’t let anyone find out about your investigation,” Jasper reminded.

Julian smiled and turned to leave.

A little more than an hour later, Julian returned as night had just fallen.

“I’ve found what you wanted to know, Jasper. Terence returned around midnight yesterday. There’s a record of him at the hotel since he used his ID card to check into a room.

“Terence didn’t leave his room up until this morning, but when he did, it was with his brother Darrel. The two of them bought something then returned to the hotel. After this, the two brothers, along with their parents, took a car ride back to Faith County.”

Jasper furrowed his brows slightly and asked, “Where did Terence go yesterday? Who did he meet?”

Julian shook his head. “All I found out was that he had bought a ticket to the provincial capital after he left the dinner yesterday, then he took the last train back. But who he had met during this interval, I do not know.”

Jasper replied expressionlessly, “Alright, got it.”

After Julian left, Jasper sat alone in his study immersed in his thoughts.

Jasper’s instincts told him that Terence had gone to the provincial capital for a specific reason.

It might be to meet this so-called bigshot.

However, after he mulled it over, Jasper found that he could not think of any bigshots left who would want to take him out.

Finally, Jasper decided to call Dawson.

“Uncle Schuler,” Jasper greeted.

Dawson smiled. “What is it, Jasper? Did something happen?”

Jasper chuckled. “Nothing happened. I just wanted to check in you to see you were doing lately.

“Oh, and has there been any activity in the provincial capital lately?”

Dawson was stunned for a moment before he replied, “I didn’t hear of anything. Everything’s been quite calm recently.”

Jasper’s furrowed brows relaxed and he smiled. “That’s great then.”

Dawson could acutely sense that something was up, so he asked solemnly, “Did you receive news about something going on?”

Jasper replied, “Someone probably has their eyes on me, but I’m not absolutely sure of this yet. I’ll have to keep my eyes peeled for a little longer before I can confirm the matter.”

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Dawson replied, “Alright then. Remember to call me if you need any help.”

Jasper nodded. “I will.”

Putting the phone down, Jasper’s expression darkened slightly.

A false positive was better than a false negative. Jasper never had the habit of getting comfortable, so he would always be somewhat cautious and keep his guards up.

The news from Penelope coupled with the results of his investigation from multiple places had solidified such a case.

‘Terence himself has ulterior motives as well as someone mysterious backing him up.

‘In order to do this, Terence even tried to pull Darrel into his plans.

‘But the fact that Terence has to persuade Darrel means that the latter either has no idea of what’s happening or hasn’t completely joined their side.

‘So who’s this mysterious mastermind behind it all?’

“It’s time for dinner, Jasper.”

His mother’s voice sounded from downstairs, breaking Jasper’s train of thought.

Exhaling softly, Jasper hummed in acknowledgment and walked out of his study. He decided that he would observe for a little longer before he came up with a plan.

At least now he had a target to keep an eye on and that was Terence Laine.

If the other party wanted to deal with him, then it would only be a matter of time before they made a move.

...

At the same time in a normal district in Faith County.

Darrel's brows were knitted tightly as he looked at Terrence's nervous expression with a deep gaze. He spoke with a heavy tone, "Have you gone crazy, Terrence? Or did someone drug you with something? How could you be so blind?"

Terrence harrumphed and replied, "You're the one being stubborn here, Darrel. What's so good about Jasper anyway? Why are you so willing to follow his lead?"

Darrel replied sternly, "Enough nonsense. I'd still be unemployed if not for him! I still need his support for my business next year, so what makes you think I'd do anything that would harm him?"

Terrence scoffed. "That's just him being charitable to you. Don't you want to make your own money?"

"Mr. Hanks already said that he's willing to give you double of what Jasper's giving you. You just need to nod your head and agree! You'll get even more benefits after all of this is over, so why are you still hesitating?"

Darrel replied in annoyance, "That's just an empty promise. Plus, do you know how this will sound like to our relatives if news gets out? Do you want to lose all respect?"

Terrence spat on the ground and replied, "Don't give me bullsh*t talk about our relatives, Darrel. Don't you see? All these relatives do is look down on people, they don't care what happens to you at all. All they care about is whether you're broke or rich. If you're the latter, then they'll praise you every day and everything you do is deemed as right.

"Just think about it. These relatives have always said that the two of us would turn out to be outstanding people in society. Our familial conditions are better than Jasper's no matter how you look at it. Before this, no one even looked at Jasper with respect.

“But what about now? Every single one of them is talking about how much of a genius Jasper is and how much more outstanding he is. I’m tired of all of this, but this is reality. This is the truth!

“The harshest part of this all is that even if you manage to open your hotpot restaurants, Darrel, all you get is just 10% of the shares. Jasper doesn’t even have to f*cking do anything and he’s getting the longer end of the stick! Why? All everyone has said up until now is how good Jasper is, but will anyone even remember how much effort you’ve put into this?”

Terence’s words had Darrel’s expression changing.

While the words were harsh, Darrel had to admit that his brother spoke the truth.

“We just have to show the rest of them that we’re the truly outstanding people in this family, Darrel. Jasper is just someone who got rich because he was lucky. He has no right to step all over us.

“Plus, we’re brothers. Why would I set you up?”

With Terence’s persuasion, he saw that Darrel was about to agree.

Darrel stood up in frustration and spoke, “Enough. My mind’s a mess now, so we’ll talk about this again in a few days.”

Terence’s gaze turned sinister as he watched Darrel leave.

He would be screwed if he did not manage to persuade Darrel. Zayden would not forgive him if that was the case.

That was why Terence had already decided he would do everything to persuade Darrel, no matter the price.

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Regardless of the sinister schemes being plotted, time continued to pass with each day.

It was New Year's Eve now, and the new year would soon arrive.

Jasper did not go anywhere that day, opting to stay home with his parents instead.

However, that did not mean he had nothing to do. He was making calls to Old Master Law and the like to relay New Year's Eve greetings.

Etiquettes should not be forgotten.

As for Gale Hurlbutt, Jasper had also called to greet him.

He had accepted Gale's conditions two days ago.

This meant that he would assume the role of vice president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce Waterhoof branch after New Year's when work officially started again.

The news was still kept under wraps and there was only a handful who knew of it. Yet that did not stop Jasper and Gale's relationship from growing closer.

The most important thing was...

He had to deal with the long phone calls with Anna and Wendy.

While the two women were far apart, they seemed to have a very tacit understanding not to call Jasper first.

Jasper was elated by the fact, so he spent more than an hour calling Wendy before he dialed Anna's number.

Having called the people he had to, Jasper then received calls from Hudson, Jack, and a bunch of other people.

Everyone traded pleasantries, wishing for each other's good health and prosperity in the new year.

These were all necessary conversations. One would not gain anything if they spoke too much, but not speaking enough would easily offend others.

After entertaining the people he had to, Jasper looked up to realize that it was past 12 a.m. now.

This marked the beginning of 2001.

Jasper walked over to the window and was surprised to find that it had begun to snow tonight.

Snow was rare in the southeast and it had been a few years since it snowed in Tefa City.

The only one beside Jasper now was the burly Julian.

"Julian, do you know any responsible female martial artists you could recommend?" Jasper asked.

Julian gave it some thought before replying, "I do have a martial artist friend who has just become a martial arts instructor. Do you want to invite her over, Jasper?"

Jasper smiled. "I can't help but worry when there isn't anyone with Wendy to protect her."

Jasper nodded. "Alright, I'll contact her tomorrow."

Now that New Year's Eve was over, it was January again and Jasper would only be getting busier as time passed.

There were plenty of people coming over to greet him, including John who brought Kai over.

Kai brought over a gilded crucifix. Seeing its design and weight, it had to cost at least 100,000 Somer Dollars.

Despite knowing that Kai was giving the gift as thanks and to fawn over Jasper, Jasper did not decline it when he saw how his religious mom, Sally, was so happy that her mouth stayed agape.

After dealing with the large group of people, Jasper and his parents arrived in Nauritus City at the provincial capital on the fourth of January.

It was the day Jasper's and Wendy's parents would meet.

Jasper parked the Bentley just before Dawson's house. Dawson took the initiative to approach them.

He opened the car doors and reached out a hand to Charlie who was alighting the vehicle. "I've been anticipating for ages the day you'd come over, Charlie."

Charlie smiled, still slightly nervous, and shook Dawson's hand with both his hands. "Hello, Mr. Schuler. It's nice to meet you too."

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As if sensing Charlie's nerves, Dawson smiled. "You don't have to be too polite. While this is the first time we're meeting, we're going to be a family very soon. You're older than me, so I'll just treat you as my brother and call you Charlie. You can do the same as well."

Seeing how easy-going such a wealthy man like Dawson was, Charlie immediately took a liking to the man and chuckled. "Then I'll just call you Dawson, since I'm older than you."

"There we go. This must be my sister-in-law, then?" Dawson turned to smile at Sally and greeted her.

Seeing how their parents were speaking cheerfully with one another, both Jasper and Wendy exhaled a sigh of relief.

"You look beautiful today," Jasper told Wendy with a chuckle.

Wendy was donned in a pink faux-fur coat today with a scarf around her fair neck. Her choice of clothing had only made Wendy look more bright and playful.

Wendy chuckled. "You look very handsome today as well."

The two families entered the villa with smiles on their faces, and Charlie gave Jasper a look to prompt the other to bring out a large box. Jasper then handed it to Dawson. "Uncle Schuler, my parents didn't know what gift to get since it's their first time coming over. Please enjoy this small offering of ours."

Dawson was stunned. "It's enough that you're here, what's with all this gift-giving?"

“These are rare goods, Dad. Some 200-year-old wild ginseng,” Wendy told him as she stood beside him.

Dawson’s expression changed. “200 years old? What a treasure.”

He opened the box in front of everyone, and within the red gift box was a stalk of wild ginseng that would unfurl to a length of more than one meter long. It looked like it was pregnant.

“This is too much,” Dawson turned to Charlie.

Charlie smiled. “Its value isn’t important. You were the one who told me not to be too polite.”

Dawson did not protest and accepted the gift with a smile.

Lunch went by joyfully.

Both Dawson and Charlie had drunk some alcohol, so the two went to their own rooms to rest after lunch.

Jasper was just planning to bring his girlfriend out on a date when he received a phone call from Sean.

Thinking that it was just a call for greetings, Jasper accepted it only to hear Sean’s frantic tone echo through the speakers once the call connected.

“Something has happened, Mr. Laine! The site... Something has happened on the site!”

Jasper’s eyebrows arched as he replied with a heavy tone, “What are you so panicked about? Tell me what happened slowly.”

Hearing that, Wendy’s expression turned serious as well.

Sean gulped a few times over the phone as he forced himself to calm down. When he spoke again, it was with an exceptionally grim tone, "I've just received news that a fire broke out at the site half an hour ago. Firefighters are still trying to extinguish the flames but they've already pulled out five to six people from the site. All of them are severely injured and official personnel is carrying out emergency rescue on them..."

Jasper was furious at what he heard and roared, "What the hell were the people in charge of the site doing? How many times have I told them that it's New Year's and while I understand everyone is trying to meet deadlines, we have to be careful! How could a fire break out at such a stage? And with five to six workers severely injured?!"

Sean replied sorrowfully, "We've been especially careful all this time but it was really weird how the fire started. It started from the workers' living quarters during lunch break when most of the workers were sleeping. It started too abruptly for anyone to make it out in time."

"Where are you now?" Jasper pushed down his anger and asked.

"On my way to the construction site," Sean replied frantically.

"Get there as fast as you can and focus on placating the workers. You have to control this situation and don't let news of it leak yet. I'll be there shortly."

Jasper then hung up the phone.

"The site caught on fire, Jasp?" Wendy asked worriedly.

Jasper nodded and replied grimly, "We still don't know what happened exactly, but there are already five to six of them severely injured. There might be more people inside but we haven't found them yet. I've got to go over. Wait for my news here."

"Should I wake my dad?" Wendy asked.

Jasper shook his head. “He drank quite a bit during lunch, so let him rest. I’ll deal with this.”

Jasper then informed Julian and sped toward the construction site.

Life at the Top Chapter 578

Flames and smoke engulfed the construction site on the South Bank of the Southface river, attracting the attention of countless people.

Long before he had even arrived, Jasper could already see how the fire brightened up half the sky as smoke burst into the air. The smell of burning materials permeated the air kilometers away from the scene.

“It’s not a small fire this time, Jasper. From what the looks of it, I’d say it’s pretty severe,” Julian spoke grimly to Jasper.

Jasper took a deep breath and replied calmly, “It’s alright. It’s not a loss if it can be fixed with money.”

The large Bentley arrived outside the construction site and was held back by the caution tape the firefighters had put up.

Jasper did not explain himself to the firefighters as he got out of the car and walked toward the site.

Jasper and Julian were currently around 700 to 800 meters away from the site, but despite the distance, Jasper could still feel the burning heat from the scene. That spoke levels about how severe this fire was and that it was rapidly spreading.

“Mister... Mr. Laine!”

Having arrived before them, Sean ran over with a pant. Sean’s meticulous suit was now in an embarrassing state with traces of soot all over. The man was drenched in sweat, and it was a sorry sight.

“How’s the situation?” Jasper walked toward the site with Sean following beside him.

While panting, Sean replied, “The fire hasn’t been put out yet, but the firefighters told me that from what they can see, the fire started in two different places. The workers’ rest and living quarters, and the warehouse for all the building materials.

“Both fires started almost at the same time, so that explains why the fire is so unrelenting. The firefighters suspect arson, but there’s no concrete evidence.”

Jasper replied grimly, “All of that can wait. The most important thing now is to contain the fire and minimize injuries and deaths.”

Sean took a deep breath and wiped the sweat from his forehead. “I agree, that’s what I thought too—”

A firefighter who was seemingly the captain ran over to Jasper and interrupted Sean with a question, “Who are you?”

Jasper did not mind the other’s abrupt attitude and replied, “I’m the person in charge of JW Real Estates.”

The firefighter scoffed and pointed at the construction site that was still in flames. “What kind of safety measures are you using here? It’s really difficult to contain a fire like this. You’re going to have to take legal responsibility if people lose their lives or get injured by this!”

Sean’s expression changed, and he was about to chide the captain when Jasper waved at Sean to stop him.

“I understand how you feel, captain, but trust me when I say I’m more nervous about this than you. You have to believe me when I say that there’s nothing wrong with the safety measures in the construction site. We can talk about whether I should be held accountable or not later, but I only have one request right now.”

Jasper’s gaze turned solemn as he stared at the captain and continued, “Do anything you can to minimize the harm done to my workers!”

The captain was stunned when he heard Jasper. He had dealt with countless industrial fires and almost every boss was most worried about their property and materials. This was the first time he had heard such a request.

“Aren’t you worried about property loss?” the captain asked.

Jasper replied calmly, “I can continue investing if it’s just monetary loss and I can just buy more facilities if they break. But there’s nothing I can do to atone if human lives are lost here.”

The captain immediately found respect for Jasper at his words and gave Jasper an intense look before he spoke, “Don’t worry. It’s our job, so we’ll do everything we can to save the workers inside.”

Jasper took a deep breath and replied, “I only request that the firefighters take care of themselves as well, then.”

Life at the Top Chapter 579

Jasper then turned to Sean. “Mr. Tucker, on behalf of JW Real Estates, please donate one million Somer Dollars in cash and three firetrucks to the fire department that’s putting the fire out after all of this is over.”

Sean shouted reflexively, "Understood, Mr. Laine!"

The captain gave Jasper an intent look. "I've seen my fair share of rich men, but you're the most unique out of all of them. I'm certain now that this fire has nothing to do with you."

The captain then quickly ran back to instruct his team in putting the fire out.

Jasper and Sean stood by the entrance of the site and stared grimly as the red flames devoured the place.

From time to time, there would be severely injured workers carried out by firefighters. Each time he saw this scene, Jasper's expression grew darker.

"Mr. Tucker," Jasper called out.

"Yes, Mr. Laine?" Sean moved toward him.

"Immediately notify the office that every employee above the managerial level and those in charge of the site's safety measures are to have all their remaining holidays canceled. They should return to the office right away.

"The company has only one job now and that is to team up to take care of the workers harmed in this fire.

"Every injured worker is to be compensated by the insurance company they signed their contracts with and if their insurance can't cover them, then the company will top up the amount.

"I'm not short on money, let alone money that I should be paying," Jasper replied heavily.

Sean's heart lurched as he replied instinctively, "Mr. Laine, the compensation from their insurance companies is enough. We've bought them enough

employment injury insurance, and it's going to cost the company tens of millions if we pay the rest for them."

Jasper turned to Sean coldly. "Tens of millions is nothing to me, but to these workers? That money is enough to pay for their entire lives!"

Sean did not even dare to look into Jasper's frosty eyes. Shuddering, he quickly replied, "I understand, Mr. Laine. I'll get to it right away."

...

At the same time, Zayden was several kilometers away in a high-rise where he watched the fire brighten the sky over the South Bank of the Southface River while chortling.

"Not bad. Not bad at all. You've done well this time." Zayden laughed loudly as he turned and clapped Terence on the shoulder.

Terence laughed drily and nodded, replying with a bow, "I'm happy that you're satisfied with my performance, Mr. Hanks."

While Zayden was laughing, his gaze could not be more sinister and cold as he stared at Terence. "You did well with lighting the fire, but you didn't leave any evidence behind, did you?"

Terence shuddered and quickly looked down as he replied, "Don't worry, Mr. Hanks. I had observed them for a few days before I acted. I didn't leave behind any evidence at all."

Zayden nodded. "Very good. Well done."

Zayden then turned to look at the construction site that was bursting in flames. "What a beautiful sight. If only the fire was even bigger. How terrible do you think Jasper's expression is right now?"

“When I think of that, I just can’t wait to see what Jasper looks like. He must be heartbroken. He must be furious, wouldn’t you say? Hahaha!”

Terence shivered in terror amidst Zayden’s chortles but still laughed along with him. “Who does Jasper think he is? Who is he to compete with you, Mr. Hanks? This is just a small lesson, the true suffering comes later.”

Life at the Top Chapter 580

This fire became earth-shattering news that wracked through all of the Southeast Province. It had also taken 47 million out of Jasper’s pockets.

“Mr. Laine, Mr. Schuler, the fire has burned 40 million Somer Dollars worth of our building materials and facilities in total. There’s also an invisible loss of seven million for rebuilding and adding new facilities as well as compensations for the workers’ injuries.

“Moreover, while no lives are lost, there are 16 severely injured workers. Among them, five are permanently crippled and three were severely burnt as well. These people will have to live the rest of their lives in a hospital bed.

“After the relevant compensations and deducting the insurance, we still have to pay six million excluding the cost for the other mildly injured workers. Including them, it will amount to around 11 million Somer Dollars.”

It was in the middle of the night when Jasper and Dawson listened grimly to Sean’s report in JW Real Estates’ office.

Jasper initially did not intend to worry Dawson, but with how huge the issue was, it was only right that Dawson knew what was happening. Otherwise, any more mistakes would only result in greater losses.

“Do you mean our financial loss has amounted to around 60 million?” Jasper concluded calmly.

Sean replied in embarrassment, “These are all direct losses. We still haven’t considered the indirect losses. We won’t be able to start work for at least another week, so the halt in progress and the loss of past progress will amount to around another 30 million.”

Bang!

Dawson lit a cigarette and slammed the lighter heavily against the office desk.

Sean shuddered, not daring to look up at Dawson’s sinister expression.

Jasper turned to look at Sean. “You’ve worked hard today. You still have work tomorrow, so go home first and rest.”

As if he was shown the biggest mercy, Sean frantically bade them farewell and left the office.

With Sean gone, there were only Jasper and Dawson in the office.

“There’s something wrong about this fire, Jasper,” Dawson exhaled a breath of smoke and spoke.

Jasper leaned against the sofa and rubbed his temple, muttering, “Yeah, there really is something wrong. It’s too coincidental that I can’t explain it with the word ‘accident’.”

“A 100 million Somer Dollar loss. Haha, good job to whoever was behind this. One fire and we’ve lost 100 million just like that.”

Fiery anger burned in Dawson's gaze as he spoke, "I've never made such a big loss since I started working. What a sinister scheme. This is a capable opponent we're dealing with... Do you have an idea who this might be, Jasper?"

Jasper shook his head. "There's no evidence at all. Whoever was behind this is very meticulous. Not to mention with a fire this big, any evidence would've been burnt away as well."

"Alright then. Do everything you can to sniff out the person behind this, and I'll deal with the public and the follow-up," Dawson suggested.

Jasper nodded. "That's probably for the best."

As the night was dark, both Jasper and Dawson did not stay in the office for much longer. They quickly returned to their respective homes to rest.

Moments after Jasper woke up the following day, he saw Julian looking for him.

"Someone's looking for you, Jasper," Julian informed him.

Jasper frowned. "I'll be very busy for the time being. If it isn't anyone special, decline them."

"It's Darrel."

"Darrel?"

Jasper's head lifted as he replied calmly, "Have him meet me in the backyard then."

In the backyard, a haggard-looking Darrel arrived before Jasper under Julian's lead.

"Jasper."

Darrel greeted him with a raspy voice.

Jasper pointed at the seat before him and smiled. "It's just been a few days since we last met. How did the New Year's wear you out till your cheeks are hollow?"

Life at the Top Chapter 581

Darrel did not sit, opting to stand and speak to Jasper instead. “Jasper, did the Southface River construction site catch fire?”

There was no way such a grave incident could be covered up.

While it was still New Year’s holiday, it was not an excuse for the media not to report such a large incident.

The news of the fire at the Southface River construction site was being heavily discussed in the entire Southeast Province.

It had become the first large incident in the year 2001.

“Indeed. There was no way we could’ve foreseen such an accident,” Jasper replied calmly.

Darrel’s expression was conflicted as he spoke softly, “Jasper, this fire... You lost quite a lot because of it, haven’t you?”

“Not too much, just 100 million.” Jasper’s tone was casual as if he was talking about 100 bucks instead.

“Why? You sound very concerned about this incident.”

Jasper’s words made Darrel shudder. The latter looked up at Jasper with a deep gaze, and his knees suddenly bent forward as he kneeled on the ground. With a sob, he apologized, “I’m sorry, Jasper! Please forgive me!”

Narrowing his eyes, Jasper did not move. He did not even help the other up as he stared at Darrel kneeling before him. Jasper merely spoke calmly, "What did you do that requires my forgiveness?"

As though he had made the biggest decision, Darrel clenched his jaw and replied, "I was the one who set the fire!"

Jasper did not reply and merely stared at Darrel.

Under Jasper's gaze, Darrel felt as if the oxygen around him was getting sucked and he was no longer able to breathe freely.

After some time, when Darrel's forehead was filled with beads of sweat and he felt like he was about to suffocate, Jasper finally broke the silence.

"Do you know what your biggest weakness is, Darrel?"

Darrel looked up at Jasper in confusion.

Jasper smiled and continued to speak, "You can't lie.

"That's why I had already decided since the beginning that you weren't going to make it as a businessman. I even decided that if you made a big loss, I'd still cover for you and pay off your debts.

"But I never expected to be the first person you're lying to since our partnership.

"It's a shame that I don't plan to play along with this lie for you."

Darrel shivered and looked at Jasper in disbelief. "Jasper, what..."

Jasper picked up the coffee cup and took a sip as he spoke calmly, "Terence was the one who set the fire, wasn't he?"

Darrel was stricken and pale.

“And the reason why you’re willing to take the blame for him is so that I won’t look into him, correct? You could have just kept quiet and pretended not to know anything at all. After all, he’s done a very clean job and it’d be very difficult for me to hold him accountable.”

Then, Jasper smiled. “Of course, that’s before you decided to come and be his scapegoat. Now I know he’s the one who did it.”

Darrel shook his head instinctively. “No, I was the one behind it all. This has nothing to do with him at all—”

“Darrel Laine!”

Jasper shouted suddenly and slammed the coffee cup against the stone table heavily. Coffee splashed everywhere, wetting the area.

“As far as I’m concerned, spoiled brats aren’t lost causes. With enough setbacks, it’ll only be a matter of time before people like him realize that not everyone in this world is his parents and no one is obligated to help him.

“Those who are truly evil are people who still decide to let him be despite knowing that he has made a grave mistake on the pretext of protecting him. Now these people can f*ck right off!”

Life at the Top Chapter 582

Jasper’s bellow made Darrel pale in shock.

He was frozen in place, and he did not dare to look up at Jasper at all.

Jasper merely sighed when he saw Darrel's reaction. "I know that the only reason Terence is brave enough to do something like this is that he has someone supporting him.

"In fact, he desperately wishes that you join him in dealing with me, correct?"

Darrel looked up in fear and replied, "How did you know that?"

Jasper replied calmly, "The only way no one can find out about something is if you don't do anything.

"The only reason why I haven't dealt with Terence yet is that he's just a pawn the opponent is exploiting. My target is the mastermind behind this."

Jasper then looked at Darrel intently. "The fact that you've come to me today means that you don't dare to join them, so I'm hoping that you'll tell me who this other person is."

Darrel shook his head with a bitter smile. "It's not that I don't want to tell you, but I have no idea who that other person is either.

"I've never entertained the idea of working with them to harm you, so I didn't pay Terence any attention no matter how he persuaded me. But I know how his temper is and I'm scared that he'll get himself in trouble.

"I heard him on the phone last night with whom I think is the person supporting him. I heard Terence say that he was the one who set the fire.

"I spent the night thinking, and I don't dare to hide it from you. That's why I planned to look for you and take the blame for him. I just never thought... Sigh."

Jasper tapped his fingers on the table slowly as he heard Darrel speak. After that, Jasper looked up at Julian, "Jul!"

“Yes!” Julian immediately replied.

“Bring Terence to me.”

Darrel’s expression changed immediately when he heard Jasper. He said, “Jasper...”

“Don’t be too aggressive. If he’s home, try not to frighten my uncle and aunt.”

As if knowing what Darrel was worried about, Jasper instructed Julian in detail.

Julian made a sound of acknowledgment and left, leaving Darrel to sit despondently on the ground with a bitter smile. “This is the end of our brotherhood, then.”

Jasper tossed Darrel a cigarette and replied, “You have to believe that you’re doing this for his own good.”

Darrel took the cigarette with a bitter chuckle. “Let’s hope he understands, then.”

40 minutes later, the study’s doors opened to reveal Julian who was single-handedly dragging Terence into the room. The man had a cloth stuffed in his mouth.

“I’ve brought him over, Jasper. He was downstairs and about to leave when I got there, so I just brought him over. No one else knows.”

Terence was lying face-down on the floor, struggling as Julian spoke. Muffled cries could be heard through the cloth.

His eyes widened the moment he looked up and saw Jasper and Darrel sitting together, as though he had seen something unthinkable.

“Alright, you can pull the thing out of his mouth now,” Jasper said.

Julian bent over to pull the cloth away.

Now that he could speak, Terence roared, “Why did you kidnap me here, Jasper?! Let me tell you, just because you’re rich doesn’t mean you can do whatever you want! You’re not going to get anything out of this if you dare to do anything to me!”

Terence’s fierce facade hid the guilt and fear he was feeling underneath. His eyes flitted rapidly between Jasper and Darrel as if he was mulling over an important question.

Life at the Top Chapter 583

“Let’s ignore whether I’ll get anything out of this or not. Do you know that arson leading to huge property loss and injuries is a severe crime? Do you know that you’ll get at least ten years in prison?”

Terence’s expression changed drastically at Jasper’s words, and he replied guiltily, “I don’t know what you’re talking about! You’re telling me you brought me here so I could listen to you talk about the law?”

“The fire you set made me lose 100 million Somer Dollars. More than a dozen workers are severely injured and there are still a few workers in the emergency room as we speak. Do you think by denying you know anything regarding this matter will get you exempted from legal consequences?” Jasper looked at Terence and asked.

Terence’s heart thumped frantically, and his expression turned fierce as he spoke, “I don’t know what kind of nonsense you’re talking about here! What the f*ck does your construction site catching fire have to do with me? Don’t think that being rich gives you the right to slander me however you want!”

“Sigh...”

Darrel sighed and looked at Terence disappointedly. “Stop struggling, Terence. Jasper already knows everything. Be more sincere and I’ll ask him to let you go. I won’t be able to help you even if I want to if you’re going to continue being so stubborn.”

Terence was enraged. “Darrel Laine! How dare you help an outsider instead of your own brother? What are you saying here?!”

Darrel replied hopelessly, “I overheard your call last night. I know that you were the one who lit that fire. Did you think you left no leads behind? Jasper has had his eyes on you a long time ago, so will you stop being so stubborn for once?”

Terence was stricken by the words, and he looked at Jasper in disbelief. Deep fear tinted his eyes.

“I... I don’t know what you’re talking about!”

Even until the end, Terence remained unwilling to speak.

He was well aware that should he admit to setting the fire, there would be terrifying consequences coming for him.

He wanted to join forces with Zayden, but that did not mean he was willing to go to prison for it.

“I can choose not to hold you accountable, but you have to tell me who’s the one ordering you around,” Jasper said.

Terence had a painfully conflicted expression on his face, but he still did not reply.

Jasper furrowed his brows. The problem would be much more difficult to solve if Terence decided to remain quiet.

Since the plan was not to alert the opponent, it would be inappropriate to turn Terence in to the police.

Doing so would only force the mastermind Jasper was looking for to hide even deeper away.

“Let me talk to him alone, Jasper,” Darrel suddenly spoke.

Jasper made a noncommittal sound and stood to exit the room with Julian in tow.

When they were outside, Julian turned to Jasper. “I know a few tricks that could cause immense pain, Jasper. People like Terence have a pretty weak will.”

Jasper laughed. “Let’s wait a little longer first. Best case scenario, Darrel manages to persuade him to talk. If that doesn’t work, then we’ll resort to your methods.”

Jasper did not have the intention to eavesdrop on the brothers’ conversation, but loud shouts and scoldings came continuously from the study.

It continued for another 20 minutes or so before the door to the study opened again.

Darrel, who looked exhausted, walked out and turned to Jasper. “He’s willing to talk now.”

Upon returning to the study, Jasper saw that Terence now seemed soulless as he stared at him with profound resentment.

“I don’t know what you drugged my brother with that he’s so loyal to you, Jasper, but don’t you forget that I will never respect you!”

Jasper replied calmly, “I don’t need your respect. I need a name.”

“Zayden Hanks!”

Life at the Top Chapter 584

‘Zayden Hanks!’

Hearing the name, the calm Jasper was shocked as well.

In all honesty, he had almost forgotten about Zayden.

While Zayden had caused Jasper some problems back in Harbor City, Jasper had also dealt with him and Zayden dropped off the grid afterward.

Jasper then had to face quite a few other issues and did not have the mind to think about Zayden anymore.

He had never expected this bothersome man to appear again.

Jasper could acutely sense that Zayden’s appearance this time was not as simple as it seemed.

“He was the one who sought me out first. Seeing that he was rich and powerful, I decided that I’d get acquainted with him. He ordered me to do things mainly so he could deal with you.

“Seeing that our goals were the same and I’d also be benefitted by this, I agreed.”

Terence spoke coldly and stared at Jasper. “Yes, I set that fire. I’ve already told you everything you want to know. You said you won’t hold me accountable!”

“And I’ll stand by my word.”

Jasper smiled and turned to Terence. “But I do hope that you’ll do one more thing for me.”

Terence scoffed. “You wish. There’s no way I’ll help you do anything.”

“Alright, then.” Jasper nodded and turned to Julian. “Contact the city’s government and tell them that we’ve found the arsonist. Have them come over and take him to jail.”

Terence’s expression changed as he roared, “Jasper! You f*cking b*stard, you said you won’t hold me accountable!”

Jasper replied calmly, “That real estate company is both mine and my father-in-law’s. I can opt not to hold you accountable for my loss, but you’ve got to repay him for his, don’t you?”

Terence’s face paled in anger as he ground his teeth and shouted at Darrel, “Do you see what I mean?! I told you that Jasper is sinister and sly! He’s sending me to prison now and this is all your fault!”

Darrel looked uncomfortable, and he turned to Jasper only to swallow down the words he wanted to say.

Jasper’s expression was calm when he spoke, “You have two choices here. Work with me, or you can rot in jail.”

Terence clenched his jaw, and his gaze was fiery when he growled. “Fine. What do you want me to do?”

“Help me find out who the other people he has been in contact with are.”

Terence was stunned and scoffed at Jasper's words. "Who else can he be in contact with? Except for his dad, no one else knows he's back at all. There's no way he has any other contacts."

"You think he has the galls to come at me by himself? Why do you think he's trying to deal with me in the dark? He has lost to me too many times," Jasper replied calmly.

Terence's brows twitched as he looked at Jasper disdainfully. "Sure, whatever you say."

"You don't have to worry about anything else. All you need to do is look into what I've asked you, and I can promise no one will ever hold you accountable for setting this fire," Jasper replied calmly.

Terence sneered. "You'd better keep your word this time."

Soon after, Terence left. For some unknown reason, Darrel stayed back instead of leaving with his brother.

Standing by the study's window, Jasper drank his coffee as he watched Terence leave the villa. Suddenly, he turned to Darrel who stood behind him and asked with a smile, "What do you think your brother is going to do first?"

Darrel was stunned for a moment before he replied, "Isn't he going to find out who else that Zayden person is in contact with? That's what you asked him to do, right?"

Jasper replied calmly, "If only it was that simple. I'm willing to bet that the first thing this brother of yours will do is look for Zayden and tell him everything that has happened."

Darrel's expression changed. "That's impossible... How... How would he dare to? Plus, he already promised me..."

Jasper replied calmly, "If I'm being honest, I'd say your brother is more of a businessman than you are when it comes down to both your personalities. You're too soft and easily driven by your emotions. They're not good traits for businessmen.

"But your brother is different. He knows how to lie and he's selfish. He also knows how to target others."

Jasper turned to look at Darrel who was gaping in shock and spoke, "The chances of people like you ending up as a large businessman is one out of 10,000. Either that, or you'll die trying. For people like your brother, it's a 5,000 out of 10,000 chance that he ends up as a small businessman, but there's also no chance that he'll ever make it big.

"It was quite a fierce fight you two had just now, so don't you find it weird that he was suddenly persuaded?" Jasper asked.

Darrel still wanted to argue, saying, "That's because he understands where I'm coming from."

"That's not it. People like him harbor a hatred for me that's so deep it might as well be engraved in his heart. How could he just suddenly understand where you're coming from?"

"No, he's already come up with a plan. He'd pretend to be against it first and then agree to it after some persuasion. That way, he'd get to be exempted from being charged with arson while at the same time, it would extinguish all the remaining suspicion we have for him.

"But he's also well aware that he's not strong enough to topple me himself. His only option is to get help from Zayden. Why else would he suddenly give in with just a few words from you?"

Darrel's lips quivered. He had to admit that the Terence Jasper described was precisely the brother he knew—ruthless and crafty.

Yet the most terrifying of all was not Terence but the man before his eyes who had managed to see through the two brothers so clearly. Jasper was petrifying.

“Then why did you let him leave anyway?” Darrel asked.

“Since we already know that Zayden is the one behind it all, then nothing else really matters anymore. Plus, don’t you think sending Terence back with a fake request will give us the perfect diversion?”

“Zayden and Terence used to deal in the dark while we were out in the open. But now, the tables have turned with them out in the open and us in the dark.

“Plus, they’d never expect me accounting for Terence telling Zayden everything, and that has just nailed our victory.”

...

After leaving the villa, Terence quickly took a taxi toward the provincial capital.

After a two-hour drive, Terence arrived at the house Zayden was currently residing in.

“Didn’t I tell you not to look for me unless something happened?”

Zayden was displeased at the fact that Terence came to his house without sending a single text first.

Terence smiled bitterly. “Something big has happened, Mr. Hanks, and I thought I should tell you in person.”

Zayden frowned. “What happened?”

Terence gulped and replied carefully, “Jasper... knows that I set the fire. He also told me to keep an eye on you to find out if you’re in contact with anyone else.”

Zayden stood up at his words. His eyes widened as he glared at Terence like he wanted to rip the man apart.

Life at the Top Chapter 585

“Mister... Mr. Hanks, why are you looking at me like that...”

Startled by Zayden’s gaze, Terence asked with a tremble.

Zayden clenched his jaw and glared at Terence. “Why am I looking at you like that? Let me ask you instead, how did Jasper know that you were the one who set the fire, huh? Also, he told you to find out who else I’m in contact with? Did you tell him I was here?”

Terence’s mind buzzed, and he was dazed.

Countless excuses had flashed through his mind on the way here before he decided that he would just be frank instead. After all, he would be screwed if Zayden found anything out.

However, it had not occurred to him that he had a fatal loophole in this script of his.

Jasper did not know that Zayden had returned at all, so the fact that Jasper would tell Terence to find out who else Zayden was in contact with meant that Terence had already confessed about Zayden being the person he was taking orders from.

“I didn’t have another choice, Mr. Hanks!”

Upset, Terence told Zayden about everything that had happened without hiding a thing.

“Jasper told me to help him, Mr. Hanks, but how would I dare?!”

“But I couldn’t just reject him either. I don’t mind going to prison, but I can’t end up delaying your plans just because of my own problems.

“That’s why I pretended to agree first and then came to report what happened. I’m on your side, really!”

Terence spoke with a wail, truly afraid that Zayden would suspect him.

Staring at Terence sinisterly, Zayden waited until the man was done speaking before he landed a harsh and sudden slap across Terence’s face.

“Motherf*cker! If I’d known that your brother was such a person, I’d have killed him long ago. What the f*ck is wrong with you anyway? Don’t you know better than to keep an eye on your brother? How’d you let him eavesdrop on such important information?!”

Terence cupped his cheek, and his gaze was filled with fear and resentment when he spoke, “I never expected that he would help an outsider. I can’t believe he ran to Jasper to tattle on me!”

“Forget it. He already knows and there’s nothing we can do about this anyway. I’m no longer the same person I used to be. So what if Jasper knows, hmm? What can he do about it?” Zayden scoffed.

“Thank goodness he still expects you to help him and find things out for him. We’ll just feed him a fake piece of information to confuse him later. I’d like to see what he looks like when he gets betrayed!”

Zayden could not help but chortle at the thought. Sinister schemes had already rushed into his mind and he could not wait to screw Jasper over with them.

“Exactly, Mr. Hanks. With your formidable status, who is Jasper anyway? Even your smallest move will have him immediately crawl over to kiss your feet!” Terence agreed.

“Has anyone told you that your ability to apple-polish is absolutely horrible?” Zayden spoke as he glanced at Terence coldly.

Terence had fawned over Zayden so much that he might as well write sonnets about the man’s greatness. He immediately blushed out of embarrassment and did not say another word.

“Don’t think that I don’t know what your plans are. You’re just on my side because you don’t have another option. You’re afraid that Jasper will still hold you accountable for the things you’ve done.

“Not that I care anyway. As long as you can prove to me that you’re useful, then I’ll still protect you. The rewards I promised will be given as well.”

Zayden smirked darkly before continuing, “But... should you dare lie to me and play me like a fool, then you’d better prepare yourself when I come to kill you. Understood?”

“Understood! Crystal clear!” Terence frantically nodded to show his loyalty.

“Here, take the money.” Zayden pulled out a wad of around 10,000 Somer Dollars from a drawer.

Life at the Top Chapter 586

“I’ll have someone prepare the things for you at the Orchid Bar downstairs. Go find a few women to fool around with tonight. Without my explicit orders, you’re not to return for the time being,” Zayden spoke calmly.

Terence’s eyes shone as he received the money. Holding it in his hands, he immediately beamed and left after saying words of gratitude.

Zayden scoffed as he watched Terence leave and chided, “Useless piece of trash. Go, spend that f*cking money. The more you spend, the faster you’ll die!”

As he thought about that, Zayden then dialed a number to Harbor City.

“It’s me, Mr. Langdon. Zayden Hanks.”

Zayden spoke on the phone courteously.

The person on the other end harrumphed after a long pause and replied calmly, “Didn’t I tell you not to contact me unless necessary?”

Zayden felt his heart lurch as he replied, “There’s been an accident and I think I might have been exposed.”

Zayden then proceeded to relay everything that had happened today.

As he spoke, it never crossed his mind that his careful and polite demeanor now was no different from how Terence was with him moments ago.

After Zayden was done, the man on the other end raged. “You useless piece of trash! Just how useless are you that you can’t even do something so simple? It’s only been a few days and you’re already exposed?”

Zayden replied frightfully, “It’s mainly because I’ve found myself a useless pawn.”

“And whose fault is that? Do you think you’d still find such useless pawns if you were any better yourself?”

“I just don’t get it. You’re both from the Mainland and even from the same province, yet Jasper can move so unrestrainedly and cause such a big ruckus. He started with nothing and he’s only getting stronger by the day. What about you? I gave you such a simple job and you still can’t do that properly? You might as well just f*cking kill yourself.”

Zayden did not dare to argue with the enraged words of the other. All he could do was wait carefully and quickly quell those angry flames.

“Fine, I got it. Get to it as fast as possible. I didn’t give you the money or support for no reason, understood?”

Zayden quickly replied, “I understand, Mr. Langdon.”

“Good.”

Only with the phone hung up did Zayden dare to curse, “F*cking hell! A bunch of Harbor City freaks, why are you acting so pretentious, huh?!”

Then, Zayden grabbed his jacket and left the house.

Half an hour later, Zayden was standing at the entrance of a hotel. Seeing a middle-aged man walk over from afar, Zayden approached with a smile and greeted, “Please come in, Uncle Sirius. I’ve been waiting for this dinner for a long time.”

Sirius clapped Zayden's shoulder with a wide smile and spoke, "I only knew you returned when your dad told me. Still, you're my nephew, aren't you? Why didn't you tell me you were coming back? I'd have someone fetch you if I knew."

Zayden ushered Sirius to the private room with a smile and said, "I experienced quite a few things when I was in Harbor City. It was only then that I found out how insignificant the fame I had before was. The more capable a person, the more they should keep a lower profile."

Sirius replied meaningfully, "I heard that you made great progress over in Harbor City and you've gotten acquainted with the wealthy families there. Looks like the rumors were right."

Zayden sat beside Sirius and smiled faintly. "A big shot did indeed take a liking to me. That's also why I'm back this time, because the big shot wants me to do something for them."

"Let's not talk about me anymore, Uncle Sirius. What do you think about what I had my dad discuss with you? There's been a change of plans now, so you might want to decide quickly if you want in on it before it's too late."

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Sirius glanced at Zayden and replied calmly, "Why are you two so rushed? This is something big, after all."

Zayden shrugged. "I'm not particularly impatient, but the people at Harbor City are tired of waiting. It's just Jasper Laine, so he's not worth so much of their time and thoughts."

“Getting rid of Jasper means the fall of Schuler Group as well, Uncle Sirius. By then, the entire Schuler Group will belong to the Hanks family. What else are you worried about? Just look at how great the rewards will be.”

Sirius lit a cigarette and took a few small drags before he replied, “I’m not worried, it’s just that Dawson’s power has really spread throughout the Southeast Province right now. It won’t do us any good to offend him.”

Zayden replied calmly, “I knew that you’d be worried about something like this, so I came up with a fool-proof plan.”

Sirius arched a brow at Zayden, waiting for him to continue.

While they sounded close and called each other ‘Uncle’ and ‘Nephew’, Sirius was well aware of how ingenuine his nephew was.

Not to mention that the power of the family only resided with him now because Zayden had lost to Jasper once. That was how Sirius managed to take the title of head of the family from Sylva.

While the two of them were family, neither minded backstabbing the other if need be.

“The Monty family has already wholeheartedly agreed to help when we decide to attack,” Zayden whispered.

The cigarette in Sirius’ hand shifted as he gasped. “The Monty family?! Really?!”

The Monty family was the lowest profile family in the Southeast Province despite having the deepest roots in the province.

If the Hanks family was undoubtedly considered a large family in the Southeast Province, then the Monty family would surely be the number one family in the province.

It was just that members of the Monty family were extremely low profile. It was rare for them to take any action, so other families in the Southeast Province tended to forget about them.

However, it was an unspoken fact known by all that the Monty family's benefits in the Southeast Province were not to be touched—or one would end up dead before they knew it.

Zayden chuckled, unsurprised by Sirius' reaction.

Zayden was more shocked than Sirius when he first found out about it.

“The support Harbor City is giving me is more than just money.”

Zayden decided to show his hand slightly and said, “I might as well go straight to the point. Before I got back from Harbor City, I met Conrad at the big shot's home.”

Sirius knitted his brows tightly and spoke solemnly, “Conrad Monty, the head of the Monty family. He's only 32 this year but I've seen him before on some special occasions. He's indeed an outstanding character. They say that the Southeast Province hasn't seen someone as outstanding as him in the past 50 years.”

Zayden smiled with squinted eyes and spoke, “You shouldn't have any more concerns, right, Uncle Sirius?”

Sirius' eyes flitted as he replied, “I need to see Conrad.”

Zayden frowned slightly in impatience. “You know what his personality is like. He doesn't just meet anyone.”

Sirius sighed. “The Hanks family can't suffer another loss again. I've got to be more careful.”

Zayden was just about to speak when the doors to the private room suddenly opened. Entering the room was an elegant man in a white tunic, looking exquisite with his gold-rimmed glasses.

“I’ll just come in directly since you want to meet me.”

The person who entered the room was Conrad Monty.

At the sight of Conrad, Sirius stood reflexively to greet him. Glancing at Zayden from the corners of his eyes, he was shocked to find Zayden more surprised than he was.

Life at the Top Chapter 588

“Mr. Monty, why are you...”

Zayden was cut off by Conrad’s dismissive wave. With a warm smile, Conrad spoke, “There’s not much that can go on without my knowledge in the Southeast Province.”

Zayden felt his body grow cold.

He knew that the Monty family had a strong influence in the Southeast Province, but he had not expected such unimaginable power.

‘Doesn’t that mean Conrad knows about everything that I’ve been doing since I got here?’

At that thought, Zayden’s expression turned sour.

It seemed like the people in Harbor City did not trust him, after all. Conrad must be the true person they were working with.

“Please sit, Mr. Monty.”

Sirius ushered Conrad to take a seat at the head of the table before he spoke cautiously, “Are you in agreement to get rid of Jasper, Mr. Monty?”

Conrad fiddled with the ring in his hands and replied calmly, “I have quite the understanding of Jasper, but I’m not interested in dealing with him at all. Do as you wish, I’m merely here to provide the support required.”

Smiling, Conrad continued, “But I do wish that you succeed on the first try and not create complications, or it would be difficult for me to explain it to the people in Harbor City.”

Sirius’ expression shifted. He was already 90% in agreement with the plan. He asked, “Excuse me for pressing unnecessarily, Mr. Monty, but does your family intend to further develop in Harbor City?”

Conrad looked up at Sirius and asked calmly, “Why ask if you already know that it’s unnecessary?”

“My apologies, Mr. Monty. I shouldn’t have asked.”

Sirius quickly apologized, goosebumps rising on his arms after being subjected to Conrad’s mere gaze.

Conrad stood up and looked at Zayden. “I’ve already done what was needed of me. Whatever is left is up to you. Like I said, speed things up on your end. There’s only so much patience I and the people in Harbor City have.”

Conrad then walked toward the door before suddenly turning to Zayden, praising, “Oh, your plan wasn’t bad at all. Jasper has taken up many real estate projects

within the province. While confidence is commendable in youths, problems will surely arise if they have too much on their plates.

“There’s no way a real estate company can continue operating when accidents occur in all of its projects at the same time, right?”

Then, with a smile, Conrad opened the door and left.

Conrad had only been in the room for less than five minutes and only spoken a few words, yet he had completely controlled the situation.

Zayden pursed his lips and looked at Sirius. He spoke in a calm voice, “You heard him too, right, Uncle Sirius? What more are you hesitating for?”

Sirius laughed aloud. “My nephew’s enemy is of course my enemy as well. I had already decided to help you since the beginning. Having the Monty family’s support now is only a bonus.”

Scoffing internally, Zayden felt the urge to slap Sirius across the face. Still, he kept the thought inside him.

In comparison to how cowardly and selfish Sirius was, Zayden was more pissed at Conrad.

“We’re all Harbor City’s dogs, so who are you to pretend like you’re much better than I am? You make it sound like you’re the one in control here too. What a piece of trash, I’ll f*cking kill you one day!”

...

Nauritus City, Orchid Bar. Terence joyfully had his arms around a woman when he was suddenly pulled up to his feet by his collar.

He felt the world spin around him for a moment, and when he was about to roar, he saw Jasper smiling at him while sitting on the couch. Terence froze and spoke distressingly, "What more do you still want from me, Jasper? I'll tell you when I have news."

Life at the Top Chapter 589

Jasper waved his hand and Julian immediately turned off the deafening music in the private room. Then, he ushered the girls who were drinking with Terence out the room as well.

The rowdy private room instantly quietened.

"This is how Zayden makes you work for him?" Jasper asked with a wide smile.

Terence's expression darkened as he asked grimly, "What do you want from me?"

"Bring me to see Zayden," Jasper stated calmly.

Terence was stunned for a moment before he scoffed. "Are you crazy? You want me to bring you to see Zayden now?"

Jasper clasped his hands together and placed them under his chin, saying to Terence, "I'm informing you, not discussing this with you. Do you understand the situation you're in?"

Terence huffed. "Didn't you tell me to find out who else he's in contact with? I've only been back for a few hours and you want to see him already? How am I supposed to help you do anything then?"

All Terence wanted to do now was find an excuse to escape and then immediately tell Zayden the news.

“I’m pretty sure you’ve already said all you have to and Zayden has already done all he needs to in these past few hours. It’s the perfect time for me to meet the man himself.”

After he finished speaking, Jasper no longer had the patience to waste more of his time on Terence. He gave Julian a look.

Julian walked over to Terence expressionlessly and spoke, “Would you like me to move you, or are you going to move yourself?”

Terence was terrified by the mere sight of Julian. A painful lesson had taught him that this man could kill him as though he was an ant.

“I’ll bring you two there!” Terence clenched his jaw.

Jasper stood in satisfaction, speaking as he walked, “Don’t think about trying anything. There’s a limit to my patience.”

Terence sighed at the words. Despondent, he completely gave up on the idea of leading them the wrong way.

After exiting the bar, Terence complied obediently and brought Jasper upstairs to the door of the apartment on the highest floor where Zayden lived.

“He lives here,” Terence claimed as they arrived at the doorstep.

Julian walked toward the door and looked inside through the peephole for a while. Then, he turned to Jasper and shook his head. “There are no signs of people inside, Jasper.”

Terence's expression changed as he spoke, "I'm not lying to you at all. This is where I go whenever I'm looking for him."

Jasper then turned to Julian. "Is there any way to enter?"

Julian smiled and replied, "Easy."

He walked toward the window at the end of the corridor. Grabbing the upper edge of the window with one hand, he crawled in an agile manner and climbed along the pipelines.

"What the f*ck, this is the 16th floor!" Terence was startled.

Less than a minute later, Julian opened the apartment door from inside.

"I've checked the apartment, Jasper. It's empty," Julian replied.

Jasper entered the house with his hands behind his back and replied, "This old friend of ours must've gone to meet his friends. Let's wait for him inside."

Terence averted his gaze and turned to leave, only to have Julian stand right before his path, blocking him.

"Jasper did not say you could leave," Julian stated calmly.

Terence replied wretchedly, "I'm your master's cousin. You'd better treat me with respect, you're nothing more than Jasper's slav—"

"Slap him, Jul."

Jasper's voice sounded from the house.

Without hesitation, Julian raised his arm and sent a slap across Terence's face.

Despite already controlling his strength, the slap still had Terence feeling dizzy while blood seeped out from the corner of his lips.

Life at the Top Chapter 590

“Watch your mouth. As far as I’m concerned, Julian is close enough to be my brother while we are no closer than strangers.” Jasper turned to Terence who had a hand on his cheek and was currently being dragged into the room by Julian.

Terence clenched his jaw but did not speak anymore.

He knew that regardless of what happened today, he was screwed.

...

Ignoring their intentions and whether they were only doing this for their own benefits, Zayden and Sirius seemed to have come to an agreement.

That put Zayden in a great mood.

He had the Monty family’s support and the green light from his uncle.

The series of attacks he had diligently prepared for Jasper could begin tomorrow.

The uncle-nephew pair, who each had their own agendas, was in a great mood. They ended up drinking a substantial amount of alcohol.

Zayden was tipsy and intoxicated by the time they parted ways.

He was swaying as he opened the door to his apartment. Zayden kicked his shoes off and yawned as entered the house. Clouded by alcohol, he wondered if he should find a woman to spend the night with.

However, Zayden was stricken the moment he entered the house. He stared in disbelief at the sight of Jasper sitting lazily on the sofa.

Zayden felt his mind run haywire at the sight of Jasper.

He had never expected to see Jasper in his house!

He was stunned, surprised, and also a little terrified.

After combing through the complicated emotions in his mind, Zayden asked hoarsely, "What the f*ck?! Are you a human or a ghost?!"

After receiving such a shock, any sense of intoxication Zayden felt had now disappeared. However, his brain had yet to completely catch up to things.

Jasper smiled in satisfaction at Zayden's reaction like a child who had just played a prank. There was no hostility in his smile when he replied, "A human, of course. Are you surprised?"

"I suppose I understand why you're shocked, considering the person you can't wait to get rid of for good has appeared in your supposedly secluded and safe house. I guess it feels like seeing a snake in your bed right when you lift the covers, huh?"

After quickly regulating his emotions, Zayden then speedily swept his gaze over the house.

There was an expressionless man he did not recognize standing behind Jasper.

Terence was here too!

Terence was currently hiding in the corner of the room frightfully, not daring to look at Zayden.

Seeing Terence, Zayden understood what was going on and chuckled furiously. "You're the one who brought Jasper here, weren't you, you f*cking b*stard?"

Terence did not dare to look up, let alone meet Zayden's gaze. He did not dare to speak at all.

While arrogant and stupid, Terence still had the rationale of a normal human being. He was aware that he had no right to speak here.

He would be met with the same consequences regardless of whether he admitted it or not.

Taking a deep breath, Zayden did not wait for Terence's reply as Terence expected. Zayden turned to Jasper. Suddenly smiling, he replied, "It's New Year's, isn't it? I came back to spend Christmas and New Year's with my family. Is anything wrong with that?"

"Of course not." Jasper nodded.

"But if you came here to get help from some distant relative to get rid of me and persuade my own relatives to set my construction site aflame, then there's definitely something wrong with that."

Jasper spoke slowly as he turned to Zayden.

Zayden scoffed. "I don't even know what you're talking about. You're blaming me because your own construction site caught fire? Isn't that too arrogant of you, Jasper?"

"Say, if I turn Terence in to the police as an upstanding citizen, what do you think are the chances of him giving up your name?" Jasper suddenly asked.

Zayden's smile froze, and his eyes were filled with shame as well as anger.

Life at the Top Chapter 591

“Don’t act so proud, Jasper. Do you think you can step all over me?”

Enraged, Zayden gave up on maintaining pleasantries and sneered at Jasper.

“We’ve clashed many times already, so I think I know you well. You would’ve just dealt with me already if that’s what you had in mind, but instead, you secretly came to look for me in my house. Haha, cut the crap. You’re afraid, aren’t you? You’re afraid of the person supporting me!”

Zayden stared at Jasper and chortled.

“Hmm, not bad. Looks like you’ve learned something after being taught a few harsh lessons,” Jasper turned to Zayden and said.

“Indeed, obstacles are the best way to make a person mature. Look at you now, you’re way more mature than you used to be.”

Zayden’s expression turned more wretched by the minute, and he spoke to Jasper resentfully, “Stop mocking me, Jasper! Do you even know what kind of life I’ve been living in Harbor City for the past half a year? Even dogs have better lives than me!

“Those Harbor City freaks don’t respect me at all. They hit me whenever they’re in a bad mood. I’ve been living a life that’s more lowly than pests!

“But I took all of that in stride because I will never forget that you were the one who made me become like this. I’ve sworn to myself so many times that I’ll make you pay for all the suffering you made me go through. I’ll return it to you a hundredfold!

“And this is only the beginning of my revenge!”

“So that’s why you’re so willing to be Kennedy’s loyal dog? So that you can help him target me?”

Jasper questioned right after Zayden finished speaking.

Without further thought, Zayden replied easily, “Exactly. I’d rather do... Jasper, are you tricking me into talking?!”

Realizing that he had been played, Zayden was enraged and roared.

Instead of being overpowered, Zayden’s self-esteem and desire for revenge were even more easily provoked by Jasper outsmarting him.

Seeing Jasper’s elated expression on his face, Zayden had never once felt so much hatred for someone before.

He felt the urge to grab Jasper and skin him alive.

“I don’t actually need to trick you at all. Harbor City has been fed up with me for a long time and there’s only one Langdon who wants to see me dead. You merely confirmed my suspicions, that’s all.”

Jasper replied calmly.

Still panting in anger, Zayden mustered all his strength to control his rage as he glared at Jasper with a wretched smile. “So what if you know, huh? Like you can do anything anyway! The power that I have on my side is hardly anything you can defend against!

“I’d like to see how much longer you can keep this proud facade up.”

Jasper got up from the sofa and leaned against the window where the moon outside could be seen. Looking out at the bright lights in the night view outside, he spoke, "Nauritus City has been developing even faster this year. You can see how much busier it is now, right?"

Zayden did not know what tricks Jasper had up his sleeve, so he merely scoffed but did not reply.

Despite not willing to admit it, Zayden was subconsciously afraid. He was terrified that Jasper would somehow manage to trick him to talk again.

"You must've gone to meet up with your accomplices tonight to discuss how you plan to get rid of me, right? After all, Terence has already brought you information that I want you to know.

"Knowing that you've been exposed, you knew that I'd retaliate very soon. That's why you couldn't wait anymore, and you didn't want to leave it up to chance as there's the risk that I'd manage to attack you before you can attack me. So, you decided to prepare and lay out your traps as soon as possible."

Jasper turned to look at Zayden. "Could you tell me who your other helpers are, then?"

Zayden scoffed. "Are you crazy? You want me to tell you? How about you beg me, then? I might just tell you who I asked for help and what exactly my plans entail!"

Life at the Top Chapter 592

Jasper crossed his arms and chuckled. "See? So you did find help, after all. It seems like Kennedy doesn't really trust you, considering how openly he asks you to get rid of me while he secretly asks someone else for help.

“Call it help or whatever else, but none of them truly trust your ability, do they?”

“ ... ”

Zayden glared at Jasper. This time, he did not even dare to refute him.

Jasper was just too terrifying, much more terrifying than the people he had met in Harbor City too.

With just a few words here and there, Jasper had managed to guess most of the truth from the small details and loopholes in his words.

“I didn’t say anything at all. As to whether I have accomplices or not, well you can think whatever you want. Are you done? If you are, then get the f*ck out of my house. You’re not welcome here!”

Right after that, Zayden’s phone rang.

Zayden glanced at the number displayed and suddenly laughed. “You want to know who my accomplices are, right, Jasper? Then I’ll call him over right now.”

Zayden then accepted the call.

“I’ve already prepared everyone we need, Zayden. I’m just waiting for confirmation from your side now. We can make our move tomorrow.” Sirius’ voice sounded from the other end of the line.

Zayden smiled and replied, “I’ve changed my mind, Uncle Sirius. We’re still going to make a move, but don’t you think it’d feel much better to see our enemy stand there and unable to do anything as everything unfolds at the same time?”

Sirius frowned. “What do you mean?”

“You know where I’m staying right now, right? Come over as fast as you can. I’ll be waiting for you.”

Zayden then hung up the phone. Turning around, he stared at Jasper resentfully and wretchedly.

“Just wait, Jasper. You’re going to realize very soon that all your pride and arrogance are just a facade. You’ll lose everything you have.

“I’d really like to see what you look like when you’re hopeless and terrified.”

Zayden stared at Jasper and guffawed. “Now that I think about it, I’m so excited I can’t even wait anymore. Oh, I just hope that day will come soon.

“Remember everything I’m telling you now, Jasper. Everything you have, be it your money, your status, or your women, I will take everything from you and you won’t be able to do anything but watch! This is what you get for offending too many people you never should have!”

Jasper looked down from where he stood by the window. On the first floor of the building that was pitch-black hid a few cars with red and blue lights. There were also the shadows of a few people who were standing alert.

“Your Uncle Sirius? That’s your accomplice?” Jasper asked calmly.

Zayden smiled. “Exactly, but so what if you know now? It’s too late anyway! You only have your own arrogance to blame!”

At the same time, the atmosphere was heavy in a car downstairs.

Jasper’s Aunt Honey and her husband were both there. Wiping her tears with a tissue, Honey sobbed. “Oh Lord, how could Terence be so blind?!”

Darrel sighed. "It's just as Jasper said, there's no saving him anymore. Jasper told me before that Terence would sell him out but I didn't want to believe him. Now that I'm seeing it for myself, it looks like Jasper was right."

Jasper's uncle sighed deeply. "So you're telling me we have to send Terence to prison ourselves?"

"Dad!" Darrel shouted, pointing at the officers outside the car. "You see it too, don't you? It's already a fact that they're going to catch him. There's no way Terence can run anymore. But he's not the culprit, he's just the accomplice at most. We're saving him here. If we let him continue to act rashly, who knows what big trouble he's going to get himself into next time?!"

Life at the Top Chapter 593

"But Terence is your brother!"

Honey spoke as tears streamed down her face. "And... And Jasper too. Why does he have to send Terence to prison? Sure, Terence has made a mistake, but he's still his cousin. A little punishment would've been enough. You said he won't hold Terence accountable, so why is this happening now?"

Darrel sighed deeply and spoke, "I didn't want to believe Jasper when he told me that Terence would definitely betray him, so I made a promise to Jasper. If Terence betrayed him, it means that there's no saving him anymore and this is our only option left.

"If he didn't betray Jasper, then Jasper would let him go.

“Terence may only be an accomplice, but he could point Jasper to the culprit who’s behind everything. This means a lot to Jasper because those people plotting against him are actually plotting for his death!

“This is already the most benevolent option Jasper can make.”

With his eyebrows knitted tightly, Darrel’s father hit his thigh and clenched his jaw tight. “He’ll have to deal with the consequences of his own mistake. This is the most we can do for him. Enough already, we can only hope that Jasper will remember how we’re cooperating with him this time and help Darrel with his business.”

...

Under Jasper’s instructions, Sirius managed to drive his car into the underground car park of the apartment block without any difficulties.

Quickly after, Sirius hastily arrived at Zayden’s apartment with two bodyguards in tow.

“Zayden, what...”

Sirius’ eyes widened as his expression became filled with disbelief when he saw Jasper standing in front of Zayden.

Zayden was grinning. “Jasper had been waiting for me in my house long ago, Uncle Sirius.”

Sirius furrowed his brows, feeling slightly unsettled as he asked grimly, “What’s happening here?”

“Nothing much.”

Zayden scoffed and replied in a wretched tone, “Jasper just can’t wait to die!”

Sirius furrowed his brows slightly.

To be frank, Sirius would very much rather sit at home with victory in his grasp than to be exposed to his opponent before the plan even started.

Zayden's move caused a huge wave of unease to surge in his heart, and he had an ominous feeling.

"What do you want, Zayden?" Sirius asked.

Zayden guffawed. "What do I want? I want Jasper to watch as we destroy everything that belongs to him!

"Uncle Sirius, since we've already prepared everything and are going to make our move tomorrow, I don't see why we can't tell him about it tonight. But we won't tell him the specifics of what we're going to do and he'll just have to guess!

"You love playing guessing games, don't you, Jasper? Then take your time and guess. Guess how exactly we're going to screw you over!

"But all you have is one night. So what if you manage to guess it? You won't have time to prepare for a counterattack anyway. What a great feeling, wouldn't you say? Hahaha."

As he laughed, Zayden began to feel that something was wrong.

Jasper was now looking at him like he was stupid, and Julian's gaze on him was downright pitiful as well.

"Why are you looking at me like that?! Stop pretending that you're going to be fine. You're frantic, aren't you? Aren't you angry?" Zayden barked out resentfully.

Jasper sighed and spoke, "Looks like there's no more information we can squeeze out of him.

“Have them come up, Jul.”

Life at the Top Chapter 594

“Yes, Jasper!” Julian replied courteously and pulled out his phone to dial a number. “Captain Vaughn, you can bring your team up now.”

With that, Julian hung up the phone.

Faced with this scene, both of Zayden’s and Sirius’ expressions changed.

Especially Sirius, whose unease had reached new heights.

“What’s happening? What weird trick do you have up your sleeve this time?”

As franticness and unease overwhelmed him, Zayden glared at Jasper and growled.

“Standing at different angles gives you a different scenery. Would you be interested in coming over here to see what my view looks like?” Jasper asked.

Zayden clenched his jaw and scoffed. “I do indeed want to see just what kind of bullsh*t you’re spouting this time. Don’t try to play me, there’s no way I’d—”

Zayden then arrived beside Jasper mid-speech and looked down the building from the window.

At the same time, police sirens broke through the silence of the night and the hidden police cars all lit their flashing lights. They had all driven out of the area they had been hiding behind and arrived below the building.

Through the red and blue flashing lights, Zayden saw a large group of uniformed officers form an orderly line before entering the building.

Zayden swallowed the rest of his words at the sight in front of him.

“What’s the meaning of this, Jasper?!” Zayden looked at Jasper in terror and roared.

“The fire at the Southface River construction site is a case of great importance to both the city and provincial government right now. The officials are doing everything they can to solve the crime, and it’s only right for a victim like me to inform them when I’ve found the arsonist. After all, I have no right to punish them myself.”

Jasper’s calm words pierced into Zayden’s heart.

“Bullsh*t!” Zayden suddenly chortled. “I don’t know anything about a fire. Stop trying to blame me, he’s the one who set the fire!”

Zayden pointed at Terence whose face was drained of all colors. He scoffed, saying, “This is all his fault. What does it have to do with me?”

Terence was utterly lost. Staring at Jasper with scorn, he yelled, “You promised that you wouldn’t hold me accountable, Jasper! How could you lie to me?!”

“Tell them the truth, Terence, and you’ll just be an accomplice. You’ll receive a light sentence and be released in just a few years. Then you’ll get to start all over again.

“But if you decide to take the blame for Zayden, then you’ll be charged as the culprit of the entire incident. That’ll give you 15 years at least, or even an indefinite sentence.”

Jasper looked at Terence who had gone pale and spoke, “Whether you want a heavy or a light sentence is up to you now.”

At that moment, Zayden had gone truly frantic. He knew that his future was in Terence's hands.

He had never expected that Terence, the man he ordered around like a dog, would one day be in control of his future at such an important time.

At this moment, Zayden was ready to give it his all.

"You'd better think hard on this, Terence. What has Jasper ever given you this entire time? All he has been doing is using you and lying to you. Even as an accomplice, you'll still be facing at least ten years in prison. I have people backing me up and these people will do whatever it takes to clear my name!

"By then, you'll still be the one screwed over!

"As long as you say what you're supposed to, then I promise you I'll give you one million Somer Dollars for every year in prison they charge you with!

"I mean what I say! You have to know that Jasper is the reason why this is happening to you! You wouldn't have to suffer such a terrible fate if not for Jasper! You're afraid now, aren't you? That means you've already fallen into his trap!"

Life at the Top Chapter 595

Jasper remained silent as he watched Zayden furiously persuade Terence.

Jasper's relationship with Terence was horrible and there was no point in trying to persuade him.

Not when Jasper had already found the person who would do it for him.

The moment Zayden finished speaking, the door was slammed open and a large group of uniformed officers entered the house.

Leading them was a middle-aged man with an angular jaw and stern features.

“Control the scene!”

Under Captain Vaughn’s orders, Zayden, Terence, and Sirius were each surrounded by four to five officers.

Zayden immediately started to struggle vigorously. “What are you doing?! I’m an upstanding citizen, what right do you have to arrest me?”

Captain Vaughn frowned and replied, “We’ll be the ones to decide whether you’re an upstanding citizen or not. All you need to do now is cooperate with us.”

Zayden scoffed. “You need to bring evidence out and tell me your reasoning first if you want me to cooperate. Where’s your evidence, huh? What are your reasons, hmm?”

Captain Vaughn looked at Jasper.

Jasper furrowed his brows lightly and spoke, “Please bring Terence Laine’s parents in, Captain Vaughn.”

Captain Vaughn nodded and turned to give an order. Then, Darrel and his parents entered the apartment.

Honey began to cry the moment her gaze fell on Terence. Collapsing over her son, she hit and scolded him, “How could you disappoint me like this? Is it because I spoiled you too much? How could you get yourself into so much trouble? What am I supposed to do now?”

Terence had lived the past few hours with heightened anxiety. While the sight of his parents had shocked him, his eyes were now reddened in shame and fear.

Darrel walked over to Jasper and whispered, "Mom and Dad have already agreed to persuade Terence."

Nodding, Jasper clapped Darrel's shoulder but did not say any more.

"Captain Vaughn, could you give Terence and his parents some privacy to talk?" Jasper asked.

Captain Vaughn thought about it and replied, "No problem, but my men must stand at the door following protocol."

Jasper smiled. "Of course."

Watching Terence and his parents enter his room, Zayden felt his fear skyrocket to the extreme.

"What are you trying to do this time, Jasper?!" Zayden glared daggers at Jasper, overwhelmed by the utter fear and unease that threatened to drown him.

"Captain Vaughn."

Ignoring Zayden who was currently agitated, Jasper turned to tell Captain Vaughn, "This here is the true mastermind behind the fire. Please do be careful."

Captain Vaughn smiled and waved his hand, silently ordering the officers surrounding Zayden to grab both his hands and cuff them.

Zayden barked, "What are you doing? Do you even know who I am?! How dare you handcuff me?"

Realizing that the current situation was already beyond his control, Sirius mustered the courage to step up and speak, "You're going against the rules now, Jasper."

"The rules?" Jasper turned to Sirius with an intrigued gaze. "You're the head of the Hanks family, right? I'm curious as to what Zayden promised you. How'd you involve yourself in this as well?"

Life at the Top Chapter 596

“But none of that is important now. As for these rules you speak of, I’d like to know whose rules you’re following here? Are they yours? Or are they his?”

Jasper pointed at Sirius and then at Zayden as he spoke.

He then redirected his finger to point at his own nose. “I only follow my own rules. Meaning whoever dares to try and screw me over will have to be prepared to be screwed over by me.”

Sirius’ expression was dark when he spoke, “Stop it, Jasper. Don’t you think you’re going too far? You wouldn’t dare throw Zayden in prison.”

“Bullsh*t. Why wouldn’t I dare?” Jasper asked.

“Since he dared to get someone to light my construction site on fire, making me lose 100 million and severely injuring my workers, what’s stopping me from sending him to where he belongs?”

The space between Sirius’ eyebrows began to twitch as he scoffed. “Business conflicts should be dealt with through business means. Aren’t you afraid that doing so will prompt the people supporting Zayden to attack you?”

Jasper asked with a bright smile, “Is it possible that you, the head of the Hanks family, think that I’m on good terms with the person supporting Zayden? Or perhaps you think we’re on terms well enough to meet each other for a polite meal?”

Sirius was stunned, and his expression darkened. Staring at Jasper, he warned, “You’re too arrogant, Jasper. It isn’t your place to make the Southeast Province your territory yet.”

“I don’t care nor am I interested in making the Southeast Province my territory. But I’ll make myself clear, no one will be able to stop me from putting Zayden behind bars,” Jasper stated firmly.

Sirius was furious and roared, “What an insolent child! You’ve got no respect for anyone at all! The Southeast Province is huge, do you really think you can stand atop us all?”

At that, the room door opened to reveal Terence. The man walked out with a despondent look on his face.

His appearance had attracted the attention of Zayden, Sirius, and everyone else.

Captain Vaughn walked over and spoke solemnly, “Terence Laine, you’re suspected to have played a major role in the serious incident of the fire that spread in the construction site at Southface River a few days ago. Please come to the station with us and cooperate with our investigation. Is there anything you would like to add?”

Terence turned to look at his parents and Jasper before his gaze finally fell on Zayden.

“Don’t you dare say what you’re not supposed to, Terence,” Zayden warned with his jaw clenched tight.

Terence’s lips quivered before he turned to Captain Vaughn. “I admit to setting the site on fire.”

Zayden looked elated upon hearing that and was about to guffaw.

However, he heard Terence continue speaking before he could laugh out loud. “But Zayden Hanks was the one who forced me to do everything. If you must arrest me, I only ask that you arrest him as well.”

Zayden's smile froze on his face before it could fully grace his features. He was stricken by what he just heard.

"What are you talking about, Terence?!"

Zayden completely exploded. Amidst the anger and fear was a dense layer of indignance, and it caused Zayden to rage like he had gone mad. Zayden roared, "Don't f*cking drag me into this just because you want to f*cking die! I'll f*cking kill you, I swear to God!"

Then, as if hit with an epiphany, Zayden immediately turned his head to Jasper and glared daggers at the man. He growled, yelling, "It's you, isn't it? You did all this, Jasper! Are you happy now, huh?! I'm going to kill you!"

With that, Zayden pounced on Jasper.

However, his movements only garnered angry shouts from the few officers who were holding him down, and they pressed Zayden against the floor.

Lying face-down, Zayden looked up and glared at Jasper enviously. He struggled maddeningly and spat out the words, "I'm going to f*cking kill you, Jasper!"

"Why? It's not fair! I put in so much effort, and I think about getting rid of you so much that I start dreaming about it! So why do you get to win every single time?!"

Life at the Top Chapter 597

"Because your methods are wrong."

Jasper looked at Zayden calmly, and his tone was indifferent.

“Our resentment is an issue between you and me only. Come at me if you want to make a fuss, but the people heavily injured in the hospital are innocent.

“The fact that you dragged innocent people into this because of your hatred for me is the reason why you’re going to lose everything.”

Zayden glared at Jasper and seethed, yelling, “Bullsh*t! Those people are nothing but trash! I don’t even give a f*ck about them at all, they’re nothing to me!”

Jasper replied calmly, “I know that you won’t understand. But that’s alright, you’ll have ten or maybe even 20 years in prison to slowly think about it.”

He smiled as he continued, “I don’t mind giving you time, but what about the people in Harbor City? I wonder if they’d be able to forgive you for causing them such a huge loss? Who knows if they have the patience to wait for your release? Maybe they’ll teach you a lesson while you’re still in there.”

Zayden’s complexion immediately paled.

He knew that those Harbor City freaks were hardly negotiable people.

He had come back to the Southeast Province with a huge amount of financial support and all sorts of help from Harbor City.

However, instead of getting rid of Jasper, Zayden was landing himself in jail instead.

There was no way the people in Harbor City would forgive him.

Kennedy had warned him before he came to the province that his head would be on the chopping block if he were to fail.

Zayden knew that in Kennedy's eyes, he was no more valuable than a pest and it would be too easy for Kennedy to get rid of him.

Terrified, Zayden turned to Jasper and suddenly spoke, "Forgive me, Jasper. How about this, like Terence, I'll join you and help you deal with Kennedy? Just save me."

Jasper smiled brightly. "That sounds like a great deal.

"It's a shame that I'm not interested. You and Terence are too fundamentally different. Terence is just blinded by benefits, while you want nothing more than to get rid of me. It'd be unwise for me to have someone like you by my side. What if you backstab me one day?"

Zayden shook his head frantically and replied in fear, "I won't. You're too capable, and I lose every time I try to fight you. I don't have a death wish, so why would I continue to attack you when I know I'll lose? I'll be your most loyal subordinate!"

"Enough."

Sirius interrupted Zayden and approached Jasper. "I'll give you one last chance, Jasper. Stop this and have them take Terence only. Then we can end all of this here. I'm sure Zayden will compensate for every Somer Dollar you've lost."

Zayden frantically agreed. "That's right! 100 million, right? I'll pay you 200 million for compensation!"

"Looks like Kennedy gave you quite the sum." A broad smile graced Jasper's features as he turned to Captain Vaughn. "I've said what I wanted, Captain Vaughn. There's nothing more I can say to people who ignore the law. My apologies for holding you back from performing your legal duties."

Captain Vaughn nodded and scoffed at Zayden and Sirius. "Negotiating in front of me, really? Do I look like a joke to you?"

With that, Captain Vaughn waved his hand and spoke, "Take Zayden Hanks away!"

Two officers pulled Zayden off the ground and dragged him away.

All while Zayden continued to struggle and shout, "No, Jasper, please! Please forgive me, just this once! Help me, Uncle Sirius!"

Sirius took a deep breath and stared at Jasper coldly. "You will regret this, Jasper."

Life at the Top Chapter 598

"I heard the Hanks family has been doing business in the electronics industry. It seems that business is great and you're earning quite a lot?" Jasper asked calmly.

Sirius' expression darkened. "What are you implying here?"

"Nothing much. It's just that the biggest electronics trade in the south is mostly in the hands of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce Waterhoof City branch, no? I'm sure that you're working with someone from there, aren't you, Mr. Hanks?" Jasper asked with a wide grin.

Sirius scoffed and spoke, "Are you telling me you're going to steal my business now? I'm not looking down on you, Jasper, but aren't you overestimating yourself here? This is a business cooperation that makes a couple of billions every year. Who are you to steal it from me?"

“I can generously tell you that yes, my boss is the largest electronics company in Waterhoof City and they’re indeed from the Haddock Chamber of Commerce. But so what? Do you think they’ll agree to work with you instead?”

Jasper smiled. “My apologies, I must’ve forgotten to tell you. I’ll be going to Waterhoof City in a few days when the New Year’s holiday is officially over. I have a new identity now, the vice president of Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City branch. I’m sure you’re well aware of what this position entails, right, Mr. Hanks?”

Sirius’ expression changed drastically. He looked very uncomfortable as he stared at Jasper. “Bullsh*t. You’ve never been a member of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, so what makes you think you could be the vice president of its Waterhoof City branch, huh?”

“I’d say the fact that Gale himself asked me to take on the role is reason enough.” Jasper shrugged as if he was dissatisfied by the fact.

“I didn’t really want to take the role considering how I already had a lot on my plate, but it’s hard to refuse someone when they’re so sincere about it. He’s an old man, and it wouldn’t be right of me to continuously disrespect him by rejecting his proposal, would it?”

Sirius’ eyes shone with disbelief as he gasped. “You were the one who overthrew Ian?”

“Oh! I’m surprised to see that you’re so knowledgeable, Mr. Hanks,” Jasper commented.

“Don’t act so proud!”

Sirius now regretted ever being blinded by the prospect of gaining benefits and agreeing to join Zayden in this scheme. At this moment, he had no other choice but to bow down to Jasper.

“The chamber is no more than a loose business organization. What makes you think a vice president like you will be able to convince someone to drop a partnership that makes them a couple of billion Somer Dollars each year? You’re too naive!”

Jasper looked at Sirius intently and spoke, “What if it was for a trade that guaranteed ten billion Somer Dollars per year?”

Then, without looking at Sirius’ aghast expression, Jasper and Julian walked toward the door.

“Jasper!” Sirius called out.

Jasper’s figure halted just by the door but he did not turn around.

“Are you really going to go so far? How about we talk about this?” Sirius sounded aggrieved.

“Even if you agree, will Sylva?” Jasper asked.

“I’m the head of the family here,” Sirius frowned and uttered distastefully.

“But from what I’ve seen, Sylva was much smarter than you and Zayden put together. After everything that’s happened, have you ever seen him put himself in the spotlight?” Jasper asked calmly.

Sirius seemed to have been enlightened and was stunned by the revelation.

“As long as Sylva is still here, I have no other choice but to completely crush the Hanks family.”

By the time Jasper’s words reached Sirius, the man himself had already left.

“You leave me no choice, Jasper!”

Sirius roared embarrassingly in the empty house.

Life at the Top Chapter 599

By the time he arrived downstairs, Captain Vaughn's team had already left with Terence and Zayden with them.

Darrel and his parents were still waiting grimly for Jasper.

Jasper walked over and turned to Honey and her husband. "Uncle, Aunty, would you prefer we go back to my place and talk there?"

Jasper's uncle waved him off despondently. "It's alright. We just have a few things to say and then we'll go home."

Jasper replied seriously, "Please do, then. I'm listening."

Jasper's uncle looked at him and said, "In all honesty, we can't nor do we intend to blame you for what happened today.

"However, it wasn't a nice feeling to send our own son off to prison either.

"Darrel is all we have left now."

At that, Jasper's uncle looked sorrowful as he continued, "No matter what, Darrel is still your cousin. He and Terence are different. Darrel's an honest boy and he's not the kind who would hurt you.

"All this child wants is to do business, but it's not something us parents can help him with. As his cousin and the most outstanding child in the Laine family, I ask that you help him wherever you can."

Jasper quickly replied, "I'll do that even if you hadn't asked me, Uncle. The business plan he's come up with will begin very soon, and your family will get to relax and enjoy life by then."

Jasper's uncle smiled warmly and nodded. "That's nice, then. Very nice. We'll get going now, don't let us delay you from your work."

"Don't worry, Uncle. About Terence, I've already decided that I'll find the best lawyer I can for him. I'll do everything I can to reduce his jail time. It'll also be good if you urge him to cooperate when you visit him later on."

"Mainly so that he would be frank, considering how it's best if he doesn't hold any information he knows back from the authorities to help with the investigation. Another reason being that good behavior tends to decrease jail time."

"That way, he'll most likely be able to get out in three to five years and it still won't be too late for him."

A genuine smile finally graced his uncle's features and he spoke, "That's for the best. You're a capable boy, Jasper, and you know a lot of people. Farmers like us don't even know where to look for a lawyer. I'll have to trouble you with this, then."

Jasper looked up at Darrel. "Send your parents back first. Contact me if you need anything afterward."

Darrel nodded and helped his parents back. The two looked like they had suddenly aged a few years.

"Darrel wouldn't have a problem with you because of this, right, Jasper?" Julian approached Jasper and asked.

"He won't." Jasper smiled. "He knows better than anyone that I'm the last person he should have a problem with."

“Alright, enough about this. Let’s go back first. We’ve spent the whole day out, I’m exhausted.”

Jasper massaged his tense shoulders and got into the car lazily.

Julian rushed to the driver’s seat. He spoke as he started the car and drove off, “I have updates about the matter you asked me last time, Jasper. So that martial artist friend of mine, I told her the situation and she’s interested. She says she wants to meet you to talk about this.”

Jasper was immediately awake at the sound of it. “Great. You decide on the meeting date, then. But do have it as soon as possible since I’m going to be very busy for the next few days. The sooner we settle this, the more I can rest assured to leave Wendy at home.”

“Nice. I’ll have her come over tomorrow, then,” Julian spoke.

Just then, Jasper’s phone rang. It was a call from Wendy.

“Jul and I were just talking about getting you a bodyguard when you called,” Jasper stated joyfully.

However, Wendy did not talk to Jasper as she normally would. Instead, she asked, “When are you coming back, Jasp?”

Realizing that there was something off about Wendy’s tone, the smile hanging off the corner of Jasper’s lips vanished. “I’m on the way back, around 20 minutes before I arrive. What’s wrong?”

Life at the Top Chapter 600

“A guest just arrived and he’s talking to my dad in the study. I brought coffee in just now and Dad hinted at me to ask you to come back soon,” Wendy explained.

“Alright. I’ll be back as soon as I can. Do you know who it is?” Jasper asked.

Wendy replied, “I don’t. He looks pretty young, I’d say he’s in his 30s? He’s wearing a tunic and seems a little weird, but Dad is being really polite to him.”

Jasper gave it some thought and realized that he did not know such a person either. All he could do was promise to be back soon.

Hanging up the phone, Jasper turned to Julian. “Step on it, Jul.”

“Got it, Jasper.”

15 minutes later, the car came to a stop before Dawson’s villa. Jasper alighted the car and saw Wendy waiting for him at the door.

Jasper glanced at the unfamiliar car parked in the spot next to his.

A Maybach 57.

‘This was a luxury car with a value of ten million!’

Not many people might know about it, but an improved 62S would be released in a year. It was a car that would cost ten million as well. The 62S would continue to be an unmatched legendary car even in the year 2020 before Jasper reincarnated.

The 62S could be described as the most favored car by extremely wealthy people in the country.

Yet these wealthy people were most likely still suffering through hardships now. For this was the year 2001, long before the time Jasper reincarnated.

The Mayback 57 was not as eye-catching as the 62S when the latter would be released next year.

Still, countrymen who could afford the 57 now were surely the elders of the wealthy generation of entrepreneurs who drove the 62S in the future.

This was not Dawson's car, so it had to be that mysterious guest's.

"They're still in the study. It's almost been an hour," Wendy whispered as she walked to the study with Jasper.

Jasper nodded. Standing outside the study, he knocked on the door.

Soon later, Dawson's voice was heard from inside the room. "It must be Jasper, come in."

Jasper pushed open the door to see Dawson sitting on a side chair. A man in his early 30s and wearing a tunic sat on the main seat. The unfamiliar man looked young, yet he was filled with the calm aura of an experienced man.

Generally speaking, seating arrangements were an important aspect of etiquette in formidable families—especially when it came to sitting in the study.

Jasper did not count since he and Dawson were considered family. Not to mention how Jasper had fallen asleep on Dawson's imported, 100,000 Somer Dollars chair countless times before.

However, they had a guest today and Dawson had chosen to sit on a side chair. This was not just any man.

“Let me introduce you, Jasper. This is Conrad Monty, the head of the Monty family. They’re the strongest family in the Southeast Province with the deepest roots. They’re very low profile despite the amount of money they earn. The only aluminum mine in the Southeast Province is the Monty family’s business.”

Dawson used this chance to introduce him to give Jasper a wide overview of Conrad’s identity and capabilities.

Jasper arched a brow at the introduction.

Excluding coal, the country also had other unique minerals to mine. However, those were not to be touched by just anyone.

The aluminum mine in the Southeast Province was the first in the province and the sixth in the entire country. ‘To think that it belongs to the Monty family... That means there’s more than meets the eye to this Monty family that I’ve never heard of.’

Life at the Top Chapter 601

Reading Jasper's reaction, Dawson knew that the former had understood his message.

Turning around, Dawson was about to introduce him to Conrad when he saw the man smile and wave his hand dismissively. "There's no need to introduce us, Mr. Schuler. I've heard of Mr. Laine before."

Jasper turned to Conrad and asked, "I'm honored to know that you've heard of me, Mr. Monty."

Conrad replied calmly, "The host of Harbor City's billion-dollar stocks rescue plan and the celebration banquet for the approval to host the Olympics in Swallow Capital. Just because ordinary people do not know of it does not mean I do not as well."

"There's not much I can't find out should I want to. And I just so happen to be intrigued by you as well."

Jasper asked Conrad, "Could I ask what about me that has intrigued you, then, Mr. Monty?"

Conrad laughed aloud. "I heard that you sent Zayden to jail?"

Jasper's expression was calm, but he did find himself shocked.

It had been no more than two hours since he showed his hand to Zayden and returned, yet Conrad seemed to already know what had happened.

"There's no need to be shocked. I have my ways to know what I want to know," Conrad explained calmly as if seeing through Jasper's thoughts.

“Mr. Monty, you sure are knowledgeable,” Jasper stated calmly.

Conrad smiled. “I’ve wasted quite some time here already, and since you’re here now, let’s not beat around the bush anymore.

“It’s completely over for Zayden now, Jasper. But many wish to keep the incident silent, so I’ve come to bargain.

“Let’s minimize the damage here. Pull Zayden out of this incident and I can promise you he’ll never bother you again. As for your loss, I’ll compensate five times the amount.”

Conrad then looked at Jasper confidently.

It was a great deal, and he believed that Jasper had no reason to decline him.

“Five times my loss, what a large amount,” Jasper said.

“Now I’m even more curious. Does Zayden have something on you people? Why are all of you so desperate to pull him out of jail?”

At that point, Jasper could confirm that Sirius was not the accomplice Harbor City had found for Zayden.

The true accomplice was Conrad.

It made sense, considering how Sirius did not have the status nor the intellect to directly contact the people in Harbor City.

Conrad, however, matched the characteristics Jasper thought the accomplice should have.

The actual person Kennedy wanted to support might just be Conrad instead of Zayden.

The fact that Conrad had shown up tonight answered the last question in Jasper's mind.

Hearing Jasper, Conrad smiled. "Something on us? As if that's possible. Zayden has never been anything more than the most useless pawn on the board. What could he possibly have on us?"

"Let's be frank, Jasper. Your true opponent is me."

At that, Conrad stared at Jasper deeply and chuckled. "You're the pawn the Law family has been nurturing in the Mainland, while I'm that of the Langdon family. Zayden is nothing more than a piece of trash. That's what he was in the beginning, and that's what he will always be."

"This is the first time I've seen someone so proud of the fact that they're someone else's pawn," Jasper commented with a shrug.

"Haha, and yet that is the truth, is it not?"

Conrad pointed at Jasper and then at himself.

"We're all climbing upwards, all of us. But the only difference between us and everyone else is that while they're still climbing at the starting point, we've already reached a specific height."

Life at the Top Chapter 602

"Ordinary people like Zayden are nothing more than pawns to us.

"While we are pawns to people who've climbed higher than us."

Conrad's smile was light, but his words ran shivers down people's spines.

"As long as you're useful, it proves that there's meaning to living in this world. If you can't even be a pawn, then how will you ever be the player?"

"Jasper, oh, Jasper. It looks like you have not understood this situation as clearly as I thought. But that's alright, you're still young. The Law family will teach you in due time what you must understand as a pawn."

Jasper raised his hand to cut Conrad off and spoke exasperatedly, "Hold on, Mr. Monty. I think you've misunderstood."

"I'm not a pawn. Although, I am not against mutualistic partnerships with someone else to reap benefits."

"Secondly, the Law family and I are partners. We're an alliance."

"I do not know nor do I care about what your relationship with the Langdon family is, but who am I to judge if you like being someone's pawn? I'll have to decline the offer though because I'm not interested."

"And as for your claim that you're my opponent? Pardon my bluntness, but you're thinking too deep into this. I've never had the intention to fight you at all."

Jasper's words had Conrad's smile slowly vanishing off his face.

Now that Jasper had finished speaking, Conrad finally concluded calmly. "So it seems that you're unwilling to bargain, then, Jasper?"

"About what?"

Jasper asked in confusion. "Oh, I get it... You mean about Zayden?"

"Simple."

“In your dreams!”

Conrad’s indifferent gaze fell on Dawson as he spoke calmly, “Look at your future son-in-law, Mr. Schuler. He seems to lack a bit of respect. Perhaps he does not know what the Monty family is capable of in the Southeast Province. I believe you have the responsibility to teach him well.”

Dawson coughed drily and replied, “The youth these days seem to have a lot of ideas, Mr. Monty. I’m an old man who’s close to retiring. I don’t have the energy to do that anymore, so I might as well let them fight for themselves.”

Then, Dawson grinned and spoke straightforwardly, “Plus, this child didn’t get this far because he had someone’s support. Jasper has fought hard and fiercely to get to where he is today. I’d go so far as to say that he has no less experience than I do when it comes to business wars.”

While Dawson’s words sounded soft, they came with a sharp impact.

They pierced through Conrad and infuriated the man.

“Very well, then.”

Conrad got up and stared coldly at Jasper and Dawson. Then, he scoffed. “I suppose negotiation is out of the question now. It’s war, then.

“Very well. This will be the end of our conversation today.

“Do not forget that the Monty family has stood strong in the Southeast Province for decades. Our roots run much deeper than yours could ever. I am Conrad Monty, and there has yet to be anything I cannot do in Southeast Province!”

With that, Conrad scoffed and walked toward the doors of the study.

“Please hold on, Mr. Monty,” Jasper suddenly spoke.

Conrad turned and spoke to Jasper calmly, “Now you wish to bargain?”

Jasper brought the coffee cup to his lips and took a sip before replying to Conrad with a mirthful smile, “I’m happy that both you and the Langdon family are satisfied and happy with your loyalty to them, but please refrain from showing off how proud you are to be someone’s dog in front of me.

“Because the last person who did that? He met his end a long time ago.”

Life at the Top Chapter 603

Jasper’s last sentence was a very widely used threat before he reincarnated.

That was because of how classic the threat was.

However, in the year 2001, no one said such a thing.

It explained why Dawson almost laughed aloud when he heard Jasper say it.

Even Conrad’s gaze darkened instantly although he had always prided himself for his composure and ability to stay unfazed regardless of the situation.

Despite being enraged, Conrad did not act on the ire he felt and smiled instead.

“Are you trying to provoke me on purpose?”

Conrad stared at Jasper and spoke calmly.

Jasper shook his head and replied sincerely, “You’ve misunderstood. I am merely stating the truth.

“I’m not like other people. Anger will not cause me to lose my rationality. If anything, anger only clears my mind.”

Conrad narrowed his eyes at Jasper coldly and fiercely, but the corner of his lips quirked.

“Because I’m well aware that useless nobodies are unworthy of my anger. Only the truly capable and skilled have the ability to irk me, so whatever you’re playing at? I’m sorry but it’s not going to work.”

With that, Conrad faced Jasper and tapped on his temple before turning to leave.

“Show yourself out, please.”

Jasper had just finished speaking when Conrad closed the door behind him with a bang.

The relaxed and casual expression Jasper wore fell away, leaving his heavily furrowed brows to be seen.

“Jasper, this person has already made a name for himself ten years ago. There are countless families of different sizes here in the Southeast Province, but he’s the only one who managed to supersede the head of the family at the age of 25.

“Sure, there’s not much competition within the Monty family for the right to inherit since his grandfather, his dad, and he are the only sons. But the fact that Conrad had his father Steven’s approval is enough testament to his capabilities. Plus, all of the Monty family’s property and businesses are very well organized. There’s nothing to pick on at all.”

Dawson walked over and clapped Jasper’s shoulder. “There have been rumors before about how Conrad’s genius existence is good karma that has been accumulated over the past 50 years. There’s hope for Conrad to lead the Monty family into being the Southeast Province’s first inter-province family.

“There’s nothing wrong with feeling stressed when you’re facing such a person.”

However, Jasper shook his head and looked up to ask Dawson, “Uncle Schuler, there’s something I’ve been thinking about this entire time. What did Conrad want from coming over tonight?”

Dawson was stunned and replied reflexively, “Didn’t he come for Zayden’s release?”

Jasper smiled and replied, “That’s what he said, but didn’t you realize? There was no sigh of disappointment at all when I declined.

“Or perhaps he’s just really good at hiding what he thinks. But still, despite Zayden being an evidently lost cause, Conrad was still willing to expose himself for him. And to request something we could not possibly agree to.

“I had no idea that Kennedy and the others were using Conrad to deal with me before this.”

Dawson fell into thought at Jasper’s words, and his expression turned into an interesting one.

“Unless, this was a diversion?”

Jasper let out a small huff and spoke, “We don’t have enough leads right now, so I can’t predict what his true motive is here.”

“Uncle Schuler, how much do you know about this Conrad or this Monty family? Tell me a little bit more about them. I have no idea who they are at all.”

Hearing Jasper’s words, Dawson smiled. “It makes sense that you wouldn’t know considering how low profile the Monty family is. Not even ordinary people who’ve lived their entire lives in the Southeast Province may know of them either, let alone come in contact with them.

“The founder of the family is Conrad’s grandfather, Austin Monty, but he lived a short life. The current head of the family is Conrad. His father Steven is still alive, he’s just retired. Back then...”

Life at the Top Chapter 604

More than an hour later, Jasper exited Dawson’s study with a solemn look on his face.

“How’d it go?” Wendy approached and asked attentively.

She did not have a clue what had happened just now since she was not in the study.

The storm above Jasper’s head vanished as he smiled at Wendy. “Nothing much, it was just some pretentious b*stard who decided to come to our door and show off.”

“What are you talking about, stop being so crude. Come on, this is serious,” Wendy spoke, displeased.

Jasper wrapped an arm around Wendy and walked toward the kitchen. “Is there anything left to eat? I’m famished. I didn’t get to eat a proper meal today.”

Seeing that Jasper did not want to speak much about this, Wendy scrunched up her nose unhappily but did not press him for details. When it came to such things, she knew her limits.

“I could feed you?”

Jasper's eyes shone and he stared at Wendy's alluring figure before gulping. "So direct? Well, aren't you forward today?"

Wendy blinked, having yet to catch up with a joke that would only begin to trend more than a decade later.

Still, Wendy was a smart lady and she realized where Jasper was looking. With a little more thought, it dawned on her what the man meant.

Embarrassed and furious, Wendy grabbed the pan and began to run after Jasper to hit him with it. "Do you want to die? Would it kill you to stop joking around all the time?!"

...

The following day, Jasper was informed of a horrible piece of news right after he woke up.

Zayden Hanks was dead.

In the heavily guarded detention center, he had knocked his head against a wall and killed himself.

"Jasper, our intel states that Zayden was very determined to die. Not only did he knock his head against the wall, but he also bit his own tongue before that in case the knocking did not kill him.

"No one in the detention center expected him to commit suicide.

"There was blood all over the floor when they found him this morning. There was a huge hole in his head and his brain was splattered across half the wall. He's unrecognizable."

Wendy was eating breakfast with Jasper when she heard the news. The sunny-side up egg was still in her mouth when she paused and put the egg back on the plate.

Jasper, who was drinking his soy milk, glanced at Julian distastefully. "Do you have to say it in such detail?"

Jasper scratched his head and replied innocently, "I was afraid that it'd affect your deductions if I missed out on any details, Jasper."

"I'm not a detective. Solving murders is their job, not mine."

Jasper sighed and asked, "Did someone visit Zayden last night?"

Julian nodded. "Yeah. Sylva Hanks visited him at ten last night and two other unknown foreigners visited at two this morning. The two foreigners are missing now and the officials are trying to track them down."

Jasper scoffed. "What loyal guards there are in the detention center! I'd understand if it was Zayden's dad visiting him, but strangers visiting at two a.m.? What the hell were they doing?"

Julian smiled bitterly, saying, "Those two foreigners are very suspicious. And because of this, half of the guards from yesterday's night shift have been fired."

"A bunch of useless guards!"

Jasper slammed his chopsticks on the table heavily. "Zayden is terrified of death, to the point of begging me for mercy just to live. Why would he kill himself with such a tragic method? Someone must've threatened him with something more important than his own life."

Just then, a servant from outside entered the doors. "Mr. Laine, there's someone called Sylva Hanks outside who wants to talk to you."

Life at the Top Chapter 605

Jasper met Sylva in the villa's reception room.

Jasper had met the man once before.

From what he remembered, Sylva was a middle-aged man with a gentlemanly and elegant aura around him.

However, now when Jasper set his eyes on Sylva again, he wondered if he had mistaken this man for someone else.

Jasper sighed slightly when he saw the slouch in Sylva's posture and the messy white mess of hair atop his head.

"My condolences, Mr. Hanks."

Jasper knew that Sylva had already gotten news of Zayden's death.

Sylva grinned with a tearful smile and pulled a cigarette out. He patted his pockets but could not seem to find a lighter.

Jasper pressed down on his lighter with a click and reached out to light Sylva's cigarette.

"Thanks."

After taking a long drag, Sylva coughed twice. Jasper then broke the silence.

"Is there a reason why you're here, Mr. Hanks?"

Jasper and Sylva would still be enemies instead of friends if Zayden was still alive. Now that Zayden had passed away, Sylva's arrival meant that the man had moved on from their past.

"The death of a person is no different from the extinguishing of a flame." Sylva sighed deeply and slouched further.

"I've already decided. I still have more than a million Somer Dollars saved up and it should be enough for me to live the rest of my life in peace. I've spent my entire life fighting for fame and power, only to lose it all to my son.

"Now, my business is gone and I've lost my son as well."

Sylva looked up at Jasper and smiled sorrowfully. "What a pitiful end, wouldn't you say?"

Jasper remained silent.

Sylva rubbed his face and exhaled, sobering up. "I really shouldn't be telling you all of this, but I can't find anyone else to vent to. I'm sorry."

"It's alright," Jasper said in consolation.

"I came here with another goal, to inform you of something.

"I went to see Zayden yesterday and the boy was absolutely frantic. Perhaps he knew that someone was going to hurt him, so he told me everything.

"Now that he has passed away, there's no need for me to keep the secret anymore.

"My brother Sirius has already joined forces with Conrad. The two of them will work together to attack all properties under your and Dawson's name. It'll be an

attack from all sides, and their main target will be all the projects your real estate company has in the Southeast Province.”

Sylva looked at Jasper intently and spoke, “There’s no need to doubt nor feel shocked about it. This is very much within the abilities of him and Conrad combined.

“This is what you must watch out for.

“In addition to that, Zayden also told me last night that there was a traitor among Harbor City’s four richest families during the share market crisis. This traitor is the Langdon family!

“Wallace Langdon had teamed up with the sly b*stards from Wall Street. They were trying to screw over Harbor City’s economy to earn money but you managed to stop them. They didn’t give up, though. They’ve decided to team up and attack the other richest families as well.

“Zayden doesn’t know who that other party is. All he knows is that Kennedy has been in charge of this as of now and he’s been plotting for a very long time.”

Jasper frowned, and his expression turned solemn at Sylva’s words.

Sylva relaxed greatly after he was done speaking and he stood. Smiling, he spoke, “Alright. I’ve said all I had to and it’s time I leave now.”

Jasper looked up. “Still, I’m grateful for the news you brought me. I have a question, though.

“I’d like to think I know what kind of person Zayden is, so what forced him to kill himself in the detention center?”

Sylva smiled at the question and replied, “My son has finally won against you.”

Jasper looked at Sylva confusedly.

Life at the Top Chapter 606

There were signs of tears in Sylva's eyes. "He told me last night that they might as well just kill him if they wanted to force him to do anything. The only reason he would kill himself is if they threatened him with me.

"Conrad is a ruthless man, and I would not put it below him to threaten Zayden with my life. That's probably why Zayden made such a decision.

"When he told me that last night, he had said something else too. He told me that you would be confused, and if he guessed it right, then it meant he had won."

Although he was dazed, Jasper sighed softly and got up to say again, "My condolences."

Sylva waved his hand dismissively and murmured, "I'll be going now. Whatever that happens after this, well that will have nothing to do with me at all."

After speaking, the elderly man slowly walked away. Jasper felt a surge of indescribable fury bubble within him as he watched the other man leave despondently.

'Conrad, Kennedy, and Sirius are getting out of hand.

'There's no saying what these three would do for the sake of their own profits.

'Sure, Zayden was bad, but he had already gotten his punishment. Yet they still hired killers to deal with him.

'Was this necessary?

'Not at all.

'Because Zayden's death did not affect the situation at all.

'But they did it anyway.

'Was this a demonstration?'

Jasper suddenly saw the image of Conrad scoffing at him in his mind. He was in his tunic and wearing gold-rimmed glasses, highlighting his gentlemanly appearance.

After calling Julian, Jasper decided that he would look for Dawson at Schuler Group right away.

Seeing how Conrad and Kennedy were about to make a move, Jasper and Dawson had to make preparations to counter them as well.

Upon meeting the man, Jasper told Dawson everything that was about to happen. Dawson was furious.

"What a large attack! We've got 20 to 30 projects here in the entire province. Do they think that they can just attack us like this without getting bitten back in the *ss?" Dawson scoffed.

"Then I'll have to trouble you with this, Uncle Schuler," Jasper said.

"No problem. This is right up my alley." Dawson nodded and asked, "But what are you planning to do?"

"It's only right that I return the favor." Jasper chuckled, playing around with the trinkets on Dawson's office table. Calmly, he spoke, "If they want to fight, then let's start a full-out war."

Jasper had two things to do next.

The first was to inform the Law family.

Zachary was more enraged than he was and immediately bought Henry a ticket for the next flight over to the Southeast Province to help Jasper. Zachary promised as well that he would not give Kennedy the chance to attack the Mainland for the time being.

With the Langdon family dealt with, Jasper then called Gale.

It took more intellect to talk to Gale, as the two were technically plotting against each other in some sense. However, that did stop mutually beneficial trades between the two.

“The Waterhoof City branch will fully support you. I will pass the order to ensure that they do,” Gale replied with a beam.

“But I want the Monty family’s aluminum mine.”

Jasper replied calmly, “Old Master Hurlbutt, you’re not a young man anymore. What are you going to do with so much money anyway?”

Gale laughed aloud. “I am old and indeed do not have much use for money anymore. But the people under me are motivated by benefits, after all.

“Of course, I could give it to you should you wish. I could give you a large sum of funds as well. All I wish is 15% of JW Capital’s shares.”

Jasper replied without hesitation, “JW Capital is the parent company of all my other subsidiaries. There’s no way I can agree to that. You can have the mine.”

“I will help you this once, sly child. Go wild.”

Life at the Top Chapter 607

Jasper had just ended the call with Gale when Henry called him.

“Is that stupid f*cker Mitch’s family bothering you?” Henry started the call with an aggressive question.

Jasper smiled. “You don’t say. But we’re retaliating soon.”

Henry snickered. “I’ve been so bored at Harbor City throughout New Year’s that I thought I was becoming a couch potato. I’m on my way to a clubhouse right now. I’ll be on my way to you once I’m done with work here.”

“Clubhouse?” Jasper asked.

“Something Mitch invested in, hahaha. I heard that it’s quite a fun place, so I thought I’d come over and have some fun with him.” Henry laughed deviously.

“Don’t go too far,” Jasper spoke exasperatedly.

Despite this being a phone call, Jasper could almost see how Henry was waving him off without a care. “Relax, I’d say I’m the most capable one among the rich children in Harbor City. And Dad and Grandfather are the most formidable ones among the rich families. No one can stop me.”

“Well, aren’t you powerful? In that case, just give Mitch a simple beating and that’ll do.” Jasper smiled.

“He’s getting beaten up, alright. But I’ve got an even better source of entertainment for Mitch.

“The stupid f*cker’s dad just arranged for him to get married, having chosen some daughter from this rich and powerful family from Golden Peninsula. They’re getting to know each other right now.

“Coincidentally, this f*cker just got a student from Harbor University pregnant two months ago. There’s no reason for me not to make use of such good material, right?

“Hehehe, I’ll talk to you later, then. I’ll be reaching soon and I’ve got work to do.”

Hanging up the phone, Jasper sighed.

It was easy dealing with trust fund babies since their family backgrounds were the main form of competition. That was until they started attacking with scoundrel-like moves. This made them a pain to deal with.

Henry seemed to be walking further down this crooked path.

...

The business war between JW Real Estates and the Hanks family was sudden and fierce.

The entire Southeast Province was none the wiser while the war had already started in full force.

The first to suffer were all the construction projects under JW Real Estates in the Southeast Province.

From the approval to acceptance procedures, to the checking of qualifications and reviewing funds, almost every part of the procedure before physical construction was subjected to obstructions.

As for construction projects that were already in process, people would either come to cause trouble once or twice a week, or there would be construction workers and other employees requesting leave and going on strike.

All in all, it was an absolute mess.

Among all the projects, the Southface River project was the only one exempted from any attacks.

However, it was also a project that had suffered the greatest loss. The large fire from before had resulted in at least a two-week pause in its construction, and there had been more than a 100 million loss in funds.

Other people and families in the Southeast Province believed that the business war between JW Real Estates and the Hanks family was due to this fire.

It was because the incident was a slap on the city and provincial government's faces. The high officials had already made it known that anyone who screwed with the Southface River Project would have to face terrible consequences.

No one dared to ignore the words of the high officials within the country, so even the Hanks family left the Southface Rover Project alone.

However, that meant the other projects were screwed.

People who had just moved on from the frenzy of the New Year's could now entertain themselves with the first gossip of 2001.

Those from the upper class were acutely aware that something was off.

While the Hanks family was considered a wealthy family in the province, it was unrealistic that they were able to launch such an exaggerated attack in the entire Southeast Province in such a short time.

There definitely had to be a family more formidable than the Hanks who was the true mastermind behind all this.

Everyone had their eyes wide open as they watched JW Real Estates, waiting to see how the company would retaliate.

Life at the Top Chapter 608

JW Real Estates did not disappoint as they quickly launched a counter-attack against the Hank family's series of attacks.

It was one single counter-attack.

Yet the moment this attack was made known to the public, the gossipers in Southeast Province were in an uproar.

Everyone now looked at JW Real Estates with inexplicable surprise and excitement.

That was because JW Real Estates... had stolen the Hanks family's electronics business in Waterhoof City!

It was a trade with four billion revenue each year and a profit margin that was guaranteed to be over 30% percent. It was stolen, just like that.

This business was one of the Hanks family's main pillars of survival recently.

The Hanks family used to be just as powerful as Dawson, but multiple of their properties later faced bankruptcy and they made huge losses since their failure in the Southface River Project.

Moreover, the Hanks family had only been doing worse ever since Sylva and Zayden stepped down.

The loss of this business trade was a critical hit to the Hanks family!

However, this was not the end.

JW Real Estates' parent company had issued an official statement on the first day of work after New Year's holiday.

[JW Capital is officially setting up JW Electronics, which will mainly focus on the vigorously growing electronics industry in the country. JW Electronics has already achieved a partnership with the strongest electronics company in Waterloo City, with the agreement that JW Electronics is to buy no less than five billion worth of goods each year. JW Electronics welcomes all sales channels to partner with us.]

Following that was an official statement from Schuler Group.

[All 232 supermarkets under Schuler Group in the country will open a section solely to sell goods from JW Electronics. The first three months will be a promotional period and all electronics will be sold at a 20% discount.]

To describe it plainly, they were getting rid of the Hanks family for good.

“The Hanks family is still going in full swing to try to cut JW Real Estates down when JW Real Estates has just directly uprooted the Hanks family. This is the end of the war, isn't it? The Hanks family has got nothing left.”

Someone commented.

As of that moment, this was no longer an issue within the Southeast Province, but one that attracted attention from all over the country. Especially those who were in the electronics business.

Orders worth five billion Somer Dollars a year! That was enough to shake the country now as its market was not considered too big yet.

A huge monster in the electronics industry had appeared in the Southeast Province overnight, and that infuriated other businesses in the same industry in other provinces.

Everyone was irritated at the insignificant Hanks family. If not for this f*cking family, they would not have such an immense competitor to worry about right now.

“I didn’t start up this electronics company just to have the last word. I did it because this is a promising industry.”

Sitting in Dawson’s office, Jasper pulled out a brick-like metal box and placed it in front of Dawson who looked very doubtful.

This metal box may sound new now, but in five years, the product and its new name would be a major hit throughout the whole country—the MP3 player.

In truth, the first MP3 player had already been invented in Coreana three years ago.

Last year, in the year 2000, this device had also begun to trend in European countries and the United States.

However, the MP3 player would only truly trend in 2002. Since Jasper had the chance to go back in time, there was no way he would let go of the opportunity to make a profit that was destined to grow by 50% each year. Up until 2010, at least, for that was when the MP3 player would slowly phase out and be replaced.

It had to be known that the first person who built a fortune through electronics had made their first big bucks through this cheap yet profitable MP3 player.

From 2002 to 2010, this device would accumulate a profit totaling 500 billion.

“This is it?”

Dawson was very doubtful considering he did not have memories from the future.

“You spent 2,000 bucks to import this, and you’re telling me this music listening device will earn you at least one billion a year?”

Life at the Top Chapter 609

Dawson believed Jasper. He really did, or he would not have issued a statement claiming that all his supermarkets would open an exclusive section for JW Electronics’ products before he saw the physical products themselves.

Not to mention that JW Electronics still did not have an operating license yet. It did not even have an official employee in charge.

However, Dawson was doubtful about this. According to the country’s citizens’ spending ability, a luxury item costing 2,000 bucks was hardly something most families could afford.

One had to know that the average citizen could not even make 2,000 bucks a month.

“This is only a sample. It’s so expensive because firstly, it’s imported. Secondly, it hasn’t been fully developed yet.

“I plan to take a trip to Coreana after this is over and buy their exclusive domestic license for this piece of technology. Then we can cut at least 70% of its size and increase its internal storage. As for pricing, well, we can cut it down by half.”

Hearing Jasper, Dawson replied, “That’s still too expensive.”

“We’ll only know about its actual cost when the time comes. But JW Electronics will only manufacture high-end products. We’ll leave whatever else to others.”

Seeing how Jasper seemed to have a perfect plan, Dawson did not dwell on the issue any longer. Putting down the ‘brick’ in his hands, he smiled. “The sky’s the limit. Don’t worry about anything else, you’ll have all of Schuler Group’s supermarkets as your strongest sales channel.”

Jasper nodded. Honestly speaking, Schuler Group had a terrifying sales ability. With that and the country’s top website with selling power, many problems had now solved themselves.

No matter how good the product, without a good sales channel, the product was pointless if no one bought it.

There was a well-known domestic mobile phone brand in his past life that had an operating cost of eight billion Somer Dollars, five million of which went to developing their sales channel. This spoke volumes about how important a sales channel was.

“How is it with the real estate company? Is the situation alright there?” Jasper asked.

Dawson replied calmly, “It’s just a waste of money. We have 24 projects in the entire province and we’re losing tens of millions from each of them every day. It’s not any better for the Hanks family, and the functional departments are still being difficult about it. I’ve already put pressure on them.”

“So while it looks like we’re in trouble now, nothing much can happen for the time being. After all, our projects are following all the regulations, from design to building materials. They haven’t thought about messing around with the quality of our materials yet. All this trouble they’re giving us are just cheap tricks.”

Jasper nodded. “That’s good then.”

Just then, the landline in Dawson’s office rang.

Dawson picked up the phone, and the other person must have said something as Jasper saw Dawson scoff before replying, “What a large sacrifice. That plot of land in Flora City is worth no more than 30 million. Any more expensive means there won’t be a profit when construction begins later on. And they’re charging 40 million?”

“They can have the piece of land if they want it. It’s just another plot of land to us, we don’t need it.”

Hanging up the phone, Dawson turned to Jasper angrily. “Sirius and the others have already begun to increase their pressure on us. As long as we’ve shown interest in a plot of land in the province, they would turn it into an auction open to everyone else.

“They’re obviously trying to steal this plot of land in Flora City from us even if it’ll result in a loss. There were two other plots where they made borderline losses just to steal them from us.”

Jasper was intrigued. “They’re trying to hurt us at the cost of their own capital? Just give it to them, then. As you said, we’ve got enough projects on hand as it is already. We only wanted these plots of land just so we could construct them when they appreciated. I don’t see why we can’t just give these to them if they want them so much.”

“The only thing we have to worry about now are the rumors from the general public,” Dawson spoke.

“They’re just ignorant people who don’t know how cruel a true business war can be. These tricks are hardly anything to be proud of,” Jasper spoke indifferently.

Jasper had spent his past life working in a finance company before he reincarnated. Business wars were truly battlefields where people died without bloodshed. It was where wealthy businessmen worth hundreds of billions could topple and fall in the blink of an eye.

Jasper looked down on the tricks Sirius was coming up with.

“Conrad has been laying low in the dark ever since this began. What I’m concerned about most is what tricks he has up his sleeve. Everything Sirius is doing now has to be with Conrad’s full support, and without Conrad destroyed, I can’t help but feel uneasy,” Dawson confided in Jasper.

After a moment of silence, Jasper replied, “My thoughts precisely. This Conrad reminds me of a turtle living in a deep pond. If he doesn’t want to show himself, then we’ll force him to come out.

“At the same time, let’s teach those outsiders how a true business war is won.”

Jasper squinted and looked at the sky outside Schuler Tower’s highest floor. Now was a perfect time as the sun was shining brightly.

...

At first, the Hanks family had lined up a series of attacks on the construction projects under JW Real Estates. Following that, JW Real Estates countered them by stealing the Hanks family’s main business.

After that, the Hanks family won all auctioned plots of land in the province, no matter the price, that JW Capital had shown interest in as revenge.

This messy series of attacks from both sides provided those interested in keeping tabs with different updates every day. Everyone had their eyes wide open as they waited for JW Real Estates to fight back.

However, everyone was shocked to find out that for the next few days, JW Real Estates no longer took any monumental actions as if everything had been put on halt.

This had everyone speculating if this was the end to JW Real Estates and if the company was about to surrender.

People who believed that they had better intel sources began to spread rumors. The speculation made sense because the Hanks family did have roots that ran deep and strong influence in the Southeast Province. Not to mention that they had someone helping them in the dark as well.

In comparison to that, JW Real Estates that was only established a year ago would have fallen long ago without Schuler Group's support.

Everyone had come up with the same unanimous conclusion.

JW Real Estates was about to surrender soon.

Such a result had the other real estate companies in the province elated. After all, JW Real Estates had stolen much of their business last year.

JW Real Estates was rich and owned a lot of plots of land. Their design was futuristic and impossible to compete against.

Yet now that JW Real Estates was over, it was another celebratory event for these real estate businesses. They were ecstatic.

Just as everyone waited to see JW Real Estates lose, the company dropped another bomb that blew everyone's mind in the Southeast Province. It was news that shook the country's mining industry.

JW Capital announced that they would partner with Haddock Mining Group with an investment of three billion. They would work together to acquire the entirety of Southeast Province Mining Co., Ltd!

Life at the Top Chapter 610

Haddock Mining Group.

The country's first large private mining company. While it was a private capital, Waterhoof City Mining Group owned 32% of its shares and the IBCS owned 19%. To some degree, it could be seen as a state-owned enterprise.

Its franchise had always belonged to the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, meaning it was in Gale Hurlbutt's hands.

After all, without the state's funds, it was impossible to even get the license to mine, let alone open a mining business in the country. Mining fell under controlled resources, and it was not a trade that anyone could take as they wished.

At the same time, it was also a business enterprise on the stock market.

The moment JW Capital and Haddock Mining Group both released official statements, the latter's share price began to rise.

At the same time in a manor in the outskirts of Nauritus City.

In the luxurious room, Sirius slammed his hand on the table with a bang and growled wretchedly. "What the f*ck is that b*stard Jasper doing?! Is he really going to fight to the death with us?!"

Conrad was the only person in the room beside Sirius, and he was currently focused on cutting the cigar in his hands.

Hearing him, Conrad replied calmly, "Calm down. Do you not find yourself being ridiculous? We've already gone past the point of reconciliation long ago. Or did you somehow think this won't end with one party dead?"

"There's no rule under the sun stating that only we can attack but they cannot counter back. He just managed to hit you where it hurts this time."

Sirius suppressed the anger within him and complained to Conrad, "You might not know this, Mr. Monty, but the Hanks family's entire focus is on this one business. We were just about to import the goods for the year when Jasper destroyed our plans.

"The sales channels under us have been coming to find us in the past two days, saying that either we compensate for their losses as per the contracts signed, or we give them the goods. At this rate, the Hanks family will be over even without Jasper's attack."

Conrad replied calmly, "That's easy, then. There's more than just one Waterhoof City manufacturer in the country. Nothing is stopping you from buying from other manufacturers."

'Oh, you f*cking sly b*stard!'

Sirius was extremely displeased, but his expression did not betray his emotions. He smiled bitterly instead. "It's not that easy. Business like this requires a deposit before the manufacturer starts manufacturing the goods.

"We've tried to look for substitute manufacturers before, but they either directly declined us, or they set an ungodly high price. The Hanks family isn't stupid. We would end up making a loss if we agreed. I might as well pay compensation as per the contracts at this point."

“So pay the compensation, then.” Conrad smiled.

Sirius quickly explained, “We have tens of sales channels under us. We’ll go broke instantly if we compensate them according to the contracts. We’ve got an alliance, don’t we, Mr. Monty? You can’t just watch me meet my end like this.”

Conrad glanced at Sirius and asked calmly, “Do you wish that I provide you with money or goods?”

Sirius was stunned as he did not expect Conrad to be so willing. He probed, saying, “It’d be best if I got the goods. That way, we can still continue the business.”

“You’re a funny man, Mr. Hanks. The Monty family isn’t involved in such an industry, so how do you expect me to find you so many goods in such a short time?” Conrad asked calmly.

“As for money, I’m sure you wouldn’t believe me if I said I don’t have any. It’d be insincere of me to say so as well. However, the Monty family’s money belongs to the family, meaning that I can give you a bit to help with the situation, but not enough to save your life. Do you understand what I mean?”

Sirius’ expression soured.

His end was inevitable if even Conrad was not going to help him.

Over the past few days, while his sales channels asked him to repay his debts, they had also been in contact with JW Electronics. A large majority of them must have signed new contracts with JW Electronics as well.

He only came to know because a few old partners told him. They were people whom he had been working with for a long time, so they told him about it seeing that they were friends.

Sirius felt lost.

Seeing how devastated Sirius looked, Conrad's impatience grew.

However, he did not express what he felt for he knew that if the Monty family wanted to benefit from this, he had to watch out for the Hanks family as well.

"Relax."

Conrad fiddled with the cigar in his hand and explained calmly, "Patience is crucial to many things. Look at this cigar, for example. From planting to picking these tobacco leaves, to processing, fermenting, and making these leaves into rolls, it takes around a dozen skilled workers at least five months before one cigar is made.

"The world would have less fascinating things if everyone is as impatient as you."

Lighting the cigar, he took a deep breath and slowly exhaled. The dense and fragrant smoke wafted around the room, covering Conrad's face slightly, making the man look unreal.

"I'll talk to people in Harbor City about your situation. If Kennedy wants you to work for him, then it wouldn't make sense for him to do nothing and watch you die. Just because I can't do anything doesn't mean he can't, do you understand?"

With such a promise, Sirius' expression smoothed out as he nodded. "Seems like that's the only thing we can do now. I'm afraid I can only last five days at most if I don't have anything to give the sales channels."

"Outstanding," Conrad mocked calmly.

Just then, someone knocked on the door.

"Come in."

The door opened at Conrad's reply.

“Mr. Monty, I’ve just received news from the investment department. There’s been a change in the family’s Skyward Aluminum’s share price. It’s already risen to the limit now. According to our predictions, someone might be trying to buy Skyward Aluminum’s shares for malicious reasons.”

Conrad was stunned for a moment before he exploded. “You useless piece of trash! Why’d it take you so long to report it to me?!”

The person looked distressed as he explained fearfully, “It happened too fast, Mr. Monty. It only took five minutes for the share price to rise to the limit. We couldn’t even react in time.”

“All of you are absolutely useless! Immediately call for a managerial-level meeting at Skyward Aluminum! Go, what are you waiting for?” Conrad roared.

That person immediately fled without hesitation.

Sirius could not help but feel pleased to see Conrad agitated at that moment.

Jasper had finally made a move against Conrad.

It filled Sirius with relief as he was not the only one suffering anymore.

In fact, he even wanted to take a cigar for himself and repeat Conrad’s words to him unhurriedly. ‘Relax. The world’s more fascinating things are not to be rushed.’

Life at the Top Chapter 611

In Skyward Aluminum Co., Ltd.

The atmosphere was suffocating.

Expressionlessly, Conrad took the main seat and slammed his palm on the table, frightening the senior executives who shuddered in fear.

“Are all of you useless? I spend a few millions each year on you and you’re telling me none of you have a single plan when someone is trying to acquire our company?!”

“They’ve just made their move and you guys are already frantic? How do you expect me to believe in your abilities from now on, huh?”

Conrad’s reprimand echoed in the meeting room, and everyone looked down silently.

No one dared to meet their boss’ eyes at such a critical time.

Conrad’s sinister eyes swept through the meeting room before they finally fell on a balding middle-aged man.

“Benjamin, you’re the manager of the investment department. This is part of your business scope. I want a report written right away and given to me today, or you can go to the Human Resources Department, finalize your salary, and leave.”

Benjamin looked distressed as he spoke, “Please calm down first, Mr. Monty.

“There’s something strange with the funds that were used to increase our company’s share price this time. The evidence we have on hand shows that these funds were from Harbor City, not the Mainland.

“So I’ve been wondering if our share price rising to the limit is a result of an investor who decided to enter the market to benefit from it, seeing how JW and Haddock are going to team up and acquire.”

Benjamin’s words had everyone’s eyes shining with hope.

Everyone had assumed that the rise in share price was caused by Jasper and Haddock, so they had not thought of it from such an angle.

If what Benjamin said was true, then the nature of the matter was completely different.

It did not matter who bought those shares, as long as it was not Jasper.

Conrad furrowed his brows and pondered aloud, “Not bad. This is a completely different view on the matter. Continue.”

Seeing that his thoughts had been approved of, Benjamin let out a sigh of relief and continued to speak, “If that’s the case, then the situation is much better. Despite being faced with a forceful acquisition, I believe that there’s quite a lot we can do.

“You currently hold 40% of the company’s shares, Mr. Monty. Southeast Province Mining Co., Ltd holds another 30%, leaving 30% more in the stock market. This is the situation now.

“We have two options. We either officially announce that the company is buying back its shares, or negotiate with Southeast Province Mining Co., Ltd to see if we could take back a percentage of the shares they hold.

“We just have to ensure that you have more than 50% of shares in hand, Mr. Monty. Because even if Jasper manages to buy all the shares and becomes one of our shareholders, what can he do?”

“Nothing.

“He’d have wasted all his hard work only to advertise for us in the end. Plus, if we manage to buy our shares back this time, our share price would increase quite a bit as well.”

...

While Conrad had summoned all of Skyward Aluminum’s senior executives to discuss plans to retaliate, Jasper was currently on a video call with Jake who was far away in Harbor City.

“As per your requests, Mr. Laine, we’ve spent 1.2 billion in funds to purchase 3.96% of Skyward Aluminum’s shares.”

Skyward Aluminum as a whole had a market price of around 30 billion. This purchase was not unnecessarily expensive.

Jasper nodded. Looking at Skyward Aluminum’s market, he spoke, “Continue tomorrow. Buy as many shares as you can. Don’t worry about the money, someone will pay for it.”

Jasper thought of how wealthy Gale was. Despite never once feeling like he was broke after reincarnation, Jasper could not help but be stunned over how exceptionally rich this old man was.

Not only had he transferred the funds needed to acquire Skyward Aluminum in advance, but he had also promised to give Jasper a 1% commission after everything was done.

1% of a business with a market price of 30 billion was 200 million.

That was enough to replenish the loss the real estate company made.

Since it was a condition that was already agreed upon, Jasper was very happy to earn such a commission.

Jake nodded in understanding and spoke, "We've investigated Skyward Aluminum's share structure and realized that Conrad currently has the most shares. He has a total of 40%, while the remaining 60% is split between Southeast Province Mining Co., Ltd, which runs on state funds, and the general public.

"In such a situation, we'll need Southeast Province Mining Co., Ltd's support to take their 30% of shares or it won't be enough for us to acquire it just by buying the 30% open to the general public.

"Plus, the stock market right now only allows a maximum purchase of 22%. The remaining 8% are in the hands of countless retailers so it's impossible to buy all 30% of the shares."

Jasper nodded. "I've already accounted for this. Don't worry about it, just focus on the share market over at your side."

Jake acknowledged, saying, "Yes, Mr. Laine. I understand."

"Tell me how the investment is going with the Harbor City Stock Market that I had you invest in."

"Basically, the situation now..."

More than an hour later, Jasper exited the study and made his way to the airport.

It was evening by the time he met Henry at the airport.

The man got into the car excitedly and grinned almost maniacally at Jasper. “You have no idea how absolutely amusing it was to see the look on that f*cker Mitch’s face. The scene of what happened, oh my God. Harbor City’s gossip magazines got such a kick out of it that they’re just churning articles after articles. Oh, man, those were some f*cking hilarious articles they wrote.”

“Will they still get married? Even after you released news of Mitch getting another girl pregnant in front of his fiancée?” Jasper asked with a chuckle.

Henry pursed his lips. “It’s not that big of a deal. This is mostly a hiccup for the Langdon family. Plus, it’s not like the girl can do anything even if she wanted to. This is a marriage union between two families, so the family’s benefits come first. They’re going to have to marry no matter what happens.

“Or no one would let Wallace’s and the girl’s families live this down.

“But a few slaps from his dad is pretty much guaranteed for Mitch, though. Hahaha. Damn it, I should’ve recorded the scene when it happened so that I can rewatch it every day and relive that moment.”

At that, Henry suddenly remembered something and turned to Jasper. “Oh yeah, I heard my dad say something about the Langdon family ordering a large batch of electronic goods before I came here. I think they plan to send it over to the Southeast Province after customs clearance.”

“That’s probably their support for the Hanks family. What’s going to happen to it now?” Jasper asked.

Henry snorted. “Dad’s going to take a trip over there himself. He told me to tell you not to worry. With him there, the Langdon family won’t even get a chip out of Harbor City.”

Life at the Top Chapter 612

“If that’s the case, I can get rid of one of them first, then.”

Jasper smiled and sent Dawson a message.

Since the beginning, neither Jasper nor Dawson had found the Hanks family’s tricks worth their attention.

With the power they held now, it was not a difficult feat to completely destroy the Hanks family.

The Hanks family only became a tough nut to crack when Conrad was there supporting them.

Now with the Law family giving them trouble at Harbor City, Jasper and Dawson’s plan could immediately begin.

“Are you sending me back to the hotel?” Henry asked.

“Do you still have more work to do?” Jasper asked curiously.

Henry chuckled and waved his phone. “I know a few beauties in every single place I’ve been to before, so I can contact them at any time.”

Jasper scoffed. “Your dad said that the playground project at the Southface River will be done soon. He wants you to supervise the finishing touches.”

Henry replied irritably, “I don’t understand a thing about construction. As to what the workers are doing, who am I, an outsider, to ask?”

“You might not have to pay attention to the specifics of the construction, but what about the quality specifications, the final checking, and the financial aspects? You need to at least know something, don’t you? Else, you’ll be the one suffering when you get back. Don’t say I never warned you, but your dad is definitely going to ask you about it when you get back.

“I’m sure you’re much more aware than I am of the consequences if you can’t answer him.”

Henry’s expression darkened as he spoke in an upset tone, “This old man is controlling my every second here. Fine, fine, we’ll go back to the hotel. I’ll read through the playground’s documents first then.”

Leaving Henry at the hotel, Jasper returned home.

Dawson returned very late that night, but he had a mirthful smile on his face when he came back.

Dawson pulled out a thick stack of documents from his briefcase and smiled widely at Jasper. “It’s done. We’ve bought all of their debt contracts. This alone is enough to crush the Hanks family to smithereens.”

Jasper took over the thick stack of documents.

These papers were the reason behind Dawson’s busy day.

“The Hanks family previously signed a total of 48 sales businesses. I found 38 of them today, and these are all of them for now.

“The remaining ten are probably the Hanks family’s loyal partners, so they’re not worth us using such a large amount of money to bribe them over.

“The 38 businesses I’ve negotiated with come up to a total of 2.7 billion worth of compensation. And we’ve bought their contracts with 2.4 billion.”

“Tsk, tsk. And we made three hundred million too? What good business.” Jasper smiled.

“Just suing the Hanks family would cost these businesses a huge amount of expenses. It’s expected that they were willing to sell us their contracts at a discount.”

“Now we wait. Tomorrow, we can make our move.”

...

The following day, the Hanks family seemed to have noticed something for they began to attack JW Real Estates’ projects maddeningly.

In a few days’ time, they had caused Jasper 200 million worth of loss.

Not that Jasper cared.

It was because swallowing the Hanks family would easily cover this loss.

At the same time, there was no halt in the purchase of Skyward Aluminum’s market shares. If anything, the purchase continued unrelentingly.

However, Conrad was a capable man. Excluding the first day when he was caught off guard, he had been fiercely fighting back in all the following days.

Life at the Top Chapter 613

Jasper had spent 4.8 billion to buy 10% of Skyward Aluminum's shares.

In truth, Skyward Aluminum had no more than a market price of 30 billion. The only reason it cost 4.8 billion to buy 10% of its shares was that 1.8 billion was spent on acquisition premium.

In other words, they had benefitted retail investors who decided to jump on the bandwagon.

Not that Jasper cared, since he was spending Gale's money.

That old man had too much money that he would never get to spend it all, and there was nothing wrong with benefitting the general public.

That day, Jasper arrived at Hanks Residence with Julian in tow.

Despite having such a long-standing battle with the Hanks family, this was still the first time Jasper had stepped foot in their house.

They were a wealthy family, after all, so the entire park was the Hanks family's property.

As for their base, the Hanks family had exquisitely renovated the park, which was by both the mountains and bodies of water.

"Not bad. I'd say this entire park as a whole could be sold for 100 to 200 million," Jasper chuckled and said.

"Who are you two looking for?"

An old man walked out of the park and asked Jasper confusedly.

Jasper smiled. "Help me inform Sirius that his creditor is here to collect his debts."

The old man was stunned for a moment before he spoke in a tense voice, "What kind of nonsense are you saying? Leave. This isn't a place for you to fool around."

"Please pass the message, sir. You only need to tell him that the creditor's name is Jasper. He'll want to see me." Jasper was very polite to the old man and did not give him any attitude.

Sensing the situation, the old man glanced at Jasper and Julian suspiciously before turning back.

Soon later, the old man rushed out again. "Mr. Hanks wishes to see you."

Entering the park, Jasper saw Sirius standing in a large estate.

"How dare you come to my house, Jasper?" Sirius demanded coldly as he stared at Jasper.

This was Sirius' home, after all, so there were several family members present.

Among them was an old man who had a head full of white hair. He was possibly an entire generation older than Sirius. There were also two younger men who were around Zayden's age when he passed away.

"This isn't some lion's den, so why won't I dare?" Jasper asked with a smile.

The two youths were Neville and Dave. Between the two, Neville had once fought Zayden for the role of heir.

Seeing Jasper, Neville, who was hasty to show off in front of his family, scoffed. "You're Jasper, aren't you? Tsk tsk, I suggest you get your head out of your *ss and stop acting like you're above us all. Do you even know where you are?"

"You were still a nobody when the Hanks family became one of Southeast Province's upper class."

Dave laughed and agreed, saying, "Exactly. Seriously, Dad, just throw this ignorant b*stard out as I said. He's an eyesore."

Jasper did not even spare the two of them a glance and spoke calmly, "I thought Zayden was useless enough, but I didn't expect you two to be even worse. It explains why Zayden was the only one from his generation in the family who managed to make a small name for himself."

"You b*stard! What did you say?" Dave was furious.

Neville stared at Jasper coldly and sneered, "Looks like you're just an arrogant b*stard who wants to die."

With that, Neville whistled and a huge German Shepherd that reached the waist of a fully grown adult ran over. It sat beside Neville and glared at Jasper who was a stranger.

"I'm going to have my dog bite you to death."

Life at the Top Chapter 614

This was an extremely smart dog. Hearing its master Neville's words, it barked twice at Jasper.

The sight had all the Hanks present chortling.

Everyone looked at Jasper with disdain as if they were looking at a beggar who had come asking for scraps.

Julian, who had been standing behind Jasper the entire time, took a step to stand beside Jasper with a cold gaze.

Everyone then watched as Julian took a deep breath, one that went straight to his core. The man's eyes widened abruptly as he opened his mouth to shout.

It was a loud growl that was deep, powerful, and extremely thundering. It reminded Jasper of a lion's roar in the savanna.

Everyone felt their chests stifle while their hearts seemed to skip a beat. Their breathing grew heavy and they felt uncomfortable.

Meanwhile, the fierce dog beside Neville let out a pitiful whimper. His tail shook between his legs as a puddle of liquid began to form between its hind legs.

It had peed itself in fear.

That scene shattered whatever dignity the Hanks family had.

"What do you think you're doing, Jasper? So you're bringing people over to my house to assert dominance now?" Neville's face was flushed red as he looked up to Jasper to shout. He felt the urge to kick this shameful dog to death.

"A dog will always be a dog. Fierce as it is, it's still just a dog, no?"

Jasper spoke with a subtle smile, and all the Hanks family present felt the color drain from their faces in anger.

While it seemed like he was talking about the German Shepherd, it was really an insult to the Hanks family.

Neville roared, "Who are you calling a dog here?"

"So you acknowledge it then?" Jasper commented calmly.

"You f*cking b*stard..."

"Enough!"

Sirius shouted to interrupt Neville, glaring at the young man who had an indignant expression on his face. He said, "Don't you think that we've made a big enough fool of ourselves already? Either shut up, or bring your dog and get out!"

Neville clenched his jaw. Flames of fury were set ablaze in his eyes and he balled his fists, glaring at Jasper resentfully.

However, since Sirius had already spoken, Neville remained silent regardless of how pissed he felt.

"Is that what you came to do today, Jasper? To scare a dog?" Sirius looked at Jasper and spoke calmly.

With that, smiles reappeared on the Hanks family's faces.

Sirius was much more experienced than Neville, after all. A mere sentence was all it took for him to slap Jasper in the face. It was a great relief to the other members of the family who were greatly infuriated by Jasper's taunting a second ago.

Jasper did not waste time on Sirius and waved a hand at Julian.

Julian immediately pulled out some documents from the briefcase that he carried with him everywhere and handed them to Sirius.

Sirius looked at Jasper suspiciously before taking a look at the papers.

One look at the contents of the documents was enough to stun Sirius. His eyes widened as he stared at every single word on the papers, rereading it as if he had read it wrong the first time.

Following that, Sirius' hand trembled as he held the papers. His breathing turned heavy.

The scene startled the members of the Hanks family. Reflexively, they were about to ask what the documents entailed and why it had caused Sirius to lose his composure.

Just then, Jasper spoke up instead.

“As you can see, Mr. Hanks, I’ve come today to collect your debts.”

Neville stared at Jasper and scoffed at his words. “Are you so broke that you’ve gone f*cking mad? Go on then, bark twice for me, and if it’s to my liking, I might just give you 100 or 200 bucks.”

Life at the Top Chapter 615

“You came to Hanks Residence to collect our debts? Since when did my family owe you money?”

“Will it hurt for you to shut up?!” Sirius turned to shout at Neville.

Having been shouted at, Neville looked at his dad who had a wretched expression on his face and looked like he was about to eat himself alive. Terrified, Neville spoke with a quivering voice, "I'm your son, Dad. Jasper's an outsider who's coming to bully us at our house, what's wrong with me standing up for our family?"

At that moment, the only old man in the room realized that there was something wrong with Sirius and asked with a frown, "What's going on, Sirius?"

Sirius took a deep breath and looked up at the old man. "This is a notice of breach in contract, Uncle Silas."

With that, Sirius turned to look at Jasper coldly. "What a trick you've got here, hmm?"

Jasper replied calmly, "You're not so bad either."

"I'd like to know how you managed to get your hands on so many sales business' contracts in just two days. How'd you get them to agree to transfer the contract compensation rights to you?" Sirius asked coldly.

At that, the expressions of all the Hanks family members changed.

The Hanks family was currently in a great crisis as their main pillar of income, the electronics orders, had been stolen from them. The sales businesses that they had signed contracts with were rioting every day as well.

As members of the Hanks family, they were well aware that it would be the end of the Hanks family if they could not brave through this.

However, Jasper had now brought those contracts over to collect their debts.

Everyone, including Neville, now looked at Jasper with absolute resentment. They wanted nothing more than to rip Jasper apart.

“Faith County had only developed its electronics market after signing a contract with the Hanks family for a year’s worth of goods. The contract amounts to a total of 1.5 million, with an advanced prepayment of 800,000. The moment either party breaches the contract, they are required to compensate the loss with twice the contract amount. So, I decided to buy that contract with 1.3 million Somer Dollars.

“And the same followed with other sales businesses you signed with. There was no reason for them not to take my offer, especially when they’d have to come up with the expenses themselves to sue you otherwise. There’s no point in dragging debt on forever, correct?”

Sirius paled at Jasper’s words.

Then, he cruelly barked out a laugh. “Wow, very well done, Jasper. Very well done! Aren’t you afraid that I’d go bankrupt and you wouldn’t even get a cent out of me?”

Jasper shrugged and replied calmly, “Even if you went bankrupt, I’m sure the Hanks family’s properties are still worth something. I’ll just have to treat it as picking up the scraps and helping you repay your debts at a discounted price. Even if you’re unwilling, I’m sure the court will agree.

“Plus, let’s be honest, I can afford that bit of cash.”

Sirius glared at Jasper menacingly and was utterly infuriated.

Yet no matter how angry he was, the situation left him no other choice but to surrender.

“Is there truly no way we can negotiate this, Jasper?”

Hearing him, Neville and his brother Dave looked at Sirius with disbelief. They did not understand why their father was surrendering to Jasper.

“Negotiate? My only suggestion is that you repay your debts as soon as possible. That’s 2.7 billion. Ordinary people can live their entire lives on one day of interest alone,” Jasper spoke calmly.

“What? 2.7 billion?!” Neville shrieked.

Dave’s eyes widened in disbelief.

“Dad, he’s obviously just extorting us here! We won’t be able to come up with such a large sum of money in such a short time even if we liquidated all our properties!” Neville explained to Sirius.

Neville was very well aware of the Hanks family’s current situation. They had lost a lot of money ever since the Southface River Project, and the family’s wealth had shrunk greatly.

Over the past few days, they had made losses after losses from taking deals that did not benefit them just to attack Jasper and Dawson. Not to mention that Sylva had also taken an amount of the family’s wealth and vanished!

‘So what if our family has a lot of assets? They’re all side businesses and only a small number of projects are actually profitable! There’s no way we can procure 2.7 billion in such a short time to repay our debts!’

“Then liquidate it!”

Jasper spoke indifferently, “The Hanks family has quite a number of assets. Plus, with all the money each member of the family has, I’d say it’s enough to pay what you owe. Even if it isn’t enough, we can bring it to court. The worst-case scenario? You get blacklisted. But the Hanks family is so formidable that this should be the least of your problems, no?”

Life at the Top Chapter 616

“You’re going too far, Jasper!”

Dave stared at Jasper and roared.

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Enough,” Sirius suddenly spoke, interrupting Dave.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Life at the Top Chapter 617

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

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

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

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

“You’re going too far, Jasper!”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Come back, Dave.”

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

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

“As expected.”

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

“The Hanks family is out.”

With that, Jasper brought Julian and left Hanks Residence.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Life at the Top Chapter 618

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

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

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

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

They knew that change was about to hit Southeast Province.

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

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

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

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

"What about Sirius?" he asked faintly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Go, then.”

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

...

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

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

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

This little brat had indeed brought Jasper a surprise.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Life at the Top Chapter 619

What were trust fund babies?

Henry was the epitome of one.

‘Work for me, and I will reward you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Colin smiled bitterly.

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

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

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

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

Hearing Jasper, Colin was stunned.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"What's wrong?" Jasper asked.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

...

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

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

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

Life at the Top Chapter 620

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jasper was truly impressed by Gale's wealth.

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

All he had to do was buy.

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

Such a transaction instantly caused the share price to increase.

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

Jasper smiled. "I have my ways."

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

There was a sudden stunt in the momentum of purchasing.

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

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

At the same time, Jasper called Jake.

"You can release the news now."

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

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

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

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

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

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

It was a miracle.

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

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

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

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

Life at the Top Chapter 621

Skyward Aluminum's share price began to fall without stopping until it arrived at the week's first limit down.

It had been no more than three hours since the share price rose to the limit only to fall to the limit down. It was just in time for the morning market to close.

"We'll wait for the afternoon market to open and buy everything there is. I'm going to forcefully raise that price at the limit down until it reaches the upper limit. That should be enough for 5% of shares." Jasper leaned against the chair and smiled at Henry who was gaping in shock.

Henry gave him a thumbs up. "So this is what true power looks like."

...

The unusual movement in the share market had also piqued the interest of Skyward Aluminum's Investing Department that had been watching its company's shares.

"Uh, Mr. Clark? Should we tell Mr. Monty about this?" A trader turned to ask Benjamin as he stared at the share price that had reached the limit down. Sweat was beading on his forehead.

Benjamin had a very weird expression on his face as well. The company's shares had been rising to the limit when the market opened this morning and he naturally believed that it was because JW Capital was trying to buy more shares.

He was about to follow up on it when a sudden piece of news came to light. Then, the share price immediately plummeted.

The K-line for the share price was now in the shape of an upside-down V after reaching the summit only to plunge into a gorge.

“I’ve already called him, but it was the butler who picked up instead of Mr. Monty. He said that Mr. Monty is meeting with an important guest and can’t be disrupted no matter what.” Benjamin ground his teeth together. He could not help but feel like something big was going to happen.”

Pondering over it, there were still two more hours before the market opened in the afternoon, so Benjamin stated, “Watch the market during noon. Don’t do anything even when the market reopens without my instructions. I’m going over to Monty Manor.”

With that, Benjamin rushed to Monty Manor.

At the door to Monty Manor, Benjamin was drenched in sweat as he spoke to the butler, “Please tell Mr. Monty that Benjamin has come to see him. It’s really important.”

The butler frowned and replied distastefully. “What makes you think that Mr. Monty will meet you just because you want to see him? I told you on the phone, didn’t I? Mr. Monty is with a very important guest and cannot be disturbed no matter what.”

Benjamin glanced at his watch and realized that there was still an hour before the market reopened. He presumed that their lunch would be over in another hour anyway, so he had no other choice but to wait at the door.

Time ticked by slowly and Benjamin felt more anxious with each growing minute. The butler, though, looked at him calmly with slight disdain.

Up until two in the afternoon when it was time for the market to reopen, there was still no sign of Conrad. Benjamin was frantic now.

“What are you doing?” the butler shouted at Benjamin who was trying to force his way in. “Does Monty Manor look like a place for you to fool around?”

With that, around half a dozen bodyguards rushed out and stared Benjamin down.

“What the f*ck... I’m the investment manager of Skyward Aluminum. I have some very important news to tell Mr. Monty!” Benjamin was close to tears with how frantic he felt.

The butler scoffed. “I don’t care who you are. All I know is that Mr. Monty has ordered that no one is to disturb him no matter what. Either listen and wait, or I’ll throw you out. Understood?”

As the two spoke outside, sounds of conversation could be heard from inside the room as well.

At the next moment, out walked Conrad and Colin together.

Conrad had a small and satisfied smile on his face.

After personally sending Colin out the door, Conrad reached out to shake the man’s hand. “It’s been a pleasure talking to you today, Mr. Walter. So I presume that what we’ve discussed will be confirmed, then. I’ll have to thank you seriously once all of this is over.”

Colin hurriedly replied before looking at Benjamin weirdly. The latter looked like he was about to explode at any second. Colin smiled, saying, “Of course, of course.”

Seeing how the two were still dilly-dallying, Benjamin could no longer hold it back and directly spoke, “Something has happened, Mr. Monty! The company’s share price started off rising to the limit this morning only to suddenly drop to the limit down because of a false rumor! I suspect that Jasper’s doing this on purpose so he can sweep more of our shares!

“He’s going to end up buying all the shares on the market if we don’t do anything!”

Before Conrad could react, Colin’s expression immediately turned weird.

Life at the Top Chapter 622

“Haha. If you’re busy, Mr. Monty, then I shall leave you to it.”

Guilty, Colin did not dare to stay for too long and hastily told Conrad.

Conrad grabbed Colin’s hand intimately and spoke, “Then I shall trouble you with this, Mr. Walter.”

Colin bid him farewell and got into his car.

From the rearview mirror, Colin watched Benjamin speak to Conrad nervously and sighed.

Today might just be the last day Conrad treats him respectfully.

It would be a miracle if Conrad does not kill him the next time they meet.

In addition to the fear swirling in Colin’s chest, there was an inexplicable sense of pride as well.

Naturally, he knew of the situation that Benjamin just reported.

‘Benjamin’s a skilled man himself and he has precisely caught Jasper’s goal. It was a shame... that Conrad would never expect me to turn against him.

'He probably won't care about Jasper's move, would he?'

Colin suddenly exhaled a long sigh. 'Jasper's terrifying. This was a simple plan, to have me pretend to agree to whatever Conrad requests. I'm essentially brewing a cup of poison and making Conrad drink it willingly.'

Hearing Colin fish, the driver asked curiously, "Why are you sighing, Mr. Walter?"

Colin replied calmly, "Change is coming to the Southeast Province."

...

"So what?"

Conrad heard Benjamin's report in the study and turned on his computer. It had already been half an hour since the afternoon market reopened.

The shares limit down had been opened but the share prices did not plummet. As if someone was trying to control the market and not let the share prices drop.

"Victory is already ours."

Conrad was in a great mood as he thought about his agreement with Colin today and smiled. "We have 45% of the shares at hand, and with the Southeast Province Mining Co., Ltd on our side, Jasper can do whatever he wants and he'll only have 20% of the total shares. What's he going to do then?"

Scoffing, Conrad spoke, "This is merely his last crazed attempt."

Benjamin was stunned and he asked instinctively, "Mr. Monty, so we'll ignore him, then?"

Conrad laughed aloud and spoke, "He wants to buy shares, doesn't he? Then let him. Instead of fighting for it, we'll sell the 5% we bought with high prices over the past few days."

"This 5% of shares had cost me more than a billion unnecessarily. Now we'll make Jasper give me all that money back. I wonder how angry he'd look when he finds out."

Benjamin's eyes shone and he spoke, "I understand, sir."

Watching Benjamin leave in a rush, Conrad realized that he liked this employee of his a lot. Ignoring everything else, this man's sense of responsibility was a very rare trait.

Planning to promote Benjamin, Conrad walked over to the window to stare at the beautiful spring scenery. His emotions had also truly relaxed since all of this started.

...

"That's a lot of transactions."

Henry suddenly shouted at the computer monitor. The man sat in the study with a straw in his mouth as he drank his bottle of coca-cola.

"I saw." Jasper's eyes shone.

"That's a huge business, he's giving you control over the market." Henry gasped.

Without hesitation, Jasper bought everything. Thus controlling the k-line to stay unmoving as it approached limit down.

"I'm more than happy to control it."

Jasper stared into the monitor as if he could see Conrad through it and spoke calmly, "It's him. He wants to earn all that money he paid unnecessarily for these stocks from me."

Henry snickered. He was about to speak when his phone suddenly rang.

Picking it up, Henry conversed with the other end shortly before he waved his phone at Jasper. "It's from Colin. He called and said that Conrad invited him to a two to three-hour lunch."

"As you predicted, Conrad requested that he take a stand on his side. Colin's acted just as you requested and Conrad must've been sold."

The k-line moved around the limit down throughout the entire transacting day and along it tugged the heartstrings of thousands of investors.

Everyone stared at the weirdly moving market and was engulfed in utter turmoil.

Some people could tell that this market was the result a dealer wanted. These people wanted to join, but they did not dare. For the moment the dealer retreated, they would have to take up control next.

However, if they do not enter the market, not earning from a rapid jump in share prices would be as distressing as losing money.

Even organizations with professional teams were confused, let alone retail investors.

Countless professional analysis teams within organizations around the world were wracking their minds trying to analyze and predict what this dealer had in mind.

Amidst everyone's internal conflict, it was currently two-fifty in the afternoon, ten minutes away from when the market would close.

The moment the minute hand hit fifty, the renowned Skyward Aluminum's shares suddenly skyrocketed.

A big upward trendline had pulled Skyward Aluminum's shares from its lowest limit down price straight up.

The line truly resembled a rocket launch.

Countless organizations and retail investors cursed. They wanted to join in but the share prices were rising every second.

The price changed every second and by the time one wanted to buy it, all shares of that specific price were already sold out and the price would rise by another point.

Countless people were so impatient they wanted to break their keyboards, and they regretted their indecisiveness.

Just like that, a huge sum of 2.5 billion entered the market in less than ten minutes. It pushed the market price that was struggling by the limit down for the entire transaction day all the way up to rise to the limit. Locking it there.

In a single day, Skyward Aluminum had undergone a total trade of shares worth over 10 billion. This terrifying amount of transactions had undoubtedly created history in share market A for the year 2001.

Pme could only imagine how editors of financial channels would have to burn the midnight oil working tonight. For all financial news outlets would be reporting this incident tomorrow.

While the mastermind behind it all was sharing a celebratory glass of champagne with Henry.

"I currently have 24% of the shares on hand right now. I've got to thank Conrad for that 5%, though. Coupled with the 30% premium shares from Southeast Province

Mining Co., Ltd, I suppose it's time for Skyward Aluminum to change its name.” Jasper chuckled, sipping on a glass of champagne with a relaxed look in his eyes.

This wasn't even a true battle, but man was that f*cking exciting,” Henry exclaimed to Jasper with his eyes shining brightly.

Jasper was in a great mood too. He was about to speak when he suddenly received a call from Gale.

This old man must have been watching the share market as well.

“I may not understand the share market, but I do have the country's best traders and analyst teams. I am an old man, sly child, but your work today has me dazed just from listening to them explain it to me.”

‘Do you know how they described you? They said that your work today would be entered into a series of actual analysis cases taught in countless Schools of Economics. You have shown textbook control of the stock market. Very well done. Good job!’

Life at the Top Chapter 623

“One can only do this provided that one is backed by a strong capital, Old Master Hurlbutt. In short, one should spare no expense in exchange for the greatest share of earnings in the shortest time possible.

“Even though this is a good method, it can't be used often as the price-performance ratio is too low.”

Jasper said rationally, not losing his head just because Gale complimented him.

He needed to prepare Gale mentally lest he thought he was losing money upon finding out that he had merely purchased 25% of Skyward Aluminum's shares with a whopping ten billion.

"Mineral resources are massive gold-swallowing beasts. Skyward Aluminum's mine in the Southeast Province was initially worth 60 billion in exploration value. Even after several years of development, it is still worth about 40 billion. This money is worth spending." Gale laughed.

Jasper grinned but did not proceed with the topic.

He could think of several massive mineral resources overseas off the top of his head. Once those mines were developed, each of them would have an output value worth hundreds of billions, and most importantly, the currency was in US dollars.

However, he could only set the plan aside because first of all, the time was not right yet; second of all, the funds and power he had were not enough for him to develop foreign resources.

Nevertheless, the mines would always be there. As soon as Jasper was competent enough, any mining site he chose to develop could easily surpass the mine that Gale and Conrad treasured so dearly.

"I plan to hold a shareholders meeting. I've submitted the application to the Securities Regulatory Commission this afternoon and an announcement will be made much later. Are you sending anyone over, Old Master Hurlbutt?" Jasper asked.

Gale was in high spirits, saying, "I am not going to make a trip there myself. I put you in charge. It is not that easy to earn my commission, you know? I still need you to run a few errands for me.

"Just do what you need to do. I do care about that young man Conrad Monty. His father Steven Monty used to be my good pal. I will talk to him."

After receiving Gale's promise, Jasper said, "I've been waiting for you to say those words. Well then, wait for my news tomorrow."

That night, the Securities Regulatory Commission issued an announcement on their official website.

JW Investment Company now held more than 25% of Skyward Aluminum's shares, and according to the company's article of association under shareholder rights, an official request in convening a shareholders meeting in Skyward Aluminium Co., Ltd had been sent to the Securities Regulatory Commission and was approved.

Conrad had been notified by the Securities Regulatory Commission even before the announcement was made.

In the face of the inquiries made by the relevant person in charge sent by the Securities Regulatory Commission, Conrad let out a breezy smile and said, "Please do what you need to do in accordance with the company's articles of association. He does hold 24% of Skyward Aluminum's shares, and I have no right to refuse the convening of the shareholders meeting, so be it.

"Since he wants to be humiliated so much, don't blame me for using this opportunity to teach him a lesson."

After hanging up the call, Conrad summoned Benjamin.

"The shareholders meeting will be held tomorrow. I need you to make necessary preparations," Conrad ordered.

Still unaware of the news, Benjamin was slightly stunned and said, "Why is he holding a shareholders meeting when he only holds 25% of shares? Does that even make sense?"

“He’s putting up a deathbed struggle, perhaps. Or maybe he’s just trying to release news into the outside world to tell them that he hasn’t given up yet.” Conrad chuckled, fidgeting with the cigar in his hand.

Benjamin sneered and said, “Does he have nothing better to do?”

“Doesn’t matter anyway. Victory lies in our hands. He can do whatever he wants in front of me but I will never let him slip through my fingers.

“That kid Henry is always with Jasper and that’s a bit tough to deal with.” Conrad found this problem slightly difficult to deal with.

He had no scruples about trampling Jasper to death, but when it came to Henry who had the Laws as his backing, he could not help being cautious when taking action against Jasper.

The Laws could not be more terrifying, and the higher one’s ranking was, the greater the effects one would experience.

Life at the Top Chapter 624

Conrad knew he could not offend this unruly young master in public.

After thinking about it, Conrad picked up his phone and made a call to Harbor City.

“Interested to come to Nauritus City to have some fun, Mr. Langdon? The flight’s tonight. You’re in for a great show tomorrow.

“Yeah, I just want to show you how I’ll end Jasper and Henry. Jasper is easy to deal with, but Henry...

“Okay, I’ll leave Henry to you, then. I’ll book your flight ticket and pick you up at the airport.”

...

With the outside world following this news, Skyward Aluminum’s shareholders meeting began on time at eight o’clock the next morning.

Downstairs of Skyward Aluminum, Jasper met up with the Securities Regulatory Commission’s retail representative.

“We meet again, Mr. Laine.”

This time around, the representative was a man called Dwayne Martin. He was from the Securities Regulatory Commission’s middle management, representing the Securities Regulatory Commission to oversee the shareholders meeting and to represent the retail investors.

Listed companies were required to accept the Securities Regulatory Commission’s supervision when it involved events that could bring major changes to the company.

Since this was a listed company, there were bound to be retail investors who held the company’s shares. The law stipulated that the right to exercise shareholder rights be given to these retail investors, but since it was impossible for a company to gather all its retail investors, a retail representative would be chosen instead.

As a representative, Dwayne was also here to protect the interests of a group of retail investors.

Jasper shook hands with Dwayne with a smile, saying, “How are you, Mr. Martin? I see you’re here to handle this in person today?”

Dwayne let out a wry smile. “Share prices have fluctuated greatly these days because of you. Yesterday, there was a record-breaking 60 billion direct trading volume and even the higher-ups were alerted. We even worked overtime till late last night just to investigate this.”

“Haha, this was done unintentionally. Please don’t come to me for your overtime pay, Mr. Martin,” Jasper joked.

Jasper would not hesitate to build good relationships with those who held true power and authority because he would never know when he might need their help.

After letting out a chuckle, Jasper and the rest walked into the company’s private elevator. Dwayne spoke under his breath, “Mr. Laine, it’s best if you lie low this time. After all, the share market is really volatile right now and many people are keeping an eye on this news. This won’t be easy for the higher-ups to handle.”

“Rest assured Mr. Martin. Everything will be carried out according to the rules and regulations. I won’t do things rashly.”

At the sight of Jasper’s indifference, Dwayne was a little puzzled.

If this kid knew better than to do things rashly, he would not have caused such a huge problem, and they would not have to deal with this massive headache either.

What was more, in Dwayne’s opinion, Jasper merely owned 24% of the shares. He simply had no ability to contend with Conrad in the shareholders meeting.

Why was he holding the shareholders meeting, then? He would only be tormenting himself, no?

Shaking his head, Dwayne then said with a sigh, “Mr. Laine, our meeting today is going to be a tough battle to fight. Have you made any preparations?”

Jasper could tell that Dwayne was sounding him out and grinned, saying, "Preparations? Well, I woke up early this morning and even changed into a new set of clothes before coming here. Does that count?"

Dwayne glanced at Jasper. This kid's lips were clearly sealed. Not bothered to ask any more questions, Dwayne simply clammed up and said no more.

They were each occupied with their own thoughts. The elevator doors opened and closed several times. A moment later, the meeting on the 16th floor was ready to begin.

Life at the Top Chapter 625

Conrad and Colin were already in the conference room. After Jasper led Henry, Julian, Dwayne, and several of his employees into the room, the main door was closed.

The shareholders meeting had officially begun.

Countless forces and individuals in Southeast Province stared at the main door of the conference room.

In a sense, this was Jasper and Dawson, both emerging bigwigs, challenging the veterans of Southeast Province, the Monty family.

The result of this battle could potentially affect the trend of the entire upper class circle in Southeast Province.

In other parts of the country, the hot money market institutions involved in the mineral industry and even the real estate industry had their eyes fixed on this event today.

The shareholders meeting had a much wider scope of influence than anyone would have imagined.

In the conference room, Jasper and the group's arrival caught everyone's attention immediately.

After exchanging glances with Colin, they both tore their gazes away. Jasper was about to speak to Henry when he heard a fit of laughter.

Conrad walked toward them with open arms.

Obviously, he was here to greet Dwayne, not Jasper.

Conrad and Dwayne seemed really close.

"It's been half a year since we last met, Dwayne. I remember you have rheumatoid arthritis, are your legs better now?"

Jasper mulled over Conrad's deliberate show of friendliness.

Dwayne seemed a little awkward, but he still hugged Conrad lightly and said in a polite tone, "Thanks for your concern, Mr. Monty. My legs are much better now."

"Much better means that they haven't completely healed, then." Conrad seemed to be unaware of how awkward Dwayne looked. He finished his sentence with a smile and turned around to say to Benjamin, "Remind me to send Dwayne a jar of my old medicinal wine after this. That's the best cure for rheumatism. Even my father is drinking it."

Benjamin said delightfully, "Alright, Mr. Monty. I'll make sure to remember that."

Dwayne waved his hands immediately and said, "You're too kind, Mr. Monty. Should we get straight to business first?"

“Straight to business?” Conrad gave Jasper a meaningful look and said, “Of course, we should get straight to business.”

As soon as Conrad said those words, Benjamin said sarcastically, “I wonder what’s going through some people’s heads sometimes. Just because he got lucky and earned some money, he thinks he has become the richest man in the country? He should probably look at himself in the mirror and see who he really is.

“Just because he has a bit of stinking money, he thinks he can lay his fingers on everything? Be careful, because you might not even know how you got killed.”

Benjamin looked at Jasper as he said those words, sneering. “I’m talking about you, Jasper Laine. I really wonder what’s going on inside that head of yours. Why are you even holding this shareholders meeting? Just so you can get humiliated?”

“Does that have anything to do with you?” Jasper asked.

Benjamin said in disdain, “It has nothing to do with me, of course. Mr. Monty is a really understanding man. Since you’re so eager to be humiliated, I will very reluctantly work with him to give you a proper humiliation then.

“You’re holding a shareholders meeting just because you bought some shares on the share market? How hilarious! The shares you hold are only enough for you to do inconsequential things like that.

“Are you ashamed and angry because you’ve failed to acquire Skyward Aluminum after announcing it? Haha.”

Henry was most annoyed when someone behaved excessively complacent in front of him.

He cast sidelong glances at him immediately.

“Do you hear a dog barking? F*ck, I think only the boss has the right to speak here, don’t you think? You’re just a f*cking employee. Who do you think you are?”

“You!” Although Benjamin was furious, he still panicked when he caught sight of Henry’s sinister expression that seemed to be waiting for him to go berserk.

As soon as he panicked, Henry cut him off and spoke first.

“You what? I’ll drag you to a cesspit and throw you in if you keep looking at me with those smug eyes. Watch me!”

Henry’s words left more than a dozen people in the conference room dumbfounded.

Life at the Top Chapter 626

Those who could attend the shareholders meeting were either super big bosses like Jasper and Conrad, senior executives like Benjamin, or someone outside of the system like Dwayne.

To put it bluntly, they were all people who had inner qualities and class.

If they must compare, Henry had the highest status of them all.

The profanities that came out of his mouth were not only awkward and hilarious, but they also made one imagine things.

Most people subconsciously imagined Henry commanding a group of men to drag a middle-aged man to a cesspit...

Benjamin's eyes turned crimson with anger, but what Conrad said next forced him to stifle his anger abruptly.

"That's enough. Shall we begin now, Mr. Martin?"

Conrad darted Benjamin a cold glance as he spoke. The look in his eyes was obvious.

Conrad had hinted at Benjamin earlier to provoke Jasper, but not only did he fail to accomplish his task, but he was also cursed and berated by Henry.

Even though Benjamin was the one who got berated, everyone knew that Benjamin was his subordinate, so he was also humiliated by extension. Naturally, Conrad was unhappy about it.

Dwayne cleared his throat and walked to the head of the table before announcing loudly, “Today, Jasper Laine, the shareholder representing JW Investment Company, will be the initiator in Skyward Aluminum’s shareholders meeting.

“Official participants include Mr. Jasper Laine, chairman of JW Investment Company; Mr. Conrad Monty, chairman of Skyward Aluminium Co., Ltd; Mr. Colin Walter, general manager of Southeast Province Mining Co., Ltd.

“And myself, Dwayne Martin, director of the Market Management Office of the Securities Regulatory Commission.

“Next, as the retail investors’ representative and the supervisor of the Securities Regulatory Commission, I will preside over this shareholders meeting along with a consultant who will record the meeting. We will be fully present in this shareholders’ meeting.

“If there is any objection regarding my position as a notary, please raise it immediately; if there is no objection, then I announce that the shareholders’ meeting will officially begin.”

As Dwayne said those words, he paused for a moment to wait for anyone who might want to raise objections regarding his identity. Though, of course, no one would.

After a moment’s pause in the quiet venue, Dwayne motioned to the consultant who had video equipment with him to begin setting up in order to proceed with the audio and video recording later.

He then explained, “To ensure the fairness and legality of this shareholders meeting, we will record the entire meeting to be reviewed by the Securities Regulatory Commission.”

When everything had been set up, Dwayne turned to look at Jasper who sat at the far end near the door. It was because he held the lowest shareholding ratio. Dwayne said, “Since Mr. Laine was the one who proposed to hold this

shareholders meeting, we ask you to please elaborate on your need for holding this shareholders meeting.”

Henry’s eyes gleamed when he heard those words.

At this moment, everyone had doubts about Jasper’s ability and believed that no motions he made would be passed at the shareholders meeting, hence everyone was just waiting to watch a good show and see Jasper make a fool of himself.

Henry was different. He knew that his future brother-in-law held the real trump card, and based on his understanding of Jasper’s character, he would surely not let Benjamin off the hook after how he had humiliated him earlier.

It was again time for Jasper to show them his true ability!

‘Spotlight, please! I need a spotlight over here! Point it at Mr. Jasper Laine. I’m ready to see the VIP Jasper showcase his true ability!’

In the midst of Conrad and the rest’s sneers, Henry was beyond excited for what was going to happen next.

Sitting at the very far end, Jasper chuckled and said his first words.

“I move that certain unqualified company senior executives be removed. Take, for example, Benjamin Clark, the current general manager of the investment department, and I ask that he be investigated for corruption.”

As soon as he said those words, Conrad and Benjamin sneered while looking at Jasper as if he was a fool.

“Secondly, I move for a reorganization in the board of directors of Skyward Aluminum, and that the current chairman, Conrad Monty, be removed.”

Swoosh!

The audience was in an uproar as soon as he said those words.

He had thrown a bomb during the opening remark itself!

Life at the Top Chapter 627

Henry was so thrilled that even his brows were knitted together.

It was as if he was the talented one.

At the same time, Henry observed the gap between him and Jasper.

When he showed off his powers, the most he would do was beat the other party up and destroy him physically.

Jasper's attack, on the other hand, could cause devastating psychological blows to a person.

At the thought of this, Henry turned to look at Conrad with great excitement. Now that Jasper had placed the bait, anyone who so recklessly came forward to attack him would be crushed to pieces by this mega show-off.

Upon hearing Jasper's first motion, Conrad responded with mockery and disdain, thinking that Jasper was simply playing to the gallery.

Even though he was already mentally prepared to hear the second motion...

Conrad still flew into a rage considering how Jasper was sitting in his company's conference room and asking for the board of directors to be reorganized as well as for him to be removed from the position of chairman in front of him!

“Have you gone insane or am I hallucinating, Jasper Laine?!”

Conrad glanced at Jasper with a cold gaze before bursting out into laughter.

“You know what? I admire you a lot, really. You started from the bottom and accumulated so many businesses in such a short period of time. That’s really impressive.”

Conrad, who used a lofty tone to commend Jasper, suddenly switched the conversation around. “But you’re too arrogant, and it just so happens that arrogance will only bring you destruction in our society today.

“You’re sitting in my company in my conference room and asking me to be removed?”

“You know that your motion cannot be passed yet you still insist on doing it. That alone makes you so childish, don’t you think?”

Conrad knocked on the desk and then pointed at the luxury decor around the conference room, saying at the top of his voice, “I, Conrad Monty, began working in my family’s business as soon as I graduated from university. Up until today, I’ve taken firm and steady steps, keeping my feet on the ground.

“Everyone praises me, calling me a rare genius that only appears once every half a century, but I never took them seriously. I firmly believe that there is always someone better than us, so I’ve always remained humble and prudent.

“What about you?”

“You’re acting all haughty and so full of yourself just because you’ve gained a bit of profit, and that’s what sets us apart.”

With a faint smile on his face, Conrad fixed his gaze on Jasper and said, “You probably haven’t experienced any setbacks yet, but remember this day because you’ll pay a hefty price for your actions!”

Benjamin looked at Conrad in awe as soon as he was done speaking.

This was what real humiliation should look like.

There were no profanities involved, yet it was more than enough to humiliate anyone who still had the last bit of dignity in them. It made them eager to dig a hole in the ground and jump into it.

However, just as Benjamin was about to say words of flattery to Conrad, a deep and powerful voice sounded from the other end of the conference table.

“Idiot.”

It was only one word. It was short yet full of power.

The conference room was engulfed in silence as everyone turned to look at Henry.

Henry was probably getting uncomfortable from sitting down, so he simply leaned back on the chair, clasped his hands together, and cushioned them behind his head. He crossed his legs and rested them on the conference table.

He even shook his feet from time to time. His polished shiny leather shoes glinted in the light, and his haughty appearance looked extremely unpleasant to the eye.

When Henry noticed the crowd looking over, his mouth twitched as he cursed, “What are you looking at? Have you never seen a handsome man before? You’d better turn those eyeballs away. It sickens me to get stared at by all of you.”

Boom!

Life at the Top Chapter 628

Conrad smacked the table hard and roared, “Don’t be so full of yourself, Henry Law! Do you think you can disrespect us just because your father is rich?”

“Hehe...”

Henry removed his feet from the conference table and stared at Conrad before saying, “Anyone else is qualified to say those words but not you, you old braggart. Got it?”

“Had it not been for your rich father, would you even have stood a chance to be here today? You’re just a f*cking idiot.”

“Darn it. We’re both trust fund babies with hard-working dads, so don’t pretend like you’re some sort of VIP in front of me!”

As he spoke, Henry grinned at the sullen and livid Conrad, adding, “Oh that’s right, you forgot something. I not only have a hard-working father, but also an awesome grandfather. Your father is the only one you can fall back on, so stop boasting in front of me or I’ll smack you to death.”

Conrad was losing his mind.

He merely said one thing about Henry in a fit of pique earlier, but Henry shot back like rapid fire and said at least seven to eight things about him.

Moreover, there was no room for him to refute.

Truth be told, he had indeed relied on his family’s business to get to where he was today. Had he not been a Monty and had he not been lucky enough to be

born in a well-off family, he probably would not have achieved what he had achieved today.

Conrad gritted his teeth, and with a trace of sanity left in him, he said with a sneer, "Just because you have a stronger backing than me, you think you can disregard me as a human? Fine, I'll find someone who's on par with you and see how you can handle that."

As he said those words, Conrad got up and walked toward the conference room's lounge. He opened the door and said, "It's your turn now, Mr. Langdon."

Having said those words, Mitch Langdon walked out of the lounge with a smile while everyone's attention was on him. He first glared bitterly at Jasper and then looked at Henry while smirking. "Hey, Henry. Surprised to see me?"

Henry was surprised indeed. "F*ck me. No wonder Conrad is so full of himself. It's because you're here to back him up, huh?"

As Henry said those words, he chuckled and continued, "What's wrong? The slap you received in Harbor City wasn't painful enough? Do you want me to do it myself?"

Mitch's expression changed abruptly.

He thought his presence would leave him shocked and stunned, but little did he know, both Jasper and Henry were completely unstirred.

The words that Henry said felt like a knife twisting in his wounds.

It had been absolutely humiliating for him to receive a slap in the face by his fiancée at the celebrity cocktail party in Harbor City. For a fine young master like Mitch, getting humiliated in public was worse than having his life taken.

All the old and recent grudges swept over Mitch, and he said coldly, "Henry, keep being so arrogant and someone will claim your life one day."

Henry replied with a sneer, "Well, I'm already eager to die. Do you want to claim my life?"

"..." Mitch was livid, saying, "Calm down. It'll happen one day."

After Mitch spoke, he gave Henry no chance to rebuke and said to Conrad, "What are you doing, Conrad? This is your company, how could you allow outsiders to make irresponsible remarks like that in the shareholders meeting?"

Conrad had calmed down tremendously by now. He took a deep breath and replied, "That's right. We're in a shareholders meeting. Let's not talk about things unrelated to the motions."

Upon hearing his reply, Dwayne, who had long felt as though he was sitting on pins and needles, breathed a huge sigh of relief.

To be honest, he felt as though two gods were fighting each other, and he was afraid that they would take their anger out on him.

At this moment, he quickly said, "Back to the meeting. Mr. Laine, do you want us to vote on both of your motions?"

"Yes."

Jasper did some stretches. He seemed as though he had just come back to his senses and became aware of the things he needed to do.

"Hurry up, I'm in a rush to go home for lunch!"

Life at the Top Chapter 629

As soon as he said those words, everyone's faces turned dark and somber.

Conrad felt like the fire within him had been ignited. Even though he managed to keep a lid on it, it was at the brink of exploding at any time.

"How ignorant can you get?!" Conrad said with a sneer.

Henry was full of smiles as he was pleased to see Conrad and Mitch infuriated yet were unable to vent out their frustrations. They looked as if they had eaten a fly.

After clearing his throat, Dwayne turned to Jasper. He was unsure what Jasper had up his sleeve, so he asked, "Mr. Laine, are you sure you want to make those two motions you mentioned earlier?"

"I'm sure." Jasper nodded, giving Dwayne his affirmation.

Dwayne sighed. Seeing how Jasper was determined to embarrass himself, he made no further attempts to stop him and said, "Now that Mr. Laine, holding 24% of the shares, has made the motions, we will begin voting on the first motion."

"I object."

Conrad expressed his opinion at almost the same time Dwayne finished his sentence.

Dwayne cleared his throat and said, "Mr. Monty, holding 40% of the shares, objects. I abstain from voting on behalf of the 6% shares held by all retail investors."

As Dwayne said those words, he turned to look at Colin Walter who had yet to say a word so far. After thinking about it, Dwayne thought it was pointless for him to prompt the other man and announced straight away, "Because the majority voted against the first motion, I announce that Mr. Laine's first motion is invalid—"

"Hold on, Mr. Martin. Mr. Walter has not spoken yet. Isn't this against the standard operating procedure?" Jasper said calmly.

Dwayne was taken aback for a moment and gazed at Jasper with a look of dissatisfaction.

In his opinion, Jasper was too hard-headed that he had even failed to recognize his good intentions.

He was helping him out of the embarrassing situation lest he felt humiliated by the absolute majority. What was wrong with this guy?

"Haha, Mr. Martin, if he wants Colin to give his vote, then so be it. We still need to go with the standard operating procedure no matter what." Conrad burst out laughing.

As he spoke, he slowly took off the gold-rimmed glasses resting on the bridge of his nose, slowly wiping the lenses with a glass cleaning cloth.

"Jasper, oh Jasper. You amaze me more and more. Does it feel that good to be humiliated in public? If that's really what you want, then hey, move your face closer. Let me swing my arm and give you a good slap across the face."

"I agree."

The two unexpected words left Conrad's hands frozen in the air. Thinking that he was probably having auditory hallucinations, his head shot up abruptly. He turned his incredulous and furious gaze to Colin.

Colin, however, was seen staring fixedly at the conference table without blinking. He did not meet Conrad's eyes at all.

He looked so focused as though there was a rare treasure on the conference table.

Conrad was not the only one who was dumbstruck. Both Dwayne and Mitch looked as though they were looking at an alien.

Everyone's heart was pounding frantically.

At this moment, Colin Walter, a man no one had paid any attention to since the beginning, seemed to have turned into the center of attention.

Henry looked at the scene before his eyes, itching to open up a bottle of fine wine to sip on while he admired the grand scene before his eyes. This was so thrilling to watch.

Even movies would not play out such plot reversals.

"What did you say, Colin Walter?" Conrad asked slowly, pausing after every word. His tone was cold and stern as if he was giving out the sternest warning ever.

Life at the Top Chapter 630

Colin wore a stiff expression, and his gaze remained fixed on the conference table. He did not look up as he was too afraid to meet anyone's eyes.

Under tremendous pressure, huge beads of sweat were seeping out of Colin's forehead at a speed visible to the naked eye. His throat moved and his lips

quivered. Though slow, he remained firm as he said, "I said I agree with the motion Mr. Laine made."

Boom!

Conrad smacked the conference table, no longer able to hold back the fury that tore through his heart. Amidst the thunderous boom, the frame of his expensive gold-rimmed glasses twisted and the lenses shattered in his hand. It tore the flesh of his hand, covering it in blood. The entire time, Conrad was unblinking.

"Do you have a death wish, Colin Walter?"

Conrad was so agitated that his voice changed. The sharp hiss made his voice sound particularly grating to the ears and especially terrifying.

Conrad stared fixedly at Colin, his gaze almost turning into two blades that threatened to slice Colin alive.

"Well, aren't you really powerful?" Henry said sarcastically while leaning back in the office chair, looking at Conrad with a fascinated gaze as if he was staring at a monkey performing a show.

"We're having a meeting, what's with the rotten behavior? If you interrupt the meeting, then I will have no choice but to step in and take action.

"He has said it twice that he agrees with the motion. Do you not understand human language?"

Mitch stared at Henry with a sullen expression and sulked. "Can you shut up, Henry? What does this meeting have anything to do with you?"

"You want me to shut up?"

"Who the f*ck do you think you are?"

“Believe it or not, if I can bash all your teeth out in Harbor City, I can bash you up in the Mainland to the point where you can’t even find your teeth.”

Mitch was in a towering rage. He stood up and roared, “Don’t push it too far, Henry Law!”

“I enjoy bullying you, what are you going to do about that? Do you want to fight me one on one or do you want to call your parents? Why don’t we both call our fathers, or maybe go straight to our grandfathers?”

Henry stood up, looking sideways at Mitch while sneering.

Mitch’s breathing was getting labored, and his eyes were bloodshot. Clearly, his rage had gone through the roof.

Seeing how things were getting out of hand, Dwayne regretted not turning down the offer to preside over this meeting. His wrong move resulted in him getting sandwiched between two big shots and feeling the effects of their wrath.

Afraid that the situation would get out of hand, he said cautiously, “Should we continue with the meeting, gentlemen? If you have anything to say, say it after the meeting, okay?”

“Who do you think you are? Are you even qualified to speak? F*ck. Jasper has clearly bribed Colin, how the f*ck is this meeting supposed to go on?”

Mitch, who was in a towering rage, could not care less about his image anymore and turned around to spit curses at Dwayne.

Dwayne was livid. His expression then turned cold as he cast a chilly glance at Mitch, saying sternly, “The meeting still needs to go on no matter what. If you’re unhappy about this, Mr. Langdon, then feel free to report this afterward to the Securities Regulatory Commission so they can investigate it.”

Having said that, Dwayne announced straight away, “The first motion put forward by Mr. Laine of JW Investment Company is to dismiss certain unqualified company senior executives such as Mr. Benjamin Clark, the current general manager of the Investment Department, and investigate him for corruption.

“Those holding 54% of shares are in favor of the motion, 40% objected, and 6% abstained from voting. I declare that the motion is officially passed. This will be noted down in the meeting minutes. In the name of the shareholders meeting, this motion will be carried out with immediate effect.”

As Dwayne said those words, he turned around and looked coldly at Benjamin who was still in a daze, saying, “Mr. Benjamin, you’ve been voted out by the shareholders. Please leave the conference room and await further investigation.”

Life at the Top Chapter 631

Benjamin was dumbstruck.

Everything still felt so unreal. Perhaps he had not even woken up from his bed this morning. Was he still dreaming?

Why had Colin suddenly switched teams? Benjamin was even dismissed from his job and was going to be investigated?

Benjamin's heart was thumping wildly as he subconsciously looked at Jasper. What he saw was the same calm and unruffled Jasper from the moment he first walked through the door. He looked breezy and indifferent regardless of the mockery and ridicule thrown at his face. There was a layer of calm on his face that was impossible to comprehend.

The mysterious and calmness he exuded was nothing at first, though when Benjamin realized that Jasper had so stealthily got the entire situation within his grasp, everything suddenly seemed so terrifying.

The things he and Mr. Monty did and said earlier must have seemed like a joke to Jasper, right?

At the thought of this, the completely disheartened Benjamin looked to his only backer for help, hoping that Conrad could speak up for him.

Conrad, however, was livid at the moment. He looked so gloomy it was as if a thunderstorm was approaching. How could he possibly be in the mood to help him?

After casting several glances, Benjamin sighed hard and said dejectedly, "I understand."

As Benjamin said those words, he stood up and walked out of the conference room.

His departure did not catch anyone's attention.

From the very start, Benjamin had been an insignificant character sitting on this conference table. No one cared about him.

The things Mitch said earlier had offended Dwayne, so he was not going to be so cautious anymore.

Dwayne was a mid-level senior executive in the Securities Regulatory Commission. He had connections of his own and wielded authority, so even powerful bosses of listed companies were exceedingly polite to him.

Dwayne did not want to offend Mitch, the young master of Harbor City, but that did not mean he would put up with anything.

He enforced the law impartially so no one could find fault with him. Dwayne refused to believe that the Langdons would come all the way to the Mainland to pick on him because of this.

"If that's the case, let's begin voting on the second motion—"

Dwayne was halfway through his sentence when Conrad cut him off. "Hold on."

Dwayne looked at Conrad. Although he was upset with Mitch, he still needed to show Conrad some respect.

Conrad looked at Jasper and took a deep breath, saying, "You've planned all this from the start, haven't you? Colin has already picked your side, right?"

Jasper chuckled and said, "Don't say that. The voting system of this shareholders meeting is open and fair. The entire process is recorded and filmed. The

Securities Regulatory Commission will review this too. How could we have possibly colluded?

“This is for the good of the company, everyone.”

Conrad sneered. “Since you already hold the winning card, Jasper, then stop pretending. That will only make me despise you more.”

As he said those words, Conrad turned to look at Colin and said calmly, “Mr. Walter, I don’t know what Jasper offered you or what he used to threaten you, but you must make careful considerations when voting for the next motion.”

“If you make the wrong choice, someone will pay the price.”

Jasper said calmly, “Mr. Monty, there are many people watching and listening. Do you think it is right for you, as the chairman, to threaten your shareholders so overtly?”

Conrad sneered, “Are you afraid?”

“Afraid?” Jasper let out a fascinated smile and then looked at Dwayne before saying, “Mr. Martin, let’s begin voting.”

Dwayne nodded. This time, everyone in the conference room, himself included, no longer thought that Jasper was only playing to the gallery.

Even if Jasper was playing to the gallery, they were the ones who were pulled onto the stage in the end, whereas Jasper was the bigwig sitting in the audience watching the show.

Dwayne let out a sigh. From the bottom of his heart, he admired the means and strategies that Jasper had adopted.

He had managed to deceive everybody with his strategies and pulled the rug out from under Conrad's feet. This was simply... ingenious!

"If that's the case, let's begin voting on Mr. Laine's second motion on reorganizing the board of directors and removing Mr. Conrad from his position as the chairman. The voting will begin now."

"I object!" Conrad stared fixedly at Colin, gritting his teeth.

"I represent the retail investors holding 6% of the shares to abstain from voting."

Dwayne looked at Colin. At this moment, he felt slightly anxious as well, and his palms were drenched in sweat unknowingly.

He knew that Colin's answer would determine the direction of the shareholders meeting. He could also tell the result of this match between Jasper and Conrad, the genius from the Southeast Province that only appeared once every half a century.

Life at the Top Chapter 632

There were too many people paying attention to this news.

It had also brought a huge impact.

Even Dwayne, someone who was used to being part of huge occasions like this, found himself with a parched throat and a pounding heart.

Colin raised his head stiffly, looking at Conrad for the first time.

His gaze was an exceedingly complicated one.

He opened his mouth with much difficulty and said in a slow yet determined tone, "I... agree."

When those two words left his lips, there was only silence. No one spoke, and everyone was holding their breaths.

Then, for some reason, everyone sighed in unison.

The direction of the company had been decided.

Ultimately, victory or defeat had been determined.

Jasper won.

Conrad, a genius that only appeared once every half a century, lost.

He lost thoroughly and completely.

The audience looked warily at both parties.

Conrad slumped on the chair as though his soul had left his body. There was a slightly dull and bleary look on his face. His palms were still bleeding, and this made him look both wretched and sinister.

As for Jasper, he remained calm and breezy, looking as though he had just accomplished an insignificant task. There was a hint of weariness amidst the calmness on his face, like nothing about this meeting could excite him.

Mitch was livid. He slowly turned around and gave Conrad a death stare, saying, "This is the fun you wanted me to watch? It's really fun indeed—simply hilarious!"

Conrad trembled, finally coming back to his senses. He stood up abruptly.

Mitch was sitting next to him, and the sudden movement startled him. He looked at Conrad and was about to yell at him when he was taken aback by the man's sinister and ghastly expression.

Mitch had never seen anything like it. This was an expression that no ordinary people should have.

“Jasper!”

Conrad roared in an ear-piercing voice. His roar sounded like the howling of a mad beast.

“You want to fight it out with me, huh? Don't forget that I still hold 40% of the shares. So what if you kick me out of the board of directors? Worst comes to worst, I'll use the Monty family's aluminum mine that's worth tens of billions in assets to fight you to the end!”

The Monty family had plenty of assets. Skyward Aluminum might be one of their core industries, but it was one of the many and certainly not everything. It was not a crucial industry that they could not give up either.

“I've never suffered defeat but I didn't think I would win all the time either. Even so, I certainly won't lose to you! Who do you think you are?! You're just a piece of rubbish that crawled up from the bottom-most layer. You don't deserve to win!

“You'd better listen up. Yes, you may have won, but I've not lost yet. I would rather destroy this company that's worth tens of billions than let you have it!”

As Conrad roared like he had gone insane, Jasper interlocked his fingers and propped up his chin. He waited in silence for Conrad to finish.

After that, he said slowly, “Sure.”

Sure?!

Jasper agreed to it?

He agreed to Conrad destroying this company that was worth tens of billions?

Why would Jasper even bother spending tens of billions then?

Everyone was struck dumb by what Jasper said.

Everyone but Young Master Law. He felt a sense of superiority, as though everyone was drunk and he alone was sober. He was even itching to laugh out loud.

This was such a great show to watch!

Henry was well aware of how capable Jasper was and knew the way he handled things better than anyone. To him, earning money was not at all a difficult task. Jasper would only need to ask and the Laws, or even Gale alone, could easily sponsor him with tens of billions at any time!

Moreover, Jasper had ways to make the same amount of money in the shortest time possible. Could Conrad do the same?

Life at the Top Chapter 633

07/06/2021 by [Novel Heart](#)

When Jasper said sure, he turned the already tense atmosphere in the conference room strange and tumultuous.

Everyone was puzzled, not knowing what Jasper was thinking or plotting at.

“This aluminum mine in Southeast Province that belongs to Skyward Aluminum was discovered five years ago. If I’m not mistaken, the exploration team at the time was sent by the provincial mining company.

“Logically speaking, the aluminum mine should have belonged to the provincial mining company, but how did it end up as the Monty family’s property? Anyone can smell that something’s fishy about it, right?”

Jasper leaned back on the chair and said indifferently.

Colin’s expression changed as soon as Jasper said those words.

In fact, as the general manager of Southeast Province Mining Company, he was more than aware of this massive problem.

Even to the point where he had received countless benefits from the Monty family for this.

This was an open secret to many.

The person behind this was Conrad, who at the time was just beginning to rise to power in the family.

It was precisely because of this that Conrad’s plans were divulged to Southeast Province’s upper class circles.

What was Jasper’s purpose in revealing the truth now?

Was he trying to settle old scores?

If that was the case, then Colin would most probably be the first man to be thrown out as a scapegoat.

Conrad stared coldly at Jasper and said, “I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

“It doesn’t matter if you don’t. We’ll find the original materials as long as someone is willing to dig them out.” Jasper shrugged.

“By the way, most of the previous exploration team members now work for Haddock Mining Group.”

At this point, Jasper chuckled. Hidden behind his gentle smile were his actual schemes.

“You think destroying the company will be the greatest threat to me? Are you trying to destroy indiscriminately?”

“What you didn’t expect, however, is that I never intended to take this aluminum mine that you treasure so much. Gale loves it, though. I’m sure you know who Haddock Mining Group’s boss is, right?”

Jasper grinned at Conrad whose complexion had changed abruptly and said, “Destroy it, then! Why don’t you destroy it right now? When the time comes, you don’t have to worry whether I will feel great about this or not because Gale certainly won’t make the Monty family feel great about it.”

Conrad was so furious that his lungs nearly blew up. He roared at Jasper, “Gale?! So after everything you’ve done, they were just orders from Gale?! Gale has always wanted to seize Southeast Province’s mining industry. You’re bringing disaster upon yourself!”

“You must have hit your head, huh, Conrad?” Jasper said flatly.

“I have nothing to do with whether Gale wants to seize Southeast Province’s mining industry or not. This isn’t the industry where I make my living from. Do you think I would work with Gale had you not provoked me first?”

“It’s not so bad, though. At least I made a lot of money. He can take this mine if he wants to. I don’t need it anyway.”

Conrad sat down dejectedly, saying no more.

No one knew what Conrad was thinking about at this moment.

Dwayne waited for a very long time and realized that Conrad had nothing else to add. He forced himself to stand up and said, "We'll proceed with the voting, then.

"The voting result is out. I hereby announce that the second motion initiated by Mr. Jasper Laine, who's representing JW Investment Company, to reorganize Skyward Aluminum's board of directors and remove Mr. Conrad as chairman is passed!"

Having said that, Dwayne looked at Conrad and then at Jasper before letting out a wry smile. "Are there any other motions?"

His question was met with silence.

After breathing a deep sigh of relief, Dwayne announced, "All motions have been submitted, taken into deliberation, as well as decided in the shareholders meeting. I hereby announce that the Skyward Aluminum shareholders meeting has now officially ended."

Having said that, Dwayne led his men away without looking back.

This was clearly a living hell, and Dwayne, who was used to putting his own safety before matters of principle, could not bring himself to linger a second longer in this place.

When Dwayne had left, Colin stood up as well. He glanced at Henry, who was sitting next to Jasper, and was aware that he needed to keep a low profile at this moment. As such, he turned around and left as well.

Therefore, Jasper, Henry, Conrad, and Mitch were the only ones left in the conference room.

Although he had won, Jasper did not taunt Conrad further.

On the one hand, this was not in line with his character.

On the other hand, the Monty family was way more capable and powerful than he thought. Skyward Aluminum was nothing.

He and the Monty family were now sworn enemies. There were still plenty of chances for them to have fun together in the future.

On the contrary, Henry was full of zest, but he was disinterested in inferior trust fund babies like Conrad. As such, he stared at Mitch whose face was growing sullen by the minute, tutting and sighing non-stop.

“Tsk, tsk!”

Henry did not blow his trumpet nor sing his own praises either. He simply tutted from time to time. This degree of mockery was far more lethal than using actual words.

“What the f*ck are you tutting about?!”

Mitch could not stand it anymore and sprung up from his chair. He glared viciously at Conrad and said, “I will report everything that has happened today to my father. Aren’t you just f*cking marvelous?”

“What kind of f*cking genius are you? A genius that appears once every half a century? Motherf*cker! I can smack nine out of ten idiots on the streets to find one just like you.”

Mitch stomped away after saying those words.

“We should leave too,” Jasper said to Henry.

Henry chuckled. "I'm in a good mood today. Should we go to the bar and have some fun later?"

"Are bars the only places where you can have fun?"

"There are many gorgeous ladies there. Why else do you think I want to go?"

"You can go yourself. I'm not interested."

"Darn it. Yeah, yeah, I get it. You're noble and refined."

"I call it self-discipline."

Their conversation drifted further and further away. Ultimately, all noise was cut off by the dull sound of the door closing.

The conference room was engulfed in pin drop silence, so silent that Conrad could hear his own heavy breathing.

It was at this moment that he finally felt his palm going numb from the pain.

"Hahahaha, Jasper Laine! I'll make this a living hell for you!"

Conrad looked at his bloody palm and started laughing hysterically.

Life at the Top Chapter 634

After some time, the door to the dimly lit conference room opened.

A man with a tall frame walked over and placed his palm on Conrad's shoulder. Conrad had stayed in the same position in the conference room for more than ten hours now.

"Dad! It's you..."

Conrad called out with trembling lips.

"It's time to go home."

In the dark, the man's voice was heard.

"You're still young. There's no harm in suffering some setbacks. The finest diamond must be cut."

"I refuse to accept this." Conrad clenched his fists.

"It's right to feel that way. If you refuse to accept this result, then find a chance to strike back."

"If you keep being so low-spirited, then you don't deserve to be my, Steven Monty's, son."

...

News about what had happened in Skyward Aluminum's shareholders meeting spread like wildfire.

Southeast Province was in turmoil.

No one had expected Jasper to gain victory with such incredible ease in the shareholders meeting.

Meanwhile, Conrad, whom the people of Southeast Province held in such high regard, had fallen from his throne after this incident.

As it turned out, a genius that only appeared once every half a century was nothing but a load of bullcrap. The glory he basked in back then was also how bad of a fall he had taken this time. Those who jeered at him grew in numbers as well.

The turmoil in the outside world did not stop Jasper from carrying out his original plan.

After the shareholders meeting, the first thing Jasper did was transfer all the shares to Gale.

Gale got control of Skyward Aluminum as he had wished while Jasper walked away with 300 million in commission.

Not only that, Jasper and Dawson had also received all of the Hanks' properties throughout the entire Southeast Province.

Without Gale's help, it would have been almost impossible for Jasper to get rid of the Hanks family so efficiently. After all, one must not underestimate a family that had taken root and operated in a province for decades.

At the end, when every last drop of blood was squeezed out of the Hanks, they declared bankruptcy.

Nevertheless, even if a camel had been starved to death, its meat was still extremely valuable.

Almost all of that meat was shared between Jasper and Dawson, both father and son-in-law.

Up until now, the people of Southeast Province still had their eyes fixed on his strife with the Monty family. No one noticed how much Jasper had benefited from this kerfuffle where he devoured the Hanks.

This was also precisely why Jasper had worked with Gale in exchange for Haddock's support.

"There are 34 real estates, 28 of which are worth more than ten million, and almost all of them are commercial buildings located in flourishing locations.

"There are also bond contracts that have yet to expire and some miscellaneous equipment that totals up to 2.98 billion."

These assets had fallen into Jasper's hands as a form of compensation from the Hanks for breaching the contract.

"Sure enough, robbing is the best way to get rich fast."

Dawson was in such a good mood that he joked with Jasper.

Jasper said with a smile, "Actually, the Hanks are much more capable than this, but their family members have taken away all that could be taken away when they escaped. Also, my guess is that they've robbed their own hidden reserves."

Dawson said, "This explains exactly why I dislike family-run management. Even if they're related by blood, there will be rotten apples when there are too many people. Rotten apples like that, even if just one or two, are enough to turn the entire family bad in a short period of time."

"What we need to do next is exercise caution," Jasper said.

Dawson nodded to agree and then said with a frown, "I just received news that Steven Monty will be reappointed as the chairman of Monty Enterprise's board of directors after nearly ten years of retirement. This shows that he's planning to intervene to handle the repercussions that this storm has brought."

“They’re not going to let this drop so easily.” Jasper massaged his temples, and Conrad’s face popped up in his mind.

Life at the Top Chapter 635

Honestly, in terms of schemes and means, Conrad was by far the most powerful peer whom Jasper had ever encountered.

If Gale and the Laws had not backed him up this time, he might not have had trouble bringing down the Hanks family, but he would have had trouble subduing Conrad.

Jasper had a hunch that Conrad would be a huge problem to him.

After suffering a massive blow this time, Conrad was not going to attack rashly anymore, but when he would attack, it was bound to be an earth-shattering one.

“What are you afraid of? When the soldiers arrive, we’ll use a general to keep them off!”

Dawson patted Jasper on the shoulder and laughed. “If you can beat him once, you can beat him twice.”

Just then, the office door was pushed open and Wendy walked in.

“Dad, I’m having dinner with Jasp tonight.” Wendy finished her sentence and was about to drag Jasper out the door.

“We are? I didn’t know that!” Jasper exclaimed in surprise.

“You’ve been working your tail off. Didn’t Julian tell you yesterday that he and his sister wanted to invite us to dinner?” Wendy was exasperated.

Jasper smacked his forehead and said, “Oh, right! Julian wants to introduce his martial artist friend to us. I plan to hire a female bodyguard to protect you.”

Wendy used to be very resistant to bodyguards but had now learned her lesson and did not object. She knew that her safety was no longer her own affairs. She had to think about Dawson and Jasper too, at least to reassure them.

Wendy said helplessly, “I hope she isn’t the nosy kind.”

After a quick conversation with Dawson at the company, Jasper and Wendy went downstairs together.

Julian and Cathy were already waiting downstairs.

“Mr. Laine, Ms. Schuler.”

Cathy took the initiative to greet them with a bright smile.

“Looking good.” Jasper laughed.

Cathy was recuperating really well after her surgery. Now that her leukemia had cured, coupled with her stable job, Cathy felt as though her life had changed completely.

She had put some effort into dressing up, and though she did not look gorgeous, at least she looked healthy and ruddy—like a completely different person.

“Thanks for taking care of me, Mr. Laine, Ms. Schuler.” Cathy thanked them from the bottom of her heart.

Jasper got into the car and waved his hand with a smile, saying, “You’re more than welcome. You can call me Jasper. I’m just two months older than you, so it doesn’t really matter.”

“Okay, Jasper,” Cathy said with delight.

“What sort of dinner are you treating us to today?” Jasper asked Julian who was currently driving.

“Now that your earnings have increased, I can finally eat the food you’re treating me to in peace, so don’t be stingy, okay?”

Julian could detect the humor in Jasper’s words and said with a smile, “I’m sorry to disappoint you then, Jasper. I’m not planning to take you to a high-end hotel.”

“Oh, please don’t.” Jasper waved his hands, looking appalled. “The food in hotels may be exquisite but I’ve gotten tired from eating it every day. I’m hoping to eat something ordinary right now.”

“Well Jasper, Ms. Schuler, have you eaten crayfish before?” Julian asked.

Jasper’s eyes lit up.

This was 2001, and crayfish had yet to become popular.

Two years before his reincarnation, around the year 2017, crayfish started becoming insanely popular.

“Let’s eat that, then,” Jasper said.

“What’s crayfish?” Wendy asked Jasper, tilting her head.

She had eaten all kinds of fish and lobster but not crayfish.

“An exquisite supper. In the world of supper, crayfish skewers can be considered the King of Supper.” Jasper chuckled.

Life at the Top Chapter 636

As crayfish was not that popular yet, Julian drove around the city for a very long time before he found a crayfish shop near the suburbs on a food street with stalls that sold midnight snacks.

At this moment, the evening lights lit up. The food street was near several factories, so many workers and residents who lived around the area would come out for a stroll. Thus, the place was currently bustling with energy.

Julian went to order the food, and when he returned to his seat, he muttered, “This stuff is incredibly cheap back home. You can see crayfish everywhere in the waterways, and they cost one buck per pound. I can’t believe this place is charging me 15 bucks.”

There were two men and two women at Jasper’s table. Especially with Wendy’s good looks, everyone had their eyes on them.

Wendy hardly ever visited places like this, so she began studying her environment curiously.

Whenever she threw a glance at the shirtless men who were holding glasses of draft beer and boasting loudly, they would subconsciously tone down their actions—even to the point where they put down their foot that was propped up on the stool.

Jasper arranged the disposable tableware for Wendy and said with a smile, “The food in a hotel is good, but street food is unique in its own way as well. If I must pick one, I’ll pick street food over food in hotels because I feel more at ease here.”

Wendy scrunched up her nose and said in disbelief, “Why are you still racking your brains thinking of ways to earn so much money then?”

“I’m not making money for the sole purpose of buying food. Although food is viewed as a primary need, how much can we really eat? If eating is my main goal, then I would’ve retired a long time ago.” Jasper laughed.

“What’s your purpose of making money then, Jasper?” Julian asked because he rarely heard Jasper mention these things.

Jasper pondered for a moment and chuckled. “There are many beautiful places in this world that I have yet to discover. I’d love to visit these places, but I’m bound to bump into problems in the process. It just so happens that money is the best solution to these problems.”

After hearing what he said, Julian scratched his head and said awkwardly, “I don’t understand.”

As they spoke, the female shop owner came over with the dishes they ordered. A large bowl of steaming crayfish was placed at the center of the table. The scarlet-colored crayfish stood out, while the steam and fragrance aroused everyone’s appetite.

“I’ve not eaten crayfish for so long.” Jasper picked up a crayfish despite it being steaming hot. He quickly peeled off the shell and popped it into his mouth. His eyes lit up as he said, “Yup, this is it. This is the taste!”

Having said that, Jasper peeled another crayfish for Wendy and said, “Try it. You can’t get this in hotels.”

Wendy was about to take it when there was someone guffawing at the next table.

“F*cking dope, I’d say. I’ve seen people put on a show, but not as good as them. They’re talking about making big bucks one second and big hotels the next.”

“Those who are clever enough will know that you’re eating in a shop in a food street, but those who don’t might think that you’re a king from a foreign country here to gain life experiences.”

What followed after those words were bursts of laughter.

Julian frowned and then turned his head in annoyance. He saw three to five men sitting next to their table. The man who spoke earlier had a perverted look on his face as he leered at Wendy, seemingly proud of the things he just said.

Julian was even more crossed now and was just about to get up when Jasper said, “Remain in your seat, Julian.”

Jasper then turned around and looked at the perverted man, saying, “Whether I’m pretending or not is my business. Does that affect you?”

The pervert chuckled and said with a sinister gaze, “I didn’t know that eating at a food street can boost your sense of superiority. We lads should keep a low profile when we go out. We shouldn’t say hilarious things like that just to pick up ladies.”

As he spoke, the perverted man whistled at Wendy frivolously and laughed. “Hey gorgeous, what’s so good about dating this good-for-nothing pretty boy? Why don’t you come over and sit with us? Have a drink with tough men like us, eh?”

As soon as the man finished his sentence, a wine bottle was smashed into his forehead.

Life at the Top Chapter 637

The sudden attack caused a commotion. Jasper looked up and saw a keen-witted woman with short hair. She lifted the perverted man, the same man

who spoke rudely earlier, like she was lifting a little chick. She said indifferently, "I hate it when a man takes liberties with a woman."

"Senior!" Julian exclaimed in delight when he saw the woman.

In the blink of an eye, all eyes were on them. The head of the man who was being lifted up by Julian's senior was covered in blood. He was wailing non-stop, while the other men who were sitting on the same table as him had long since slipped away.

"Get lost!" Julian's senior tossed the man on the floor and roared.

The perverted man covered his forehead, too afraid to say a word. He ran off while pissing his pants.

"Julian." Julian's senior first greeted Julian before turning to look at Jasper.

"Senior, I'd like to introduce you to Jasper, the man I told you about. He's my boss and my savior," Julian said, standing up.

"Jasper, this is my senior. Her name is Fallon Murray. Her combat skills are no worse than mine."

"Hello." Jasper stood up and stretched out his hand politely.

Fallon glanced at Jasper's palm and said with a straight face, "I'm sorry, I'm not used to touching strangers unless this is the arena."

Such a powerful aura!

Fallon's actions left a deep impression on Jasper.

"Alright then. Shall we sit down and talk?" Jasper said with a smile, not the slightest bit crossed by her attitude toward him.

Fallon nodded and sat beside Julian.

“When did you arrive, senior?” Cathy asked immediately. Surprisingly, Cathy and Fallon were really close.

“I just arrived. It was hard to find this place. The cab driver drove around for a really long time,” Fallon said in an unrestrained manner.

As Fallon spoke, she turned and looked at Wendy. With a different kind of zeal than what she showed Jasper, she asked, “Are you the target I’m supposed to protect?”

Wendy was a little overwhelmed by Fallon’s blazing gaze and looked subconsciously at Jasper.

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly and said, “Only after we hire you.”

Julian tugged at Fallon’s shirt in secret and whispered, “Be more polite to Jasper, senior.”

Fallon twitched her mouth with displeasure and said, “So what? Nine out of ten rich people like him hope to hire me as their bodyguard but I always refuse. It’s not like I’ve never met one before.

“Rich people like them have always looked down on others just because they have some stinking money. We don’t need to be so polite to them.”

“Senior!” Julian was slightly crossed now. He pulled a long face and said sternly, “I don’t know about others but Jasper isn’t that kind of person.”

“Argh, alright. What does a little kid like you know? You don’t even know when you’re being taken advantage of by others.” Fallon waved her hand without a care and turned to Jasper again, saying, “You want to hire me? I’m really expensive to hire.”

Life at the Top Chapter 638

“Money isn’t a problem. I don’t think I need to go in-depth about this. You can just ask Julian.

“Not only does he have a high income, but his income is also considered the highest in the country.”

Jasper took his time to peel the crayfish, eating one by himself and feeding another to Wendy.

Jasper noticed something with his keen senses.

Fallon’s eyes would flash whenever he fed Wendy.

Jasper was fascinated by the discovery.

“Likewise, I’m a businessman, and for every penny I pay, I expect a return of equal value. Therefore, I’d like to know how capable you are.”

Fallon crossed her arms and smirked smugly, saying, “Don’t worry about that. Julian has never won against me until I turned 20.”

“Does that mean that your abilities began to decline after you turned 20 years old?” Jasper asked sharply.

Fallon’s expression turned stiff as she complained, “That’s the physiological gap between men and women. Do you actually think I’d get better the older I am just like in the movies?”

“Besides, my abilities aren’t declining. I can remain in tiptop condition for at least another decade. Julian is getting stronger, but even now, he still can’t beat me by too much.”

Julian scratched his head after hearing what she said. He said to Jasper, “What she said is right, Jasper. Even now, I’m not entirely sure I can beat her.”

Jasper nodded and said, “In that case, your skills and abilities have passed the requirement. Most importantly, I’m getting Wendy someone that’s trustworthy. You play a crucial role, and her life and safety are in your hands. Do you think you can handle it?”

Fallon said, sounding unconvinced, “I wouldn’t have come if I couldn’t.”

As Fallon said those words, she frowned and said a little impatiently, “Also, I think you ought to know that I’m selling my skills, not myself. I need to have my own freedom and time as well.”

“If that’s the case, I don’t think we can proceed with this conversation.” Jasper shook his head.

“Are you expecting me to set up an eight-hour work schedule for you? So you can clock in and out every day? You need to be ready to deal with emergencies at all times. You will work so long as Wendy is outside.”

Fallon said with displeasure, “Hey, don’t get so full of yourself just because you have some stinking money. I’m not going to starve to death if I don’t get this job.”

“It just so happens that I can also hire someone else to do it if you can’t.” Jasper stood in sharp opposition to Fallon with a grin, having no intention of giving in.

Fallon gritted her teeth in anger and then looked at Julian, asking, “Why is your boss acting like that, Julian?”

Julian scratched his head and said, "This is a misunderstanding, senior. Jasper is really easy to talk to. I don't know why both of you can't get along."

"No one wants to get along with him!" Fallon harrumphed and looked at Wendy, saying, "Can we talk?"

Wendy smiled and said, "Sure, what would you like to ask?"

Fallon said with a frown, "I'm a really casual person, and I certainly can't take care of you all the time. Besides, I'm only responsible for your safety, so you can't order me around like I'm your servant."

Wendy nodded and said, "Yeap, that's what I want."

Fallon said with a smile, "You're so much easier to talk to than him and much more pleasing to the eye."

Wendy noticed Fallon's eyes glowing when she stared at her and felt uneasy. She subconsciously leaned toward Jasper.

"To be honest, I have a pretty simple work-life schedule. I'll either be at the company or at home. I don't have anything in particular to do as well, so this is going to be quite an easy job for you. Besides, I don't think I'll be attacked every day."

Life at the Top Chapter 639

Wendy figured that Jasper made things sound too serious and took the initiative to explain.

Coincidentally, as soon as Wendy finished her sentence, they heard the sound of a car suddenly screeching to a halt.

A van pulled over at the side of the road, and five to six men with sharp blades hopped out of the vehicle. One of them was covering his head that was sloppily bandaged and shrieked while pointing at Jasper. "That's him, Drake! Hack him to death!"

Jasper frowned and glanced at Fallon.

Fallon tacitly understood. She stood up and lifted the plastic stool from underneath before charging forward.

Terrified, Wendy said to Jasper in a haste, "Shall we call the police, Jasp?"

Jasper said with a smile, "No, we have two bodyguards. You're going to embarrass them if you call the police. When you deal with thugs like them, it's best to do so using their own strategies."

Nowadays, most of the folks in Southeast Province had doughty spirits. Most ordinary citizens would only fan the flames and crowd around to watch the show.

Therefore, when they saw five to six men rushing over with blades, not only did the others not run away screaming, but they even crowded around to watch with great interest.

Soon after, these onlookers and Jasper got to witness what being doughty was like.

Fallon was seen lifting the plastic stool all by herself and rushing toward the five to six burly men who were wielding knives.

The men were stunned for a moment, but these thugs were used to fighting the minority with large numbers and bullying the weak. They could not care less and began hacking at Fallon while clamoring.

When the plastic stool was in Fallon's hands, it turned into a sharp and effective weapon. Anyone who touched it would let out a shrill cry and crash to the ground.

It was as though she was chopping melons and vegetables.

Jasper knew that as Julian's senior, Fallon could easily handle these thugs, but little did he expect this woman to use only a plastic stool to finish off those knife-wielding thugs.

Moreover, Jasper realized that Julian's approach resembled traditional martial arts more, and every move he launched was traceable.

Fallon was different. She moved without a trace and would smash everything within her reach. Her every move was not rigidly adhered to any form.

Within two to three minutes, Fallon returned to Jasper's side, neither flushed nor out of breath. She threw away the blood-stained and cracked plastic stool that was still in one piece and raised her chin, saying, "What do you think?"

"Great! You're really skillful indeed." Jasper could only say that.

He figured that even ten to 20 versions of himself would not be nearly enough to help Fallon with her warm-up exercises.

Her skills were enough reason for Jasper to hire her.

However, why was this woman so zealous toward his woman?

"Are you impressed, Ms. Schuler?"

Jasper could not help but think that something was not right when he saw Fallon showing off to Wendy so smugly.

Wendy replied awkwardly, "I'm impressed!"

“You know what, I don’t see why we should continue having this meal. Let’s go home. Go and pay the bills, Julian,” Jasper said after standing up.

Fallon watched as Jasper led Wendy to the car and cried out in a hurry, “Hey! You didn’t tell me my schedule yet.”

“Julian will take you around to familiarize yourself with your job. You’ll start working tomorrow and will receive the same benefits as Julian.”

Life at the Top Chapter 640

Now that matters regarding Fallon had been taken care of, this relieved one of Jasper’s anxieties.

However, Jasper could not help feeling that Fallon’s behavior toward Wendy was a bit unusual, especially in the way she looked at Wendy. The way Fallon gazed upon her was exactly the way he himself gazed at Wendy.

This made Jasper feel rather uneasy.

As a result, the next day, Jasper requested two female bodyguards from Dawson. Although they were likely not on par with Fallon in terms of ability, their forte was that they were professional and reliable. Jasper’s main objective for hiring them was to keep an eye on Fallon.

When Fallon found out about Jasper’s decision, she immediately went to see him, looking extremely dissatisfied.

“Jasper, what is the meaning of this? Don’t you trust me?”

“Those two you’ve just hired—I can dispose of them with just one finger.”

Jasper was sorting out some clothes. After listening to what Fallon had to say, he replied coolly and calmly, “Didn’t you say you wanted freedom and time for yourself? Now that I’ve hired two more bodyguards, you can take things a bit easier.”

“But...”

Fallon still wanted to say something, but then she noticed Jasper looking at her.

Truthfully speaking, Fallon could easily deal with an ordinary person like Jasper—she could do it with just one finger even. Yet she did not know why she felt the hairs on the back of her neck stand up as Jasper fixed her with a seemingly calm, serene gaze.

It was the same sort of feeling that one would get if they were being scrutinized by a ferocious beast. The sheer unadulterated pressure on her nerves made her apprehensive.

“I’m usually an easy person to talk to most of the time, so you can also express your own opinions, and I’ll take them into consideration. However, when I’ve made a decision on any particular matter, I don’t wish to hear any voices raised in opposition. Do you understand me?”

Fallon nodded instinctively when she heard what Jasper had to say.

The next second, however, she began fuming at herself for being so useless. She had actually been intimidated by Jasper, who was merely a physically weak, ordinary man. By now, however, Jasper had already gotten into the car with Julian.

“I’m headed to Waterhoof for a few days and won’t be at home, so I’ll entrust Wendy’s safety to you. I hope I can rely on you.” Jasper rolled up the window of the car once he finished speaking, and drove off grandly in the large Bentley without so much as a backward glance.

Watching the Bentley's shadow disappear down the end of the road, Fallon gritted her teeth in anger.

"That f*cking son of a b*tch. All he has is a bit of lousy money—what's there to be so smug about!"

Fallon kept on muttering in extreme dissatisfaction, but then her eyes lit up immediately. "Doesn't that mean Wendy and I will have some time alone then?"

...

"Jasper, where do we head first when we get to Waterhoof City?"

Julian, who was driving the car, asked.

"We'll go to the Wonderland Hotel first to check-in. After that, I'll go meet a few people. This time around, we might need to stay in Waterhoof City for about three to five days.

"The first matter of business will be to communicate with the personnel in the city government about the development plans for that piece of land we purchased previously. The second thing will be to go shopping."

Jasper was seated in the back of the car, the luxurious and comfortable back seat having been customized to suit him. Subsequently, he commented comfortably, both legs on the seat's leg rest as he switched on the massage feature.

"So, you'll have a bit more free time. When there's nothing on the agenda, you can go look around on your own and buy whatever knick-knacks you like. After all, our economy in the Southeast Province can't compare with Waterhoof City. There are many things you can only find in Waterhoof City."

"I really don't have anything that I want to buy. I already have everything I basically need," Julian said bluntly.

Jasper replied somewhat helplessly, “I’ve heard your sister say before that you always only rotate between these two sets of clothing and that you don’t know how to dress up. If you keep on like this, how are you going to find yourself a girlfriend?”

Life at the Top Chapter 641

Julian said awkwardly, "Jasper, I haven't even thought about these things."

Jasper noticed Julian's somewhat embarrassed response and said with a smile, "How about this, I'll give you a commercial property on Gold Pedestrian Street when you get married in the future?"

"Gold Pedestrian Street? What kind of place is it?" Julian asked with some confusion.

Jasper laughed and said, "Waterhoof City has built a demonstration site for the national pedestrian street early last year. It's still not that famous now, but from how I see it, it'll one day become a famous pedestrian street known throughout the country, even becoming one of the landmarks of Waterhoof City.

"If we buy it now, it'll bring in steady profits without any losses. Plus, I've always thought about being a landlord."

Judging from his words now, the shopping that Jasper had mentioned to Julian earlier was naturally not one that entailed shopping for clothes or luxury items. Those things were, at best, something to spend his pocket money on and not even considered a serious purchase.

What he really wanted was ownership of the commercial properties on Gold Pedestrian Street.

Jasper had only remembered about this business opportunity when he was counting the Hanks family's assets.

There had been a letter of intent written in Sirius's third uncle's name for the purchase of ten commercial properties on Gold Pedestrian Street and this triggered Jasper's memory.

Gold Pedestrian Street was but one of three top pedestrian streets in the country. It had now just been completed and was still many years away from becoming popular.

The disposable income per capita would increase when the national economy rose in the future. Simply put, when people had more money in their wallets, they would start to travel and spend. Only then would the potential of the pedestrian street really burst forth.

Jasper's trip to Waterhoof City this time was so that he could purchase Gold Pedestrian Street from Waterhoof City Hall. He had been here more than once in his past life, and back then, he had imagined that if he had a commercial property in a place like this, repaying credit card debt would not have been a problem.

He could even just relax and enjoy the rest of his life.

Now that he had power as well as a great opportunity in front of him, he would eventually follow through on his unfulfilled dream from his past life of becoming a landlord.

What was more, in terms of investment value, Gold Pedestrian Street was also, at present, the real estate project with the highest investment value.

Two and a half hours later, Jasper and Julian arrived at Wonderland Hotel in Waterhoof City.

They checked into the room they had already booked a long time ago. Given his title of vice president of Haddock Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City branch, Jasper wasted no time and met with the head of Waterhoof City's Investment Promotion Department in the hotel suite.

Victor Gul was a powerful individual.

“Pleased to meet you, Mr. Gul,” Jasper shook Victor’s hand and greeted.

“Mr. Laine, I’ve been looking forward to meeting you for a long time.”

Seeing as Victor Gul was able to secure his position as head of an important department, he was naturally a smooth and slick individual. He had thoroughly gone through information on Jasper earlier, and his eyes were scrutinizing Jasper as though he was looking at the God of Wealth.

Nowadays, attracting investments was the number one objective for any city in the country, and everything else had to be pushed aside. Someone like Jasper, a God of Wealth, was therefore a welcome guest of local city governments everywhere.

“The turmoil from the earlier Skyward Aluminum incident has not completely passed. Even a regular man like myself has heard plenty about Mr. Laine’s operations in the stock market. Many colleagues in my department also trade in stocks and have earned quite a bit by following you. I would like to thank you on their behalf.”

Victor said with a hearty laugh.

Jasper invited Victor to take a seat on the sofa and smiled. “Mr. Gul, it seems you know quite a bit about me.”

After flattering one other, Jasper explained his intentions.

“Mr. Gul, in all honesty, I’m here this time mainly to buy up all the commercial properties on Gold Pedestrian Street.”

As soon as he said this, even Victor Gul, who was not unused to witnessing great storms, could not help the change in his expression.

Life at the Top Chapter 642

Gold Pedestrian Street was a project of great importance even in the esteemed Waterhoof City.

One could imagine the importance attached to the project as it was under the direct supervision of the relevant divisions in Swallow City.

With the money Jasper was throwing in, Victor was shocked by his generosity and could not help himself from saying, “Mr. Laine, how much do you know of the current situation with Gold Pedestrian Street?”

Jasper replied with a smile, “The pedestrian street is connected to the Bund and is a total length of 1,033 meters. It was expected to be completed by the end of 1999 and would be officially opened at the start of the millennium. Apart from the few shops on both sides of the street that have already been reserved by some large companies, there’s still a remainder of 266 shops that are not for sale but only open for rent, isn’t that right?”

Victor laughed bitterly. “Mr. Laine, it seems you’ve come rather prepared. However, if you already know that the city hall is only looking to rent the remaining stores and not sell them, aren’t you putting me in a difficult spot by making such a request?”

Jasper was smiling as he said, “There’s no rush. I’m a businessman, and from a businessman’s perspective, there’s no request that can’t be discussed.”

“Mr. Laine, you may be a businessman, but the city hall and I aren’t. This sort of thing is a matter of principle. I’m sure you understand what I mean,” Victor hinted.

Jasper waved his hand as he replied, "Please don't be in a rush to decline, Mr. Gul. What if I say I want to build a 630-meter-tall building, worth a total investment of more than 16 billion next to Pearl Tower?"

Hearing this, Victor stood up abruptly and exclaimed, "Really?"

What was the domestic city hall lacking at present?

It was lacking in funds and political achievements.

In this era, a vanity project was the best way to boost their political achievements.

If it were other cities, this construction project that Jasper suggested was like him asking for the stars; and those city halls would find a way to retrieve them for him.

However, it was also a big enough project for Waterhoof City that the city hall would be shaken up.

"At present, the tallest building in the world is the Petra Tower in Marshmeet and it's only 451 meters. Although the 110 building that is still under construction is slated to be the next tallest building in the world, it's also only 509 meters.

"This building I'm proposing, however, is designed to reach a height of 630 meters. It'll be the tallest building in the world for at least ten years once it's completed. It will also hold the record for being the tallest building in the Mainland for at least 20 years."

Jasper was not just spewing empty words as they were all real data from his previous life.

The record for the tallest building in the world had only been snatched away by the Dubai Tower in 2010.

“I’m personally not that interested in the reputation that comes with having the tallest building in the world, but I think the city hall would be, am I right?”

The words that Jasper was saying with a light chuckle had pierced right into Victor’s mind.

He knew that the current deputy mayor of the city hall had come from Swallow City years ago and that he was desperately in need of achievements to prove his capability.

Would he not immediately become a close confidant if such a huge project was delivered to the deputy mayor on a platter?

Thinking of this, Victor, who was in his 40s, flushed red.

Jasper took a sip of tea. He knew that ordinary people could rent the property rights to the pedestrian street, but buying it was very difficult. There were, after all, many talented individuals in the country and he was not the only one with an eye for business. The number of people after such an opportunity could fill up the sea.

The city hall would not possibly agree without being promised adequate benefits.

Thus, this skyscraper project was Jasper’s bargaining chip with the city hall to exchange interests.

Jasper had no need for the title of the world’s tallest building, but the same could not be said for the city hall and Swallow City.

After so many years, there were already some promising results. Now, Swallow City was in urgent need of major events to boost its national confidence as well as increase its international influence.

That was why the Olympics had been so grand.

Jasper's plan for the world's tallest building would certainly impress the Waterhoof City Hall.

Life at the Top Chapter 643

"Mr. Laine, do you mean what you said? It's not a joking matter once I report it," Victor asked as he tried to hold back his excitement.

Jasper shrugged and replied, "I'm not a renowned individual but I do, at the very least, possess some assets and credibility. I wouldn't gamble away my future. What good will it bring me to trick you?"

"A businessman never does things that aren't profitable."

After hearing Jasper's words, there was a little more credibility to his plans even though there was no guarantee.

Victor nodded and said, "Alright then. I'll inform the deputy mayor in charge of this immediately. Could you lend me a quiet space, Mr. Laine?"

Jasper smiled and pointed toward the study. "It's quiet over there."

Victor went ahead, and when he returned in front of Jasper again after three to five minutes, the look he gave Jasper had softened incomparably.

"Mr. Laine, the deputy mayor has invited you to pay him a visit now. He has rescheduled his meeting and is waiting for you in his office."

Jasper stood up and said, "Let us go, then. We shouldn't keep the old man waiting."

...

Jasper remained in the office at the highest floor of Waterhoof City Hall since the early evening for negotiations that lasted about five or six hours. He had even taken his lunch with the 60-year-old deputy mayor in the city hall cafeteria.

However, Jasper had also gained impressive rewards from those five to six hours.

He landed an investment of at least 16 billion and had to complete the project proposal within a month. This was, of course, just a demonstration of his intentions as Waterhoof City would then give him the green light and offer full support in expediting the approval of the project.

The design draft had to be submitted within three months and the construction of the building had to begin within six months.

The above were the requirements made by Waterhoof City and Jasper had wholly agreed to them.

In exchange, Jasper would receive the contract for the transfer of ownership of the remaining 266 commercial properties on Gold Pedestrian Street.

In terms of price, Jasper had once again taken advantage of Waterhoof City. He had pretended to be hard of money and expressed that the 16 billion investment was not enough.

“Jasper, 266 commercial properties and each of them cost 20 million? That’s daylight robbery! And you still agreed to that? They must have taken you for a fool!”

Julian was extremely dissatisfied. Since he had now fully considered himself as one of Jasper’s subordinates, Jasper’s loss was more distressing than him losing his own money.

Jasper replied with a huff, “You have to look at it in the long run. In your opinion, 20 million is too expensive for a commercial property, yes?”

“It’s completely outrageous! A commercial property in the busiest part of Nauritus City in the capital of our Southeast Province is only worth 30 million!” argued Julian.

“Oh? You knew about this?” Jasper asked in awe.

He patted Julian’s shoulder and continued, “Would you still find it a loss if I told you that the annual rent for each of these 266 commercial properties that have an average area of 30 square meters will be more than three million dollars in the future?”

Jasper smiled as he noticed Julian’s eyes widening in disbelief. The man no longer dared to refute and offered no more explanations.

A 30 square meter commercial property with an annual rent of 30 million? Was it not too much of an exaggeration?

However, this was the power of a first-rate pedestrian street in the country.

By then, the commercial properties here would only be for rent. They would not have a selling price because no one would sell their golden geese. It would be a move more stupid than killing chickens to get their eggs.

“These 266 commercial properties have a combined price tag of 5.3 billion. Waterhoof City Hall has also allowed us to make the payment across 20 years. The rent will skyrocket up to three million annually in just five years, let alone ten years. By then, the annual rent for each of these 266 commercial properties will be 800 million dollars and in seven years, we will be able to recover the 5.3 billion. Where else could we find such a deal?”

Jasper rubbed his chin, thinking that the reserved and kind deputy mayor was a deity in disguise.

“Let’s go. Before we head back, let’s go take a look at our 266 golden geese.”

Life at the Top Chapter 644

While Gold Pedestrian Street was, at present, not as crowded and lively as it would be in the future, it was still popular.

It was way busier than any other city in the country.

As he walked along the bustling pedestrian street, Jasper thought of his past life. He had been here a few times, and one time, it was during a holiday. One would not even need to walk if they were caught by the flow of people. Being sardined by the crowd, they could only be dragged along.

It was not at all an exaggeration to say this as Jasper had actually experienced it before.

It was funny, but at the same time, it proved the horrors and exaggerations made about this pedestrian street.

One could even sell rocks for a sky-high price on a street with such high popularity.

Jasper looked at the distinctive buildings that lined both sides of the pedestrian street with his hands clasped behind his back, feeling very pleased.

Although he had not obtained concrete details on the list and location of the 266 commercial properties, given there were 300 to 400 properties along the entire length of the pedestrian street, he already owned more than half of it.

Right now, he felt as good as when he made billions on the stock market.

After all, a long-cherished wish of his from his previous life was to own a commercial property on Gold Pedestrian Street and to be someone who only needed to wait for the money to come rolling in.

Maybe he could become an internet celebrity blogger in a few more years after one of his short videos went viral. Others might create content about beauty, luxury cars, and big houses but he could easily share the deeds to the 266 commercial properties he owned on Gold Pedestrian Street. That would feel so good.

Although it had not even been a year since the pedestrian street opened for business, Waterhoof City had already spent great efforts on this project. All the big shots in Swallow City were watching, and they would not allow the commercial properties to remain empty.

That was why all of the shops were already open for business by now and many of them were opened by the relatives of those in the city hall.

On the one hand, those who were smart knew that this pedestrian street had the support of the city hall and thus, would undoubtedly be developed. As such, they seized the opportunity to leverage their connections and power to offer benefits to their relatives while the competition was still not as fierce.

On the other hand, Waterhoof City was also turning a blind eye to what was happening as they were just happy that the pedestrian street could become a bustling venue.

However, now that Jasper had bought over the remaining commercial properties, their smooth sailing days were about to come to an end.

“When the time comes, they will have to pay rent according to the current market value or clear themselves out. They will definitely not be allowed to continue having unfair advantages,” murmured Jasper.

After patrolling around his territory, Jasper was satisfied.

Feeling a little hungry, Jasper looked up and saw a restaurant not far away that served local specialties of Waterhoof City. Jasper then brought Julian along to the restaurant.

Food was the people's priority, and there would definitely be restaurants regardless of where one went.

It was even livelier at the restaurants along the pedestrian street.

Although it was already past dinner hours, there were still a lot of patrons at the restaurant. It was also obvious that many of them were tourists who had come to experience the local delicacies of Waterhoof City.

Jasper and Julian got a table after waiting for a good ten minutes.

"Jasper, there are so many people here," Julian lamented to Jasper.

He now somewhat believed Jasper when he said that the rent here would rise to three million per year in the future.

"There are two floors to this restaurant, so its rent will cost up to six million in the future. No, at least eight million!" Julian exclaimed excitedly.

Jasper smiled and said, "Do you like it? I did say before that I'll give you one of the shops when you get married. You can take your pick. This shop is rather small, though. The one I'll give you will definitely be the biggest one."

Julian scratched his head and replied, "There's no need for that, Jasper. The salary you're giving me is already enough for me to live a good life. I don't even need to worry about being able to put food on the table or clothes on my body."

"You might not need it, but your wife and children in the future definitely would," said Jasper casually as he gestured for the waiter to take their orders.

Life at the Top Chapter 645

Jasper decided to order only three dishes and one stew since it was just two of them. He also picked common dishes that were comparatively cheaper.

It was not that Jasper was frugal. It was just that food and drinks were the one thing he would not compromise on. In his opinion, one did not get rich by saving but rather by earning. However, being wasteful was not condoned either.

The waiter who was serving them was not too happy with this, though.

“This is all two large-sized men are eating when they come to Waterhoof City? These are all cheap dishes that don’t even amount to 200 Somer Dollars. How stingy.”

The waiter had a strong accent belonging to residents of Waterhoof City. Coupled with their sarcastic tone, it immediately caused those listening to feel uncomfortable.

“The two of us can’t eat that much in one go. Please just serve what I ordered,” Jasper said calmly.

“Foreigners,” the waiter muttered irritably to themselves before they turned and walked away.

“Jasper, that waiter has such a bad attitude,” Julian frowned as he spoke to Jasper.

Ever since becoming one of Jasper’s men, Julian had been to his fair share of extravagant events. He might be a bodyguard, but the servers would serve him enthusiastically all the same. The fancier the venue, the higher quality of service

that was provided. He would rarely get looked down upon, unlike what was often written in novels.

Thus, Julian had grown used to such treatment and became dissatisfied when he was suddenly confronted with the waiter's attitude.

Jasper smiled as he said, "Isn't this what usually happens in the country? There's no need to hold a grudge against her. We're just here to grab a bite."

The higher Jasper's standing in society, the better his temper became. He could not be bothered, nor did he even have the time to deal with those who were entire levels beneath him.

They might all be humans, but their time was valued differently.

Jasper earned, at the very minimum, a million dollars a day, while these waiters received a salary of fewer than 2,000 dollars a month. What was more, they worked in Waterhoof City. How could they be compared to each other?

Since Jasper had already made such a statement, Julian merely shrugged and did not say anything else.

However, Julian's patience gradually began wearing out when he realized that none of Jasper's dishes had been served even though those who had arrived after them had already finished their meals, paid their bills, and left.

The two of them seemed to have been given the cold shoulder. No one paid any attention to them for the whole hour.

No one said a thing, but Jasper knew it must have been done by the waiter who thought they had ordered too little food.

Jasper frowned.

He could ignore these people, but their attitude would destroy Golden Pedestrian Street's reputation, which would in turn affect his earnings.

"Julian," Jasper said calmly.

"Bring the owner over here."

Julian, who had long ago been unable to stand it, stood abruptly and walked down the stairs.

Soon, a commotion sounded downstairs. Then, Julian walked up the stairs with a man in his 30s. The man's snobbishness and impatience were evident on his face as he walked over.

"Are you the owner here?" Jasper asked.

"Spit it out." The owner had an impatient look on his face.

"Firstly, you have an extremely problematic attitude. Secondly, we arrived first, but why hasn't our food been served after more than an hour while those who arrived after us have already finished their meals and left? What's your explanation for that?" Jasper asked calmly.

"The two of you only ordered four dishes. F*cking hell, don't come to eat at Golden Pedestrian Street if you're poor. Who are you putting on a show for? Stupid foreigners, I ordered them not to serve you. Do you want to eat? Sure, you'll have to wait for two hours. Get the f*ck out if you don't have the patience!"

Life at the Top Chapter 646

To be honest, it was not considered cheap for two people to spend 200 dollars on a meal in these times.

However, it was not the case if they were at Golden Pedestrian Street in Waterhoof City, a lively and bustling place.

Flynn Herrett's hands had been cramping from the amount of money he handled each day ever since he opened up this restaurant. He had a relative working as a property manager who was initially against him opening up a restaurant here, but they were now on their knees begging him to extend his lease.

After all, for every customer they served, they would order at least 600 or 700 dollars worth of food that cost less than 100 dollars to prepare. These huge, sudden profits had naturally led Flynn to look down upon seemingly poor people who were taking up space like Jasper.

With his sudden surge in wealth combined with the fact he had a property manager backing him up, Flynn was never scared of customers complaining or finding fault with him. Had there been anyone who he failed to deal with?

Jasper gazed calmly at Flynn as he asked, "Do you treat all your customers like this?"

Flynn said exasperatedly, "F*cking hell, you two foreigners are trying to put yourselves on a pedestal now? I've always had this attitude. What are you going to do about it? You can eat here if you want to, or get the hell out if you can't wait any longer!

"You'd best believe that I'll get someone to throw you out if you don't get the hell out right now!"

“I’m going to remain sitting here. Why don’t you try getting your men to kick me out?” Jasper asked calmly.

“Hey!”

Flynn laughed oddly as he said, “Have I met someone who doesn’t know what’s good for them today? Where’s security? Security!”

Two security guards appeared behind Flynn.

“Drag these two dumb foreigners out. F*cking hell, how dare they behave atrociously in my territory? They must be blind.”

Upon hearing Flynn’s orders, the two guards immediately walked toward Jasper so they could drag him down the stairs.

Just then, Julian placed himself in front of Jasper and grabbed hold of the two guards’ wrists with one hand. In a few simple moves, he had the guards howling as they knelt on the floor.

The expression on Flynn’s face turned ugly as he watched his guards clutch their wrists and howl.

“You hit them?! You dare hit my people in my restaurant?!”

Flynn yelled in surprise as he pointed at Jasper and shouted angrily, “Just wait, you stupid foreigner! We’re not done here. You’d best stay here if you have the guts to do so!”

As Flynn spoke, he fished his phone out of his pocket and began making a call.

“I haven’t even had my meal yet, why would I run off?” Jasper asked calmly.

Those who could start businesses on Golden Pedestrian Street all had some level of connections and power. After a moment's thought, Jasper asked Julian to call and inform Victor of what was going on.

Dealing with the city hall was different from dealing with the usual forces. It was best to take care of things from the city hall's level instead of utilizing brute force.

Besides, Jasper planned to publicize what had just happened. Else, bad morale would spread throughout Golden Pedestrian Street if other stores all began imitating them. It would be difficult to remedy the issue if that happened.

Flynn had strong connections. Several uniformed men walked up the stairs after a mere ten minutes.

A calm and composed middle-aged man was among them.

"What's going on?" Scully Herrett asked the minute he arrived.

"Uncle, this is the guy who caused a ruckus in my restaurant and injured two of my guards. You must punish these foreigners severely, or I'll never be able to do business here! They'll all climb over my head!" Flynn immediately ran over to Scully and began complaining.

When he saw that many of the onlookers were tourists, Scully immediately frowned and berated, "Nonsense. Stop pinning the blame on foreigners all the time. How bad could their influence be?"

Then, Scully walked over to Jasper and asked in a low voice, "Did you beat up those two guards?"

Julian stepped forth. "I did."

Scully sneered. "Alright then. I'm in charge of both the property and the security in this area! You two come with me."

Life at the Top Chapter 647

Then, two employees came forth to grab Julian.

Julian frowned and turned to look at Jasper.

Jasper stood and stared at Scully as he said, "Are you going to arrest him without even clarifying the situation first? How high and mighty of you! Besides, what gives you the right to arrest him? Is it because you manage the property here, or because you work as the security here?"

Scully said angrily, "I don't care what reason you had. No matter the situation, hitting people is never the right thing to do, and you should take responsibility for your actions! If your attitude improves after you come with me, I can choose not to phone the police. Else, you're going to spend at least a couple of days in jail!"

Flynn became delighted and sneered as he said, "That's right, did you think you're God? Don't think you can leave here intact!"

Jasper glanced coldly at Scully as he said, "Think twice before bringing me away. You'll have to take responsibility for this."

Scully stared at Jasper and smiled coldly as he said, "From the looks of it, I'm guessing you have some sort of powerful background? I'm dreadfully sorry, but that doesn't mean a thing to me. I don't care who you are. How am I supposed to lead my team in the future if I don't teach you a lesson today?"

Scully had just finished speaking when an angered voice rang out behind him.

"Scully Herrett, just how are you going to lead your team?"

The expression on Scully's face changed when he heard that voice. Turning around, he saw Victor walking toward him with a dark expression on his face. He hurriedly said, "Director Gul, what are you doing here?"

Scully was panicking now because he knew Victor would not have come here for no apparent reason. Could it have anything to do with the young man before him?

What power did this young man hold to be able to summon Director Gul?

Scully immediately felt that things were going to get troubling.

"You would've been in deep trouble if I hadn't come!"

Victor's finger nearly poked Scully in the nose.

He had been present the entire time Jasper was negotiating with the deputy mayor, and he knew how much the deputy mayor had praised Jasper after the latter left.

Without taking other matters into account, the whole city hall would be having a meeting tomorrow to place their support on everything Jasper had invested in Waterhoof City.

Who could receive such treatment?

It would not be an exaggeration to say Jasper was Waterhoof City's God of Wealth now. Not even the deputy mayor would dare insult him.

Yet, Jasper was nearly arrested due to such trivial matters. Many people would be out of luck if a fuss was made over this.

"Director Gul, this is all a misunderstanding," Scully hurriedly explained.

Flynn panicked as well when he assessed the situation and instinctively said, "Director Gul, you might not know this, but these two were causing a ruckus in my restaurant. They even hurt my guards."

"Bullsh*t!"

As Victor yelled, Flynn received a shower of spit on his face.

"Mr. Laine has already told me what happened just now. You neglected to serve him and spoke rudely because you disliked how he only ordered a few cheap dishes. You were going to kick him out of the restaurant and have him arrested because of this. Flynn Herrett, who gave you the guts to do this? Was it you, Scully Herrett?!"

The expression on Scully's face changed as he hurriedly said, "No, Director Gul. How would I dare to do that?"

Victor glared at the two before he turned and smiled apologetically at Jasper. "Mr. Laine, I'm so sorry you had to go through that due to our inadequate management. We will definitely take this matter seriously and ensure you're satisfied."

Both Scully and Flynn were stunned when they witnessed Victor's attitude toward Jasper.

They had initially thought Victor was supporting Jasper because he was a youngster he had set his hopes on. However, they had not expected Victor to treat Jasper so respectfully.

"Who on earth are you?" Flynn managed to choke out the words as he glared at Jasper.

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“Who am I?”

Jasper smiled mischievously. “In your eyes, aren’t I just a stupid foreigner from the countryside who has never experienced the outside world?”

Jasper’s words were more effective than a slap as Flynn’s face turned bright red with a sting.

As he watched the color change on Flynn’s face, Jasper said calmly, “However, this country bumpkin might very well be your landlord as well!”

Then, Jasper turned to Victor and asked, “Director Gul, is this property included in my batch of commercial properties as well?”

Both Scully and Flynn were stunned when they heard that question.

What did he mean by his batch of commercial properties?

Could the word ‘batch’ be used as a measure word for commercial properties?

Victor nodded and answered, “Yes, it is.”

“That settles it, then. I’m your landlord,” Jasper said to Flynn.

Then, he narrowed his eyes slightly and turned to Victor as he said, “Director Gul, why don’t you sit down and have a meal with us since you’re already here?”

Victor smiled awkwardly as he said, “Mr. Laine, I can treat you to a meal if we go elsewhere. I don’t think this is a suitable place, do you?”

“Of course, it’s suitable. Why wouldn’t it be?”

“I’ve even ordered four dishes that haven’t been served yet.”

Helpless, Victor could only nod and sit down. At the same time, he glared at Scully and Flynn, his anger apparent in his eyes.

“Aren’t you going to serve the dishes Mr. Laine has ordered? Are you waiting for me to walk to the kitchen myself?”

Scully was smarter. Turning around, he slapped Flynn across the face and scolded him.

Flynn did not dare make even a peep although he had just been slapped. Frightened tears appeared in his aggrieved eyes as he ran down the stairs.

Jasper did not pay any attention to Scully, who did not know if he should sit down or remain standing. After a moment’s thought, Scully brazenly walked up to Jasper and poured him a glass of water. Smiling bitterly, he said, “Mr. Laine, I’ve spoiled my nephew to the point where he’s become arrogant. I hope you don’t mind.”

“He wouldn’t hold a grudge against me and poison my food, right?” Jasper seemed to be holding back a smile as he spoke.

Scully hurriedly answered, “No, no. He would never have the nerve to do that.”

“Mr. Herrett, I wonder how much money your nephew pays to rent this shop?”

The expression on Scully’s face changed abruptly when he heard that question. Smiling awkwardly, he answered, “Well, his circumstance was rather special, which is why he’s only charged 70,000 to 80,000 dollars rent.”

“Any two-floor shops in Waterhoof City would cost more than 70,000 to 80,000 dollars, right? Not to mention the fact that it’s on Golden Pedestrian Street,” Jasper said calmly.

Scully looked to Victor for help.

How could Victor not understand what the look on Scully’s face meant? Due to special circumstances, the commercial properties on this street required their own property company to manage and maintain order.

Scully was one of the people in charge of this company, but who would have expected for him to not only offend Jasper but also drag him into this mess?!

Victor coughed drily as he said to Jasper, “Mr. Laine, the city hall considered various factors back when the commercial properties were first put up for rent, which was why the rent was so cheap in those early stages. After all, the main focus during the early stages was to attract more businesses so we could drive up the area’s popularity and economic conditions.”

“I understand. After all, it must not be easy to work in the city hall.” Jasper was even more fluent than Victor in talking business, and he smiled as he spoke.

Victor was stunned. He had no idea what Jasper intended to do by drawing the conversation in this direction.

Just then, Flynn had hurriedly assembled a group of waiters and got them to serve the three dishes and one stew that Jasper had ordered as quickly as possible. He had also included seven to eight expensive dishes.

Both Scully and Victor cursed inwardly when they saw the seven to eight free dishes that were wildly expensive.

Sure enough, Jasper halted the conversation when he saw the additional dishes and asked, “Chef Herrett, did you think I didn’t order these dishes because I couldn’t afford them? Are you taking pity on me?”

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A trickle of cold sweat appeared on Flynn's forehead as he hurriedly explained, "No, I would never dare to do so. I'm just trying to make it up for how I offended you just now, Mr. Laine."

"Making up for a mistake is a must, but these aren't necessary. They won't solve the problem," Jasper said coldly.

"Stupid fool! Aren't you going to take them away?" Scully gritted his teeth as he bellowed at Flynn.

Flynn had no idea what he had done wrong. However, the only thing he could do was get his staff to remove all the dishes that had been added before he stood at attention on the sidelines.

Jasper used his fork to get himself a meatball and said to Victor, "Director Gul, let's eat. Don't be shy."

Victor laughed bitterly. He had no choice but to pick up his cutlery and begin eating, even if the food tasted bland to him.

"Let's continue with our previous conversation," Jasper said as he ate.

"I don't care how the leases for these commercial properties were worded previously. Either way, the previous leases will naturally all become invalid now that I've bought these 266 commercial properties. I wouldn't want any complicated relationships getting in the way of the area's advancement in the future."

“I spent so much money buying these commercial properties, there’s no way I’ll rent them out for 70,000 to 80,000 dollars. I wouldn’t be able to get even the interest back. Director Gull, I trust you guys would be able to understand, right?”

The expression on Victor’s face changed as he hurriedly said, “Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. I’ll take care of the relevant work to clear out all the problematic contracts.”

“That’s good. I won’t have to trouble anyone above you if that’s the case. After all, they have a lot of matters to take care of every day, and I would be embarrassed to trouble them with such trivial things,” Jasper said as he smiled.

Victor finally breathed a sigh of relief.

What Jasper said sounded soft and gentle, but in reality, it was an iron fist in a velvet glove.

He had made his meaning clear. Victor could be in charge of this if he was capable enough. If he was not, Jasper would look for his superiors.

How would Victor have the guts to let the deputy mayor know about the sh*tshow that had happened today? All the praises he received this afternoon would have been for nothing, and he might even end up getting punished instead.

Flynn felt his knees go weak when he finished listening to the conversation.

He was sure of one thing.

Jasper was really his landlord.

Not only was he his landlord, but he was the landlord for all 266 commercial properties on Golden Pedestrian Street!

266 commercial properties!

How f*cking much would that cost?!

Flynn did not even dare imagine how huge that figure was. However, he knew that even if every person he had met since he was born were to give him 100 dollars, he still would not have enough money to buy 266 commercial properties.

Face ashen, Flynn nearly fell to the ground. God knew what sort of big shot he had offended.

“There’s one other thing.”

Flynn shuddered instinctively and looked fearfully at Jasper when he spoke again. He had a feeling that whatever Jasper was going to say would be directed to him.

“I can’t control the other places, but I want all 266 tenants on Golden Pedestrian Street to view everyone as equals and treat each other with the same level of enthusiasm.

“To a lesser extent, the 266 commercial properties on Golden Pedestrian Street are my, Jasper Laine’s, property. But they represent the prestige of Waterhoof City to a greater extent. If the business operators here are all like Flynn Herrett, who serves customers based on the number of dishes they order and screams to have tourists kicked out of the place...

“...this pedestrian street would be ruined sooner or later. I will never allow my industry to be ruined by black sheep.”

Jasper slammed his fork down onto the table when he finished speaking. Standing, he took 200 dollars from his wallet and threw the bills down as he said, “Chef Herrett, I’ve paid for this meal. However, you have to take responsibility for your actions.”

As Jasper spoke, he smiled at Victor and said, “Director Gul, I’m going to have to trouble you.”

“Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. I know how I should take care of things. I’ll definitely give you results that you’ll be satisfied with.”

Victor had a solemn expression on his face as he nodded.

“Alright, we’ve finished eating. Julian, let’s go!”

Jasper stood and walked down the stairs with Julian. Those who stayed back had unusually complicated expressions on their faces.

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Julian seemed to have something he wanted to say to Jasper on the way back.

Jasper asked, “What’s up? You can say anything that’s on your mind, Julian. No need for formalities between us.”

Julian scratched his head as he said, “Jasper, will the person you called Director Gul be dissatisfied with the way you treated him just now? It might be a problem if he decides to make things difficult for you in the future.”

Jasper smiled as he said, “Julian, I realize that you’ve learned how to read people now.”

Julian said rather shyly, “I’ve slowly picked up on some things after spending time with you, Jasper. But there are some things I still can’t understand.”

“Well then, I’ll explain it to you.”

Jasper looked out the car window at the scenes of Waterhoof City that were flashing by and said, "We cannot treat Victor Gul as an individual when we deal with him.

"He represents the city hall of Waterhoof City. As businessmen, we only engage in legal trading and make our earnings via legal methods. Our relationship is a cooperative one rather than subordinative. Of course, I'm willing to cooperate with the workings of Waterhoof City Hall, but at the same time, they can't merely stay on the sidelines without lifting a finger when we're in trouble.

"The way I treated him tonight will be documented in a detailed report that will appear on the mayor's desk tomorrow. Thus, this is my way of making my stand known to Waterhoof City Hall."

Julian only understood half of what Jasper meant, but he still nodded. He did not know that what Jasper had just told him would be the real reason why JW Consortium could take the lead and dominate the market in the future.

"Jasper, how do you manage to think of so many things?" Julian asked curiously.

He sometimes thought that Jasper's brain was different from the average person's. He saw things as they were, but Jasper could manage to think outside the box.

"You learn to take more things into consideration after suffering losses," Jasper said slowly.

He had suffered multiple losses due to his simple mind in his past life.

Julian was even more confused now. He had never seen Jasper suffer losses ever since he started working for him. His opponents would always be the ones suffering losses... However, Julian did not ask any further questions. He knew he would never attain the same level of success as Jasper in his life.

Jasper got a call from Henry when he returned to the hotel.

“F*ck, are you having the time of your life in Waterhoof City?”

Henry, who was nearly drowning amidst a sea of project documents in his hotel room at Nauritius City, asked with a jealous expression on his face.

Jasper clicked his tongue as he said, “The streets of Waterhoof City are filled with beautiful ladies. It’s a pity you didn’t come along.”

Henry was even more distressed and had a bitter expression on his face as he threatened, “Don’t mess around. I won’t say more about Wendy Schuler since you guys got to know each other even earlier. However, as your future brother-in-law, I won’t allow you to continue being a womanizer after getting together with my sister.”

“Let’s get down to business. How’s it going with the matter I asked you to deal with?” Jasper could not be bothered to pay any attention to the man whose rationality was blinded by jealousy.

“I was just about to tell you. The chief designer from Gensler Design and Architecture Firm, Grant Morgan, will be rushing over with his team to meet you at Waterhoof City tomorrow.

“But I’m curious to know why you’re so insistent on using their design. Aren’t you going to consider the top architectural firms like SOM or KPF?”

Of course, Jasper would never tell Henry that in his past life, Waterhoof City Financial Tower only existed because it had been the design from Gensler Design and Architecture Firm that was selected.

“They might only be ranked fifth among the architecture firms in America, but their designs are not lacking compared to the four firms above them. Besides, design is something based on personal taste. There’s no such thing as the best design, only the design that best fits you.”

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Jasper explained casually.

“Alright, are you going to Coreana in a couple of days? Can you take me with you?” Henry grumbled.

“The amusement park will be completed in two months, and the Southface River Project will have already held its topping out by then. You should keep an eye on the amusement park and not go anywhere for these two months.” Jasper immediately rejected Henry’s request.

Henry himself knew he had his duties to tend to, but he was so used to being rebellious that his force of habit caused him to resist this little. However, he had no choice but to obey Jasper upon hearing his displeasure.

...

The next day, Jasper met with Grant and his team in the hotel.

“Mr. Laine, forgive me for being forward, but you’re so much younger than I imagined.”

Grant, who was one of America’s most well-known architects, was already past 60. He had met countless successful people, but they were all around his age.

Grant Morgan had thought his mysterious order from an Eastern country was from some rich kid who came from a prestigious family. He had not expected Jasper to have built his empire from the ground up.

He sighed in admiration as he gazed at Jasper, genuine respect and appreciation shining in his eyes.

Jasper smiled as he shook Grant's hand and said, "Mr. Morgan, thank you for your praise. I'm a big fan of Sky Theatre, the building in Sauof which you designed some time ago. In my opinion, you're the only architect who has succeeded in fusing both modernities with tradition among all other world-known architects."

People were supposed to praise each other. Grant was obviously pleased with Jasper's flattery as he said politely, "You're a very likable man, Mr. Laine. I think we're going to enjoy working with each other."

Smiling, Jasper invited Grant to take a seat as he said, "Henry Law has already explained the conditions of the surrounding terrain to you via email. May I know how long it will take for you to come up with a first draft for the design, Mr. Morgan?"

The expression on Grant's face turned serious as he said, "Mr. Laine, what you want to design is the tallest building in the world. A building that's at least 630 feet tall will pose a huge challenge to any architect. It's not an easy feat."

"But a design fee of 1.2 billion US dollars is not cheap either, is it? Furthermore, every architect dreams of designing the tallest building in the world. Wouldn't you want to put your best foot forward for that, Mr. Morgan?" Jasper asked as he laughed lightly.

Grant had an excited expression on his face as he said, "It's indeed tempting, which is why we rushed all the way here last night. We'll be conducting site visits this time. Do you have any other specific requests, Mr. Laine?"

Jasper said calmly, "I won't have much time because I'll be traveling to Coreana tomorrow. But I do have one request. It's to do what you do best, Mr. Morgan. I want you to combine both modernities and tradition. I want a skyscraper that the entire world will marvel at."

Grant said probingly, “This is a huge building that will require a lot of resources. Based on my team’s experience, we estimate that it won’t be possible without at least 15 billion Somer Dollars.”

Jasper massaged his temples. Grant’s statement had hit him where it hurt.

He had calculated the amount of money it would take to construct the building, and 15 billion Somer Dollars was only a modest estimate. In his past life, the construction of Waterhoof City Financial Tower had used a total of 17 billion dollars, while Jasper’s estimation was around 18 billion dollars.

This was just for the outer shell of the building. A tuned mass damper that needed to be used in reducing the building’s vibrations would already cost two billion dollars.

The cost required to purchase equipment and furnish the buildings would require at least another seven billion dollars.

An investment that cost nearly around 25 billion dollars was not something the average person could take part in.

Thus, Jasper realized that he was out of money!

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Jasper’s current financial situation was not complicated. He had about six billion dollars in funds in his investment company.

He had another billion dollars from his long-term investments in the country’s stock market.

He also had a little more in Harbor City, around four billion dollars.

Moreover, he had around 1.5 billion dollars in cash in his personal account.

Which meant Jasper could procure only 12.5 billion dollars if he did not sell any of his existing assets.

It was already a shocking number.

However, he had to take out 1.5 billion dollars from that 12.5 billion a couple of days later to pay Waterhoof City Hall as a deposit for the 266 commercial properties he had purchased on Golden Pedestrian Street.

Thus, Jasper would only have, at most, 11.1 billion dollars left.

It was still a mind-blowing number.

However, it was far from enough to construct the building that would require at least 25 billion dollars.

It was the first time Jasper was feeling poor since his reincarnation.

It was this sense of urgency from feeling poor that had Jasper in such a rush to travel to Coreana to obtain the agent rights for United Legends and the patent for the MP3 player.

These two projects would generate huge profits for Jasper within the next two years.

“Mr. Morgan, an architect is supposed to stick to the person in charge’s requests as closely as possible to complete the design, not worry about their financial status,” Jasper said as he smiled.

Grant laughed and said, “Mr. Laine, please don’t misunderstand. I just meant that I could come up with an even more radical design if you have the sufficient funds.”

“I wouldn’t want to design the tallest building in the world if I was being conservative, would I?” Jasper asked.

Grant’s eyes lit up. He could not care less about how much money Jasper had and whether he would go into debt by constructing this building. All he needed was a moneymaker who would fund his lifelong dream in architecture and let him work to his heart’s content for once.

“Mr. Laine, I understand what you mean now. I must say you’re one of the most special people of Somer descent that I’ve ever met. I have a feeling that we’ll not only be partners but also friends,” Grant said solemnly.

“That would be my honor.”

...

After four or five hours of bouncing off ideas with Grant’s team, Jasper finally got these western architects to understand how he wanted the building to look.

Grant’s team would stay in Waterhoof City to conduct inspections after this. Jasper could not get involved in this.

Jasper was satisfied when Grant’s team promised him they would come up with a design draft by the end of the month at the very latest. Taking Julian with him, the two boarded the plane to Coreana.

Nearly at the same time when Jasper and Julian were boarding the plane...

In an office in Coreana that belonged to the person who invented the MP3 player, Damond Golding.

“Mr. Conrad Monty, congratulations on obtaining the patent to sell MP3 players within Somerland.”

After exchanging contracts, Damond laughed and clapped Conrad on the shoulder as he spoke.

The patent fee cost 80 million US dollars, and Conrad would have to pay a commission fee of one US dollar for every MP3 player he produced.

These terms were enough for Damond to treat Conrad as his closest business partner.

Although the MP3 player had only recently started gaining popularity, the majority of the people had yet to fully accept this product. Additionally, Somerland’s level of consumption was still extremely low, which was why Damond had not expected to earn much from selling the patent.

However, Conrad’s generosity managed to both shock and surprise him.

Life at the Top Chapter 653

People of Somer descent were really stupid people with a lot of money.

However, Conrad was extremely satisfied. After he rejected Damond’s invitation to stay back for dinner, he left the office with the patent licensing agreement.

In his car downstairs, Conrad flipped through the documents he was holding as he said calmly, “So, this is what Jasper Laine wanted so badly?”

A look of deep hatred flashed through Conrad’s eyes when Jasper’s name was mentioned.

His previous defeat had been so painful he would probably be depressed now if it were not for his strong will.

He had only managed to snap out of it in the shortest time possible when his father related to him a piece of news.

According to a reliable source, Jasper was just about to head to Coreana to negotiate for a patent for MP3 players.

That proved why Jasper had spent so much money taking away the right to represent the electronics industry from the Hanks family.

Admittedly, it might be to defeat the Hanks family. However, there were plenty of ways to defeat the Hanks family. There was no need to pick the most costly one.

More importantly, Jasper had even increased his investment in electronics after the Hanks family was defeated.

“JW Electronics spent 60 million dollars in a week to purchase four product lines. Preparations for the plant, equipment, and its employees are in full swing right now, and it’s all for this?”

Conrad smiled as he pinched the documents in his hands.

He would take everything Jasper wanted from him. He wondered what the expression on Jasper’s face would be like when he made the long trip here and realized that Conrad had been a step faster than him.

His assistant, who was sitting in front, turned and asked confusedly, “Mr. Monty, Damond Golding knows he’s committing daylight robbery on us. He sold his patent to other countries for half the price he offered us, and yet you still agreed to it?”

Conrad said calmly, “I don’t mind giving him a little more money. After all, these problems can all be solved using money.”

“Jasper must think this product will do well if he’s this desperate to get his hands on the patent. The people I sent to research the market will return with results soon. I’m more than willing to dominate the market for MP3 players in the country before Jasper does.

“Even if we don’t make any money, this deal will be considered a success as long as we manage to make him feel pissed.”

The assistant shrugged and said, “Mr. Monty, in my opinion, you could just get someone to kill arrogant men like him.”

“This is why you can only work as my assistant and can’t hope to fly solo,” Conrad answered calmly.

Realizing that he had said something wrong, the assistant hurriedly changed the subject and said, “So are we going back to the hotel now?”

“We’re flying back home now. I want to finish assembling the production line before Jasper does. Let’s see how he can retaliate this time!” Conrad said coldly.

...

This was Jasper’s first time traveling overseas. In his past life, a colleague of his had a girlfriend who worked as a personal shopper. She frequently posted photos of her plane tickets and the products she had bought on Instagram.

Ever since then, Coreana had established itself as a modern, commercial country in Jasper’s mind.

In reality, Coreana did not disappoint Jasper as well.

Sela, Coreana’s financial hub, was an area that exuded strong business vibes. Tall buildings could be seen everywhere, and the faces of every person on the crowded streets were lit up by flashing neon lights. Everyone seemed to be hurrying as if they had countless matters to attend to.

The person whom the Law family had appointed to be in charge of the Sela office had come to pick them up from the airport. His name was Edmond Kelley.

After exchanging greetings, Jasper was sitting in the car and admiring the beauty of Sela when Edmond, who had just contacted one of his men through the phone, broke the news to Jasper with an uncomfortable expression on his face.

“Mr. Laine, we’ve contacted Damond Golding’s office and expressed our intent to visit as per your request. However, we’ve been informed that the patent for Somerland has already been purchased by someone else.”

The expression on Jasper’s face turned incredibly dark when he heard that.

Life at the Top Chapter 654

Jasper never thought that he would end up being intercepted by someone else when he had been using his memories from his past life to progress without any hiccups thus far.

He had always been the one who intercepted others. What did this mean?

Did that mean things were returning to bite him on his bottom?

At the same time, this served as a punishment to Jasper. It led him to understand that his memories from before he reincarnated were not invincible, and mistakes were inevitable. He could not rely solely on his memory to do anything.

Else, he would suffer great losses.

“Can you find out who it is?” Jasper managed to recover from the regret and anger he was experiencing. He chose to focus his attention on solving the problem instead.

Edmond breathed a sigh of both relief and admiration when he saw how quickly Jasper had managed to regulate his emotions.

“Damond isn’t willing to disclose that information. He says they’ve signed a privacy policy.”

Jasper laughed coldly as he said, “Is he afraid his thieving actions will be exposed? Let’s see if he’ll be able to never use that patent after buying it.”

According to his memories from his past life, no one in the country had bought the patent for MP3 players. Even in his later life, fake ones could be found everywhere on the streets. Any random workshop could produce one, but no one had ever bought the patent for it.

After all, the country had been known for its counterfeit products then.

In many cases, patents were the last resort for many companies to avoid repercussions.

For example, Jasper’s goal was to establish a multinational consortium, so he could not let foreigners use any issues regarding patents against him.

Thus, whoever had managed to buy the patent for MP3 players was definitely coming for him.

Who could it be?

Countless thoughts emerged and dissipated from his mind. Sighing lightly, Jasper said, “Make an appointment with Damon Golding for me. Tell him I would like to have breakfast with him tomorrow morning.”

Edmond nodded and said, “Very well, Mr. Laine. I’ll do that right now.”

“That’s right, about Damond, I have zero understanding of him. Did you make any preparations on that part?” Jasper asked.

Edmond smiled and said, “Mr. Laine, this is what the office was established to do. Don’t worry. According to our sources, Damon has a 16-year-old daughter who he treasures a lot. We’ll prepare the relevant gifts tomorrow.”

Jasper nodded in satisfaction.

At the same time, he observed the difference between himself and the Law family.

The Law family had even established an office in Coreana for the sole purpose of finding out what the higher-ups liked and forming good relations with them. This way, they would be giving themselves a chance to collaborate in the future.

It was his first time in Coreana, and if he had not had the help of the Law family’s office here, he would be running around like a headless chicken.

After all, the local higher-ups could not care less about who he was. It was not that simple to arrange a meeting with them.

JW still had a lot of room for growth in this area.

When they returned to the hotel, Jasper shut himself in the study for three to four hours. He did not come out for meals even when Julian called for him.

However, Jasper was not demotivated. Instead, he was working hard to solve the crisis at hand.

He got in touch with Anna who was far away from him in the west.

“Hey, busy bee. You’re finally the one who called first.”

Life at the Top Chapter 655

On the other end of the video call, Anna's background showed that the sun was shining where she was. She was sitting in an office, her delicate fingers fiddling with a pencil as she rebuked him.

Jasper said somewhat embarrassedly, "I've been really busy. A lot has happened."

"My dad told me all about it. Everything's been taken care of now, right?" Anna asked as she smiled slightly.

As he nodded, Jasper was still thinking about how he should bring up the topic when he heard Anna say, "So tell me, how can I help you?"

"How did you know?" Jasper asked in surprise.

Anna's flirtatious behavior was evident even though she was thousands of miles away. She stared at Jasper with her beautiful eyes and said, "I know you better than you think I do."

Seeing how his goal had been exposed, Jasper gave up trying to be secretive and said, "I remember you once told me you had a friend who's part of the Sentel family?"

Anna nodded and said, "That's right. She's the third granddaughter of Sentel Corporation's current president, Kit Lang. We're on pretty good terms."

Jasper hurriedly said, "I was hoping you could introduce us."

Anna said in surprise, "You want to meet her? That might be a challenge."

“What’s wrong?” Jasper asked as he frowned.

“She just left for Greece last week and won’t be back for another month.

“But can you tell me what’s going on?” Anna asked.

Jasper did not hide anything from her and told her his objective, “I’m planning to buy the patent for MP3 players from Sentel Corporation.”

Anna was startled. She might not be in the business sector, but she was still part of the Law family and was well-informed in what went on in the business sector.

She said, “I’ve heard of MP3 players, but I remember the person who invented it is Damond Golding, the current president of Sunrea Company. Although he used to work in Sentel, the patent was only completed after he began working at Sunrea. Shouldn’t you meet with Damond instead of Sentel if you intend to purchase a patent?”

Jasper smiled as he said, “There are still things you don’t know about. Back when Damond was working in Sentel, he was already using the company’s resources to design the first MP3 player. He had even built a prototype, but Sentel didn’t pay much attention to it at that time.

“Damond only arrived at Sunrea after Sentel encountered a financial crisis and fired him.

“According to Coreana law, Sentel has the right to 50% of the patent because Damond used the company’s resources to complete his invention while he was still employed there.

“However, Damond was given priority to its benefits, which is why Sentel is not earning from the sales of MP3 players even though they’re slowly gaining popularity now. Not only is this patent worthless to Sentel, but it also annoys them.”

“So, you’re planning to buy off the 50% of the patent that Sentel holds?” Anna immediately understood what Jasper was thinking after a brief explanation.

Jasper sighed and said, “As Coreana’s largest monopolistic corporation, Sentel is both a brutal and greedy corporation. Moreover, this affair will include several legal disputes, which is why I’m leaning more toward purchasing the patent from Damond. However, I’ve been intercepted. This is my only way now.”

“You’ve been intercepted?” Anna asked as she raised an eyebrow.

“I’ll help you get in touch with Sentel, it shouldn’t be a problem. But you can’t just ignore the fact that you’ve been intercepted. Do you have any ideas yet?”

“Seems like I can’t fool you,” Jasper said as he smiled.

“It’ll be impossible for me to get the patent from Damond now. Since that’s the case, I can still obtain authorization to upgrade the MP3 players. By promising to upgrade and develop the technology used in MP3 players, Damond will waiver his rights to the patent.

“The technology used to produce MP3 players isn’t that advanced. It can easily become MP4 or MP5 players if we just change the design slightly and conduct a little product iteration. That way, not only can I dodge past the patent required for MP3 players, but I can also force the person who intercepted me into a dead end.”

“We’ll see who’s the embarrassed one when that happens,” Anna said happily as she immediately caught onto Jasper’s train of thought.

Jasper’s eyes shone as he said slowly, “That’s right, but Damond only holds 50% of the patent’s ownership and priority rights. Thus, the 50% of rights that Sentel holds to the patent is key!”

Life at the Top Chapter 656

It could not be denied Anna had an extremely strong network and public relations skills.

The next morning, Jasper was on his way to meet Damond when he received an email from the office of Sentel Corporation's president.

He had one hour to meet with the current president of Sentel Corporation, Emerson Lang, this afternoon.

Jasper's brows, which had been tightly knotted the entire night, finally relaxed when he received the news.

As long as he was given the chance to converse with the higher-ups at Sentel Corporation, Jasper was confident he could persuade the other party.

After all, they were both businessmen. He knew what Sentel Corporation wanted.

Jasper met with Damond at the cafe below Sunrea Company.

Unlike the frail, old man he had seen in pictures from his past life, Damond was still a little chubby now. However, just like most people in the tech industry, the top of his head was balding.

"How do you do, President Golding? I'm Jasper Laine from Somerland." Jasper took the initiative to introduce himself first.

In his past life, Jasper had spent a lot of effort on mastering Coreana's national language just so he could secure himself a customer from Coreana. Thus, he was quite fluent in the language.

Halfway through the meal, Jasper retrieved a large present that had been prepared by Edmond.

“President Golding, I heard your daughter grew up in the Netherlands and has a particular affinity for the tulips there. I’ve specially prepared these purple tulips that usually only the royalty have access to. I hope both you and your daughter enjoy them.”

Damond happily took the present from him and said, “Mr. Laine, I must say that your present is extremely apt. I was just fretting about what I should give her for her 17th birthday party. Many thanks.”

Damond smiled as he invited Jasper to take a seat and asked, “Mr. Laine, I was wondering if you’re used to having a typical breakfast most people from Coreana have?”

“I’m the type of person to go with the flow, and I’m not picky with my food either,” Jasper said as he smiled.

Damond nodded in approval before he ordered two typical breakfast sets.

“I’ve been frequenting this cafe for several years. Their food is extremely tasty to me. I hope you’ll enjoy it too, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper felt his scalp grow numb as he stared at the various plates of pickles before him.

However, he seemed at ease as he chewed on the sour, pungent pickles. He looked completely comfortable with the food here.

Jasper’s attitude caused Damond to take a liking to him, and he said, “Coreana’s food is the best in the world. I’m extremely happy that a person of Somer descent like you would like it too, Mr. Laine. I had a former customer from Somerland who could not get used to the taste.”

Jasper said meaningfully, “But that customer from Somerland must have gotten what he wanted from you, right, President Golding?”

Damond took a sip of seafood broth and smiled as he said, “Mr. Laine, you must understand that I can’t reveal anything more to you due to the privacy policy.”

“I understand,” Jasper said and shrugged before immediately continuing, “Frankly, I was also planning on buying the patent to sell MP3 players in Somerland from you, President Golding. However, it seems that this is impossible now.”

Damond had a curious expression on his face as he said, “From what I understand, the economy in Somerland is still extremely stunted, and citizens would never be able to purchase an MP3 player with their current consumption level. Why the sudden fight to obtain a patent from me?”

“President Golding, you must understand that there will always be a way of earning money in this world. The only difference is that some can do it themselves, while others can only imitate,” Jasper said.

“Seems like you have a plan of your own, Mr. Laine,” Damond said.

Life at the Top Chapter 657

“I’ll be direct with you. I’m planning to purchase a letter of authorization from you that allows me to upgrade the MP3 players, President Golding,” Jasper said.

Startled, the smile on Damon’s face grew cold as he said, “Mr. Laine, do you think you have more advanced techniques than I have and that the MP3 player can be further improved?”

“Yes.” Jasper paid no attention to the indignant expression on Damon’s face as he answered confidently.

Damond sneered as he said, “Mr. Laine, I think our conversation has been an utter waste of time. I will never allow anyone to exploit my patent. I don’t need an outsider to come here and say they want to upgrade my inventions!”

“President Golding, you may be a technician, but you’re also a businessman. Why wouldn’t you take advantage of this situation to earn more money if you think the MP3 player has no further room for improvement?” Jasper asked.

Damond laughed and said, “You’re an excellent negotiator, but I won’t fall for your tricks. Goodbye, Mr. Laine!”

Then, Damond got up and left.

“President Golding, it’s extremely rude to up and leave when the other person has not finished speaking. I thought people from Coreana were extremely particular about manners?” Jasper asked.

“I’ll only take a couple of minutes of your time, President Golding. After all, I have many matters to tend to as well. For example, I have a meeting with the president of Sentel Corporation, Emerson Lang, this afternoon.”

When he heard Jasper’s words, Damond finally realized that this young man from Somerland was entirely different from Conrad Monty, whom he had met with before this. This man was like a sly fox and much more difficult to deal with.

“What do you mean?” Damond asked expressionlessly.

“Truth is, Sentel Corporation could not be bothered with your invention of the MP3 player, Mr. Damon. Thus, even though the MP3 player is slowly gaining attention, Sentel Corporation can’t do anything with the half of the patent it owns because you’re currently employed in Sunrea Company, President Golding.

“I trust no one would be pleased with this, would they? Much less a multinational group like Sentel Corporation? You must’ve had a front-row seat in witnessing just how overbearing they could be, President Golding.”

“Are you threatening me?” Damond said as he laughed coldly.

“I’m a businessman from Somerland, not an employee at Sentel Corporation. I have no right to threaten you, President Golding, but I need you to understand what will happen if I obtain 50% of the patent and upgrade the technology in the existing MP3 players.

“When that happens, your MP3 players will be blocked by my patent. You will have to either pay huge amounts of money to get past the barriers or turn around and purchase the rights to use from me. President Golding, this is not a good deal, is it?”

Damond glanced darkly at Jasper as he said, “Are all Somerland businessmen as despicable as you are?”

“No, I’m not being despicable. I merely hope we can build a strong base for our collaboration, President Golding,” Jasper said as he smiled.

“How are you so confident that you’ll be able to upgrade the MP3 players and receive the market’s approval?” Damond asked expressionlessly.

“That’s my business, President Golding. All you have to do is think about how much you’ll price this authorization letter for me and then receive the check. Everyone will be delighted then,” Jasper said calmly.

“One billion US dollars.” Damond quoted his price after a moment’s thought.

Jasper laughed in disbelief.

“President Golding, are you joking?”

“I would immediately pay up if this were the price for the patent. However, are you going to charge me one billion US dollars for only half of an authorization letter to upgrade the technology?”

Damond laughed coldly as he said, “That’s my condition. It’s up to you whether or not you’ll accept it, Mr. Laine.”

“How about we make a bet?”

Life at the Top Chapter 658

“A bet?”

Damond looked like he had just heard a joke. “What are you going to bet?”

“It’s simple.”

Jasper gazed confidently at Damond and said, “Let’s make a bet since you think I can’t upgrade the MP3 player. If I manage to successfully upgrade the MP3 player, you’ll have to give me the authorization letter for free.”

“What if you fail?” Damond was now interested as he asked.

“If I fail...” Jasper shrugged and said nonchalantly, “I’ll give you two billion US dollars.”

“You Somerland people are really sly.”

When Damond heard what Jasper said, he was obviously unhappy but still smiled coldly at Jasper with an expression that screamed ‘I’ve already seen through your tricks!’

Jasper narrowed his eyes as he gazed at Damon, waiting for him to continue.

Sure enough, Damond soon spoke again, “We haven’t agreed on a time. Will I have to spend the next ten years waiting for you if you take ten years to do it? Thus, I’ll only give you three months.”

Damond glanced confidently at Jasper. He was convinced Jasper would never dare agree to such harsh terms.

In his opinion, the technology used in MP3 players might have room for improvement, but there was no way anything could be accomplished in three months.

How long did it take him to create the MP3 player from nothing?

Two whole years!

One also had to put in mind that he was one of Coreana’s best experts in the tech industry.

In Damon’s opinion, Somerland was a poor, backward place that would never be able to produce a talent half as talented as he was.

They might require half a year to just understand the technology used in his MP3 players.

Thus, how was it possible that Jasper could upgrade it in three months?

However, it was beyond his expectation that Jasper did not have an indignant expression on his face and even breathed a sigh of relief after hearing what he said.

“Alright.”

Jasper's determined one-word answer immediately caused Damond to feel like he had walked straight into Jasper's trap.

Damond tried his best to recall every detail in the conversation they just had. The second he realized that it really was a trap, he would immediately go back on his promise. After all, nothing had been written down on paper yet.

However, the more he thought about it, the more Damond realized this deal would only bring him benefits. He had a clear advantage.

Glancing suspiciously at Jasper, Damond laughed coldly and said, "You'd best think it through. You won't be able to pull out halfway once the bet is made!"

Jasper immediately beckoned for a waiter to hand them a sheet of paper and a pen. The pen scratched across the paper as he wrote down the details of their bet. Handing the paper to Damon, he said, "Please sign it if you don't have any questions."

Damond frowned as he took the agreement and realized it had been phrased carefully. There were no loopholes that could be found.

That made Damond think of Jasper as a proud fool who was practically dumping money at his doorstep.

"You people of Somer descent are really rich."

After saying that one sentence with a meaningful look on his face, Damond spun his pen and signed his name on the contract.

"You can use my patent now that this agreement exists. I'll get someone to send over the relevant information this afternoon. However, you must remember that you'll have to pay me two billion US dollars if you fail to upgrade the MP3 player within three months."

Life at the Top Chapter 659

Damond shot a warning glare at Jasper before adding, "I won't mind fighting an international lawsuit for two billion US dollars."

"Don't worry, President Golding."

Jasper carefully tucked away his copy of the agreement and smiled as he said, "If you win, I won't be a sore loser."

"Hopefully."

When Damond finished speaking, he stood and stared deep into Jasper's eyes. 'Such arrogance! You will pay for your words and actions. Your technology is so backward there's no way you'll be able to decipher and upgrade my technology within three months!'

"I'm looking forward to the day you wire two billion US dollars into my account."

Then, Damond turned and left.

Jasper remained seated and waited until Damond had left for his office before standing up.

When he walked to the door and saw Julian, who was waiting for him, Jasper immediately took Julian to a nearby burger joint.

The food in Coreana was disgusting.

While they ate, Jasper shared what had happened during the meeting earlier like how one would share anecdotes.

Julian was a martial artist who was not sensitive to the mutual deception going on in the business industry. However, he was extremely displeased that Damond had looked down on his country.

“If I ever meet anyone like that, I’ll make sure they get firsthand experience of the beauty of Somerland’s martial arts!” Julian huffed.

Smiling, Jasper sipped on his tea and said, “It’s the same concept of them needing to drink seafood broth first thing in the morning while we drink tea instead. Everyone has their traditions and culture, but it doesn’t matter if you drink seafood broth or tea, you shouldn’t look down on anyone else.

“I have my ways of teaching such people a lesson so memorable they’ll shudder every time they hear the word ‘Somer’ in the future.

“It was a spur of the moment thing and didn’t mean much,” Jasper said calmly.

If today’s bet were made between anyone else in the world today, it would only end badly.

Damond Golding might be a despicable person, but he was so skilled in technology that he would still hold his position at the top of the industry even after ten years had passed.

However, Jasper had the advantage of being reincarnated, so he knew the first version of the MP3 player was filled with mistakes. All he needed to do was give it a few upgrades before he could market it as a completely new version.

Consumers were not idiots. They could discern if a product was good or bad.

Without taking anything else into account, he would surpass all the original MP3 players just by adding a screen that could show the name of the song and its lyrics.

When such a product was released to the market, Jasper was confident he would be able to cause whoever had taken his patent to become bankrupt.

As for Damond Golding, he would be shocked when he realized he had ended up worse off after trying to gain an advantage!

After they were done eating, Jasper arrived at Sentel Corporation when it was almost time for his meeting.

It was much easier than Jasper had expected to meet with the president of a corporation ranked annually within the top 100 of Fortune 500 companies.

“Mr. Laine, I know you’re a friend of Ms. Sylphie, but you’ll have to forgive me for only being able to give you an hour because of how busy I am.”

Emerson, who already had gray hair even though he was only 50 years old, spoke politely to Jasper as they sat in his spacious office.

Sylphie, who was Anna’s best friend, was also the third granddaughter of Sentel Corporation. Upon her referral, Emerson had taken time out of his day to meet Jasper even though he was extremely busy.

Jasper accepted Emerson’s invitation to sit down on the couch that was prepared for guests. He understood that the Ms. Sylphie he had just referred to must be the princess of Sentel Corporation.

“I won’t beat around the bush then, Mr. Lang. I’m here because I hope to purchase the half of the patent Sentel Corporation owns for MP3 players.”

Life at the Top Chapter 660

Emerson looked startled for a split second before he rang the call bell.

“Get the head of the patent department here.”

Several seconds later, an elegantly dressed woman in her 40s hurried over to Emerson’s office.

“This is Mr. Laine from Somerland. He wants to purchase the half of the patent the corporation owns for MP3 players. Is there such a thing?”

Jasper felt slightly disgruntled when he heard Emerson’s question.

He had been rushing to places for the MP3 player patent and was close to using up all his tricks and contacts.

However, in Sentel Corporation, the MP3 player patent was not even worth remembering for these higher-ups.

The woman was skilled in her job and immediately began explaining how the patent had come about.

After understanding everything that had happened, Emerson got her to leave before he smiled at Jasper. He said, “Sorry about that, Mr. Laine. We have tens of thousands of patents registered under the company’s name, which is why I can’t possibly remember everything.”

“I understand.”

Jasper, who was thinking to himself that JW still had a long way to go, answered calmly.

“I’ve now understood the situation. You heard it too. The legal department has been gearing up to sue both the patent office and Damond Golding. After all, this is a loss for the company as well.”

“I understand, which is why I’m now offering you a way to get rid of it once and for all,” Jasper said with a smile.

“By buying it? Forgive me for being straightforward but there’s no use in buying only 50% of the ownership as it’s not entitled to any priorities, Mr. Laine. Even Sentel Corporation would have to resolve the situation via legal means... Or have you made an agreement of sorts with Damond Golding, Mr. Laine?”

As the president of Sentel Group, Emerson’s train of thought was extremely sharp and agile. He only needed a couple of minutes to come up with a hypothesis that was very close to the truth.

Jasper was not planning to hide matters as the other party would find out sooner or later. He took the contract and showed it to Emerson.

After looking through its contents, Emerson said in surprise, “Mr. Laine, this contract is extremely disadvantageous to you.”

“I’ve requested Damond to sign it. He had no reason to say no to such a bargain. However, you can just think of it as preparing your bait before you fish,” Jasper said as he smiled.

Emerson laughed and said, “Thank you for your honesty, Mr. Laine. You didn’t need to tell me about this, but I can sense your sincerity from your actions.

“To be honest, I would be happy to see Damond suffer losses too. After all, he’s considered a traitor to the company.”

'You were the one who kicked him out of the company during the layoffs that happened when you suffered an economic crisis, and yet, you're calling him a traitor.'

Jasper muttered sarcastically to himself but put on a surprised expression.

"So, do we have a deal?"

Emerson smiled and said, "In theory, there should be no problem. After all, the company is not interested in doing much with the MP3 players, and it would take a long time to file a lawsuit. If you're interested, Mr. Laine, we would be happy to sell you our half of the patent.

"Since you're a friend of Ms. Sylphie, you'll be given special treatment in regards to the price. How does 20 million US dollars for a buyout sound?"

In all honesty, 20 million US dollars was extremely cheap.

However, to Sentel Corporation, they would have earned 20 million US dollars for absolutely nothing.

After all, all Sentel Corporation had done to obtain this patent was provide some equipment. The thought process and skills that went into this all belonged to Damond Golding. All they had to do was sit back and enjoy the benefits it brought.

Jasper did not dwell too much on these problems and immediately agreed.

"Deal."

Emerson smiled as he stood and said while shaking Jasper's hand, "You're a very frank person, Mr. Laine. I'll arrange to have the relevant information prepared as soon as possible."

Life at the Top Chapter 661

“I will give you the check once I get my hands on the material.”

Emerson Lang chuckled. He knew that Jasper understood his good intentions.

20 million US dollars was a drop in the ocean for a company like Sentel Corporation.

Emerson could have easily chosen not to sell the patent rights for the MP3, but he had decided to do so at an extremely reasonable price. This was because he wanted to befriend Jasper, who seemed to personally know the princess of Sentel Corporation.

It was easy to deal with smart people. As long as they understood each other's intentions, not everything had to be stated out in the open.

After both of them signed the contract, Jasper prepaid an amount of 10 million US dollars. At that moment, someone barged into Emerson's office.

“Uncle, did Ms. Sylphie introduce a man to the company?!”

The person who barged into the room was a young man. Once he entered the room, he immediately fired a question at Emerson.

Emerson frowned. “Mr. Jonathan, this is the office of the group president. If you want to see me, you need to have a valid reason, and you need to make an appointment through my secretary!” He reprimanded the young man.

With his immaculate appearance, Jonathan Lang looked more like a pop star than a company president. He fixed a glare upon Jasper and grumbled, “What

about him? Isn't he the person that Ms. Sylphie introduced to the company? Did he make an appointment?"

"Mr. Jonathan! Remember your position!" Emerson voiced out. He was obviously angry.

"You're just the president of one of the company's branches. You don't have the right to yell at me in the office of the group president. Did I teach you to behave in this way?"

Jonathan cast a vicious and envious glare at Jasper. He then lowered his head and apologized to Emerson. "I'm sorry, Mr. Emerson," he said.

"Get out!" Emerson shouted.

Jonathan clenched his fists and continued to stand his ground. "I won't go out. I need to know what is the relationship between him and Ms. Sylphie," he said in a determined tone.

"Is this something that you should be concerned about?" Emerson asked with a frigid voice. "Don't make me repeat myself a third time. Get out!"

Jonathan's face flushed red in anger. He fixed a deadly glare upon Jasper, then turned around and left the room in a fury.

"My apologies, Mr. Laine. Sorry you had to witness that," Emerson told Jasper.

"It's alright. Mr. Jonathan must have misunderstood," Jasper said in an even tone.

"He's way too spoilt," Emerson said. His voice revealed his dissatisfaction toward his nephew.

Even so, Jasper did not want to be involved in Emerson Lang's family matters. They exchanged a few more courtesies before Emerson's secretary reminded him that an hour had passed. Thus, Jasper bid him farewell politely.

Both parties had decided to complete the deal within the shortest amount of time possible. Because of this, Jasper left Emerson's office feeling fully satisfied.

Jasper had not walked far from the office and was just about to enter the elevator when a hand reached out and blocked the elevator entrance.

Jasper raised his eyes and looked over. Jonathan Lang had been waiting for him all this time.

"What's your relationship with Sylphie?" Jonathan asked, his voice tinged with jealousy.

"We don't know each other," Jasper replied.

He would not lie to Jonathan on purpose, nor did he want to explain anything to him. He had managed to obtain Sylphie Lang's recommendation because of Anna Law's connections.

He had never even seen the princess of Sentel Corporation.

"That's pure bullsh*t!" Jonathan exclaimed. Obviously, he did not believe him.

"Everyone knows that Ms. Sylphie never intervenes in company matters. However, she personally asked my uncle for a favor because of you. Yet, you're telling me that you don't know her?" Jonathan roared.

Life at the Top Chapter 662

“I think you must have misunderstood.”

A slight frown formed on Jasper’s face as he explained patiently, “There isn’t any special relationship between Ms. Sylphie and me. I only came to the company for business.”

Jonathan sneered as he continued to glare at Jasper. “I don’t care why you’re here at the company, but let me warn you. Ms. Sylphie is the princess of Sentel Corporation. She would never have a relationship with a foreigner no matter what,” he growled.

“You’d better give up on your devious intentions.”

Jonathan then lowered his voice and inched closer to Jasper’s ear. “You do know that you’re just an outsider here, right? If you aren’t honest, you may disappear from the face of the earth without anyone realizing. Nobody will bother to find out what happened to you,” he said coldly.

Jasper stared at Jonathan calmly. “From the tone of your voice, I can tell that you aren’t joking, Mr. Jonathan,” he replied.

Jonathan snickered. “As long as you are aware. Don’t forget where we are right now. This isn’t Somerland. Don’t entertain any thoughts that you shouldn’t have. Otherwise, you’ll meet a terrible end. Do you understand?” He growled.

Jasper did not mind Jonathan’s threats; He did not refute him either.

At least Jonathan had said something right. This was Coreana, not Somerland. Jasper did not want to make any enemies here.

Furthermore, it would not be worth doing so over a woman he had never even met.

In Jasper's opinion, he may never cross paths with someone like Jonathan Lang ever again, so why should he hold a grudge against someone like that?

Jonathan scoffed loudly after seeing Jasper enter the elevator. Upon turning around, he caught sight of Emerson's secretary.

Jonathan instantly figured out Jasper's intentions after hearing Emerson's secretary speak to him.

"Mr. Jonathan, this deal had been specially ordered by Mr. Emerson, and it will be completed in the afternoon," the secretary explained cautiously. She understood Jonathan's character extremely well.

Jonathan stared at her with wide eyes and asked, "How could he sell a patent to Jasper Laine for only 20 million US dollars? This is the corporation's property. My uncle obviously intends to befriend him. I do not agree with him on this matter!"

The secretary had an awkward expression etched across her face.

"Alright, don't worry about it. I'll handle this issue."

After ending their conversation curtly, Jonathan left with the documents regarding the said deal.

Utopia Beauty was the top medical beauty company in Coreana. From cosmetic surgery to cosmetic equipment, this company monopolized the medical beauty industry in the country.

However, not many people knew that this medical beauty company had been established by Sentel Corporation. It was owned by none other than the princess of Sentel Corporation, Sylphie Lang.

After leaving Sentel Corporation, Jonathan arrived at the headquarters of Utopia Beauty.

Jonathan walked into the office courteously. Obsession and passion flashed across his gaze when he caught sight of Sylphie, who was busy approving documents at her desk. “Ms. Sylphie,” he greeted.

Sylphie was now between twenty-four to twenty-five years old. She was at a critical period where her youthfulness was slowly transitioning into maturity. With a graceful figure and a beautiful face, she had the perfect mixture of girlish features and womanlike charm.

Her gaze remained fixed on the documents as her head remained lowered. “Mr. Jonathan, I had previously told you not to disturb me if there was nothing important to discuss,” she said nonchalantly.

“This time it’s something important,” Jonathan told her confidently.

Thus, Sylphie raised her head to look at Jonathan.

Jonathan felt heat flare across his body when Sylphie cast her gaze on him. He called out eagerly, “Ms. Sylphie...”

Life at the Top Chapter 663

“Please address me as the president when you’re in the company,” Sylphie said with a frown.

Jonathan immediately changed the way he addressed her. “President Sylphie, let me explain the situation. I found out that my uncle is selling a company-owned patent at a low price in order to get on someone’s good side,” he told her.

Sylphie was shocked upon hearing what he said. “Mr. Jonathan, it seems like you’re one who places righteousness above familial loyalty. However, shouldn’t you report something like this to the company discipline department? I’m not working in the corporation. Why are you telling me this?”

“That’s because I think that this incident has something to do with you, President Sylphie. It’s likely that someone is using your name to scam the corporation, and my uncle is simply a victim of this fraud,” Jonathan explained righteously.

Sylphie responded in an interested tone. “This has something to do with me? Explain everything to me in detail,” she said.

With that, Jonathan explained the deal between Jasper and the corporation in to Sylphie. “Jasper Laine asked for such a low price just because you recommended him to the company, Ms. Sylphie. MP3 is now a very popular product in the West,” he asserted eloquently.

“How could he buy a patent of a product like that just for 20 million US dollars? That is daylight robbery!”

“Indeed, I was the one who recommended Jasper Laine. What do you think we should do about this?” Sylphie asked calmly. Her tone and her expression were unreadable.

Jonathan replied proudly, “Obviously, this deal should be cancelled immediately. After that, tell Jasper Laine that if he wants to buy the patent, that he can buy it at the market price. It is worth at least 50 million US dollars. Otherwise, he should just scam!”

“You’re raising the price from 20 to 50 million US dollars. Mr. Jonathan, you’re really good at doing business,” Sylphie remarked.

Before Jonathan could even enjoy Sylphie’s praise, a loud slam rang out in the room. Sylphie had picked up a document folder and slammed it onto her office desk.

“Is the reputation of Sentel Corporation only worth 30 million US dollars to you? Even if Sentel Corporation backs out of the deal, the company would have to pay a penalty of 20 million US dollars. If that happens, the company will only be left with 10 million US dollars. Is that worth it?”

Jonathan’s expression darkened. He did not dare to utter a single word.

“I know your intentions, Mr. Jonathan. But if you want to want to impress me, you’ll have to show me abilities that are beyond that of a genius. If all you know is such measly tricks, I won’t even spare you a second glance!”

After speaking, Sylphie stared at Jonathan, who was trembling all over. “Get out,” she said in a frigid tone.

Jonathan raised his head and intended to say something. However, after noticing Sylphie’s icy and distant gaze, he did not dare to utter a single word. Hence, he left the office room in dismay.

Jonathan’s dark expression overflowed with resentment after he left Sylphie’s office.

In his opinion, Sylphie scolding him was for no fault of his own. It was all because of Jasper Laine!

“B*stard, how dare he say that he doesn’t know Ms. Sylphie! She reprimanded me because of you, you b*stard! Damn Somerland b*stard!”

Jonathan growled in a vicious voice, “Just wait and see, I won’t let you go so easily!”

At that moment, Sylphie was on the phone with Anna Law in her office in Utopia Beauty.

“Alright, alright. How could I dare to neglect your matters? It has been done a long time since then. The initial intention has been reached, and the formal

contract will be signed in the afternoon,” Sylphie said cheerily while gripping her phone. The coldness and noble arrogance etched across her face when she had previously been talking to Jonathan was long gone. It was now replaced by a joyous smile.

After chatting for some time, Sylphie put down her phone. She rapped her dainty, fair fingers against the documents before her.

There was a detailed report from JW Investment Company on the very top of the pile of documents.

“What an interesting man. He has done so many great things from scratch within a year, and he has even generated a fortune worth tens of billions. It’s no wonder that he managed to steal the heart of that woman despite her high expectations.”

After that, Sylphie stood up and pressed the buzzer on her desk.

“Call the secretariat of the group president’s office and out who is in charge of the contract signing with Jasper Laine in the afternoon. I’m going to meet this man.”

Life at the Top Chapter 664

At half-past one in the afternoon, Jasper met up with Jack, who had come over directly from Swallow Capital.

He had initially intended to come to Coreana with Jack. However, Jasper had decided to travel at rather abruptly. Jack had been busy back then, so he could not come along with him at the time. Therefore, he could only travel to Coreana after wrapping up his remaining work.

“Mr. Laine, have things been going well the past few days?” Jack asked Jasper with a smile after they entered the room.

Jack had asked the question jokingly, but Jasper shook his head. “Things haven’t exactly been going smoothly,” he said.

Jack was just about to ask for the details when Jasper handed him a document.

“Midas Company? United Legends? Online gaming?” Jack blurted out. He stared at Jasper in shock after flipping through the document.

“Mr. Laine, the profit point for Sena that you previously mentioned is online gaming?”

Jasper sat down. He threw a cigarette at Jack and chuckled. “Why? You don’t like it?” He asked.

At this point in time, most of the domestic Internet companies consisted of highly sophisticated and advanced intellectuals. Therefore, they considered things like games as trifling and looked down upon them.

“It doesn’t matter if I like it or not. Can we really make it work with online gaming?” Jack asked suspiciously.

“The development and popularization of the Internet is inevitable, and those who are exposed to the Internet are bound to be of the younger generation. For young people, their enthusiasm for games will not diminish. Just look at the number of people that play pirated stand-alone game discs in the country!

“If just a small proportion of these people start to play online games, this industry can immediately be turned into a cornucopia.”

Jack sighed after registering Jasper’s words. “Mr. Laine, although I have my own opinions on this, your strategies has never once gone wrong. Therefore, I’m

willing to try it out. Even so, I've never even heard of this company and this game. Shouldn't we develop one ourselves?" He asked.

"If you've heard of this game, it would mean that it's already popular. If that was the case, there would be no room for us to profit. Don't worry about the choice of game. If we manage to bring it back to Somerland, we will definitely open up the entire online gaming market.

"Just imagine, in a few years time, it will be beginning of the reign of online games within the country, and it will be you, Jack Tanner, who had led the industry. Isn't that quite the proposition?" Jasper said with a chuckle as he patted Jack on his shoulder.

Jack's eyes shone in excitement. "In that case, what was the purpose of me contacting them before this? Was it to obtain the agency rights?" He asked.

"I assigned you the task of buying over all the copyright and developmental rights of this game. If it's necessary, you can recruit the entire project team," Jasper said. His words came as a shock to Jack.

Although Midas Company would be the largest game manufacturer in Coreana, the online games that they produced would all perform poorly in Somerland except for "United Legends". Furthermore, a small market like Coreana did not deserve Jasper's attention.

In his past life, Senator Agency and Midas Company had both been involved in a lawsuit that lasted several years due to the copyright issue of "United Legends". Finally, Senator Agency obtained a full acquisition of Midas Company in a fit of rage.

It seemed like a huge deal then, but with his knowledge of the future, Jasper knew that this deal was not exactly a bargain.

Furthermore, the management of Midas Company was really underwhelming. The European server leak caused the number of private servers to ramp up.

Later on, there had even been jokes about the official server updates consisting of content copied from the private servers.

“Mr. Laine, this must all be rather pricey. Are they really willing to sell it to us?” Jack asked. There was an awkward expression etched across his face.

“Money isn’t a problem. As long as it’s within a reasonable range, I’ll give you sufficient authority to purchase it. The beta testing results of “United Legends” haven’t exactly been satisfactory in Coreana, so you must seize this opportunity. Buy over everything that is within your power.”

“It’s evidently a difficult task, but why would I bother to call you over if the task wasn’t difficult?”

Jack nodded at Jasper’s words. “Alright, I’ll head back and analyze this information, and I’ll try contacting them in the afternoon,” he replied intently.

After watching Jack leave the room, Jasper’s confidence bloomed.

Was “United Legends” an extremely spectacular game?

In truth, that was not the case.

However, “United Legends” was exactly what they needed right now. It had the potential to become a legend in the online gaming industry in Somerland if it was developed during this exact period of time.

The wealthiest man in the country had generated his wealth through an online game. He could earn billions in profit every year.

Life at the Top Chapter 665

Something like this could only happen in the early 2000s, and it was only possible in Somerland.

Julian came into the room to give Jasper a reminder. "Jasper, it's about time to sign the contract with Sentel Corporation. Your appointment is coming up soon," he said, instantly interrupting Jasper's train of thought.

Jasper patted his forehead, grabbed his coat and left the room. "Should I hire an assistant? You shouldn't be carrying out these duties all the time," he said.

Julian scratched his head and replied, "I can carry out simple tasks, but I may not be able to handle it once your work gets more complicated."

"Let's discuss again when that happens," Jasper said with a chuckle.

He was yet to decide on a management team at the investment company. Therefore, Jasper was not in the mood to recruit a secretary for himself either.

After returning to Sentel Corporation, the secretary led Jasper to a small meeting room.

"Please wait for a moment, Mr. Laine. The person in charge of signing the contract on our side will be here very soon," the secretary said politely. After serving him some tea, the secretary left the room.

After that, Jasper waited for twenty whole minutes.

It seemed like nobody intended to open the tightly shut door. A slight frown formed across Jasper's face.

It was quite unusual for a formal contemporary company like Sentel Corporation to make such a rookie mistake as to leave a client that they were about to sign a contract with alone in a meeting room for half an hour.

If this was not a mistake, then they it was likely that there was a problem with the contract on their part.

Just as Jasper was about to lose his patience, the door suddenly opened.

Jasper's eyes lit up upon catching sight of the person that entered the room.

Sentel Corporation was indeed one of the top 500 companies worldwide. Even the person in charge of signing the contract was gorgeous.

"Excuse me, Mr. Laine. I was late because of some work issues," Sylphie Lang bowed and apologized sincerely upon entering the room.

"Beautiful women deserve special treatment. Waiting half an hour is nothing much if it means that I get to meet a gorgeous lady like you," Jasper chuckled.

The polite smile on Sylphie's face remained unchanged after she registered what he said. Nevertheless, her impression of Jasper declined greatly.

What kind of preferences did her best friend have? Why did she choose to work with such a snake oil salesman?

"Alright, can we start signing yet?" Jasper asked. Sylphie, who had expected him to flirt with her, was slightly taken aback.

Sylphie felt that Jasper was acting unconventionally. Since he started off the conversation so smoothly, she had expected him to ask her some personal questions or even request her contact number.

"Excuse me."

Jasper did not know Sylphie's name. It was impolite to call her "Miss", so he could only give call out to her with a neutral phrase.

"Ah, I'm sorry. I zoned out," Sylphie said awkwardly.

She had not experienced these emotions in many years.

Such emotions did not go hand-in-hand with the elite education that she had received for more than two decades.

"It's alright. Shall we sign the contract?" Jasper asked in an even tone.

Sylphie pulled out the contract from a folder. She gritted her teeth in anger.

This Somerlander was despicable. Was he in a rush to go home? Why did he keep urging her to sign the document?

Right then, someone kicked open the door of the meeting room.

Life at the Top Chapter 666

“Mr. Hampton, come in and look at this at once! The contract that will cause serious harm to the interests of the company is being signed over here just like I told you!”

Jonathan Lang’s voice rang out from the entrance.

As soon as he finished speaking, a large group of people barged into the meeting room.

Everyone immediately looked at Jasper, who was suspected of colluding with members of the company in order to undermine them.

Conversely, nobody paid attention to Sylphie, who stood with her back facing the door.

Jasper did not expect this sudden incident at all.

He raised his eyes. He instantly understood that Jonathan was behind everything once he met his vicious, but joyous gaze.

Meeting Jasper’s gaze, Jonathan spoke up with a cheerful expression etched across his face. “Jasper Laine, how dare you lie to me and tell me that you don’t know Ms. Sylphie? If you don’t know her, why would she stand up for you?” He questioned.

“I’ll make you pay for lying to me!”

“Don’t assume that you can disregard me just because you have Ms. Sylphie on your side. Today, I’ll show you that one sentence from me can bring your wonderful deal crashing down!”

“Why are you so concerned about the relationship between Sylphie Lang and me? I have to wonder, what’s the relationship between the two of you?” Jasper asked calmly.

Jonathan was taken aback by Jasper’s question. He soon realized that everyone else from the company was also attentively waiting his reply.

Right then, a thought surged into his heart and pervaded his mind.

If he told everyone that he was Ms. Sylphie’s boyfriend, given her proud and haughty personality, it was likely that Ms. Sylphie would not refute him or clarify the truth behind the matter.

It was even possible that the public clamor would confound things such that even Ms. Sylphie would gradually loosen up over time.

This thought spread through his mind like parasitic vines. Excitement bloomed within him at once.

“Hmph, my relationship with Sylphie is beyond your imagination. It’s just that we’ve never gone public about it!” Jonathan said loudly.

After he spoke, everyone stared at him in shock. Minister Hampton, who had been acting all high and mighty just a moment ago, looked at him in disbelief as well.

Initially, Jonathan Lang was simply Emerson Lang’s nephew. Although Emerson was the group president, at the end of the day, he was still just a high-ranking employee. Having said that, things would take an interesting turn if Jonathan and Ms. Sylphie turned out to be dating.

Could Jonathan Lang become the future son-in-law of Sentel Corporation?

The shock and reverence in everyone’s gazes caused an intense sense of pride to wash over Jonathan.

Right then, Jonathan felt like he had really become the son-in-law of Sentel Corporation. He pointed a finger at Jasper and spoke arrogantly, “He’s the one who has colluded with executive members of the company. He’s trying to buy the patent at a low price. Seize him right now!”

“Is this how Sentel Corporation treats its clients?” Jasper shouted out suddenly. He faced the large group of people led by Mr. Hampton without a trace of fear.

“I have reached an agreement with Mr. Emerson, and I have signed a contract of intent as well. I have also paid a deposit of 10 million US dollars to Sentel Corporation.

“It’s now time for us to sign the formal agreement, but you’re spouting ridiculous nonsense about internal and external collusion. Is Sentel Corporation not afraid that they will become a laughing stock after this news gets out?”

Mr. Hampton furrowed his brows as soon as Jasper finished speaking.

That was because Jasper’s argument had hit the nail right on the head.

For a multinational company like Sentel Corporation, they did not really care if they earned 10 million or 100 million US dollars.

They only truly cared about the issue of creditability.

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If new about this got out, Sentel Corporation’s reputation would be tainted.

A major incident like this would cause the executives to be outraged.

“That’s bullsh*t!” Jonathan yelled out in anger once he realized that Jasper was about to make his way out of the trap that he had tried so hard to set up.

“The patent for the MP3 is worth at least 50 million US dollars. You’re buying it at a price of 20 million US dollars. What is this if it isn’t a collusion between internal staff and an outsider?”

Jasper glanced at Jonathan and replied in a calm and collected voice. “I discussed this deal with your uncle, Mr. Emerson Lang. Do you mean to say that your uncle is the person that is colluding with me?”

Jonathan’s expression changed. Although he wanted to put an end to Jasper Laine, that did not mean that he dared to involve his uncle in the matter.

“Of course, my uncle wouldn’t collude with a figure of low importance like you. You must have deceived him with your sly words!” Jonathan yelled. He glared at Jasper with a sneer spread across his face.

“Furthermore, you can’t change the fact that you bought a patent that is worth 50 million US dollars at the price of 20 million US dollars regardless of the excuse you try to draft up. Sentel Corporation would never do business at a loss.”

Jonathan looked at Jasper proudly. “If you want to try to win a bargain, you’ll have to wait till your next life. With me around, don’t even think of taking advantage of us. People like you are always like this. You’re filthy poor, undeveloped, and completely rotten,” he shouted.

“You must apologize for insulting us,” Jasper said in an even tone.

Jonathan scoffed. Just as he was about to say something back, Jasper continued speaking, “Since you guys intend to back out on this contract, there’s nothing more I will say. I can give up on it, but you guys will have to pay me 20 million US dollars in compensation as per the conditions of the contract of intent that we’ve previously signed.

“If you refuse, I wouldn’t mind raising an international lawsuit against you.”

There was a vexed expression on Mr. Hampton’s face. First off, the group president was involved in this incident. If things went south, the company would face a huge loss.

He was simply a small department head that was in charge of overlooking issues regarding the company’s integrity. He did not dare to get involved in major issues that involved the group president and the company’s reputation.

Meanwhile, Jonathan gritted his teeth without saying a single word. He could not care about anything else right now. The only thing he knew was that he just had to destroy Jasper Laine’s deal.

Although he did not personally benefit much from this, he just wanted to see Jasper suffer.

Such was the mentality of a villain like him.

At that moment, Sylphie, whom nobody had noticed, put down the folder. She turned around to speak.

“I agreed to sign the contract.”

Sylphie Lang’s voice instantly attracted everyone’s attention.

Mr. Hampton and Jonathan widened their eyes and found themselves at a loss of words when they saw Sylphie. It was as if they had just seen a ghost.

Nobody expected the princess of Sentel Corporation to appear here.

Jonathan’s heart lurched instantly. His instincts told him that something bad was coming his way.

As expected, Sylphie's gaze landed on him immediately.

Her gaze was as icy as a glacier. It made Jonathan feel like he was in a cavern made of ice.

"Naturally, I don't have any official duties in the company. However, I will report this incident to my father. Having said that, I reckon I still have a say in a deal worth 20 million US dollars, right?"

As soon as she finished speaking, Mr. Hampton immediately nodded and backed down. "Why are you here, Ms. Sylphie? I think this is all just a misunderstanding. It's just a misunderstanding," he said.

Sylphie did not even spare a glance at Mr. Hampton, who was sweating profusely. Instead, she turned around to look at Jasper as a radiant smile formed across her lips. "There won't be a need to file for a lawsuit if we just sign the contract now, right?" She asked.

By then, Jasper had managed to get a grasp of the situation. The beautiful woman before him seemed to have a terrifying identity. There was no way she was just a simple office clerk charged with the signing of contracts.

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"Let's introduce ourselves once again. Nice to meet you, I'm Sylphie Lang. I'm Anna Law's best friend," Sylphie said, extending her hand to Jasper with a gracious demeanor.

Jasper understood everything immediately.

That was right. Only the highly-regarded princess of Sentel Corporation had the courage and ability to come up with a final decision at a time like this.

Jasper shook hands with Sylphie with a bitter smile etched across his face. "Ms. Lang, we're meeting each other under such unique circumstances," he said.

"To be honest, I only came over because I was curious about the man that managed to steal Anna Law's heart. Because of this, I had to come here under another identity. I hope you don't mind," Sylphie said sincerely.

Jasper waved his hand and replied, "It's all good, I don't mind. However, this..."

When Jasper said this, Sylphie turned around to face Mr. Hampton and the others. "What are you lot standing there for? Are my words falling on deaf ears?" She asked.

Mr. Hampton and the others left the room immediately.

"Wait right there."

Just as Jonathan, whose emotions were beyond conflicted, was about to escape the scene of the crime, Jasper stopped him from leaving.

Jonathan turned around to glare at Jasper. "What do you want?"

"Aren't you Ms. Lang's boyfriend? Weren't you extremely concerned about our relationship? Ms. Lang is here right now. Why don't you clarify things once and for all?" Jasper asked matter-of-factly.

Upon hearing what he said, Jonathan, who was already flustered, turned pale immediately.

He had been blinded by his anger earlier. He had told everyone that he was extremely close to Sylphie, and she had heard everything that he had said. He had been thinking of how to rescue the situation when Jasper Laine suddenly decided to hit him where it hurts. Jonathan was immediately overcome with an extreme sense of unease.

“Why didn’t I know that I have a boyfriend like you?” Sylphie asked in a frigid tone.

Jonathan decided to just bite the bullet. “Ms. Lang, please don’t misunderstand. I never said that I was your boyfriend...” he said awkwardly.

“You simply said that we share a close relationship, and that we’ve never told the public about it. Isn’t that right?” Sylphie interjected with a cold sneer.

Jonathan’s complexion turned ashen. He did not dare to continue trying to salvage the matter at all.

“Jonathan Lang,” Sylphie called out his name in a calm and even tone.

Jonathan shivered. He looked at Sylphie instinctively.

“I don’t want to see you anymore. Do you understand me?”

Jonathan turned as white as a sheet. He knelt down on the ground and wailed out loud. “Please forgive me, Ms. Lang. I didn’t do it intentionally. Regardless of everything else, I did it just for the benefit of the company...”

“Also,” Sylphie added, ignoring his tearful expression and wails of despair. “I wish to see you apologize for your disrespectful behavior toward Mr. Laine,” she said.

Jasper glanced at Jonathan and added in a calm voice, “I told you that you’d have to apologize for what you said to me.”

Jonathan was trembling all over as flames of fury blazed within him. At the moment, he wished that he could skin Jasper alive.

If looks could kill, Jasper would have been dead many times over.

However, Jonathan had no choice but to suppress his vicious thoughts and resentment.

Instead, he took in a deep breath and lowered his head toward Jasper. "I'm sorry," he said softly.

"I didn't hear you," Jasper remarked.

Jonathan raised his head suddenly. "I told you I'm sorry!" He roared out forcefully.

"You didn't say it with a sincere attitude," Jasper responded with an unchanging expression.

Jonathan glared at Jasper hatefully. "You b*stard, don't go overboard!"

"You'd have to apologize for what you just said as well," Jasper added calmly.

Crack, crack, crack...

Jonathan gritted his teeth in anger, the sound of his teeth grinding against each other resonated around the room.

He wanted to leave the room and slam the door shut, but Sylphie Lang's cold, piercing gaze rendered him motionless.

He knew Sylphie's attitude and temperament well. If he left like this right now, she had a hundred ways to torment him for the rest of his life. Because of this, he did not dare to take the risk of invoking her punishment.

"I'm sorry. I'm apologizing to you right now!" Jonathan said. It was useless for him to struggle, so he had no choice but to surrender to Jasper.

"Are you satisfied? If you aren't, I can make him apologize to you for the entire day," Sylphie told Jasper.

“Let him go,” Jasper said.

“Did you hear what he said? He asked you to leave,” Sylphie told Jonathan.

Feeling like a dog that was being ordered around, Jonathan clenched his fists tightly in anger. Then, he turned around and left the room without uttering a single word.

As soon as he opened the door, he ran into Emerson Lang, who had been rushing over to the meeting room.

After realizing that he had bumped into Jonathan, Emerson slapped him harshly across the face in an intense burst of rage.

Jonathan, who was yet to get recompose himself after bumping into Emerson, got hit across the face at once.

He clutched his face and stared at Emerson with bloodshot eyes. “Uncle, why did you hit me?” He shouted.

“Didn’t you report me for colluding with outsiders? Am I not allowed to hit you for that?” Emerson asked. He was so angry that he suddenly burst into laughter.

Jonathan suppressed the rage in his heart and tried to explain himself. “Uncle, I didn’t mean to do that, I...”

“That’s enough,” Emerson said coldly. He frowned and turned away from him. He did not want to spare him another glance. “From now on, don’t call me your uncle ever again. I can’t bear the weight of it any longer,” he said.

After saying this, he rushed into the meeting room without even looking back at Jonathan, who simply stared into space blankly.

When the door of the meeting room slammed shut. Jonathan could finally express his burning hatred.

He raised his hand and swiftly punched the wall. A loud sound rang out as the skin around his knuckles tore apart.

However, he could not feel the pain at all. "Jasper Laine, just you wait! Just you wait!" He roared in a low voice, his face twisted in fury.

.....

At that moment, the atmosphere in the meeting room was calm and tranquil.

"I'm so sorry, Mr. Laine. Jonathan Lang, that b*stard, caused so much trouble for the both of you, Mr. Laine and Ms. Lang."

Emerson explained. He was sweating profusely.

At the same time, Emerson casted occasional glances at Sylphie.

After all, Jasper did not mean much to Emerson. However, Sylphie Lang's attitude determined how his future would look.

As a senior executive, he would be tormented if he was involved in a dispute with the Langs' darling daughter.

"Mr. Emerson, I think that it is necessary for the company to reconsider Jonathan Lang's position as a branch president," Sylphie said solemnly.

Emerson immediately understood what Sylphie was implying. He nodded and said, "Yes, I agree. From this incident, I can see that his abilities are inadequate for his current position. I will consider reshuffling his work."

"That's great. You can leave now," Sylphie said.

Emerson glanced at Sylphie's expression cautiously and saw that she did not seem angry. After that, he bid the both of them farewell and left the meeting room.

After the matter ended, Sylphie handed the contract over to Jasper with a cheery smile across her face. "Let's get back to the matter that we didn't manage to finish just now," she said.

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An odd expression formed on Jasper's face after he registered her words.

No matter how he interpreted her words, they still sounded extremely misleading.

However, Jasper did not spend too much time pondering it as he swiftly signed his name on the contract. After that, he pulled out a check for 10 million US dollars and handed it to Sylphie.

"Thank you for your help, Ms. Lang. This deal wouldn't have been possible without you," Jasper said sincerely.

Without even looking at the check, Sylphie handed the folder containing the patent documents over to Jasper. "It's alright, I just did a small favor for Anna," she said with a cheery smile.

"How do you know Anna?"

"It was by sheer coincidence," Jasper said as he explained to Sylphie about how he had gotten to know Anna.

“You’re quite a bold one. Back then, Anna’s father definitely wouldn’t pay any attention to you. How dare you brag about yourself in front of him?” Sylphie said, a hint of interest in her voice.

“There’s nothing fundamentally different about the two of us. Firstly, we’re both humans. Secondly, we’re both businessmen. He’s undoubtedly a prominent businessman whereas I can only be considered a small businessman, however, this doesn’t mean that I can’t come up with something that he needs.

“In fact, we’re both working together happily now. We both take what we need, and we mutually benefit from our collaborative work,” Jasper said with a smile.

Sylphie nodded in an understanding manner. “You’re different from the others. You carry yourself with confidence, and this gives you a type of charisma that can’t be found in ordinary people,” she said.

“Is that a compliment?” Jasper asked.

“Of course,” Sylphie said with a faint smile.

Jasper bid Sylphie farewell after chatting with her for around half an hour. It was almost time for them to get off work.

Sylphie did not ask him to stay either. She simply watched him leave after they exchanged their contact numbers.

After Jasper left, Sylphie took out her phone and made a call.

“Anna Law, I met your man today.”

“I knew you couldn’t resist. How is he? He’s not bad, right?” Anna’s voice rang out from the other end of the phone.

Leaning comfortably on the chair, Sylphie casually played with the check in her hand. She suddenly chuckled after looking at the intricate scrawl of Jasper's signature on the check.

"Why are you laughing?" Anna asked curiously.

"Its' nothing. I just thought of something interesting."

Anna immediately became alert. "I took a fancy to him first, so don't snatch him from me. I already have a headache right now," she said.

"Oh, is the high and mighty Ms. Law afraid that someone will steal her man? Don't worry, I'm not interested in men or women. I just want to focus on my career."

...

After leaving Sentel Corporation, Jasper went to look for Damond Golding once again. He then obtained the authorization certificate for the patent upgrade under Damond's devious gaze.

Although there were several obstacles, everything eventually ended smoothly.

Jasper knew that it was time to return to Somerland as he held the two patent documents in his hands.

His trip to Coreana could be considered a complete success.

After returning to the hotel, Jasper and Jack both filed into the room at the same time.

"How were things today, Jack?"

Looking at the dark expression on Jack's face, Jasper knew that things must not have gone very smoothly.

However, Jasper had not expected him to get everything done on the first try either. Purchasing a game was different from purchasing a patent, as it involved many more moving parts. This was also the reason why Jasper had allocated this task to Jack.

In the future, Sena's main focus would be online gaming. Thus, Jack had to begin dabbling in this industry as soon as possible.

Jack let out a tired hum in response. He then sighed deeply. "After these Coreanans found out that I was from Somerland, they acted beyond haughtily. They had no sincere intention to discuss business with me. Besides suggesting a colossal price, they also proposed a whole bunch of harsh requirements," he grumbled.

"I told them that they were being insincere. Guess what they told me in response?"

"They told me that Somerland is a poor and backward country. Businessmen from Somerland are mostly scammers, and that we can't even afford their games."

Jack tugged on the tie wrapped around his collar in rage. "These Coreanans are really mad," he remarked.

Jasper laughed as he patted Jack's shoulder. "That's normal. Plenty of people from overseas still think that we are a backward and undeveloped country. Their impression of us will gradually change over time," he said.

"People will only look upon you with reverence after you grow stronger. Discrimination like this will change in the future."

Jack continued to complain distastefully, “I’ve never even been subject to such obvious discrimination during my time at Weresoft. What should we do now, Mr. Laine? Should I go there again tomorrow?”

“You need to go there again,” Jasper said, nodding his head with determination.

“The more they look down upon us, the more determined we must be to accomplish our goals. With regards to their harsh requirements, agree to them if they aren’t too unreasonable. One day, they will realize how powerful we are.”

Jack nodded and said, “Alright, I’ll approach them again tomorrow. However, today hasn’t been completely fruitless either. At the very least, they seem to have the intention of selling the game. They’re just yet to find a suitable buyer.”

“If you manage to buy the game, don’t forget about the agency rights as the agency rights are still firmly in their hands. This means we will be subject to their control regarding the production of future game version updates. Most importantly, they will definitely try to compete with us for it after they witness the huge profitability within Somerland.

“Therefore, be sure to purchase this game in its entirety. This is an important task, and it must be handled properly. I can only leave it to you.”

“Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. I will definitely complete this task,” Jack reaffirmed solemnly in response to hearing Jasper’s trust in him.

“That’s good. I’ll be returning to Somerland tomorrow. Stay here and deal with this matter, and come back after the deal has been completed,” Jasper said.

...

Jasper’s current main priority was to finalize the MP3 production line, and then start the production and sales in Somerland.

After handing all the remaining tasks to Jack, Jasper took a flight back to Somerland in the afternoon of the next day.

While Jasper boarded the plane, Jonathan Lang walked out of the company despondently.

Half an hour earlier, he had received a notification from the company. He had been relieved from his position as the branch president, and would be transferred to another company as a sales manager.

The drastic demotion in his career caused his resentment toward Jasper to grow even stronger.

As soon as Jonathan got in the car and left the company, he received a phone call from one of his close associates.

“Boss, I found out that Jasper Laine has already taken a plane back to Somerland. I’ve also found all the information regarding his company over there. Shall I send it to you later?”

Jonathan’s expression grew lighter after receiving the news. “Send it to me. Heh, does he think that I won’t be able to do anything to him after he goes back to Somerland? There are plenty of people in that country who want to get on my good side. I can put an end to him by conspiring with the people there!”

Life at the Top Chapter 670

Meanwhile, Jasper had no idea that Jonathan was doing so many things behind his back.

After a four-hour flight, Jasper finally arrived at Reed City.

Upon arriving in Somerland, Jasper took in a deep breath of the air in Reed City. Although the air was not fresh, at least he was back in his home country; It still felt much better than being in a foreign place.

Reed City was located right next to Cavern City. Therefore, it benefited from Cavern City's development. Reed City would develop rapidly in the future, and it would even go on to produce 15% of the world's electronic products.

However, at that point in time, Reed City was still deserted and barren. It was a major contrast from the lively and bustling city that it would become in the future.

Julian, who had followed Jasper back, gazed at the large fields covering Reed City as he drove the rented car. "Jasper, are you really going to build the MP3 factory here?" He asked him curiously.

Jasper chuckled. "Why? Do you think that's a bad idea?"

Julian shook his head and said, "Of course I can't tell. However, this place doesn't seem very different from other places."

Jasper could not tell Julian that Reed City would become the top production hub for electronic products in Somerland, and in the world. At the peak of its powers, nine out of ten people in Reed City consisted of migrant workers.

Meanwhile, he was taking advantage of his rebirth by building the first physical factory under JW here. This was a huge bargain.

The land here would become extremely pricey in the future. However, it was now selling on a buy one, get one free basis.

When the Reed City Government discovered that he was going to invest in the city by building a factory here, they tripped over their own feet thanking him.

"I think that this area will develop greatly in the future," Jasper remarked while he stared at the barren fields outside the car window.

After arriving at the city hall, the general manager of the state-owned company responsible for land transfer came out to greet Jasper.

He greeted him extremely passionately.

“Mr. Laine, we’ve been waiting for your arrival for ages. You’re finally here,” Chad Wright said as he welcomed Jasper into his office with a smile on his face. He then served Jasper a cup of tea.

Chad’s eyes shone as he looked at Jasper. He could not help it. Although he was the general manager of the company, Reed City was still extremely underdeveloped. There was nothing that could attract the attention of investors to the city. As a result of this, the lives of the people in Reed City had not been exactly easy.

After the God of prosperity finally blessed them with the appearance of Jasper Laine, Chad naturally had to fawn over him.

“You’re being way too courteous, Mr. Wright. We’ve talked through the phone before. Have you guys come to a decision regarding the piece of land that I proposed purchasing back then?” Jasper asked with a chuckle after he sat down.

An awkward expression formed on Chad’s face. “Well, about this... you’re someone that understands how the industry works, Mr. Laine. Therefore, I’ll tell you about it directly,” he said.

After hearing Chad say this, Jasper’s smile gradually vanished.

He knew that there had to be a problem with the deal.

As he expected, Chad proceeded to tell him something that made him extremely displeased.

“Initially, we were extremely willing to sell the riverside plot that had captured your attention, but the size of land that you have requested is simply too large. We

need some time to discuss it. At first, things like this could have been disregarded as everyone had voted in favor of selling it to you.

“However, I don’t know what happened after that. After the news about the deal got out, a local company in Reed City also notified us with their intention of purchasing the same plot of land. The other company has been extremely active within the industry lately, so it’s hard for us to finalize the deal whilst ignoring them.”

Life at the Top Chapter 671

Noticing conflicted look on Chad's face, Jasper could basically guess what had happened.

"Mr. Wright, there is still plenty of empty land in Reed City. Why is it only the plot of land that I wanted to buy so high in demand right now? Furthermore, the other party only showed intentions of buying the land after they found out that I wanted to buy it as well. Is he trying to become my sworn enemy?"

Chad's expression changed drastically. "Please don't say that, Mr. Wright. It's hard for us to come to a decision on this issue as well. After all, you haven't bought that plot of land yet, Mr. Laine. Since it doesn't belong to anyone, we have no choice but to consider their request to purchase it as well."

"It seems like that person is out to end me," Jasper said in an even tone.

Chad laughed bitterly. "Mr. Laine, there are some words that only you can say. Deep down, we all know how these things are. This company is renowned within Reed City. It is also quite notorious, as they have taken out several of our previous investors," he said.

"They're snatching this plot of land away from me after discovering that I had intentions to buy it. After that, they will resell it to me at a higher price. Methods like this are indeed beyond the capabilities of ordinary people," Jasper added.

An awkward expression formed on Chad's face. "Why don't you choose another plot of land, Mr. Laine?" He asked.

Jasper shook his head, rejecting Chad's suggestion.

The plot of land that Jasper had chosen would end up becoming the most valuable part of Reed City in the future. The 1500-acre plot of land would also be enough to fully sustain the future development of the factory.

“If I have to choose another plot of land, I’d pull my investment out of Reed City altogether. After all, since they’ve taken that plot of land from me, it means they’re perfectly capable of snatching other things away from me too.”

Jasper’s words caused a troubled expression to flash across Chad’s face. He sighed heavily and said, “Mr. Laine, I really wish that I could help you on this, but I don’t have the abilities to do so. However, if you want to discuss things with the other party, I can help you contact them.”

“There’s nothing for us to discuss.”

Jasper had a calm expression on his face.

“They’re doing this with the intention to thwart me. If I discuss things with them, they’ll just ask me for money. Money didn’t just fall onto my lap, so I won’t hand it over to them just because they ask for it.”

As Jasper spoke, he walked out of the office.

Chad led Jasper downstairs awkwardly. He continued explaining and apologizing as they walked. Nevertheless, Jasper did not blame him for the matter either. As they walked, he was already considering the possibility of setting up the factory in Nauritus City.

After all, nobody could pose a threat to him over there, right?

Just as Jasper was about to get in the car upon arriving downstairs, a black Mercedes drove up to them.

The car window rolled down to reveal the face of a young man. “You’re that investor from out of town, right? It must have taken you some time to come here.

Why are you in such a rush to leave? You are yet to experience the burning passion of those from Reed City,” he said in a mocking tone.

Upon catching sight of the man, Chad, who was standing beside Jasper, immediately lowered his voice. “Mr. Laine, he’s the person in charge of that company. His name is Marcus Coine. I have no idea how he learned of your arrival,” he whispered.

After hearing Chad’s explanation, Jasper spoke to Marcus in a calm tone, “I’ve gone through a rather profound experience.”

Marcus opened the car door and got out. He chuckled in response. “You sound like you aren’t too happy about things. Why is that? Are you not investing in Reed City anymore, Big Boss?” He asked.

“Since there are people that won’t let me in, I have no choice but to leave,” Jasper replied.

Marcus scoffed loudly. “What an exaggeration. It’s just a plot of land, isn’t it? I heard that you intend to buy the 1500-acre plot of land for 200 million dollars. It isn’t much, but it isn’t a sum of money to scoff at either. Why don’t you pay a little more? You should treat poor people like us to some good food while you’re at it,” he said.

“That’s just the way it works. People that are overly stingy cannot survive in Reed City, Big Boss. You can offend anyone here but me. If you do something that I don’t like, I’ll send you back to where you came from. Do you understand?”

Life at the Top Chapter 672

Marcus Coine’s words reflected his extreme arrogance.

Even Chad frowned after listening to what he had said.

“Mr. Wright, I’ve changed my mind.”

Jasper turned around and told Chad.

Just as Chad’s expression morphed into one of confusion, Jasper spoke in a calm and collected tone, “JW Electronics would like purchase the plot of land as soon as possible. If someone wants to snatch it from us then let’s have auction to decide who gets to keep it,” he said

Jasper suddenly understood something from Marcus Coine’s proud and arrogant attitude.

At this point in time, there were still plenty of people like him in the country.

Most of them relied on their parents’ connections to build up sizeable influence in their localities. However, they chose not to follow the same paths as their parents.

The only way for people like these to make it big was through running businesses. After all, most of them were already used to being a dominant force within the local district due to their parents’ influence.

Marcus Coine thought of Reed City as his territory. Hence, anyone who wanted to enter the city had to show their respect to him by providing him with some benefits.

Reed City had Marcus Coine, but it was very likely that there were people like Marcus in other districts as well.

Because of this, Jasper could not just keep giving in to them.

He needed to do something so that those who viewed JW as an easy target would learn to take a good look at themselves before acting out of order!

As soon as Jasper finished speaking, Marcus burst out into laughter. Chad was yet to even come up with a response.

“Hahaha, nobody has dared to go against me in Reed City for many years. It seems like someone who isn’t afraid of death is here today.”

Marcus cast a sideways glance at Jasper. His gaze was dripping with sarcasm and mockery. “I know you’re from the Southeast Province, Laine. How do I describe that place? Although there are a few presentable families over there, they are still nothing compared to the families here,” he drawled.

“If you think that you are capable of going against me just because you’re a somebody over there, you’ll die a painful death.

“Listen to my advice. You can either go back to where you came from, or pay some respect to me till I’m satisfied with your performance. All you need is a nod of my head, and you won’t face any trouble even if you tear down half of Reed City.”

Jasper looked at Marcus with an unchanging expression. “In that case, how much respect will you need to be satisfied, Mr. Coine?” He asked.

Marcus rubbed his thumb against his index and middle fingers nonchalantly. He chuckled and said, “I won’t ask for a lot. I’ll make it simple. You just need to prepare a sum equal to the amount that you spent on buying that plot of land.”

“Is 200 million dollars enough?” Jasper asked knowingly.

“We’re all grown men. You don’t have to say things so forwardly,” Marcus said.

“Your planning is simply immaculate, Mr. Coine. You simply wagged your fingers three times, and now you intend to take 200 million dollars from my pocket. You earn money at a rate that far surpasses me,” Jasper said.

Marcus guffawed loudly. “You have your ways, and I do too. Just consider it a toll fee, but it’s not like you’ll walk away with nothing either. As long as you pay me this sum of money, I’ll look after your factory in the future. No one from Reed City will dare cause you any trouble,” he said.

“So, you mean to say that if I don’t pay you this sum of money, this factory will have nothing to do with you, and people will come to wreak havoc on my property every day. Am I right?” Jasper asked.

Marcus cackled. “Not bad at all. It’s no wonder that you own so many assets at such a young age. You pick up things quickly. You seem like a smart person as well, so I suppose that you know what decision to make. It’s better to ward off a disaster by making a payment instead of begging for mercy in front of me after going through a ton of hardship, right?”

“That sounds very reasonable,” Jasper said.

Joy flashed across Marcus’s face. He was just about to say something when Jasper spoke again.

“Forget 200 million dollars, I won’t even give you two cents.”

Jasper’s expression remained impassive. It seemed like he did not notice the disgruntled look on Marcus’s face. “If you want money, earn it through your own efforts. Of course, it doesn’t matter to me if you prefer to do shady activities, as everyone still needs to earn a living. However, don’t try your filthy tricks on me. I will never compromise on any attempts at extortion. Understood?”

Marcus’s expression darkened. He stared at Jasper coldly and blurted out, “Were you mocking me just now?”

“I just wanted to gain a thorough understand of the type of person that you are,” Jasper said calmly.

“Haha!” Marcus let out a bark of angry laughter. He raised his finger and pointed at the tip of Jasper’s nose. “Well, since you’re so adamant on going against me, let’s just wait and see what’ll happen next,” he said.

“Let me give you a reminder, Laine. You’re just an outsider here. You want to go against me? Why don’t you take a good look at yourself first? Do you really think that you’re invincible just because you have some money?”

Jasper shrugged and said, “You’re right, there’s nothing impressive about having money. However, you’re angry at me because you’re ashamed that you can’t get your hands on my money. Isn’t that even more pathetic?”

Marcus gritted his teeth angrily. At that moment, he realized what a smooth talker the young man standing before him was.

Even so, Marcus suppressed his rage and said, “Little b*stard, a sharp tongue is nothing to be proud of. I’ve said what I wanted to say today. If you manage to purchase that 1500-acre plot of land, I’ll adopt your last name!

“Just wait and see!”

Marcus blurted out in anger. After that, he turned around and left.

After watching the Mercedes fade into the distance, Jasper turned around to face Cha, who was smiling at him bitterly. “Mr. Wright, I would like you to pay extra attention to the auction. Please resolve it as soon as possible,” he said.

“An auction is a very simple affair as I’ll simply report to my higher-ups. I don’t think there’ll be any problems on that regards. It can even be held tomorrow. However, Marcus Coine is a tough one to handle, Mr. Laine,” Chad explained immediately.

After making sure that there was no one around them, Chad lowered his voice as he spoke to Jasper. “Marcus Coine’s grandfather is a respected senior from the older generation that has lived through the war. He retired a few years ago.

“Although that old man is now in his twilight years, he has been managing Reed City for decades. He has the ultimate say when it comes to everything that happens in Reed City.”

Chad was an official from the city government, so it was risky for him to reveal so much insider information to Jasper since his job was at stake.

Jasper nodded solemnly. “Mr. Wright, thank you for your good-hearted warning. However, I don’t intend to concede to him. I don’t believe that people will stir up trouble for me just for running a legal business in Reed City. How could that be the case?” He questioned.

“That old man has lived through difficult times. He shouldn’t want to see his grandson behave in such a manner.”

Chad sighed in exasperation as it seemed impossible to convince Jasper otherwise. Thus, he did not say anything more.

He felt that Jasper was being way too naive.

Not everyone in the world was followed such ideal principles.

When people grow old, isn’t it their only wish for their children and grandchildren to live safely and prosperously?

“Alright, we’ll hold the auction tomorrow,” Chad said.

Life at the Top Chapter 673

On the way back to the hotel, Julian turned to look at Jasper. He asked while waiting for the traffic light to turn green, “Should we ask Henry for help on this, Jasper?”

Jasper was stunned. “Why would I do that? He’s busy working on the amusement park project every day. The fact that he’s actually putting his mind to work is rare enough, so I don’t want him to lose focus.”

Julian scratched his head. “I just think it’s best to have a trust-fund child deal with other trust-fund children like Marcus. I’m sure Henry’s got a repertoire of methods to deal with him.”

Jasper smiled. “Why bother? Afraid that I’d lose to him?”

Julian smiled dumbly, “Of course not, Jasper, there’s no way you’d lose. I just don’t like Marcus’ attitude, and I thought that Henry would have a lot of fun stepping over him.”

“Henry won’t be to do anything even if he did come over. After all, Marcus’ family has been doing business in Reed City for decades, their influence here has already surpassed that of any other family.

“This is something that we’ve actually got to deal with ourselves.”

Julian was slightly confused as to what Jasper meant by this, but he did not think too deep much about it. “I don’t understand things like this, but if they’re going to play dirty tricks, I’ll give them a good beating.”

...

Members of Reed City's upper-class did not seem to care about the fact that Jasper had come to invest in the City.

After all, Jasper's fame was mainly centered around the Southeast Province, and Reed City was thousands of kilometers away. It was unlikely that stories of Jasper's exploits had made their way here.

Even so, the fact that someone dared to oppose Marcus had indeed spread like wildfire throughout the city.

Reed City could be considered as Marcus' territory, and almost no one dared to offend him. People would pay others to keep their mouths shut if it meant that Marcus would not look in their direction.

This was the first time in many years that someone had dared to stand up against Marcus.

This news had caused an uproar among Reed City's upper-class.

After some investigation, they discovered that Jasper was a businessman from the Southeast Province and had come to Reed City to invest in a plot of land so he could build a factory.

When it came to the conflict between Marcus and Jasper, no one bothered placing bets on the latter.

At that moment, Jasper had received Chad's office notice at the hotel.

The auction would begin at eight tomorrow morning in the City Hall's meeting room.

It was natural that the City Government did not want to make the reality of the situation so blatant, so they also called in two other real estate companies to join the bid, for formality's sake.

Despite this, everyone knew that the main competition was between Jasper's JW Electronics and Marcus' Fortune Co., Ltd.

At the same time, in a hotel's deluxe suite, Marcus was busy smoking and playing poker with a few of his friends when he received the notice.

Smoke crept around the room and Marcus squinted as the smoke irritated his eyes. He took a look at his cards and folded upon seeing that he had a bad hand. Marcus growled, "Sigh. Seriously guys, it's almost like my name doesn't hold the same power here in Reed City anymore."

The three other young men playing with him had were also trust-fund children like Marcus. Their fathers and grandfathers were friends with Marcus' and they were also business partners that had worked together for years.

Their relationship was an extension of their elders and came purely from personal connections. It was a tight-knit group made out of people who shared a common interest.

The man sitting opposite Marcus was around one hundred and ninety centimeters tall, a broad and sturdy man who went by the name Ned Adkins. Ned snickered, causing a fierce smile to appear on his tanned and firm face.

Ned lazily folded his cards next. "It's not like this is the first time we're dealing with stupid outsiders. Just tell us if you need money, or tell us how we can help.

"All of us have shares in your company. Your problem is our problem too."

Life at the Top Chapter 674

Marcus's expression finally brightened, and he glanced at Ned before reprimanding him jokingly, "Stop fooling around. I've done some background checks on this Jasper, he's not like other outsiders. He's got quite a name over in the Southeast Province.

"Not to mention, he did come here legally to invest our land. He's registered with the officials in the City Government too. He's not like the other outsiders who came here for small business. I'm going to have to explain to the City Government if something happens to him."

Ned pursed his lips disdainfully. His family was in the pawning industry, and his pawning company was currently the largest in all of Reed City. In this city, the other businessmen tended to treat this strong man with respect.

As far as he was concerned, there was nothing in the world that his fists could not settle. If such a thing existed, then a machete would suffice.

Even bones turned soft upon contact with a blade.

"I've got to go to the auction tomorrow. I have to at least try to get a feel of how this Jasper guy is. Come with me tomorrow, Ned."

A new round was dealt as Marcus folded again.

"A Royal Flush, I win. Thanks for folding, Mr. Coine. Hahaha."

"F*ck!"

...

It was seven-fifty the following morning when Jasper arrived at the City Hall's meeting room with Julian in tow.

Chad was the host of this meeting, but he courteously introduced Jasper to a middle-aged and sharp-looking man.

"Mr. Laine, this is Mr. Powers. Our City Government's best secretary."

When Chad introduced them, Jasper and Mr. Powers shook hands.

"Nice to meet you, Mr. Powers."

Mr. Powers smiled in a friendly manner and replied, "Nice to meet you too, Mr. Laine. I'm here on behalf of the City Government to oversee this auction."

"It sure isn't easy investing in Reed City, Mr. Powers," Jasper commented intently.

Mr. Powers chuckled. "The higher-ups told me before I came here that good things come to those who persevere. People tend to have their own personal view on how important certain events are."

Jasper did not seem too elated at Mr. Powers' stance and he merely replied, "We can only hope that this is the case."

Mr. Powers did not prompt him any further upon seeing that Jasper was unwilling to continue the conversation. After all, they were smart people, and Jasper could easily tell that the City Government was trying to use Jasper to attack Marcus and his group of friends.

Jasper's position on this was clear as well. 'You can use me, but it will come with a price. I, Mr. Laine, am not an idiot. What makes you think I'd come all the way to Reed City just so you can use me?'

“Oh, and Mr. Powers?”

Jasper suddenly remembered something and turned around to call out just before they entered the meeting room together.

Mr. Powers stopped walking and turned to look at Jasper.

Smiling, Jasper stated, “I plan to build an electronics factory on this 1500 acres of land. I’m planning to invest a total of 500-700 million in it. I’ve already contacted the shipping companies, and the infrastructure is on its way over. It should arrive in ten to fifteen days.”

“For a factory that spans 1500 acres of land, a total investment of 500-700 million would amount to at least 200 million in tax a year, and would also result in local revenue of around 3 billion Somer Dollars.”

“The Southeast Province has filed quite a few complaints about this, claiming that I’m helping outsiders instead of benefitting my homeland. In other words, I don’t care as much about Reed City as you people think.”

Life at the Top Chapter 675

Mr. Powers’ expression changed greatly at Jasper’s carefree words.

Jasper had only said that he wanted to buy an industrial plot of land, but he never said anything about building a factory.

The government of Reed City had also done a background check on Jasper.

They knew that Jasper mainly did real estate and financial trades. He had never once taken part in any construction of industrial factories.

That was why the city government believed that Jasper had come to buy an industrial plot of land just to wait for its value to appreciate or something else. They never expected that it was to build a factory.

While the government of Reed City did value the amount Jasper was willing to invest, it had now become a business transaction of 200 million Somer Dollars. Reed City needed funds to further develop as well.

They just did not expect such a large amount.

To have Jasper provide such news out of the blue, Mr. Powers knew that he had to make the proper preparations now.

He was well aware that if Jasper's words came true, then a total investment of at least 700 million on a plot of land and an electronics factory in Reed City would be an extremely important business.

Ignoring the annual tax received, the most important part of this transaction would be the increased quota for jobs, and in extension, the increased businesses in surrounding areas.

It was normal to have 5,000 to 6,000 workers per factory.

Open positions for 5,000 to 6,000 workers also meant an exponential increase in profits of the food and beverage, transportation, and shopping industries around the area.

Not to mention that with such a huge factory, one would always need to buy components. That meant that the upstream and downstream companies would also shift closer to their core clients to decrease shipping and production costs.

The chain reaction caused by Jasper's factory would easily turn it into an important weight that would greatly affect Reed City's future developments.

“Mr. Laine, this is something we had no prior knowledge of. Please wait for a moment, I’ll immediately report this to them,” Mr. Powers spoke sternly.

Jasper waved him off with a smile. “Go ahead, Mr. Powers. I’m still discussing it with a few other cities as well, so take your time.”

Despite knowing that Jasper was trying to raise the price, Mr. Powers had no other choice but to smile. “There’s no reason to search anywhere else, Mr. Laine, since you’re already here and you like this plot of land. Just give me a bit of time. I promise to give you a satisfactory reply.’

Jasper smiled and glanced at the meeting room. “Then could you pass a word for me too, Mr. Powers?”

“Do tell, Mr. Laine,” Mr. Powers spoke politely.

“I came to Reed City to invest, and while I did come to make money, I’m also very willing to help move the economic development along. I came to make legal money through legal means, not to be treated unjustly and forced to deal with someone else’s attitude.”

With that, Jasper then smiled at Mr. Powers who looked rather embarrassed. “Don’t let me bother you further, Mr. Powers. I’ll be going in now.”

With that, Jasper turned and walked carefreely with Julian in tow.

Mr. Powers felt despondent as he watched Jasper leave.

Chad was terrified that Mr. Powers would end up disliking Jasper because of this and spoke carefully, “About that, Mr. Powers, I was there when Marcus sought him out yesterday. To be honest, I’d have left long ago if I were in his shoes. It’s understandable why he’s angry.”

Mr. Powers nodded slowly. "Alright. I'll report this to the higher-ups first while you go and talk to him. Keep him here and interested. The higher-ups will be very interested in this."

Marcus had yet to arrive when Jasper did, but the two other real estate companies called over for formality's sake had already sent their representatives over. These representatives were the ones currently glaring at Jasper.

As far as they were concerned, Jasper was just an outsider Marcus was bound to kick out of Reed City. He was not worth their time to socialize and acquaint themselves with.

Life at the Top Chapter 676

Jasper was carefree as well and took a seat on the chair with the name 'JW Electronics' written behind it. He took a sip of the hot coffee a staff member brought over.

By then, Chad had arrived as well.

Seeing Chad, Jasper suddenly spoke, "Mr. Wright, I heard that Reed City used to be making losses every year until you arrived. You managed to turn that loss into profit and have become quite the taxpayer here in Reed City now, haven't you?"

Chad waved him off and smiled. "That's nothing. It's just a small achievement, incomparable to the work you've done at such a young age, Mr, Laine."

Chad was not being humble, for there really was not another person within the country who could compare to Jasper's achievements.

The man was an entrepreneur who made tens of billions in a year.

How could anyone compare?

Yet Jasper merely spoke, "I beg to disagree. I know that the biggest problem with your industries here is with the people. It's too complex with people belonging to different groups and whatnot. They transferred you here so that you could save the situation because the person before you beat up his subordinate and he ended up in the ICU, correct?"

Those were all jokes and rumors that had spread in Reed City. While there were exaggerated bits, they were not complete lies.

Chad smiled. "It's all in the past now. It wasn't that severe when it happened."

“You came here to save the situation, yet you managed to solve a problem no one could resolve. I think that speaks volumes of your strength, Mr. Wright.”

Finally hearing the intent tone in Jasper’s words, Chad prodded. “You seem to have different intentions in mind, Mr. Laine?”

Jasper smiled. “My investing company is in need of a Director of Human Resources. They’ll mainly be in charge of internal management and human resources.

“I think that you’re very suited for the role, seeing as how you managed to give order to a state business that was riddled with loopholes and turned losses into profits.”

Chad’s expression shifted.

He was still considered a middle class man within the system. While there were few chances for promotions, he was technically not someone’s employee. As such, he was unwilling to have to work under anyone, even if it was Jasper.

Realizing that Chad wanted to reject him, Jasper interrupted, “Don’t be so quick to reject me, Mr. Wright. There’s only so far you can go while working for Reed City State Funds Co., Ltd. Maybe you’d get to take another half-step forward, but you’ll still be confined within Reed City.

“My investing company currently has business involving financial investments, venture capital and angel funds, the real estate industry, the electronic equipment manufacturing industry, the entertainment industry, and the internet industry. It’s a company now, but it’s only a matter of time before I expand it into a group, and finally, a consortium.

“Won’t you be interested in walking out of Reed City and into the entire country before your eyes, Mr. Wright? Exploring the world and its benefits?”

Clapping Chad on the shoulder, Jasper smiled at the shine in the man's eyes. "As for benefits and salary, it'll be ten times what you earn now once you start. Perhaps even 100 times that in the future. As a member of the company's core leaders, you'll even be paid option dividends.

"Frankly speaking, instead of me asking you to work for me, I'd like to think of this as a chance for you to change your life."

Chad flushed, but he forced down his desire with rationality. Smiling bitterly, he spoke, "You really are a professional negotiator, Mr. Laine."

Jasper chuckled. "You don't have to give me a reply now. Take your time and think about it. I'll be staying here in Reed City for another few days. I hope that you'll leave with me when the time comes."

Chad nodded. He was about to speak when the meeting room doors were pushed open.

They heard the man before they could see him.

"Hahaha. What a crowd, is the outsider here yet? We've got to take good care of someone who's visiting our Reed City. It'd be a shame if we scared him to death."

Life at the Top Chapter 677

Marcus strutted into the room arrogantly with a heavily tanned man next to him who was named Ned.

The two entered the room and their eyes immediately fell on Jasper.

Seeing how calm Jasper looked while sitting, Marcus snickered and walked over to him. Marcus raised his hand to knock on the table before Jasper as he spoke,

“I heard that you paid a big amount just to have this bidding meeting here with me, Mr. Laine? Is there even a point to this?”

“If I want you to have it, it’ll easily be yours. But if I don’t want you to have it, you can spend as much money as you want and all you’ll be getting is trash.”

Jasper looked at Marcus and spoke, “Oh? Now I’m curious how exactly you consider 1,500 acres of land trash, Mr. Coine.”

Ned scoffed beside him. “Are you actually stupid or are you just pretending to be stupid, outsider?”

“Without Mr. Coine giving the red light, it doesn’t matter if you’ve bought it or not. There’ll be people troubling you every day and you’ll have no other choice but to leave it empty in the end.”

“Oh right, let me introduce myself. I’m Ned, the owner of Ned’s Pawn Shop. If you think that you can’t take it anymore and want to pawn the land off, I promise I’ll give you a good price. Haha.”

Ned was tall and broad, and his loud laughs resonated around the room deafeningly.

Jasper furrowed his brows slightly. “Could you laugh softer? You’re a little noisy.”

Ned glared at Jasper fiercely. “Did you just say that I’m noisy? Do you want to die?”

At that moment, Julian, who had been standing behind Jasper all this while, stepped forward. From his stance, it was evident that he would forcefully hold down the 190cm-tall Ned if he even showed a sign of starting a fight.

Ned scoffed. “What’s this? You think because you have a bodyguard following you around that it makes you better than all of us? How dare you pick a fight with me?”

Seeing how the scene was beginning to get out of hand, Chad quickly stood up and smiled apologetically. "Mr. Adkins, Mr. Coine, please calm down. This is the city hall's meeting room, after all. The bid will begin soon. It'll look bad on all of us if someone were to get hurt now."

Marcus gave a carefree smile and replied, "Fine. So you're not completely stupid, Wright. I'll let him go since you asked."

With that, Marcus raised his hand to point at Jasper and spoke slowly, "You wanted this bid, so you have no one to blame when you regret it later. You're not the first to fight me for something in Reed City, so let's just take a look at who's more capable, hmm?"

With that, Marcus patted Ned and turned to the designated seats of the representatives from Reed City State Funds Co., Ltd.

Ned stared at Jasper threateningly and grinned wretchedly. He used his hand and gestured the slicing of his throat before he followed Marcus.

After all this trouble, it was finally 8:00 a.m.

Chad was the host of the bid, but he could not take the stage since Mr. Powers had not returned from reporting to the higher-ups.

News from Mr. Powers would relay the stance the city government was taking and therefore, how the bid would end. That was why Chad did not dare to start the bid when he still did not know the city government's intentions.

Thankfully, Mr. Powers did not make him wait too long for he hastily returned around five minutes past eight.

He first turned to Chad. "It's time, Mr. Wright. Please begin the bid."

Chad knew that this was Mr. Powers trying to usher him away so that he would not hear the conversation between him and Jasper.

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Chad did not mind. He knew that most of the time, knowing too much would only turn out troublesome, especially since he was not a formidable person.

Thankful, Chad quickly excused himself and walked over to the podium.

Chad then began to give an unnecessary opening speech to introduce the plot of land for formality's sake.

Meanwhile, Mr. Powers and Jasper began to chat privately between themselves below.

"Mr. Laine, the higher-ups state that as long as what you spoke of was the truth, then we're willing to provide the best discounts for you," Mr. Powers relayed.

Jasper was not surprised. It was a large investment, one every city in the country needed. Reed City's stance on the matter was rather satisfactory.

"What are the specifics?" Jasper asked.

"The tax payable for your business in Reed City for the first five years would be free for the first two, then for the following three, there'll be a 50% discount. Tax for the next five years after that will also be halved. Tax will only be paid in full after the ten-year mark. In return, Mr. Laine, you are required to employ at least 4,000 local workers," Mr. Powers explained.

"No problem. There's no way I'd look for workers from elsewhere. This is a very logical request," Jasper replied.

The duo's discussion had a great start and Mr. Powers smiled as he continued to speak, "The city government will be in charge of the traffic and road work around

your electronic equipment factory. The city government also promises at least three public transport routes to your factory.

“In the future, should Reed City begin constructing railway lines, the city government promises that your electronics factory will be our first target to consider.”

Jasper nodded expressionlessly. Pointing at Chad, he smiled. “Then comes the most important question. What about his plot of land?”

Mr. Powers’ expression turned stern. He knew that the conversation now involved the main benefit.

The current situation was that Jasper wanted the plot of land for his factory, while the city government also needed Jasper’s 600 to 700 million investment as well as occupational quotas. It was a win-win situation.

However, the issue now was that Marcus and his friends wanted to make Jasper lose money, and Jasper refused to let that happen.

Therefore, Marcus and his friends’ existence was already affecting the city government’s plan and Reed City’s development.

After a quick moment of thought, Mr. Powers clenched his jaw as he thought back to what the higher-ups had told him and he replied, “To be frank with you, Mr. Laine, the city government is on your side. After all, there’s a big problem with Fortune Co., Ltd’s internal system. We’ve actually been investigating them in secret.”

“None of that matters to me. I’m just a businessman, but Marcus seems unwilling to leave me alone. I planned to buy this plot of land with 200 million but because of them, I’m going to end up paying at least 400 to 500 million for it. Does this seem cost-effective to you at all?” Jasper spoke calmly.

In face of Jasper who was unwilling to concede, Mr. Powers felt both frustrated and exasperated. Yet such was the current situation, and finding ways to resolve this was difficult.

Not to mention that Jasper's request was indeed very rational and reasonable. The city government's dignity was on the line if anyone found out about this.

"No matter what happens at the bid today, the city government will only take 200 million from you to transfer the property to your name." Mr. Powers promised on behalf of the city government.

Jasper smiled calmly but was not surprised. Instead, he asked meaningfully, "Would the city government be interested in watching a performance, then?"

At that, Mr. Powers looked confused and shocked.

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"What are they murmuring about?"

Ned asked curiously and glared at Jasper on the other side of the meeting room. He was currently engaged in a conversation with Mr. Powers.

Marcus, who was watching the scene, forced the unease down within him and spoke aggressively, "How would I know?"

"What if they're discussing how to deal with us?" Ned suddenly asked.

Marcus' expression darkened as he growled. "Can you shut up? Why would the city government join forces with Jasper to work against us?"

Ned had a weird look on his face as he spoke. “I refuse to believe that you haven’t heard the rumors, Mr. Coine. The city government this term has already been displeased with us for a very long time. If not for the fact that both our grandfathers are alive, they’d have done something to us long ago.”

“Your grandfather hasn’t been feeling very well lately, right? While the number of people aware of this isn’t a lot, it’s not a few either.”

Marcus’ expression darkened at Ned’s words. “My grandfather is just a little sick. He’ll get better in no time. These people wouldn’t dare to attack me at such a time.”

“That doesn’t mean we don’t need to be careful around them. Look at how close Powers is with Jasper. You can’t expect me to believe that they’re not plotting together,” Ned spoke.

Marcus scoffed. “We’ll deal with it when the time comes. We’ll know if there’s anything going between them once the bid is over. Something is definitely wrong if the city government is unwilling to let us bid, or you’re just overthinking this.”

...

“Without further ado, let’s begin the bidding ceremony. We’ll be using an open-bid method this time and the four companies present are free to call out your prices as you wish. The one with the highest bid owns the land.

“We’ll be bidding on a 1,500-acre plot of industrial land by Brac County. With a starting price of 150 million, every following bid is to have an increment of five million. Please begin.”

The moment Chad finished speaking, the owners of the two other companies that came to join the bidding raised their hands.

They called for 150 million and 160 million respectively.

After that, the two representatives had done their part and now sat at the side to watch the scene unfold.

They were not disappointed. Right after the call for 160 million, Marcus knocked on the table and easily called out, "250 million."

Marcus had increased the price by 90 million in one go, exceeding Jasper and the city government's agreed-upon 200 million.

It was a simple and direct taunt.

Marcus looked at Jasper after calling out the price and snickered. "You're a wealthy man from outside Reed City who has come to invest. Even though we locals only have so much money, it's only right we put up a fight."

Without looking up at all, Jasper called his price calmly.

"600 million."

The room fell silent at such a value.

Even though there were only ten people in the meeting room altogether, clear gasps could still be heard.

"Oh!"

No one had expected Jasper to call out 600 million right off the bat.

This was 600 million, not 600 bucks.

The owners of the two real estate companies gulped.

They suddenly realized that Jasper was not picking a fight with Marcus baselessly. Jasper was a capable man.

If anything, their companies were considered large in Reed City. They were renowned wealthy men in the city as well.

However, taking 600 million out was beyond their abilities—unless they chose to sell everything they owned.

‘But who would sell everything they owned just for an industrial plot of land that cost 600 million?’

‘Only crazy people would do that.’

This spoke volumes of how far beyond their imagination Jasper’s wealth was.

Marcus’ expression darkened.

He knew that Jasper would call a price higher than his, but he had not expected 600 million right at the beginning.

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In comparison to this 600 million, his 250 million seemed like an embarrassing figure now.

He had made a fool of himself.

“F*ck!” Marcus cursed internally.

“Fight him, Mr. Coine! If that brat is so confident, then we’ll make him pay more. I’d like to see how much he can afford.” Ned was a cruel man as he urged beside Marcus.

Marcus nodded and shouted without hesitation, "800 million!"

Another gasp.

This time, everyone's gazes fell on Marcus.

Marcus' unease had now turned into pride.

"What are you being so arrogant about? Do you think you're the only rich one here? As if I'd be afraid to compete with you money-wise," Marcus sneered at Jasper.

Jasper remained calm as a smile appeared at the corner of his lips.

"Is that so? Only the future will tell, then."

Then, Jasper called out stubbornly, unwilling to back down, "900 million."

From 250 million to 600 million and then to 800 million, and now, Jasper had added another 100 million to the cost.

"He's nervous, Mr. Coine." Ned acted as if he was already victorious. "And here I wondered how capable this brat was. Turns out he's just a nobody."

Marcus scoffed. "Very well, then. We'll wring him dry."

"950 million!"

Marcus played well, assuming that Jasper's limit was one billion.

There was no way he would spend so much money for a plot of land, so Marcus decided that he would raise the price to one billion, which was Jasper's limit, before he retreated.

By doing so, Jasper would end up paying 800 million more for a 200 million plot of land.

Marcus was extremely pleased with himself.

Marcus could not help but smile at the thought of Jasper calling out one billion only to realize that Marcus would not be calling out a higher price. Oh, how delightful Jasper's expression would be then!

He looked at Jasper disdainfully and provokingly, thinking that victory was in his hands.

Yet... Jasper ignored him.

Jasper showed no sign of calling for a higher price.

Marcus began to feel frantic.

At that moment, Chad had already been waiting for a while and stated, "950 million from Fortune Co., Ltd, is there anyone willing to pay a higher price? 950 million going once!"

Jasper still showed no sign of calling out.

Marcus' smile slowly vanished.

"950 million going twice. Is there no higher bid?"

Chad's voice sounded again.

Marcus was overwhelmed with the desire to kill Chad. 'Can you f*cking talk slower?!'

However, Jasper still remained num. Marcus could not hold back anymore and turned to Jasper, saying, "What's this? Are you shy, Mr. Laine? Not that big of a deal are you now, seeing as you're shocked by just 950 million?"

In face of Marcus' horrible attempt to provoke him, Jasper merely reached for the coffee cup and took a sip. Under Mr. Powers' stunned gaze, Jasper, who was beside him, spoke calmly, "If you like this plot of land so much, Mr. Powers, then I have no other choice but to give it to you. 950 million, huh? Tsk tsk, what a large amount you're willing to pay. As expected of Reed City's young master."

At that, Marcus' expression changed drastically while Ned paled beside him as well.

"950 million, calling thrice! Sold! Congratulations, Fortune Co., Ltd, the plot of land is now yours."

Following the sound of Chad's gavel, Marcus also felt it hammer onto his heart.

The entire meeting room was in an uproar.

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Everyone had thought the bid would either end in Jasper clenching his teeth and calling out for a higher bid while Marcus watched calmly as Jasper lost a large amount of money.

Or perhaps it would end with Jasper being understanding and giving up the land to Marcus at a low price only to buy it over at a high price.

Still, the current situation was something no one had expected.

Everyone understood now as they watched Jasper show his hand.

It had been a set-up ever since the beginning, a trap where he would lure Marcus in only to end Marcus with one strike.

The owners of the two real estate companies shared a look.

They looked at each other in confusion.

The same thought appeared in their heads, 'Are all outsiders so fierce nowadays?'

Then, they looked at Marcus. Having lost the game and his dignity, Marcus resembled an aggravated lion as he suddenly shot to his feet and slammed his palm on the table before him. The impact came with a loud bang.

Following that was a roar even louder than the slam.

"How dare you trick me, Jasper?"

Jasper sat in his chair, unfazed by Marcus' roar. He spoke calmly, "What do you mean? You were the one who jumped out and challenged me for this plot of land. The bid was hosted by the city government too, so how could you accuse me of tricking you?"

Jaw clenched tight, Marcus' eyes were bloodshot. He was so infuriated he might explode.

'This is 950 million Somer Dollars!

'Almost f*cking one billion!

'This one billion hard-earned money of mine is now gone! In its place is a 1,500-acre plot of industrial land!'

The land was useless in Marcus' hands, for he had no idea nor understanding of operating a factory.

What enraged him more was how he had stepped right into Jasper's trap.

This had made Marcus extremely uncomfortable, as business for him had always been smooth-sailing.

In comparison to Marcus, Ned was more enraged.

Ned and the rest were such a tight-knit group of friends because they had a common interest.

While Marcus was the main shareholder of Fortune Co., Ltd, Ned had his fair share of shares as well. This 950 million loss meant that Ned would lose a few hundred million as well.

If Marcus was already so infuriated, one could only imagine how much angrier Ned felt.

His pawnshop business did not make great profits. After all, the current social and economic development had yet to arrive at the heights in Jasper's past life. There were only so many things civilians could pawn off right now. Most people were either someone's employees or ran their own businesses. It was rare for people to suddenly need a large sum of funds.

As such, a few tens of thousands a year was the maximum Ned could earn from his pawnshop.

There was no way Ned was willing to pay so much money in one go today.

Roaring, Ned arrived before Jasper and spoke wretchedly, "Stop pretending to be innocent, Laine. Everyone with eyes can tell that you set a trap for us with this bid!

"You're going to pay this 950 million whether you want to or not! Or I'll kill you right now!"

Blinded by benefits, Ned no longer cared about the fact that they were in public as he threatened Jasper on the spot.

Threats were not enough to alleviate his anger, so Ned reached out to grab Jasper's lapels.

Behind Jasper, Julian had already stood up the moment Ned rushed over. Julian refused to see Jasper get hurt, so he stepped forward in front of Jasper and reached out to grab Ned's wrist.

Then, everyone present proceeded to watch Julian flip Ned, a broad and sturdy man of 190cm in height, off the floor and bodyslam him onto the ground.

With a loud thud, Ned's 100kg body hit the floor. Following this was a terrified and painful shout from the man.

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Julian placed a foot over Ned's chest and spoke coldly, "This is a warning. If you try anything dangerous again, I'll break more than just your arm."

'He broke his arm?!'

Stunned and dazed, everyone snapped back to reality and turned to look at Ned's arm. They found that his right wrist was bent at a strange angle. It was a shuddering sight.

"Chupse..."

Everyone present sucked in a cold breath.

They did not expect Jasper's bodyguard to be so strong, especially considering that Ned had fought his way up in Reed City.

Yet when faced with Jasper's bodyguard, he did not even last a single second.

At that moment, everyone realized that Jasper was someone truly formidable.

As expected, Marcus roared.

"How dare you hurt him, Jasper?!"

Jasper replied calmly, "Everyone in the room saw very clearly that Ned attacked me first. My bodyguard merely countered his attack."

Marcus had a wretched expression on his face. "You've broken Ned's hand. This isn't over Jasper!"

“I’d think about how I’m supposed to pay that 950 million first if I were you,” Jasper spoke calmly.

The words cut deep into Marcus’ heart.

“Jasper! F*cking... Fine!” Marcus clenched his jaw, utterly infuriated.

“You’re just making me suffer because you can’t afford that plot of land, hmm?”

Jasper shrugged. “You’ve misunderstood. I saw how much you wanted that plot of land, Mr. Coine, so I had no other choice but to give it to you. After all, I’m just an outsider and I’d never dare to fight a man as powerful as you, Mr. Coine.

“So I’ve decided that I’ll just choose another plot of land to build my factory. Reed City is huge, there’s bound to be somewhere suitable for me.”

Marcus widened his eyes and pointed at Jasper with a trembling finger. He angrily barked out in laughter. “Good! Very good!

“Very f*cking good!

“Just wait, Jasper!”

Marcus then helped Ned up, the latter still whimpering in pain. He glared at Jasper coldly before they left embarrassingly.

With Marcus’s exit, the performance had come to a momentary end as well.

The owners of the two real estate companies shared a look and ran over. They handed Jasper their name cards courteously and told Jasper to look for them if he needed a construction company for his factory, promising great results for a cheap price.

Jasper did not treat the two real estate company owners coldly despite the immense change in their attitudes.

Humans tended to act according to the situation, so how could he expect otherwise from men who had been doing business for decades?

Any less shameless and they would not even have the rights to join Marcus and Jasper in this bid.

After taking the name cards and conversing with the two of them, Jasper watched the two owners leave.

The two owners walked toward the door with excitement and unease. They were just about to leave when they heard Jasper's voice from behind.

"A 950 million revenue, Mr. Powers. Is it to the city government's satisfaction?"

At that, the two owners felt their legs give out and almost knelt on the ground.

'So Jasper has already gotten the city government's support without anyone realizing?!'

Life at the Top Chapter 683

Mr. Powers did not know what the two fleeing real estate owners were thinking.

All he knew was that his mind was currently blown.

Mr. Powers had not expected Marcus to actually act so well according to Jasper's plan.

The plot of land had a starting bid of 100 to 200 million and Mr. Powers believed that it would only come to a maximum of 300 to 400 million.

Mr. Powers had no qualms with that, for it aligned with the city government's desire to oppress Marcus.

Yet... Jasper had just taken 950 million from Marcus in one go!

"We're very well aware of Fortune Co., Ltd's financial situation, Mr. Laine. The entire company is worth around one billion only, and with how much he has to pay this time... I'm afraid it would only cause you trouble."

Mr. Powers' words were extremely subtle.

Jasper smiled and replied calmly, "There's no way I can invest in anything with Marcus still in the picture. Plus, the city government wants to get rid of Marcus too, correct? I believe the city government's and my interests align on this topic. I'm sure that you wouldn't want someone to slander the reputation of Reed City either, right?"

With that, Jasper then clapped Mr. Powers on the shoulder. "I understand that there are many things the city government is not in the position to do, so I'll do them for you instead. All I hope is that the city government is able to provide me support during necessary times."

Mr. Powers replied sternly, "I'll make sure to relay your message word for word, Mr. Laine."

Jasper politely bade Mr. Powers farewell and called out to Julian before he exited the meeting room while stretching.

Mr. Powers had a grim expression on his face as he watched Jasper vanish at the exit.

Just then, Chad walked over and whispered to Mr. Powers, “What should we do about this, Mr. Powers?”

“What else can we do? The only option is to report this to the higher-ups and let them decide what to do next. The situation has gone beyond what we can control.” Mr. Powers sighed.

...

“He dealt with the most complicated problem with the simplest method. What an interesting young man.”

A middle-aged man sat in the spacious and solemn office. There were two flags on this office table, ones that ordinary office desks were not allowed to have.

Mr. Powers stood respectfully before the table as he reported the details of the bid this morning.

He also relayed Jasper’s message without missing a detail to that middle-aged man.

After a moment of thought, the middle-aged man waved his hand. “I still have a meeting later. You’ll be in charge of overlooking the development of this situation. Essentially, you are to make our stance on the matter clear.

“Do not say what you do not have to and remain impartial. But you must do your part well.”

With that, Mr. Powers bade farewell and left the room while deep in thought.

...

In Reed City’s best people’s hospital, the Special Care Unit.

Ned lay on the hospital bed, his face sickly pale. He had just got out of surgery and was enduring the pain now that the anesthesia had worn off.

“The patient’s arm has suffered a comminuted fracture. We’ve already done our best to repair it, but there will be lifelong complications with his right hand. He’ll be able to use it as normal, but it will no longer be able to exert extreme force or participate in strenuous activity.”

The doctor looked at the group of people who had sinister and bloodthirsty expressions on their faces. He was too nervous to take a bigger breath.

“You piece of trash! Your entire family is made out of f*cking trash!” roared a man who looked a lot like Ned.

“Enough. They’ve already told us this, so we’ll get the same answer no matter where we go. At least his right hand isn’t completely crippled. That’s good enough, isn’t it?”

Len spoke expressionlessly.

“Thank you, doctor. Could you please leave us alone?”

Len’s peaceful attitude had the doctor let out a sigh of relief and he quickly excused himself.

After the doctor left, Len then grimly turned to look at Marcus who had been silent the entire time. “Talk, Marcus. Tell me what happened.”

Marcus then proceeded to relay the incident, albeit not without exaggeration on some parts.

In the hospital room, both Marcus’s and Ned’s fathers, Len and Fletcher, darkened their expressions.

“That’s essentially what happened, Dad, Uncle Adkins.”

“That Jasper Laine! He has no respect for Ned and me just because he’s rich. We didn’t even say anything and he immediately started yelling about a fight!

“This bid was supposed to be a fair competition, but who’d have thought that the b*stard had bribed Chad? Even Mr. Powers favored him too. Ned and I got roped into a trap he had set up and we ended up losing 950 million. There’s no way we’ll accept this outcome!”

After Marcus’ explanation, the situation now turned into a case of Jasper oppressing them and disrespecting the local families. Jasper had apparently also set up a malicious trap and caused Marcus to lose 950 million.

After Marcus was done, the hospital room fell silent.

After a long while, Len then glared at Marcus. “Do you think that just because we’re old we don’t know how you youngsters normally act? We only choose to let you act as you wish outside, but that doesn’t mean we’re blind to the kind of people you are.

“The part of it being a trap is true. But from what I can see, you provoked him first, didn’t you?”

Len’s words had Marcus flushing in embarrassment. He spoke up indignantly, “But it’s true that he broke Ned’s hand! He also bribed Chad to make me lose 950 million.”

“Hmph!” Len harrumphed coldly and spoke, “I told you guys not to provoke others as you wished, didn’t I? What about now, then? Do you finally understand how strong outsiders can be?”

“What do you want to do about this, Fletcher?” Len looked at the other man who was furious.

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Fletcher replied grimly, "No matter what the actual situation was, he did break Ned's arm. The Adkins family can forget about working in Reed City if I'm not even going to get justice for my son."

Nodding, Len replied, "Alright, it seems like we're on the same page, then. The Coine and the Adkins families have been close since our father's generation. There's no way I'd stand still and watch as someone bullies Ned."

"Dad, Uncle Adkins, I don't plan on giving the city government that 950 million," Marcus spoke darkly.

"They're obviously targeting us. The past few years of work would've been for nothing if I just gave them that money."

Len was about to speak when Marcus' phone rang.

"It's Mr. Powers from the city government." Marcus' expression changed as he accepted the call.

After a moment, Marcus hung up the call angrily and spoke, "Dad, Uncle Adkins, Mr. Powers wants me to pay the 950 million bidding price within three business days as per the regulations. What the f*ck is that supposed to mean?"

"Don't spout nonsense!"

Len glared at Marcus who did not seem to know how to choose his words properly and growled. "There are some things that you can just keep to yourself, okay? You don't have to exclaim every single thought that comes to your mind!"

How old are you, huh? Can you still not tell the difference between what you can and cannot say?"

Marcus replied angrily, "Mr. Powers sounded really stern on the phone. He said that if I don't pay up, the city government will then sue us and we'll be brought to court. By then, they'll even investigate and charge me for defrauding state-owned property! It's not even that big of a deal and they're blowing this out of proportion!"

At that, Len's expression changed as well.

He looked at Fletcher and spoke grimly, "It's that person who newly took office in the city government, isn't it?"

Fletcher sneered, "It has to be. He's the only one who doesn't like us. They've made quite a few moves against us recently so there's no way they'd let go of this opportunity."

"Hmph, the Coine family isn't their punching bag." Len scoffed and turned to Marcus, saying, "You have three more days, right? So before those days are up, I'd like you to get something done."

"What is it?" Marcus asked.

"You said Jasper bribed this man called Chad? Then go and think of a plan to get him fired."

...

The Coine and Adkins families were terrifyingly powerful in Reed City. The following night, Jasper received a phone call from Chad.

Walking out from the hotel, Jasper and Julian arrived at a skewers stall and saw Chad smoking by the road despondently.

“You’re here, Mr. Laine.” Chad quickly snuffed out the bud of his cigarette when he saw Jasper walk over.

While just as polite as before, Chad was also speaking to Jasper with a shred of respect and caution now.

Jasper pretended not to realize this slight yet important change and glanced at the small pool of cigarette buds on the floor beside Chad with a smile. “Is something bothering you, Mr. Wright?”

Chad smiled bitterly. “You don’t have to address me so politely anymore.”

“Come sit, I’ll tell you as we eat.”

Under Chad’s lead, Jasper and Julian sat at the table. Chad smiled at Jasper and spoke, “I love skewers, Mr. Laine, so much that I’d eat it every few days. So forgive me for not inviting you out to a high-class restaurant.”

“My parents were farmers. I don’t care much about how cheap the food is, especially when it comes to supper. Nothing’s better than lamb skewers.” Jasper chuckled.

“Nice!” Chad’s eyes brightened and he turned to shout at the owner, “I’ll have ten more lamb skewers, please!”

Chad cracked open two bottles of cold beer. He also handed Julian a few bottles of non-alcoholic drinks since he knew that Julian was Jasper’s bodyguard and did not drink.

“So tell me, Mr. Wright. What happened?” Jasper asked.

“My boss talked to me when I clocked out today. He said that he’s going to transfer me to a small village south of Reed City,” Chad explained with a deep sigh.

“From working in a city to being demoted straight to a small village? Not even to a town first? That’s unusual,” Jasper commented meaningfully.

“Haha. It’s the Coine family’s work.” Chad scoffed and downed a large gulp of beer roughly.

“So I banged my hand on the table and gave up. I exploded and vented all the unjust I’ve been keeping bottled up inside of me. If the Coine family wants to oppress and dominate, then I’d rather not work there anymore!

“I’ve been thinking about working with you, Mr. Laine. So I was wondering if I still had a chance?” Chad glanced at Jasper with a look of extreme anticipation.

If Chad was ever reluctant to leave his job because he had grown attached to this job he had done for more than half his life, he was not anymore now that he had seen through the truth behind the working system. He was ready to give it his all.

“I would want nothing more.” Jasper grabbed his bottle of beer and clinked it with Chad’s.

Chad grinned and spoke, “Alright then. I’m going to start working for you now, Mr. Laine. I’ll be your loyal subordinate!”

“You’ll realize how smart this decision is very soon.”

Jasper was truly grateful to Marcus for this incident alone.

After all, it was not easy to get such a talent in the management field like Chad on his side, and Marcus had easily done it for him.

Despite having the advantage of being reincarnated with memories of the future, Jasper knew that not every skilled person in the management industry was suited to work in a company like JW Capital.

Chad, though, was different. While Chad was not a famous man in Jasper's past life, this short period of time was enough for Jasper to recognize this man's potential.

The two were in a great mood now that their frustrations were resolved. Time began to tick by as they two drank and talked.

Just as they started the third round of drinking, two vans suddenly halted by the road and more than ten men dressed in black jumped out with machetes. All of them rushed toward Jasper's table.

The sudden development caught everyone off guard.

It resembled a scene from a movie, and the other customers who were eating around them all screamed while running away.

Julian reacted extremely quickly.

"Jasper, watch out!"

Life at the Top Chapter 685

By the time he finished speaking, Julian had already dashed over to stand in front of Jasper. He held a beer bottle in his hand and with a backhand smash against the table, the thick beer bottle shattered.

Julian's gaze was frosty as he pointed the sharp end of the bottle at attackers who were rushing toward them.

He did not rush up to them, for his most important mission was to protect Jasper.

After all, they were faced with around a dozen men now and it would end horribly if he rushed forward only to leave an opening for someone to attack Jasper.

Despite having lived more than half his life, Chad had never seen such a scene before and he grew pale from utter fear.

“Don’t worry,” Jasper’s gentle voice sounded...

“Jul’s here, we’ll be fine.”

Chad turned to look at Jasper only to see him calm as usual. There was no sign of panic on the man’s expression at all.

Perhaps it was Jasper’s influence, but Chad found himself calming down as well.

In a short while, the men with machetes rushed over.

It was evident that these people had been through professional training. They were on a completely different level from ordinary gangsters and were extremely professional machete wielders.

Their target was clear—Jasper.

The first three rushed over, and Julian was extremely focused as he raised his hand to whack the beer bottle on one of the trio’s heads. The opponent staggered with a pitiful whimper and fell. At the same time, Julian grabbed another’s throat before tossing him against the third person harshly.

Julian was extremely strong, especially when his strength exploded. Jasper had seen how the man burst a sandbag with one punch in practice.

The hit crashed into the three men like a train and they were sent flying with pitiful screams. They ended up toppling the adjacent table upon impact before they ended up passing out embarrassingly.

Julian had acquired a machete by now and with a weapon in hand, Julian resembled a God of War. No one could get three meters near him.

Had it not been to protect Jasper, Julian would have rushed toward the men and sliced his way through all of them.

Seeing how more than half of their men had been defeated, the remaining five to six shared a look. Jaws set, they changed their tactics.

They had three of them surround Julian while another three rushed to attack Jasper.

Julian roared angrily once he realized it and grabbed a table beside him with one hand. Then, he threw the table at them as if it were a weapon.

Two were immediately knocked down.

At the same time, two machete-wielding men had arrived on both sides of Jasper.

Despite not knowing how to fight, Jasper was not an idiot who would just stand there and let them do as they wished. His opponents had weapons and were professionally trained, so fighting back was not an option. Jasper immediately took two steps back and waited for Julian to come and help.

However, Chad was petrified and remained rooted in place.

The two men watched as Jasper retreated. Julian was angrily rushing over as well, and they did not have time to run after Jasper now. Grinding their molars, they swung their machetes at Chad instead.

At that moment, Jasper's heart raced.

He would not be able to find a manager who met his and JW Capital's standards if Chad died here.

Without further thought, Jasper walked forward and reached out to pull Chad away.

This move had the fatal slice merely nicking Chad's arm instead, while Jasper ended up taking a hit on his shoulder as well. Blood immediately streamed from the wound.

Julian's eyes grew red from fury at the sight.

His strength exploded within him and he arrived before the two men in the blink of an eye. Raising his hand, he smacked the two attackers just like how one patted a watermelon. The two men's chests folded inward upon impact. Countless ribs must have fractured and they immediately fainted.

The remaining two men saw the scene and turned to flee. Whatever bravery they had left had already vanished into thin air.

Not that Julian allowed them to escape as he was still enraged. He caught up to them in a couple of steps and grabbed the two by the shoulders as easily as grabbing small chicks. He then pressed them onto the floor.

With two loud thuds, the tiles on the floor shattered and the two attackers were on the ground before they could even shout. They lay there without moving.

"Mr. Laine!" Chad finally reacted to what was happening. Ignoring the wound on his arm, he rushed over to hold Jasper. Color immediately drained from his face as he took a look at the horrifyingly blood-soaked wound.

He knew that Jasper was hurt from protecting him.

"Get lost!"

Julian shouted angrily with red eyes. He wanted nothing more than to beat Chad up, considering Jasper had only gotten hurt from saving Chad who was too stunned to react.

Chad shivered in fear and quickly spoke, "I... I'll call for help right away!"

"Jasper." Julian rushed over to Jasper, his eyes filled with franticness and regret.

"F*cking hell, I'm still alive." Jasper could not help but curse at the pain. His shoulder burned where the wound was and hot blood continued to flow between his fingers as he pressed down on the wound. He assumed that the cut must have hit his artery.

It would be a lie if he said he was not panicking, for he would be dead if it was a major artery.

He had spent his previous life suffering as an ordinary and bitter man. Now that he had gotten the chance to start over and rewrite his past, it would be a tremendous shame if he died before he could fully enjoy his life.

Sucking a breath through his teeth, Jasper spoke, "Help me stop the bleeding first."

Julian quickly ripped Jasper's shirt by the shoulder. The wound cut deep to the bone and fresh blood streamed freely. It was a terrifying sight!

"They nicked a blood vessel. We have to get you to the hospital now." Julian panicked.

While the wound was on the shoulder and nonfatal, it was rather deep. Not even a large cow could survive continuous blood loss at such a rate, let alone a human being.

With that, Julian carried Jasper onto his back and got up to run toward the street.

A cab happened to pass by just then and Julian handed Jasper to Chad without a thought before walking up to hail the cab.

The driver was startled by the sight of Julian who was drenched in blood. Not daring to stop the car, he swerved left and right to make his way around Julian but the man jumped onto the hood instead. With a punch, Julian broke the windshield and almost gave the driver a heart attack.

“Send us to the hospital. I’ll kill you if you waste our time!” Julian’s eyes were frosty, and his ruthless tone made the driver’s legs go numb.

Jasper had no idea how he ended up in the cab, and all he could hear was Chad and Julian talking. He also heard the roaring of the engine, and his heavy eyelids took in no more than the shadows of the street lamps that flew past.

Sound and scenery slowly faded away as Jasper’s consciousness slipped.

Life at the Top Chapter 686

Jasper was severely injured and in shock. When he entered the hospital, he was already unconscious.

The entire Southeast Province was in an uproar when news spread to them.

Wendy received a call from Julian in the middle of the night, and she was too shocked by the news to even speak.

Dawson was the calmest and immediately contacted Henry who was also in Nauritus City.

Henry flipped a table at the news.

That night, Henry called for his private plane to fly over from Harbor City. The plane landed in Nauritus City only to fly toward Reed City within ten minutes of landing after Henry and Wendy boarded.

In the shortest amount of time, the situation had progressed at the most terrifying speed.

Its influence involved multiple circles and many people were losing sleep over the knowledge.

The first to know of the news was the chief of the government of Reed City.

After getting woken up by Mr. Powers' phone call in the middle of the night, the composed and sturdy man dropped his cup when he heard of the news in his study.

After exclaiming how ignorant of the law those people were for three consecutive times, Mr. Powers stood in the study frightfully while drenched in sweat.

“The situation is very complicated now, Chief. Everyone in Reed City has their eyes on what’s happening and I heard that Jasper’s family is making their way over tonight. At the same time, tomorrow is Marcus’ deadline to pay up the money. What do we do now?”

While terrified, Mr. Powers braved through as he asked for guidance.

After a moment of silence, the middle-aged man asked grimly, “How’s Jasper doing now?”

“The hospital said it’s a hypovolemic shock, and they’re doing everything they can to keep him alive,” Mr. Powers replied.

“A hypovolemic shock... That’s not exactly a small matter.” The middle-aged man quickly calmed down from his anger and began to analyze the pros and cons of the incident.

“Okay, I want you to keep a close eye on Jasper’s condition at the hospital. If Marcus is unwilling to pay us tomorrow, we’ll put this on hold first. We need Jasper’s help for that.”

Mr. Powers could tell that the chief planned to wait first before they made a move. If Jasper woke up, then everything would continue according to plan. If Jasper passed tonight, then all their previous hard work would have been for naught.

Mr. Powers sighed and replied, “Alright, I’ll keep a close eye.”

“Visit Jasper the moment he wakes. But if he doesn’t, our plan stops here,” the man ordered.

“Yes, Chief.”

...

At that moment, Ned chortled exaggeratedly in his hospital room.

“F*cking yes! Who knows if that f*cker is dead yet or not?” Marcus laughed aloud and spoke to Ned whose elation was shown brightly on his face.

“Heh, there should be news about it in a few hours. I heard that he was drenched in blood when he arrived at the hospital. His blood pressure was almost at zero, I don’t think he’ll make it.” Ned smiled wretchedly.

“That’s even better, then.” Marcus’ gaze was filled with hatred. “I’ve got to thank your dad for this, killing him in one go. We’ll get the others together and drink when you’re better, to celebrate.”

“But Mr. Coine, how reliable is this news? I can’t help but feel uneasy,” Ned told Marcus.

Marcus waved his hand dismissively. “What are you afraid of? Your dad made the first move and my dad was there to wrap it up. There’s no way anything could go wrong.

“So what if that f*cker is capable? This is Reed City, what can he do? Don’t you see how the city government hasn’t made a move yet? That means it’s fine.”

Marcus then turned to Ned disdainfully. “Or are you telling me you’re worried now? Just think about it, he broke your arm.”

Ned’s expression was filled with resentment as he spoke, “Worried? My only worry here is that he died too easily! I didn’t even get a chance to torture him yet!”

“Hahaha. Since we’re in such a great mood, how about I get you a few beauties to spend the night with?” Marcus got up happily.

Life at the Top Chapter 687

“Can you?” Ned’s eyes shone, but he seemed a little hesitant.

“Why the f*ck not? You just have an injured hand. Everything else is still working, no?” Marcus snickered evilly.

“Then bring me two! I’m going to f*cking celebrate!”

...

At the same time in Nauritus City, Southeast Province.

Someone knocked on the bedroom of a villa.

“Come in.”

Conrad’s tired voice sounded from inside.

The person entered and Conrad switched his desk light on. “What is it? Why did you come looking for me in the middle of the night?”

“We’ve just gotten news from the people we sent to keep a close eye on Jasper and the Schuler family. Something has happened to Jasper in Reed City and he’s currently in the emergency room in the hospital. We don’t know if he’ll make it through the night.”

Conrad’s head snapped up as he asked in a raspy voice, “Are you certain?”

The man nodded. “Wendy took a midnight flight over in Henry’s private plane. From that, I think we can pretty much confirm that the news is true.”

Conrad furrowed his brows. He was elated a moment ago, yet now he was in despair. He did not even know what exactly he was feeling anymore.

After a long while, Conrad asked, "Do we know who did it?"

"To prevent Jasper from realizing anything, we didn't dare keep too close an eye on him. All we can confirm is that he was attacked by a local family, most likely due to conflict over a plot of land."

Conrad chuckled weirdly. "What a powerful family. Jasper's a man not even I, Conrad Monty, could win, yet they managed to send him to the hospital so easily. What brutal countrymen from unremarkable villages!"

"What's next, Mr. Monty?"

Conrad closed his eyes and leaned against the headboard. After a long moment of thought, he replied, "Nothing. We continue constructing our factory for the MP3 players. Regardless of whether Jasper lives or not, this is still a largely profitable business.

"As for those villagers in Reed City, it'll only be a matter of time before they know how horrifying the consequences of sending Jasper to the hospital is. Leave them be."

The man nodded. "I understand, Mr. Monty. I'll be leaving now if there are no further orders."

Waving him off, Conrad waited for the soft sound of the door clicking shut before murmuring to himself, "I thought I'd be elated to know that you're dying soon, Jasper. So why can't I seem to feel happy about it at all? Who's going to be my opponent here in Southeast Province if you die?"

"It's too lonely here without a rival."

...

When Jasper opened his eyes again, the first sight he met with was Wendy's reddened and teary eyes.

Jasper was stunned as his mind had yet to realize what was happening. He then felt a sharp stabbing pain from his shoulder where his wound was, and Jasper could not help but make a muffled sound.

That sharp stabbing sensation woke Jasper completely, and all the memories of what had happened rushed into his mind.

"You're awake! You're awake!" Wendy shouted happily. She tightly grabbed Jasper's hand with both of hers and spoke with a tremble in her voice, "You have no idea how scared I was."

Jasper smiled at the sight of Wendy's haggard features. "How'd you get here? It's just a small injury, I'm alright."

"What do you mean it's just a small injury? The doctor said you would've been drained of all blood if you had arrived a moment later! You scared me to death!" Wendy wailed as she forced herself not to cry.

Jasper chuckled. "Shh, it's okay. I'm awake now, aren't I?"

"I'll make them pay a price they can never afford!"

Life at the Top Chapter 688

"You have to take revenge!"

Wendy's usually gentle and calm gaze was now laced with never-before-seen hatred and anger.

Jasper was just about to speak when he heard Wendy continue, "You can't stay here anymore. It's too dangerous."

Jasper smiled bitterly. "I was careless. It won't happen again, I promise... By the way, what time is it now?"

Indeed, Jasper had successfully distracted Wendy and changed the subject. "You've been asleep for more than a day already."

Jasper rubbed his temples. "That's not too bad... Where's Jul?"

"He's been kneeling at the door for more than a day."

Wendy sighed.

"He said he had to apologize."

Jasper arched his brow. "That idiot. This has nothing to do with him at all. Call him in."

Wendy spoke exasperatedly, "You think I haven't tried to? He just won't get up."

"Tell him I'm awake and I asked him to come in," Jasper spoke calmly and patted Wendy's hand.

He knew that kneeling was Julian's idea, but it did not mean Wendy did not have any intention to vent her anger on him. After all, Wendy did not know what had happened then, and considering Julian's personality, he would surely put the blame on himself when he tried to explain things.

As such, it was absolutely understandable that Wendy was angry at Julian when all she knew was that Jasper had gotten injured.

Wendy nodded and got up to ask Julian to enter.

Even Julian would feel the effects of kneeling for an entire day despite his physique, and he was slightly limping when he walked.

“Take a seat.” Jasper pointed at the empty spot.

Julian was about to say something but Jasper glared at him. “Are you refusing to listen to me now?”

Julian then sat on the chair.

“It’s not your fault I got hurt. I would’ve definitely been safe if I hadn’t reached out for Chad then, but Chad would most certainly be dead now if that were the case.

“He’s the new director of the Human Resources Department in JW Capital. He’s a very important character, so I can’t just let him get hurt.”

“But it’s fine if you get hurt?” Wendy piped up unhappily.

Jasper smiled. “I didn’t think much at that time, but I admit that it was rash of me. What happened this time was an accident. None of us knew what was going to happen. Plus, I couldn’t just watch as Chad died after getting attacked by a machete-wielding man right before my eyes, could I?”

“So Jul, none of what has happened is your fault. If anything, you saved me. I wouldn’t be lying here right now if not for you.”

Julian replied stubbornly, “But I exist to protect you, Jasper. You getting hurt is my fault.”

“I’ve never seen you so stubborn before. Are you telling me you’re going to step in when Wendy and I fight next time?” Jasper smiled.

Julian flushed instantly and was too embarrassed to speak.

“Don’t worry about it. No one blames you for what happened this time. In fact, I need to thank you for saving my life.”

Julian quickly spoke, “Jasper, don’t say that...”

Before Julian could finish talking, someone opened the door to the hospital ward.

Chad stood outside the ward with bandages wrapped over his arm. Beside him was a middle-aged woman with red eyes.

“You’re awake, Mr. Laine!” Chad exclaimed as he entered the room and walked over to Jasper’s bed excitedly.

Life at the Top Chapter 689

Jasper smiled. “Are you hurt?”

Chad shook his head. “You saved me at that crucial moment so I just got a small nick in my arm. I’m so sorry, Mr. Laine!”

Chad had just spoken when the woman beside him fell to her knees before Jasper and sobbed. “You’re our family’s savior, Mr. Laine. I don’t know how to thank you for what you’ve done!”

Jasper quickly gestured for Wendy to help the woman up before he smiled and spoke, “You must be Mrs. Wright, then?”

“No, please, call me by my name, Mr. Laine. I’m Alina Tyler.”

“Chad’s older than me by quite a bit. It’s only right I call you Mrs. Wright.

“It’s not that big of a deal, actually. I’m awake now, aren’t I?”

Jasper then turned to Chad. “What has been going on outside these two days?”

Chad sighed. “A lot of people have their eyes on you now. But at the same time, that’s also all the extent of it. Marcus was supposed to pay the 950 million yesterday but he didn’t, and the city government didn’t react either.”

“So they’re all waiting to see if I would make it out alive or not, hmm?” Jasper commented indifferently.

“I suppose my waking up would disappoint quite a few of them.”

“Jasp,” Wendy called out.

Jasper turned to look at her.

Wendy spoke with a slightly weird expression, “I actually came here on Henry’s private plane. He’s been here this entire time too, but I think he found out that the people who hurt you are in the same hospital. They’re in the other inpatient building. Around ten minutes before you woke up, he brought Fallon and went over.”

Jasper was stunned. “Why didn’t you tell me sooner?”

“There’s nothing wrong with Henry teaching them a lesson. Plus, he has Fallon with him. He’ll be fine,” Wendy spoke with a pout.

Women, no matter how knowledgeable, would channel all their thoughts to their men once they had one by their side.

A petty woman whose man was treated badly outside was much more terrifying than a man could ever be.

Jasper rubbed his temples and spoke, "Pass me my phone?"

Wendy was about to grab his phone when the door to the ward was pushed open again.

It had been a few days since they last met. Ned was kicked into the room pathetically with his right arm in a cast and his hospital robe in shreds.

Had it not been for the fact that Ned had a unique physique, Jasper might not even be able to recognize the man before him. Ned had tears and snot streaming down his face that was covered in bruises.

Henry followed into the room after. The sinister look on his face immediately morphed into a wide smile when he saw Jasper's widened eyes.

"Hey, you're awake! I knew you'd be fine. As if God would take *sshholes like you to cause trouble for him up in heaven."

As expected, that was just how Young Master Law spoke.

Jasper pointed at Ned who was still crying. "What happened to him?"

"What do you think?"

Henry grinned, yet his eyes were terrifyingly dark. "This f*cker thinks that just because he's a trust-fund baby and has a rich dad, he can do whatever he likes. Well then, today I'm going to teach him what it means to be a trust-fund baby."

Henry walked over and grabbed Ned's chin before slapping him across the face, shouting, "Weren't you f*cking proud of yourself just now? Hiring professionals to beat up Jasper, huh? Go ahead then, I'd like to see you call more of them over."

Logically speaking, Henry should not be able to win Ned in a fight. Jasper assumed that it was Fallon who had done the physical work, but when he looked

out the door, he saw ten professional bodyguards in suits standing outside.
'Good job, man.'

"That's my team of bodyguards from Harbor City. I called them over this time as well."

Henry grinned at Jasper.

Life at the Top Chapter 690

Ned had been caught completely off guard when Henry suddenly dragged him off the hospital bed and began to beat him up.

He was still ready to fight and protest at first, but as time progressed, he realized that Henry was not joking and truly planned to beat him to death.

Ned was ready to surrender.

Ned was a patient with a handicapped right arm, so he was hardly a match for Henry and his dozen top-notch bodyguards. Not to mention that there was Fallon, who certainly was stronger than Julian, watching from the sidelines as well.

Ned's end was pretty much already determined.

It was only when Ned was dragged like a lifeless dog from his inpatient building to Jasper's and he saw Jasper upon entering the room did he know that Henry had come for revenge.

At that, Ned calmed down.

“So they’re your men, Jasper!” Ned had taken a beating and was just slapped across the face by Henry. He was in an exceptionally sorry state, yet his expression could not be more arrogant when he looked at Jasper.

“You’re actually still alive! Very good, then!”

“Haha!

“I’ll remember this, Jasper! Just wait, I’m going to kill you very soon!

“You haven’t learned from the last lesson, have you? Guess that means I went too easy on you, then! Don’t worry, I’ll make sure that instead of a hospital bed, you’ll be lying in the morgue next time!”

Jasper remained expressionless at Ned’s threats but everyone else in the room was irked.

“Jul!” Wendy called out.

Julian stood up and slapped Ned across the face without a word.

Julian had slapped him angrily without holding back at all.

Ned felt his cheek grow numb and his vision turned dark for a second. Following that came the burning feeling on his cheek, making him feel as though he had lost a layer of his skin from that slap.

The immense strength behind the slap had Ned flipping onto the floor. Turning his head, he spat out blood and there were several white chunks of what was most likely his teeth. Julian’s slap had lost him half his set of teeth.

Henry snickered and placed a foot over Ned’s head. He spoke in a malicious tone, “You’re still going to act stubborn? Even at this point? And you call yourself a trust-fund baby?”

“The smartest thing a trust-fund baby does is act according to the situation. Your loss is evident here, so surrender and look for other chances in the future to take revenge. You shouldn’t be acting stubborn now and asking for a beating! Have I made myself clear?”

Henry then lifted his leg without warning and used the shiny surface of his leather shoes to kick Ned’s face. Amid the clear sound of Ned’s nose breaking and his painful scream, Henry growled sinisterly. “I asked, have I made myself clear?”

Ned could not use his right hand so he could only cover his face with his left. Lying against the wall while partially drenched in blood, he glared at Jasper and Henry with wide red eyes and roared, “F*cking kill me if you dare! Or I’ll kill you if you leave me alive!”

“F*ck you and your entire family too, you mother f*cking b*tch! I gave you an option and you just had to choose death, hmm?”

Henry’s Harbor City accent laced his words as he was irked by Ned’s arrogance. He reached out, and a bodyguard with a very good understanding of Henry’s temper walked over from behind to hand him a baton.

With the flick of his hand, Henry swung the baton with practiced ease and smashed it against Ned’s left arm. With a crack, Ned’s left arm was immediately fractured.

Life at the Top Chapter 691

“F*cking hell! You ignorant and stupid f*cker. Who the f*ck do you think you are, hmm? The country has more than 100 cities like Reed City, but you think you’re the sh*t?”

“You think that just because people in Reed City call you ‘Young Master’ that you’re suddenly some trust-fund baby? F*cking bullsh*t! It’s ignorant b*stards like you who don’t know sh*t who has tarnished the reputation of all trust-fund babies!”

Henry swung the baton as he spoke, the act now looking like a form of art in his hands. The baton knocked on Ned again and again, and after a couple of hits, Ned had lost even the strength to make a sound. He lay on the floor and twitched, seemingly half a breath away from death.

“That’s enough, Henry.” Jasper stopped the man.

Henry might actually kill Ned in his fit of rage if he kept attacking.

Jasper did not care if Ned died, but he would not take revenge on someone as pointless as Ned. The main targets were the Adkins and Coine families supporting Ned. Killing Ned now would only further complicate this already complicated situation.

Henry heard Jasper and passed the baton back to the bodyguard with a pant.

Feeling hot from all the action, Henry loosened his collar and pointed at Ned who lay limply on the ground. “Drag this pile of flesh out to the corridor. We’re at the hospital anyway, so just leave him there.”

Two bodyguards quickly came over and bent down to grab a leg each before they dragged Ned over.

Everything was done with such practiced ease that it was proof this was not the first time they had helped Henry do such a thing.

After Ned was dragged away, Henry came to Jasper's bed and chuckled. "You weren't being nice this time. You know how much I like bullying *sshholes like him, so how could you come here and have fun all by yourself without me?"

"Yes, so fun I landed in the hospital," Jasper spat back irritably.

Henry was elated. "Thank goodness you're alright. Or this would be a much greater problem."

"The old master knows?" Jasper asked in shock.

"Not yet, we're hiding it from him. But my dad knows," Henry replied with a beam.

"He told me to tell you to screw them over. Do whatever you want and f*ck them up. Not for yourself, but for investors like us so we can have a better environment to invest in."

"Let's be honest, you're not the only one who's had to deal with this. The Law family has had to deal with this in too many places when we wanted to invest in those locations. Absolutely disgusting behavior. My dad has decided that he'll make quite a few calls to Swallow Capital this time, so this will most likely blow up to the point where the higher-ups are made aware."

Jasper frowned and spoke, "That changes the meaning of all of this, then."

"So what if it changes? Were you planning to just leave the matter be?" Henry glared at him from the corners of his eyes.

“Bullsh*t.” Jasper’s expression was dark. “I almost died, there’s no way I’m leaving this alone.”

Henry broke into a wide smile. “There we go. Don’t worry about it, you have the higher-ups supporting you. An eye for an eye.”

Henry had just finished speaking when someone knocked on the door.

Hearing that Mr. Powers had come to visit him, Henry spoke calmly, “Let him in.”

The door to the ward opened and Mr. Powers smiled bitterly at the sight of Jasper sitting indifferently on the hospital bed. “You look resentful, Mr. Laine.”

Life at the Top Chapter 692

“You must be joking, Mr. Powers. I just woke up. I don’t even know what has happened yet.”

Jasper knew that he could not blame Mr. Powers for what had happened. He was just angry about the fact that he had almost lost his life here in Reed City.

“I’m not here just to visit you, Mr. Laine. I was given a mission.”

Mr. Powers pulled out his phone and dialed a number before turning to Jasper. “The chief wishes to speak to you.”

Jasper’s heart skipped a beat. This ‘chief’ Mr. Powers spoke of must certainly be referring to the chief of Reed City’s government.

“Could everyone else please leave the room with me?” Mr. Powers requested politely.

Seeing Jasper nod, everyone left the room with Mr. Powers, leaving Jasper and one more person in the room.

...

An hour later.

Jasper called out to Wendy and the rest who were waiting by the door.

Wendy and Henry came in together.

“What did you talk about?” Wendy asked attentively.

Jasper smiled. “Nothing much. We just reestablished the relationship between us. We also showed our hands and talked a bit about the follow-up process, just so we both get a general idea of what’s going to happen.

“No one is allowed to interfere with the investment and no one is allowed to disrupt the peace in society.

“That was what the chief of Reed City’s government meant and it’s their stance on the matter.”

Henry pursed his lips. “Should’ve done that long ago.”

“Every place has its own rules, this goes for them too.” Jasper shook his head but did not dwell on the topic.

“This should be the end to Marcus and Ned, then!”

...

Marcus was in a horrible mood today, for he found out that the situation with Jasper was more complicated than he thought.

The only reason why the Coine family could have such a strong footing in Reed City was that Grandpa Coine was still alive.

While Grandpa Coine had been doing business in Reed City for years and never once left the city, he had quite a few friends outside.

Thus, the Coine family had gotten wind of what happened as well.

Even Swallow Capital had called the city government a few times after Jasper was sent to the hospital.

Apparently, a higher-up had made himself clear and scolded the chief of Reed City's government. They were also using this incident as an example and discussed it during a private meeting.

Although he was hiding in Reed City, Marcus could tell that something was different.

"Seriously, Dad? Do I have to leave?" Marcus looked at Len and spoke unwillingly.

Len took a drag out of his cigarette and spoke grimly, "This is your grandfather's idea. The situation has been blown up out of proportion and Jasper's power lies further than just the Southeast Province... Basically, we were rash this time and you have to leave. I've already prepared the transport and everything else for you. You'll be leaving Reed City on a ferry later in the afternoon and you'll wait until everything smoothes out before you come back.

"No matter what happens after, you have to learn to be humble."

Marcus was shocked when he heard Len's pessimistic words. "What are you talking about, Dad? You're telling me that Jasper's going to topple us or something? No one would have the guts to do that in Reed City!"

“Reed City?” Len scoffed. “How big do you think Reed City is? And how big do you think the world outside is? Do you really think the Coine family stands above everyone?”

Life at the Top Chapter 693

Marcus paled. Fear and unease overwhelmed his chest as he paced around the room, complaining, “I thought they said that Jasper has woken up? That means he’s fine, no? So why won’t he just move on and leave us alone?”

“This isn’t just a conflict between us and Jasper anymore. Our situation has become a case study in meetings and the higher-ups need to give investors a sign of a good investing environment. To them, people like us have become an eyesore that must be removed,” Len spoke weakly and sighed deeply.

“Who does Jasper think he is? He’s hardly worth us becoming a topic of discussion with the higher-ups,” Marcus spoke disbelievingly.

Just then, the doors were slammed open and a bunch of uniformed officers entered.

“Who are you? What are you doing?! Do you even know where this is? Tell me what your leader’s name is! Who gave you the right to barge into my home?”

Startled, Marcus stared at the group of intruders and shouted fiercely.

However, these men no longer spoke courteously like they usually did and were being very formal. “Marcus Coine, you’re suspected of defrauding state-owned assets. We’re here to bring you in for investigation.”

With that, two officers stepped over and surrounded him.

Marcus was truly terrified now and he fought back while shouting at Len, “Dad! Save me!”

Len could not just watch and do nothing as they brought his son away, so he got up and spoke, “Please wait. I’d like to see—”

The leader of the team interrupted Len ruthlessly and spoke in a cold tone, “Mr. Coine, you have the right to remain silent. Everything you say can and will be used against him in the court of law.

“We have discovered a great deal of tax evasion from Fortune Co., Ltd. As its former chairman, you’re not completely clear from suspicion either so please come with us as well.”

Len forced down the unease within him and spoke, “Then I want to call my father.”

“According to the regulations, you’re not allowed to make any contact with the outside world from this moment on.

“Of course, you have the right to talk to your lawyer. Any communication with the outside world can be done through your lawyer.”

The officer then added, “Lastly, your father, Old Mr. Coine, is fully aware of our operation.”

At that, Len felt his world go dark and as though a huge weight was pressing over his chest. It felt like the world was ending.

The same situation happened with the Adkins. The only difference being that Ned and Fletcher were brought away from their hospital wards.

Fletcher had been gravely injured by a mysterious person the night before. It was paraplegia caused by an injury in the spine, meaning that he could only live the

rest of his life in a wheelchair or on the hospital bed. There was not much of a difference whether he spent his days in jail or not.

...

No one had expected the Adkins and Coine families to topple so quickly.

The upper class of Reed City was rendered speechless.

The havoc stopped after the toppling of the two families, and the rest of the upper class continued to live their lives.

However, they were all aware that change had come to Reed City.

A foreign investor had managed to topple the Coine and the Adkins families.

No one had thought this would be possible before.

Everyone held their breaths as they waited for the next bomb to drop. Parents also reminded their kids to be mindful and not cause trouble outside, while more cautious parents even tried to send their children overseas—just to prevent any misstep at such a crucial time.

No one dared to step up and say something, opting to just keep their eyes on Reed City Hospital instead. They knew that the mastermind behind it all was currently lying in a hospital bed there.

Meanwhile, Jasper was currently hosting a guest in his ward.

His arrival came as a surprise, but at the same time, it was only logical he would be here.

A frail old man in his 80s was slowly walking. His head was full of white hair and there was a cane in his hand.

The old man entered the hospital room and greeted Jasper gently, “Hello. Let me introduce myself, I’m Peter Coine.”

Life at the Top Chapter 694

No longer confined to bed rest, Jasper got off the bed and respectfully invited the old man to take a seat.

“Please have a seat, Mr. Coine. Moving is still a little difficult for me and this place really isn’t appropriate, so I’ll skip out on asking you if you’d like some coffee this time.”

Jasper smiled. “Next time, then. I promise I’ll invite you to a cup of hot coffee next time, Mr. Coine.”

Peter smiled gently and waved him off. “Don’t worry about it. I’m not used to drinking coffee anyway. Alcohol, on the other hand, is always a good choice. But I’ve grown old and my body can’t take that anymore, so I’ve quit it.”

Jasper nodded. “That’s good, then. Seniors like you, Mr. Coine, are important people to us. It’s good to see you taking care of yourself.”

Peter was surprised by Jasper’s attitude. “I thought that our meeting would be an unhappy one, but I like you a lot, young man. Most importantly, I can tell that everything you’re saying and doing now comes from your heart—it’s genuine respect.”

Jasper spoke sternly, “It is truly what I think, after all. People like you are old heroes, Mr. Coine. Your generation is the reason why we can live such great lives. Your heroic achievements are things anyone of Somer descent should never forget.”

“Very good. Thank you for remembering our hard work,” Peter smiled softly and spoke.

At that, Peter pulled up his sleeve and showed a deep knife scar as well as a few bullet wounds. He explained, “These are from three different battles. See this scar? It was from a bayonet that had pierced right into the bone. These few other bullet wounds were also from the enemy troops. I have more wounds on me, but I’ll spare you the sight.”

Jasper looked at his own tightly wrapped shoulder and smiled. “Looks like I’m just weak, then.”

Peter waved him off and spoke slowly, “People grow old and their thoughts change as well. Look at me and the tough life I’ve lived. Despite the enemies’ bayonets and bullets, I lived to 80 only to send my children off instead of the other way around.”

Jasper remained silent.

“Mr. Laine...”

“Please don’t, Mr. Coine. Just call me Jasper.”

“Alright then, Jasper. I’ll get straight to the point. Seeing that I’m asking you, could you at least leave the Coine family a living descendant?”

Jasper replied calmly, “Mr. Coine, they’ve broken the law. While it is a huge offense, it will not result in the death penalty. I can’t be certain of the judge’s ruling because I’m not the judge, nor do I have any power to change their mind.”

“Jasper, I’m here to shamelessly beg you, so there’s no need for such a grand facade. Your attitude on this is key. A word from you and they’ll be out in a year or two. I may be old, but I still have a year or two in me. It’d be nice to have someone send me off, no?”

Jasper looked at Mr. Coine and spoke, “Logically speaking, Mr. Coine, considering your identity, such a request is in no way overboard. But I also heard that you didn’t stop the prosecution of Marcus and Len.”

Peter smiled. “What use is there in stopping them? They did this to themselves. Who knows how many wrongdoings they’ve committed with my name all these years.”

“That’s why it’s too late now.” Jasper sighed lightly. “I respect you as an old hero, Mr. Coine, but your heroic achievements should not be used to forgive the mistakes of your descendants. Mistakes should be stopped and corrected once they come to light.

“I’ve met other old heroes as well, but they’ve done their part to educate and instruct their own students and descendants.

“Of course, it’s not that I’m being unreasonable or inconsiderate. I can openly admit that there is resentment between me and them, and I must seek revenge. Think of it this way. If I had lost too much blood the other day and passed away then, who would seek justice for me?”

Mr. Coine fell silent at Jasper’s words.

“How about this, Mr. Coine? Regarding my personal resentment with them, I’ll let go of it for your sake. I have nothing against Len Coine, so as long as he pays up the tax he has evaded, I’m sure the judge will be merciful when he gives the verdict. Marcus, however... Let’s not discuss his issue anymore. Will that be alright?”

Peter stood and turned to Jasper. “If that’s the case, very well then.

“Rest up, it’s time I return.”

Peter then rejected Jasper sending him out and turned to leave.

Standing by the window, Jasper shook his head as he watched Peter slowly walk out of the hospital and get into a car.

'Is Peter pitiful?

'Very. An old man like him should not need to send off his descendants first.

'But pitiful people are distasteful in their own way.

'Peter just happens to be spoiling Marcus.'

Coincidentally, Jasper was a person who believed in treating the cause instead of the symptoms. Jasper did not like leaving himself with future complications.

There was no way Marcus would be released for another dozen or two years, while Len would have at least three to five years waiting for him. By the time they were released, they would have lost all their power and prestige as well.

...

Jasper's talk with Peter marked an end to his incident with the Adkins and the Coine families.

Jasper was discharged the following day.

Once discharged, he immediately established a new agreement with the city government.

Since Marcus had breached the contract and was discovered to be involved in illegal activities, the plot of land he previously won from the bid would be returned as well. Now with 200 million Somer Dollars, the plot of land was sold to JW Electronics Equipment Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

Following that, Jasper did not forget to benefit the local businesses. He distributed the design and construction projects for the factory to capable local companies.

This was how benefits worked. If Jasper wanted this factory of his to operate smoothly, he would need more than just the city government's support. Recognition from the local forces was necessary as well.

These benefits were how Jasper showed his stance.

Without a doubt, JW Electronics had now become the next Coine family. However, the difference between the two parties was that everyone was earning money together now and benefiting from it.

Jasper's actions had gained the favor of many uneasy local forces, and his reputation immediately spread throughout Reed City.

The equipment Jasper bought through the Law family had arrived as well, and in a week, the factory had already started to prepare for production in an orderly manner.

Jasper temporarily put Chad in charge of hiring workers and managerial teams in Reed City, while he quickly rushed back to Nauritus City.

He needed a professional team to further upgrade the patented MP3 player technology.

This was Jasper's ultimate attack.

Life at the Top Chapter 695

Jasper took the Law family's private plane back to Nauritus City.

"I've been thinking of getting ourselves a private plane as well once my cash flow isn't as tight anymore."

Jasper turned to tell Wendy as he sat in the comfortable interior of the private plane's compartment.

Wendy pursed her lips and smiled. "I heard that it costs two to three million a year just to maintain a private plane. That's a waste of money."

Jasper shrugged. "A normal car needs maintenance too, but you wouldn't choose not to buy a car just because you have to maintain it, right? It comes with much more convenience that outweighs the cost, and we have to think of the benefits it brings as well. It's the same with a private plane. It's safer, more comfortable, and more convenient—very much worth that few million Somer Dollars worth of maintenance."

Sitting in front of them, Henry turned his head excitedly and asked, "How about you get me one too while you're at it? Kayden is the only rich kid in Harbor City with a private plane and the rest of us are very envious."

"This isn't yours?" Jasper was surprised.

"As if my dad would be so generous." Henry scoffed with an indignant expression.

"Forget buying me a private plane, he won't even let me borrow this one here when I ask. He only had someone fly this plane over for me because he heard

that you got hurt. The only other time I get to sit in this plane is when I tag along on his business trips.”

“Yeah, he really shouldn’t get you a plane.” Jasper attacked him mercilessly, saying, “You’d definitely have those ridiculous parties up in the sky if you got one, wouldn’t you?”

Henry’s expression darkened, but he was not going to give up so easily. “Both of us can share a plane, then? You’ll be the first Mainlander with a private plane while I’ll be the second Harbor City trust-fund baby with a private plane. Don’t you think that sounds cool?”

“I’ll think about it when the time comes. Definitely won’t be this year, though. I’ve invested in too many projects and I’m broke.” Jasper sighed.

Construction of Waterhoof Tower would cost him at least 16 billion, and the patented MP3 player technology as well as the electronics factory would cost another 700 to 800 million.

Then, the acquisition of Legends was most likely going to cost him quite a bit of money as well.

Jasper had once again realized how poor he was since many things required a much greater sum of funds...

The plane arrived at Nauritus City safely. Henry had many things to handle now that construction of the amusement park project was coming to an end, so he went to the construction site the moment they landed at the airport.

On the other hand, Jasper and Wendy took a trip to Schuler Manor.

“I’m back, Uncle Schuler,” Jasper greeted Dawson.

Seeing Jasper return alive and well, Dawson finally let out a sigh of relief and clapped Jasper’s shoulder. “Good. It’s great to have you back.”

“I’m sorry for worrying everyone this time,” Jasper apologized.

Dawson waved him off with a smile. “Just be more careful next time. I’m pretty sure Wendy lost her soul over this. On the day it happened, she kept claiming that she needed to go over no matter what. Remember, Jasper, you aren’t alone here. Your problems aren’t just yours anymore, there are countless people affected too.”

Jasper nodded. “I understand.”

“I didn’t want your parents to worry too much, so I hid it from them,” Dawson told him.

“It’s best that they don’t have to worry about this. My parents have already worried so much about my littlest problems that I just want them to live happily now that I can provide for them. What kind of son would I be if I still made them worry about this and that?”

“Plus, I’m safe and sound, aren’t I? I’ll take some time to spend with them once all of this is over.” Jasper smiled.

Dawson spoke, “Sure. Go take a bath and rest. We’ll talk more after dinner.”

Life at the Top Chapter 696

After Dawson left, Jasper turned to hug Wendy. Smiling, he spoke, "Thank you."

"For what?" Wendy tilted her head and blinked confusedly.

"Thank you for caring about me," Jasper spoke as if he could not be any clearer.

"Who else is going to care about you if not me? Just promise you'll be more careful next time. Those people are willing to do just anything for their own interests," Wendy reminded.

Jasper nodded. "You're right. What happened this time was a lesson to myself as well.

"They say good men know better than to stand where danger strikes. And while I wouldn't call myself a good man, I'm terrified of dying. Reed City is a small place, but I suppose the fact that it's small means that there's more negligence with the law there. They've had a very smooth sailing history of doing business, so I got careless."

Wendy spoke gently, "There are no predicting accidents. I don't ask for much, I don't even need all these riches. All I want is for you and Dad to be alive and well. That's enough for me."

"We've already come so far, and on our journey here, we've met great allies like the Law family as well as rivals of different calibers like the Monty and the Coine families.

"We will always have more enemies than friends. After all, the growth of a new family means the redistribution of interests and benefits. We're threatening too many people's livelihoods.

“The moment we lose everything, I’m afraid the people who’d come at us first will undoubtedly be these enemies of ours. So for your sake and for my own, I cannot stop here.”

Wendy leaned her head against Jasper’s chest after he finished speaking and replied, “I just want you to be safe.”

In no time, dinner was ready.

At the dining table, Jasper and Dawson chatted casually and the topic quickly returned to the Southface River Project.

“Construction of the whole Southface River will be done in another two months or so. JW Real Estates will become a name that’ll spread across the land.” Despite his age, Dawson could not help but feel excited at the idea.

Dawson and Jasper, being the people involved, were the only ones aware of how much effort they had invested into this project.

Jasper had analyzed the country’s development plan for the next 20 years and poured the information he knew into the Southface River Project. The goal of it was to loudly broadcast JW Real Estates’ name to the entire country.

He would also use this opportunity to build the foundation for the country’s first private real estate company.

“Making a name for JW Real Estates is much more important than profits. We never planned on earning much with the Southface River Project. It’d be great if we can even earn our money’s worth back. The benefits of this project lie in the fact that it’s long-term and sustainable.

“That’s why I plan to keep all shops, office buildings, and most living districts under JW Real Estates as they are. They’ll be on a rent-only basis.”

Hearing Jasper, Dawson nodded. “I agree.”

Wendy blinked. “Are you that confident? What if the project ends up making a loss...”

Suddenly realizing that she might have jinxed it, Wendy stopped talking apologetically.

Jasper smiled. “I am confident. As far as I’m concerned, the Southface River Project will become the benchmark project for all future city developments in the country. Its influence will be immense, and the fact that no one believes it now is precisely what puts us at an advantage.

“Oh, Uncle Schuler, how did it go with the expert from the Southeast Province Research Institute of Sciences I asked you to help contact?” Jasper asked.

Dawson smiled. “The head of the Research Institute of Sciences and I are friends. But you know how it is with experts, they don’t normally respect businessmen like us. They’re hard to talk to sometimes, but I got you a chance to meet him. Just bring the materials over tomorrow.

“Just to remind you, these people don’t care about money. Technology matters more to them than their own lives, so how you talk to them really matters.”

Life at the Top Chapter 697

The following day, Jasper sat in his Bentley that he had greatly missed and arrived at the provincial Research Institute of Sciences.

While Southeast Province had contributed a lot to scientific research, the small run-down building before him revealed a very real issue.

The country was in dire need of economic development, so most of the money would go into construction or investment. Thus, it resulted in a grave decrease in investments in scientific research.

After instructing Julian to wait for him in the car, Jasper entered the run-down building that seemed to have three or four decades' worth of history.

Following the address Dawson had given him, Jasper arrived outside an office and knocked on the door.

"Come in." A man's raspy voice sounded from inside the office.

Jasper walked in and saw a man in his 50s wearing a white lab coat. He was tinkering with a chip behind his office desk.

What was supposed to be a clean lab coat was now dirty, and the man's hair that looked like a bird's nest greatly aged his appearance.

The man paid Jasper no attention once he entered. Instead, Jasper found him murmuring something as if he was trying to solve a hard problem—all while fiddling with the chip in his hand.

Jasper did not rush him, opting to wait patiently by the side.

Jasper took in the decor of the office. It was simple and very messy. Equipment could be found all over the place and most of them were rather old. It was evident that they had not been keeping up with the times.

The most eye-catching part of the room were the certificates and awards that covered the better half of the wall. Those were all testaments to the owner of this office's success and glory.

After ten full minutes, the man looked up and saw Jasper. Only then did he put the chip down, speaking slightly apologetically, "Sorry, I can't really stop when I'm researching. I totally forgot about you."

Jasper smiled. "Don't worry about it. You must be Professor Elbert McGee, I assume?"

Elbert replied, "I am. You must be the businessman the head introduced, Ja... Jas..."

"Jasper," he introduced himself after seeing how Elbert had forgotten.

Elbert knocked his forehead with his palm and replied, "Ah, yes. Jasper."

"How can I help you?" Elbert asked straightforwardly.

Jasper took a seat and spoke, "I've come to invite you to be my company's chief technical expert, Professor McGee."

Without thinking, Elbert shook his head. "No way. I just want to do my research in peace. I don't want anything to do with businessmen like you."

As far as Elbert was concerned, businessmen and people like him were completely different. Businessmen were willing to do anything for the sake of profits. His research that he had spent time and effort on would only become money-making tools once it fell in the hands of a businessman.

"I understand your concerns, Professor McGee, but hasn't it crossed your mind that no matter how capable a researcher you are, what new technology can you come up with in such a working environment?"

Jasper did not seem to be affected by Elbert's attitude, and he debated back in the calmest tone with a truth that Elbert could not refute.

As expected, Elbert opened his mouth a few times only to close it back again.

He had applied for five million in research funds for several projects, and the amount was already the lowest possible amount needed after going through

multiple budget cuts. Still, a year after making the application, all he had now was two million.

It was not that someone was trying to cut costs with his projects, for the institution itself had limited research funds. There was too much demand than there was supply. After splitting the funds among everyone, he only had less than half of what he needed. There was nothing anyone could do about that.

“I can provide you with sufficient research funds and the respect you’re worth. Plus, please take a look at this, Professor McGee.” Jasper then reached out for the patented MP3 player technology he brought with him and handed it to Elbert.

Elbert glanced at Jasper doubtfully but took the piece of research. Upon opening it, Elbert found himself deeply entranced by the treasure in his hands. The papers were filled with technical data and sketches that Jasper did not understand.

Seeing how Elbert’s eyes shone as though he was a parched man finding water, Jasper smiled softly. He knew that he had succeeded this time.

...

While Jasper was negotiating with Elbert in the Research Institute of Sciences, in a villa on the other end of Nauritus City.

“So you’re telling me that the sample will be out in less than a week?” Conrad asked, looking at the sharp and confident in front of him.

Valentine Estrada smiled softly. “Don’t worry, Mr. Monty. I wouldn’t say such a thing to you unless I was absolutely certain.”

Conrad nodded extremely contentedly. “Well done. I spent a lot of money hiring you from overseas, and it seems I’ve made the right step.

“There’s one more thing you need to pay attention to.”

Conrad passed Valentine a document and spoke, "JW Electronics are manufacturing MP3 players as well, but they do not have the license to do so."

Valentine was stunned. The country lacked awareness when it came to patents and copyrights, so it was very common to see pirated products. In all honesty, normal people did not actually care about such a thing. However, the fact that Conrad, the only person in the country with the license to manufacture the MP3 player, was raising the issue meant that there was more to this than Valentine thought.

"Do you wish for us to pick on them, Mr. Monty?" Valentine asked.

Conrad smiled faintly. "Pirating without patent rights is a very severe problem overseas, right, Valentine?"

Valentine nodded seriously. "It is. The moment such an incident is found overseas, it does not matter how many funds were involved, the company would surely be sued to the point of bankruptcy while the person in charge of the company would also have to face civil responsibilities. That's why almost no one dares to do such a thing overseas.'

"Our country has a Patent Copyright Protection Act as well." Conrad thumbed his fingers on the desk. "Do you understand what I'm trying to say?"

Valentine's eyes shone as he replied, "I understand. I'll gather as much evidence as I can once I return and sue this JW Electronics. As long as you give me enough support, I can very well beat them in a court case."

"Don't worry. You'll get as much support as you need." Conrad waved him off. "Go wild!"

Life at the Top Chapter 698

On Jasper's end, he had brought out enough bargaining chips to pique Elbert's interest and surprise him immensely.

"Mr. Laine, this is the most advanced MP3 player design document in the world. Where did you get it?"

Elbert asked Jasper excitedly in the Southeast Province Research Institute of Sciences.

Jasper smiled. "Obviously through legal means. I bought it from the original creator, Damond Golding. Does the technology look difficult?"

Elbert smiled confidently. "I know about Damond. He's a very talented technician, but I'm not horrible either. With this document, I can most certainly copy the MP3 player."

"No. A simple copy isn't enough." Jasper shook his head.

"Why would I ask you for help if all I wanted was a complete copy with no technical expertise, Professor McGee? I'd be able to do that with a few research students with Masters in scientific research. What I want is an improved and upgraded version."

Elbert furrowed his brows deeply at Jasper's words and replied curtly, "You don't know anything about technology, Mr. Laine. A mature piece of patented technology is like a system of interlocking gears. Any slight change somewhere would result in a huge difference."

With that, Elbert then pointed at the stack of technological papers. “I can tell you that if I make the slightest change to any single thing here, the entire technology will end up failing. This isn’t as simple as you think.”

“What if I just want to add a screen?” Jasper asked.

Elbert was stunned for a moment, and his brows furrowed as he fell deep in thought.

“It shouldn’t be that difficult if I’m just adding things instead of changing anything. I’ll just have to leave a spot on the circuit board to attach the screen and rewrite the code.”

At that, Jasper smiled. “Would you be interested, Professor McGee?”

Elbert hesitated.

“I promise that as long as you agree to be JW Electronics’ chief technological officer, a status on par with the CFO, you’ll be paid two million a year with at least a 10% increase each following year. You’ll also enjoy the company’s dividends.”

Elbert looked conflicted.

“I also promise you complete authority to appoint and dismiss other technicians. You are free to lead your professional team to research all related areas and you’ll receive at least 50 million research funds from the company every year. Of course, any patent rights of your research will belong to the company, but you and your team will have a right to 10% of the patent, Professor McGee.”

Elbert shot to his feet and asked excitedly, “Really?”

Elbert seemed to care much more about research funds than his salary.

Jasper smiled bitterly.

However, it was employees like Elbert whom Jasper did not need to worry about.

“I’ve promised you, haven’t I? A businessman values his word.” Jasper smiled. “However, if you’d like more assurance, Professor, we could sign an employment contract right now.”

Elbert seemed embarrassed when he spoke again, “That’s not what I meant. I’m technically still working in the research institute, so I have to resign from the institute first before I can sign the contract with you... It’s just that I have two friends and six students with me. I was wondering if I could bring them as well?

“Don’t worry, those two friends are both experts in electronics and integrated circuits respectively. We don’t care too much about our salaries, but research funds...”

Jasper interrupted Elbert and spoke, “Professor McGee, as I said, you have complete authority over the appointment and dismissal of your team of technicians. There’s no need for you to bring it up with me.”

Life at the Top Chapter 699

Elbert spoke elatedly, “That’s wonderful. I’ll contact my friends right away and report to you in the shortest time possible.”

Jasper smiled and got up. “Very well, then. I shall await your and your team’s arrival.”

“I have a small request.” Elbert pointed at the document and asked, “Could you leave the documents with me? I still want to do some research and there are a few points worth borrowing from.”

Jasper replied, "Of course. Although, we're a little short on time so I'd prefer if you made improving the MP3 player your current priority, Professor. There'll be a lot of time in the future for you to slowly research what you wish."

"Of course!" Elbert laughed aloud as he was in a great mood. He could tell that Jasper was very different from other businessmen; he was not money-hungry like the others.

After agreeing with Elbert, Jasper got up and left. There was still a lot he had to do so he could not stay in Elbert's office any longer.

The following few days were spent communicating with Chad, who was in Reed City, about the construction progress and the equipment installation in the factory over there.

With money and the support of Reed City's government, the factory was being constructed at a terrifying speed.

In less than a week, the first batch of three 25,000 square feet factories were constructed and furnished.

To speed up the process, Jasper and Chad had decided to first complete construction of the first batch of factories, consisting of three factory buildings, and leave the other factories as well as the production district to be constructed while work began.

The day the three factories were completed, equipment installation and commissioning began as well.

"Mr. Laine, the 200 workers we've recruited have already completed their technical training under the skilled workers and managers we spend a lot of money to hire from other electronics factories."

Jasper nodded in satisfaction when he heard Chad's report through the video call.

“Good job. That’s already considerably fast. I’ve already contacted Elbert and his team has already completed the key research for the upgraded design of the patented MP3 player technology. The result should be ready in two days so I’d like you to try to produce a sample first.”

Chad hummed in acknowledgment and then suddenly spoke, “Mr. Laine, I heard that a domestically manufactured MP3 player is about to appear on the market? They’re already advertising it?”

Jasper nodded. “Indeed. They’re also a business based here in Southeast Province. It’s likely that they’ve successfully created a sample, so they’ve begun advertising through all large television stations as well as newspapers. The public should be made aware very soon.”

“Doesn’t that mean we’ve lost the element of surprise, Mr. Laine?” Chad asked despondently.

“It’s alright. We’ve got a unique advantage when it comes to advertising. So long as our product is on the market, no one will be able to compete against us in terms of advertisements. The only thing we need is enough goods and an upgrade in the product’s technology when our MP3 player becomes publicly available.”

Chad nodded seriously at Jasper’s words.

“Alright then, Mr. Laine. I’ll get back to work first. I promise to get a sample out as fast as we can the moment your technology over there is complete.”

Jasper let out a light exhale after he ended the video call with Chad

On his table was an issue of today’s Southeast Province Morning Post with the MP3 player advertisement printed on the most prominent spot.

Just then, Jasper’s phone rang.

Connecting the call, Jasper heard a familiar voice drift through.

“I was both relieved and disappointed to find out you lived, Jasper.”

Life at the Top Chapter 700

“You must’ve been very busy lately, Mr. Monty. And yet you’ve taken the time to find out how I’ve been as of late. I’m flattered, truly.”

Leaning against the sofa, Jasper replied. He knew that the call was from Conrad right when the man spoke.

Conrad chuckled on the other end of the line. “Looks like you’ve been attentive to my situation as well, then?”

“Not too different, are we? Though in comparison to the people you sent to follow me, I’d say my attention is hardly worth mentioning.”

Conrad harrumphed at Jasper’s words and spoke, “I heard that you took a trip to Coreana to buy the patent for MP3 players?”

“Didn’t you buy the patent before I could, Mr. Monty? Why would you ask if you already knew?” Jasper spoke calmly with no hint of displeasure in his tone.

Conrad chuckled. “Since you already know that I’m the one with the patented technology, then why would you still dare to manufacture MP3 players in your factory in Reed City? You’re a brave man.”

Jasper replied calmly, “You’ve misunderstood, Mr. Monty. What my factory in Reed City manufactures are merely small trinkets that you would never be interested in, Mr. Monty.

“Why, Mr. Monty? Are you worried about something?” Jasper asked intently.

Conrad’s expression darkened as he replied calmly, “Let’s not beat around the bush, Jasper. We have history between us, and this is far from the end of it. You wanted the patent rights to the MP3 player, so I decided to fight you for it and be one step ahead of you.

“Initially, I had just planned to pose an inconvenience to you. But I’ve realized that the MP3 player could be a very promising product in the country’s market. I’ve got to thank you for your guidance, or I’d never have found such a suitable way to make profits in such a short time.

“I’m the only one allowed to manufacture the MP3 player in the country now, so I suggest you be a little smarter and not think of little tricks. Or I’ll make you pay until you go bankrupt!”

Conrad chuckled before continuing, “You must be so angry, so pissed, so reluctant to give up, hmm? Because even though you found out about it first, I still stole it from you. One step is all it takes. You’ll never catch up to me now. I have the higher ground now, so how are you going to beat me this time?”

Jasper replied calmly, “I don’t really mind putting the entire JW Electronics at risk, Mr. Monty. If I do end up losing all of that, I’ll just treat it as having not earned anything from the aluminum company incident before. Now that I think about it, you were indirectly the one who gave me that money, weren’t you, Mr. Monty?”

“You!”

Fury burst from within Conrad. He had only ever lost once in his life yet this one loss had become a nightmare he could never escape from.

Jasper’s name had become Conrad’s trigger. Conrad only had to think of that man and he would completely lose all his composure.

“Haha!”

Conrad forcibly pushed the anger aside and spoke coldly, "We've got a long road ahead of us. So what if you win once? The one with the last word is the true winner, Jasper. You've already lost once, what makes you think you can win this time?"

"Just you wait. You won't be able to do anything but watch as I slowly take up all domestic MP3 player market shares. The money should've been yours, but you'll have no way of getting it. All you can do is watch and drool. Of course, perhaps I'll give you a chance or two to earn money if I'm in a good mood.

"But as to whether that's good or bad money, that's not for you to decide! I'll decide and you'll take what I give you!"

With that, Conrad hung up the phone.

Despite knowing that he had the upper hand, Conrad could not seem to lift his mood.

He threw the phone aggressively and took the new MP3 player sample from his table. Looking at the silver coating, Conrad asked grimly, "Can this thing be mass-produced yet?"

Valentine replied confidently, "All manufacturing lines have already been installed. It can be mass-produced any time."

"Good!" Conrad's mood lightened a little.

"Then begin production. Contact the sales department as well. We can sign contracts with business clients who've been requesting it but remember to raise the bar. We're the country's first domestic brand for MP3 players. It's not something any Tom, Dick, or Harry can sell on our behalf."

Valentine nodded after Conrad finished speaking. "One more question, Mr. Monty. What should we name this MP3 player of ours? And how should we price it?"

“Its name...”

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Conrad then scoffed and fiddled with the sample. “It costs us no more than 500 to 600 bucks to produce, yet we’re selling it easily at 1,800. What a profit.”

“How’s it going with the rights protection materials I had you prepare?”

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“Good!” Conrad was excited, and his eyes shone with excitement. “I’ve been waiting for this day for too long. Don’t you dare disappoint me, Jasper. Produce your MP3 players as fast as you can.”

“I have a question, Mr. Monty.”

“About that Jasper, the owner of JW Electronics... If he knows that you have the patent rights, why did he still build a factory to manufacture it? Or perhaps he isn’t really planning on manufacturing MP3 players? In that case, won’t all our hard work be for naught?”

Conrad was in a great mood, so he explained patiently, “You don’t know Jasper. We’ve fought before and I can tell you that he’s a very calm man. It’s almost as if he doesn’t really care about anything.

“But it’s people like him who are truly arrogant. He thinks that he’s the strongest of us all. The reason why he doesn’t get calculative with anyone is that he doesn’t even think they’re worth his time.”

Conrad then pointed at his nose and continued, “Even I’m among the group of people he looks down on. So this factory of his is definitely manufacturing MP3 players. There’s no way it can be anything else. Perhaps he thinks he has another trick up his sleeve to counter me.”

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Life at the Top Chapter 700

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Life at the Top Chapter 702

"A set-up." Jasper shrugged and passed the invitation to Chad.

Chad took a look and reacted completely differently from Jasper by immediately frowning at its content.

"Melody Electronics wants to invite us for a joint product launch? And they even invited a few television and newspaper representatives?"

At that, Chad instantly reacted. "This is the MP3 player manufacturer that's been advertising their products all this while?"

"Exactly. And they have a domestic license to manufacture the MP3 player," Jasper spoke calmly.

Chad frowned and spoke, "So they're just intending to make a fool out of us in front of the media, then."

"That's why I called it a set-up. I'm afraid this isn't as simple as making a fool of us. They're going to use the power of the press to completely kill our product the moment it launches."

Jasper had a calm expression on his face. He could already imagine how excited and proud Conrad must have looked when he made this decision.

Even though Conrad's move was rather surprising and sudden, Jasper was not angry at him at all.

After all, they were rivals, and there was no law claiming that only Jasper could plot against Conrad and not the other way around.

The two of them were merely trying to spot weak points while they attacked and countered each other, in hopes to get rid of the other once and for all.

About the incident in Coreana regarding the patent, Jasper had found a way to counter Conrad. However, it was not a lie that Conrad's move had almost destroyed Jasper's chances of making profits through the MP3 player.

Conrad was still the one attacking now, and Jasper had to react.

This time, Jasper decided that he would counterattack.

"Perhaps we shouldn't attend, Mr. Laine," Chad suggested with furrowed brows.

Jasper smiled. "Don't worry, I have a plan. Come with me when I attend. The roles in this set-up haven't been decided yet."

Seeing how Jasper had already made up his mind, Chad nodded and decided to go along with it.

With Chad's agreement, Jasper immediately made two calls.

Chad's eyes shone brighter as Jasper made the few calls.

The first call was to Hudson Moore.

The second and third calls were to Ryder from Harbor City's Advent Entertainment and Ted from Swallow Capital's Easy Media.

He had done two things with those calls.

The first thing was to have the two companies under Advent Entertainment grant JW Electronics the right to use their artists' songs.

The second was to have the two media companies sign a strategic cooperation agreement with Terizone. Terizone would then create a downloading site for MP3 players, where available songs would include artists from both media companies, as quickly as possible. Those artists happen to make up about 70% of the famous singers in Harbor City and the Mainland.

"You want to play with copyright and patent rights, Conrad? Fine, then we'll block your content. So what if you have an MP3 player? You won't be able to download any music and even if you are, it'd be the pirated version while our MP3 players will provide tracks from the source. I'd like to see how you're going to win this."

Jasper smiled at Chad who was excited and impatient.

Life at the Top Chapter 703

Three days later, a piece of news had spread among the tech enthusiasts in the country.

Domestically manufactured MP3 players were available to the public now!

People did not have to save money to get the goods imported, nor did they need to bring cassette tapes around anymore.

Through all sorts of tactics, dozens of media representatives participated in Melody's new product launch event and countless people had their eyes on it.

The greatly anticipated event was held in the conference hall of Nauritus City's Sheraton Hotel.

Thanks to Conrad, not only did media companies of all sizes from Southeast Province send their representatives, but there were also representatives from six television stations from other provinces and two large official news stations from Swallow Capital.

The conference hall was packed with cameras and microphones everywhere. Reporters began to greet each other and exchange contacts before the event began.

It was a lively scene.

Backstage, Jasper saw Conrad standing with a smile not too far away when he arrived. From the way Conrad stood, it almost seemed as if he had been waiting for Jasper.

"I see that you've been well, Mr. Laine," Conrad greeted calmly.

"And you're as graceful as ever, Mr. Monty," Jasper greeted back.

Seeing that Jasper had only brought Julian and another middle-aged man he did not recognize, Conrad smiled. "You don't seem to care too much about this launch event, Mr. Laine.

"It can't possibly be because of my glory, can it?"

Jasper replied calmly, "It's just a launch event, what matters most is the product, no? There's no point in bringing a large group of people with me. I'm not here for a fight."

Although he was smiling, Conrad's gaze darkened slowly. He leaned toward Jasper and spoke, "I like that. Our products will speak for us, won't they? Though I do wonder if I could take a look at the product you've brought over today, Mr. Laine?"

"I'm not the only one anticipating it, of course. I'm sure the reporters are, too... Since a pirated version will be launched with the official one. Who knows, maybe the product you invested in to manufacture will become a widely-bashed product after today?"

Conrad's smile widened presumptuously. "After all, I'm the one with the patent rights."

"Are you so confident that you'll beat me today, Mr. Monty?" Jasper asked.

Conrad laughed aloud. "Jasper, oh, Jasper. Do you know what your biggest weakness is? You're too confident in yourself. Too much self-confidence will be the cause of your downfall. You think that everything is within your control, but there'll always be the unexpected.

"Like the patent rights and this launch event, for example. You know that the patent rights are with me, yet you're unwilling to give up on the MP3 player. What makes you think that I'd let you off? You're too naive if you think you've got a trick to turn this all around."

Conrad scoffed and spoke plainly, "This launch event will mark the beginning of your downfall. It'll be the MP3 player this time, then I'll move on to target all other companies under JW Capital. Just wait. Perhaps I'll even spare you some change the day I make you lose everything. Perhaps I'll spare you enough that you can continue living, albeit pitifully.

"With me in Southeast Province, there will be no room for you!"

With an arrogant smile, Conrad turned and left with light steps.

“What an arrogant man, Mr. Laine,” Chad spoke rigidly to Jasper, his expression dark.

Jasper replied unaffectedly, “It’s only normal for a man to go crazy before his death. His time is coming soon.”

Chad’s expression brightened greatly when he was reminded of the leverage Jasper had. He said, “Now I’m really anticipating the launch event. I’d like to see the change in his expression when he finds out. I wonder if he can still be so arrogant then.”

...

At two in the afternoon, with the reporters waiting patiently, the launch event started on time.

On the stage were two separated groups of people. On one side were the main characters of the event, Conrad and Melody Electronics’ person in charge.

While on the other side stood Jasper and Chad from JW Electronics.

A majority of the reporters looked at Jasper and Chad with curiosity. They did not understand why this insignificant JW Electronics would be here at Melody Electronics’ launch event.

Tapping on the microphone, Conrad spoke to the audience, “Dear friends from the press, I ask that you remain silent for a little longer as Melody Electronics’ new product launch will officially begin.”

Conrad then glanced at Valentine beside him.

After receiving a cue from Conrad, Valentine smiled and stood up with an MP3 player the size of his palm.

“Friends from the press, you should already have received the relevant materials about my company. Now, allow me to show you the first-ever MP3 player to be domestically manufactured that my company has researched and developed!

“I’m sure all of you know that the MP3 player is currently trending in the States and in European countries. Its compact design allows it to be conveniently carried with you, and it’s a music product that allows you to easily download and store songs. This product will surely bring a new era to the country’s electronics market. Our first-generation Melody MP3 player has...”

The introduction lasted for more than ten minutes, during which Valentine elaborated on a grand concept and managed to describe the first-generation Melody as the hope of domestically manufactured goods—a work of art that had surpassed countless foreign goods of the same type.

For a launch event of this scale, it was expected that Conrad had his own men among the reporters.

When it was time for the reporters to ask questions, it was their time to shine.

“Mr. Estrada, your introduction has piqued our interest in the first-generation Melody. But I’d like to ask, at what price will it be sold?”

Valentine replied with a smile, “Since this is a domestic brand, it’s only natural that we keep the price acceptable to its target consumers. We’ve decided to sell each product at 1,800 Somer Dollars.”

The reporters all gasped in shock at the number.

In comparison to the imported goods that would cost at least 2,000 Somer Dollars, the first-generation Melody from a domestic brand was indeed a little more budget-friendly.

“One more question. How many Melodies is Melody Electronics preparing to manufacture?” another reporter asked.

Valentine smiled proudly. “Melody Electronics is fully prepared with four manufacturing lines that work 24 hours a day. There are currently six million first-generation Melody products in the warehouse and we will be manufacturing at least 500,000 per day in the future!

“Our company has invested a large amount to reach that goal. We’re not worried about having invested too much, for we are confident that our product will stun the country’s MP3 player market!”

After the topic began to trend online, Conrad took over the microphone and suddenly spoke with a smile, “We have another piece of news to share, ladies and gentlemen. Mr. Laine from JW Electronics has a new product to launch as well. Would you like to show us your product, Mr. Laine?”

Life at the Top Chapter 704

Conrad’s words successfully diverted everyone’s attention to Jasper.

Turning his head secretly to glance at Jasper, Conrad felt his emotions thrum calmly within him.

He had waited too long for this day.

He would crush Jasper today and turn the man into the laughing stock of Southeast Province... No, the entire country.

Jasper, who had not said a word since the launch event started, smiled and took the microphone in front of him as the reporters looked over. He spoke, “I did come today to announce the launch of a new product as well. Coincidentally, it’s also an MP3 player like Mr. Monty’s first-generation Melody.

“Of course, my product is rather different from other MP3 players. In fact, I’m more willing to call it an upgraded version, the MP4.

“Unlike the first-generation Melody, my MP4 goes by the name Mellow, derived from the word mellifluous. From the definition alone, I can describe it as a revolutionary product that has completely surpassed all existing MP3 players.

“If one claims that Mr. Monty’s first-generation Melody to be an outstanding product among all other MP3 players, then my Mellow will lead and guide the path to the future of music playing devices.

“JW Electronics does not aim to copy what is already trending overseas. Instead, we aim to make a statement, that those abroad will be the ones to copy the products that we people of Somer descent create.”

Jasper’s words stunned all the reporters present, and everyone was inexplicably filled with anticipation.

2001 had only just started and people were beginning to fawn and worship foreign products. A majority believed that foreign goods were better than domestic ones, that the term ‘domestically manufactured’ somehow made it seem the goods were lacking in quality.

However, as fellow people of Somer descent, they wanted their country to grow stronger. They also wished for their domestically manufactured goods to be copied by foreigners and not the other way around.

Especially when Conrad’s first-generation Melody was introduced first. The introduction mainly compared the product to its foreign counterpart and how similarly they had managed to replicate it.

‘But Jasper?’

‘Jasper has introduced an evolutionary product, one that would have foreigners replicating them instead.

'The winner is evident!'

Conrad's faze instantly grew frosty as he looked at Jasper silently.

"There seems to be a change in the situation, Mr. Monty," Valentine leaned over to whisper, realizing the unusualness of the situation.

"Don't worry, we have the patent rights, remember? He can bluff as much as he wants but there's no escaping the patent rights. That alone is enough for me to screw him over!" Conrad spoke in a dark tone.

Just then, the reporters below were impatient and could not wait to ask, "Mr. Laine, have you officially manufactured this Mellow device you speak of?"

Jasper smiled. "Of course, or I'd just be bluffing, wouldn't I? Let me pass the microphone to the first factory director of JW Electronics Equipment Manufacturing Plant. He'll tell you more about the current manufacturing situation for Mellow."

Jasper then gestured to Chad.

Chad got up excitedly with an MP3 player the size of half his palm in his hand. The most eye-catching part of it was its compact size and a screen that took up more than half the space.

"Dear friends from the press, this is Mellow, JW Electronics' latest product. It's more than just an ordinary MP3 player. It's been upgraded to an MP4!"

The reporters grew more excited as Chad continued to introduce Mellow.

According to Chad's description, there was indeed no similar foreign product out there. It was evident that Mellow was much more outstanding compared to other music-playing devices on the market.

Conrad and Valentine turned grim.

Life at the Top Chapter 705

Conrad glanced at Valentine. The latter nodded and gestured to the few reporters they had bribed in advance.

One of them stood up and asked Jasper, “Mr. Laine, since your company has such an outstanding product, I’d like to ask if you have the related patent rights?”

The question stunned all the reporters.

He was right. No matter how outstanding Mellow was or how it called itself an MP4, there was no changing the fact that it was derived from the MP3 player. That meant there was no escaping the issue of patent rights.

Everyone fell silent and they turned to Jasper, waiting for his reply.

However, the one who spoke was the same reporter who asked the question. They were evidently proud of the effect their question had brought about and asked another question, “Mr. Estrada from Melody Electronics has already explained just now that they’ve received patent rights from Mr. Damond Golding in Coreana. Melody Electronics is the only company within the country with exclusive rights to manufacture the MP3 player. So, Mr. Laine, could you tell us how Mellow decides to tackle this problem?”

Everyone was watching both Jasper and Chad. Their every word and expression would surely be released in the newspapers and reported by news stations tomorrow. As such, they had to be extremely careful of what they said.

Just then, Jasper stood up.

“Indeed, JW Electronics does not have the domestic license to manufacture the MP3 player.”

That statement caused an uproar.

The reporters were rendered speechless.

While piracy was rampant in the country, it was something that no one dared to state blatantly. After all, that would only make a fool of them.

“If you admit that you don’t have the license, Mr. Laine, then why would your JW Electronics continue to manufacture pirated products without patent rights? Do you perhaps believe that you’re untouchable to the country’s law?” Conrad spoke indifferently.

“Or do you perhaps think that Melody Electronics would not dare to sue you?”

Conrad’s two sentences were incendiary.

The atmosphere in the room turned tense.

Yet the reporters only got more excited.

The launch event was supposed to be a normal press conference, and they had not expected the two companies to start a fight out of the blue.

This was earth-shattering news.

This was an incident that would easily increase their ratings and sell out their newspapers.

Each reporter had a foolish smile on their face as they imagined receiving an award from their editor-in-chief.

At the same time, everyone's eyes were on the stage. They were not going to miss out on any single detail.

"JW Electronics is a law-abiding company, there's no way we would do anything illegal," Jasper replied.

"Bullsh*t!" Valentine stepped over and pointed at Jasper, accusing him, "This stupid Mellow of yours was derived from the MP3 player patent and you've admitted that you don't have a license! How is that not illegal?"

Valentine then looked around and stated loudly, "Dear friends of the press, Melody Electronics has spent a large amount of money to buy exclusive licensing from Mr. Damond Golding in Coreana. Our company will not stand by and watch as someone infringes on our interest!

"Especially not nobodies who only play dirty tricks. We'll bring them to the court of law, so could our dear friends from the media please take clear pictures of this ingenuine man? He has blatantly broken the law by openly pirating!"

Life at the Top Chapter 706

Click, click.

Camera lights flashed endlessly in the conference hall, and all the video cameras were aimed right at the stage. No one wanted to miss any details.

If the fight between them was considered normal competition between two companies, then Valentine's words had instantly escalated the situation where it now involved the breaking of the law.

The man had used expletives.

The reporters present all flushed in excitement. The trip over suddenly felt really worth it.

There were too few instances of such situations in the country.

Therefore, the moment such instances occurred, they attracted everyone's attention.

Conrad was very pleased as well. Valentine was becoming more useful to him with every moment. Valentine knew that there were things Conrad was in no position to say, so he jumped out and conveyed the message Conrad wanted to say but could not.

"You're the one speaking nonsense!"

A loud shout came from beside Jasper, causing everyone present to look over in shock.

Especially Valentine. The man's expression darkened after being accused and he turned to look at Chad.

"Who says the only way to manufacture goods is with patent rights?"

Chad scoffed and pulled out a piece of document from his briefcase that he brought with him. He opened it before everyone and spoke, "Not only has JW Electronics bought 50% ownership of the MP3 player patent rights from Sentel Corporation, but we've also signed an improvement patent agreement!

"So as long as we've succeeded in improving the MP3 player, we're automatically granted the user rights to the patent."

Chad looked at the silenced group of reporters proudly as he continued, "In addition, JW Electronics will hold complete ownership over our improved patent rights. That means that our Mellow has fully independent intellectual property rights!

"Unlike some companies who seem to be very proud of the fact that they have a license. So what if they do? They're still working for the foreigners, aren't they? A portion of the profit made from very first-generation Melody has to be distributed to Mr. Damond Golding. Can you still call that a domestically manufactured product?"

Chad's words stunned the entire venue.

The reporters began to whisper among themselves. There were quite a few reporters who did not understand much about patents, licenses, and their pertaining laws, but they all came to an understanding after asking people who worked in those industries—Chad was speaking the truth!

No one had expected JW Electronics to have managed to sign an improvement patent agreement when they could not get a license. Not to mention that they had succeeded too!

This was what a domestic brand truly entailed.

The reporters looked at Jasper excitedly, and they all wanted to know how Jasper had done it.

The man remained calm.

“Ladies and gentlemen,” Jasper took the microphone and spoke softly, “I merely wish to show you with my actions that our Somerland is capable of manufacturing exceptional goods.”

Clap, clap, clap!

No one knew where it started, but all the reporters were fervently clapping at Jasper’s statement. The entire conference hall was instantly drowned out by the sound of applause.

At the same time, both Conrad and Valentine had a very sour look on their faces.

Especially Conrad, who had never expected such a move from Jasper.

“That stupid improvement patent agreement, does it actually exist?” Conrad suppressed his anger and asked Valentine.

Valentine’s face paled as he nodded with difficulty. “It does. There is such regulation under international patent law. As long as the owner of the patent agrees, it’s very much possible. But the issue is that he’d need all of the people with ownership to agree before it’s granted. Damond Golding only has 50%, so how did he get the remaining 50% from Sentel?”

Conrad was slightly shaking after receiving such a shock. He turned to glare fiercely and coldly at Jasper, grinding his teeth together.

“You already knew this was going to happen, Jasper, so that’s why you had everything prepared, right? You were just waiting for me to play my role. How dare you make me into a fool?”

Furious, Conrad asked directly.

“Mr. Monty, how could you accuse me of making you into a fool when you were the one who asked for all of this?” Jasper replied calmly.

“But I must really thank you for giving Mellow such a great opportunity for advertisement, Mr. Monty. It looks like I’ll get to cut down on quite a bit of advertising expenses.”

Conrad was about to combust from infuriation.

He had used up a lot of favors using the Monty family’s name for this launch event just to get dozens of media representatives over, including those two large stations from Swallow Capital. Now, he had given the advantage to Jasper on a silver platter.

The worst part of this all was that his first-generation Melody had its reputation crushed before it could be released.

Conrad felt his limbs grow cold and there was a stuffy gust of air that suffocated his chest. He could not swallow it nor push it out. It felt terrible.

Jasper smiled slightly at Conrad’s reaction.

‘That’s all it took to beat you?’

‘But I’ve only just started.’

He stood up again.

The reporters had learned from experience that if Jasper stood up to speak, it was going to be another large announcement. Everyone looked at Jasper eagerly and waited for another bomb to drop.

Indeed, Jasper did not waste time as he took the microphone and announced, "There's something I'd like to announce as well during this important event.

"Mellow will be sold at 1,699 Somer Dollars starting tomorrow and all consumers are welcome to buy them from any Schuler Supermarket within the country.

"Moreover, every consumer can download official tracks for free from us.

"For that purpose, we've already signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Terizone Inc, Easy Media, and Advent Entertainment Group.

"Easy Media and Advent Entertainment Group are currently the biggest media companies in the Mainland and Harbor City respectively. At least 60% of the famous artists we know now are signed under them.

"We'll provide the biggest official music library within the country, so as long as you buy Mellow, you will be allowed to download the songs for free.

"In addition, JW Electronics will work together with Easy Media and Advent Entertainment Group to attack all sources of pirated music within the country. Our related departments are already in contact and we've received immense support.

"That is all JW Electronics has to say for this launch event, thank you."

Jasper then placed the microphone down once he had finished talking. Leaving coolly, he left Chad to deal with the extremely excited reporters.

Just as Jasper left, Conrad quickly followed after.

His complexion was pale from anger, and his expression was wretched like he wanted to tear Jasper into pieces with his teeth.

“You stand right there, Jasper!”

Life at the Top Chapter 707

“Forget the fact that you’re dominating everything, Jasper, but you’re not even going to give others a chance to make money? Aren’t you afraid that your ruthlessness will come and bite you back in the *ss?”

Conrad’s gaze darkened as he roared. He felt the urge to punch Jasper in the face.

Jasper looked at him confusedly and asked, “What do you mean? You’re making this into more of an issue than it is, Mr. Monty. I don’t think I follow.”

“Stop f*cking pretending to be clueless!” Conrad roared.

“We’re all intelligent people here, what’s the point of this clueless act of yours?”

“What’s the meaning behind the official music library, huh? Tell me what MP3 player doesn’t need to download music! You’re just trying to make the entire market yours with that official music library and wanting to attack pirated sites, aren’t you?!”

Conrad was infuriated when he thought about how the mountain of goods in his warehouse was done for and could not be sold. It was a loss not even the Monty family could endure.

Coupled with the aluminum mine incident, Jasper had struck the Monty family hard twice.

'The Monty family is rich, but it can't take such a series of attacks.'

At that train of thought, Conrad felt like his heart had been pierced through with needles.

"Weren't you the one who kept saying I have to do things legally, Mr. Monty? Supporting the official version and ownership, correct? Or perhaps you don't agree with me attacking pirated music?" Jasper asked with a smile.

Conrad took a deep breath and spoke sinisterly, "You'll anger a lot of people like this, Jasper."

"That's alright. After all, the official music library is free to everyone who buys Mellow. As for imported MP3 players, sure, as long as the consumers pay. After all, I need to pay my employees in the entertainment companies salaries, and who wouldn't take money served on a silver platter?" Jasper spoke calmly.

Conrad scoffed and replied, "Fine. So this is what you have in mind then, making money? You're a cruel man. Fine, I admit my loss. How do you want me to pay you?"

"You've misunderstood, Mr. Monty." Jasper shook his head. "I meant those with imported foreign MP3 players are allowed to pay for access to my music library. But as for competitors within the country, I'm sorry, we're ultimately still rivals. There's no way I'd let my competitor steal my market quota, right?"

Conrad was stunned for a moment when he heard Jasper. The next second, he felt blood rush to his head.

"So you're just killing me off, then?!" Conrad spoke coldly.

“The market is a battlefield, Mr. Monty. I’m sure you wouldn’t have let me live either if our roles were reversed,” Jasper spoke calmly.

Conrad chortled. “Good job, Jasper! What a scheme you’ve plotted here!”

“But I heard that you spent tens of millions on your manufacturing lines, Mr. Monty? In addition to the storage warehouses, oh, and that license, you must’ve spent a lot, haven’t you?” Jasper asked.

“What are you trying to say? The Monty family doesn’t need you to pay for such a small loss.” Conrad spat out coldly as he suppressed the flames of fury within him.

“I was just thinking that if you don’t want them anymore, Mr. Monty, I wouldn’t mind acquiring all your factories and equipment. It just depends on whether you’re willing to part with them or not, Mr. Monty,” Jasper suggested.

Conrad widened his eyes. He could not believe such a shameless man existed in this world!

“You just screwed over my investment of almost one billion Somer Dollars and now you want my factory and manufacturing lines as well? How greedy can you be, Jasper?”

“It’s precisely because I’ve caused such a grave loss to you, Mr. Monty, that I was thinking of a way to make up for it. There’s nothing wrong if you don’t want to accept my kind proposal, Mr. Monty,” Jasper stated.

“Don’t worry. I’d rather lose out on all that money than ever benefit you!” Conrad sneered.

Jasper shrugged and spoke regretfully, “That’s a shame, then. Well, if that’s the case, please excuse me.”

Jasper turned and was about to leave when he heard Conrad speak behind him.

“Wait.”

Jasper turned and looked at Conrad.

Taking a deep breath, Conrad tried to speak in the calmest tone possible, “I can give you my factory and my equipment for free.”

Jasper looked at Conrad but did not speak. He knew that Conrad was not done speaking.

As expected, Conrad paused for a moment before speaking again, “But I want shares to JW Electronics.”

Jasper chuckled. “Sure.”

Conrad looked up and stared at Jasper, asking in disbelief, “Really?”

“Really, but on one condition. I want shares to Monty Group!”

Monty Group was the Monty family’s core business. All of the Monty family’s properties were controlled by Monty Group. It was a parent company, just like Jasper’s JW Capital.

Conrad flew into a rage when he heard Jasper’s condition. “No way, in your dreams! You could sell the entirety of JW Capital and you still wouldn’t be qualified to touch a cent of the Monty Group’s shares.”

“Exactly, that’s what I wanted to say as well.” Jasper had never intended to be a shareholder of Monty Group. It was just as impossible as him allowing Conrad to be a shareholder of JW Capital.

Conrad glared at Jasper and ground his molars. “You’ll get karma for being so merciless, Jasper!”

“If there’s nothing else, Mr. Monty, I’ll get going now.” Jasper shook his head. He was no longer interested in arguing with Conrad anymore.

Conrad glared at Jasper’s retreating figure and fell silent for a long while.

He clenched his jaw as a gust of humiliation and hatred surged in his chest. He did not understand why he could not win Jasper no matter what he did. Not even when he struck first.

Just then, Valentine rushed over to him. Seeing that Conrad was alone, he walked over carefully and spoke, “Mr. Monty, where’s Jasper? What should we do now?”

“News has already gotten out and the merchants already know what’s going on. The merchants have come to find us at the company and they’re requesting a refund. What do we do?”

“What should we do, what do we do... All everyone knows is to ask me what to do next. How the f*ck am I supposed to know?” Furious, Conrad suddenly pushed Valentine and the other felt his back knock against the wall.

“I got you people to work for me, not to ask me what to do!”

Seeing how Conrad seemed to have lost all rationale, Valentine sighed. He knew that he no longer had a place beside Conrad.

Someone had to take responsibility for the failure of Melody’s products. There was no way Conrad would take the responsibility, so it had to be him.

Life at the Top Chapter 708

“I’ll hand in my resignation to you tomorrow, Mr. Monty.”

Valentine sighed and spoke softly.

Conrad looked at Valentine sinisterly and spoke coldly, "What, you're just going to wash your hands off this incident just like that?"

Valentine shook his head disappointingly and spoke, "That's not what I meant, Mr. Monty. You know that someone has to take responsibility for all of this. It's only right that I take the blame."

Conrad halted and spoke solemnly, "Go back and calm down. I'm busy, we'll talk about everything else next time."

Conrad then left without turning back.

Exiting the hotel, Conrad drove straight to the quiet villa.

In the backyard was a middle-aged man in traditional clothing fishing by the lake. The sun was bright and the weather was good, but Conrad's mood was despondent like an impending storm.

"Welcome home, Young Master," a servant greeted.

Conrad waved him off and spoke indifferently, "You're all excused. I want to talk to my dad alone."

The servants left and Conrad sat beside Steven. His tone was full of despair when he spoke, "I lost again, Dad."

Steven was focused on the particles floating on the surface of the lake. He did not seem to be too agitated about Conrad's loss.

"I expected it."

Conrad frowned slightly at Steven's words. "Isn't it a bit too late to say that, Dad?"

Steven smiled and replied meaningfully, “Do you know what the biggest difference between you and Jasper is?”

Conrad replied coldly, “The brat is too good at scheming and very good at waiting.

“Every time! It’s like this every time! He always waits until the last minute to show his hand!”

Steven shook his head. “That’s just the surface of it.”

“Let me ask you. Have you dug up information on him and found out about how Jasper got to where he is today?” Steven asked again.

Conrad was stunned for a moment and replied with a sneer, “He earned himself millions from the futures market a year ago and then kept making more money based on pure luck. Then the international crude oil incident gave him a ton of wealth. But so what? With such opportunities, even idiots could grow rich.”

“What about you, then? Why didn’t you take those chances?” Steven asked.

Conrad was about to protest but he realized he had nothing to say when he opened his mouth.

Indeed, all of those incidents were hugely profitable opportunities, but they were all in the past now. There were not many people who could tell that there would be profitable opportunities before they happened.

People who could accurately make these judgments were rare, and they had all become rich thanks to that.

Sighing, Steven retracted his fishing line. The bait was gone, but he had no idea when the fish took it.

Steven replaced the bait as he spoke, “This is the biggest difference between you two. The fact that he’s willing to wait is only the surface of things. He’s detail-oriented and a very skilled man with an exceptionally sharp eye for things. There aren’t many people comparable to him in terms of that within the country, let alone you.

“But that’s not the point now. So what if you find a so-called chance to profit? How many people would truly dare to take the risk? He made his first trade with a mortgage from his only house here in the province.

“Lose, and you live on the streets. Win, and you’ll be bathed in riches. Would you have dared to take the bet if you had been in his shoes?”

Conrad fell deep in thought at Steven’s question.

“No, you wouldn’t have.”

Life at the Top Chapter 709

Without waiting for Conrad’s reply, Steven gave his opinion.

“Because you’re a Monty. You started on a finish line that most people could never reach even if they worked hard from the moment they were born till the end of their lives. You’re used to living a pampered and protected life. You were set for a comfortable life even without fighting for it.”

Steven tossed the fishing line out and spoke calmly, “That’s also the difference between a king who fought for his throne and one who inherited it.”

Conrad clenched his jaw. “I lost almost a billion dollars again this time. It’s not fair!”

“What’s a bit of loss? The Monty family can take much more than that. Jasper is the best target practice I can give you. This isn’t an easy target and you might get hurt if you’re not careful. You’ve lost twice against him, each loss worse than the last.

“Meanwhile, Jasper is growing stronger every day. He gains profits every time you lose and if this keeps going, the distance between the two of you will only reduce until you two end up as equals.”

Conrad was not pleased with Steven’s words. “Who does he think he is? As if he’s worthy of being my equal!”

“In reality, I’d say he’s somewhere above you in my eyes,” Steven spoke solemnly.

Conrad clenched his jaw. “I won’t let him get away with this!”

“Calm down and clear your mind. Then decide what you want to do next.” Steven passed Conrad the fishing rod.

“Come fish at the pond when you’re free. Take a breather and focus, it helps with pondering many important things. The more important a decision, the more calm and open an environment you need to be in to think.

“Don’t think about going in until you’ve caught at least three fishes.”

Steven then got up to leave.

“Oh, one more thing.”

Steven suddenly turned to Conrad while he was walking and asked, “You have a Valentine Estrada by your side, right?”

Conrad nodded. “I do, but he’s decided to resign.”

“He’s promising, keep him by your side,” Steven spoke.

Conrad frowned slightly and replied, “He’s skilled, but this incident...”

“Con, as superiors, we must learn to accept others’ flaws. More importantly, you have to know how to get your men to be utterly loyal to you. How will he see you if instead of pushing all the blame to him, you keep him by your side?” Steven prompted calmly.

Conrad thought about it before nodding slightly. “I understand.”

...

While Conrad and Steven conversed in the villa, Jasper had returned to the investment company as well.

Chad, who had been receiving phone calls the entire way over, was flushed with excitement.

“Its popularity is exploding, Mr. Laine! Mellow’s popularity is exploding! Countless merchants are begging us for products! They’re all willing to pay in advance as long as it means they’ll get the product!”

In the office, Jasper smiled as he sat down. “I expected no less. But I need you to make sure that we will only manufacture according to what we’ve predicted—not one device more.”

Chad was confused. “But why, Mr. Laine? Mellow is in very high demand right now. We should take this chance to manufacture in large quantities. Why do you want to keep it at 30% of our manufacturing capacity?”

Jasper chuckled. “The scarcer something is, the more precious it becomes. The best way to get someone to remember our product in the shortest time possible is by making it something everyone wants to buy but may not be able to even if they’re willing to pay. This is the brand effect.”

It made sense that Chad did not understand. For this was the hunger marketing strategy that a mobile phone company would be using in the future.

Jasper, though, could not be more familiar with the strategy.

Life at the Top Chapter 710

Jasper's words were thought-provoking.

After all, as a man who had spent more than half his life working with state-owned enterprises, Chad was not a man to be underestimated. After a moment of thought, he mostly understood what Jasper meant.

"You really are a natural-born businessman, Mr. Laine," Chad exclaimed with admiration.

Jasper smiled and passed Chad a cup of coffee. "Perhaps start nurturing a few well-trusted confidants for the electronics company, especially at the factory. That's going to be the company's important source of income in the future.

"But my plans for you lie in the position of director of the Human Resource Department in my investment company. You can't stay in JW Electronics forever to cultivate a team of managers. You should get this done as fast as possible."

Chad nodded in understanding. "Alright, I'll train a few leaders."

"I'll hold an overall assembly with all companies under JW Capital by the time you assume your position. One, so that everyone can get to know you and thus make future work easier; two, to deal with some of the company's internal issues."

Jasper rubbed his temples and spoke in a slightly tired manner.

There was quite a big problem with the investing company and due to various reasons, Jasper had yet the chance to deal with them.

The investment company's managerial team, for example. Excluding Chad, Jasper had no idea how the others' standards were.

The most important thing now was that Jasper needed someone who could take on the role of a commander when Jasper himself was too busy to deal with the company.

This was a very important position and one with very high authority. As such, Jasper could not trust hunting companies to help him look for such professional managers to fit the role.

There was a long road ahead of him and there was much work he had to do.

Thinking back to those reincarnation novels that he had read before, Jasper realized how unrealistic they were. All the main character had to do was appear with his dignified aura and all sorts of lackeys would bow to him, pledging loyalty.

...

The next day, following the report of the launch event in newspapers and television stations, Mellow had officially begun to trend.

Merchants had their own methods of gaining intel so they had gotten news of it earlier. Ordinary consumers, however, could only learn of such things through the media.

Not to mention that the internet had yet to be as advanced as the future, where news all over the world could spread like wildfire in just a few hours.

By the second day when the news of the launch event had simmered a little, all the consumers had gone mad.

Countless youths broke their piggy banks or begged their parents to go to the nearest Schuler Supermarket for a Mellow.

There were even cases of people lining up at some supermarkets in large cities like Cavern City, Swallow Capital, and Waterhoof City just so they could get their hands on a Mellow.

Authorized sellers had gone mad as well in face of such enthusiasm.

While JW Electronics had explicitly stated that most of their products would be sold by Schuler Supermarkets, other authorized sellers were still distributed 25% of the goods.

Therefore, consumers all ran to buy the device from other merchants when they were sold out at Schuler Supermarkets.

They would buy the device even if the price cost a few hundred more.

In addition, Terizone's music downloading site seemed to show a trend of being overwhelmed soon.

"We've already added three emergency servers, Mr. Laine, and we've talked to the operator to increase our bandwidth temporarily. But the load at the website has already severely exceeded its designed index. It might crash soon."

Life at the Top Chapter 711

Ever since Hudson had received Jasper's investment and was enlightened about monetizing traffic, he had not needed to worry about servers anymore.

At that moment, he was both elated and frustrated.

He merely thought that the website Jasper had asked him to create would be no more than a small gimmick, so he had not expected it to bring Terizone such great traffic.

Even Jack, who was currently in Coreana in charge of Sena's business, had called him to complain.

Jack was unhappy about Jasper's favoritism to Hudson by giving Terizone such an opportunity for huge traffic.

At the other end of the video call, Jasper smiled. "I don't care, do what you have to do to make sure the site doesn't crash. This is huge traffic, and how many consumers you manage to turn into Terizone subscribers will be up to you."

Hudson laughed aloud. "I've already assigned the majority of the company's important technicians to work on the website. It should be able to hold up.

"Oh, and Mr. Laine, you said something about looking for a professional manager right?" Hudson suddenly asked.

Jasper smiled subtly and asked, "Do you have someone in mind? But I've changed my mind. A professional manager has its own perks, but the problem now is how much I can trust them. You know how it is. What I need is someone who can deal with all business transactions in my investment company when I'm busy."

Hudson was an entrepreneur as well so he understood Jasper's worries.

"I think you could try and meet this man? He's a westerner. I understand that there'd be some reservations with a professional manager from the country, but the man is from the west so he doesn't have as many strings attached with the people here. There's a lot less to worry about," Hudson spoke.

"Who is it?" Jasper was interested.

"His name is Malcolm Malibu. You might not be too familiar with the name, Mr. Laine, but he's been working in the world's largest consumer goods corporation, Procter and Gamble, since the very start. He started as a salesman and made his way up to the position of the head of Global Fabric Care.

"I heard that he got rejected when he tried to join the East Terra Board of Directors recently so he gave up."

Jasper's eyes shone.

While Malcolm himself was not famous, the brand of powdered detergent he was in charge of within the country was a household name.

He was the one who started Tide from scratch!

This man had only failed once in his career and that was when he wanted to join the East Terra Board of Directors. His future career was smooth-sailing after that and not only had he become the president of the Terra region, but he also served as the COO at the P&G's headquarters and later, as the CEO.

In Jasper's past life before he reincarnated, which was the year 2020, Malcolm had already become the global president of Procter and Gamble and joined the board of directors as the vice-chairman.

He was a distinguished man who had developed and promoted the occupation of a professional manager.

“Are you two acquainted?” Jasper asked.

Hudson smiled. “I don’t know him personally, but my wife and his wife did their postgraduates together. My wife just told me recently about how Malcolm was complaining about being mistreated by P&G and how he wanted to resign.”

“Help me contact him as quickly as you can. I’d like to meet him,” Jasper immediately spoke.

If Malcolm was a fellow countryman, then Jasper would not hesitate to decline the notion. After all, there were too many subsidiaries under JW Capital now and the position of a senior executive would surely involve a great deal of interest.

It was not to say that professional managers in the country were not as professional as those in the west, but the main point here was that as a westerner, Malcolm would not have his judgment clouded by personal interests.

As long as hefty profits were promised, people like Malcolm were the easiest people to employ.

Life at the Top Chapter 712

Since both parties were willing, Jasper got the chance to meet Malcolm three days later.

The only difference from any normal meeting was that Malcolm had requested it to be a family meeting instead. This meant that both families were to bring their wives and children, if any. Their discussion would then be held in a more relaxed and calm environment.

Jasper was not surprised.

Malcolm had always been a family man and such a request was most likely for him to test out if he could work with his employer's temperament.

The relationship between a professional manager and his employer was not to be neglected. A frigid relationship would only end in a lose-lose situation.

The more top-notch the professional manager, the more requirements they had for their employer.

"Do you think Mr. Malibu and his wife will like our gift?"

Wendy asked worriedly on the way to the meeting.

Jasper smiled. "Top-notch professional managers like him start with earning tens of millions of US dollars a year, and they get company dividends too. Money is the last of their problems, so giving them unique trinkets might earn their favor."

Wendy blinked and replied, "This meeting seems to matter a lot to you."

Jasper stared out the window where the scenery vanished behind him and sighed. "I don't have much of a choice. The company's getting bigger and I'm only one man. My power alone isn't enough to build JW up."

Jasper was well aware of his own shortcomings. While the memories from his past life were the biggest advantage he had, his memories were also beginning to stray further from the current reality thanks to his involvement. There was no way Jasper could completely rely on them for the rest of his life.

The heavy responsibility to build up his enterprise still depended on his abilities.

While Jasper admitted that he had an average amount of knowledge about finance and investment, just about enough to support him, he was completely out of his depth when it came to modernized enterprise management and building company structure.

He had no other choice but to ask someone else for help.

Thank goodness that while talents were expensive to recruit, they were available as long as you were willing to pay the price.

“I’ll do my best to help you too,” Wendy spoke gently, knowing that Jasper had been under a lot of stress lately.

Jasper pinched Wendy’s nose adoringly and spoke, “All you need to do is be the woman of the house. Just take full control and authority over my finances.”

“What if I take your money and run?” Wendy pushed Jasper’s hand away and chided.

“You’re mine, aren’t you? Why would I be afraid of you running with my money?” Jasper asked with an arched brow.

“Who said I was yours? In your dreams!”

“Then who else do you belong to, hmm? Give me a name, I’ll kill him.”

“Oh my God, stop.”

As the host, Jasper was the one who chose the venue of the meal. Instead of choosing a high-class five-star hotel, he chose a famous underground restaurant in Nauritus City.

The owner of the restaurant was Dawson’s old friend and Dawson liked to drop by for meals when he was free. Jasper had been here before and the food was delicious.

Once they arrived, Jasper alighted the car and walked toward the restaurant while talking to Wendy.

They happened to meet a group of people coincidentally.

The man walking in front was a chubby middle-aged man with a big forehead and large ears. There was an eye-catching LV belt around his waist and it shimmered under the light. It was almost as brightly as the oleaginous surface of his face.

The middle-aged man was stunned when he saw Jasper and his expression immediately morphed into anger.

He was Marlon Bailey, the largest general merchandise distributor in Mustiece Province, Southeast Province's neighbor.

He had originally come to Southeast Province through connections and landed a large order with Melody Electronics. Not only had he put in favors with many people here and there just for this order, but he had also paid for everything in advance.

Life at the Top Chapter 713

It was supposed to be a profitable business, but the first-generation Melody was now completely done for and the money he paid for tens of millions of products was forfeit.

This was all because of Jasper's Mellow.

The worst part of it all was that Mellow was sold mainly through independent sales with merchants as a secondary supplier. This resulted in the embarrassing situation of Marlon wanting to be one of Mellow's merchants yet could never be distributed a portion.

Marlon felt his anger rise and all his inhibitions replaced by courage at the sight of Jasper.

“Jasper!”

Marlon shouted.

Jasper looked at Marlon and frowned slightly. “Hi? Do I know you?”

Marlon scoffed. “How could small nobodies like us ever catch the eye of Mr. Laine and his large company?”

Seeing that Marlon was not here for pleasant conversations, Jasper replied calmly, “I’m busy, I don’t have time to waste on pointless conversations with you here.”

Jasper then tugged on Wendy’s hand and led her to the side.

However, they had their paths blocked by two snickering men. “Why are you in such a rush to leave? Mr. Bailey’s not done talking yet, won’t you stay and listen?”

Marlon walked over to Jasper and spoke enviously, “Your business has been doing great lately, Mr. Laine. I can’t help but envy you. You’re earning a lot, aren’t you?”

“Not that it concerns you,” Jasper spoke calmly.

Marlon barked back wretchedly. “How does that not concern me? The public wouldn’t be as uninterested in the first-generation Melody if you hadn’t stepped in and foiled our plans! I invested more than ten million and it’s all gone now!”

It was then that Jasper understood. This man was one of the merchants who had suffered grave losses for betting on Melody MP3 players.

If the man was speaking the truth, a loss of more than ten million meant that he was quite a large merchant.

“There are prices to pay regardless of what business decision you make. It’s not my fault you made the wrong choice, nor did I force you to sign a contract with Melody,” Jasper replied.

Marlon sneered and said, “Don’t act so proud, Mr. Laine. How about I say it like this? I’m from Mustiece Province and I have quite a few contacts over there. If you want to do business in Mustiece Province in the future, I suggest you give me a compensation fee of at least ten million to cover my losses from my investment.

“Or else, I’ll make sure that there won’t be a single Schuler Supermarket in Mustiece Province. I heard that you do real estate as well, right, Mr. Laine? I wonder if you’d ever want to take real estate projects in Mustiece Province?”

Standing beside Jasper, Wendy’s small face paled in face of such blatant threat.

She was just about to scold the man when Jasper smiled and replied first.

“Could I ask for your name?”

Marlon thought that he had managed to threaten Jasper. Smiling proudly, he replied, “The name’s Marlon Bailey.”

“Well then, Mr. Bailey, which properties do you own in Mustiece Province?” Jasper asked again.

The lackey beside Marlon replied immediately in a haughty manner, “The biggest department store in Mustiece Province, Prosper Shopping Center, belongs to Mr. Bailey! We have six branch outlets in Mustiece Province and each of them is a few stories tall!”

“Quite the business indeed.” Jasper nodded.

People in Mustiece Province were fierce and there were all sorts of unspoken rules as well as underground forces there. The fact that Marlon could build up his business to such a scale was a testament to his strength.

“So you’re well aware. Southeast Province may be your territory, but you’ll have to listen to me if you want to do business in Mustiece Province in the future, understand?” Marlon spoke arrogantly.

As far as Marlon was concerned, Jasper was no more than a money cow ready to be milked right now.

He had not expected Jasper to be so cowardly. Marlon believed that with more threats in the future, he might even get his loss back and be distributed his share of the domestically trending Mellow MP3 players!

Life at the Top Chapter 714

“I think JW Electronics signed contracts with two merchants from Mustiece Province. Give me a moment, Mr. Bailey. Let me call and confirm.” Jasper then pulled his phone out to call Chad.

Drowned in his own fantasy, Marlon frowned at the scene and spoke harshly, “What are you calling to check for? Why would I lie to you? Stop wasting time and just pay up my ten million Somer Dollars compensation fee. And I want 100,000 Mellow MP3 players to be distributed every month.

“Or I’ll make business impossible for you in Mustiece Province.”

Ignoring Marlon who continued to shout, Jasper’s call with Chad had already been connected.

“Chad, do we have any partnerships with merchants in Mustiece Province?”

“We have two, Mr. Laine. One of them is Luck Shopping Center, Mustiece Province’s biggest department store, and the other is Leila, one of Mustiece Province’s best electronic wholesale companies.

“There were also a few smaller businesses who wanted to partner with us but we rejected them.”

Very familiar with the details, Chad immediately relayed the information to Jasper.

Jasper nodded and turned to ask Marlon, “Mr. Bailey, I wonder how your company fares in comparison to Luck and Leila?”

Marlon’s expression turned slightly awkward.

Leila was a wholesaler, so there was not much trade between them. Marlon knew that Leila’s owner was a capable man.

Luck Shopping Center, on the other hand, was a god-level business and hardly anything Marlon could compete with.

“What’s with all this nonsense? How my company fares in comparison to those two has nothing to do with you,” Marlon spat out the words.

Jasper smiled and told Chad through the phone, “Tell them that the person who manages to destroy Prosper Shopping Center within a week gets to sign an indefinite partnership with JW Electronics. All goods will be sold to them at a 10% discount and their share of distribution will be increased by 20%.”

‘Just how trendy are Mellow MP3 players now, you may ask.

‘Well, it has gotten to the point where professional scalpers have appeared.’

Everyone knew that as long as you had a way to buy the Mellow MP3 player, you could easily resell it and earn 200 to 300 bucks of profit.

Mellow MP3 players could become such a hot topic so terrifyingly quick only because of its superior quality as well as Jasper's hunger marketing strategy.

Therefore, the moment Jasper sent word out, competitors in Mustiece Province would instantly begin to take action.

As the target of all this, Marlon's expression changed drastically at Jasper's words and he roared, "What are you doing, Jasper?!"

Not even Marlon's fierce facade could hide the panic in his eyes.

He was well aware that the benefits Jasper was giving out would be too alluring to companies like Luck and Leila.

Moreover, Luck was Marlon's rival. The only reason Marlon's business was still running was that he kept a low profile and stayed away from trouble during the past two years. On the other hand, Luck was busy developing further and did not have time to waste fighting Prosper.

However, there was nothing stopping Luck anymore. Not with the temptation of making a hefty profit and the fact that getting rid of Prosper meant that Luck could take Prosper's market share as well.

Marlon was truly panicking right now.

He did not expect Jasper to be so ruthless.

After hearing a word of acknowledgment from Chad, Jasper then hung up the phone and smiled at Marlon. "Mr. Bailey, with how prominent your department store is, I'm sure you've got quite a few members, right?"

Marlon felt his heart squeeze and he glared at Jasper, growling. "What do you plan on doing?"

Department stores attracted customers to shop with them usually through the allure of memberships. Members tended to have discounts and were given vouchers once they had spent a certain amount of money.

Jasper did not reply. Instead, he chuckled and made another phone call in front of Marlon.

This time it was to Dawson.

There was no need to explain anything with Dawson so Jasper went straight to the point.

"Uncle Schuler, could you have the department in Schuler Supermarket that's in charge of Muestiece Province come up with a plan? As long as customers show proof that they've forfeited membership with Prosper Shopping Center, they'll be given a Schuler Supermarket voucher worth 50 Somer Dollars, available to use at all outlets in the country.

"I'll have the investment company compensate the expenses back to the group when I return."

Dawson did not even ask why when he heard Jasper's request, merely reacting by chiding Jasper mirthfully, "You little brat. Don't give me that compensation nonsense. Prosper Shopping Center, correct? Got it, I'll pass the word."

Jasper hung up the phone and turned to Marlon whose complexion was drained of all color. "Do you still need me to compensate you, Mr. Bailey?"

Marlon was both terrified and furious. Even though he was pointing at Jasper, he was too speechless to say anything.

Jasper had attacked twice. The first attack was harsh and placed him in an extremely difficult position.

The second was even more ruthless, and Jasper would completely screw Marlon over by taking all his members.

One could only imagine the scene of countless members asking to revoke their membership with Prosper and ask for a refund once news got out.

Such a scene was enough to close Prosper Shopping Center down.

“You heard what I said, didn’t you? I will compensate 50 Somer Dollars to every customer that revokes their membership with Prosper Shopping Center. This is quite a substantial temptation and it’ll cost me at least ten million.

“I don’t mind giving someone ten million for free, but I will never allow anyone to steal a cent from me.” Jasper’s tone was indifferent, but his words were cold.

“I’m going to kill you, Jasper!” Marlon roared.

Angry and afraid, Marlon seemed to have lost all rationale and was about to rush over.

Behind Jasper, Julian took a step forward and glared at Marlon.

Any movement from Marlon and Julian would physically instill the concept of respect in the man.

“It’s normal to make a loss sometimes when it comes to doing business, Mr. Bailey. What’s wrong here is you threatening someone to compensate for your losses just because you made a bad decision.” Jasper shook his head.

Just then, Jasper’s phone rang.

Marlon shuddered. He had become afraid of Jasper calling people on his phone now.

The two calls prior had resulted in his business meeting with impending doom. There was no saying if this call would result in the end of his life.

Trembling, Marlon suddenly realized how ridiculous he was. He could not believe he thought he had managed to threaten Jasper with his insignificant contacts in Mustiece Province.

What Jasper just displayed was the epitome of 'having contacts'.

'He only needed two calls to get rid of me.

'Why'd I even threaten him in the first place?'

Marlon was suddenly filled with immense regret. Before this conversation with Jasper, all he was facing was a loss of ten million. He still had his company despite facing a grave loss. Yet now that the conversation was over, it was truly over for Marlon.

Jasper's call had already connected by then.

"The Malibus have arrived. Let's go meet them," Jasper turned to tell Wendy.

The duo left with Julian in tow, leaving Marlon and his lackeys to become pitiful beings who no one could care less about.

Life at the Top Chapter 715

"Mr. Malibu, welcome to Somerland."

Jasper approached to greet Malcolm and his wife Kelly as they alighted the MPV hand in hand.

Malcolm was a middle-aged man in his 40s, and while his features looked stern, his smile was infectious.

“Hello, Mr. Laine. Thank you for having us.”

Jasper turned to look at Kelly and smiled. “And this beautiful lady must be Mrs. Kelly, correct?”

Kelly shook Jasper’s hand politely. “What a young man you are, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper laughed aloud and turned to pull Wendy over to introduce her, “This is Miss Schuler, my girlfriend.”

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Malibu, Mrs. Kelly.” Wendy shook both their hands amicably.

Malcolm looked at Wendy and then exclaimed to Jasper, “What a lucky man you are, Mr. Laine, to have found such a beautiful and distinguished lady.”

“I believe we’re both lucky men in this regard, Mr. Malibu.” Jasper smiled.

He had praised three people in one sentence alone. This was the art of speaking.

From Malcolm and Kelly’s expressions, they seemed relatively happy about it.

The group entered a reserved private room, and Jasper smiled at Mrs. Kelly who was looking around at the interior design curiously. “Since this is the first time you two have been in Somerland, I thought I’d find a place where both the food and interior could represent our culture. I hope it’s to your liking.”

“I already like the interior design,” Kelly spoke with glee.

Jasper smiled and cued Wendy with a look.

Wendy understood and pulled out the gift they had prepared in advance.

“I know you’re from Indiana, Mr. Malibu, just like the superstar Jackson, so I thought I’d get you a signed limited edition collectible album for you. I hope it’s to your liking.”

Taking over Jasper’s gift, Malcolm spoke excitedly, “Oh. This is the 1989 platinum collectible edition! I’ve been searching for it for a long time but couldn’t find it anywhere. Thank you, Mr. Laine, you’ve helped fulfill a dream of mine.”

Wendy was giving Kelly a gift too.

“Mrs. Kelly, this is a gift I got for you. It’s a small handmade panda pendant. Pandas are Somerland’s national animal. I heard you like pandas, Mrs. Kelly, so I hope you’d like this small pendant as well,” Wendy spoke amicably.

Mrs. Kelly was surprised. “Oh my God! I’ve been wanting my husband to go to Criucia Province with me to see the pandas since this is my first time in Somerland. I didn’t think I’d get such a beautiful gift before I saw them. Thank you so much.”

Seeing that the two of them liked their gifts, Jasper and Wendy locked eyes and smiled.

With a great head start, the conversation between the four of them became very joyful.

Jasper had also found out that other than the ability to manage finances, Wendy was also very talented when it came to socializing.

She had made a great impression on Mrs. Kelly at least, and she managed to join the conversation in a way that matched Jasper seamlessly.

With Jasper hosting and Wendy supporting him, the atmosphere at the dinner table was relaxed and jubilant.

Westerners did not have the habit of speaking about business at the dinner table, so Jasper waited until they were finished and were resting in the lounge before he delved into the topic.

Life at the Top Chapter 716

Malcolm was evidently prepared. Before Jasper could speak, Malcolm first gave his stance on the matter.

“To be frank, Mr. Laine, I came to meet you in hopes to change my career. As you know, I’m facing a small issue working with P&G, and I think that a change in my working environment might give me insight into my problems.”

This was the result of leaving a good impression. Malcolm would not have been so quick to speak if otherwise.

Jasper smiled. “My thoughts on the matter exactly, Mr. Malibu. You want a new job and I want a capable COO.”

“Not a CEO? Malcolm frowned and asked. This was not what he understood at the beginning.

Honestly speaking, Malcolm was slightly looking down on Jasper’s company. After all, as far as he was concerned, a modernized private enterprise did not exist in Somerland.

Even if there was, it was incomparable to P&G.

He was already the head of one of Procter and Gamble’s larger departments and there was no reason for him to accept anything less than the role of CEO of another company.

Why would he accept the position of COO?

“Mr. Malibu, my company is still in its initial stages and while there is quite an amount of funds, it has only just been established. I’ll take on the position of the

company's CEO, but that will not hinder your authority as the COO," Jasper explained.

Malcolm shook his head and declined. "I'm sorry, Mr. Laine. I thought you would give me the position of COO, or I wouldn't have come tonight. Thank you for hosting us. It's getting late, I should return and rest."

Malcolm then got up and moved to leave.

Jasper tilted his head down to drink his coffee. He narrowed his eyes slightly but did not call the man back.

This moment was key to the game Jasper and Malcolm were playing. If Jasper agreed to Malcolm's whims, then he would be put at a disadvantage for the rest of the negotiation process.

Plus, Jasper refused to allow a professional manager to boss him around in his own company.

This was his company, so he had to have the final word.

Seeing how the negotiation was taking a turn for the worse, Wendy immediately thought of a plan and turned to Kelly, "Are you leaving already, Mrs. Kelly? It's a shame, I was thinking of inviting you to the zoo. We have two large pandas there, a gift from the Criucia Province last year."

Mrs. Kelly was surprised and she turned to tell Malcolm, "Can't you be a little more patient, dearest?"

Malcolm could not help but smile wryly at how his wife was completely at Wendy's mercy.

"I'd like to know about your company's current situation, Mr. Laine," Malcolm told Jasper who chose to sit down patiently in the end.

Jasper smiled and put the cup of coffee down. Then, he spoke loudly, “JW Capital is my parent company, and under it are a few holding as well as wholly-owned subsidiaries. Among which are two companies in the dot-com industry, two in the media and entertainment, one in real estate, and one in electronics.”

Malcolm’s frown deepened as he heard this. He could not help but feel like Jasper was bluffing.

“Pardon my bluntness, Mr. Laine, but you said that you were still in the initial stages of entrepreneurship? Involving your company in so many different industries at the same time makes your company really susceptible to crashing. This is a time where you should focus only on one industry.

“To be frank, I’ve seen many outstanding entrepreneurs who have ended their careers prematurely because they started branching out to other industries. It’s not easy to work in multiple industries, let alone like you, Mr. Laine, dabbling in so many industries at the very beginning. You’re not going to be able to do well in any of those industries.

“If I have to guess... the companies in the other industries you dabble in must all be small, right, Mr. Laine? Or perhaps, they’re just empty shells?”

Malcolm was direct. He was a little pissed about how Jasper got him to take a step back through his wife, so there was no reason for him to back down on a chance to offend Jasper.

However, in face of Malcolm’s words, Jasper only gave a mysterious smile as he sat before him.

Life at the Top Chapter 717

“Mr. Malibu, you might’ve heard of the two dot-com industry companies of mine.

“One of them is called Sena, Somerland’s first web portal.

“The other is Terizone Inc. Its main product is KK, an instant messaging software that currently dominates the most market shares within the country. It has no competitors.”

Mrs. Kelly suddenly gasped and interrupted Jasper.

“Terizone? Oh, their KK software is really nice. I have a KK number as well, their video calling function is just too convenient. Didn’t you register for a KK account too, dearest? And you complained about how their server only exists within Somerland, causing our video calls to lag all the time.

“I remember how you even emailed them and requested that they set up a server overseas as well.”

Malcolm flushed at Mrs. Kelly’s words.

She gave perfect assistance and Jasper could not help but smile.

“Thank you two for your suggestions. I’ll definitely bring it to Terizone’s managerial level and have them pay better attention to this matter.”

Malcolm spoke awkwardly, “Let’s not talk about this one anymore. What about your other industries? If your main business is the dot-com industry, then the development of your other companies in other industries must be rather average then.”

“The media and entertainment industry? One of them is Advent Entertainment Group. It used to be the best film company in Harbor City before I acquired it and more than 60% of Harbor City’s best actors are currently signed under it.

“There’s one more that’s slightly weaker, but it’s still one of the leading companies in Somerland’s media and entertainment industry. It’s called Easy Media.”

Malcolm’s features twitched, and he felt a little embarrassed.

He loved Jackson, so he was more or less aware of what went on in the media and entertainment industry. There had been numerous Hollywood reports about the founding of Advent Entertainment Group, so he knew about it.

He also knew that this Advent Entertainment Group had a very broad domain in Somerland.

As for Easy Media, while he did not know much about it, he could understand that it was to some degree formidable through its relation to Advent Entertainment Group.

“As for real estate, I have JW Real Estates which I founded half a year ago. As of now, we’re about to finish the Southface River Project in Nauritus City. Once the project is done, it’ll become the benchmark model for renovation in the other cities of Somerland.

“There’s another project still in its planning stage and that’s the construction of the world’s first skyscraper in Waterhoof City. It’s designed to reach a height of 650 meters and it’s been passed to Morgan’s team in Gensler Design and Architecture Firm. The actual design sketch should be completed soon and I’m estimating an investment of around 16 billion Somer Dollars.”

Malcolm’s eyes widened in disbelief.

Had he not done some digging on Jasper and found out that he was an exceptionally outstanding man, Malcolm would have mistaken him for a madman or a conman.

After all, all the companies that Jasper listed held formidable positions in their respective industries. These were companies that normal people might not even own after slaving their entire life away.

Yet Jasper claimed that they were all his properties.

‘Just how wealthy is Jasper?’

Malcolm could not believe that all this belonged to this young man in his 20s who was sitting in front of him.

Jasper ignored Malcolm who was deep in thought and continued to speak.

“As for the electronics company, it’s the newest one and therefore the smallest. The company currently has one product only.”

At that, Malcolm finally let out a sigh of relief.

‘Thank goodness. So it seems that there are still industries that Jasper can’t tackle. It’s only one product and the smallest business among the rest. How formidable could it be?’

Malcolm thought that perhaps not all dignity was lost.

“It’s a product called Mellow, an improved version of the MP3 player. We have full patent ownership over it and it’s currently the best-selling MP3 player within Somerland. I have plans to export Mellow and sell it overseas, but I’m still contacting sales channels.”

Malcolm was utterly stunned by Jasper’s words.

'I thought you said it was the smallest business?

'I thought you said you only had one product?

'Why are all of your products earth-shattering innovations?'

Malcolm flushed in embarrassment when he thought about how he had taunted Jasper earlier.

Jasper took in the change in Malcolm's expression. He felt proud, but he made sure his expression was one of exhaustion.

"These are all my current businesses, Mr. Malibu. You're right, it's not easy broadening my spectrum and working in multiple industries. I'm exhausted and I need someone to help take some pressure off."

Thank goodness that Malcolm was a foreigner who did not understand archaic Somerish, or he would have immediately thought of the saying, 'The mouth parts, and in its place is utter gibberish.'

Everyone around the world desired this kind of exhaustion yet not many people could achieve it.

Smiling frigidly, Malcolm suddenly wondered if he was qualified to be the CEO of such a company.

Malcolm's heart thrummed wildly in his chest.

While he had worked as a senior executive for P&G, he was only in charge of one single business in the group. JW Capital, on the other hand, was a multi-industrial group, and he did not know if he could do a good job alone.

"You're an outstanding enough man, Mr. Laine. I don't think you need the help of others," Malcolm asked.

Jasper smiled. "There's only so much one man can do, and there will always be things a person does not know no matter how intelligent they are. There is no promise that someone will never make the wrong choice in life.

"Every company in the world is backed up by a hardworking team. A company cannot be run by one person alone, not even if he's the founder.

"I need your intellect and experience to manage my company, Mr. Malibu."

Jasper's last sentence was extremely sincere.

Hesitation appeared on Malcolm's features.

"Mr. Malibu, I promise that as long as you wish to take the position of COO in JW Capital, you'll be paid double of what P&G pays you now. And like the treatment given to the other senior executives, you'll also enjoy annual company dividends."

Jasper gave his condition.

Malcolm waved his hand and smiled. "To be frank, Mr. Laine, I've saved quite a bit from working all these years so I'm hoping to look for a more suitable platform for myself..."

"You will have the highest authority, and I promise that as long as you do not compromise the company's major interests, I will not interfere with your decision." Jasper showed his hand.

Malcolm looked at Jasper in shock and exclaimed, "Mr. Laine, are you sure? You have to know that no one's ever given a professional manager so much authority before."

"There's a saying here in Somerland. To only hire the trustworthy, and to trust the hired. Plus..." Jasper smiled. "Those people you talk about aren't me."

“Alright then! I’ll be the COO!” Malcolm shot up excitedly.

Life at the Top Chapter 718

The hiring of Malcolm was an important turn of events for Jasper and JW Company.

In his future autobiography, this professional manager who had worked 25 years under JW Company until his retirement at the age of 70 described his meeting with Jasper as an important meeting that changed his life.

It was only second to marrying his wife, Mrs. Kelly.

To add to the joy, Jasper received good news from Jack the following day as well.

After a few rounds of negotiation, Midas Company had finally agreed to package sell the gaming project, United Legends.

It was not cheap, costing 40 million US dollars.

It cost Jasper all the profits he made from Mellow MP3 players as of late.

Even then, Jack had gone through a lot to get the deal. First, he used his connections with Weresoftware to find one of Midas Company’s shareholders. Then, he spent millions on that man just to get him to agree.

As far as Midas Company was concerned, this was an ordinary game with an average beta testing score from Coreana, so the deal had them profiting greatly from Somerland.

Yet to Jasper, excluding the MP3 business, United Legends would be another source of cash flow. The game would spark the beginning of the online gaming market in Somerland that would eventually reach the value of 100 billion.

Only time would tell who truly profited.

Jack was indeed an exceptional professional manager. He remembered Jasper's instructions clearly.

After buying the United Legends project, he had then taken advantage of the extreme rift between the game's developers and the company due to conflicting reasons about whether to sell the game or not. Doing so, he managed to bring in the better half of the project's technicians to Sena.

As a result, Sena now had the most top-notch and highly sought-after game developers and technicians in the country. This had saved them a lot of time and cost.

After Jack's return, Chad had also successfully managed to cultivate the senior executives who would make up the backbone of the electronics company. He had now arrived to work in the investing company.

Since everyone was around the area, Jasper took the opportunity to send an official notice under JW Capital's name. He called over all persons in charge of the subsidiaries under JW Capital to rush over for a meeting in Nauritus City.

Despite having an abundance of funds, the investment company was still based in the same villa. The office space was a little tight and the meeting room was also just the renovated living room on the second floor.

Despite how pitiful a sight it was, people who knew the power of this company knew better than to look down on JW Capital just because of this.

In the room were Hudson Moore from Terizone Inc, Jack Tanner from Sena, Lance Baldwin who Jasper had approved as JW Electronics' new general

manager, Sean Tucker from JW Real Estates, Ryder Lawrence who was the president of Advent Entertainment Group, and Ted Swanson who was the president of Easy Media.

Then there was also the parent company, JW Capital's core decision-makers. Malcolm Malibu, the COO, and the director of the Human Resources Department, Chad Wright.

The group of people filled the meeting room. Every single one of them held formidable positions in their respective businesses.

This was his team.

Including Jasper and Wendy, who was hosting the meeting, there were ten in attendance.

"This is the first important meeting JW Capital is having with the persons in charge of its subsidiaries. There should be ten in attendance and ten have arrived. Would JW Capital's CEO, Jasper Laine, please begin?"

Wendy spoke rigidly and then took her seat.

Jasper took in the shining pairs of eyes directed at himself and smiled. "While this is technically a meeting, it's essentially just a space for us to discuss the problems the companies have faced and their solutions. There's no need to be too tense. This is just a conversation between friends."

Life at the Top Chapter 719

While Jasper did say it would be a friendly chat, the mention of talking about problems faced and their solutions had everyone sitting straight and becoming attentive.

Everyone present was an elite, so they understood the importance of the first formal meeting.

No one else spoke and Jasper continued.

“While the investment company has always been considered the parent company, system and organizational structure-wise, we have yet to make clarifications on the parent company and its various subsidiaries’ functions. That was due to both my negligence and the fact that we were lacking people in the parent company.

“So now with Mr. Malibu and Mr. Wright joining us in the parent company, I believe it’s time to solve the issue.

“Does anyone have any thoughts on the matter?” Jasper asked.

Jack spoke first, “This is great. But Mr. Laine, will JW Capital take this opportunity to change its nature of business, from being a company to a group?”

Everyone was interested in this.

Jasper shook his head. “Not yet, it isn’t time yet. Plus, it’s just a different name. The internal structure will not change.”

Jack nodded and remained silent.

Seeing how no one spoke, Jasper continued, “Then how about I give my thoughts on a solution that I’ve come up with from my conversations with each of you?”

“I plan to completely change the structure in the parent company. I’ll be the CEO while Mr. Malibu will take on the position as COO. He’ll be in charge of the company’s day-to-day transactions. Mr. Wright, as the director of the Human Resources Department, will be in charge of internal affairs and be the link between the parent company and its subsidiaries.

“Miss Schuler will assume the position of the CFO, and I think you all know what that means so I won’t delve into that.”

Hearty chuckles rang out in the room at Jasper’s words.

Everyone knew about Wendy and Jasper’s relationship, so with the knowledge that it was Jasper’s girlfriend watching over their money, no one disagreed.

“In addition, a real estate group will be founded within the company’s organizational structure. Sean will assume the position of president temporarily.

“As well as a dot-com group. Hudson, the situation with your Terizone is a little different since it’s just a holding company under JW Capital and I promised not to interfere with its operations, so Jack will assume the position of president. You can get a position if you want, as vice President.”

Hudson nodded. “No objections.”

Jasper had already talked to him about this and Hudson could not ask for better.

Nodding, Jasper continued, “Then the entertainment and media group. Ryder, you’ll assume the position as president, and Ted, vice president.

“Next, the electronics group. Chad, you’ll be the president concurrently and Lance will be vice president. But considering how Chad is in charge of quite a bit of business, you’ll oversee the daily business, Lance. Just make sure to ask Chad for his opinion for bigger projects.”

Lance, who had just joined JW Electronics, was shaken from the attention. “I understand, Mr. Laine. I’ll do my best.”

Smiling, Jasper continued, “While the company is undergoing a change in structure with groups through vertical management, there is no change in the workload or type of work you do.

“As I said before, JW Capital will not interfere with the day-to-day operations of its subsidiaries, but any important issues are to be reported to the parent company for approval and issuance. Anyone who dares to go around me on this will be fired.

“I’ll be mean now so we can all do great work in the future. I will not tolerate the breaking of rules that the company has established. If I find you in breach of anything, you will be dealt with strictly.”

Life at the Top Chapter 720

This meeting and company restructure was in truth a chance for Jasper to completely comb through and straighten things in JW Capital and its subsidiaries.

Not only had he clarified the authority and responsibilities of each group, but he had also straightened out the system of forces within the companies.

Now that the companies could work together and complement each other, they had finally taken the form of a strong system.

There were also some more secret changes but Jasper did not plan to tell them.

For example, there was now an investment group within the parent company and Jasper planned to have Jake Cullen in Harbor City be in charge of it. Business would mainly be financial operations.

“The company’s only growing larger with each day and I’m likely to reduce my investments under my own name but do it on behalf of the company instead. This is a very important task and I need you to take it upon yourself.”

Jasper’s words had Jake feeling inexplicably excited on the other end of the video call.

He had not expected his relationship with Jasper to develop to such a degree—from being on opposing parties to him following Jasper’s orders to becoming a core member of Jasper’s company.

“Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. I’ll do my best and follow your instructions,” Jake proclaimed his loyalty.

After all, the benefits of being one of the company’s core employees were evident. All he used to get was a commission from Jasper but things would be different now.

A hefty salary and great benefits, as well as company dividends. There was no better job elsewhere.

“I’ve been hosting meetings all day so I’m a little tired now. If there isn’t anything else, let’s end the call here,” Jasper spoke with a smile.

Jasper had put a lot of thought into whether he should appoint Jake or not. After a long period of observation, Jasper realized that Jake was exceptionally talented in his field and his only issue was that he was a little stingy. Still, that was a small issue.

Jasper knew that he was not perfect, so he did not expect others to be perfect.

“There is something else, Mr. Laine. Did you perhaps offend anyone in Coreana?” Jake’s sudden question had Jasper halting just when he moved to end the video call.

“What do you mean?” Jasper frowned.

“I’m not too sure either, but someone sought me out for intel on you. Quite a few people know about you since the Harbor City market rescue plan and that person seems to be aware of our history. But I don’t think they know how our relationship is now and they asked me about your current situation. It seems like they’re looking to trouble you.

“From what I understand, I think his partner over in Coreana tasked him with this.”

Jasper frowned at Jake’s words.

If there was anyone he had offended in Coreana, then it had to be Jonathan Lang.

‘But does he have great enough connections in Harbor City to get someone to deal with me?’

“Who’s the man who asked you about me?” Jasper asked.

“Also someone extremely wealthy in Harbor City. His name is Fabian Atticus!”

‘Fabian Atticus?’

Jasper felt enlightened now.

This man was rich and as much of a flirt as Bob Lancaster. He only began to keep a low profile after he married the beautiful Miss Harbor City, Roxanne Hart.

However, just because he was low profile did not mean he was truly low profile. He still had ambiguous relationships with young models, and there were rumors about how exciting his gatherings were.

As one of the richest men in Harbor City’s construction industry, there should be no reason for Fabian to be ordered around by someone like Jonathan.

Jasper could feel that there was more than met the eye.

“Alright, I got it. Don’t worry about it anymore, but do tell me if you have any new updates.” Then, Jasper ended the call with Jake.

Jasper gave it some thought and was about to call Henry when the man looked for him first.

“Holy sh*t! I can’t f*cking take this anymore. It’s literally just a small issue and they’re looking for me? I might as well just not f*cking do anything at all and follow them every day like their f*cking nanny or some sh*t!”

Henry began to complain the moment he walked through the door. He was pissed in a way that reminded Jasper of a mistreated wife.

Jasper asked curiously, “I thought the amusement park project was done? What more is there to do than pay them?”

Henry replied angrily, “I’d be free a long f*cking time ago if I just had to pay them. We’ve already checked everything and they’ve passed all the safety measures but my dad just had to say something about the importance of safety, so he got another f*cking team from Harbor City to come check and look for problems.

“Who knows what f*cking drugs those stupid f*ckers took from my dad but they pick on the littlest of issues, oh my God. It was fine until they somehow came up with 36 f*cking things to change. It’s so annoying I’m going to rip my hair out.

“F*cking hell, I’m going to kill every single one of them when I get back to Harbor City!”

Jasper frowned. “They’re just doing what they’re paid to do. The fact that they managed to find problems even when facing pressure from you means there really is an issue. Why would you take revenge after all of that?”

Henry slumped in the chair limply with his legs hooking over the armrests. “I wasn’t actually going to do it. My dad would be the first one to get his hands on me if I actually did it. Argh. It’s so annoying!”

Jasper smiled. “How about I take you out for some fun once this is over?”

Henry's eyes shone and he was immediately energized. He sat up straight in the chair. "Really? Where are we going?"

"Probably Waterhoof City." Jasper leaned against his chair and smiled. "I've got to take a trip to Waterhoof City in a bit. I thought I'd bring you too but you've got to finish things for your amusement park first."

Henry asked confusedly, "The amusement park and your Southface River Project finish at the same time, though. How are you free?"

"I just need to come back on the day of the completion ceremony. It's just for formality's sake anyway."

Jasper then suddenly asked, "Do you know anything about Fabian Atticus?"

Henry scoffed. "Who? Fabian Atticus?"

"That f*cker's the same age as Kayden, he's ten years older than me. We're not close at all, but Harbor City's also very small so I do know a bit about him.

"How should I say this? I wouldn't be surprised if that guy died one day while he was f*cking a woman. Why're you asking out of the blue?"

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly. "Do you know if he's got any partnerships over in Coreana?"

"You've got to ask my dad about that. But his family is in the construction business, so why would he have partnerships with Coreana? It'd be more believable if you told me he was playing with women there."

Henry's mindless comment had Jasper frowning immediately.

'Now that I think about it, it's not impossible!'

Life at the Top Chapter 721

“But Fabian isn’t your average person. You have to think it through if you want to screw him over.”

Henry’s words had pulled Jasper from his thoughts. Instead of explaining himself, Jasper asked with interest, “I’ve never seen you describe anyone like that. You’ve always been quick to screw someone over if you don’t like them. Why’s it different with him?”

Henry smiled weirdly and leaned over to whisper to Jasper, “This Fabian is crueler than your average person.

“You’d think people like him getting women pregnant is no big deal, right?”

“Well, what these people usually do is have the woman abort the baby and then pay them as compensation.

“But Fabian’s different. This man forces abortion pills down the women’s throats with no care whether they die or not. Some had died before, and one of the women’s family was actually quite a formidable one over at Auma City.

“He killed their daughter, so there’s no way the family wouldn’t make him pay for it. The situation blew up and a lot of people got roped into this to smooth the issue out.

“It’d be fine if this was all there was to him, but as cruel as Fabian is to women, he’s even crueler when it comes to men. Offend him and your fate is more or less sealed. B*stard likes cutting people’s d*cks off and he does it himself.

“We all think he’s a pervert but we keep it to ourselves.”

At that, Henry shrugged. “You’d think perverts like this should be thrown in jail for the rest of their lives but he’s exploited a lot of loopholes in the law before. Everything requires evidence and witnesses back in Harbor City. It’s not that easy.”

“Aren’t you honest,” Jasper commented.

Henry snickered and replied, “Being self-aware is a virtue, isn’t it? This is something I’ve always known.

“But the reason why I told you to try to avoid getting into a conflict with this man is that he made a name for himself through fighting when he was young.”

Now that Henry had begun to speak, he also began gossiping about the horrible things Harbor City’s circle of trust-fund babies have done.

“Do you know why Kayden’s keeping it so low profile now? He used to be as much of a playboy as I am. But Kayden and Fabian fought once when they were my age.

“These are all stories about the previous generation of trust-fund babies, so I don’t really know how exactly they fought but I heard my dad tell me about it. It was a very fierce fight, so bad the higher-ups had to come and placate them.

“It almost became a full-blown war between the Langdon family and the Atticus family. Even the two old masters were planning to make their moves. It only calmed down when the other richest families came out and negotiated the issue. I think my dad was my family’s representative.

“Fabian ended up winning that time and it was a complete win. Kayden almost lost his life after it was over. Since then, the two of them calmed down and kept a low profile. It’s been a decade and I don’t even think the two of them have appeared in the same room again.”

After hearing Henry speak, Jasper had a completely different understanding of Fabian now.

Jasper and Fabian had never crossed paths before, but Jasper was no stranger to Kayden in both his past and current lives.

Kayden was certainly a top-notch capitalist and a business prodigy.

There was no way Fabian would be a match for Kayden if the former was a mere playboy who only knew how to flirt with women.

Not to mention that he had almost taken Kayden's life.

Thinking back to Henry's words, Jasper asked with a weird expression on his face, "Then is Kayden... still whole now?"

Henry was stunned for a moment before he burst into laughter. "What the f*ck, your imaginations are wild! Even if Fabian were crazy, I think he'd still value his own life. There'd be no smoothing things out if he actually cut Kayden's d*ck off.

"Oh yeah, you haven't told me how you two got acquainted," Henry asked.

Jasper rubbed his temples and replied, "What do you mean get acquainted? I don't even know what he looks like. He's the one asking around about me in Harbor City."

Jasper then relayed the situation he heard from Jake to Henry.

"I did end up offending a trust-fund baby back in Coreana, but he wasn't even one of the formidable ones. I'm more interested in how he managed to get Fabian to work for him.

"Not that it's important now. I don't know what Fabian has in mind, but he's going to have to show up sooner or later if he wants to do something. I'll deal with it

when the time comes. I'm busy as of late, so I don't have the time to waste worrying about him."

"Alright then. I'll have my people keep a closer eye on Fabian's movements over in Harbor City. I'll update you the moment there's any news," Henry spoke.

Nodding, Jasper got up. "It's getting late so I won't send you off. Get some rest."

"What the f*ck. You're just going to throw me away once you've used me?" Henry complained.

Jasper smiled. "I've been dealing with the company for the past two days and I finally got things done today. I need a good rest or I won't have any energy when I get to Waterhoof City tomorrow."

"We're going to Waterhoof City tomorrow?!" Henry gasped.

"No, I'm going to Waterhoof City tomorrow. You're going to stay here and pass those tests for your amusement park. Then we'll talk about it," Jasper replied.

Henry huffed. "I'm going to call someone to knock those people out and send them on a flight back to Harbor City."

"Up to you." Jasper walked toward the exit of the study. Then, he suddenly turned around and spoke to Henry in a mysterious tone, "Gather a bit of money first. If there aren't any complications, something's going to happen soon and I'll bring you along for some quick cash."

Henry was only interested in food, wine, women, and making money. Among the four, making money took the top spot.

"This is your promise! I want at least double of what I put in or it'll be an insult to your title as the stock god!" Henry quickly spoke.

“Double?” Jasper widened his eyes. “Do I look like an actual god to you? I’d be the richest man in the world long ago if money were so easily made. Why do you think I’m still suffering like this?”

...

The following day, Hudson and the rest who had come for the meeting left. Jasper bade Wendy and Malcolm farewell as well before making his way to Waterhoof City.

The people following him were Julian, the strong man, and Sean, who was in charge of the real estate group.

The purpose of their trip today was to build a Waterhoof City branch company for JW Real Estates.

The real estate company would be in charge of the design for the skyscraper, but the most important thing now was for Jasper to deal with the more than 200 shops in Gold Pedestrian Street.

After all, there was no way Jasper would personally manage the renting process of these small shops, so it was up to Sean’s team to do it for him.

Sean’s eyes widened like saucers when he found out that Jasper had spent more than five billion to become the biggest landlord in all of Waterhoof City.

Life at the Top Chapter 722

“Mr... Mr. Laine, you bought half of Gold Pedestrian Street?” Sean exclaimed in shock.

Jasper smiled. “Not half.”

Sean let out a sigh of relief. It would be too much of an arrogant brag if he told others that half of the biggest pedestrian street in the country belonged to his employer.

“Two-thirds.”

Jasper’s following words had Sean completely sold.

“Property like this is worth keeping, we’d earn a living purely off of rent. Treat this as the future company’s fixed assets. Unless absolutely necessary, don’t touch them,” Jasper instructed.

Sean immediately understood what Jasper meant and nodded. “I understand, Mr. Laine. I’ll watch over these properties.”

Once arriving at Waterhoof City, Sean immediately went to manage the business for the real estate company.

From the forming of the company to the construction of its managerial ranks to the hiring of employees as well as things like deciding how the company would be interior-decorated, it would be several more months before anything was ready.

Sean would have to run between Nauritus City and Waterhoof City for the near future.

Jasper was planning to use this as a chance to test Sean. If he had managed to supervise the final touches of the Southface River project while taking care of matters here in Waterhoof City, then Jasper would consider pushing Sean up the ranks and officially passing the real estate company to him.

All financial decisions, senior executive employment, and final say were in both Jasper’s and Wendy’s hands. Jasper did not care what the people below him thought.

Whether someone was promoted or demoted would be up to him.

Since the investment company's meeting ended and the company's organizational as well as power structure was made clear, Jasper could finally be said to have his forces and team on hand.

In this unremarkable power structure, Jasper was undoubtedly at the very top where he could decide who stayed or left.

Jasper had come to Waterhoof City this time for two things.

First, Morgan's team would be coming to Waterhoof City for the second time and Jasper had to confirm the final design.

Second, Jack's Sena was about to open its online gaming studio here in Waterhoof City. the base of United Legends was decided to be stationed at Waterhoof City and this was where United Legends would make itself known to the public.

The next day after he arrived at Waterhoof City, Jasper saw Grant again.

"We're finally done with our final draft, Laine. I hope you like it." Straight from the airport, Grand no longer harbored the courteousness and doubt he once did. Now, he was filled with enthusiasm.

After all, Jasper's 120 million US Dollar commission fee for a design was the biggest order he had received over the past two years.

Regardless of whether someone was from the east or west, people tend to be very enthusiastic before a large client.

Jasper smiled and shook Grant's hand, he spoke, "I heard that you've fired two designers who've been following you for years over this design?"

Grant shrugged. “We care more about someone’s capabilities over in the west. While I’m great friends with Nathaniel and Alvin, their performance this time was too disappointing.”

“Then again, Laine, your requests aren’t easy to meet either.”

Jasper smiled as Grant complained. “I paid a high commission rate, didn’t I? Then there’s no reason for me not to have high requirements. I didn’t like either of the drafts you sent me remotely. It’s evident that those two designers think of me as a village fool who’s never seen the world before. You understand why I’d be enraged.”

Grant looked slightly ashamed.

He should be the one coming up with the design but he had chosen to be lazy. He thought that if his assistance had managed to hand in two drafts first that Jasper liked, then everything would be great and he would easily earn that 120 million commission fee.

However, Grant had not expected Jasper to scold him furiously through the phone from across the seas after the two designs were sent over.

Jasper had then threatened to end their partnership and look for someone else if their studio continued to treat him like a fool.

Grant had been terrified then and he immediately began to design it himself.

That was how this final draft came to life.

Clapping Grant on the shoulder, Jasper brought the man over the French windows on the highest floor of the hotel. Looking down at Waterhoof City’s river view, he spoke, “Look at this City before you, Grant, what comes to mind?”

Grant did not really understand what Jasper meant but he replied honestly, “Waterhoof City has sent out invitations to the world’s best Design and

Architecture Firm when they wanted to design its Pearl Tower before. I came then. It's only been a few years but I have to admit that I've never seen a city develop as quickly as Waterhoof City."

"Waterhoof City can hold a match to any large City around the world now."

Jasper smiled. "Waterhoof City will become one of the world's financial centers in the future, a place just as magnificent as London, as New York in the States, and Eastern Capital in Sunrise Land. Waterhoof City's rapid development will only repeat itself in every other City in this country."

Grant widened his eyes in disbelief as he looked at Jasper. After a long while, he shrugged and replied, "Alright, Laine. This is your country, I understand that you want it to develop for the better."

"Whether you believe me or not Grant, time will prove my words true," Jasper replied calmly.

Then he looked at Grant sternly. "But if you continue looking down on us because you think being in a capitalist country makes you better, you will be the ones making a loss."

Grant thought that Jasper was just attacking him so he shrugged and spoke, "I understand, Laine. Don't worry, I'll make sure you're very satisfied with the rest of our partnership."

As the best architect in the world, Grant was respected everywhere he went, Except, things were different in front of Jasper.

He had to make sure and take care of Jasper's emotions, for his little trick before had shown him that Jasper was not easily fooled.

All of this was because Jasper was rich. 120 US Dollars was enough to motivate ninety-nine percent of the human population to do anything.

Jasper was too lazy to explain himself seeing how Grant did not believe him. After all, these westerners had gotten used to being arrogant, assuming that Somerland was nothing more than a poor and underdeveloped country. It would be another seven years until the Olympics was over before their mindset started to change.

“Let’s look at the design you brought over then. I’ll be mean and keep it real now, that if I find out this isn’t your design, the partnership ends here and I’ll sue you for fraud in that damned New York Court of Law.”

“Somer descents sure aren’t to be trifled... or at least, this Somer descent is truly not a someone to be messed with,” Grant murmured as he stared at Jasper’s back.

Life at the Top Chapter 723

“I’m the chief designer for this project and I had previously gathered 70% of the top designers from our firm to form a temporary group to brainstorm ideas for this project.

“After doing necessary measurements and calculations, we noticed that it’s best to design it at a height of 666 meters mainly because those of Somer descent see this as their lucky number. Somewhere along the six and eight range.”

At this point, Grant noticed a satisfied smile on Jasper’s face before finally breathing a sigh of relief.

He, a top designer in the world, found his aura completely crushed by Jasper without even realizing it.

“Taking into consideration the aesthetic, beliefs, and what we learned from field surveys regarding those of Somer descent, we think that it is vital that we adapt to local conditions. We’ll integrate the design of skyscrapers that have already been constructed and those that are still under construction around the world.

“Waterhoof City is located at the mouth of the Yahaza River, and the majority of the land belongs to alluvial plain, which means that it has a relatively weak bearing capacity. This makes it unsuitable for traditional-style buildings...

“We have decided to go with a dragon shape to form the aesthetic base, using modern architectural geometric engineering to complete the proofing design.

“The main body of the building will be cylindrical and slanting at a 23-degree arc to reinforce the structure, increase wind resistance, and minimize polar vortex impact. 64 auxiliary lines will coil around the cylindrical main body, moving upward in the shape of a dragon...”

Listening to Grant’s explanation and looking at the computer-generated renderings on the screen, Jasper was pleased.

The building shown in the computer was 666 meters in height, with six floors underground and 122 floors above ground. The building was divided into the main body and auxiliary lines that circled upward. On the highest floor of the main building, there was a hollow-out of 40 meters high and 25 meters wide.

When Grant noticed Jasper’s gaze fixed on the hollow-out portion of the rendering, he took the initiative to explain, “Taking the coast of Somerland, a hurricane-prone area, into consideration, high-rise buildings here must be designed to resist wind, hence the hollow-out forms the essence of the design this time around.

“Based on our calculation, the hollow-out can reduce wind resistance by at least 32%. Coupled with the 64 auxiliary lines, I guarantee that it can withstand at least a category four hurricane.”

Although the hypercane along the coast of Somerland had happened in his past life and did not ruin many high-rise buildings in Waterhoof City, Jasper was still very concerned.

After all, the tallest building in the world would belong to him, hence this should be treated seriously.

“Increase the wind resistance level to withstand at least a category five hurricane,” Jasper said.

Grant froze for a moment and hastened to say, “Mr. Laine, even with just one category apart, there’s a huge difference in wind speed. Category four and five are completely different things. Category five doesn’t often happen, so there’s no need to spend a tremendous amount of money to increase—”

“Do as I say, Grant,” Jasper said.

Grant shrugged and said, “Okay then, you’re the boss. I will improve the corresponding design but it’ll mainly be reflected in the materials because to be honest with you, the exterior design has reached the limit of modern architectural theory.”

“I’m very happy with the design.” Jasper gave Grant the recognition he needed the most at this moment.

“That’s the overall design. You can submit it to the relevant departments in Waterhoof City, and once it has been approved, you can then entrust the design institute to draw up a blueprint. Once that’s done, hand it over to me to carry out the construction,” Jasper said.

Grant responded in excitement.

According to the contract, they would be responsible for drafting the design, and once it was approved and the design institute had come up with a construction

blueprint, they would have accomplished their task with 120 million US dollars in their hands.

“Don’t forget what I said about increasing the wind resistance level. If my building, the tallest building in the world, collapses because of a hurricane, I’ll sue your company and make you go bankrupt. When that happens, no one will hire you to design anything anymore,” Jasper reminded him.

Grant laughed. “Mr. Laine, you’re insulting my professionalism as the world’s top designer. I will execute your order without a problem.”

“Good.” Jasper got up and shook hands with Grant, saying with a smile, “Get everything done as soon as you can. I’ll be in Waterhoof City for the next two days, so feel free to discuss with me if anything crops up. I’ll be waiting for your good news.”

After sending Grant away, Jasper called Jack.

“Are you in Waterhoof City, Jack?” Jasper asked.

Things were a tad noisy on Jack’s side, but he quickly responded, “I’m here, Mr. Laine, but we’re facing a bit of a problem.

“I sent out an assistant to pacify the United Legends development team earlier and also relayed the message regarding the requirements you told me about to the team, but they seem quite reluctant to modify the game according to your requirements,” Jack said.

Jasper frowned slightly and said unceremoniously, “Jack, you’re an experienced manager now so you’ll take necessary actions to deal with these nitpickers. Do you really need to ask me about trivial things like that?”

Jack let out a wry smile. “Mr. Laine, I wouldn’t have come to you if this were an ordinary issue. That would only make me seem really useless, wouldn’t it? The main problem here is that the development team has now joined hands, banding

together like strands of rope. If anything goes wrong, this team that has just been formed may soon be disbanded, so I can't take any rash actions."

Jasper said coldly, "Looks like someone is behind this. Otherwise, why would these Coreanans suddenly adopt a change of attitude after coming to our country?"

"I'm making my way there right now. Are you coming, Mr. Laine?" Jack asked.

"Send me the address. I'll go and take a look," Jasper said flatly.

After hanging up the call, Jack sent an address via SMS in no time at all. Seeing that the location was not far from the hotel, he summoned Julian and they went there together by car.

Sena's development team was receiving pretty good treatment because Jasper took this matter very seriously.

He rented the best office building in Waterhoof City, prepared the best server room, and even the place they stayed in was a four-star hotel.

Later, they would each receive an apartment and live in it for free—provided that they continued working in Sena.

In addition to that, they received salaries that were three times more than what they got in Coreana. Frankly speaking, this was the highest-paid team in the domestic IT industry.

There was not a single decent online game in the country at the moment, not to mention that the online game industry had yet to achieve full maturity.

Though even with the treatment they were getting, someone was still dissatisfied.

They were making attempts to give Jasper trouble.

Life at the Top Chapter 724

Jack had called the assistant in charge of the situation, hence when Jasper got downstairs, he was greeted reverently by a middle-aged man.

“Hello, Mr. Laine. My name’s Terry, I’m the person in charge of the newly-established online game department in Sena. According to Mr. Tanner, I’m in charge of the United Legends project for now.” When Terry saw Jasper, he came forward to introduce himself reverently despite being in his 40s and Jasper in his 20s.

Jasper and Terry shook hands, the former saying, “I remember you. Jack mentioned to me that you’re the senior employee in charge of the Fated Swordsman gaming project that he poached from Gama Corp.”

In fact, Jack had merely mentioned this man to Jasper in passing, but because he often had dealings with clients in his past life, he had an exceptional ability that allowed him to remember people easily. He could remember information after hearing it just one time.

Terry was obviously surprised that his name had been mentioned to the big boss and said in delight, “Yes, I was working in Gama indeed. I’m surprised you know me, Mr. Laine.”

“You’re a capable employee. Work hard and you will have a bright future ahead of you.” After a few polite exchanges with Terry, they walked into the building with smiles.

“What’s the situation now?” Jasper asked in the elevator.

“Sigh, Mr. Tanner brought over this team from Coreana some time ago, therefore their bond as a team is extremely strong. Initially, I planned to place several local programmers in their team to learn from them.”

Jasper nodded upon hearing what he said. Judging from this point alone, Terry was certainly a wise man.

The Coreanans were, after all, from Coreana. Hence, it was impossible for them to work for him with all their heart, hence Terry planned to cultivate Sena’s very own development and technical team. This was a far-sighted move.

“Unfortunately, they vehemently rejected the idea. I think they look down on Somerland’s technicians very much.”

Terry looked miserable. It was clear that he had suffered a great deal in trying to get this to work.

“We don’t have a choice, though. In terms of professionalism, there’s no denying that the domestic gaming technicians are still in the rudimentary stage. They can’t match up to them in any aspects at all and are degraded to nothing in their eyes. Not only are we not allowed to get mad, but we’re also forced to face their rude behaviors with a flattering smile. I’ve never felt so offended.”

Jasper ignored Terry’s criticism and stepped out of the elevator. Before he could step into his office, he heard a loud commotion coming from inside.

“This is simply bullcrap. We shouldn’t have come to Somerland in the first place. Everyone here is a swine. No one knows anything yet points fingers at us telling us what to do. Look at this amended proposal, is this even something that a person who knows gaming would propose?”

“How dare he mess with us when he doesn’t even know what a game is?!”

At this moment, another voice rang out. “That’s enough, Diamonique. Don’t rant anymore. Just throw their amended proposal into the trash can. We agreed that

we're just here for the money anyway. If we must work, we can just show them that we don't know anything. They won't have the guts to lay a finger on us anyway."

"Mr. Adams, those of the Somer descent are just plain ridiculous. I can't believe they're actually expecting us to improve the game for them but are giving all sorts of opinions that will potentially ruin United Legends. We must teach them a lesson this time.

"Speaking of which, although Somerland is lagging behind, life over here is pretty comfortable. I can just sleep in the office every day, and when I go back, plenty of women rush at the opportunity to please us after learning that we're Coreanans. Honestly, I've slept with four or five beautiful girls in the past few days.

"Two of them actually expect me to take them back to Coreana. Hahaha."

Diamonique's words triggered tacit laughter from several other people in the office, and they were still laughing when the office door was pushed open. Standing at the far front was Jasper, who wore a blank expression on his face. He was followed by Terry and a professional female interpreter.

Jasper could understand Corean, but Terry and several others in the company could not, hence the female interpreter would help to interpret the conversation.

The Coreanans did not know who Jasper was, but they knew Terry.

They all let out a dry cough and turned around to stare at their computers, pretending to look busy.

Jasper could clearly see that one of them had not even turned on his computer.

Life at the Top Chapter 725

“What are you up to?” Jasper asked, walking up to that employee’s desk.

“Huh?” That man obviously did not expect Jasper to know how to speak Korean. Although he was slightly taken aback at first, he shrugged and replied, “I’m in charge of the numerical values. I was just planning to fix the value.”

“With a pen?” Jasper asked indifferently.

From his voice, Jasper could tell that this man was Diamonique, the man who claimed to have slept with several women.

Diamonique frowned and replied curtly, “What do you people of Somer descent know? Don’t ask if you don’t know.”

“Are the Coreanans so skilled now that they can modify the numerical values without even turning on the computer?” Jasper asked.

Diamonique could not stand the humiliation anymore and sprung up from his seat, flying into a rage out of embarrassment. He said to Jasper, “What do you mean by that? Do I need to report how I work to you?”

“Of course!”

Jasper raised his voice abruptly.

“I’m the one who’s paying the salary of each and every one of you here!”

Jasper's words left the entire office in pin-drop silence. Everyone, including the leader, Mr. Adams stared at him with a contemptuous gaze as though they were staring at somebody with more money than sense.

After hearing what the interpreter said, Terry stood next to Jasper and introduced him, "This is Mr. Laine. He's our big boss."

"So what if you're the big boss? Why don't you try firing us if you're so capable? None of the technicians in Somerland can interpret our codes. You can't do anything without us."

Diamonique refused to give in after listening to the interpreter.

Jasper laughed. "Yes, you're right. It's precisely because our technicians aren't good enough that I have spent a tremendous amount of money to poach you from Coreana."

Diamonique puffed his chest out after hearing those words and was just about to speak when Jasper cut him off, giving him no chance.

"In order to reward you for being absolutely right, you're now fired."

"Huh?!"

Diamonique was not the only one who was stunned. Even Mr. Adams and Terry were struck dumb.

In order to serve this group of men well, Terry had endured tremendous humiliation these days. He thought that Jasper would placate the group because after all, these men were the key to making this game a success. Now, however, Jasper was firing someone as soon as he arrived?

In addition to being surprised, Terry felt a great sense of pride and pleasure.

Sure enough, Big Boss was still the most domineering. He could make whoever would not stop yammering to pack up and leave straight away. He would never indulge these Coreanans who had their noses in the air.

“Terry, get the procedures done for this man immediately. Pay him the necessary compensation, not a single cent less. Once it’s all calculated, I want him to get out of my face immediately,” Jasper roared.

“Yes, sir!” Terry responded in a sonorous voice. This was his first time carrying himself with an air of pride and satisfaction after a very long time.

Life at the Top Chapter 726

Even Diamonique was dumbfounded. He did not know that he would be fired as soon as Jasper showed up.

Although the Coreanans always voiced out their contempt for Somerland and complained that Somerland was underdeveloped and poor, the Coreanans, Diamonique included, were well aware that the urban construction in Waterhoof City was nowhere worse than in Sela.

Even if they were in Sela, so what? Despite living in a big city like Sela, they were nothing but low-level white-collar workers whom everyone viewed with contempt.

Over here, however, they were receiving three times their salaries than in Sela, lived in a four-star hotel, and even managed to attract a bunch of women with their charms.

Here, they had experienced what it was like to be a top dog for the first time ever.

How could they possibly give this all up just like that?

Diamonique regretted it a little and cast a glance at Mr. Adams as though he was pleading for help.

Mr. Adams looked upset because what Jasper did had violated his authority.

Moreover, he could not allow Jasper to sack his own staff in front of so many subordinates as this would affect his prestige in the team.

“You can’t just sack my employee as you like, Mr. Laine.” Mr. Adams stood up and looked at Jasper unwillingly.

Jasper smiled and asked, "You must be Mr. Adams?"

"When you say I can't, are you saying it in accordance with Somerland's labor law or Coreana's labor law? No matter which country's labor law you're referring to, which clause stipulates that a boss cannot fire his employee? I did mention that I'd compensate him, not a single cent less."

Mr. Adams' complexion paled. He looked a little furious due to the embarrassment he was feeling.

In his opinion, Jasper was simply unreasonably punishing Diamonique to teach others a lesson.

He had no interest in discussing the unspoken rules in the workplace, nor about the balance of power. He was dismissing his employees simply because he was the boss. Would anyone be bold enough not to leave?

You had to leave even if you did not want to.

Mr. Adams was infuriated. "If you insist on doing so, then we will resign collectively!"

As soon as he said those words, everyone in the office was alarmed.

None of them expected the conflict to escalate so quickly in just a few sentences.

Diamonique looked at Mr. Adams emotionally. At this moment, Mr. Adams was almost like a beacon of light in his eyes.

He was surprised that Mr. Adams would threaten Jasper by saying they would resign collectively!

'Wussed out now, haven't you?'

Diamonique looked at Jasper triumphantly.

However, Diamonique did not detect the slightest fear or trepidation on Jasper's face. His face remained calm.

It was a terrifying and bottomless calm.

"Okay then." Jasper nodded.

"I can save the compensation money if you resign voluntarily anyway. You can hand in your letters immediately, then."

Jasper sat on the executive chair while nonchalantly speaking.

As soon as he said those words, the Coreanans could not sit still any longer.

Like Diamonique, these men had experienced completely different lives in Waterhoof City for the past few days.

Their extraordinarily high incomes and superior positions in those women's eyes made them reluctant to leave.

Life at the Top Chapter 727

Everyone looked at Mr. Adams with pitiful eyes.

Mr. Adams was caught in a difficult position.

If others were reluctant to leave, then he was even more reluctant. One must know that as the leader of the team, he was the one who received the most benefits.

“Aren’t you afraid that the United Legends game that you’ve spent a hefty sum to buy would come to naught? Without the technical maintenance from our side, you can’t even open beta testing!” Mr. Adams said in a threatening manner, though he was cowardly on the inside.

Jasper laughed. He shrugged and said, “With all the benefits I’m offering you, I can easily hire a group of top game developers from any country in the world to study your codes. How long will it take? One month? Or perhaps two months?”

“Or are you so confident to the point where you think that other developers in the world can’t understand the codes you’ve written? Hmm?”

Jasper’s words turned Mr. Adams’ face scarlet.

It was because Jasper had touched a sore point.

Even though they had put a lot of effort into developing United Legends, its technical content was just average. Otherwise, the EU server leak in the future would not have led to the birth of a large number of private servers either.

An ultra-difficult code was not one that could be constructed by private servers alone.

It even got to the point where ultimately, anyone with a bit of computer knowledge could set up a server with a single click.

Therefore, Mr. Adams knew very well that if Jasper was bent on hiring another team to study their codes, it was not going to be difficult at all.

It was at this moment that Mr. Adams realized that the ability he had been capitalizing on probably amounted to nothing in Jasper’s eyes.

What Jasper said next proved him right.

“You must understand that I was willing to spend a hefty sum to bring you over from Coreana not because I can’t do anything without you, but because you’re United Legends’ original development team and can get this game online in the shortest time possible.

“If you piss me off, though, I can just spend a bit more time and money to get this done. I have no scruples about dumping in tens of millions of US dollars to do this. This bit of money means nothing to me.”

Jasper’s gaze was cold, and his tone was calm. “Therefore, if you want to work here, then do your job according to my instructions. If you don’t, then pack up and leave right away!”

One must never stoop down to these Coreanans.

These were a bunch of contemptible individuals. A polite smile on your face and a slight show of courtesy as proper Somerland etiquette could give these contemptible individuals a chance to ride roughshod over you and trample on you like a doormat.

However, if you gave them two slaps across the face one day and one more slap on the third day, they would be deeply grateful instead.

A prerequisite course that Jasper had to go through as a superior was one that taught him how to exercise control over his subordinates and treat people according to their status.

He should not treat everyone equally and favorably. When faced with Malibu, it was crucial to treat him with all sincerity and honesty; when faced with the Coreanans, he should give them two slaps across the face and launch a kick or they would not behave themselves.

Mr. Adams looked grim. He stood awkwardly on the spot and was itching to swagger away but could not.

He noticed his subordinates avoiding his gaze and knew that if he walked away, then aside from Diamonique who had been dismissed and would come along with him, everyone else would just turn a blind eye.

After all, who would want to go back to their difficult lives as a white-collar after experiencing life as a superior over here?

After a moment's dilemma, Mr. Adams turned around and said to Diamonique, "Diamonique, you should resign yourself and go back to our country."

Diamonique's complexion was pale as he shouted, "You promised to never give up on me, Mr. Adams. You can't do this to me. I'm your most loyal—"

"That's enough, Diamonique!" Mr. Adams frowned and said irritably, "I can't sacrifice everyone's interests for your sake."

Diamonique slumped back on his chair and looked at Jasper teary-eyed, begging him, "I know I was wrong, Mr. Laine. Please forgive—"

Jasper waved his hand, not wanting to listen further.

Terry walked up to Diamonique with a smile and said to this unfortunate victim meant to deter others, "Mr. Diamonique, should I lead you to hand in your letter or do you want to do it yourself?"

Life at the Top Chapter 728

After Diamonique left while looking as pale as a ghost, there was an air of grievous silence lingering in the office.

Jasper looked at a total of eight men in front of him. These eight men were the technical development team for United Legends. Among them, Mr. Adams was the leader.

Even though Jasper's method of deterrence had suppressed their arrogance and helped them understand who the real boss was around here, it was still far from enough to get them to swear their allegiance to him.

However, Jasper did not need them to swear their allegiance to him.

"Diamonique mentioned that he was in charge of numerical values?" Jasper asked indifferently.

Mr. Adams was just about to nod when he abruptly recalled something and hastened to say, "We can fill the vacancy with our own—"

"Mr. Adams," Jasper cut Mr. Adams off with a grin and said, "You have too much on your plate already. Since you're short of one person, I'll send someone in to replace Diamonique, okay?"

Mr. Adams' complexion changed. He knew that Jasper was going to slot in one of his own men into the team.

He really wanted to reject it, but the words that Jasper said earlier were still echoing in his ears.

"Alright then." Mr. Adams submitted to reality.

"Also, since you're responsible for the entire team's technical work, Mr. Adams, I believe it'll be really exhausting for you. I'll assign you an assistant," Jasper said flatly.

Mr. Adams' countenance changed abruptly and he said, "Don't go too far, Mr. Laine."

“I’m thinking of ways to lessen your burden, Mr. Adams,” Jasper said.

Mr. Adams stared fixedly at Jasper and gritted his teeth. “I believe I can handle my own work, Mr. Laine. You’re paying me anyway.”

“So you do remember that I’m paying you, Mr. Adams?” Jasper asked.

Mr. Adams’ expression sank, and he did not utter a single word anymore.

Jasper stood up and walked over to Mr. Adams. Patting the man’s shoulder, he said, “I don’t expect your team to work for me with unswerving loyalty, so don’t expect to seize any form of authority in my company. You should do nothing more than to live a peaceful and secure life.

“Perhaps save some money for a few years so you can start your own business when you return to Coreana, am I right?”

Mr. Adams eyed Jasper suspiciously after hearing what he said.

Sure enough, Jasper’s words had hit him straight in the heart. As a foreigner himself, he had no plans of staying in Somerland forever, let alone work for Jasper his whole life. Therefore, he was bound to leave sooner or later.

Before that, though, he needed to earn enough before going home.

Otherwise, would he not turn into a laughing stock if he brought so many men over yet went home in less than a month in such a wretched state?

“I can fulfill your wishes, Mr. Adams. I’m also willing to look at us as partners and take you as my equal, provided that there’s mutual respect between us. Therefore, Mr. Adams, why don’t you put away your petty schemes? You know I’m not stingy with giving rewards.”

Jasper’s words broke Mr. Adams’ last line of defense completely.

Jasper did not expect these men to work for him with unswerving loyalty; Mr. Adams did not see himself staying in this gaming company in Somerland.

When both parties were clear on that, many things were much easier to manage.

Life at the Top Chapter 729

“I understand. You can send your men over and I’ll explain the United Legends game to them without holding back anything. I’ll also be in charge of the early stages of development and maintenance until the end of our cooperation.”

Jasper snapped his fingers and stretched out his hand toward Mr. Adams, saying, “I hope we will have a great time working together.”

“I hope we will have a pleasant time working together.” Mr. Adams stretched out his hand to take Jasper’s. After putting aside their differences and defenses, he admired the actions taken by this young man standing before his eyes from the bottom of his heart.

It did not take long for him to discipline a group of men, himself included, and tame them as soon as he came in.

He had achieved deterrence, placed his men in the team, and even obtained the technical abilities of his team.

However... Mr. Adams sneered in his heart. So what if Jasper was capable and brilliant? He was the one who had the technology and capabilities, so he had the final say in steering the entire project.

As soon as this thought emerged in Mr. Adams’ heart, Jasper spoke.

“I want you to follow the amended suggestions fully and thoroughly.”

Jasper pointed at the paper in the trash can that Diamonique had thrown earlier.

Mr. Adams frowned. He was against making compromises in his area of expertise. He said, “Mr. Laine, allow me to be frank with you, but those who gave these suggestions know nothing about games. Others aside, how could the so-called money bug even exist?”

“My game has only been tested internally in Coreana. How does this person know anything about bugs when he hasn’t even played the game?”

Jasper knew what Mr. Adams was referring to when he mentioned bugs. This was written out based on the memory of his past life.

In his previous life, when United Legends first released the open beta version, a mega game currency bug appeared. The said bug had caused the economic system in the game to collapse. According to United Legends’ magnitude and design at the time, having a stable and value-preserving economic system was completely doable.

Judging on this point alone, only one online game in the world, World of Warcraft included, had been capable of achieving it.

That game was Netsy’s West Fantasyland.

Jasper would not allow United Legends to fall into the mega hole again.

One must know that West Fantasyland’s stable economic system was the main factor why it was able to remain popular for more than a decade. It supplied no less than ten billion Somer Dollars and a net profit of more than six billion Somer Dollars to Netsy, climbing up to the position as the world’s top three most profitable online games.

Jasper did not explain this, nor did he know how to explain it. He simply said, "Set up the game on the internal test server."

Mr. Adams sneered seeing how hard-headed Jasper was and how he insisted on testing it. Eager to see Jasper humiliating himself, he immediately instructed someone to execute Jasper's order.

The game was set up on the test server in no time at all.

"Alvis Kristen, you're in charge of reproducing the situation where the bug occurs based on the suggestion. I'd like to see which ignorant brat is saying that my game has a bug even before playing it." Mr. Adams sneered.

A young man rushed out and sat in front of the computer. He opened up the client and after logging in, he spread open the crumpled up paper of amended suggestions upon taking it out from the trash can.

Based on the detailed explanation about the bug, Alvis' game character came to a specific storage keeper NPC and keyed in -5,000,000. In front of everyone's eyes, the game currency in the character's item pack did not decrease but instead increased by 5,000,000.

"F*ck!" Alvis cried out in surprise.

"What's going on? Who is in charge of this map's NPC transaction code?!" Mr. Adams shouted in embarrassment after the humiliating event.

"It's... It's me, Mr. Adams," Alvis said with a pale expression, standing up from his seat.

Life at the Top Chapter 730

Mr. Adams gritted his teeth and was itching to kick Alvis to death. He roared in fury, “Go and check the codes immediately and see which part went wrong!”

“And you!”

Mr. Adams pointed at his subordinates.

“I want all of you to go and check your respective parts. If this serious code error had been tested in public and used by the users, it would’ve led to very bad consequences!”

One must admit that Coreana’s technicians had basic professional qualities.

The men rushed back to their seats and began checking for bugs, stealing glances at Jasper as they worked.

They were both astounded and curious, wanting to know who it was who found the bug.

This was a question that was bothering Mr. Adams too.

“Mr. Laine, who found this bug? Is he a Coreanan?” Mr. Adams asked straight away.

Jasper replied indifferently, “I will give you an answer later, Mr. Adams. Since we have successfully proven the bug and loophole, do you think you can execute the rest of the amended suggestions?”

Mr. Adams said while pulling a long face, “Although detecting a bug has proven that the man who made this suggestion is someone with a certain level of skill, I must say that the other amended suggestions he made have shown that he’s a person who knows nothing about games.

“For example, the so-called beginner’s mission as well as the daily missions. Does he not know that doing so would speed up the players’ beginner-stage development and the progress of the game? If the players receive too much in the game, the lifespan of the game will decrease sharply.

“Forget it, Mr. Laine. You don’t work in our industry, so you won’t know what I’m talking about. I think you should summon that person and I’ll teach him how games are developed,” Mr. Adams said arrogantly.

Jasper shook his head at Mr. Adams’ arrogance. It was no wonder Coreana, the country that was at the forefront of the world when it came to high-grade high-precision advanced technology, could only rest on its laurels in the future. The citizens of this country seemed to all have an unfounded sense of superiority.

“Mr. Adams, you must know that abusing the players isn’t the only way a game can shoot to fame. Players must gain something and have something to look forward to. There must be something the players are eager to do in the game at all times.

“Take leveling up for example, or treasure-hunting, or even defeating a much stronger boss. Then there’s also the social systems, take guilds, for example, or sworn brothers—even marriage systems.”

These are all listed down to be added into the game in the amended suggestions. These will get players to linger in this virtual world and make them reluctant to leave, not giving them one boring and tedious thing to do repeatedly the whole time.”

The revisions that Jasper made were all recognized by the market in later generations. Even the world's first online game, World of Warcraft, had adopted these advantages created by the domestic operators.

"If you don't believe me, Mr. Adams, let's make a bet," Jasper said when he noticed Mr. Adams' disapproving gaze.

"Oh? What would you like to bet, Mr. Laine? I don't want to bet money because no one here is wealthier than you," Mr. Adams ridiculed.

"You will follow all instructions in this list of amended suggestions and implement all functions accordingly. If the number of players is less than two million on the day of the open beta testing, then I'll pay you one million US dollars straight away."

Jasper's words left Mr. Adams tremendously shocked.

"Two million?! That's impossible!"

In Coreana, even the most popular game had only recorded hundreds of thousands of online players at a time. Even if Somerland was a dozen times bigger than Coreana, Somerland had almost no foundation in online games. Having 500,000 players was good enough.

"If it's impossible, then why don't you just agree to the bet, Mr. Adams? Perhaps this is the time when I will give you money for nothing."

Life at the Top Chapter 731

Sure enough, Mr. Adams was convinced. He looked at Jasper. “What do I need to offer if you manage to do it?”

Jasper laughed and said, “You don’t need to offer anything as long as you promise to let everyone in your team take two apprentices each.”

Mr. Adams narrowed his eyes at Jasper and said coldly, “Are you trying to acquire our skills in the shortest time possible?”

“That should have been the case from the start, no?” Jasper asked mildly.

“Fine, I’ll take on the bet!” Mr. Adams harrumphed. In his opinion, he was bound to win this bet.

Seeing how Mr. Adams was so full of himself, Jasper remained unruffled.

In his past life, United Legends, which was not well-known at the time, almost went bankrupt from staking everything on a single chance to promote it. How many users were there during the open beta testing?

1.5 million!

It was precisely because of this record that the global gaming industry discovered the massive blue ocean in the gaming scene of Somerland.

At the moment, he had Terizone and Sena, the two largest internet portals. Surpassing the previous record of 500,000 could not be any easier.

What was more, Jasper was confident that the suggestions he proposed would capture the essence of domestic online games, bringing out United Legends' traits even more!

After sending Mr. Adams away, Jasper turned around and saw the look of admiration in Terry's eyes.

"You're so awesome, Mr. Laine. To be honest with you, and you can laugh all you want, but I've been awfully tormented by these Coreanans. But when you took over the situation, you managed to fix and tame them with such efficiency."

Jasper laughed. "It's not time yet. When the open beta testing is released, that's when they will bow their heads in submission."

Terry hastened to add after hearing what he said, "Don't mind me for saying this, Mr. Laine, but I honestly think that it was a little exaggerated when you said that the number of online users in the open beta testing would exceed two million."

"Do you think I will lose the bet?" Jasper asked.

Terry explained hastily, "That's not what I meant."

Though his mouth said no, his expression said otherwise.

"I understand that you want to get the most out of these Coreanans in the shortest time possible and kick them out, Mr. Laine, but you need to do it slowly. Both techniques you used earlier today have achieved very good results."

"Terry." Jasper led Terry to the office and said while they walked, "You need to learn from Jack. Jack never doubts."

Terry was slightly stunned. Thinking that Jasper was just putting on an act for no reason, he laughed dryly. "Yes, yes, I must learn from Mr. Tanner, indeed."

Although he inwardly disagreed, what could he possibly do? After all, he was just an employee and needed to show due respect for his boss' feelings.

Little did he know, within half an hour, Jack, who had rushed over to the company all the way from the airport, said in delight after hearing what Terry reported to him, "If that's the case, we need to speed up the progress and get United Legends prepared for the open beta testing. I find these Coreanans an eyesore as well."

"Mr. Tanner, don't you think Mr. Laine is exaggerating a little too much? When the time comes, not only will he fail to place his men in the team, but he risks paying one million US dollars," Terry said, astonished.

"Exaggeration?" Jack glanced meaningfully at Terry and continued, "You have never interacted with Mr. Laine before, so I don't blame you. But listen, you need to get used to seeing Mr. Laine creating miracles next time. There's nothing he says that he can't achieve!"

Life at the Top Chapter 732

In the next few days, under Jack's lead, Sena began publicizing and promoting United Legends.

This included the servers as well. A series of teams were rapidly formed because Jasper did not stint on using his wealth and power.

As for Mr. Adams, perhaps it was because he was hoping to earn Jasper's one million dollars as soon as possible, he was fueled with energy. He urged the Coreanans to work overtime every day in order to make progress.

As for the promotions, Jasper asked Jack to contact Hudson.

Terizone was extremely supportive. With Jasper's suggestions, they launched the first pop-up advertisement for all KK users.

The advertisement that popped up twice a day had brought unprecedented attention to United Legends.

Before this, the outdated game, Fated Swordsman, was the only game that domestic players knew. This was their first time being introduced to such a huge production.

With Jasper's personal intervention, Sena released United Legends' official website and even posted a video on it.

When the players saw the extremely cool special effects portrayed in the video and the horrific monster boss, they thought this was simply genius.

Therefore, in a very short period of time, Jasper's viral publicity stunt produced excellent results. Almost everyone knew that the open beta testing for a domestic online game called United Legends was about to begin.

This series of actions had attracted the attention of many people in the industry, but none of them knew that a behemoth was gradually rising. They merely paid attention to Jasper using Terizone and Sena, two major internet traffic portals, to carry out his promotions.

The excellent results had left everyone completely amazed.

Even Hudson learned for the very first time that KK had such massive potential when it came to publicity.

"Say, Mr. Laine, if I can sell the pop-up window as advertisements, can you imagine how much money I'll make every day?"

Hudson exclaimed in the video conference.

Jasper laughed. "If you do that, then KK users will start cursing you. Once or twice is fine. Do you think anyone would still want to use KK when a bunch of advertisements pop up every time they launch the program?"

Hudson sighed and said, "I was just saying. Although the Nobile KK business is developing really well, the company is still in urgent need of new profit growth points."

"Do you think I asked you to promote Sena's game for nothing?" Jasper said mysteriously.

Hudson's eyes lit up as he asked, "Do you have any good ideas, Mr. Laine?"

"I plan to take Sena and Terizone's cooperation to a much deeper level and launch a points card business," Jasper told him his plans instead of keeping him guessing.

To date, online payment was still a fictitious concept. Even though Jasper's reincarnation had placed him in an advantageous position, he could do nothing more than to point out that online payment was the general orientation in the future.

Jasper intended to put Sena on the market as the first listed company under JW Consortium. All of Sena's businesses must surpass or outdo all previous businesses. They had to receive the support of capitalists as well.

"Mr. Laine, are you saying that the players will place their order to purchase the points card and we will deliver the cards?" Hudson asked with a frown.

Jasper shook his head. He knew that even though Hudson was a business prodigy, his worldview had been restricted by the timeline they were in.

"What are points cards for? They're nothing more than a series of numbers. Why do you still need to make points cards? It'll make things easier for the players if

you just send out these serial numbers online, won't it? It'll also save us the cost of card production."

Hudson smacked his forehead and said in pleasant surprise, "Yeah, in that case, this will be a win-win situation! But how will the payment be made?"

Hudson immediately noticed the key problem.

In truth, the core issue of online payment was the means of payment itself.

"This is one of the reasons why I'm here in Waterhoof City. I'm here to talk to the Industrial and Commercial Bank of Somer." Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly.

"I need the ICBS to give us access to an online banking interface so the users can use their ICBS cards to make seamless payments that go straight to Terizone.

"I will talk to the ICBS management about this in the afternoon. Wait for my good news."

Having said that, Jasper ended the video conference with Hudson with a smile.

ICBS was certainly going to be a hard nut to crack. Jasper needed to handle this with caution.

The best option would be to talk to ICBS' Southeast Province branch. After all, many things would be much easier to deal with when John Jackson, the vice president of Tefa's ICBS, was around.

Though unfortunately, the Southeast Province branch was only a tier-one branch that held no authority to work with Jasper.

The Waterhoof City branch, however, was a special tier-one branch with authority second only to the headquarters. Therefore, Jasper had no choice but to talk to the Waterhoof City branch.

Vita was already waiting at the entrance.

Amidst the greetings from the employees, Vita nodded indifferently as though he did not care.

Though when Jasper's car arrived, a zealous smile broke out on his face immediately. He walked out of the sentry box and toward the car, even taking the initiative to open the car door.

At the sight of this, the branch employees nearby looked at this low-key black business car with curiosity. To see Mr. Layne attaching such great importance to this person, they wondered if a VIP had arrived.

Life at the Top Chapter 733

"Mr. Layne."

Jasper got out of the car and shook hands with Vita who was grinning from ear to ear.

Vita took Jasper's hands with a chuckle and lowered his voice to say, "I will soon be the branch president, Mr. Laine."

Jasper was pleasantly surprised. "You got a promotion? Congratulations! You will have to buy me lunch, you know?"

Vita let out a modest smile and said, "I'm keeping a low profile. They came and talked to me earlier, so I think there won't be a major issue. The official documents have yet to be issued, though, so I can't disclose this to the public yet. As for lunch, sure, as long as you're willing to give me the honor, Mr. Laine, then I can buy you lunch anytime!"

"Speaking of which, I have to thank you for this."

"Oh? Why is that so?" Jasper asked curiously.

"It's all thanks to that plot of land previously." Vita led Jasper into the office building.

"You wanted to talk to the city hall regarding the construction of the world's tallest building on that plot of land, didn't you? The branch received the news the next day itself, alerting the headquarters as well. They knew that I had gone all out to make this happen, so they issued an order of commendation straight away."

"I heard that the head of Waterhoof City Hall even gave a call to the headquarters' boss and told him that our branch had done a great deed that would benefit the country and the people."

Vita said in elation.

A man of his age and status would find it extremely arduous to get promoted. After all, every level presented a massive barrier.

Though thanks to Jasper, he was able to take a big step forward effortlessly. In the future, he would remain in the vice president position to build up his skills for a few years. Then, he would be promoted as president in one of the provincial branches. When he retired, according to customary practices, he would be raised by half a level, serving temporarily as the headquarters' vice president.

This was something he had dared not even think about in the past.

Jasper was equally surprised when he heard what he said. The country was in urgent need of major events to boost national confidence and demonstrate national strength. The previous Olympics was one, and building the world's tallest building was another that was in line with the expectations.

It was no wonder Vita benefited from it as well.

This was a lucrative job in the municipality, what more for an ICBS branch's vice president in a financial center like Waterhoof City.

"You really do need to buy me that lunch," Jasper joked.

"Definitely. I will invite John as well when that happens." Vita chuckled, leading Jasper to his office and making him a cup of coffee.

Vita then took a seat, the smile on his face gradually diminishing as he spoke softly, "I have bad news, Mr. Laine."

Jasper raised his eyebrows slightly as he stared at Vita, waiting for him to continue.

After letting out a wry smile, Vita continued with a slightly awkward expression, "You spoke to me about the partnership two days ago, remember? I conveyed your requirements to the president and two other vice presidents about it. Everyone was pretty delighted about it at first.

"What's more, you're a huge figure in Waterhoof City now. Everyone in the branch is thankful for your contribution regarding that plot of land. So we compiled the documents and handed in the materials to the headquarters but did not expect the headquarters to reject it straight away."

Vita observed Jasper's countenance as he spoke, only to see no changes.

Vita was gradually losing confidence and felt slightly guilty about it.

After all, Jasper had helped him get promoted as the branch's vice president, yet he messed up the first time Jasper asked him to get something done.

Anyone would be upset about this.

Moreover, this was a reasonable and legal partnership. Jasper was not going through the back door or benefiting from him at all.

"The branch in Waterhoof City has the authority to grant me access to an online banking interface, right?" Jasper asked.

Vita chuckled bitterly. "We do, actually. If we hadn't reported it to the headquarters and kept it to ourselves, then it would've been doable. But the problem here is that the president who only initially intended to inform the headquarters did not expect them to reject it straight away. Since this is the case, it will now be inappropriate for us to force the partnership."

Jasper asked with a frown, "Do you know why it got rejected?"

Vita replied frankly without holding any information back, "When things like that are involved, the headquarters will need to have a meeting to seek permission. You know that ICBS' shareholder structure is slightly complicated, but almost all of them are state-owned enterprise holdings... All but one.

"Harbor City Trade Settlement Center!

"This trade settlement center holds 31% of ICBS' shares, making them the third-largest shareholder. Hence, they have a say in making decisions.

"The trade settlement center's representative was the one who opposed this proposal in the meeting. They're pretty firm about it. Mr. Laine, under normal circumstances, state-owned enterprises, especially one with a complex shareholder structure like ICBS, would choose to respect the opinions of major shareholders if they ever oppose."

Jasper finally understood what was going on after listening to Vita's explanation.

This problem might seem complicated but was actually pretty easy to understand.

ICBS' headquarters had held a shareholders meeting specifically about his application and Harbor City Trade Settlement Center strongly opposed it. As such, the partnership was considered to have fallen through.

However, Jasper bore no grudge against Harbor City Trade Settlement Center, so why did the other party oppose it?

Jasper had a feeling that something fishy was going on.

At this moment, Vita's voice rang out. "Mr. Laine, I suggest you find out if there's any misunderstanding between you and Harbor City Trade Settlement Center, especially the aristocrats who hold the shares. They are the ones who have a say in this."

"Do you know which aristocratic families hold the trade settlement center's shares?" Jasper asked.

"I do. One of them is the Half-the-Harbor Langdon family, holding 25% of shares. Then, there's the infrastructure magnate, the Atticus family, holding 24% of shares. The rest of the 51% of shares shouldn't be much of a problem because they're all under state-owned enterprises that can't even beat you. I don't think they'll make things difficult for you on purpose."

The Atticus family!

Jasper's eyes lit up.

He finally knew who was behind this.

Fabian Atticus!

Life at the Top Chapter 734

To be honest, Jasper was disgusted when he found out that Fabian was behind this.

He was sickened by people like that the most. Even when they disliked you, they refused to say it to your face and would instead make a move behind your back, grossing you out whenever they could.

This was as gross as having somebody's snot stuck to your body!

This was uncalled for.

Jasper had not completely run out of options either. He could easily partner up with commercial banks like Pfeiffer and Griffin.

The only thing about them was that their scale and services were slightly limited. These banks generally dealt with businesses more, like corporate loans, deposits, and the like.

They were weaker when it came to personal savings.

Even though things changed in 2020 after Jasper's reincarnation, it was still not enough for these two banks to catch up with the big four banking companies.

Jasper needed the interface to make payments easier for the players. If they were to take a trip to another city just to open up an account with these two banks, then this was simply putting the cart before the horse.

The players might not buy it.

These two options were not entirely out of the question either. The other party was aware of their shortcomings and would not hesitate to partner up with him when it involved a partnership that could promote their personal savings business in the shortest time possible.

Therefore, this was really not a big deal.

Even so, this was still very disgusting. After all, this was someone else's snot, and anyone would be grossed out by it.

"Okay, I will handle this. Wait for my update. I might even need your help when the time comes," Jasper said, standing up.

Vita knew that Jasper was about to leave and stood up with a guilty countenance, saying, "I'll see you off, Mr. Laine. Sigh, I couldn't even get one thing done for you!"

Jasper laughed. "There's no need to take this to heart. I have only myself to blame for not making enough preparations and giving others a loophole to take advantage of me. You have done your best and I will remember that. Let's have a meal together when John is free. I'll host."

Vita said hastily, "Oh, please don't! We agreed that I'll buy you a meal. I'll be the host."

Jasper smiled when he saw how anxious Vita was and did not insist further.

On the way back, Jasper called Jake and requested him to pull up Harbor City Trade Settlement Center's file regarding shareholder structure as well as the internal power structure of this company that ordinary people had no knowledge about.

Jake was highly efficient. Jasper had just stepped foot into the hotel when he received the information.

After turning on the computer, Jasper carefully studied the information that Jake sent him.

Like Vita said, Harbor City Trade Settlement Center was owned by three state-owned enterprises that made up 51% of the shares. Of the remaining 49%, Joe Langdon's family held 25%, whereas Fabian Atticus' family held 24%.

Strangely, despite being the shareholder that held the least shares, the company's power structure leaned uniformly toward Fabian's family.

There were 11 board directors, six of whom were made up of three state-owned enterprises, and three were occupied by the Atticus family alone. The Langdons, on the other hand, occupied only two seats.

According to Harbor City-style state-owned enterprise, state-owned capital only accounted for the controlling rights and decision-making power according to customary practices. The Atticus family had the final say in the company's daily operation.

That explained why Fabian could mess up his plan so effortlessly.

As he looked at the diagram of the trade settlement center's shareholder structure, Jasper lowered his head and picked up his phone. He located a number in his contacts that had never been dialed ever since he saved it and pressed on the number without a single hesitation.

After a moment, the call went through.

Life at the Top Chapter 735

Jasper listened to the slightly startled greeting that came from the other end of the phone and laughed. “Mr. Langdon, are you free to make a trip to Waterhoof City? Let’s discuss a big business that could earn you a conservative estimate of at least one billion dollars. How does that sound?”

...

Thompson Golf Course in Harbor City.

A gold golf ball formed a gorgeous arc mid-air before rolling into a golf hole cup 30 meters away.

“You’re amazing, Mr. Atticus!” A gorgeous woman dressed in tight golf apparel praised Fabian.

Fabian let out a nonchalant smile. He had clearly grown accustomed to such flattery as he said in a lackadaisical manner, “That’s what you said last night too. I’ve always been amazing.”

The woman’s delicate face flushed as she protested coquettishly, “Oh, stop it, Mr. Atticus!”

While walking back to the teeing area, Fabian asked the middle-aged man who was holding his golf clubs for him, playing the role of his caddy.

“Any update on the task I entrusted you to do?”

The middle-aged man hurried forward and replied reverently, “It has been executed, Mr. Atticus. ICBS’ headquarters got back to us today. They have officially sent out the letter of rejection to the Waterhoof City branch today.”

Fabian's face broke out in a grin as he said, "Not bad. Although I have no idea what Jasper Laine is up to, we'll disrupt everything he intends to do."

The middle-aged man responded in an ingratiating manner, "Yes, Jasper is probably still clueless as to who has ruined his plan. He must be so confused."

"What you're doing is ingenious, Mr. Atticus. He might not even know that he has offended you even after all his plans are ruined."

"He didn't offend me, nor does he have the right to offend me. A friend from Coreana asked for my help. Besides..."

Fabian twitched his mouth and continued, "I hate the Laines, or anyone with surnames that begin with the letter L. Those with these surnames are the flies and vermin of this world."

"Keep a close eye on Jasper. If he takes any action, then we'll continue to wreck his plans. Let's see what he's going to do about that. What can he, a Mainlander, possibly do? Raise the roof?"

"We must let him know that he has yet to meet the real bigwigs of this world. He thinks he can rest easy just because he's licking the Laws' boots? If I, Fabian Atticus, want to lay a finger on him, nobody can stop me—not even the Laws!"

"Ask someone to open up my precious bottle of Romani. I'm in a good mood today and a 200,000-dollar red wine would be perfect for such an occasion."

"Yes, Mr. Atticus."

...

The next day at Waterhoof City International Airport. A plane slowly landed.

After some time, Kayden Langdon walked out of the business aisle while dressed inconspicuously and with a rushed look on his face. Jasper, who came to pick him up personally, went forward to greet him.

“It’s been a while, Mr. Langdon,” Jasper greeted with a smile.

Kayden shook Jasper’s hands and joked, “You’re the second person in this world aside from my father who can get me to book an overnight flight with a single phone call. If I find out you’re lying to me about this business opportunity, I’m not going to let this slide for sure.”

Jasper laughed and said, “Is it worthwhile for me to get you to come this far just to play a prank on you, Mr. Langdon? Don’t worry, if I say that there’s a business opportunity, then there’s definitely a business opportunity. Besides, this business is one that will give you steady profits without suffering any losses.”

Under Jasper’s lead, Kayden got into a business car.

Once he sat down, he let out a meaningful smile and said, “When I first came out to do business, my father told me that there’s no business in this world that will give me steady profits without suffering some form of losses unless someone wants to gain even more from you.”

Life at the Top Chapter 736

“If that’s the case, did Mr. Joe also tell you that there’s always an exception, especially in the business field? Although experience is crucial, do you know that it’s taboo to say that experience is everything?” Jasper said with a smile.

Kayden shrugged and said in a breezy manner, “That’s why I’m here.”

Jasper chuckled. There was no denying how extraordinary both father and son were that they were able to become the richest people in Somerland in the future.

On the way, both Jasper and Kayden seemed to have a tacit agreement against talking about business in the car. Instead, they chatted about their experiences just like any ordinary friends and while they were at it, they sighed at how quickly the Mainland was developing.

After the previous evening party, Joe had become the major investor to invest in the Mainland among the four richest families in Harbor City. This was in line with Jasper’s experience in his past life.

In the next 15 years after the year 2000, Joe would have invested more than 120 billion in the Mainland. This was an astronomical amount.

This indirectly showed how jaw-droppingly high Joe’s wealth had expanded in 15 years.

Apart from everything else, at least Jasper now knew that he was not going to get 120 billion even after selling off Joe Langdon.

The pair’s total assets currently stood at around 40 billion.

US dollars, of course.

Jasper then recalled the 16 billion dollar building construction fee he was fretting about and could not help but sigh at how many wealthy people there were out there in the world.

From their conversation, Jasper learned that although it seemed like Kayden had come to the Mainland this time because of a call from Jasper, he was actually interested in several investment opportunities in the Mainland as well. He had already intended to come over and check things out. It did not matter if he departed earlier or later, hence he thought he might as well use this opportunity to show Jasper an adequate amount of respect.

The duo came to the hotel and found a table in an executive lounge. Kayden and Jasper sat facing each other. They both knew that real business was about to begin.

They were both extremely busy men, and every minute wasted could cost them hundreds of thousands of dollars. Therefore, they did not have the time for idle chats.

Jasper leaned on the couch and asked Kayden, “Do you know much about the domestic internet industry, Mr. Langdon?”

Kayden nodded and said, “A little. My family is engaged in the telecommunications business back home. Telecommunications and the internet are mutually dependent derivative markets. Although the Mainland’s telecommunications business is unlikely to be handled by private individuals, I must say that I’m very interested in the internet business.

“In my opinion, the domestic internet industry is a massive market that has yet to be developed. Once it has reached its full potential, it will inevitably shock the world.”

Jasper’s eyes lit up after hearing Kayden’s words.

Sure enough, talking to smart people was easy as he did not need to waste so much of his breath talking.

Moreover, Kayden's accurate judgment of the internet industry had impressed Jasper greatly.

He knew many things thanks to the memories he had after reincarnating, but Kayden was not equipped with such an advantage.

Even so, he was able to tell the huge potential of the internet industry in the future and to do so required an extraordinary vision.

He was just a little unlucky.

In his past life, Kayden had invested 20 million US dollars in Terizone and with the number of shares he had at the time, he waited until the day of Terizone's emergence and surpassed his father's, Half-the-Harbor Langdon, assets to become the new richest man of Somer descent.

This time, however, after making several hundred million in profit, he actually resold it to Naspers.

Thinking about this real-life anecdote, Jasper wore a mysterious smile on his face and asked, "I'm sure you know about Sena, Mr. Langdon?"

Kayden nodded again. "How could I not know about the largest web portal when I'm paying close attention to the domestic internet industry?"

"Sena is mine." Jasper broke the news to him.

Kayden wore a look of astonishment on his face before laughing. "Well then, I must congratulate you for seizing the first opportunity then, Mr. Laine."

Life at the Top Chapter 737

Knowing that Kayden was teasing him for seizing the position in the internet industry which he too, agreed was highly potential, Jasper shrugged and made no further explanation. He continued, "At present, all internet companies are facing the same issue of not earning any profit. I have ways to make Sena profitable, and this will soon be realized.

"Online games."

Jasper took the initiative to explain without waiting for Kayden to ask.

"An online game with more than two million players online at the same time. This same product can create millions of profits for Sena every day."

Kayden was slightly startled. Although he had been paying attention to the internet industry, he did not know much about the gaming industry. Nevertheless, he still politely said, "I'm sorry, Mr. Laine, but I still don't know what this partnership is after we've discussed this for so long. Do you want to partner up with me in online games?"

Ignoring the mockery in Kayden's words, Jasper continued, "When internet companies all over the world are struggling to make a profit, Sena has already achieved over one million dollars of profits per day. That, and it's Somerland's largest web portal.

"If I list Sena on the share market, Mr. Langdon, can you guess how much its share price will soar?"

As soon as the words left his lips, a door had seemingly opened before Kayden's eyes. Under the massive shock, his countenance abruptly changed. He was subconsciously trying to stand up.

“It... It’s going to be a mega bullish share!”

Although the burst of the dot-com bubble had kept every share market investor on their toes, it was still not enough to stop the trend.

The internet was the global trend, and that was an unchangeable fact.

Therefore, internet shares continued to be in good demand.

Nevertheless, investors were smarter now and would merely look for reliable shares to buy.

Gone was the era where one could easily make a fortune by buying a small portion of internet shares.

However, the more this was the case, the more profitable it was for high-quality internet companies as there were only very limited choices where the investment money could go.

Evidently, Weresoft’s shares were breaking new highs every day. How could anyone not see that this company was breaking its daily record of becoming the world’s most valuable company?

This meant that the market investors’ enthusiasm and cash were available, but everyone had learned to be smart and not easily deceived. What they needed most right now was a reliable market to invest in!

Once listed on the share market, Sena, the company that could achieve profitable growth and at the same time own Somerland’s Mainland market might very well turn into the capital market’s favorite company.

“Not bad. Yes, a mega bullish share.” Jasper was pleased with Kayden’s reaction.

If Kayden still could not make out what he was saying even after he had given him so much information, then he might as well just go back home.

“How will our partnership work?” Kayden looked at Jasper with burning eyes, his gaze filled with excitement.

If his predictions were right, Jasper was about to give him money for nothing.

“I will do my best to list Sena on the market and allow you to buy up to 100 million shares via pre-IPO placement,” Jasper said.

“Shares like that are bound to quintuple when trading is commenced. It’s also expected to decuple in the long run. Do you believe me now when I say that you will earn one billion?” Jasper said mildly.

Kayden fixed his gaze on Jasper and repeated, “Decuple? No matter how outstanding Sena is, how can you be so sure that it will decuple in share prices? Shares like that are really rare in share market history.”

“How can I be so sure?” Jasper grinned and stood up slowly, looking at Kayden with glowing eyes.

“I can be so sure because I’m Jasper Laine!”

Life at the Top Chapter 738

Staring at Jasper standing before him, Kayden was lost in thoughts.

He suddenly remembered that this man, who was seven to eight years younger than him, was the host of the Harbor City billion-dollar market rescue plan.

How old was he back then?

How old was he that he was bold enough to preside over a billion-dollar market rescue plan and most importantly, succeed?

Sure enough, backed by such glorious history and coupled with the already strong foundation of Sena, getting the share prices to decuple was not entirely unattainable.

Besides, even if it did not decuple, he would still profit even if it merely sextupled or septupled!

At the thought of this, Kayden suddenly realized that the words Jasper said about 'being so sure because he was Jasper Laine' might seem arrogant but were actually true.

"What do I need to do?"

Kayden was, after all, Kayden. He would not be blinded by the profits presented before his eyes. He knew that Jasper had conditions as well for offering him such a huge benefit.

Jasper smiled slightly and said, "You sure are a sensible person, Mr. Langdon. If that's the case, I won't beat about the bush anymore. You own 25% of shares in Harbor City Trade Settlement Center, right, Mr. Langdon?"

Kayden frowned and said, "Yes, I do. But key state-owned enterprises like that represent half of Harbor City's central bank, so even though I hold a portion of the shares, I can't really do anything with them. I'm sure you know this."

Jasper laughed. "I can't have any ideas about the trade settlement center, of course. What I need you to do, Mr. Langdon, is to use the shares in your hands to propose something for me."

Having said that, Jasper told him all about his partnership with ICBS to gain access to a payment interface.

“Are you setting up an online payment system?” Once again, Kayden studied Jasper carefully. All of a sudden, he realized that as they interacted further, he would eventually find himself underestimating the other party no matter how much importance he had attached to him in the first place.

Online payment was not something that ordinary people would touch.

The cost was too high, and the difficulty level was uncommonly high. Disregarding everything else, the policy itself was tantamount to climbing Mt. Everest. Any approval procedures for this system needed to go through Swallow Capital’s major departments. Those without the ability would not stand a chance at all.

Most importantly, no one knew what the future trend would be like. If things went south, all the money invested would be lost.

Jasper, however, was brave enough to do it.

“It’s just an attempt. Besides, the online payment system is crucial for the upcoming online game Sena is developing. It’ll affect the share prices once the company is listed in the future,” Jasper said.

Kayden came to a sudden realization and immediately flew into a rage out of embarrassment. He said, “You’re setting me up!

“You first lure me in with a huge mouth-watering pancake and then tell me that this pancake isn’t done yet. Now I’m supposed to work for it in order to have a taste?!”

Jasper laughed. “I deserve to be lectured, indeed. There’s no business in this world where you can earn steady profits at all times. The distinction here is that the things I want from you are far less than what you will get.

“This is a challenge for me, but for you, it will be nothing more than using your right as a shareholder to voice out. Besides, don’t you want to subdue Fabian?” Jasper asked flatly.

Kayden fell silent.

Although he was unhappy about this, Kayden must admit that every word Jasper said spoke his mind.

He and Fabian could not get along with each other. Their resentment was deeply ingrained and could never be resolved.

Although it was highly unlikely for them to go so far as to fight with each other, they would not hesitate to use any chance they could get to make the other party suffer just a tad.

Most importantly, it was not really difficult for him to get this done anyway.

It went without saying that he could easily obtain Sena’s 100 million shares via pre-IPO placement in the future.

Life at the Top Chapter 739

This was a good opportunity that would not come by often.

“Count me in,” Kayden said, standing up.

Kayden chuckled and stretched out his hand. “I look forward to our partnership.”

“May we have a pleasant cooperation.”

After a good firm handshake with Jasper, Kayden studied Jasper and said, “I think we can visit each other more often in the future. Although I’m a few years older than you, I rarely have any genuine friends around me. I think we can be friends.”

By saying so, Kayden was showing his recognition for Jasper’s ability, or perhaps he intended to take their friendship to a deeper level in the future.

This was often the case in the business field. Once your ability and power had been recognized by the people around you, someone would then take the initiative to be your friend.

After all, having more friends meant more opportunities. In the business field, making more friends was better than making more enemies.

Jasper laughed. “The honor is mine.”

“You’re too polite,” Kayden added.

After exchanging pleasantries with each other, Kayden left in a hurry.

They were both sensible men. Since they had set their hearts on doing something, they would do so with great efficiency.

After half an hour, Kayden’s words that represented the interests of the Langdons were conveyed from Waterhoof City to Harbor City Trade Settlement Center.

That afternoon itself, the trade settlement center held an emergency board meeting.

During the board meeting, although there were only two board members who supported the Langdons’ suggestion while three board members supported the Atticus family, the Langdons still held 25% of shares!

At the board meeting, six board members representing state-owned enterprises abstained from voting. After two board members representing the Langdons had failed two against three to make their proposal, the two board members immediately called for a general shareholders meeting.

At the shareholders meeting, the state-owned enterprises holding 51% shares abstained from voting, the Langdons who held 25% of shares won, and the Atticuses holding 24% shares lost.

Under the guiding principle that the company's general shareholders meeting was the supreme body, the Langdons' motion was passed.

The Atticuses flew into a rage yet could not do anything about it. They watched as the opinion letter representing Harbor City Trade Settlement Center was faxed to ICBS' headquarters.

That night, ICBS' headquarters held an overnight meeting. At the meeting, Harbor City Trade Settlement Center expressed their support for Waterhoof City's ICBS branch to partner up with Terizone to open up an online payment interface. Therefore, the same application that was rejected the day prior was met with a completely different result: unanimously passed.

The news reached Harbor City first thing itself.

In the villa, a crash was heard. A glass had been smashed to the ground.

Fabian's furious roars echoed in the villa.

"You useless good-for-nothing! I asked you to keep an eye on Jasper. What were you guys doing? Eating sh*t? Tell me, how did those two with surnames starting with L partner up?! Why am I only receiving the news after the general shareholders meeting?!"

Fabian flew into a rage with bloodshot eyes. Everyone in the villa stood in front of him holding their breaths.

Standing among them were the trade settlement center's board members representing the Atticuses' interests.

"Mr. Atticus, the Langdons are extremely firm. They did not even hesitate to call for a general shareholders meeting. This was unprecedented. Now the question remains, what did Jasper use to move the Langdons that they're so supportive of him?" a board member said softly.

"Do you think I need you to tell me that?!" Fabian glared at him. He had seemingly found a place to release his pent-up anger as he slammed an ashtray on the other party's forehead.

Amidst the shrill cries of the board member, Fabian said coldly, "Investigate! I want this to be investigated! That Mainlander and Kayden have worked together to humiliate me. I'll show them!"

Life at the Top Chapter 740

"Here we go! Cheers!"

Jasper and Hudson clinked their wine glasses in midair.

On the morning of the second day after receiving the good news, Hudson—representing Terizone Inc.—officially signed a strategic cooperation agreement with the Waterhoof City branch of ICBC.

Hudson leaned toward Jasper and said with great enthusiasm, "Are online games really so lucrative? We've done so many promotions during this period—if things don't work out, we'll be a laughing stock in everyone's eyes."

Jasper responded, grinning, "This is an absolute 100 billion-grade blue ocean market; its potential just hasn't been fully realized yet."

“United Legends will be our stepping stone to success!”

Hudson had complete confidence in Jasper’s discerning eye. When he heard Jasper’s comment, he immediately inquired eagerly, “Do you think Terizone could do it?”

Hearing this, Jasper immediately recalled his past life. Domestic gamers had described Terizone games through an ad slogan, “No cash, no chance.”

With a light laugh, Jasper answered, “It’s doable. Once United Legends becomes a hit, we’ll talk.”

The domestic online gaming market was undoubtedly a large one, with a market value of over 100 billion dollars. It was absolutely impossible for a single company to monopolize it.

This was the consensus Jasper and Malcolm Malibu had reached after communicating with each other.

They decided to follow Procter & Gamble’s example by establishing more sub-brands.

Most people were not aware that Rejoice and Head & Shoulders—competing rivals in the shampoo market—were actually both Procter & Gamble products!

Their objective was to generate confusion among consumers.

When buying, consumers would frequently choose between these two brands; it was rare for them to consider a third choice.

Similar methods were practiced by Pepsi and Coca-Cola, both of which were brands under the Coca-Cola Group.

The same principle could be applied to the domestic online gaming market. If Jasper could use Sena to acquire 30% of the market, the addition of Terizone Inc. and its vast number of subscribers meant that he could garner at least 70% and above of the entire market!

...

On the second day after the signing of the agreement, Terizone Inc. obtained the interface provided by ICBC with no trouble at all.

Truth to tell, it was rather incredible—the interface was only a string of key codes and an IP address.

Terizone had rushed to set up the completed platform and then had begun intensive testing.

Of course, a few issues had still emerged during the process. After all, this was unprecedented—it was the first time in the country that a bank had provided a private enterprise with access to its internal interface, so there were bound to be some hiccups.

However, these issues were resolved smoothly by technicians from both ICBC and Terizone who worked frantically overtime to deliver the necessary solutions.

Good news had also arrived from Sena. A version of the completed game had been finalized; once it had gone through internal testing, it would be ready for open beta testing at any time.

Jasper, who was in Waterhoof City, had personally gone to try it out, thereby satisfying his obsessive interest in internal testing. After ensuring that the game had been written according to his specifications, Jasper knew it was ready for testing.

“Tonight at 7 pm, we will officially launch the first nationwide free open beta test!”

Standing in Sena's Waterhoof City office, Jasper looked at Mr. Adams, Jack Tanner, and the others present, before giving his order.

There was nothing unusual about his statement. Everyone nodded and made note of it.

His next words, however, threw everyone into confusion as if they had been struck by lightning.

"Have 50 extra server groups on standby. Once the main servers are full, add those extra servers."

Mr. Adams was standing to one side; when he heard this, he was instantly bewildered.

"50 server groups? Are they only for backup?"

To them, what Jasper had requested was overkill. It felt as if they were going fishing by a lake; a packet of bait was obviously enough but Jasper insisted on bringing along 10 elephants.

What were they fishing for—fish or dinosaurs?

"Mr... Mr. Laine, that's very wasteful," Mr. Adams said, furrowing his brow and glancing at Jasper. His manner indicated that he thought this was not worth doing.

"Although I understand Mr. Laine is expecting great things from United Legends, what's the rationale behind 50 backup server groups?"

"We can set up a gaming region with just one server group, and each region will be able to accommodate at least 25,000 players online simultaneously!"

“50 server groups would mean 1.25 million people. To even think of getting 1.25 million people online on the first day of open beta testing? That’s absolutely impossible.”

The entire meeting room went so quiet one could hear a pin drop. Apart from Mr. Adams, no one dared to question Jasper’s decision upfront, no matter how ridiculous it seemed.

Sure enough, Jasper furrowed his brows.

Seeing this, Mr. Adams sneered. Shaking his head, he said to the people next to him in Korean, “Just look—a layman is a layman. He doesn’t even understand the basic concept of numbers, and already he wants to have 50 extra servers. If this were Coreana, we would have been the laughing stock of the country.

“This would only happen with a Mainlander who has never experienced the world beyond his own oyster,” someone next to Mr. Adams commented with a snicker.

“A server group can only host 25000 players?” Jasper found this rather inconceivable.

However, he immediately responded.

It was 2001, and technology was still far less advanced than that of later generations. Naturally, server performances were also very weak.

“If that’s the case, please prepare 70 server groups then,” Jasper instructed.

Life at the Top Chapter 741

Mr. Adams' eyes widened as Jasper said this.

He was about to say something when he noticed Jasper looking over with a smile. "Mr. Adams, do you have any more opinions?"

Thinking about the bet he had made with Jasper, Mr. Adams snorted coldly and said, "It's all your money, Mr. Laine. Of course, I have no objections if you're willing to spend that money. I just hope you won't end up feeling bad when none of the 70 group servers are usable."

Jasper only smiled and no longer mouthed off at Mr. Adams. He immediately announced, "Everyone, please work a little harder today, stick to your guns, and clock in a few extra hours. I'll join everyone in working overtime. Also, supper is on me. I'll get the chefs from Sheraton to whip up something for us. Just make sure everything is done well on your end!"

Cheers filled the entire branch office.

Coming out of the conference room, Jasper noticed Jack's slightly stiff expression as they made their way to Jack's office. He smiled and asked, "Jack, are you nervous? This isn't like you."

Jack laughed bitterly. "Mr. Laine, it might be nothing for you but we've spent too much time and money on this United Legends project. I don't think I'll still have the confidence to continue if this fails."

Patting Jack's shoulder, Jasper said with a smile, "First of all, we won't fail. Second, even if we do fail, that's not important. A loss is a loss. I can still afford to lose this bit of money, and it would be my first time failing so I wouldn't mind having a taste of it."

Jack gave Jasper a blank look before shaking his head and saying with a wry smile, “Mr. Laine, to be frank, what you say sometimes really... makes me want to punch you.”

“Hahaha!”

...

“United Legends is opening soon for open beta testing!”

The news spread across the country in a short period of time.

During this time, it did not matter if one was accessing a web portal or a messaging app, even when they had gone to the internet cafe to surf the internet, there were advertisements for United Legends everywhere.

Countless netizens had already been subtly turned into quasi-online game players. They were curious about the game that had been dominating the internet.

In the year 2001 when domestic games were still scarce, the kind of games that many people played were like Command and Conquer: Red Alert. Although they were interesting, they would still become boring after a while.

There were still none of those huge online multiplayer role-playing games in the domestic market.

Currently, all the players were looking forward to the game’s release.

After the news was released, everyone was trying to gather friends through phone calls and text messaging apps.

The men who had scheduled dates with their girlfriends all had to suddenly work overtime for the time being.

Not only that but students who had unfinished assignments were also suddenly working hard to finish them in one day.

Those who had plans at night were suddenly making excuses for not being able to make it.

At 6 p.m. in the evening, a sea of people flooded the internet cafes across the country at almost the same time. One after another, they sat in front of their computers after switching them on, waiting for it to be 7 p.m.

As they waited, they looked to the right and left only to see that everyone there was waiting for the release of United Legends. At once, they all smiled.

“What user ID are you gonna choose?”

“Which realm do you wanna go to?”

“Are you going for warrior or mage? Or maybe cleric?”

Just like that, they began chatting about the game.

The owner of the internet cafe smiled lopsidedly and began thanking Sena. It was hard to tell the future of such a game but at least for the time being, business was doing well.

Not only did the players have high expectations but other people from the local gaming industry and the internet industry were also keeping an eye on the game.

Sena was the first to venture into online gaming and had received quite a lot of attention because of it. Everyone was waiting quietly for the outcome, to see if this game would blow up in the country.

With the expectations of millions of players, the hand of the clock slowly struck 7 p.m.

“Open the server!”

With an order from Jasper, the first ten group servers were opened.

Mr. Adams and Jack were staring at a computer. This computer had the master control program and could directly observe the load in each server.

“The servers are open and some players have already entered the game.”

“Oh no, the load is too big! The server has crashed!”

These two sentences were said almost at the same time.

At that moment, Jasper’s expression was dark.

“What the f*ck are all of you doing? I told you all a long time ago to pay attention to the server loads! The moment a server reaches full capacity, stop the registration for the current server immediately and open up a new one to redirect the traffic! And yet, you still allowed the server to crash!”

The more composed a person was usually, the scarier they were when their temper flared.

Jasper was usually always calm and composed regardless of who he was dealing with. However, now that he had started reprimanding, no one in the entire office including the group of fastidious technicians from Coreana dared let out a squeak.

In the end, it was still Jack who bit the bullet and said, “Mr. Laine, we had already set a threshold but the traffic at that instant was so large that we couldn’t hold it back at all, so it crashed on the spot.”

Jasper frowned. “Let’s not talk about this now. Start redirecting the traffic and guide the players to the new servers.”

Just like that, the first batch of ten group servers was filled up within the first ten seconds of the launch of United Legends. New players had no way to register for an account and were anxiously tapping on their tables.

However, an announcement was immediately published on the official website, and with that, 30 groups of spare servers were opened in one go.

In any case, the people who were keeping an eye on United Legends let out a sigh because they could already tell that the game would be unstoppable!

Life at the Top Chapter 742

Despite releasing another 30 group servers, they still could not hold back the players' excitement.

Fresh new gameplay, novel user interface, and never-before-seen system; all these different elements were pulling new players in continuously.

Because of that, even the backup servers were being released one after another.

At the same time, the number of individuals going online on all servers was also rising.

From the first 100,000 to 300,000, it then rose to 500,000 and again to a million.

It was already half past one in the morning of the next day when the last of the backup server groups were released.

The opening of a new game region at half-past one in the morning was something that would not happen again in the country in the next few years.

At present, the number of players who were online in United Legends had reached a staggering number of 1.95 million.

A total of 80 server groups were filled to the brim.

Mr. Adams sat down in a chair, his face ashen as he looked at the figure on the computer screen in disbelief. He gulped, feeling that his mouth was a little parched.

A game he created actually had 1.95 million players online at the same time on the first day of its open beta testing. It was not something he had even dared to imagine before this.

However, a miracle had actually happened in front of his eyes.

How many people had been online when the game was tested in Coreana previously?

The figure was not even a miserable 100,000.

However, the game had actually achieved such a sensational result in the Mainland.

This was a matter worth rejoicing, but Mr. Adams could not let himself be happy.

This was because the outcome of his bet with Jasper had now been determined.

Even though they had not reached two million, everyone knew that the 50,000 gap would be easily bridged come morning when traffic would be at its peak due to it being a holiday.

At present, everyone in the branch office was cheering and celebrating.

Jasper had also fulfilled his promise. He had gotten an executive chef from Sheraton Hotel and his team of chefs to prepare a sumptuous supper for everyone.

Not only that, he even gave everyone an envelope packed with a one-month salary bonus.

Who would not like a boss like him?

Even the technicians from Coreana were looking at Jasper with stars in their eyes.

Mr. Adams was the only one who was beside himself.

He could forget about losing the bet, but what bothered him more was that Jasper had probably seen him as a clown since the very beginning.

Mr. Adams stood up and walked toward Jasper. Letting out a long and deep sigh, he said, "Mr. Laine, you've won."

Jasper replied indifferently, "We haven't reached the two million count, you've not lost yet."

Mr. Adams smiled wryly and said, "Mr. Laine, we both know clearly that breaking through the two million count is only a matter of time. There's no need to fuss over that little bit of time."

"Then, do you still plan on fulfilling your promise?" Jasper asked.

Expressionless, Mr. Adams replied, "Consider me won over."

Jasper laughed and said to Mr. Adams, "I'll give you an extra bonus when you leave in the future as long as you properly cultivate talents for me."

Mr. Adams was touched and said solemnly, "Thank you, Mr. Laine, for your generosity. I know what to do now."

Hearing Mr. Adams' response, Jasper felt very satisfied.

Life at the Top Chapter 743

Even though he hated the Coreanans' unwarranted superiority, he needed to wring them of all their skills. By adequately giving them some innocuous benefits, they would then be more obedient in teaching others their skills.

Moreover, Mr. Adams and his group believed that even if Jasper's people picked up all of their skills, it did not change the fact that they would not have any competition in Coreana, so they would not be pressured upon returning.

This was exactly the point that Jasper was also focusing on.

At present, the situation with the entire project was slowly stabilizing and as the night darkened, the players had also begun logging out of the game to rest. After ensuring that there would not be any more accidents, Jasper then returned to the hotel.

Jack and Terry would be on watch for the night just in case something happened.

With them here, Jasper could relax a little.

Jasper waited for a long time after leaving the branch office but Julian still had not arrived with the car. This was the first time something like this had happened. Just as Jasper was about to give Julian a call, he saw the car driving closer from afar.

“Julian, have you been slacking?”

Jasper teased as he opened the car door. However, he was shocked when he realized that there was someone else sitting in his seat.

“Why are you here?”

Jasper asked, pleasantly surprised to see Wendy who was smiling sweetly at him.

Wendy gave him a wink and replied, “Someone had quietly broken the world record for online games, of course, I’d come to sing him some praises.”

Jasper sat in the seat that Wendy had offered him and said with a laugh, “You found out about it too?”

“I’d see ads for United Legends everywhere these few days as long as I was surfing the internet. There are even promotional posters hanging in front of internet cafes by the road. It’s hard to miss.

“I plan to create a character and try it out tomorrow too,” said Wendy.

Jasper said with a smile, “That’s nice. Let’s play it together. We’ll get the tech department to adjust the game level for us and then we can go get married.”

“As if.” Wendy retorted with a blush, “Aren’t you afraid of the players finding out about you throwing your weight around?”

“It’s no big deal. I can just ask them to set up an internal server for the two of us,” Jasper said with a smile.

“Good for you.” Wendy leaned her head on Jasper’s shoulder and said, “I heard from Julian that you haven’t been sleeping before three in the morning these days. Look, it’s already half-past two now.”

“I was busy,” Jasper rubbed his cheeks, feeling a little tired. “There were many things I had to attend to personally, I had no choice,” he said.

“How about I find you a secretary later?” Wendy suggested.

“While I do need a secretary, I should look for one myself,” Jasper said solemnly.

“Why is that? Can’t I look for one for you?” Wendy asked while feeling confused, her head tilting slightly.

Of course, Jasper would not say that if he allowed Wendy to look for someone for him, she would definitely get a man to become his secretary. Jasper could not stand having a man tailing him as his secretary every day. Julian was enough.

For such a special role as a secretary, it was only fitting that the person should be a beautiful woman.

“My secretary has to be shrewd and capable. They also need to be familiar with the company’s various businesses. How many industries do you think the company is involved in now? Most people can’t handle it all, so it’s better for me to look for one myself,” Jasper explained convincingly.

Wendy understood what he meant and nodded. “You’re right, then you should go look for one yourself.”

Jasper had only just breathed a sigh of relief when Wendy added lightly, “They can only be a man.”

“...” Jasper was at a loss.

“By the way, I came today for something important,” Wendy said seriously all of a sudden.

“What is it?” asked Jasper.

“You’re still shameless enough to ask? You asked me previously to transfer five billion into the account of a real estate subsidiary company and now there’s only two to three billion left in the investment company’s account. There’s no more money...” Wendy said.

Jasper’s expression froze. Was he becoming poor now?

Life at the Top Chapter 744

“Give it one more week at most and we’ll have to pay the balance for the Southface River Project. It’s at least seven billion. We don’t have that kind of money anymore,” Wendy ranted about being poor.

Jasper coughed and said, “About the real estate subsidiary company, it’s the upfront investment fees needed to start the construction of the skyscraper, so it can’t be avoided. As for the rest, I still have money in my Harbor City account but it’s best that we don’t touch that. If we do, our profits will drop drastically.”

Wendy rolled her eyes at Jasper and said, “I already knew that you didn’t have much money on hand. My father will transfer ten billion over tomorrow but we can’t keep doing this. The skyscraper is too expensive, do you really want to build it?”

Jasper nodded and said, “It has to be built. Moreover, the die has been cast now. We have no choice but to proceed with it.”

Besides, Jasper was familiar with the real estate and construction materials market in the future. He knew that a building that could be built with 16 billion dollars now would require at least 20 billion in not even two or three years.

The four billion difference could be used to do so many other things.

“I’ve already paid the down payment for the pedestrian street earlier and as a result, I’m tight on cash...” Jasper said gloomily.

“You’ve pumped all your cash into investment projects.” Wendy’s eyes blazed like torches as she immediately pointed out the cause of Jasper’s penniless state.

Grinning, Jasper said, “This is also the reason why I’m rushing to get United Legends out there. The MP3 players aren’t doing too bad either. We could get millions in profits every day. While it’s not much, it’s going to be a lot of money once it accumulates.”

“But as big as United Legends gets, we still need a procedure to gain profits. Do you have any other plans?” asked Wendy.

Jasper narrowed his eyes and said, “We have to make money with United Legends but its most important function now is to create a good base for Sena. I want Sena to become a public listed company. Once it does, I’ll then be able to cash out huge sums of money from the stock market in an instant, and our problem will essentially be solved.”

Speaking of this, Jasper recalled the time when he had bought Sena before this. Even though it was in retaliation against Dane’s attack on Terizone, he had still planned on merging Sena and Terizone together then.

Looking at it now, however, fortunately they had not been merged.

JW Capital was currently still unable to manage such a large company from a merger. As such, the best solution was to control the two companies at the same time. One as a listed company and the other to preserve the status quo.

Leaving the two companies to perform their duties while keeping the competition was the best way.

“Anyone would also make a wrong decision,” said Jasper regretfully all of a sudden.

Wendy turned to look at him curiously but Jasper only smiled and asked without further explanations, “Why not stay in Harbor City for a few more days this time?”

“I wish. The reason I rushed here tonight was one, I wanted to pay you a visit; two, I needed to confirm things with you personally given that the five billion fund transfer was too big. I’ll head back tomorrow morning once I’m done with the transfer procedures. We’re almost done with the Southface River Project. There’s still a lot to do and since you’re not there, I have to be the one to keep an eye on things.

“Actually, we’ll also be able to recover a large number of funds once the work at Southface River is complete.”

Jasper held Wendy’s hand and said with a smile, “See, your man isn’t a pauper yet.”

...

Wendy had indeed been busy as a bee. She went to the bank early the next morning to carry out the transfer procedures. After that, she immediately got Fallon to drive her back to Southeast Province.

She did not even have time to have lunch with Jasper.

After Wendy left, Jasper then went to the airport.

He was there to welcome someone.

Life at the Top Chapter 745

She was a woman who would be crucial in the subsequent IPO plans for Sena.

Jasper smiled and walked over when he saw the charming Celine again. He had initially planned to shake her hand politely, but she embraced him in a tight hug.

“Tell me you weren’t joking when you said you’re drafting an IPO plan for Sena?” Celine asked, a smile blossoming in her beautiful eyes as she gazed at Jasper.

He took in the woman’s fragrance but suddenly saw the fire that was blazing from Miss Stone’s eyes. Jasper took a delicate step backward as he smiled. He said, “Of course, it’s true. Why would I joke about such matters?”

Celine rolled her eyes at Jasper as she said flirtatiously, “You never know. After all, it wouldn’t be the first time you’ve lied to me.”

Jasper knew she was referring to how he had used his shares to lie to her when he wanted to stop Dane Warren from releasing Sena to the market. He smiled and said, “They were right when they said you should never lie to a woman, they hold grudges forever.”

“Since you knew that women held grudges, you should have long since made up for the losses I suffered from your deception,” Celine said as she walked out of the airport with Jasper.

As Celine spoke, she ran a careless hand through her hair. Her femininity and charm caused the eyes of several tourists to widen.

“Well, aren’t I here now?” Jasper laughed and said.

Celine gave Jasper a meaningful look as she said, “I’m the one who traveled all the way to you, alright?”

Sensing how the conversation was turning flirtatious, Jasper hurriedly changed the topic and said, “Do you have any plans regarding the collaboration I mentioned earlier?”

Celine replied, "It's still in the evaluation stages now, and I haven't formally submitted it yet. You must remember that I'm only the general manager. The president, William, has more power than I do. He has always remembered you."

"Please make sure this doesn't fall into his hands, or else we'll be done for," Jasper said jokingly.

"I'll help you keep it a secret," Celine said as she laughed lightly.

As the two spoke, they did not notice the look that flashed through Miss Stone's eyes when she heard what they said.

When they reached the hotel, Jasper and Celine sat down in the same club lounge and seats that Jasper and Kayden had sat in before.

"Here's the current situation. The way Sena currently operates isn't that much different from before. The only difference is that the United Legends project has been successfully launched. It currently holds the world record for having the most online users at one time, and huge profits are waiting for me to collect them.

"Thus, Sena is currently even more powerful than it was when Dane came to meet you."

Jasper said as he gazed at Celine.

To be honest, Jasper did not want to be connected in any way to these bloodsuckers if it were not for the fact that foreign companies were required to have a licensed local investment bank as their broker before they could be listed on the Nasdaq Composite.

As one of the four largest investment banks globally, Colossal Investments was well versed in the procedures to help foreign companies begin their IPOs. However, that also meant they did not hesitate to drain one of their money.

Take Dane as an example. Colossal Investments had wanted to take 25% of Dane's shares back when Sena first went public. That seemed highly unreasonable to Jasper.

"Helping Sena go public will be a project that brings in loads of earnings, which is precisely why I'm interested in it. Let me congratulate you in advance. You'll be the next multi-millionaire when Sena goes public," Celine said.

Jasper smiled but did not say anything.

He had long since been a multi-millionaire, alright?

Life at the Top Chapter 746

“As the only internet company that has managed to successfully rebrand itself and gain profits, what do you expect the shares for Sena to be priced at when it goes public?” Jasper asked.

However, Celine shook her head and said, “It’s too early to tell now. There are so many factors that would affect the share price.

“Of course, the most basic prerequisite would be the company’s competence and financial status.

“Next up would be how the company goes public. Colossal Investments will help you get in touch with a bunch of millionaires who make private placements before the share market opens. This will be a great plus for us when the news goes public.”

“I’m already doing that,” Jasper said as he gave Celine a meaningful smile.

“I’ve gotten in touch with the J. Langdons and the Law family in Harbor City. They’ve offered their full support.”

Jasper and Kayden had come up with that plan the last time they met.

News of multi-millionaire Half-the-Harbor Langdon making private placements in Sena would certainly benefit the company.

At first, Kayden had thought Jasper was only letting him make private placements so he would put in a good word for him at the trade settlement center. However, he had not expected Jasper to have more tricks up his sleeve.

They were merely harmless tricks, though.

Thus, Kayden had merely smiled and glossed over it after he learned about it.

Celine was surprised, but she did not probe for further details.

“Alright, it seems like Colossal Investments won’t be earning commissions from you, but that’s alright. Colossal Investments will take care of the entire listing process for Sena, including the promotional activities in America.

“How many shares are you willing to put up as shares outstanding?”

Shares that were bought, sold, and traded on the share market were known as shares outstanding. These shares would be diluted before a company went public.

As Sena’s only investor, Jasper had complete say in whether he wanted to put up 10% or 50%.

The higher the number of shares, the higher the number of stocks, and the lower the price per share. However, this had nothing to do with the company’s total market value after it was listed. Comment by Amber Lee:

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Just like how both one one-hundred dollar bill and ten ten-dollar bills would both total to a hundred dollars.

Jasper had already thought about this, so he immediately answered, “32% shares.”

Celine frowned slightly as she said tentatively, “Companies usually issue at least 40% of their shares as shares outstanding if they want to be listed on the Nasdaq Composite...”

“Listing Sena publicly is just one part of my business strategy. It’s not the entirety of the plan.

“Besides...

“Only I can control Sena! And by that, I mean I will hold absolute control over the remaining 67%. I won't allow anyone to become a shareholder or part of the board of directors and mock me!”

Jasper said without hesitation.

Celine said nonchalantly, “Alright. Your company, your call. Colossal Investments won't make any further comments if you've already decided on issuing 32% of your shares.”

“I'll have my team meet up with Sena and crosscheck figures with the accounting, financial, and general management department this afternoon before we come up with a final evaluation report this afternoon. This report will first be audited internally by Colossal Investments before it's passed to the Nasdaq Review Committee for its final deliberation,” Celine said.

“I'll put a word in with Sena and ensure they cooperate fully with your investigation,” Jasper said as he nodded.

Upon finishing their formal discussion, Jasper and Celine had lunch and enjoyed a pleasant time together.

After that, Jasper was stunned to hear that Celine had booked a room beside his room.

“I was too lazy to book another hotel. Are you not open to having me as your next-door neighbor?” Celine said as she smiled and waved her key card in front of Jasper.

“Of course, you're welcome,” Jasper said with an odd expression on his face. “It's better this way too. We can contact each other easily if there's anything that needs to be discussed.”

“I heard your game is super popular now. Why don’t we go try it out this afternoon?” Celine said invitingly.

“I have another meeting this afternoon...” Jasper was just about to refuse when he heard Celine say, “I can let you have the final say in regards to the amount of commission you’ll receive.”

“Alright, I’ll call on you this afternoon,” Jasper said as he smiled.

“Hah, men.” Celine turned and pranced back into her room after she glanced flirtatiously at Jasper.

Behind her, Miss Stone was gritting her teeth as she glared at Jasper. She said softly, “I’m warning you, don’t even think about laying a hand on her, or else you’ll be in deep trouble.”

Jasper glanced nonchalantly at Miss Stone whom he had never gotten along with. He said calmly, “Can’t you tell that your employer is the one who’s trying to seduce me? Why don’t you try saying something to her?”

Paying no attention to the stony expression on Miss Stone’s face, Jasper turned and walked back into his room.

When Miss Stone finally suppressed her anger and entered the room, she saw Celine sitting on the couch with a glass of red wine. She seemed to be waiting for her as she swirled the liquid in the glass nonchalantly.

“Miss Maynard,” Miss Stone said carefully.

“What did you tell him?” Celine asked with a blank expression on her face.

Miss Stone’s body stiffened as she hurriedly said, “No-Nothing. I just wanted to say goodbye to him.”

“Really?” Celine smiled. She obviously did not believe her words.

She gazed at the liquid that was swirling in the glass. The maroon-colored liquid crashed against the walls of the glass before slowly dripping back down. It was a lovely sight to behold.

“If my husband, who is also your employer, is allowed to have mistresses, why can’t I have a lover?”

“You can very well go tattling to him, but remember that I know about everything you’ve done. Don’t try to anger me, understand?”

Miss Stone’s entire body stiffened as she said shakily, “Yes, understood.”

Life at the Top Chapter 747

The next day, Celine’s team went to Sena’s headquarters at Swallow Capital as well as its branch office at Waterhoof City to conduct a comprehensive review of its accounts, just as they had planned.

Celine had a lot of time on her hands now that everything had been delegated to her subordinates. She dragged Jasper to accompany her to go sightseeing all around Waterhoof City. She was seemingly delighted to have found some time in her busy schedule to let off steam.

The two seemed almost like a couple as they strolled through every road and alley in Waterhoof City.

Although Celine was a woman with beautiful looks and a wonderful temperament, Jasper was not a lustful person. However, he needed to ensure he was on good terms with Celine during a critical time like this.

Thus, Jasper gifted Celine a wristwatch that was priced at six figures. Although Celine teased Jasper about openly bribing her, she later gifted him a tailored suit that was equally expensive.

On the evening of the third day, the two were sitting in a restaurant. Celine swirled her glass of red wine and said to Jasper, "I heard you're planning to construct the tallest tower in the world here in Waterhoof City?"

"Colossal Investments has a great source for insider news," Jasper replied.

Although the project had officially commenced and was about to begin construction, the news was only circulating among a very small circle. It had not been publicized yet.

Celine smiled as she said, "That depends on who the person is. You're one of my most important clients, so it's only natural that I would consolidate more information on you. I gather it's true judging from your reaction?"

"Of course, it is."

Jasper nodded. He did not plan to hide it from her. After all, even if he did not admit to it now, the news would have to be publicized for Waterhoof City's advertising needs in the future.

Since this news would be announced sooner or later, Jasper was willing to share the news with Celine.

Celine's eyes brightened slightly as she said to Jasper, "To be honest, I would be more than willing to assist your parent company in going public. Believe me, you would have secured the position as the richest man in Terra if that business deal went well."

Jasper shook his head, showing his apparent disinterest in gaining wealth through market inflation.

Frankly, he would never have considered putting Sena on the market if the tower project had not caused him to be strapped for cash.

Born into a family of farmers, Jasper had always taken the concept of 'ownership' very seriously. He would never allow the risk of his businesses being out of his control, which was why Jasper had ensured he had total ownership over Sena even as he allowed it to be listed publicly.

"What if Colossal Investments was interested in investing in your company?" Celine asked abruptly.

"The rewards are far greater than you can even imagine. I promise that you'll immediately earn more than ten billion Somer Dollars if you agree to sell 40% of your shares. Moreover, Colossal Investments will absolutely never interfere in your rights to operate and manage the company."

Jasper could not help but smile when he heard these familiar statements.

Had he not said the same thing to 'befuddle' Hudson Moore before?

Of course, all capitalists were equally corrupt.

"Oh? Wouldn't that be giving me money for nothing?" Jasper asked teasingly.

"Of course."

Celine propped her face up with a pale hand as she tilted her head and gazed at Jasper. This posture caused her to look a little less mature and slightly more playful and spunky.

"Colossal Investments would have to send over at least three people to sit on the board of directors. Of course, that can still be discussed..."

“Never mind,” Jasper said as he shook his head. “Miss Celine, I will never consider splitting the rights to my parent company. That’s my bottom line.”

“What a stingy person you are.”

Celine glared at Jasper as she rebuked, “You must understand that the reason so many companies are making it big now is because they’ve received help from the capitalists. How long would it take for a company looking to expand to reach a market price of 100 billion dollars if they do not receive aid from the capitalists? Or are you saying you’re satisfied with owning a company that’s only worth tens of billions of dollars?”

Jasper chuckled as he said, “I’m more of a backward thinker, and my poor background has made me particular about such things. The thing I despise most is people trying to leech benefits from me. Moreover, who’s to say I’ll only have several billion dollars to my name in a year?”

Celine was startled.

True. In her process of researching Jasper’s journey from rags to riches, she had nearly forgotten he had amassed his fortune within a year.

That was not just a shocking fact but a horrifying one.

“Alright, but please let me know if you ever change your mind. Both I and Colossal Investments will always have our door open for you.” Celine smiled elegantly as she changed the topic wisely.

Life at the Top Chapter 748

After dinner, the two returned to their respective rooms. When Celine was done taking a shower, Miss Stone reminded her that the assessment team had completed their report.

Celine immediately sat down in front of her laptop and began reading the report that had just been written.

The team from Colossal Investments always produced detailed, professional reports which an ordinary person might not be able to understand. However, Celine merely needed to skim her eyes through the report to capture the key information.

Sena's main role was in acting as a web portal. It was currently the largest portal within Somerland, and in terms of web traffic, it was ranked first in Somerland, third in Terra, and sixth globally.

Every day, tens of millions of people used the portal to read the news and search for the information they were interested in.

The evaluation showed it had large traffic, a strong base, and a bright future. However, the problem was it was difficult to liquidate and make a profit from it, which was why it was making losses now.

Its secondary role was in online games.

United Legends had already completely taken over the gaming community within the country.

No matter if you were in the gaming industry, the internet industry, or not in either, everyone was surprised at the popularity United Legends had gained.

Within a month of the opening of servers, it had reached a peak of 2.4 million users simultaneously with an average of 2.1 million users online at any one time.

These statistics were what other online games could only dream about.

The steady popularity of the game had caused some who were observing from a distance to become jealous.

According to official announcements regarding payment details that had been put out by United Legends, the game would launch a charging system using point cards the week after the first wave of beta testing was over.

Players would begin being charged 50 cents an hour for every player that surpassed level seven.

If calculations were made based on the assumption a player would be online for four hours a day and that there were two million players in total who had surpassed level seven, then United Legends would bring Sena four million dollars worth of earnings by simply using the points cards charging system!

As for the costs?

The net profit would be 3.58 million dollars after deducting costs such as manpower and server bandwidth.

These were the most professional statistics provided by the assessment team.

Earning 3.58 million dollars a day was a shockingly huge amount in the year 2001.

Even Celine, who had been exposed to such things before, was also shocked at how much money one could make off online games.

As United Legends continued gaining popularity, new servers would gradually be opened to the public as well. This number could only increase and not decrease within the next two years.

Unless the developers fell ill or got themselves into a mess that would ruin the game.

However, based on Celine's understanding of Jasper, there was no way such accidents would happen.

It was not rare for a company to earn 3.58 million dollars a day. At least, Celine knew of several large corporations that could do so.

However, the problem was that this was an internet company. While countless internet companies across the world fretted over how they could cut their losses, Jasper was leading Sena to a point where they could make several million dollars a day.

That was great news to Sena when they were going to be listed publicly.

At the very end of the report, a grade of S+ had been given.

According to Colossal Investment's rubrics, this was only given to companies that had the most potential to expand and grow even further in the future.

Celine had worked in Colossal Investments for a long time, but this was the first time she had ever seen the S+ grade awarded.

Miss Stone, who was beside Celine, also saw the report she was reading. She stared at the contents in shock and muttered to herself, "These statistics are horrifying. Could there have been a mistake?"

Life at the Top Chapter 749

“If you’re doubting the abilities of my team, in which there are three chief appraisers with at least 20 years of experience under their belts, you may file a complaint to internal affairs and request for a reassessment saying you do not trust the results of this report. But don’t bring me into this,” Celine said coldly.

Miss Stone said hurriedly, “Miss Maynard, I didn’t mean it that way.”

“I know you didn’t mean it that way.” Celine sighed. “To be honest, I was shocked too.”

Compared to Miss Stone, Celine had even more things on her mind.

Sena was just one of the many companies Jasper had control over. The other ones did not even need mentioning.

His real estate company was about to begin work constructing the tallest skyscraper in the world.

Terizone Inc held rights to the number one instant messaging software, a blue ocean market anyone would drool over. Although it was still difficult to make profits from it now, Celine had a feeling it would not pose a problem to Jasper.

According to Celine’s informants, Jasper seemed to be supporting Terizone in creating an online payment system. Celine’s instincts told her the words ‘online payment’ would be a mighty thing that would shock everyone.

Even his newly established electronics company had managed to dominate 80% of Somerland’s domestic marketplace by upgrading the MP3 to a MP4. Apparently, several foreign merchants had gotten in touch with the electronics company in hopes they could sell the product overseas.

This MP4 product, which was developed based on patented MP3 technology, had attracted the attention of various western capitalists.

Who would have thought a tiny box could bring Jasper earnings of a million Somer Dollars a day?

This was when the market had not been fully utilized yet. If the product were sold overseas and brought about a ripple effect in the future, Jasper's electronics company was well on the way to having a net worth of at least three billion dollars!

Moreover, both the electronics company and Somerland's officials were highly supportive of the idea of selling the product overseas.

After all, it would benefit both the country and its people when a local product was exported overseas.

All these had been accomplished by Jasper alone.

If that was the case, how much money was Jasper's parent company worth?

This was the first time Celine realized she did not dare to even imagine the number.

With a jolt, she realized that both her past self and Colossal Investments had underestimated Jasper's power.

While no one was paying any attention, a tiny business group rooted in Somerland had quietly taken form and would soon expand to become a dominant force in the marketplace. Perhaps... it would even become a financial group in the future!

Could financial groups be formed in Somerland?

Celine shook her head and dispelled all her jumbled thoughts from her mind as she said to Miss Stone, "Contact the headquarters through the encrypted channel. I want to speak directly to President Paulson."

Miss Stone said hesitantly, "But Miss Maynard, if you take the time difference into account, the president might have just woken up..."

"Yvonne Stone." Celine's eyes glinted coldly as she stared at Miss Stone and called her by her full name.

"You seem to be getting more and more ideas lately. Do you think you're in charge of me now?"

"I'll have it done right now!" Surprised, Miss Stone hurried off to fulfill Celine's orders.

The call went through a short while later. Celine entered the study to talk to Paulson, the president and chief executive officer of Colossal Investments. Meanwhile, Miss Stone left the study.

Even as a personal secretary, she had no right to listen to a conversation of such high importance.

As Yvonne left the study, she caught sight of the laptop that had not been turned off yet. The report caused a look of jealousy and hatred to appear in her eyes.

Jasper's appearance had caused Celine to dislike her more and more. Before this, they had a pretty good relationship.

However, Yvonne could now sense that Celine was becoming less trusting of her and was maybe even dissatisfied with her.

It was all Jasper's fault!

A resentful look clouded over Yvonne's eyes as she thought of that. After secretly taking two photos of the report with her phone, she hurried into her room and dialed a number.

Life at the Top Chapter 750

After she entered her room, Yvonne hid in the bathroom. Her call was soon answered.

The person on the other end of the line was a man who spoke in a lilting Somerish accent.

"It's William."

That's right, Yvonne had phoned Celine's direct competitor, William. He also happened to hate Jasper with all his might.

William had always been looking for a chance to attack Jasper, but he was always too far away to have any chance of launching an attack on him. Thus, he could only repress his hatred of being tricked the first time.

Now, Yvonne was handing William a sword.

The sword would also hurt Celine, but jealousy and hatred were enough to drive a woman to do crazy things.

"Mr. William, I believe you wouldn't know that Celine and Jasper are in contact right now. They're planning to list Sena publicly again." Yvonne did not bother beating around the bush.

The other end of the line remained silent for a while. Only the sound of William's breathing that was rapidly growing heavier was heard.

"Which means that Celine was lying to me when she told me two teams needed dispatching to make return visits to some of our old clients. She was actually going to work with Jasper in secret and go behind my back to help him list Sena publicly, is that right?" William's deep voice, which could be heard holding back anger, traveled across the line.

Having such things being done behind his back was already humiliating enough when he was the president, not to mention the fact that he and Celine shared a competitive relationship in their workspace. As for Jasper, the two had a grudge against the other. How could William not be furious when he learned the two were working together while keeping him in the dark?

"The assessment report is already out, and Celine is talking to President Paulson right now. I'll send you a screenshot of the assessment report later. You'll understand everything after you read it," Yvonne said calmly.

"You're Celine's secretary, aren't you?" William asked abruptly.

Yvonne did not confirm nor deny the fact.

"Haha, what a surprise. Celine's personal secretary has betrayed her," William said mockingly.

No matter where you were, you would be looked down on if you turned and joined the enemy.

Yvonne's face turned pale from anger, and she bit down on her lip as she said, "I didn't betray her. You and I just happen to share Jasper Laine as our common enemy. You wouldn't let him have his way, would you?"

William laughed coolly and said, "Sena can stop thinking about getting listed publicly so long as I'm here."

“You’re wrong if that’s what you’re thinking. Sena was awarded a grade of S+ in the assessment report, and Celine has already told President Paulson that. The board of directors at the company’s headquarters will be receiving this report soon. Do you think that you, the president of Terra regional branch, will be able to go against the board of directors’ wishes?”

Yvonne’s cold words caused William to be utterly shocked.

“S+!? How is that possible!?”

“I’ll send you screenshots of the report. I don’t have any reason to lie about this, so if you really want to stop them, you must begin doing so before the board of directors at the headquarters have an official meeting.”

Yvonne hung up the phone after she finished speaking.

Then, she used her phone to send the screenshots of the report she had taken earlier to William’s email. She deleted her call history and the photographs from her phone immediately after that.

Yvonne heaved a sigh of relief after she completed all these actions in fluid movements. She sneered coldly at her reflection in the mirror as she looked at her crazed expression.

‘Jasper Laine, let’s see how cocky you’ll be after this!’

...

The next morning, Jasper stretched lazily as he walked out of his bedroom. When he saw Celine, who was smiling coyly at him as she sat on his couch, his first reaction was to pull his half-open robe tightly around himself.

Life at the Top Chapter 751

“How did you get in!?” Jasper asked in a surprised and awkward tone.

“Your bodyguard opened the door for me,” Celine replied as she smiled.

Jasper turned and saw Julian awkwardly placing a plate of breakfast the server had brought on the table before he immediately turned around and walked off.

“This guy!” Jasper massaged his temples as he said to Celine, “Please wait for a moment while I freshen up.”

Jasper did not bother waiting for Celine’s reply before he turned around and went to the bathroom.

As he brushed his teeth and mulled over the reasons why Celine would be in his room this early in the morning, Jasper caught sight of Celine leaning against the door to the bathroom. She was gazing at him with an amused look through the corners of her eyes.

He spat out the toothpaste from his mouth and said, “Did you come over this early in the morning to watch a man wash his face and brush his teeth?”

Celine chuckled and said, “I seem to hear a hint of humiliation in your voice.”

“Anyone would feel awkward if someone was staring at them the moment they woke up,” Jasper said.

Celine blinked and said, “You’re a guy. I’m the woman here. I would be the one suffering losses if there were any.”

“So, you mean I have to make things up to you?” Jasper asked.

Celine chuckled and said, “Alright, I’ll stop teasing you. I came over so early in the morning because I couldn’t wait to share this piece of good news with you.”

“Has Colossal Investments finally decided to underwrite the IPO for free for Sena after reading the assessment report?” Jasper asked teasingly.

IPO was the abbreviation for ‘initial public offering’. In a few years, this would be a buzzword that every corporation in the country would use while claiming to have earned five years’ worth of money in three years. This would set off a wave of people from the general public gaining financial knowledge through passive ways.

“You must be dreaming. However, Sena did score well in the assessment. The better the grade, the lesser the resistance it’ll have to be publicly listed. Its share price will be higher as well. Isn’t that a good thing?” Celine asked.

Right then, Jasper had finished washing his face and was about to leave the bathroom. However, Celine smiled as she stood by the door, seemingly without any intention to let him through.

“Want to have breakfast together?” Jasper had no choice but to ask as he stood by the door.

“Sure,” Celine answered as she smiled. She had no intention of refusing Jasper’s invitation, but... she still did not move.

“How am I supposed to get out if you won’t let me pass?” Jasper asked helplessly.

Celine blinked and said teasingly, “Hey, are you calling me fat now?”

Jasper huffed quietly to himself.

'If you, a woman, don't mind, what's the point of me caring?'

He squeezed right past Celine's body.

No matter how large and luxurious the presidential suite was, the doors were still standardized. A single person could walk through it easily, but one could not prevent some skin contact if a plump, curvaceous woman was standing in the way.

Jasper had a robe on while Celine was wearing loose, lightweight clothing. The subtle skin contact caused the look in both their eyes to change.

"How dare you!" Celine said upon watching Jasper squeeze right past the front of her body. She turned and stormed toward the dining room.

"I told you to let me through," Jasper said calmly as he sat at the table and scooped up a forkful of eggs.

Life at the Top Chapter 752

Although Celine was complaining about being taken advantage of, her smile never left her face.

She sat relaxedly in front of Jasper. As Julian had only prepared breakfast for Jasper, she reached over to take a sip from Jasper's cup of milk.

When Celine put the cup back down and saw Jasper staring at her, she said, "What, you can't bring yourself to let me have even a sip of milk after taking advantage of me?"

Taking his eyes away from the spot of milk at the corner of Celine's lips, Jasper laughed dryly as he said, "Of course, I can. I can even treat you to a meal every day if you want to."

"Oh, are you hinting that you want me as your sugar baby?" Celine said flirtatiously as she gazed at Jasper.

Jasper marveled at how as a woman, Celine did not even bat an eyelash when she talked about the vilest things.

"Hey, how did it feel just now? I'm much more curvaceous than your girlfriend, right?" Celine said as she snickered.

"Have you always been this open?" Jasper asked.

"Depends on my mood."

Celine then continued carelessly, "But I'm usually much more serious."

Just then, Jasper's phone rang.

Vita Layne was calling.

At this point, Vita's appointment documents had been finalized and he was now serving as the office manager for ICBS' Waterhoof City branch. All this had caused Vita to be in a great mood lately.

Now that the problems of his collaboration with Jasper had been settled, Vita made phone calls to both John and Jasper to invite them to dinner.

Jasper had no plans today and no reason to decline Vita's invitation.

He had just hung up when Celine asked curiously, "You have dinner plans tonight?"

“Meeting up with a couple of friends,” Jasper said.

“Can you take me with you?” Celine asked.

Jasper stared at Celine as he laughed incredulously and said, “They’re my friends from elsewhere, why would you want to attend such events?”

“Why, are we not friends now? Isn’t it normal to introduce your friends to some other friends of yours?” Celine asked.

“Alright, let’s go together.”

...

That night, Jasper picked Celine up from her room.

Used to seeing her dressed in business wear, Jasper was pleasantly surprised to see how she looked dressed in casual clothing.

To be honest, although Celine was beautiful, she did not have the kind of beauty that would cause one to take a second look. In terms of looks alone, Anna and Wendy were gorgeous women who won by a landslide.

However, what made Celine special was how she managed to meld both Eastern and Western culture into her personal aesthetic.

When you looked at her, you could see the elegance of Eastern women and the carefreeness of Western women.

Furthermore, Celine’s training in the most prestigious field in the world allowed her to emanate an aura of confidence and competence.

To put it frankly, she was attractive.

Women like Celine were at least, to men, a weapon that could instantaneously take out anyone between the age range of a teenage boy and wizened men.

Dressed in casual clothing, Celine looked like your average office lady who had just gotten off work. Smiling, she stood in front of Jasper and asked, "Do I look good?"

"Yes," Jasper said sincerely as he nodded.

To be honest, Wendy, Anna, and Celine were all beautiful in their own ways. Moreover, their beauty could not be replicated via artificial means.

Just like how Celine had put on light makeup now that accentuated her features but did not make her look cheap. It made her seem naturally beautiful.

Perhaps she had taken privacy into concern, but Celine was not bringing her personal secretary with her to dinner tonight.

Jasper was glad about that too. Her secretary, Yvonne, always looked at him as if he had killed her father. If it were not for Celine, Jasper would have long since taught her a lesson. It was just as well she was not here. He would have peace of mind.

Following Vita's directions, Jasper arrived at a farm on the outskirts of Waterhoof City.

The surrounding mountains and rivers put Celine in a great mood. As she breathed in the fresh air, she said to Jasper, "Your friend put a lot of thought into this. It wouldn't have been fun if we just ate in a normal restaurant."

"They're all old foxes now and naturally have more experience than us peasants in this regard," Jasper said as he smiled.

As they talked and laughed, Jasper and Celine entered the farm together.

“Mr, Laine, you’ve arrived.” Vita and John smiled as they walked out to welcome him.

However, the two men were startled when they saw Celine standing beside Jasper.

“This is Miss Celine Maynard, who’s also my friend. I invited her along because we both happened to be in Waterhoof City.” Jasper smiled as he made the introductions.

“Hello everyone. I’m not unwelcome here, am I?” Celine had obviously mastered the art of socializing, and she smiled warmly as she spoke in a joking tone.

Vita and John exchanged a look before they both ignored Jasper’s ‘we’re friends’ introduction.

A man and a woman were either a couple or family. How could there only be pure friendship?

“Of course not. It’s an honor to have a guest as beautiful as you, Miss Maynard. I was just fretting over what we three men could talk about.” Ever the social butterfly, Vita hurriedly smiled and replied.

The four of them laughed and caught up with each other. They were all expert socializers and did not find it awkward at all. It only took them a short conversation before they all became friends.

At least, it seemed that way on the surface.

As Vita walked toward the room with Jasper, he whispered, “Mr. Laine, I’ve prepared some good stuff today.”

“What is it?” Jasper asked curiously.

Vita chuckled and said, "You'll find out soon."

"You've only just got your new position, you'd better not get into any trouble," Jasper said meaningfully.

Vita hurriedly waved his hands and said, "How could I do that? I've just got some simple wild game here, nothing huge. Did you think I would engage in any illegal activity?"

Soon, Jasper learned what Vita meant by some simple wild game.

Almas caviar and other equally expensive dishes.

What was more, there was even snake soup!

Jasper thought to himself that there was no saving Vita and John as he watched the two men giggle at the sight of snake soup, which was apparently an aphrodisiac.

Dear God, the entire table was filled with rare, expensive dishes.

Thankfully, there were no endangered animals here although all these dishes were extremely expensive. Jasper would never have been able to eat those dishes.

Life at the Top Chapter 753

"Can't enjoy good food without some good wine." Vita laughed as he took out two bottles of aged brandy and said, "It's all thanks to you that I could advance further in my career, Mr. Laine. Let me give you a toast."

Smiling, Jasper picked up his cup and said, "Cheers to that. Before we talk about anything else, you should first stop calling me Mr. Laine. You're about John's age, and I should be addressing you as an older brother instead. Please, call me Jasper."

"Alright, Jasper, cheers!" Vita's face was bright red as he excitedly clinked his glass against Jasper's and downed its contents.

Jasper, too, tilted his head back and finished the entire glass.

...

"This is the meat of the albino beluga sturgeon, a rare fish which can only be harvested for half a month every year. It's suitable to be consumed by women because it nourishes your body and skin."

Jasper did not give Celine the cold shoulder as they ate. He cut her a slice of sturgeon meat as he spoke.

When he heard that, Vita smiled and said, "Two years ago, a pound of this could be bought for 8,000 dollars. But bear in mind that it was 8,000 dollars back in 1999. Now, there's simply no supply although there's a great demand for it. You can't buy it even if you have the money."

Celine took a bite of the meat. It was tender, fresh, and fatty without being greasy. She said in surprise, "It's delicious."

"I remember seeing lots of sturgeon in the rivers when I was a child. Are they this rare now?"

When he heard what Celine said, Jasper exclaimed in surprise, "You grew up by a river?"

Celine rolled her eyes at Jasper and said, "I'm a southerner through and through, alright? I only left the country when I was in fourth grade, but it's been more than ten years since I've returned to my hometown. I wonder what it's like now."

"There used to be a lot of sturgeons, but overfishing has caused its numbers to drop greatly. A policy was even introduced so now, they can only be caught for half a month every year so they'll have time to breed. It's much better than simply letting the animal go extinct," Vita said.

"A relative of mine back home caught this sturgeon two days ago. It's considered one of the largest ones that have ever been caught in recent years, but he didn't sell it to anyone despite being offered several million dollars for it. Instead, he brought it straight to me."

John stood and served Jasper a bowl of snake soup. He smiled meaningfully as he said, "You should have more of this, Jasper. It has amazing healing properties. All the herbs are aged and harvested from the depths of the forests, which means they have potent medicinal powers."

Jasper took the bowl from him as he said exasperatedly, "I'm still young and strong. You two are the ones who should drink more of this. Don't regret it when you're in your 40s and have weakened stamina."

Men would inevitably end up talking about slightly inappropriate things when they ate and drank together.

John and Vita were both well-versed in such topics. Jasper had initially been worried Celine would not be used to it but was shocked to hear her interjection.

"This stuff only provides a psychological effect. If you actually want treatment, you might as well take two Viagra pills."

Everyone at the table burst into laughter when they heard that.

The awkwardness that had been present because of Celine, who was a stranger, was cleverly defused.

It was a great meal, and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Jasper was extremely satisfied with the meal. The table had been filled with delicious delicacies made from top-grade ingredients by a skilled chef.

It was past ten at night when they finished eating.

It was either the snake soup or the brandy that had caused Vita and John to be slightly tipsy with reddened cheeks. After they left the farm, they giggled as they bade goodbye to Jasper. They obviously had more plans lined up.

Jasper had Celine with him, and it seemed they would not be bringing him with them.

Either way, Jasper did not have that many common interests with a bunch of middle-aged men. Thus, he returned to the city with Celine.

Celine had had quite a bit to drink that night too. She had chugged at least half of the brandy that was poured. Things might have gotten awkward if not for the fact Vita had only brought that much brandy.

Life at the Top Chapter 754

“Let’s go for a walk,” Celine said abruptly to Jasper when they had almost reached the hotel.

Jasper was startled but then realized his entire body smelled like booze. It was a good idea to get some air and clear his mind. Thus, he got Julian to pull the car over before he and Celine got out.

It was already past ten at night, but Waterhoof City was not the least bit deserted. You could still see lots of people making their way around.

As they strolled on the sidewalk, Celine turned and gazed somewhat drunkenly at Jasper as she said, "Why are you so far away from me? Are you scared I'll eat you up?"

When Jasper, who had been standing behind Celine, heard that, he immediately walked up to Celine and stood next to her before saying, "Is this close enough for you?"

Celine did not say anything. She reached out, took hold of Jasper's arm, and put her head on his shoulder. She said with a smile, "This is better."

Then, she pointed to a couple standing by the road and said, "Look, they're doing it like this."

Jasper frowned slightly and tried to pull his arm away as he said, "Miss Maynard, you're drunk."

"I'm not drunk." Celine tightened her hold on Jasper's arm as she said dismissively, "I'm a woman, and I'm not scared. What are you scared about?"

"But you're already married," Jasper said.

Celine was stunned for a moment before she let go of Jasper's arm and smiled meaningfully, saying, "Yes, I'm already married. I can't be like this anymore. I would have forgotten if you hadn't reminded me."

Was this another woman in an unhappy marriage?

Jasper shook his head. He had no interest in the relationships of other married couples, nor did he plan to butt in.

However, Celine seemed to have become a real chatterbox and said, "Who cares about marriage? We only got together due to a mix of interests. Him, his parents, and my parents were satisfied when we got married, but no one ever bothered asking if I was satisfied."

"So, are you satisfied?" Jasper asked.

Celine smiled and seemed to become more animated as she said, "Of course, I'm satisfied. He's handsome, rich, capable, and is an illustrious person. He's the perfect husband no matter how you look at him. What kind of woman wouldn't want to marry a man like that?"

"That's fine, then." Jasper sighed. "You wouldn't be so childish that you want a love story between a princess and a beggar, right? All relationships are built on a foundation of materialism. Or are you unwilling to be with your husband and spend the rest of your life with him just for the sake of benefits?"

"It's not that," Celine said as she shook her head. "I'm not a high schooler who daydreams about love anymore. That's hilarious."

"But..." As she spoke, Celine abruptly stopped and stood in front of a display in a department store. She was staring unblinkingly at a pair of red high heels the mannequin had on its feet.

"I want this," Celine said as she pointed at the window.

Jasper glanced at the store's tightly shut doors and frowned as he said, "It's already closed. Shall we come and buy them tomorrow when they're open?"

"No! I want them now!" Celine was as stubborn as a spoiled little girl asking for sweets from her parents.

“I can’t break the window and steal them now, can I?” Jasper said helplessly as he tried to forcibly drag Celine away. This woman was troublesome after she was drunk.

“Commission!” Celine shook Jasper’s arm off her as she stretched out two fingers. She said seriously, albeit with drunken eyes, “I’ll shave off 20% of the commission to list Sena publicly. But I want this, right now!”

Jasper’s head throbbed. However, his eyes widened when he saw a logo from the corners of his eyes.

It was a logo unique to businesses owned by the Law family.

“F*ck it, I’m going for it!”

Life at the Top Chapter 755

When he used a brick to break the glass of the store’s display, the sound of glass smashing was accompanied by the blaring of alarms. Jasper would have thought he was crazy if not for the fact this store was owned by the Law family.

Julian, who was smoking a cigarette as he sat in the car, stared in shock when he witnessed that.

If he had not witnessed it with his own eyes, who would have thought that a tycoon with a net worth of at least several billion dollars would do something as thuggish as smashing a store display and stealing from it?

However, Jasper did not have the time to think about it anymore. He was almost broke and was focused on the 20% commission cut Celine promised him.

He found a brick, smashed the glass, picked up the red heels amongst the shards, and pulled Celine along with him as they ran off.

He completed all these actions with fluid movements and without any hesitancy.

Holding the heels in one hand and pulling Celine, who was laughing delightedly, along with him, Jasper dashed all the way back to the car.

“Hurry, let’s go!”

Jasper yelled at Julian.

“Alright!”

Julian had no time to watch this exciting scene. He turned the key and stepped on the gas as they sped off.

Jasper sat in the car and managed to calm himself down slightly.

The only thing he could do now was pray that the surveillance cameras were not as advanced as they were in the future. At least there would not be cameras at every corner and junction. That way, he could send Julian over with some money as a form of reimbursement the next day.

If not, it would be embarrassing for him if he got caught for such trivial matters.

However, he could not deny that it was really f*cking exciting.

Jasper had a dark expression on his face as he gazed at Celine who was giggling as she hugged the heels to herself. He said, “You’d best remember you said you would shave 20% off your commission. Don’t wake up the next morning and say you’ve forgotten everything.”

Celine grinned and said, “Don’t worry, I won’t forget it. Do you really think I’m drunk?”

Jasper used a look to tell her that she was, indeed, drunk.

When they returned to the hotel, Jasper reminded Julian to inform Henry about what had happened and ask him not to cause a fuss. Then, Jasper asked Julian to pay the unfortunate store for the damages he had caused.

After that, Jasper took a bath and decided to turn in early.

He had just lain down on his bed when his phone vibrated. It was a text from Celine.

The contents of the text were simple, just two words with one punctuation mark.

[Thank you!]

Jasper smiled and put his phone aside. Turning off the lights, he went to sleep.

...

At this time in the opposite room, Celine was feeling rather unhappy as Jasper had not replied to her text even after a long time.

Someone knocked on her door just as she was about to send Jasper another text.

“Come in.”

Celine fixed her expression into a cold and aloof one.

Yvonne walked in with a warm towel, which she handed to Celine before asking, “Do you want me to bring you some warm milk? It can help cure hangovers.”

Life at the Top Chapter 756

“I want it cold,” Celine said somewhat tiredly.

Yvonne soon brought in a glass of cold milk and placed it on the bedside table.

“Miss Maynard, did you have dinner with Jasper tonight? How could you have drunk so much?” Yvonne asked.

Celine massaged her temples and said, “We had to talk about some stuff, that’s it. You don’t need to pry into my personal life.”

Not daring to retaliate, Yvonne hummed in response. However, her eyes glinted with hatred as she lowered her gaze.

“You can leave now. I’m turning in for the night,” Celine said as she lay in bed. Then, she abruptly added, “When you have time, pull up the quotation saved on my laptop and lower the commission by 20%. Add in a reasonable explanation that will be accepted by the company too. I want it by tomorrow.”

Startled, Yvonne said instinctively, “20%? The company will never agree to that. They might even suspect that you and Jasper have some unspoken deal. Miss Maynard, this is not...”

“This is my decision. As general manager of Terra’s regional branch, I have the power to adjust the commission within a 25% frame. Don’t you know that?” Celine’s eyes were cold as she asked the question.

“Yvonne Stone, I know you don’t like Jasper, but that’s your personal feelings which I have no control over. I won’t order you to be overly nice to Jasper but you must never let your personal feelings get in the way of your work, nor will I allow you to constantly question my decisions. Is that clear?”

As she gazed at Celine, who had a stern expression on her face, Yvonne bit down on her lip and said, "Understood, Miss Maynard. I'll carry out your orders right away."

"Go." Celine closed her eyes somewhat tiredly. She was feeling the effects of the alcohol now, and she did not have the energy to continue talking to Yvonne. "Turn off the lights when you leave."

Yvonne left the room silently.

When Yvonne left the room, she had a murderous expression on her face.

She immediately returned to her room and called William.

"Do you know how long it's been? Why haven't you taken any action yet?"

William, who was on the other end of the line, said in a disdainful voice, "Miss Maynard, please remember that you are merely the secretary to a general manager. What gave you the guts to question a president?"

Yvonne gritted her teeth as she said, "But we're equal partners in this case. You need me to provide you with information, don't you?"

William scoffed but still explained, "It takes time to persuade the board of directors back at the headquarters, but some progress has already started. Haven't you seen how the board of directors hasn't made any demands although Celine still hasn't handed in the quotation?"

Yvonne said vehemently, "Now that you've mentioned it, Celine just asked me to change the quotation. She wants to use her power to lower Colossal's commission by 20%."

William was first stunned for a while before he laughed and said, "Did Celine sleep with Jasper? Why would an otherwise smart woman do something that

would only bring benefits to the other party? Has she come up with an explanation to give to the headquarters?"

"She said any logical explanation would do because she has the power to do so. Headquarters wouldn't mind," Yvonne said coldly.

"Either way, she's fully invested in this matter now. We must hurry and mess up Sena's plan to be publicly listed. I'll send you a copy of the quotation later tonight and leave several loopholes in the explanation that will be made to the headquarters. It's up to you how we'll proceed."

William laughed as he said, "Women like you who will do anything and everything to gain what they want are truly evil."

"Mind your own business!" Yvonne said before hanging up.

The next morning, Jasper was not surprised to see Celine waiting to have breakfast with him when he woke up.

Julian left after he served the two breakfast. He had to go clean up the mess Jasper made last night.

Jasper purposely glanced at Celine's feet and saw that the woman was wearing the red heels from last night. He smiled and said, "Not bad. They're gorgeous and suit you very well. Seems like my impulsiveness from last night was not for naught."

"Of course, it wasn't. I've already shaved 20% off from our commission and submitted the final report to the headquarters. We can sign the contract once they're done verifying it," Celine said in a relaxed tone.

"The total commission is 380 million dollars and I've helped you save 76 million dollars. What shoes could be that expensive?"

Life at the Top Chapter 757

Celine's statements caused Jasper to sink into deep thought.

At the same time, Jasper made a decision.

When his companies expanded and recruited more employees, he had to make sure he had control over the amount of power his subordinates held.

Else, would he not suffer major losses if he ended up recruiting a woman like Celine Maynard who readily gave away 70 million dollars at every turn?

They enjoyed breakfast together until Celine received an encrypted call.

"It's from the headquarters. It must be them informing us that we can sign the contract now," Celine said confidently to Jasper before she returned to her room to answer the call.

Celine returned moments later with an ugly expression on her face.

When Jasper saw the expression on Celine's face, he realized that the matter he had previously been so confident about must have gone wrong.

"Sorry," Celine said as she sat down in front of Jasper. She sighed before continuing, "Sena's listing has run into some problems."

"Tell me. I'm listening," Jasper said calmly.

Celine gazed at Jasper. Without taking anything else into regard, his calmness at such a time was already something that not most people would have.

“Headquarters just informed me that members of the board have raised their suspicions regarding this deal. They’re requesting a complete redo of the assessment to determine the possibility of Sena going public,” Celine said.

Jasper chuckled as he sat on the couch and said, “Which means that everything we did before this was for nothing?”

Celine had an apologetic expression on her face as she said, “No, there must have been something we missed. I’ll get to the bottom of this and solve this matter as soon as possible.”

“I don’t know how internal affairs at your investment company are, but it seems odd that an amazing business deal would go down the drain just because several members of the board came forth to stir things up,” Jasper said as he shook his head.

Celine hurriedly said, “Please don’t misunderstand. We just have somewhat of a unique structure at the investment company. Most matters are handled by the president, but the board of directors has the right to voice their doubts for large deals. It’s a form of insurance for the company in ensuring no problems are encountered.

“So, your insurance is to have me, your client, waste my time with you?” Jasper asked.

Celine went silent.

Realizing his attitude might have been a bit aggressive, Jasper softened his tone and said, “Miss Maynard, this has nothing to do with you. Don’t worry, we’ll remain friends no matter what. But in the spirit of maintaining business formality, I hope you’ll pass on a message to the headquarters for me.”

“Please continue,” Celine said solemnly.

“Colossal Investments is not the only company that can be Sena’s underwriter in the stock market. I believe that so long Sena is willing to do so, a simple announcement would be enough to attract major investment companies from States such as Layman Investments, Merlene Investments, Morgan Stanley Investments, and Citigroup Inc. to fly over and fight for the chance to work with me.

“It would do good for Colossal Investments to not think of themselves as such a big deal.”

Jasper did not bother trying to be nice. All this while, he had been involved in many fights. Thus, even his toes could conclude that someone was trying to sabotage him this time.

However, did Jasper care?

He did not.

It was because Jasper was not trying to leech benefits away from Colossal Investments. Both parties would benefit from this deal.

However, what was different was that Jasper could just switch investment companies and continue working happily with whoever it was. However, if Colossal Investments lost him as a client, they would lose out on profits of more than 300 million dollars and also the fame they would gain by helping Sena get listed on the Nasdaq Composite.

Ordinary profits were worth nothing to investment companies like Colossal Investments. However, they had to take on the position of being underwriter for stocks like Sena.

Life at the Top Chapter 758

It was because a company like Sena was bound to cause a huge surge of interest in investments the minute they were listed publicly. No one dared predict how much their shares would rise, but it was without a doubt that they would be priced sky-high on the very first day.

Colossal Investments was drooling over a business deal that would bring them such fame.

After all, the competition in the investment industry was brutal and competitive. No one knew which was the second biggest investment company, but everyone knew Colossal Investments was the biggest investment company.

If Colossal Investments ever fell from grace, they would be forgotten by the public in a matter of days.

That was why Jasper dared to ignore their shady tricks.

All he needed to do was switch companies. What was there for Jasper to worry about?

On the contrary, it was something that the internal affairs at Colossal Investments needed to worry over.

As expected, Celine's eyebrows were knitted together when she heard what Jasper had said.

"Don't panic yet. I'll take care of this as soon as possible," Celine said to Jasper.

"Three days. Give me three days."

Jasper gazed at the serious expression on Celine's face and thought about it for a moment before he nodded and said, "Alright, let me know if you need my cooperation in anything."

"But keep in mind that I don't have much time."

When she heard Jasper agree, Celine hurriedly nodded and said, "Alright, don't worry. I'll make sure to give you a proper explanation."

When she finished, Celine bade goodbye to Jasper and hurried back to her room.

"Yvonne, come here." Celine returned to her room and sat silently in the study for half an hour before calling out to Yvonne.

Yvonne had already received news that the board was stopping Sena from being listed publicly and was still celebrating inwardly. When she heard Celine, she did not think much about it and immediately entered the study.

Slap!

A loud slap rang out as a hand landed heavily on Yvonne's cheek.

Yvonne cradled her cheek as she stared at Celine in disbelief, yelling, "Miss Maynard, why did you hit me?!"

"Why?" Celine laughed coldly as she said, "You dared to turn on me but you never thought there would be a day when I found out about it?"

"Tell me! What sort of benefits did William give you to leak information to him?!"

Yvonne panicked when she heard Celine's questions and instinctively shook her head as she denied it. "Miss Maynard, you've misunderstood me. I have no idea what you're talking about."

“Yvonne, you’ve been with me for so many years. How do you still not know me well?” Celine gazed disappointedly at Yvonne. “Conversely, I know you very well.

“The members of the board who voiced their objections were all William’s superiors. He’s definitely involved in this. Besides, William’s been making frequent calls to the headquarters recently. Did you really think I wouldn’t have noticed that?”

Celine’s cold words caused Yvonne’s heart to sink to the pit of her stomach.

“I knew you hated Jasper, but I never thought you would be so ballsy to even work with my enemy to cause trouble for Jasper. Do you know this will cause me to lose any reputation I have?” Celine said through gritted teeth.

Flustered, Yvonne said stubbornly, “Even if William was the one making a mess of things, it still has nothing to do with me.”

“Nothing to do with you? Right now, only me, you, and President Paulson know of my collaboration with Jasper. Are you suggesting the president was the one who sold me out?”

Life at the Top Chapter 759

A flustered expression appeared on Yvonne’s face. She had not expected her plan to be exposed so soon.

Right now, she was so flustered the only thing she could do was grit her teeth and deny everything, insisting she had nothing to do with it.

She knew Celine had no evidence against her if she denied everything. However, she would be done for if she admitted to anything herself.

When she saw that Yvonne was still not going to admit to anything, Celine shook her head in disappointment. “I always knew he had sent you over to spy on me, but I never minded.

“After all, there would be others even if I sent you away. I can’t stop that.

“But you managed to fit my requirements, and you’re good at what you do. That’s why I’ve always trusted you.

“I was initially willing to give you another chance on the basis of the trust we shared. As long as you admitted to everything...”

Then, Celine gazed at Yvonne’s face which was progressively becoming more flustered and pale. She said calmly, “Yvonne Stone, from this moment onward, you are no longer my secretary. I’ll have HR inform you of any procedures you’ll have to go through.”

Yvonne’s face turned deathly pale as she screeched, “Miss Maynard, are you firing me?!”

“You abandoned me first.” Celine’s voice turned calm as she said coldly, “You rejected the last chance I gave you. Perhaps my tolerance has caused you to become more and more reckless.

“Were you thinking that because I had no proof against you and that William would never identify you publicly, I wouldn’t stand a chance against you so long as you denied everything?

“What you didn’t know is that I’m not a judge, and the investment company is not a courtroom either. I don’t need any proof before I can pass my judgment. All it takes for your resignation is a statement from me.”

Then, Celine said coldly, “Please leave right now. We no longer have any sort of relationship between us.”

When confronted with that severe blow, Yvonne hurriedly tugged on Celine's shirt as she sobbed. "Miss Maynard, please forgive me. I didn't mean anything by it. I didn't know you would be this angry. Can you just take it as a mistake I made and forgive me, please?"

"I did leak information to William on my own accord, but the only reason I did that was to cause trouble for Jasper. I couldn't just stand by and watch as Sena gets successfully listed. Who does he think he is? What gives him the right to reap all the benefits and have everything good in life?"

"Miss Maynard, I never wanted to harm you!"

The disappointment on Celine's already stern face only grew as she listened to Yvonne's sobbing complaints.

"It's alright if you make mistakes, and I'm always ready to give you a chance to correct them. But it's your parents' responsibility if your morals are corrupted. I have no responsibility in helping or tolerating you."

"Your mind is truly simple. Did you really think William would only target Jasper alone? Besides, what kind of loss would this cause for Jasper? All he needs to do is delay the listing by a couple of days. Even without Colossal Investments, there are still numerous investment companies lining up to hand him a contract."

"Everyone knows how powerful Sena is. It's a business deal that would rake in huge profits. Would there be any investment company that'll reject it?"

"Thus, William has made me his target from the very start. Jasper just happened to be thrown into the mix. William is smarter than you are and has known since the start that this would never be a problem for Jasper."

Celine shook her head in disappointment as she said, "Did you know what the headquarters told me over the phone? They suspect that I've made a private agreement with Jasper, especially regarding the 20% discount in commission."

They're suspecting I'm using my authority to work with Jasper to harm the company. The investigative team is already on their way.

"It doesn't matter if they find anything or not. It'll still be a huge hurdle for me to remain at the Terra regional branch. And who would be the happiest if I left? That person would be William.

"And what about you? What would you get from this?"

Celine gazed at Yvonne with pity. The woman's face had turned ashen, and Celine said coldly, "You gained no benefits at all. Conversely, you lost everything. Your job at the investment company, my trust, and your future."

Life at the Top Chapter 760

"In fact, people like you are the ones who should be hated and pitied the most. You brought trouble to both yourself and others, thinking you were smart. However, you ended up being the fool."

Everything she said caused Yvonne to stand rooted to the spot in shock.

She realized that things were exactly how Celine made them out to be. She was the fool here.

Not only had she not gained any benefits, but Jasper, the one she wanted to seek revenge on, had lost nothing. On the other hand, she had lost everything.

She also dragged Celine down with her in the process.

"Miss Maynard, I..."

Tears filled Yvonne's eyes as she tried to plead for mercy. However, she was too ashamed to actually say anything when she opened her mouth.

"Seeing how you still have some shame, I'll give you some leeway."

Celine's words caused hope to once again flare within Yvonne. She gazed hopefully at Celine.

However, what Celine said after that pushed her right back into an abyss of despair.

"You can hand in your resignation. This way, you'll still be able to find employment in other investment companies. If Colossal Investments were to fire you, it'll leave a permanent stain on your record and no other investment companies will think of hiring you."

Celine turned and walked off after saying that, leaving Yvonne to stand rooted to the spot in shock before she finally burst into tears.

Once she was done dealing with Yvonne, Celine gave William a call.

William did not seem surprised to receive a call from her. He seemed to be in a good mood.

"Miss Maynard, you don't seem to be in a good mood," William said leisurely as he leaned against his office chair in the brightly lit office.

Celine had a stiff expression on her face as she said, "Isn't this what you wanted?"

William laughed and said, "Please don't say that. You're an amazing partner, and I hope only the very best for you. I said the same thing to the investigative team when they were in my office earlier."

“How quick,” Celine scoffed and said, “William, you must know that the investigative team will never find anything wrong with me. Do you really think such tricks will work on me?”

William shrugged and said, “I don’t know if it’ll work or not. I only know that the minute your record shows that you’ve had investigations done on you, you’ll never be able to get the chair that my butt is resting on right now.”

Sighing, Celine said, “Jasper’s case to list Sena publicly has nothing to do with our feud. I hope you’ll think about this carefully.”

William laughed and said, “Miss Maynard, how did you get to where you are now if you’re this naive? Just like how you screwed up my case, I’ll ensure you never get to complete any business deals without causing a whole lot of trouble. Got it?”

“Your suffering is my source of happiness,” William said before he hung up.

Celine had a stiff expression on her face as she listened to the dial tone. Honestly, she was not surprised at the outcome.

Sighing, Celine muttered to herself, “You forced me to do this.”

Life at the Top Chapter 761

A video call that spanned the distance of half the earth was established.

Celine Maynard sat in front of the computer. She stared at the image of Paulson on the screen with a calm expression.

Due to the time difference, it was now afternoon on Paulson's side of the world.

Evidently, he was extremely busy. After accepting the video call, he immediately said, "Celine, you have ten minutes to talk to me. There's another important meeting that I need to attend in ten minutes' time."

Celine nodded to indicate that she understood. "In that case, I'll get straight to the point. I don't mind if the headquarter sends a team to investigate me, but Jasper Laine's listing plan for Sena cannot be put on hold because of this," she said intently.

Paulson shook his head. "Celine, although I've always admired your capabilities, you let your emotions get in the way this time," he said in a regretful tone.

"You have to understand that the questions raised by the directors are perfectly reasonable, and they also have the right to do so. This is the power that has been granted to them during the shareholders' general meeting, and I cannot do anything about it."

Celine replied solemnly, "Even so, anyone can tell that this listing benefits not just Jasper, but also our investment bank, right? We cannot just push Jasper into the hands of our competitors just because a few directors disagree.

"If that happens, Layman and Merlene Investments will be laughing at us in their sleep."

Paulson frowned. He fixed a deep gaze upon Celine and said, "Celine, tell me right now. Why did you take the initiative to reduce Jasper Laine's commission by 20%?"

"I did that to win him over," Celine replied immediately without thinking twice.

"As I had previously reported to you, Jasper Laine is undoubtedly a business prodigy that everyone is underestimating. Sena, which is an extremely high-achieving company in our eyes, is simply one of the many companies in the diverse group of businesses that he owns.

"I think that our investment bank will benefit greatly from working together with someone like that."

Paulson smiled and said, "I have to admit that Jasper Laine is a wondrous businessman. However, this does not mean that the board of directors will accept your excuse. To them, this listing case is indeed rewarding, but they are more concerned about the possibility of collusion occurring between internal members of the company and outsiders."

"That's why I'm not against the headquarters' decision to send an investigation team over. They can investigate all they like. However, if Jasper cancels his deal with us over this, we will hurt badly!" Celine argued.

A slight frown formed on Paulson's face. "As I said, this is our directors' choice. There is no way for me to prevent it from happening," he said.

"Yes, you can. As the chairman, you can use your veto power to veto their review of the listing," Celine said.

Paulson burst out into laughter. "Celine, are you kidding me right now? Are you asking me to go against those directors because of Jasper Laine? What good does this do me?" He asked.

"I'm willing to bet my entire career on this!" Celine suddenly said.

Paulson's smile froze on his face. He pinned a deep gaze on Celine and asked her solemnly, "Do you know what you're talking about?"

"By all means, run the investigation, but any no circumstances can you stop the listing. If any problem arise, I'll resign immediately," Celine said calmly after taking in a deep breath.

Paulson remained silent for some time.

Right then, someone knocked on the door to Paulson's on the other end of the line. His secretary had come over to remind him that his time was up.

"Ask them to wait for a moment as I have an important matter to handle right now," Paulson said. After that, the sound of the door closing could be heard. He then continued to face the screen to look at Celine. "Celine, your father and I have been close friends for decades. I don't want to see you make this big mistake," he said.

"This is too risky for you. There is too much at stake. If something unexpected happens, you will not be able to continue working in the financial industry for the rest of your life. This does not just apply to Wall Street. No other investment bank in the world would dare to employ you ever again."

"I know what I'm doing. Please help me this once, Uncle Paulson," Celine said in an even tone.

Paulson let out a sigh and said, "I'm afraid that your guarantee isn't enough to change the minds of those stubborn directors."

"In that case, I'll add on one other thing. If the share price of Sena is less than a hundred US dollars, I will voluntarily resign as well. I will also compensate the investment bank for their loss with an amount three times the commission. I'm giving you my word as the second-in-line heir to the Maynard family. Is that enough?"

Celine's words traversed across the oceans and rang out loud and clear in Paulson's office room.

Paulson stared at Celine, who was wearing a calm and determined look on her face, in shock. He then shook his head.

"A hundred US dollars? Do you know what a share price of a hundred US dollars means? After Nasdaq went through the Internet bubble, there are only a few dozen stocks worth more than a hundred US dollars left. Those companies all consist of large and well-known global companies!"

Celine did not say anything. She understood what Paulson was implying more than anyone else.

However, if she did not come up with such a bargain, the directors would never concede.

Therefore, Celine continued stare directly into Paulson's eyes calmly.

Meanwhile, Paulson did not say anything either. He had watched Celine grow up and understood that whenever she showed such an expression, it meant that she would not go back on her words.

"I will try my best," Paulson said and hung up on the video call.

After going through all of that, Celine leaned back on her chair in exhaustion. As she lowered her head, she caught sight of the red high-heels that she was currently wearing. Suddenly, she laughed out loud.

Was it worth it? Nobody knew.

Anyways, she had bet everything, her career included.

It was all because of this pair of red high-heels from that night.

...

Jasper did not see Celine for a few days. On the first day, Julian told him that he had caught sight of Miss Stone leaving the hotel despondently with all of her luggage.

Jasper was not sure about what had happened within the company. He did not intend to understand what had happened either.

He had even begun to contact other large investment banks like Layman or Merlene Investments.

In his opinion, Colossal Investments was acting like they were high and mighty. If that was the case, he could just change partners. It would be just another collaboration.

In any case, the company would be listed on the Nasdaq all the same. He did not worry about it at all.

On the third day, which was the last day of Celine and Jasper's agreement, Celine knocked on the door to Jasper's room.

She was still as graceful and charming as always. There was a hint of gentle loveliness in her pretty, feminine features as she smiled at him sweetly.

"It's done. The listing of Sena has officially been approved. On the other hand, the headquarters have already begun lobbying the Nasdaq Review Committee. We shall soon head to New York to ring the bells," she said.

Life at the Top Chapter 762

“Are you alright?”

Jasper glanced at Celine, who was sitting in his living room, in the midst of enjoying some snacks with milk. He then asked her this in a suspicious tone.

Although Celine looked exactly the same as she did usually, Jasper felt that something was wrong.

“I’m good,” Celine said, casting an odd glance at him. She then lowered her head to look at herself. “Is there something wrong?” She asked.

Jasper sat down and opened a bottle of beverage for himself. “Has everything been resolved?” He asked.

“Everything has been resolved,” Celine said in a relaxed tone. “Are you forgetting who I am? Is there anything that I can’t deal with? Do you really think that I’ve gained nothing from working at Colossal Investments all these years? I have plenty of connections, alright?” She added.

“You make it seem easy,” Jasper said. He narrowed his eyes at her as he did not believe a single word that she was saying.

The more indifferently Celine behaved, the more he certain he felt that the issue this time was serious.

Although he had never worked at Colossal Investments before, Jasper had been a veteran in the financial circle in his past life. He had seen all sorts of workplace battles.

Furthermore, he was managing a bunch of people under him in his current lifetime.

Jasper knew very well that one could be wiped out at any moment as people in the company schemed and plotted against each other.

It was a battlefield where smoking barrels could not be seen.

This was especially true for top investment banks like Colossal Investments, as they already had in place a complete ecosystem nestled within the company. Such working environments were terrifyingly cruel.

There were plenty of power struggles constantly occurring within the company.

“If you can’t do it, you can just give up. I’ve told you that we’ll still be friends. When it comes to Colossal Investments, I can always change working partners. There’s no need to give in to their demands,” Jasper said.

Celine pinned a long, meaningful gaze upon Jasper. “I’ve put in a lot of effort and work into this. I’ve put almost all that I have into this project, and now you’re saying that you want to change your working partner? I won’t agree,” she said.

“Alright, alright,” Jasper chuckled. “Since you’re giving me a 20% commission, I won’t let you down,” he said.

“Also, I heard that you fired your secretary.” Jasper asked casually.

“I’ve fired her,” Celine said nonchalantly. It was as if he was talking about something insignificant. “She is no longer qualified for her current position, so she has no choice but to leave,” she added.

“Your personal secretary wasn’t qualified for the position, and you only just realized it now? You’re only tackling this issue now?” Jasper asked.

Celine stared at Jasper. “Why are you asking so many questions today?” She questioned.

“Was she going against you or me?” Jasper asked her another question, blatantly ignoring Celine’s evident distaste.

Celine huffed and threw a chip into her mouth. “She was going against the both of us,” she said.

“Was it William?” Jasper asked.

“You’re quite a smart one,” Celine praised him.

“If she only went against you, I wouldn’t have been able to guess it. There are 8000 to 10000 employees in Colossal Investments, and the only people I know there are you and William. Therefore, if she was going against me as well, he had to be the one behind it,” Jasper said in a calm tone.

“Why? Are you unhappy about it? Do you want to go challenge him as well?” Celine asked him cheerily.

“If the opportunity arises, I won’t let him go so easily,” Jasper replied.

Although Jasper did not care much about the internal power struggles taking place within Colossal Investments, nor did he care about working together with them, someone that wanted to defeat him would be a danger to him sooner or later. This was especially true if it was someone holding a high-ranking position like William, the president of the Terra regional branch.

“Alright, I’m full now. I’m going back,” Celine said as she stood up and brushed off the crumbs of food from her hands.

“I’ll be busy with work the next few days due to the heavy workload. I still need to organize the entire process of your listing, so I have an afternoon flight back to Harbor City.”

Jasper got up and replied, "Since the listing of Sena has been confirmed, I need to make some arrangements as well."

"In that case, we'll both be busy with our own work," Celine said with a smile as she walked in front of Jasper.

"Will you miss me?"

"I won't miss a married woman," Jasper said with a rigid expression on his face.

Noticing the frown forming on Celine's brows, Jasper spoke again. "But I'll miss my friend," he said.

"You know exactly what to say," Celine said happily. She waved her hand and said, "Also, don't call me a married woman. We simply staged a wedding and received a foreign marriage certificate that isn't recognized in Somerland. That's it, there's nothing else going on between the two of us."

"Are you hinting that I can try becoming the third party in your relationship?"

Jasper chuckled. After knowing her for some time, Jasper knew that she could take a joke like that.

Celine rolled her eyes at Jasper. "You can try. It's easy to win my heart," she said.

"I could never move your heart," Jasper said as he stared at Celine's imposing figure.

"Tsk, what a man," Celine pouted in distaste as she walked toward the door.

She opened the door and stood by the exit. Then, she suddenly turned around and smiled radiantly at the sight of Jasper watching her leave. "In that case, see you in New York?" She asked.

“See you in New York.”

...

Celine left just like that. She did not look back.

She did not even ask Jasper to send her to the airport.

She called a taxi to the airport on her own.

Noticing that she had checked out and left, Jasper felt slightly somber.

“Please be careful, Jasper,” Julian, who was beside Jasper, blurted out suddenly.

“You little rascal. You rarely say anything, but your words never fail to make me uncomfortable.”

Jasper glared at Jasper. “Why should I be careful? There’s nothing going on between the both of us,” he said.

“I don’t know about that, but from a man’s perspective, if Ms. Schuler and Ms. Law are both beautiful flowers with contrasting styles, Ms. Celine Maynard is a wildflower that men simply cannot get out of their minds. It’s addictive,” he said.

“Furthermore, she’s a married woman. How exciting is that? A man will surely have fantasies, right?”

Jasper stared at Julian in shock. “F*ck, what have you been doing these days? The way you speak has levelled up greatly,” he said.

...

After bickering with Julian, Jasper no longer felt downcast about Celine’s departure for Harbor City. He then called Jack Tanner over.

“Jack, are you interested in going to New York with me to ring the bells?”

Jasper’s words caused Jack to feel a surge of excitement.

“Has the deal been completed? Didn’t you previously mention that there were some problems with it?” Jack asked in surprise.

Jasper could not hide his plans of listing Sena from Jack, who was in charge of the company. In fact, the both of them had negotiated and decided on many of the strategies that they would be imposing during this period.

Jack looked forward to Sena’s listing as well. For any professional manager out there, getting listed would be the highlight of their careers.

“Everything has been resolved,” Jasper chuckled.

“We’ve now officially started the countdown to the listing. We are yet to decide on a specific date, so you’ll need to carry out the relevant preparations. The company must not face any problems during this period.

“When the company gets listed, it will definitely benefit the employees. You should also design a reward scheme. After all, good things should be shared.”

Life at the Top Chapter 763

The news about Sena’s upcoming listing in the United States was spread by unknown sources.

This news instantly lit up the entire domestic Internet industry.

Frankly speaking, people with a long-term vision could already see that Sena's moves would completely change the ecosystem of the entire domestic Internet industry when the game "United Legends" was released.

It cleared the path and introduced a new way for Internet companies to make a profit, which was by earning money from online gamers through the development of online games.

For companies that were yet to find a profitable direction under the traditional Internet business model, online gaming was obviously a good way to plug their losses and increase their profitability.

However, when news about Sena's upcoming listing broke, everyone was shocked when they realized that this had been their actual goal all along.

Because of this, Sena's overall strategy and intentions had gradually become clear to the public.

Sena made use of United Legends to achieve profitability, and it proceeded to make use of its high profitability to promote the listing of the company.

It seemed like an easy process as it only consisted of two steps.

However, how could Sena be so sure that they would be able to achieve profitability through United Legends?

In fact, not only did they achieve profitability, but they earned crazy amounts of profits.

All the personnel within the domestic Internet industry gained a surge of confidence through their achievements. They looked up to Sena and wondered how a domestic company like them would perform after going public on the Nasdaq.

In a sense, Sena's public listing in the United States represented the honor of the whole of Somerland's Internet industry.

If Sena gained popularity, everyone else would be thrown under the spotlight as well. If Sena's market widened, the whole industry would benefit from it.

Moreover, if Sena did not make it big, everyone would just disregard them and just look for other online games to monitor. They could always think of other solutions if that were to happen.

...

As change rippled through the outside world and drew the attention of countless individuals toward Sena, Jasper, who was the driving force behind it all, was having tea with Mr. Malibu in his office in Nauritus City.

Henry Law, who had a wide smile on his face, was seated next to them.

"Malibu, your Somerish really sucks. You should really get a better teacher so that you can learn better," Jasper said while he handed a cup of tea to Mr. Malibu. Mr. Malibu, who was born in the United States, had fallen in love with the tea culture in Somerland lately. He had also miraculously quit drinking coffee.

With teary eyes, he had expressed his regrets of being poisoned by coffee for decades before encountering the magic of tea from Somerland. Indeed, it was such a pity.

"Really? However, Kelly told me that I have progressed a lot. Somerish is really difficult, but I will work hard to learn the language," Malibu said in a slightly embarrassed tone.

"Malibu, you meant to say that you have improved a lot, right? Progress isn't the right word," Jasper said in exasperation.

“Haha,” Mr. Malibu let out a bark of laughter. “Yes, yes, I have improved a lot...” he said.

After chatting and joking around for a while, Jasper looked at Henry. “How’s the plan? Have you figured out how much money you can raise?” He asked.

Henry had a look of anguish on his face. “Can’t I ask my father and younger sister to pay in advance?” He asked.

“I will send a document over to each of them. Don’t you want to spend the money that you’ve earned on your own? If you do, you have to use your capital, and yours alone. Borrowing money from others does not count,” Jasper told him in an irritated tone.

“I can’t bear to watch the opportunity to earn a fortune slip by. I can withdraw a sum of 30 million Harbor Dollars at most,” Henry said with a tormented expression plastered upon his face.

Jasper looked at him in shock. “You must be the poorest man among all those from the wealthy second generation out there,” he remarked.

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“I’ve already bought a yacht and a car. Besides, I also spend up to several tens of thousands of dollars every time I go out,” Henry said in a regretful tone.

Once Sena gets listed, an internal placement process will be carried out. In other words, shares will be sold to internal buyers in advance. When Sena gets publicly listed, they will then be able to sell their shares according to the market price.

Transactions like this usually yielded a profit unless the share that they owned was worthless, causing the listing price to fall below the opening price. In that case, a huge loss would be incurred. However, such incidents rarely happened.

After all, it was impossible for the shares of a foreign company that was worthy of being listed on the Nasdaq to be worthless.

Furthermore, anyone with decent insight could tell that Sena definitely had the prospect to be a profitable investment.

Naturally, Jasper did not forget about Henry when this excellent opportunity to earn a fortune arose.

Jasper gave the Laws a pre-IPO quota of 200 million dollars. Meanwhile, Kayden Langdon was allocated a quota of 100 million dollars as per their previous agreement. Of course, he did not forget about Schuler Corporation either. Dawson Schuler was also allocated a quota of 200 million dollars. As for the others, Jasper intended to release a quota of 50 million dollars for the company's veteran employees.

For instance, Hudson Moore and his team had worked under him for a long time and had faced countless struggles throughout their time with him. Nevertheless, it seemed like they did not have many opportunities to reap benefits or wealth.

Although Jasper paid them a salary that was above the industry standard, this did not stop him from awarding them with a variety of benefits for their conscientious work.

As for Henry Law, Jasper had always given him special treatment.

In addition to the Laws' pre-IPO quota, Jasper had promised Henry that he would allocate him shares equivalent to whatever amount that he was able to raise.

However, Henry did not fare well. His savings only consisted of 30 million Harbor Dollars.

According to the currency exchange rate at the time, it was only worth around 28 million Somer Dollars.

“You should just give up. I’ll help you round it up to 50 million dollars,” Jasper said. He had a headache when he thought about it.

Henry stared at Jasper blankly. “How much will I be able to earn then?” He asked.

“Don’t worry, you’ll definitely be able to get yourself a private jet,” Jasper said cheerily.

Henry immediately got excited. “Sure, I’ll follow you to the United States for the listing then. I’ve been there countless times before, but I’ve never seen the bell in Wall Street being rung before,” he said.

“No problem. Have all the issues at the amusement park been resolved?” Jasper asked.

“Everything has been resolved. There are just some small problems left, but matters like sorting out the materials and submitting them for approval do not require my involvement,” Henry said with a stony expression on his face.

Jasper chuckled. “Sure thing, I’ll notify you later on when the time comes. It should happen in the next few days,” he said.

After going through everything, Jasper suddenly realized something that seemed slightly off.

When other companies got listed, they usually worried about not being able to sell off all the shares allocated under their pre-IPO quotas, and they were usually left with a large sum of shares because of this. However, the pre-IPO quotas that Jasper had prepared were insufficient to meet the current demand.

As things stood, Henry's quota of 50 million dollars, the Laws' quota of 200 million dollars, Dawson Schuler's quota of 200 million dollars, the Langdons' quota of 100 million dollars, and the 50-million-dollar quota allocated to the company's veteran employees had all been confirmed. A total quota of 600 million dollars had already been met by these people alone.

"Mr. Laine, I would suggest not allowing any more pre-IPO allocations," Malibu offered Jasper his suggestion.

"A pre-IPO quota of 600 million dollars is already considered excessive as these will count toward the total share capital in the future. If it increases any further, too many shares will be cashed out at once when the market opens, and this will impact the share price."

Jasper nodded understandingly as he registered Malibu's words.

Once the stock price stabilizes, the pre-IPO quota of 600 million dollars will definitely be cashed out. If too many shares are cashed out at the same time, Sena's share price will indeed be affected.

If that happens, they might take a heavy blow.

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Jasper had just finished his discussion with Malibu when his phone rang. He had received a call from someone unexpected.

It was a call from Gale Hurlbutt.

"Old Master Hurlbutt, how have you been lately?"

It was necessary to remain respectful when he spoke to the leader of Sander Merchant Faction

Gale's laughter rang out from the other end of the phone. "You've been quite active recently, you sly child. Can't you put a hold on things for a moment?" He asked jokingly.

"There are too many wolves chasing after me from behind. I can't stop now. If I put a hold on things now, I'm afraid that they will swallow me whole," Jasper replied in a contemplative tone.

Gale was amused by Jasper's metaphor. "You're exaggerating. You're now a popular hotshot within the domestic financial circle. Countless people are using all possible means to seek out connections or win favors in hopes of buying over some of Sena's pre-IPO stocks from you," he said.

Jasper suddenly became alert upon hearing what he had said. "Old Master Hurlbutt, to be honest, I'm also struggling due to this issue right now. The pre-IPO quota is limited. The Laws want some of it, and my father-in-law wants some of it as well. I've also allocated some of it to Half-the-Harbor Langdon," he said.

"I can't refuse any of their requests. With requests coming in one after another, there simply isn't enough to go around. I have already used up the quota in my hands," he added.

Gale hummed and said, "You're a sly child indeed. Don't worry, I'm not interested in such businesses. I won't ask you for any."

After hearing what he said, Jasper was overcome with a sense of relief. If Gale disregarded his reputation and insisted on taking some of the reallocated shares, it would be impossible for Jasper to reject his request.

After all, both of them had shared a pleasant collaborative relationship before this.

Since a prominent old senior like Gale Hurlbutt was saying that he did not want any of the pre-listing shares, Jasper would not argue. Even so, Jasper did not mind asking him again out of courtesy.

“No, no. If you want it, I will allocate some to you regardless of the situation,” Jasper said.

“That trick doesn’t work on me. You’re a cunning one, sly child.”

Gale could tell that Jasper was giving him an offer out of courtesy since he had just become aware of the situation. Thus, he did not believe in him at all.

Since Jasper still did not immediately understand his intentions, Gale went straight to the point. “Alright, I’ll tell you everything straight. Initially, some of the members of Sander Merchant Faction that are involved in financial investment wanted to lend you a helping hand once they learned that Sena was about to get listed,” he said.

“However, I asked them not to join in since you already had the support of prominent families such as the Laws and the Langdons.”

A look of regret formed on Jasper’s face after he heard this. “Sigh, please thank them on my behalf. It is impossible to allocate any more shares to anyone now. We’ll work together if the opportunity arises in the future. We’ll earn a fortune together,” he said.

Gale agreed with him cheerily.

The two of them exchanged a few more words before hanging up the call.

After putting down the phone, Gale Hurlbutt got up from the armchair in his study. He snorted and cursed out loud with a smile on his face. “This sly child is always using the Laws and the Langdons to ward people off. Are you afraid that I’ll gobble you up? What a brazen and cowardly man,” he said.

At the same time, Jasper snorted out loud in his office as well.

“This old fox knows nothing about self-respect. Why is he being such a busybody at such an elderly age?”

...

It was evident that the news about Sena’s public listing had a large impact on the financial industry, as even someone like Gale Hurlbutt had been tasked with requesting an allocation of shares from Jasper.

Plenty of people could only watch Sena get listed without being able to join the bandwagon as they could not touch any of the preallocated shares. They were all beyond regretful for missing out on an excellent opportunity like this.

Riskless trading was extremely rare within the financial industry.

However, everyone was sure that they would gain stable profits by purchasing Sena’s shares!

The tides surged as Sena, whose impact had just turned the Internet industry upside down, caused the entire financial circle to be on edge once again.

Plenty of people were focused on the next step that Sena intended to take. People were also waiting for Sena to announce the specific plan for the company’s listing.

Amidst the raging chaos, William was the most upset person out there.

William, who had thought that he could successfully defeat both Jasper Laine and Celine Maynard this time around, sat in his office with a despondent look on his face.

“Sign it,” Celine said as she placed an investigation document before him.

William glanced at the investigation document and sneered. “Miss Maynard, you’re quite skillful. You actually managed to persuade the chairman to use his veto power and managed to proceed with Sena’s listing despite offending three directors,” he said.

Celine said calmly, “Anyone can tell that Colossal Investments’ collaboration with Sena will result in benefits for both parties. Do you think that you can stop me with those tricks of yours?”

Laughing coldly, William replied, “Don’t forget that you’re still under investigation. Although you’ve already passed the Terra regional investigation, you’ll still have to face a direct review after returning to the headquarters.”

“I’ve never harmed the interest of Colossal Investments, nor did I receive bribes from anyone ever since I joined the company. Do you think that I’m afraid of getting investigated?” Celine asked in a stony voice.

“Are you going to sign this document? If you aren’t, tell me right now. I don’t need to waste time over here.”

William picked up his pen and signed the document with a blank expression. He then pushed it back to Celine. “Don’t tell me whether you’ve done it or not. Just tell the investigation team,” he said coldly.

“You and Jasper shouldn’t be too proud of yourselves right now. Although Sena is going to be listed, its opening price is yet to be known. I heard that you promised to withdraw from the financial sector and compensate the bank with a sum equaling three times the commission if the share price is below a hundred US dollars,” he teased.

“I really want to know if Jasper is that good in bed, to the extent that you’re willing to pay such a high price in order to protect his interests.”

As soon as William finished speaking, Celine splashed a cup of hot coffee onto him.

William screamed and jumped up after being drenched in coffee. He slapped his face, which had scalded by the hot coffee, repeatedly.

“B*tch, what are you doing?!” William yelled out in anger.

Celine stared at William frigidly. A delicate and charming smile suddenly appeared on her icy face. “Please remember that not just anyone can joke with me like that. Take yourself for instance. Your words disgust me. If it happens again, you’ll get something far worse than a hot cup of coffee,” she said.

After that, Celine picked up the document, turned around, and left gracefully, leaving William roaring in fury in the office.

Life at the Top Chapter 766

After returning to her own office, Celine let down her guard and leaned back on the chair in exhaustion. She then closed her eyes to take a light nap.

She did not know how much time had passed when she was awoken by the sound of the door opening. She sat up straight in record time and recomposed herself to once again display the stance of a strong and capable woman in the workforce.

Celine sighed in relief when she noticed that it was her new secretary entering the room. "Is there anything urgent, Merrie?" She asked.

As Celine's new secretary, Merrie Jones admired this powerful woman whom she idolized from the bottom of her heart. "Miss Maynard, the investigation team has left today. I just wanted to ask about our work schedule tomorrow," she said courteously.

"Cancel everything," Celine said with a wave of her hand. "I'm returning to New York soon. My current priority is to get Sena listed successfully. Besides, I have to get reviewed by headquarters in New York," she added.

Merrie nodded. After a while, she mustered up her courage and said, "Miss Maynard, is it worth doing this? I heard that...I heard..."

"What did you hear? Did you hear that there's something going on between Jasper Laine and me? Am I his lover, or did Jasper Laine offer me tons of benefits so that I would help him out?" Celine asked in amusement.

A tense look of nervousness appeared on Merrie's face. "No, I don't believe the rumors circulating in the company. However, you have way too much on the line, Miss Maynard," she said anxiously.

Celine chuckled and said, "Alright, this is none of your concern. You can head home now."

Merrie turned around to leave after nodding in response.

Celine sat alone in her dark office room and stared at the colorful lights of the city below. She was overcome by an inexplicable sense of loneliness.

She took out her phone and called Jasper.

The moment the call went through, and a radiant smile formed on her lips, washing away all her fatigue and loneliness.

"Hey, it's been a few days but you didn't even bother to call. Didn't you say that you'd miss me?"

Thousands of miles away, Jasper was having a meeting with Jack Tanner and the other executives of Sena. He gestured for them to continue with the meeting and walked out of the meeting room. "I'm busy. Besides, you should have been busy these past few days as well. Anyways, we'll see each other very soon," he said with a chuckle.

"Once a scumbag gets what he wants, they usually use work as an excuse not to call," Celine said playfully.

Although they were talking through the phone, Jasper could picture the enchanting and charming expression on Celine's face right now. He could imagine the way that she would smile at him teasingly while fixing a provocative gaze upon him as she spoke.

Jasper emptied his mind of these thoughts at once and replied in a muffled voice, "After getting what I want? Others will think that there's something going on between us if they hear you say that."

“Alright, enough with the nonsense. In three days, we’ll be heading to New York,” Celine said.

“Has it been confirmed?” Jasper asked. His heart lurched. Although he had been preparing for it for some time, he was still inevitably excited when the moment finally arrived.

“It’s confirmed,” Celine said as she chuckled softly. “I have a feeling that you will shine brighter from the moment Sena gets listed. Everyone will look up to you in all of your dazzling glory,” she said in a complicated tone.

“...Were you previously involved in multi-level marketing?”

Jasper’s words caused Celine to hang up the call in a fit of rage.

Celine stared at the night view with a completely different mood as compared to a few minutes ago. She suddenly burst out in laughter after hanging up the call.

Her smile was the epitome of uncontended beauty. Her fatal, alluring smile could move the heart of anyone.

However, nobody had the chance to appreciate the view of her smile.

After returning to the meeting room in satisfaction, Jasper knocked on the table and gestured for Jack to stop the discussion. He looked at the executives of Sena, who were staring at him with sparkling gazes and looks of anticipation. Suddenly, he laughed out loud and said, “In three days, all the executives will get on a chartered flight to New York. The company will pay for everything!”

“Yay!”

“Long live Sena!”

Everyone in the office celebrated with a burst of excitement. The executives, who had been through countless struggles and were currently in their forties, were as exhilarated as children right now.

It was an extremely important and glorious moment in the life of a domestic corporate practitioner to be able to represent companies from Somerland on the Nasdaq listing in the year 2001.

They were standing right in front of the top 99.9999% of people in Somerland at this point in time.

...

Three days later.

Sena had booked a charter flight from Somerland Air. Jack had even driven Jasper out of the first-class business cockpit.

Henry had no choice but to take a seat in the economy class area with a somber look on his face while he watched Jasper chat with two women through video call at the same time using two different laptops.

He muttered the words "Make a mistake! Make a mistake! Make a mistake and let them find out the truth!" repeatedly under his breath.

Wendy Schuler was on the left while Anna Law was on the right.

An overwhelming tension underlined Jasper's usual calm expression.

Both women were oblivious to the situation. They did not know about each other's existence.

"Jasp, I've checked the weather. The weather in New York is quite cold right now. Remember to bring more clothes," Wendy said in a gentle voice.

“You aren’t allowed to fool around with other people!” Anna reminded him in a tone that was laced with threatening undertones.

From the way that they spoke, one could tell that both of these women had vastly different personalities.

Celine Maynard?

The thought of another woman surfaced in Jasper’s mind.

He pushed her image out of his mind immediately. It was already a battlefield with just the two of them. He only had two legs and two knees. If he added another laptop, where could he put it? Would he have to sprout another leg?

“Don’t worry, I know what to do,” Jasper replied to both of their contrasting questions with his immaculate speaking abilities. He then proceeded to smile at both of them.

“Sigh, I really want to go to New York as well... I’ve never been to Fifth Avenue or Wall Street before,” Wendy let out a sigh. The project at Southface River was coming to an end soon and she had to manage the project’s operation. If it were not for the project, she would have followed Jasper to New York.

“New York is a vanity fair for capital. It’s good to make more friends over there. It’ll benefit you,” Anna reminded him on a serious note.

“Yes, I’ll come back as soon as I can. I’ll bring presents for you,” Jasper said with a smile on his face.

“Alright, alright. The plane is about to take off, right? I’ll hang up now. Remember to call me after you arrive,” Wendy said with a small smile on her face.

“I’ll keep the present in mind. Let’s see if you manage to bring me something that I like,” Anna chuckled. “Alright, I’ll hang up now. Remember to call me when you arrive,” she added.

“The plane hasn’t taken off yet. Shall we continue chatting for a bit?”

When Henry heard what Jasper said, the renowned wealthy man from the second generation of Harbor City stared at Jasper with widened eyes. It was hard to believe that such a terrifying man existed in real life.

He advanced through the battlefield by opting to retreat. It was the perfect move.

Life at the Top Chapter 767

After bidding Wendy and Anna goodbye, Jasper led everyone onto the plane.

After a fourteen-hour flight, Jasper and the others arrived at New York, which was the economic center of the world’s most powerful country, the United States. It was also known as Gotham City.

After the plane landed, Jasper realized that Colossal Investments had sent a senior client manager named Jameson to greet them. Celine Maynard was nowhere to be seen.

“Where’s Celine?” Jasper frowned as he asked Jameson, who greeted them with a radiant smile on his face.

“Are you referring to the general manager of the Terra regional branch? She can’t make it as she’s busy with something at the moment, so she asked me to greet you on her behalf. Besides, I will also be in charge of contacting you on everything relating to the series of handover work that needs to be carried out for Sena’s listing,” Jameson said courteously.

Jasper halted in his steps after registering what he had said. He cast a thoughtful look at Jameson and asked, “Does Colossal Investments endorse the act of stealing the fruits of someone else’s labor?”

Jasper knew that Colossal Investments viewed their collaboration with Sena as a high priority case for the company. Plenty of people would surely get jealous of a case that brought forth as many of benefits as Sena’s listing did.

Jasper was worried that Celine would get buried by the power struggle occurring within Colossal Investments, and that someone else would take all the credit for her work.

If that was the case, he would need to have a talk with Colossal Investments.

Jameson was slightly stunned. Obviously, he did not understand what Jasper had meant by “stealing the fruits of someone else’s labor” as it was an idiom that was usually used exclusively in Somerland. However, after his assistant explained it to him, he immediately replied Jasper, “Mr. Laine, you must have misunderstood.”

“I’m only in charge of greeting you and communicating your needs and queries to the investment bank. Miss Maynard is still in charge of the specifics. She is currently caught up at the headquarters of Colossal Investments due to an urgent matter. She’ll be back once she’s done handling the issue,” he explained.

“I assure you that the investment bank will never change the person in charge of your listing without your consent.”

The look of distaste on Jasper’s face eased slightly after he heard Jameson say this. He smiled at Jameson and said, “Let’s head to the hotel at once. To be honest, I’m really tired after sitting on the plane for more than ten hours.”

Jameson was all nerves after he saw how quickly Jasper’s expression had changed. This man from Somerland did not seem like he would be easily fooled.

Colossal Investments would be responsible for the reception of all the executives in Sena's business team. As such, Colossal Investments had spent a generous sum of money to accommodate their needs.

The accommodation that they had arranged for Jasper and his team was the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, which was located adjacent to Wall Street.

Jasper and Jack each had a presidential suite to themselves whereas the other executives were each allocated to a luxurious suite respectively.

In terms of accommodation fees alone, their daily expenditure exceeded 10000 US dollars.

However, this sum of money was next to nothing for Colossal Investments.

Not long after arriving at the hotel, Jameson went to Jasper's room.

"Mr. Laine, according to the schedule, you and your team can rest for the time being. We will be holding a banquet for all of you in the evening. I will notify you beforehand."

Jasper nodded and said, "In that case, I'm sorry to have to trouble you."

A faint smile formed across Jameson's lips as he bowed down to Jasper. "It's my honor to be at your service," he said.

After speaking, Jameson walked out of the room swiftly.

Jasper sat down on the sofa and pondered something. He then made a phone call to Celine.

The situation aside, he had already arrived at New York, but Celine had yet to show herself. Because of this, Jasper sensed that something was off.

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Nevertheless, Celine did not pick up the call even after Jasper had dialed her phone number for some time.

Just as he was considering whether to contact Jameson with a frown, Jasper heard the sound of his door opening. This was accompanied by the sound of a phone ringing.

Picking up his phone, Jasper stared at Celine, who was standing by the door with her phone in her hand, speechless. She had a radiant smile plastered upon her face. "How are you capable of getting my room card no matter which hotel I stay at?" He asked.

Celine smiled proudly and said, "Please don't lodge a complaint about me. This hotel is one of Colossal Investments' partners. Clients of Colossal Investments will usually have their accommodation booked here, and it took me a long time to get acquainted with the manager. If you report me, it won't be that easy to get your room card the next time."

"I didn't think of that. Thanks for reminding me," Jasper said with a smile.

Celine walked into the room with her hands behind her back. She held the room card in her hand and closed the door on her way in. She then sat down on the sofa and surveyed the surroundings of the room. "Are you used to staying here?" She asked.

"Hotels are all the same, aren't they?" Jasper replied. He leaned on the sofa and fixed his gaze upon Celine, who was inches away from him. "Jameson said that you were busy with work," he said.

“Do you think that Sena’s listing is an easy matter?” Celine asked as she rolled her eyes at him.

“I know that you think that the commission fee charged by our investment bank is ridiculous. You even previously told me that I was an accomplice to a committee of vultures,

“However, have you ever thought about it properly? For a foreign company to get listed on the Nasdaq, we’d need to conduct a tax review, asset review, debt review, and credit review in Somerland, and then covert these review reports into evaluation documents.

“This evaluation document will be sent to a third-party company for auditing after going through Colossal Investments’ internal professional evaluation. If there is no problem, it will be submitted to the Nasdaq Review Committee to be reviewed.

“Even after the trial, there are still a lot of branches and departments that we need to visit one by one. That process itself is so annoyingly tedious.”

Celine rolled her eyes as she continued rambling on. “After everything that I’ve done, I’ll only be getting 1% of the total commission at most,” she remarked.

“Quit your job then. Join my company. You won’t earn a penny less than you do right now,” Jasper said.

Celine fixed a gaze of amusement on Jasper and asked, “Are you really going to take care of me?”

“You can say that. I really do value your abilities anyways,” Jasper replied.

“Tsk tsk, what a scumbag. Other men are only after women’s bodies, but you’re asking me to work for you. It’ll only happen in your dreams,” Celine said.

Celine placed her fair arm on the armrest of the sofa and supported her temple with her hand.

This posture made her seem indolent but charming at the same time. She looked just like a wealthy lady that was lazing on the couch while emanating her charm and beauty to her heart's content.

"Aren't you even going to consider it?" Jasper asked half-jokingly.

"I'm only interested in the financial industry and banking. Let's talk about it again when you open a bank," Celine drawled.

After chatting for a while, Celine stood up and said, "Alright, I need to go back. A lot of prominent figures from Wall Street will be attending the banquet in the evening. They're extremely interested in you, so you can try networking. Colossal Investments will send some executives over as well. Contact Jameson if there's anything that you need."

"Aren't you coming?" Jasper asked with a frown.

Celine leaned on the doorframe and faced forward while she fixed her gaze upon Jasper. Her eyes dazzled under the light. "Do you want me to come?" She asked.

After speaking, Celine opened the door without waiting for his response. "I won't go even if you want me to. I've been extremely busy these few days. You probably won't see me for the next few days as I have loads of stuff that I need to handle. However, I'll be there on the day of the listing," she told him.

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After walking out from the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, the smile on Celine's face gradually dissipated.

By the time she arrived at a black commercial vehicle that had been parked at the entrance of the hotel for a long time, the expression on her face was impassive.

The door of the commercial vehicle slid open to reveal two men and two women sitting inside the car. One of the blonde women spoke out in a sarcastic tone, "Miss Maynard, have you finished catching up with your friend? If you're done, we should go now. We have fulfilled your request to visit Jasper Laine, but we hope that you can cooperate with us during our following investigation."

Celine eyed the blonde woman coldly. "Catherine, don't think that I'm oblivious about what happened between William and you. Didn't the two of you cause the scandal in the office back then? He threw you aside for his own future. Just look at you now. So many years have passed, but you're still so loyal to him," she said.

Catherine's expression darkened as she gritted her teeth. "Celine Maynard, don't get ahead of yourself. Don't forget that you're now being investigated by the bank!" She blurted out.

"An investigation is just an investigation. What's the matter? When have I ever said that I wouldn't cooperate with you?" Celine questioned her in a frigid tone.

"It's just an investigation. Maintain a polite attitude in front of me. I'm still the general manager of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments. In terms of position, I rank higher than any of you. If you offend me in any way, none of you will be let off easily."

Celine finished speaking with an impassive expression on her face. She then got into the car.

"Start the car," Celine took the initiative to give the order.

The employee that was in charge of driving the car was stunned. He turned to look at Catherine instinctively.

However, Catherine had a sullen expression plastered upon her face. She wanted to retort against Celine, but she did not dare to do so. "Start the car!" She said through gritted teeth.

The black commercial vehicle slowly left. It merged into the heavy traffic and headed toward the headquarters of Colossal Investments.

...

It was almost time for the evening banquet.

As the representative of Colossal Investments, William had returned to New York as well. He arrived at the banquet hall of the hotel before the actual event time.

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel was Colossal Investments' long-term partner. Therefore, the people here all knew William, who was a young elite within the financial circle. They all greeted him politely.

William nodded with a smile in response.

He grabbed hold of a staff member and asked him nonchalantly, "May I know who the service manager in charge of the banquet in the evening is?"

The staff member was surprised by the fact that William was talking to him. He immediately replied, "That would be me, Mr. William."

"That's great," William said cheerily as he took out a hundred US dollar bill and handed it over to him. "The banquet tonight is extremely important. Not only will the executives of Colossal Investments be here, but a lot of elites from Wall Street will be in attendance as well. This is an opportunity for Colossal Investments to demonstrate its capabilities to Sena, so you must guard the event strictly. Don't let any strangers into the hall," he said.

"Especially a young man from Somerland. Understood?"

The service manager was slightly stunned. “Mr. William, I will definitely carry out my responsibilities to the fullest of my abilities, but a young man from Somerland? Isn’t Sena a company from Somerland? Is there a mistake?” He asked instinctively.

I want you to make a mistake!

William thought to himself. Nevertheless, he grinned widely at the staff member and said, “Don’t worry. Don’t bother about those who are older, but as for a young man... Think about it, how can a young man in his twenties attend such an important event? Anyways, just remember to check the guest list strictly. Here is your tip.”

The service manager pondered upon it for a while and figured that there should not be any problem with his requests. He agreed to it at once and put away his tip happily.

William turned around and left with a smile on his face. He felt extremely exhilarated.

He knew that arranging for someone to prevent Jasper from entering the hall was not anything great, but he just wanted to disgust him. That was more than enough for him.

William wanted to embarrass Jasper so that he would feel disgusted by them.

He felt beyond excited and satisfied upon thinking about the awkward scenario that would occur later.

...

The evening banquet commenced at the set timing.

With Colossal Investments' persuasion, and the Sena's attractive concept, Sena's pre-listing banquet managed to draw the attention of a lot of famous investors from Wall Street.

This evening banquet could be regarded as a high-end networking event between business elites.

Jasper attended the event clad in a formal business suit. As he had left his room slightly late, he did not ask Jack and the others to wait for him. He decided to head straight to the banquet on his own instead.

He had just arrived at the entrance when a manager with a blank expression on his face came over and said, "Sir, please show me your invitation!"

"Invitation?"

Jasper frowned. As the main stakeholder in tonight's banquet, Jasper did not need an invitation.

The manager smiled. He was just about to say something when the door to the hall opened.

Jameson walked out in a hurry. He seemed to be looking for someone. His gaze shone once he caught sight of Jasper, and he walked over courteously at once.

"Mr. Laine, the banquet has already begun. Without the main stakeholder, the banquet can't commence. Follow me in right now," he said.

Jameson's words shocked the service manager.

Jasper chuckled and patted the service manager on his shoulder. He then followed Jameson into the hall.

Jasper thought that the manager was just carrying out his usual responsibilities. He would not hold a grudge over a small issue like that.

Meanwhile, that manager broke out into cold sweat as he stared at the two figures walking into the hall. He had prepared for the worst and thought that he was about to meet his ancestors in heaven.

“Is this that certain someone who wasn’t supposed to be eligible to participate in the banquet? He is the main person being celebrated in tonight’s banquet! You b*stard, William. I hope you’re faced with bad luck tonight!”

The service manager dabbed at the cold sweat on his face. He was still pretty shaken up. He was lucky that Jasper did not blame him for all the trouble, or otherwise, his job would be at risk!

Life at the Top Chapter 770

When Jasper entered the banquet hall, his appearance immediately attracted everyone’s attention.

Under the propaganda deemed necessary by Colossal Investments, Jasper’s identity as the largest private beneficiary from the crude oil futures market last year had been disclosed to the public.

Another important identity of his, the organizer of the Harbor City share market rescue plan, had been revealed as well.

With these achievements associated with him, Jasper attracted the attention of everyone in the banquet hall, which was full of elites from Wall Street.

Everyone looked at this young man from Somerland with a curious and inquiring gaze. They wanted to see exactly what kind of extraordinary man was capable of making such an awe-inspiring move in the crude oil futures market.

“Friends, look who’s here!”

Jameson announced to everyone with a loud laugh as he wrapped an arm around Jasper’s shoulders passionately.

“This is Mr. Laine, whom I’ve told all of you about. He’s from the ancient and mysterious Somerland.

“Just like that great country, he is full of extraordinary power. During the crude oil futures incident some time ago, he snatched a bunch of coveted benefits from the hands of governments and capital predators.

“Of course, there’s the shocking Harbor City share market rescue plan as well. Mr. Laine, who is right beside me, initiated the entire plan. I believe everyone here is familiar with that wonderful game of capital, right?”

Shoved under the spotlight, Jasper responded to everyone’s curious gazes with a wide grin on his face.

Meanwhile, Jack Tanner, Henry Law, and the others stared at him with bitter smiles on their faces.

“The West really favors young geniuses. Old men like us don’t catch their attention,” Jack joked.

Henry was slightly envious as well. “When can I ever be that awesome?” He asked.

Jasper greeted the elites of Wall Street in fluent English.

Although these people were not the top dogs on Wall Street, they were not random nobodies either. Otherwise, they would not have been invited to this banquet.

In a larger sense, they were the backbone of Wall Street.

Because of this, Jasper naturally did not mind forging an amicable relationship with them.

In the future, he would be participating in the international market. Thus, it was possible that one of these people will be of great use to him in the future.

Not long after, Jameson came over with a blonde middle-aged man.

“Mr. Laine, let me introduce you to this man. He’s one of the most prominent figures within the real estate industry in the United States. He really admires your ability and wishes to get to know you.”

As soon as Jameson finished speaking, Jasper turned around to look at the said man. His gaze instantly wavered once he set his eyes upon him.

He would not have been that shocked if even Winston Bennett or Charles Granger had appeared before him.

However, the person before him had an insanely powerful identity.

He was the future president of the United States.

Donnie Todd.

He was from the second generation of an extremely rich family in the United States. After taking over the family business, he gradually flourished and became one of the most powerful real estate developers in the United States.

As a free-spirited man, he changed his focus to politics after engaging in business of the highest order... He then rose to the absolute top once he got into politics.

It was simply incredible.

However, all of this would take place in the future. As things stood, he was still a real estate tycoon in the United States right now. He did not have any other special identities.

Jasper did not expect Donnie Todd to appear at this banquet.

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Laine. I see a reflection of my younger self in you. You’re as capable and determined as I was back then.”

Todd said in his characteristic voice that resembled a drake.

Just like his personality, he was a detached and conceited man. He never failed to glorify himself even when others were already showering him with praise.

Life at the Top Chapter 771

Someone like this resembled the standard antagonist depicted in novels.

However, he was a winner in real life.

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Todd. I’ve been hearing about you for a long time now,” Jasper smiled and extended his hand.

It was now Todd’s turn to be surprised. “Oh?” He asked.

Jameson, who was standing beside them, had a curious look on his face as well.

“I really enjoy watching movies. I remember that there was a movie that had been shot in your family’s hotel, and you made a cameo in it as well,” Jasper said.

This was a small snippet that not much people knew about even in future years. However, it was something that genuinely existed.

Todd burst out into laughter and said, “Mr. Laine, not many people know about this. However, you are right. I did have a cameo role, but I didn’t expect you to notice it.”

“I’m really observant toward details,” Jasper said jokingly with a shrug.

Todd’s appearance caused complicated emotions to rise up within Jasper.

After all, Todd was considered one of the most prominent figures that Jasper had met after his reincarnation. In the future, he would be someone that had the ability to directly affect global situations.

Nevertheless, Jasper did not pay too much heed this.

Ultimately, Todd's future had nothing much to do with him.

In any case, the most he could do right now was to use this opportunity to get acquainted with him and leave a good impression on him.

That was all that he could do.

Jasper had no intention of participating in the United States' future political arena. One could drown if they walked into deep waters.

As one of the top real estate developers in the United States, Todd's conversation with Jasper attracted the attention of almost all the American guests.

"Mr. Laine, I've heard about what you've gone through as well. I think that Sena is a great investment opportunity," Todd said.

Jasper smiled and replied, "Of course.

"Sena is the first domestic Internet company from Somerland to be listed on the Nasdaq after the Internet bubble burst. Its performance will largely affect the confidence of the other domestic Internet companies within Somerland as well.

"You must know that Somerland has reformed and opened up, therefore its rise was only a matter of time. In light of this, I can confidently say that Sena has great potential, both subjectively and objectively."

"As far as Sena is concerned, it is the first Internet company that has truly achieved profitability instead of having to survive through capital injections from investors.

“Not only does it own Somerland’s top-ranking website portal right now, but it also operates the world’s second-largest online game. For a company like that, I really can’t think of any way it would make a loss.”

Plenty of people showed contemplative expressions after listening to what Jasper had said.

Todd smiled and said, “I believe your vision. Jameson, does Sena have any pre-IPO shares available for purchase?”

“My apologies, Mr. Todd. The pre-IPO shares have all been bought when Mr. Laine was back in Somerland,” Jameson said in a somber tone.

Everyone’s expressions changed immediately.

No matter how good a company was or how favorable it was to the public, it was unlikely for its shares to possess such huge demand before the IPO.

After all, this was a form of investment that was no different from gambling.

However, Sena had managed to sell out their pre-IPO quota a long time ago. The demand for its share seemed to far exceed its supply.

Noticing the regretful look in Todd’s gaze, Jasper chuckled and made a suggestion without thinking twice. “If you’re really interested in purchasing the shares, I can provide you with a special pre-IPO allocation of 10 million US dollars, Mr. Todd,” he said.

To Jasper, this was equivalent to sending money straight to Todd’s doorstep.

However, if he could manage to win Todd’s favor with a mere amount of 10 million US dollars, it would benefit him greatly.

“That would be excellent,” Todd said. His gaze warmed as he stared at Jasper and replied, “I will definitely be there on the day of Sena’s listing.”

Life at the Top Chapter 772

“Let’s toast to the successful listing of Sena tomorrow!”

Jameson was good at creating a celebratory atmosphere. In other words, he was extremely aware about some of the social norms of the upper-class in the United States.

Therefore, his behaviors and actions were all catered to please the people within these circles.

Everyone immediately reciprocated to his cues and prompts.

After all, with Jasper’s solid track record and Todd’s favoritism, most of them now wished to get their hands on some of Sena’s pre-IPO allocation.

Jasper was not stingy about this either.

He generously allocated another 10 million US dollars to each and every person that was present at the banquet.

10 million US dollars was not a small sum of money to Jasper, but he did not have to worry about earning money when he was on Wall Street. This was an important investment to forge more amicable connections.

Although a total quota of 10 million US dollars did not sound like a lot, everyone knew that the share price would spike once Sena got listed. If they invested a

total of a million US dollars right now, it was likely that it would soon rise to 5 or even 8 million US dollars not too long after.

Nobody would reject the opportunity to earn easy money.

These elites of Wall Street, who were close associates of Colossal Investments, showed a high amount of admiration for Jasper due to his sensible way of handling things.

The banquet then officially commenced, at which point everyone sought an opportunity to talk to Jasper. During the entire process, Jasper received a lot of business cards.

His 10 million US dollar investment had started to show its efficacy almost instantly.

Meanwhile, Jack and the others had started mingling around as well. They began making toasts with the elites from Wall Street.

Although these elites did not have much individual power on their own, the widespread effects brought about by their favor toward Sena were clear.

Jack and the others were beyond delighted to get acquainted with these elites.

Besides, Jack had once been a prestigious professional manager from Weresoft. He wouldn't be out of place at a time like this.

In addition to the Wall Street elites that had been invited to this banquet, some senior leaders from Colossal Investments had attended the event as well.

The vice-president and two directors were at the banquet right now.

It was an event that was of a considerable scale.

Everyone treated Jasper with a high degree of friendliness and kindness except for one person.

William.

Standing by the corner, William watched Jasper skillfully weave his way through the crowd with a heavy gaze. He had a stiff expression on his face due to his overwhelming jealousy.

Initially, he had intended to embarrass Jasper. He had even made a pact with a few of the elites whom he was close to, and they had planned to humiliate Jasper when the banquet commenced.

However, Jasper had easily resolved the incident at the entrance. The elites whom he was close to had long forgotten their agreement—they were currently thinking about the benefits that the pre-IPO allocation that they had just received would bring to them in the future.

“F*cking b*stard, what a group of short-sighted country bumpkins!” William cursed under his breath harshly.

“Hey hey hey, come over here.”

Just as William was consumed by infuriation, the voice of a young man rang out.

It had been a long time since someone addressed him with a simple “hey”. William turned around and stared at the man with an icy gaze.

The man had despicable facial features that were characteristic of Somerland, and he seemed to be around Jasper’s age.

William identified this person’s name from the name list of Jasper’s accompanying executives. This man was Henry Law.

He heard that he was from the wealthy second generation in Somerland.

William's lips curved in disdain.

What kind of wealthy second generation could come out from a backward country like Somerland?

He had to be a country bumpkin that did not even know how to drink coffee, but thought that he was a nobleman just because he possessed a small amount of money.

"I'm calling you. Why are you daydreaming?"

Henry frowned in distaste. Were the hotel attendants in New York all so stuck-up? He did not seem to pay their guests any heed although he was clearly calling out to him.

Clad in a business suit, William did not engage in conversation with anyone or eat anything; He simply stood stiffly by the corner. Therefore, Henry had mistaken him as a hotel attendant.

"What is it?" William asked, suppressing the blazing fury within him.

"Go and get me a cocktail. Occasions like these are really boring," Henry said in an idle tone.

William finally got a grasp of the situation at hand. Did Henry Law mistake him for a hotel attendant?

Rage surged through him immediately as he pinned a frigid gaze upon Henry and asked, "Don't you have legs? What do you take me for?"

Henry frowned. He was growing impatient.

“Do you want a tip?” Henry asked. He then pulled out a bill from his pocket and threw it at William. “Sure, today is my brother-in-law’s special day. I’d rather not hold a grudge against you. I’ve given you the tip. Go get me a cocktail at once,” he said.

“...”

William stared at the ten-dollar bill in his hands. He felt like entire being, from his body to his soul, was being greatly humiliated at that moment.

“I’m not a hotel attendant!” William said stonily while gritting his teeth.

“Why are you standing here if you aren’t a hotel attendant?” Henry asked as he stared straight at him with an odd glance. He frowned again. “Do you think that the tip is inadequate?” He asked.

His words caused William to burst out in a fit of anger. He stared at Henry impassively and said, “Take your damn money back, you f*cking Somerland monkey.”

Who was Henry Law?

As one of the top members of the wealthy second generation, others had to thank him for his mercy if he chose to spare them.

William’s indolent attitude already triggered Henry’s temper. If this occasion was not important to Jasper, Henry would have slapped him in the face right there and then.

As soon as William insulted him, an overcast expression formed on Henry’s face.

Henry, who preferred actions over words, picked up a piece of cake from the platter of food on the banquet table and smashed it into William’s face without saying a single word.

William did not expect Henry to spring into action straight away. He was taken aback by swift movements.

Right then, Henry, who was overwhelmed with fury, kicked him right in the stomach.

Although Henry was not a martial arts master like Julian, he was pretty close. He had learnt a few moves from him, and also went to the gym quite frequently. Therefore, it was impossible for William to stand up against him.

William shouted out loud as Henry kicked him. He then fell down and sprawled onto the ground.

The loud ruckus immediately attracted everyone's attention.

Unlike in Somerland, the elites from Wall Street crowded around the scene and started watching them excitedly instead of showing fear or disgust when they caught sight of a physical scuffle.

Jasper made his way over as well.

"What's wrong?" He asked.

Henry grinned widely at Jasper and said, "This idiot called me a Somerland monkey, so I wanted to create some entertainment for your banquet."

Henry thought that Jasper would stop him, but he nodded instead. He glanced at William and said, "Do whatever you want, but don't kill him."

Life at the Top Chapter 773

With Jasper giving him the green light, Henry was instantly elated.

However, seeing as the rest of the guests had also been attracted by the commotion and had surrounded them, there was no way Henry could run over and deliver a few more kicks to William now.

As expected, a Vice President from Colossal Investments' Headquarters soon walked over.

"Mr. Laine, Mr. Law, I believe that there must've been some sort of misunderstanding."

The Vice President smiled wryly. He was infuriated by William's foolish actions, but he had no other choice than to clean up his mess after him.

Others may not know who Henry was, but he sure did.

Thus, he knew that it was going to result in huge trouble the moment William, that imbecile, insulted Henry.

To some degree, the Vice President would much rather William have insulted Jasper instead of Henry.

Jasper looked at the Vice President calmly and spoke in a meaningful tone, "I see. So, the Vice President believes that William's verbal attack and racist remarks to my partner were merely a misunderstanding, correct?"

In the United States, racial discrimination was a huge issue that was broadcasted loudly.

Hence, right after Jasper spoke, the expressions of the black people in the hall, as well as the white Vice President changed.

The black people looked at William distastefully, causing the Vice President to feel the urge to kick William twice more.

“Mr. Laine, Mr. Law, please believe me when I say that Colossal Investments will not allow any racist behavior or opinions. I’m sure Mr. William had accidentally misspoken.”

With that, the Vice President turned to look at William who had cake all over his face and was wearing an embarrassed and painful expression. “What are you waiting for? Apologize now!”

William suppressed the burning anger within him. He did not understand why he had to apologize when he was the one who had gotten hit.

However, under the Vice President’s demanding gaze, William bit his tongue. He knew apologizing was the only way to resolve this issue peacefully.

Apologizing to Henry was fine, he would treat it as an insignificant attack on his dignity.

However, he would much rather die than apologize to Jasper.

Rooted in place, William ignored the burning agony in his abdomen. He felt like a clown, one that everyone was currently laughing at.

All of this was Jasper’s fault!

William blamed Jasper for everything.

Taking a deep breath, William first apologized to Henry with a bow. While the latter sneered, William turned to Jasper.

“My apologies, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper took in William’s pitiful state and spoke calmly, “Now that I think about it, we’re old friends, aren’t we, Mr. William? If memory serves me right, you’ve always had something against me, haven’t you, Mr. William?”

William calmly replied, “Those are personal matters. They have nothing to do with what happened today.”

“Is that so?” Jasper chuckled, “And yet, I’ve heard that you tried to prevent Sena from going public through Colossal Investments, Mr. William.”

When he said this, all the guests’ looked intrigued.

Who would have thought that there was such a story behind today’s incident?

The Vice President’s expression changed as well and he hastily turned to Jasper, “No matter what, Mr. Laine, our partnership is going well now, isn’t it? I have faith that our partnership won’t deteriorate because of such external factors.”

Life at the Top Chapter 774

Jasper chuckled but neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement.

Capitalists were like vampires when it came to earning profits. They could shift from being an enemy to a friend for the sake of making a buck, but they were also just as likely to shift from a friend to become an enemy in the future.

That was why Jasper had kept Colossal Investments at a very specific distance from himself.

Not too far, but not too close either. Not too friendly, but also not too cold.

Essentially, they were both just using each other.

Their relationship was currently in its honeymoon phase, and Jasper wanted to make William's life difficult during this period. However, he made sure not to go too far.

"You're very right, but I do think that Colossal Investments should also reconsider whether some people are suited for their positions within the company or not. Mr. William, for example, should truly be reconsidered, considering our partnership almost ended because of him."

Jasper's words had the Vice President deep in thought as he repeatedly looked over at William.

William's eyes grew red in infuriation. He did not expect Jasper to bring up past incidents during such an event and rat on him in front of the investment company's senior executives.

Seeing how the situation was turning against him, William let go of all his inhibitions and fought back.

"What's the point of saying all this, Jasper? You can say what you want, but it won't change the fact that Celine has taken the blame for you. Do you really think that Sena would be getting listed so easily if not for Celine?"

Jasper replied indifferently, "I think you forgot something very important here. The only reason I came to Colossal was because of my connections with Celine. I believed that both her business prowess and other strengths could help Sena go public as quickly as possible.

"That's why I came to Colossal. Not because of how powerful Colossal was, but because Celine was in Colossal. I could've gone for Merlene or Layman if all I

needed was a company that could sell Sena's shares and help Sena go public on the Nasdaq."

William scoffed. Wiping the cake off his face, he did not hold back at all. "Stop making it sound so professional. Nobody knows if you and Celine have had any secret deals behind our backs."

Jasper's expression immediately grew cold when he heard that.

Integrity was much more important in the financial industry as compared to any other.

Tens of millions passed through the industry's hands every minute, and the moment you were suspected of corruption, it would become a black mark on that person's record forever.

That person could be exceptionally talented, but they would not be valued after they were marked.

From what Jasper could see, William was merely using this chance to defame Celine.

There was no way he would let such a thing happen.

"Celine and my relationship is purely professional, and she has only discussed the partnership with me on behalf of Colossal Investments. Please provide evidence if you claim that there has been any secret deal between the two of us, or I will lodge a complaint to Colossal about your acts of defamation and exercise my right to sue you."

The appropriate solution varied depending on the circumstance. The financial industry was filled with elites, and Jasper could not counter William's verbal garbage with brute force.

Formal complaints and legal proceedings, however, were the perfect solution.

As expected, the guests all nodded at Jasper's determined words.

Even so, William scoffed at the sight of this and replied, "Colossal Investments is currently reviewing Celine. How else would you explain her disappearance over the past few days? It's because she can't come at all! The case is solid. She wouldn't be undergoing investigation if you two hadn't done anything illegal!"

As his words fell, everyone felt an immediate shift in Jasper's aura.

It was as if anger had been brewing under the man's gentle facade the entire time, and it was all exploding now.

"What did you say?!"

Life at the Top Chapter 775

William sneered at the sight of Jasper's stormy expression. "What, are you still pretending not to know anything at all?"

"Stop acting already, there's no way you wouldn't know about Celine being under review. Are you telling me that you haven't realized any abnormalities at all? Or did Celine just not tell you anything?"

Scoffing, William stared at Jasper coldly. He acted as if he had just caught a thief red-handed and was looking down at Jasper with disdain.

"If you had the guts to collude with Celine from the outside, then why don't you have the guts to admit it?"

"Though I have to say, I'm impressed. I'd like to know how you managed to get Celine to be so loyal to you. She values her career more than she values her life, and yet, she's willing to put her entire career on the line for you."

“What a shame, it’s over for her now.”

With that, William sneered at Jasper disdainfully and spoke, “Congratulations to you though, now you’re successful and famous. All the benefits go to you, and you don’t even need to take responsibility for anything.”

Jasper remained calm as he listened to William speak, his mind filling with memories of Celine’s unusual behavior as of late.

While Celine had maintained her shy and peculiar personality as always in front of him, Jasper had long felt that something was off.

Jasper did not think too much back then, for he believed what Celine had told him about her being busy helping Sena go public.

However, now that he heard William’s words, this, coupled with Celine’s unusual behavior, caused a clear idea to appear in Jasper’s mind.

“I need to see Colossal Investment’s President, Mr. Paulson, right now,” Jasper told the Vice President.

He completely ignored William, who was still speaking. That man played an insignificant role in all this, and all Jasper wanted to do now was understand what was happening. Then he would leave it to Celine to decide her fate.

The Vice President looked hesitant and replied, “According to our schedule, you and the President are set to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow morning. I don’t know if the President is free if you wish to change the time so suddenly...”

Jasper ignored his explanation and spoke solemnly, “Mr. Vice President, I hope you understand that this meeting will affect whether Sena will continue to work with Colossal Investments or not.”

The Vice President's expression froze instantly. This was no longer something he could decide, so he quickly replied, "I'll contact the President now and schedule a meeting as soon as possible."

Then he left in a hurry.

Witnessing the scene, William could not help but sneer now that he had let go of all his inhibitions.

"You're telling me you don't know anything at all, Jasper?"

"What a stupid woman Celine is, haha. I can't believe this fool actually managed to fight against me for a couple of years. A miracle, really."

Jasper looked at William coldly. "Celine and I are innocent. You can search and investigate as much as you wish, but you're not going to find anything."

William chortled. "What a pair of partners in crime. That's what Celine said too, but how do you two explain the 20% discount in commission fee Celine gave you, hmm?"

Jasper replied calmly. "That's a decision she made with her own authority. Why does anyone have to explain this?"

William scoffed. "Looks like you really don't understand. Allow me to explain, then."

Life at the Top Chapter 776

“It’s true that as the general manager of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments, she has the right to lower your commission fee. However, this is also money that Colossal should receive, so she needs to provide a reasonable excuse for such a decision. One that neither she, nor you, has provided thus far.

“That alone is enough to screw her over!

William’s expression was wretched and twisted with delight, as if nothing sparked more joy in him than seeing Celine and Jasper in trouble.

At that moment, the Vice President returned and told Jasper, “The President’s willing to see you. Do you want to go over now?”

Jasper nodded. Instructing Jack to entertain the guests present properly, Jasper then followed the Vice President away.

Standing amidst the group of people, William stared sinisterly at Jasper’s disappearing figure and sneered.

The sneer was still on his face when a hand came to slap him right on his forehead.

“What the f*ck are you smiling at, looking so ugly and vile. Laugh again and I’ll slap your teeth out, is that what you want? F*ck right off, you disgust me.”

...

Colossal Investment Headquarters in Wall Street was not too far from the hotel that Jasper was staying in, being only two blocks away.

Following the Vice President in, Jasper took the designated elevator after alighting the car and arrived at the top floor.

In a luxurious-looking office, Jasper saw the head of the global economic and financial industry—Wharton Paulson.

Despite being past the age of sixty, Paulson still looked full of vigor while his eyes shone as if he could read minds.

Jasper was greeted exceptionally respectfully when he entered through the doors, with Paulson standing up and walking over from his office desk. He reached out and shook Jasper's hand. "Hello, Laine. It's nice to finally meet you."

No matter how you looked at it, Jasper did not hold a candle to Paulson's glory and capabilities. Thus, he was rather shocked by Paulson's politeness.

Jasper shook Paulson's hand and spoke, "You've heard of me, Mr. Paulson?"

Paulson invited Jasper to sit on the sofa in the meeting area and spoke with a smile, "I've been watching the Somerland stockmarket all this while. I thought that the western economy had reached a bottleneck after the year 2000 and that it would no longer be the center of the world's economic development like it was a few decades ago. I personally believe that Somerland was more qualified to take on such an important responsibility instead."

Jasper was shocked by Paulson's foresight, as reality would indeed unfurl as he had predicted. Somerland's position in the world's structure would also grow more important, while its economic development would also account for a greater percentage of worldwide growth.

However, neither of these were reasons behind why Jasper had come to see him today.

“Mr. Paulson, while I very much wish to continue exchanging views and opinions on the world’s future, please forgive me, as I have come today to speak about Celine Maynard instead,” Jasper spoke straightforwardly.

Paulson gave a small smile and replied, “I knew that you’d come to speak to me about this. But do not worry, Colossal Investments is not some violent hoodlum agency. A probity review is merely an investigation whereby we inquire about the reviewee’s previous work.

“Thus, Miss Maynard is very much alright now. Should you find it necessary, you are welcome to meet her at anytime.”

“But before we start, Laine, would you like some tea or coffee? I believe we should talk.”

“Tea, please. Thank you.”

Life at the Top Chapter 777

After the secretary brought two cups of tea over, Jasper spoke, “Mr. Paulson, I’d like to know how Colossal views Celine.”

Paulson chuckled and spoke, “Before I tell you that, I’d like to know how you view Celine.’

Jasper arched his brow slightly and replied, “She is my friend. When it comes to our working relationship, she has capabilities that others could only wish to possess, and thus, is able to save a lot of my time. In terms of our private life, she has a very unique personality and charisma, and I am fortunate to call her my friend.”

Paulson nodded. Leaning against the sofa, he replied, "That's a great answer. Honestly, I think I'm starting to envy you for having such a great friend. But Laine, you have to understand that the investment industry is very different from other industries.

"I encourage my employees to be friends with their clients, but they can only be friends professionally. The moment a client oversteps what we consider a normal friendship, it becomes a problem for both the investment company and the employee themselves."

Jasper replied calmly, "I understand the investment industry has its own rules of survival. But don't you think it's a bit too much to suspect Celine, who had just brought the investment company such a huge business deal, Mr. Paulson?"

"It's a necessary review. You have to understand that Colossal has its reasons too. Firstly, the biggest issue now is that neither you nor Celine can explain the reason behind the reduction in 20commission fee.

"There are clearly stated regulations within Colossal Investments. Someone in as high a position as Celine does indeed have the authority to reduce commission fee, and her limit coincidentally happens to be 20%... however, while she does have the authority to do so, it is also crucial she provides us a reasonable explanation when she does.

"She has to explain why she did it, and what benefits her action will bring the company. The truth now is that she cannot come up with a reasonable explanation for the 20% discount, so an internal review has to be conducted."

Jasper's mind went back to that night, of how Celine reminded her of a stubborn girl who wanted the pair of high heels in the showcase window. He could not possibly tell Colossal that Celine had given him a 20% decrease in commission fees because he had broken the glass and gotten Celine the pair of heels she wanted.

“You might not know this, Laine, but when a senior executive objected to her plan of helping Sena go public, Celine had promised me that she was willing to accept any investigation as long as the plan went through as stated.

“Moreover, she has also promised to resign immediately and compensate the Colossal three times the commission fee if Sena did not meet an IPO of 100 US Dollars.”

Jasper shot to his feet at Paulson’s words.

“Has she gone mad?” Jasper spoke angrily.

Jasper never had to cooperate with Colossal Investments, for they were not the only option available to him. There were other investment companies like Layman and Merlene elsewhere.

Jasper would never have agreed to work with these people if he knew that Celine had paid such a high price just to keep the deal going.

Jasper felt a nameless fury fester within him as he thought back to how carefree Celine had acted with him these days. She acted like nothing was wrong, despite the immense pressure she was under.

Jasper could still accept it if Celine was under review because of the 20% decrease in commission fees. However, if William was the one who was causing the problem that resulted in Celine paying such a high price and betting her entire professional career, then this was something Jasper could not accept.

He was both angry and frustrated.

Angry at himself for not knowing about this earlier, and frustrated at Celine for making her own decisions without first informing him.

Life at the Top Chapter 778

“Looks like you really don’t know about this. You’re not the only one who thinks she’s gone mad. I do too.” Paulson sighed and spoke, “More than her superior, I was also her uncle who brought her up. Her father and I have known each other for decades—we’re best friends.

“But I’ve never seen her make such a huge gamble before.”

Paulson looked at Jasper intently and continued. “That’s why I want to know what you plan on doing next.”

Jasper immediately quelled the flames within him. After a short moment of thought, he came up with a response.

“Mr. Paulson, I would like Colossal Investments to immediately end all investigations on Celine, and make William, the President of Terra regional branch, pay instead. Otherwise, Sena will unilaterally apply to the Nasdaq Review Committee and decline on going public.”

When he heard this, Paulson’s expression darkened.

He looked at Jasper and spoke angrily, “That isn’t a very smart decision, Laine. Are you threatening me? You have to know that doing so will put Colossal in a very embarrassing position. Sena will also lose a great chance to go public and you will have to repay those who had already bought shares through the pre-IPO allocation. You’ll also have to repay Colossal for a breach of contract!

“I’m sure a smart businessman would not make such a bad deal.”

Jasper replied calmly, “President Paulson, I am indeed a businessman, but more than that, I am a man. While every businessman does indeed weigh the pros and

cons before every decision, a man does not care too much about such things when making a decision.”

Paulson heard the change in how Jasper was referring to himself and stared at the other party seriously. “Is that your final decision?”

Jasper nodded. “I won’t compromise!”

“Still, you have to know that Celine loves her career more than anything else. Sure, you’re free to look for another investment company if the relationship between Colossal and Sena goes cold. After all, all you lose is time and money.”

“But what about Celine? Not only will Colossal have to fire her after this, but other investment companies won’t employ her either. Have you not thought about that?”

Jasper frowned slightly at Paulson’s words.

With a victorious smile, Paulson took a hot sip of tea. The man before him was outstanding, but he was too young to be a match for him.

“Worse comes to worst, I’ll just open a bank and have Celine work for me,” Jasper suddenly looked up to tell Paulson.

Paulson froze mid-sip. After a long while, his eyes widened as he looked at Jasper who oozed with dominance and spoke, “Do you know how difficult it is to open a bank? Not only will you need hefty capital to sustain it, but you’ll need contacts and a constant flow of business. Especially in Somerland, I don’t think Somerland allows private banks.”

Jasper spoke calmly, “Allow me to repeat myself, President Paulson, my only problem now is the fact that Celine is under review.”

Paulson’s caressed the corner of the hot teacup. After a long while, he replied slowly, “I can immediately end Celine’s investigation, but you must promise that

Sena will reach a price of at least 120 US Dollars. Or I will not be able to explain myself to the board of directors.

“As for William, if Sean’s share price is high enough, Celine’s capabilities will be on display to everybody, at which point it will be very possible for her to assume the position of President of the Terra regional branch. However, as I said, the condition here is that Sena’s share price has to reach at least 120 US Dollars!”

Life at the Top Chapter 779

Walking out of Colossal Investments Headquarters, Jasper’s mind echoed with the words Paulson had said before he left.

“There are no emotions here in Wall Street, nor do we care about who’s right or wrong. The only thing that separates me from my enemy are benefits.

“Whoever brings me benefits is a friend, and everyone else is my enemy.”

Jasper admitted that Paulson’s words had affected him deeply.

This was the cruel reality of a capitalist market. Without experiencing it first-hand, one would never understand how bloody the rules of the games are.

Take his partnership with Colossal Investments for example. In a short conversation, they had already decided who would assume the position of the President of the Terra regional branch.

Should Jasper truly manage to reach an IPO of 120 US Dollars for Sena, then he would have successfully proven his benefits and worth to Colossal Investments.

Colossal Investments would only toss William out if a happy partnership with Jasper mattered more to them.

Firing the President of the Terra regional branch to gain Jasper's trust and friendship was a very good bargain.

However, the premise was that Jasper had to prove his worth.

Sena's share price would be the quickest and most direct way to do this.

If he failed, Colossal Investments would not pay Jasper or Celine another glance.

This had nothing to do with who was right or wrong. This was a relationship purely comprised solely of monetary benefits.

The person who brought the larger cut of profits would be their friend.

After all this, the banquet was over by the time Jasper returned to the hotel.

Jasper did not know where Henry had gone to. However, he was not worried that this top-notch Harbor City trust-fund child would get into any trouble while out on a date in New York, so Jasper let him do as he pleased.

After conversing with Jack and coming to the conclusion that it was extremely difficult to push Sena's share price to 120 US Dollars, Celine arrived whilst seeking out Jasper just as they were about to formulate a plan.

Jasper returned to his room and poured Celine a cup of milk with practiced ease. Then he looked her over, "Not bad, very beautiful."

Celine was in a white chiffon tight-fitting dress while an exquisite red belt wrapped around her waist. The simple outfit spoke volumes of the wearer's excellent style.

Celine grabbed the milk and stared straight at Jasper.

"So, you went to look for Paulson?"

Jasper nodded.

“So you know everything now?”

Jasper continued to nod.

“And you also promised Paulson that the share price will reach 120 US Dollars?”

Jasper also nodded.

Celine suddenly spoke disappointedly, “Are you crazy? Do you know how difficult it is for a new stock to surpass a price of 120 US Dollars? No company’s ever produced such a result after the dot-com bubble burst.”

Life at the Top Chapter 780

“Am I crazy?” Jasper’s eyes widened as he looked at Celine and spoke, “You’re the crazy one here. Why didn’t you tell me anything?”

Celine lifted her hand to tuck the stray wisps of hair behind her ear as she replied, “It’s my business. Why do I have to tell you what I do?”

Jasper replied calmly. “In that case, my promise with Paulson is also my business, and I don’t have to explain it to you, yes?”

“You!” Celine’s eyes widened as she glared at him, infuriated by Jasper’s words.

The next second, however, the woman’s eyes shifted and she smiled secretly, “You’re actually planning to provide for me? Why else would you go through all that just to get me out of the investigation?”

“I just don’t want you to get involved in other matters because of me, especially when I’m certain that nothing is going on between us. I don’t make it a habit to sit and watch as someone else gets blamed for something they didn’t do.”

“Moreover, if you can tell Colossal Investment’s board of directors that you’ll resign and pay thrice the value of the commission if Sena doesn’t meet an IPO price of 100 US Dollars, then what’s stopping me from raising it to 120 US Dollars?”

Jasper looked at Celine seriously and spoke, “You have to trust me and Sena. 100 US Dollars to 120 US Dollars isn’t that big of a difference.”

“In that case, what are you planning on doing next?” Celine asked.

“Advertise it, what else? I have to try and tell all the investors within the United States that Sena is a share that they will definitely profit from. If I don’t you’ll lose your job, and I’ll lose both my reputation and my dignity,” Jasper spoke with a shrug.

Celine furrowed her brows as the cheerful look that she always wore vanished.

She was thinking of a plan that would greatly raise Sena’s share prices.

“To be honest, it’s all the same for me regardless of if this promise existed or not,” Jasper looked at Celine as he spoke.

“The higher Sena’s share price, the more I benefit. The only difference is that I didn’t have a specific target before, but I have one now. Anything less than 120 US Dollars is a failure, so even without this deal, my goal will still be to bring Sena up as much as I can.’

“But this target is too unattainable.” Celine frowned.

“Not really,” Jasper chuckled, “I’ll just have to spend a bit of money. We’ll do advertisements in television stations throughout the United States, then interview

a few stock market experts and advertise it in financial magazines. What we need to do is sweep this information through the United States as fast as possible.

“All United States investors will be able to do is see and hear of Sena for the next couple of days.

“Couple this with the titles Sena holds, ‘the first Somerland internet company that’ll officially registered in the Nasdaq’, and ‘the first truly profitable internet company in the world’. What we need to do is tell the investors that a great way to earn money is standing right before their eyes.”

Celine’s expression lightened slightly at Jasper’s words.

She sighed and spoke, “That’s the only thing we can do now anyway. I’ll think of another plan. I do have some contacts here in the United States.”

“Thank you, then,” Jasper spoke.

Both he and Sena were considered foreigners here in the United States. Forget contacts, they would not be able to get anywhere if not for Colossal Investments.

Thus, these were things that only Celine could do.

The corner of Celine’s lips lifted upward, and a light and familiar smile graced her lips. “Paulson told me that you threatened the entirety of Colossal Investments for me. Do you know what you’re doing? That’s a financial behemoth we’re talking about here. The best investment company in the world. How could you just threaten them?”

“And yet, reality shows that it still works on them.” Jasper smiled.

“You also claimed, very dominantly, that you’d open a bank for me to work in if I resigned from Colossal?” Celine leaned over, with her four limbs on the couch as she pushed her small face right in front of Jasper’s.

Because of her position, Jasper only needed to tilt his head and he would see her collar exposed before his eyes.

Life at the Top Chapter 781

“Do you know how difficult opening a bank is? I[‘m pretty sure Paulson thought that I was just kidding,” Jasper shifted backward seamlessly and spoke, “Aren’t we a little too close right now?”

“Are we? I feel the urge to pounce over and devour you now, though.”

Instead of moving back, Celine leaned closer to Jasper. Her eyes shone with the wildness of a big cat.

It was not until she forced Jasper to lean against the armrest with nowhere to go that she snickered evilly. “You’ve said something like this before, but do you know what Paulson said about you? He said he actually saw you opening your own bank the moment you suggested such a thing.

“You’re willing to go so far for me and yet you claim that you don’t want to provide for me? All you think about is how you’re going to take care of my needs, yet you say I’m too close to you. All men do is lie.”

His ear were filled with Celine’s soft voice and his nose was filled with nothing but Celine’s subtle fragrance. All could see was a sheet of white that Celine displayed without care in the world.

“Are you really not afraid of playing with fire?”

Celine laughed aloud at Jasper’s words and sat back down. She stretched her fair and soft calf to knock it against Jasper’s thigh. While executing this rather intimate and amorous act, Celine replied, “Playing with fire’s what I’m good at. Besides, that conflicted and shy expression of yours just now was absolutely adorable.”

Not in the mood to reply to her playful words, Jasper asked, “How many resources can you mobilize in the United States? This is very important, as I need to know before I can carry out the rest of my plans.”

Celine crossed her legs, then reached out to press down on the hem of her skirt so as to not expose her undergarments. Despite this, her eyes were on Jasper the entire time. She huffed lightly upon seeing the man staring solemnly at her. Then she spoke, “Tell me your plan first, then I’ll work with you and mobilize my resources.”

...

The following day, half the citizens of the United States noticed Sena, the name of a Somerland business, appear on their televisions, radios, and newspapers.

Investors were not unfamiliar with the company.

All financial news portals had more or less covered Somerland’s Sena listing, and every stock expert in the country was giving their opinions on it.

The reality remained that professionals were the same within and outside the country.

Thanks to Celine, a television station had reported another piece of news.

“A banquet was held by Sena’s Business Team from Somerland, alongside investors led by Colossal Investments in DoubleTree Hotel’s banquet hall in Wall Street this year.

“According to a reliable source, the owner of Sena was the mysterious retail investor from the international crude oil futures incident last year. Under his lead, Sena now owns Somerland’s biggest internal portal, as well as a new game, United Legends, that had just hit the market.

“This game has broken the world record for the number of people online on the first day of public beta testing. With a final player base of 2 million online players, the game is undoubtedly the world’s biggest internet game.

“Currently, United Legends has already begun operation and charging fees. According to our reporter in Somerland, combined with the evaluation report Sena had sent to the Nasdaq, United Legends currently has 170 paid players who contribute to Sena’s profit of millions of Somer Dollars.

“Without a doubt, while internet industries around the world continue to think about ways to mitigate their losses, Somerland’s Sena has already begun to save their country’s struggling Internet industry by expanding their business and stepping foot into the gaming industry.

“To some degree, Sena is the only purely Internet company in the world who has resolved monumental issue of turning a profit.”

“As a result, we’ve invited our special commentary expert, Mr. David Smith, to tell us how different Sena is...”

Following the news was an unclear picture of Jasper’s side profile.

The picture had been taken from afar, so all they could tell was Jasper’s age range and physique.

Life at the Top Chapter 782

That was enough.

A man in his twenties, from Somerland.

These two important pieces of news had attracted investors from the United States who have been looking for this mysterious retail investor all along.

Either news was enough to pique overwhelming interest from everyone.

The Internet in the states was much better developed than it was in Somerland, so it had only been a few moments after the news and rumors about Jasper already began to spread online.

Countless investors were discussing Jasper's identity.

While even more of them instinctively went to read more about Sena going public.

Then they realized that the entire market followed closely and had a bullish outlook on Sena.

Not since the popping of the dot-com bubble has all the media spoke about the same internet company at the same time.

Let alone one that had not even gone public yet.

This had raised the attention of most United States investors and they began to search and learn more about Sena, as well as find out when the company would go public.

So as the date when Sena would go public crept closer, it only began to trend more.

Countless investors were preparing their funds to use this chance and make a lot of money.

Just then, Jasper turned off the television.

He knew that news about himself was something Celine's contacts and Colossal Investments had cooperated to release.

Jasper did not mind too much, for Celine had told him that she would bring up the hype in such a way. This was a capitalist request.

Just as Jasper turned off the television, he suddenly received a call from Celine.

"Turn on the television, Intercontinental Channel Three," Celine's tone was proud.

"I just turned it off. Is there some big news?" Jasper asked confusedly but immediately turned the television on again. As Celine requested, he shuffled to Intercontinental Channel Three.

The screen changed and Jasper took one look and could not move his eyes away.

Before his eyes was an interview with the stock god, Winston Benett. The content of the interview was precisely about Sena.

"I personally do think that there is a lot of potential for this internet company from Somerland. It's a shame that its pre-IPO quota has already been sold out long ago. However, I've already had my team watch out for the latest news. Once it goes public, I'm planning to buy a few of Sena's shares with the idea to keep them..."

If all previous advertisement was to tell the United States' investors about Sena's existence, then the interview with Winston Benett had directly ignited the investors' enthusiasm

The internationally recognized title 'stock god' had already spread throughout the world. The man's return on investments as well as his sharp decisions when it comes to the market has garnered worship from many investors.

With Winston Benett helping him out, Sena's hype began to grow exponentially.

Life at the Top Chapter 783

“This is so cool!” Jasper exclaimed.

It took more than just money to invite someone of Winston Benett’s caliber.

As one of the world’s top ten richest men, it made no sense to pay Winston Benett to advertise for you.

That would be utterly ridiculous.

It took favors and status to move such people into helping you.

Jasper had not expected Celine to be so powerful to that extent, to the point where she could get Winston Benett to help out.

Celine chuckled, evidently pleased with Jasper’s shock and praise.

However, she still explained. “Winston Benett is actually a really good friend with one of my elders. All I did was ask this elder to contact him. Winston Benett had taken a look at Sena’s evaluation and immediately agreed to help advertise it.”

“This was more than just a script for advertisement. He meant it when he said he planned to buy some of Sena’s shares.”

“So if you want to be shocked, be shocked about the fact that your Sena was what moved him.”

Jasper smiled as he heard Celine and replied, “With Winston Benett helping us out, I’m sure Sena’s share prices would be pushed to quite a high price when it goes public. We won’t have to worry too much about this, then.”

As the outside world got progressively more invested in Sena's situation, the day when Sena would go public had officially arrived as well.

On this widely anticipated day, Jasper woke early in the morning and washed up carefully. He put on the tailored suit that Celine had bought for him at Waterhoof City and demanded he wore today. Then he strode out of the room.

In the hotel lobby, Jack and the rest were waiting for him.

Henry was there too. While the man had vanished more than he was present, he knew better than to be late on such an important day.

Everyone was donned in formal suits, even Henry wore an iron-pressed one.

The only difference between them was that Jack looked rather nervous, while Henry remained rowdy as he always was. The man was even quietly muttering to himself about what kind of airplane he would buy to fly back after today.

"Mr. Laine." Jack led Sena's senior executives over to greet Jasper when he saw him arrive.

Jasper nodded and smiled at Jack. "Nervous, Jack?"

Jack smiled wryly. "It'd be a lie if I said I wasn't. After all, this is the first time anything like this has happened before. Sena's share price when it goes public will determine the result of all our hard work."

"Haha, that's understandable. After all, there are only so many times a person gets to ring the Nasdaq Opening Bell." Jasper patted his old partner's shoulder with a wide smile.

"Relax. The entirety of Wall Street will cheer for us, and the entire Nasdaq Composite will welcome our arrival. We are New York's owners today," Jasper replied.

Jack was stunned for a moment. He could suddenly feel the drastic difference between his and Jasper's vision and domineering aura. Looking up, all Jack would see was how Jasper seemed to carry a whole new world on his shoulders despite his rather slim figure.

Taking a deep breath, Jack calmed the excitement and nervousness within him and quickly followed Jasper's footsteps.

Reporters have long been waiting by the hotel lobby's entrance and they quickly rushed over to interview them when they saw Jasper and the rest walk out. Only to be held back by Colossal Investments' bodyguards.

With no other option, the reporters could only try to stretch their microphones out and ask all sorts of questions. Each of them prayed that they would be lucky enough for Jasper to reply to their questions, then they would surely be rewarded by their superiors.

However, in face of these reporters, Jasper merely smiled politely but did not answer anyone's questions. Then he walked toward the car stopped by the side.

Life at the Top Chapter 784

By the car stood Celine who greeted him with a mesmerizing smile.

"So handsome," Celine praised as Jasper walked over.

Jasper smiled and replied, "A woman's beauty lies in her features and her aura, but it takes more than a man's appearance to look handsome."

"Is that you showing off how successful you are now?" Celine asked Jasper.

It was a beautiful sight to behold.

Under everyone's inquisitive gaze and cameras flashing, Jasper knew better than to flirt with Celine here. So he merely smiled and bent down to get in the car.

"Wuss," Celine muttered and turned to get in as well.

The line of cars began to move and it broke past the crowd and made its way to Nasdaq Center.

Jasper's hotel was only five minutes on foot away from Nasdaq Center, but Colossal Investments had already arranged cars for the occasion.

After all, this group of people was going to ring the Nasdaq Opening Bell. How could they simply just walk over?

It took a couple of minutes and the line of cars arrived.

"There'll be a ceremony later and Nasdaq's president, Franklin, will come out in a show of how much they value a Somerland enterprise. It's more political than business, so don't think too much about it. It's just formality," Celine whispered to Jasper.

Jasper nodded in understanding.

Just then, the car doors were opened and Jasper walked out of the car.

Nasdaq had given Sena a welcome of the highest regard, with a red carpet rolled a long distance from its entrance and western bodyguards standing on both sides of the carpet. The electronic display by the entrance was filled with words of welcome.

Alighting the car, Jasper looked up at the large screen above Nasdaq Exchange and realized that there was a red Somerland flag as well as Somerish words of welcome.

Jack saw it as well.

Engulfed in an aura of western capitalism, a red flag with five stars appeared on the electronic display of the Nasdaq Exchange on Wall Street. It was a memorable sight to behold.

“The times are changing,” Jasper exclaimed.

Jasper smiled. “And it’ll only change more in the future.”

The two shared a smile and stepped on the red carpet, entering the Exchange Center under the flashing lights of reporters.

The Exchange Center was in a frenzy.

While every new company going public on Nasdaq’s market would ring its opening bell, they were all treated differently. Sena’s was of a much higher caliber, for the host of the ceremony was Nasdaq’s president, a seventy-year-old man called Franklin.

“Welcome to the United States, to Wall Street, and to Nasdaq, young man from the ancient Somerland.” Franklin’s words were flowery and he smiled as he shook Jasper’s hand.

Jasper smiled softly and replied courteously, “Thank you for the kind welcome, President Franklin. I’m sure I’ll achieve what I want here.”

Franklin clapped Jasper’s shoulder affectionately and spoke, “Miracles happen all the time here. I’m sure you’ll achieve what you want.”

“There has been a lot of news about you these days. I would’ve bought some of Sena’s shares as well if not for my job not allowing me to participate in share trading,” Franklin joked.

Life at the Top Chapter 785

“This proves that Sena is indeed a very outstanding company, then. They say great minds think alike,” Jasper teased.

Jasper’s western humor had Franklin laughing aloud, and his impression of Jasper improved all the more.

“Paulson and I are great friends. We’ve spoken in private about you before and now that I’ve met you, I believe that old friend of mine is biased,” Franklin spoke with a smile.

This seemingly normal sentence held quite a few important details and Jasper replied, “Thank you.”

While others may understand that Jasper was merely thanking Franklin for the praise, he was actually thanking him for the information.

Franklin nodded and spoke to Jasper for a little longer before he slowly left.

After Franklin left, Jasper looked at the time and realized that it was currently eight-thirty in New York and there was only one more hour before the market opened at nine-thirty.

The large Exchange Center was packed with staff and reporters, for there was only one more hour until Sena would ring Nasdaq’s Opening Bell.

Jack was answering the reporter’s questions while Jasper was about to look for Henry, only for Celine to get to himself first.

“Come on, Paulson wants to meet us.”

Jasper followed Celine to the second floor of the Exchange Center. It was a huge office with floor-to-ceiling windows that clearly showed the frenzy within the exchange center.

Paulson and William were sitting right by the floor-to-ceiling windows when Jasper and Celine arrived.

“You’re here. Come here,” Paulson spoke with a smile.

Jasper and Celine walked over and stood by the floor-to-ceiling windows. Looking down at the Exchange Center below, Jasper was about to speak when Celine leaned over to him.

“Stay away from that b*stard.”

William’s face paled in anger at Celine’s words.

Paulson smiled as if he did not hear anything and turned to Jasper. “One more hour before our promise shows its results, Laine. Are you confident?”

Jasper replied, “Confidence is something I’ve never lacked.”

“Too much confidence leads to arrogance,” William piped in with a scoff, “I’m afraid you don’t even know how much 120 US Dollars per share means, do you?”

“Did we ask you?” Celine looked at William coldly.

Celine’s scornful gaze fueled William’s fury but he forced himself to calm down and scoffed. “I’ll let you be proud of yourselves for now. But if your IPO cannot reach 120 US Dollars later, I’d like to see if you’re going to keep acting so proud.”

“I hope that you’ll keep your end of the promise, Mr. Paulson,” Jasper ignored William and spoke to Paulson.

Sighing, Paulson replied, "While I do not wish to see such a scene, Laine, I cannot find it in myself to have faith in you. Sena is indeed a very outstanding company, and I would surely believe you if you proposed an IPO of 80 US Dollars. But 120 US Dollars is just too difficult to accomplish."

"It was a difficult height to reach even before the dot-com bubble popped, let alone now. The market's changed, Laine, and it's still not too late if you want to change your mind now."

Jasper smiled calmly and replied, "I used to follow regulations and traditions long ago, President Paulson, and there are indeed many things that are unthinkable, things that are impossible according to what I've learned from my experience."

"But it's unfortunate that the world is controlled by people who can change the impossible into something possible. I wouldn't be standing here if I did everything according to convention as just a normal employee of some company in Somerland."

Life at the Top Chapter 786

Paulson could hear the resolute determination in Jasper's words and looked at him keenly, saying, "I hope you win the bet this time as you're now responsible for more than yourself."

40 minutes later, Jasper and Celine exited the office.

Halfway down the stairs, Celine asked Jasper, "Will it really be okay?"

Jasper turned to Celine and saw a worried expression on her face. With a smile, he replied, "I think it's a bit too late to ask this question, isn't it?"

Celine complained, "I just didn't want to give you more pressure. We both know that 120 US dollars per share is a very high price."

"What's the point in surpassing it if it isn't high?" Jasper asked.

Celine looked at Jasper suspiciously and asked, "Why does it seem like you still have a secret weapon up your sleeves? Tell me what it is, at least then I wouldn't need to worry so much."

Jasper turned over his palms and smiled, "What secret weapon? We've already done the most we can the past few days. Whatever comes next isn't up to us anymore. Plus, even if I had some secret weapon, there are only 20 minutes until Sena rings the Nasdaq opening bell. It's too late now, isn't it?"

Realizing that Jasper's words made sense, Celine replied exasperatedly, "True. I'm just a little too nervous now, I guess."

"Relax," Jasper consoled.

Celine nodded and exhaled deeply before blinking at Jasper, asking, “So if you succeed, how are you planning to celebrate?”

Jasper shrugged and walked forward. “I haven’t thought of it yet. Celebration isn’t the main focus here. We can think about that after we pass this round.”

In the beginning, Sena going public had only been a way for Jasper to improve his cash flow. As the situation progressed, it now became something much more important.

This was something Jasper did not expect.

Retreating was not an option now, so the only thing he could do was walk forward and try to push Sena’s share price as high up as possible.

In all honesty, Jasper did not have the confidence of attaining absolute victory.

After all, the situation was susceptible to many changes. While Sena had also gone public in his past life, he could not compare the situation then to what was happening now. Basing it off his memory of his past life was out of the question.

He only had himself to rely on now.

As he exhaled, Jasper saw Jack smiling widely on the podium and ushering him over to ring the bell. Sorting out his emotions, Jasper strode over.

At the same time, on the second floor. Paulson was standing by the floor-to-ceiling windows with his hands behind his back. William was nowhere to be seen and beside him now stood Franklin, Nasdaq’s president.

Franklin took a look at Jasper’s figure and spoke, “What an extraordinary Easterner.”

“And very crazy too,” Paulson added.

“I can’t help but think that you’ll be wrong this time, old friend.” Franklin laughed aloud.

“120 US dollars? Are you kidding me? No way,” Paulson shook his head and continued calmly, “Or these decades I’ve been working as Colossal Investment’s president would’ve been for naught.”

“The most dangerous thing to do in the financial market is work completely based on your experiences, old friend. Being old amounts to nothing in this industry and the only thing it represents is that you lack, more than the youths, the courage and aggressiveness the market needs,” Franklin spoke meaningfully.

Life at the Top Chapter 787

Time ticked by and it was now only three more minutes until the market opened and Sena went public. Jasper had been invited onto the temporarily built stage.

The stage was right under the largest main screen in Nasdaq Exchange Center, which was at the center of the room.

Under everyone’s attentive gaze, Jasper and Jack got on stage.

In the middle of the stage was a large bell.

Since Nasdaq Exchange’s founding, every business that went public would have its legal personality ring this bell.

It was a tradition as much as it was a symbol.

The electronic screen continued to display worlds of welcome like ‘Nasdaq welcomes Sena’ while hundreds of traders had already gotten into position.

There were a few dozen reporters holding their cameras, waiting to take a picture of this historical moment.

Jasper accepted a wooden hammer from a manager in the exchange center and was just about to invite Jack to ring the bell with him when he saw the other shake his head with a smile.

“You should ring the bell yourself, Mr. Laine,” Jack spoke.

Although he was stunned, Jasper saw the shine in Jack’s eyes and did not insist. “Alright then.”

Everyone looked up and focused on the electronic screen that covered the entire wall. It displayed both Nasdaq’s and Sena’s logo, as well as an analog clock.

The second hand of the clock ticked continuously until it was almost racing to 9:30 a.m.

“5...

“4...

“3...

“2...

“1...”

Hundreds of people counted down at the same time in the exchange Center.

It was currently 9:30 a.m. in the United States, and Jasper knocked the wooden hammer against the bell, signifying the opening of the market.

Ring!

The deep and strong sound of the bell rang throughout the entire exchange center.

Under everyone's cheers, the reporters' cameras flashed maddeningly as they tried to commemorate this historical moment.

At this moment, shares for the first internet enterprise from Somerland had moved on from the bursting of the dot-com bubble and registered itself at Nasdaq Exchange Center.

Its ticker—SENA!

Jasper and the group got down from the stage after they rang the bell. They began to pay attention to the changes in share prices.

"It's a little nerve-wracking." A senior executive sucked in a deep breath and felt a little antsy.

Jack was rather relaxed as he smiled and said, "The share market in the United States has different rules compared to the markets back home. New shares here normally pay more attention to the pre-IPO on the first day of trading and the more shares bought pre-IPO make for a higher share price. It'll take some time before the data is confirmed. Don't worry."

In the United States, most investors tended to buy shares of new businesses through pre-IPO.

Sena, for example, started with an issue price of 25 US dollars with 96 million US dollars worth of shares outstanding.

The more shares bought by investors through pre-IPO, the higher the price would increase.

The most important thing was that there was not a 10% rise limit when it came to buying shares through pre-IPO.

That meant if Sena was formidable enough, its prices could rise instantly to 200 US dollars.

How difficult would that be?

Impossibly hard.

The share market was no longer as crazy as it used to be before the burst of the dot-com bubble.

As the world's economic development slowed, trade also decreased in large exchange centers like Nasdaq, the Dow Jones Index, and the Nikkei Index.

This proved that investors were getting less enthusiastic and there was also less hot money in the markets compared to before.

Many investors were starting to be more rational and no longer rushed to one sector maddeningly.

Beneath Jasper's calm facade was immense pressure.

Within the bustling exchange center, Jasper watched the scene before him calmly.

Reporters were still thinking of ways to interview Sena's senior executives, and traders had already begun receiving phone calls while starting a new day of work.

The room was filled with the scent of money and benefits.

All of which added to the pressure on Jasper's shoulders.

An issue price of 25 US dollars had to grow at least five times to exceed 120 US dollars.

Not even Winston Bennett would dare to make such a bet, let alone Jasper.

“What’s with the long face?” Celine interrupted Jasper’s deep thoughts.

Jasper turned to see Celine’s relaxed expression and laughed. “And here I am, worried about whether the share price will meet the requirements when you’re acting like it has nothing to do with you.”

“Oh, come on.” Celine pinched Jasper’s shoulder and beamed at him. “Don’t worry about it. So what if it doesn’t hit the target we set? The point of Sena going public was to help contribute to your cash flow. From the hype we’ve garnered over the past few days, I’m pretty sure we’ve already met the initial goal.

“As to whether we win the bet or not, what’s the big deal if we lose? I’ll just resign and wait for you to open a bank for me.”

Celine looked at Jasper warily. “You’re not thinking about going back on your word now, are you?”

“It’s too late now.” Jasper smiled, but the curve of his lips fell a second after as he spoke calmly, “Ever since I started working, I’ve only ever lost a small amount when it came to comparing capitals with Wall Street. Losing is a horrible feeling...

“And I don’t like losing!”

At the same time, Nasdaq Exchange Center had also begun trading. Most investors all over the United States were currently seated before their computers and were trading seriously.

In a middle-class family in Michigan, Craig was a lawyer and his wife had a senior managerial position in a local enterprise. The family became wealthy as a result of the couple’s stable and decent-paying jobs, as well as due to the profits that David had earned from the share market these years.

“That damned state telecom operator. I’m going to sue them!”

Flushed, David stared at the computer. He wanted to buy Sena's shares but the stupid internet kept cutting off.

His roars attracted his wife's attention.

"What's wrong, David? Would you like a cup of coffee?"

His wife asked caringly at the door.

"It's alright. It's just this stupid telecom operator that's hindering me from earning my damn money. I'm going to sue the hell out of them if I can't buy Sena's shares!"

David spoke agitatedly.

Then, the internet suddenly connected again and on his screen was the notification of a successful transaction. David laughed aloud excitedly. "I bought it! I bought it!"

"Oh, oh my God! Are my eyes deceiving me? What's this price?! How did it rise so quickly?!"

The same situation continued all over the United States.

People who sat before their computers and were ready to buy Sena's shares realized at the same time that Sena's prices were rising at a terrifying speed.

It was one price at the last second, only to rise by 20% the next.

With the skyrocketing demand and limited equity, the hype around Sena's shares grew. Everyone wanted a portion for themselves.

Life at the Top Chapter 788

A majority of investors took a look at the price that had long surpassed their budget and hesitated.

Even so, the prices only rose during their hesitation.

This unimaginable rise led to the investors feeling immensely regretful.

They all thought the same thing, 'The difference between the two values would've been more if I hadn't hesitated just now.'

'God damn it!'

The investors' madness was reflected in Sena's share prices.

Transaction information from all over the United States arrived at Nasdaq Exchange Center's 16 servers within milliseconds through fiber channels.

These cutting-edge servers then responded and did the calculations as quickly as possible.

The result was then outputted in the form of a k-line for Sena's share prices, which was then displayed on the exchange center's electronic display and all the investors' computers.

Those from the financial industry in the United States who had their eyes on the share market were in an uproar.

"Sena officially went public at 9:30 this morning. It has only been five minutes and there has been a total transaction of 300 million US dollars backstage. Its share

price has risen from 25 US dollars to 50 US dollars in only 5 minutes and 28 seconds!

“There’s no doubt that this share has broken the record for time taken to double in price in the history of the United States. No, in the history of mankind.

“Have investors from the United States gone mad? Why are they so obsessed with this internet company from Somerland?”

“Is the United States not the center of the world’s internet industry?”

The host of The First Fortune, the most authoritative financial radio channel with the most listeners in the United States, shouted.

His show was broadcasted to at least 35 million listeners in the United States.

“This Somerland share with the ticker Sena seems to have inherited something from this mysterious and ancient country from the east. This stock and this country have shaken the entirety of the United States in the shortest time.

“The investors’ enthusiasm now reminds me of the last quarter of 1993. That was one hell of a capitalist party all over the world and the global economy had risen to new heights. Everyone became more wealthy and everyone was buying shares. Almost every share had an increase in market price.

“Oh my God, look at Sena’s share prices! Why am I so excited about Sena’s share prices? Our share market has been despondent for far too long and it needs such strength to boost our confidence in the market!”

Everyone at the Nasdaq Exchange Center, both the busy or the free, was looking up at the large screen that showed Sena’s share prices.

A frightening big red trendline skyrocketed on the market, one so exaggerated that normal investors might not even be able to see such a thing in ten years if not for the current situation.

The electronic display took up the entire wall, and that big trendline seemed to be piercing through the top of the screen and was aiming for the sky.

There was no oscillation and no pullback. It did not waiver nor did it shake.

There was only an increase, an endless increase that no one understood!

The most terrifying part of it all was that Sena's terrifying trade and its upward trend had also managed to raise Nasdaq Exchange Center's internet sector as well.

There was a 7.6% increase in the internet sector.

One share could affect its sector, and the sector's increase could affect the entire market's index.

Nasdaq Composite had an increase of 1.54%!

Akin to a key, Sena had unlocked the festering enthusiasm within the investors.

Hundreds of billions of US dollars flooded into the market and it sparked the entire Nasdaq Exchange Center to life, moving the entire market upward.

Everyone's heart surged at the sight and their blood boiled with excitement. It was as if everyone was holding in such excitement that they wanted to shout out in joy but could not.

This was a feast of wealth!

"Buy! Buy them all! Buy as many as you can!"

Todd shouted raspily at his assistant in the VIP room.

“Damn it, I should’ve done this earlier. I was stupid to actually consider selling that ten million US dollars worth of shares I had bought through pre-IPO. Did I go mad?”

The assistant smiled wryly at Todd and spoke, “We’ve already bought them, sir. But the price now is just too outrageous and we don’t even have a chance to enter the market.

“All it takes is one second and the price we’re buying at immediately gets pushed down by someone who’s buying it at a higher price.”

“Then buy it back at an even higher price!” Todd’s eyes shone with excitement.

“I don’t care if you believe me or not, but Sena is a share with unlimited potential. While I don’t know how long this share will continue to profit but for the short-term, I want as many shares under 100 US dollars bought and resold for profits.”

No one knew what Todd was thinking when his eyes shifted and he turned to tell his assistant, “I want to see Laine and talk to him. You buy me my stocks and if I don’t see five million US dollars worth of stocks when I come back, then you can resign and get lost!”

With that, Todd turned and left the VIP room without another glance at his sorrowful assistant.

...

“The price has risen to 76 US dollars!” Jack turned to Jasper excitedly.

No matter how excited Jack and the other senior executives were, Jasper remained calm in the face of such value.

In truth, he had already anticipated any price under 100 US dollars.

If Sena could not even go up to 100 US dollars, then it would have been a waste of all his hard work.

The true obstacle was after the 100 US dollars mark. That was when they would test the durability of the United States' investors.

Still, from how the situation looked, it was hopeful.

Just then, Todd arrived to look for him.

"Laine, you really are my... How do you say it in Somerish? God of Wealth, correct?" Todd laughed aloud as he spoke to Jasper.

Taking in the blonde hair of the man who had yet to become as distant and cynical as he would become in the future, Jasper smiled. "Indeed, you seem to understand Somerish quite well."

Todd was in a great mood and turned to Jasper, saying, "Laine, would you be interested in the shares of one of my companies? Of course, instead of cash, I'd like to exchange it with Sena's shares."

Jasper frowned slightly and asked, "What company?"

Todd seemed rather embarrassed as he spoke, "This company's shares are actually something I bought from a friend some time ago. It's an investment I made because I was friends with that governor friend of mine. I should've known that there would be nothing good coming from all these damned politicians. All they do is think of ways to scam my money."

Jasper felt rather conflicted to hear Todd insult politicians.

He wondered how this man would feel when he thought back to this sentence the day he became the United States' largest good-for-nothing scammer.

“But trust me, that company has a lot of potential. They may seem small now but they’re looking for investors everywhere.”

“Since we’re friends, Todd, how about you tell me directly what company this is?”

Life at the Top Chapter 789

Jasper did not have much hope when he asked.

After all, Todd was merely enjoying his grandparents’ wealth and was focused on real estate.

His main assets were also real estate enterprises that he had inherited.

Jasper had never heard of Todd holding shares in any particularly large companies.

However, Todd’s following words immediately piqued Jasper’s interest.

“The company goes by the name Google. I’m sure you’ve never heard of it considering how weak and poor they are. They don’t even have an office but they’re working in the internet industry. They’re doing search engines, the kind of service that allows you to search websites and information online.”

Seeing how Todd was stumbling over himself as he spoke, Jasper was certain that he had no understanding of how huge this company he had invested in would turn out to be in the future.

“So, are you interested?” Todd asked Jasper, his eyes shining.

As far as Todd was concerned, he had only bought the company's shares to gain favors from a friend. He never expected to earn any money from this at all.

He only paid money to make a friend.

However, Todd realized that perhaps he could persuade Jasper to free him of these shares since Jasper also did business in the internet industry.

It would be an easy profit if he could exchange Google's shares with Sena's.

"Indeed, I've never heard of them before," Jasper frowned and shook his head slightly. "I do know about search engines, though. But there haven't been many similar businesses in the market, so profiting would be extremely difficult. Why would you invest in such a company?"

Todd replied, evidently upset, "I didn't have a choice. Businessmen like us will always have to deal with those damned politicians.

"But Laine, I've always thought that your mind and vision have been the most outstanding of all the people I've met. Maybe Google is a company with a lot of potential for development? Even Yahoo has a dedicated department for search engines, and its market price is comparable to large internet companies like Weresoft. You should know about those, right?"

'Of course, I do.

'I also know that Yahoo is going to make a severe loss in the future and end up going bankrupt until the point that it's worth nothing anymore.

'Google, on the other hand, will take over Yahoo's place in the United States as the main internet company and secure over 70% of search engine business within the country.

'If not for Somerland keeping Beido, Google would've easily become the top search engine all over the world.'

“You’re asking me to pick up after you, Todd,” Jasper spoke with a subtle smile.

With his thoughts exposed, Todd laughed to smooth out the awkwardness before speaking, “I’m just saying that it might be a chance. Of course, it’s fine if you’re not interested in it at all.”

“Oh, no, I’m interested.”

Jasper reignited Todd’s hope just as he was about to give up.

“Really?” Todd asked in surprise.

Jasper clapped Todd’s shoulder and spoke, “I told you we’re friends, didn’t I, Todd? That alone is enough for me to be willing to help you with this problem. How do you plan on exchanging the shares?”

Todd shook Jasper’s hand while feeling moved and spoke, “That’s great, Laine! We’ll be best friends from now on!

“I currently have 27% of Google’s shares and I plan to exchange all of them for Sena’s shares,” Todd spoke greedily.

‘I can’t believe I thought you only became worse when you grew older when in truth, you’ve been so evil ever since the beginning.’

Jasper scoffed internally but put on a conflicted expression. “You know, Todd, Sena is really important to me. I can give you the outstanding shares but I cannot give you my percentage.”

“That’s fine,” Todd waved him off and agreed readily.

He was not interested in being a shareholder of an internet company that was based all the way in Somerland. All he wanted now was cash, money!

Outstanding shares were even better as he could resell them.

“Alright, then. I’ll exchange 27% of my shares for 12 million worth of Sena’s shares. How’s that?” Todd asked.

‘This *sshole is eviler than I thought!’

Jasper smiled meaningfully and replied, “I don’t have that many outstanding shares on hand, Todd. And it’ll decrease my percentage of shares if I exchange them. Not to mention that 12 million US dollars is a big deal. I’m sure your 27% of Google shares didn’t cost more than three million US dollars.”

Todd’s face flushed red like never before.

“Fine, then. Eight million.” Todd lowered his price with a conflicted look.

Indeed, he had only used 2.4 million to buy 27% of Google’s shares.

To get rid of such a problem and even earn almost ten million from it spoke volumes of how vile Todd was.

“Five million worth of shares, according to their current price.” Jasper stood his ground.

How much would Google’s market price be in the future?

In the year 2020 before Jasper reincarnated, Google had a market price of one trillion US dollars.

By then, this 27% of shares would give him 270 billion US dollars.

That was money Jasper could not ever come up with even if he sold everything he had.

Such was an investment.

No matter how much money Jasper put in, Jasper would still be making a profit.

Still, any money saved was money saved and the most important thing about this negotiation was to get rid of Todd's doubt about Google.

Todd could not be too resentful about Jasper's behavior once Google started growing. After all, he was the one who proposed the trade.

Todd thought about it when he heard the suggestion. His intelligent and calculative mind quickly decided that it was a feasible transaction.

Sena's share prices were still rising. Since Jasper had agreed to trade at the current share price, this five million would also grow into something much more.

"Deal!" Todd laughed aloud.

"Alright, then. We'll each send someone to sign the contract later. Could you please help me contact the person in charge of this company, Mr. Todd? I want to meet them." Jasper was internally elated but his expression did not betray his emotions.

"Don't worry about it. I've got this covered, Laine. You really are a generous and kind friend," Todd told Jasper with heartfelt emotions.

Years later, Todd would think of today and be in utter agony, wishing to turn back in time and slap himself for his words.

Todd left happily, and Celine, who had not said anything the entire time, poked Jasper's waist.

"Hey, it's obvious that the blonde fellow is trying to scam you. Why would you take the bait so happily?" Celine spoke distastefully.

She had never heard of this Google company and it could potentially be a scam. Yet Jasper was buying its shares at such a great cost?

“I’ll just take it as making a friend,” Jasper spoke with a wide grin.

“He thinks you’re an idiot!” Celine harrumphed, slightly pissed.

She had no idea how this foolish man had made so much money.

The worst part of this was that Celine found no qualms with her taking advantage of Jasper, but she would feel pissed when someone else took advantage of him.

“Sena’s share prices aren’t rising as quickly anymore!”

Jasper was just about to speak when a voice sounded from somewhere and caught his attention.

Life at the Top Chapter 790

Jasper looked up and saw that the rise in Sena’s shares had stabilized on the screen.

Everyone seemed regretful at the sight but they understood that this was only normal.

After all, no matter how great a share was, there was always a limit. If the shares continued to increase at such a rate, its effects afterward would be horrifying.

It had been three hours since Sena went public.

The United States share market did not believe in lunch breaks, so the business day was from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. every day.

It was currently 12:30 p.m.

Sena's share prices had risen from its issued price of 25 to 88 US dollars!

In three hours, its price had more than tripled.

This was an incident that would enter Nasdaq's books of history.

Everyone looked up at the exaggerating transaction volume. According to the data, it showed that Sena still had much more potential.

Everyone knew that Sena's share price would not stop at 88 US dollars.

However, it would still take time for its potential to be shown and it was almost a miracle for the share to reach such heights in merely three hours.

However, Jasper looked at the line that was no longer skyrocketing and instead oscillating around 88 US dollars with a frown.

"Have someone pull out transactions for Sena's shares over the past half an hour." Jasper turned to Celine.

Celine was stunned but did not voice out her confusion. She opted to instruct someone to pull the data out first.

"Do you think there's something wrong?" Celine asked Jasper after she gave the instructions.

Jasper was very pleased by this small detail, for any uncontrollable changes could happen in a one-minute delay. Jasper disliked people who only knew how to ask questions but never did their jobs.

“Something’s wrong with this pricing.” Jasper shook his head.

He had an indescribable feeling in his chest.

Sena’s transaction data had seemed normal this entire time, but under such normalcy, Jasper had acutely realized something unusual in the purchase and selling of the shares.

Without actual evidence, Jasper did not know how to explain this feeling to Celine in an in-depth manner.

Thank goodness that Celine was not digging deeper.

Soon later, a manager from the exchange center rushed over with a laptop.

Opening the laptop, the data that Jasper wanted immediately filled the screen.

Jasper read the data carefully and checked each one.

“Someone’s trying to control Sena’s share prices,” Jasper suddenly stated as he stared at the screen.

Celine was immediately on alert.

“Look at this. This account was crazily buying in all of Sena’s shares that they could get their hands on and then ten minutes ago, they sold the shares part by part.

“This isn’t a one-shot transaction. They keep buying, only to sell when the share prices arrive at a certain point. They’re preventing Sena from breaking through the limit.”

Life at the Top Chapter 791

Celine listened to Jasper as he spoke and indeed found irregular trading behavior from a batch of accounts.

It was normal to want to buy as much of Sena's shares as possible, for countless investors were thinking of ways to buy Sena's shares.

Selling was normal too since not everyone had a bullish view of Sena's development. There were chances of the share prices dropping in the afternoon later. It was actually a common phenomenon for newly listed shares.

However, buying huge bulks only to sell them batch by batch was unnatural. Doing so would strike fear in the investors and deter investors who wanted to buy the shares at a higher price.

Frowning, Celine looked at Jasper. "Who is it?"

"Who else? The person who doesn't want the share prices to increase the most," Jasper replied calmly.

At the same time, in an office beside Nasdaq Exchange Center. William sat proudly before his own computer.

He was the culprit behind it all.

"That's right! Too many people are taking a bullish stance on Sena now, and while I can't stop you from rising, I can control how much your share price rises!"

William muttered to himself with a proud look on his face.

“If you two damn cheaters think you can raise the share price to 120 US dollars, then you can dream on!”

William was filled with excitement when he thought of how upset Jasper would look when he failed to win the bet and Celine had to resign.

At that moment, William’s phone rang.

“Mr. William, it’s me, the financial director of the Terra regional branch.” A middle-aged woman’s voice sounded over the phone.

William furrowed his brows and asked, “What is it?”

“I see that there’s a deduction of one billion US dollars from the company’s funds. These are funds that we should hand over to the headquarters next week. According to the procedural forms, I see that you transferred the money this morning through special procedures, Mr. William?”

William’s hand shook, but there was no change in his tone of voice as he replied plainly, “I did. I’m currently at the headquarters now so I decided to transfer the funds over in advance. I’ll deal with the related follow-up work and procedures later.”

The financial director seemed rather hesitant when she replied, “But Mr. William, according to financial protocol, I have to confirm the money first before it gets transferred out. You going around me through special procedures will put both of us in deep trouble once they find out during the year-end review.”

“I already told you that I’m at the headquarters and the money was transferred in advance on the headquarters’ orders. You’re all the way in Harbor City, so how was I supposed to inform you first? Don’t worry about it, I’ll deal with everything.”

William then hung up the phone somberly.

He needed more than just a perfect plan to suppress the rising trend in Sena's share prices. He needed a large number of funds as well.

William himself did not have the money, so he was currently embezzling Colossal's funds.

William was well aware that he would lose his job and be put behind bars the moment his actions were exposed, but he could not care less now.

He would be the winner as long as he managed to control Sena's share prices and prevent them from exceeding 120 million US dollars. Then all he had to do was transfer the money back tomorrow morning and no one would know!

Taking a deep breath, William forced himself to calm down. Staring at the computer, William felt the unease within him be replaced with pride when he saw how Sena's share prices continued to dance around 88 US dollars.

What he had not expected was that once he hung up the phone, the financial director would realize how risky the situation was the more she thought about it.

It was a huge crime to embezzle company funds and the financial director did not want to risk going to jail just when she was about to retire.

Mulling over the thought, she believed that there was nothing wrong with being more cautious. After pondering, she decided to call Celine, the general manager of the Terra regional branch.

Life at the Top Chapter 792

After spending a few minutes on the phone, Celine hung up calmly.

“I know who it is.”

Jasper was shocked when he heard Celine’s words. “We just found out someone was fooling around a few minutes ago and you already know who it is?”

“You knew who it was earlier on too, didn’t you?” Celine asked.

“Who else could it be if not William? The problem now is that we don’t have evidence,” Jasper spoke calmly.

At this moment, William was the only person who would and could control Sena’s share prices.

“I just received a call from the financial director of the Terra regional branch. She told me that William used special procedures to transfer one billion US dollars from the company’s accounts.

“He didn’t transfer the money through the proper procedures and he also told the financial director that he transferred the money to the headquarters in advance. She didn’t want to risk it, so she called me to ask if it was true.”

Jasper laughed aloud after hearing Celine’s words and said, “You’ve got to give this financial director a pay raise.”

Celine scoffed. “I wouldn’t have been able to do anything if he had just sat still and waited for the results, but there’s no blaming me now since he’s actively trying to screw himself over.”

Jasper glanced at the share prices and asked Celine, “How confident are you?”

“Who do you think I am?”

Celine harrumphed arrogantly and spoke, “Half an hour. I’ll get rid of him for you.”

Then, Celine left the room, leaving Jasper to mull over his thoughts for a moment before calling Henry over.

Henry was currently happily staring at the k-line that he did not quite like.

There was nothing he could do. Every small increase was still money and Henry’s ten million Harbor Dollars had now turned into 30 million Harbor Dollars. There was no reason for him not to be happy.

It was a giddy feeling to almost hear the notification of money entering his account every second.

“What’s up?” Henry asked once he got into the room.

“Someone’s actively trying to stop Sena’s share prices from rising.” Jasper did not beat around the bush.

Henry was stunned for a moment before he immediately pulled up his sleeves. “Tell me, which f*cker is it?”

To Young Master Law, there were two unforgivable things in this world.

The first, anything that prevented him from acting cool.

The second, anything that prevented him from making money.

This person was currently preventing him from making money, thus preventing him from buying his private plane and acting cool back in Harbor City.

This person has crossed both lines and therefore should be charged with death!

Jasper seriously doubted whether Henry understood what he meant by preventing share prices from rising but he was too lazy to explain it.

“We might need your dad’s help this time.”

“While we already have plans to fish the person out, the damage is done and we need to think of a way to turn the situation around to save it.”

Hearing Jasper, Henry was stunned for a bit and his intrigued expression fell.

“What the f*ck, why’d you call me over then? Call my dad. He treats you better than me.”

“Cut the nonsense and call him.” Jasper glared at Henry.

No matter how good his relationship with the Law family was, there were still limits to the things he could do. Some things would be more appropriate for Henry to talk to his family about.

Henry did not think too much about it and called his dad obediently.

A moment later, Henry passed the phone to Jasper with a silent look that was meant to convey ‘What did I tell you?’.

“It’s me, Uncle Law. It seems like I’ll need your help to make a statement,” Jasper spoke politely.

Zachary’s laughter echoed through the phone and he spoke, “What are you so polite for? It’s no big deal anyway. Tell me, then. What would you like me to do?”

“Uncle Law, you could...”

After hanging up the call with Zachary, Jasper did not hesitate to call Kayden next.

“You’re a busy man, aren’t you, Mr. Laine? How do you still have the time to call me?” Kayden sounded like he was in a great mood.

It was most likely that this man had his eyes focused on the change in share prices. His mood was naturally great when he realized that the money he invested had now tripled.

Jasper smiled. “Would you like to earn more?”

That immediately put Kayden on alert. “I already fell for one of your traps last time, so what do you have in mind now?”

Jasper replied exasperatedly, “Now that’s where you’re wrong, Mr. Langdon. We’re all benefitting here, so how could you accuse me of setting up a trap for you? But I actually do need the Langdon family to come out and make a statement this time.”

Kayden could acutely realize the unusual situation from Jasper’s words.

Jasper had not asked for Kayden but rather the Langdon family.

While Kayden was part of the Langdon family, those had two very different implications.

“Tell me what happened first. My father is rather low profile, so it wouldn’t be suitable if his children did the opposite.”

Kayden’s words were well-spoken, for he did not agree straight away nor did he directly decline Jasper.

This was the good thing about Jasper and Kayden's friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Jasper smiled. "Basically, while Sena's current share prices aren't low, they also have the potential of going higher. It's just that there's someone here trying to control the prices. We're already dealing with him but his effect still remains. If we want Sena's share prices to keep rising, the market is going to need another strong shock."

"So you want me to release a statement on behalf of the Langdon family?"
Kayden was a smart man and immediately caught on.

Jasper did not disagree and continued, "That's the situation. The Law family has already begun making a move."

Kayden fell silent for a while and replied, "I'm in Harbor City now. How about you just tell me what you need me to do?"

...

Due to the different time zones, 1:00 p.m. in the United States was precisely midnight in Harbor City.

Just when everyone thought that the day was ending, the Law and the Langdon families released an important statement at the exact same time at 12:00 a.m.

The Law family even held a press conference.

In truth, if not for the Law family's reputation, the reporters would not even think of attending.

However, it had to be some big news if the Law family was holding a press conference with the Langdon family.

This resulted in reporters being woken up from their sleep by their superiors to rush to Law Manor.

At 12:40 p.m. in Harbor City, or 1:40 p.m. in the United States, the Law family and the Langdon family officially began their press conference.

“The Law family and the Langdon family will each sign a Strategic Cooperation Agreement with Sena. Sena will help the two families expand their business in the Mainland while the Law family and the Langdon family will fully support Sena by bringing its web portal and gaming business into Harbor City.”

News spread across the Pacific Ocean and half the globe in the shortest time possible before it arrived in the United States where people were still going crazy about Sena.

In an instant, the news stations and papers in the United States all began to talk about this.

Investors in the United States went mad once more!

Life at the Top Chapter 793

The Law and the Langdon families' statement implied that Sena was going to enter the Harbor City market with these two families' help.

While the Harbor City market did not mean much, one should remember that the wealthy families in Harbor City currently held large influence over Southeast Terra.

To those who were wise, this statement implied that Sena would enter the broad market of Southeast Terra.

With that being said, Sena now had the possibility of spreading beyond the country and becoming the first multinational internet company.

The market's enthusiasm was instantly reflected in Sena's share prices.

The share prices had been jumping between 88 and 89 US dollars when they instantly jumped to 99 US dollars ten minutes after the statement was released.

It was only one step away from reaching 100 US dollars.

Jasper looked at Sena's share prices and let out a slight sigh of relief.

He had at least managed to get rid of the negative effect William's actions had brought.

Just then, Winston Bennett's team also released a statement.

Winston Bennett had used his funds to buy 120 million US dollars worth of Sena's shares.

This statement tallied with his bullish stance on Sena during the interview.

Just then, Sena's share prices surpassed 100 US dollars!

Just as all the investors in the United States began to cheer about Sena creating miracles, Jasper's phone rang.

"Hello, is this Mr. Jasper Laine?" A middle-aged man's gentle voice sounded on the other end of the phone.

Jasper replied, "I am. And you are?"

"Hello, this is Winston Bennett's assistant. He had me make you a call.

"Mr. Bennett actually wished to talk to you in person, but an emergency came up and he's unavailable. On behalf of Mr. Bennett, I'd like to invite you to have afternoon tea with Mr. Bennett this Wednesday.

"I'd like to ask if you're free to meet, Mr. Laine?"

Jasper was stunned for a moment, almost believing that this was a scam call.

Although it soon occurred to him that this was unlikely.

"I'll be there," Jasper replied.

The assistant smiled and said, "We'll confirm the time and place then, Mr. Laine. Have a great day, goodbye."

After hanging up the phone, Jasper felt a weird feeling come over him.

He never expected to get into contact with the stock god Winston Bennett so soon in this life.

Jasper was elated, for this was Winston Bennett, and the man taking the initiative to invite him for a meet-up spoke of his acknowledgment of Jasper.

However, he felt no additional excitement. After all, Jasper no longer needed to marvel at anyone else anymore. If anything, he was the one the majority of people marveled at.

Jasper was envious, though, seeing how Winston Bennett had an assistant to make a call for him.

It seemed that Jasper had to speed up the employment of a secretary as it would not do well with his current status not to have one.

Jasper stayed in Nasdaq Exchange Center and watched for minute changes in the share prices. At that same moment, Celine was bringing a team of people toward the office William was currently in.

Celine could not help but chuckle when she remembered how infuriated Paulson looked less than 20 minutes ago when she told him the news.

“Are we certain this is the address? I don’t want to end up in the wrong place and forcing him into hiding,” Celine stated to the people beside her gleefully.

The people following Celine were members of Colossal Investments’ Integrity Department.

These were not the people who previously reviewed Celine. These were Colossal Investments’ true elites.

Most of them were from the United States’ Undercover Department or other special departments like the prosecutor’s court.

It was precisely thanks to these people that Colossal Investments remained as the investment bank with the least internal corruption over the past decade and longer.

“We’ve already confirmed with special equipment that the IP address of that transaction account is in this commercial building,” replied a stern middle-aged man.

Celine nodded and spoke, “Alright, let’s go then.”

Just then, William roared in his office.

His hair was a mess and his eyes were bloodshot. His originally ironed suit was now in shreds and hung sparsely over his shoulders.

Sitting on the chair, William stared at the computer in disbelief as he muttered to himself, “No way, how could the share prices suddenly rise so much?”

William had actually tried to sell his shares when the Law and the Langdon families released the statement in hopes to keep the share prices down.

Yet the investors’ total capital was too strong and it was foolish of William to think he could fight alone against so much hot money.

In an instant, the shares he threw out were completely sold to the other investors.

Before William could realize what was happening, Winston Bennet’s statement was released as well.

William slammed his fist onto the table at the sight of the striking large trendline and shouted, “No way! What the hell happened?! Something must’ve happened without my knowledge! Damn it, it’s more than 100 US dollars already!”

Bang!

The office doors were kicked open and a group of people rushed in.

Celine followed behind the group, and her slim figure was truly alluring. Every step she took turned heads and she entered the room enchantingly.

“You’re right, something did happen without your knowledge. Not that you need to know what it is now, since it’s not important anymore.”

William’s face paled as he looked at Celine and the group of people who were glaring at him disdainfully.

“What are you doing?! What do you mean by bringing so many people over, Celine?” William pushed aside the unease that surged within him and growled.

Celine waved a hand in front of her nose to get rid of the disgusting smell in the office. With a hand over her nose, she spoke, “The headquarters already knows that you embezzled the company’s funds, William.”

William’s expression changed drastically.

While he already had an inkling when Celine appeared with these people in tow, Williams still could not stop the fear and disbelief when he heard the truth.

“What nonsense are you spouting?!” William roared fiercely.

Just then, a middle-aged man beside Celine walked over expressionlessly and spoke with his badge in his hand, “Mr. William, I’m the special executive officer of the headquarters’ Integrity Department, reporting directly to the board of directors. We have sufficient proof that you’ve embezzled one billion US dollars from the Terra regional branch.

“You have the right to remain silent and everything you say will be used against you when Colossal sues you.”

With that, he gestured to someone beside him. “Bring him away.”

“Wait.”

Celine suddenly spoke.

Even William looked at Celine confusedly, wondering why she would stop them at such a time.

Life at the Top Chapter 794

“Have you not humiliated me enough, Celine?”

William glared at Celine and sneered.

Celine kept her hand over her nose and spoke cheerfully, “You think too much.”

With that, Celine ignored the sour look on William’s face and pulled her phone out to call Jasper.

“We’ve caught him.”

Celine stretched her neck to look at William’s computer screen as she spoke. Seeing Sena’s stock chart blinking continuously on the screen, she continued, “We caught him red-handed. He was still trading when we arrived and from the looks of it, he’s tried his best to keep the share prices from rising. He’s close to clearing his account at this rate.

“So what now, do you want me to bring him to you?” Celine asked.

Jasper was currently eating lunch with Jack and the rest.

They had woken up early in the morning to ring the Nasdaq opening bell so that Sena could go public. Everyone had been so excited and high-strung that they only found the time to have lunch now.

“No need.” Jasper swallowed a mouthful of food, feeling slightly upset.

While there were some restaurants in the United States, the flavor of the food here was rather indescribable.

Jasper was starting to miss the taste of home.

“There’s no need for that. He’s no more than an insignificant side character.

“I’m eating now, we’ll talk when you get back.”

Jasper then hung up the call.

As if anticipating that Jasper would say such a thing, Celine had put the phone on loudspeaker since the very beginning.

William had heard Jasper’s words clearly.

William, who still planned to protest at the very beginning, was irked by Jasper’s attitude and suddenly became as mad as a rabid dog.

This was the biggest attack someone could land on their opponent.

The enemy he had been plotting to crush ultimately defeated him as if he was nothing.

This was what William felt now.

A surge of anger and humiliation flooded him, almost making him abandon all rationale.

“Who does he think he is? I’m the president of Colossal Investments’ Terra regional branch! Countless financial magazines could only wish to interview me! I have people begging for me to invest in their companies and to give them a job at Colossal!

“Who the hell does he think he is! How dare he look down on me? What does he mean insignificant? I’m going to kill him! He’s f*cking dead!”

Overwhelmed by his emotions, William continued to thrash and struggle, which only resulted in more people surrounding him and keeping him in place. They made sure he could not do anything in his agitation.

Celine watched William's reaction and her expression looked content. She waited until he was done speaking before she replied slowly, "You're indeed the president of Colossal Investments' Terra regional branch. That's going to change soon, but I suppose you still are right now.

"The difference between the both of you is that you're nothing once you leave Colossal Investments. Even if you manage to stay in Colossal, you're still nothing more than one of its many senior executives.

"But he's the soul of JW Capital and its chain of companies. He has various companies under his name, all with boundless potential.

"The world's first skyscraper in the future will belong to him and the currently most hyped dot-com enterprise belongs to him too. Only the future will tell of his success.

"And there's nothing you can do but watch him succeed from the confinements of your jail cell."

Celine stared at the deep hatred in William's eyes.

"I can't believe I actually fought with someone like you for years. Now that I think about it, it's unbecoming of someone of my status. My apologies."

With that, Celine ignored William who looked completely defeated and waved her hand, "Bring him away."

...

Half an hour later, Celine appeared beside Jasper with a smile on her face.

“All done?” Jasper asked.

Life at the Top Chapter 795

“All done,” Celine affirmed.

“Good, then.” Jasper nodded but did not say more.

“It’s already 110 US dollars!” Celine exclaimed when she looked at the computer and saw Sena’s current share prices.

“There’s still one more hour until the market closes.” Jasper pondered softly with his hands underneath his chin.

“It should be okay now. Even if we can’t reach 120 US dollars today, there’s nothing much anyone can comment on considering such a performance from Sena on its first day.” Celine looked at Jasper and consoled him, seeing how serious and stern the man looked.

Although she had always joked around with Jasper, Celine also saw how much hard work Jasper had put in to raise Sena’s share prices.

At such a moment, she did not have the heart to joke about such a thing with Jasper.

To her surprise, Jasper smiled. “Don’t worry, I still have a plan.”

“Jack, come over for a bit.”

Hearing Jasper, Jack quickly went over.

“What is it, Mr. Laine?”

Jack asked gleefully.

As Sena's manager, Jack received company dividends, and the higher Sena's share price, the higher his net worth.

He was not the only elated one here, for all of Sena's senior executives were too. Everyone was in a great mood and their eyes were filled with respect when they looked at Jasper.

This man had increased their net worth from the millions to tens of millions in a day. Especially Jack, whose net worth was at the hundreds of millions mark thanks to the increase in share prices.

"How much cash is there in the company's accounts?" Jasper asked.

Jack immediately replied, "A little bit more than 360 million Somer Dollars."

"Have the company release a statement saying that the company is considering repurchasing its shares back to ensure the interests of existing shareholders."

Jasper instructed.

Jack's eyes widened in disbelief when he heard Jasper.

Indeed, the company did have the right to repurchase the available shares in the market.

However, companies only tended to do so in preparation for privatization.

Privatization essentially meant repurchasing all outstanding shares from investors and leaving the market.

There had never been a company that repurchased its shares the first day it went public.

“We could induce panic in the market if this goes wrong, Mr. Laine,” Jack spoke.

Jasper smiled and pointed at the electronic display that covered the entire wall outside the windows. “Look at how frenzied these American investors are. What panic can we induce in the market?”

Speechless, Jack took a look at Jasper’s determined expression and nodded. “Alright, I’ll get right to it.”

Jasper smiled. “Thank you.”

Jack grinned. “There’s no need, I’m just doing my job.”

Ten minutes after Jack left, another huge statement was released from Sena.

Sena’s managerial ranks had plans to repurchase 300 million Somer Dollars worth of shares to ensure its shareholders’ interests.

The news very quickly spread far and wide.

The investors were stunned and so were organizations and investing parties in Wall Street.

No one understood what Jasper was doing.

Instantly, calls and messages blew up Jasper’s phone.

The man was well prepared for this and directly switched his phone off. Now, no one could contact him at all.

Life at the Top Chapter 796

The market reacted almost immediately once they knew of Sena's statement.

Sena's share prices had another burst once the statement was released and stabilized at 110 US dollars. It was likely for it to keep rising and its trend was steep!

At the same time, in the president's office of Nasdaq Exchange Center.

Franklin and Paulson were chatting. The duo had yet to find out about Sena's statement, so they did not realize that Sena's share prices had suddenly spiked.

Paulson still did not believe that Sena would surpass 120 US dollars per share, for the dot-com industry's economy had yet to recover after its bubble popped. To exceed such a price was an impossible feat!

"You've been sitting here all day, old friend. It seems like Sena's share prices really won't be able to exceed 120 US dollars as you predicted."

As the president of Nasdaq Exchange Center, Franklin had seen way too many hyped or insignificant shares go public and privatize.

Franklin had more experience in share securities than Paulson and perhaps even more authority when it came to theory, or he could not have assumed the position as president of one of the world's six biggest exchange centers.

Paulson smiled softly and pointed at his brain. "That's because I have a fundamental understanding of the financial market and dot-com industry as a whole."

“I agree that Sena is an outstanding company, and if it had gone public before the dot-com bubble popped, I’m sure a company with its results can easily amount to 180 US dollars. But the industry is no longer the same.

“The limits of its share prices isn’t the business, but the market’s ceiling.”

Franklin sighed regretfully. “I agree. As you said, the market’s environment is what’s limiting it. It’s a shame, considering how boundless Sena’s potential is as an enterprise.”

Paulson laughed aloud and spoke, “Let this be a lesson taught to the young Somer businessman. He’s an extraordinary man, but he has yet to see through Wall Street’s financial market. In many cases, a company’s determined share price is hardly a representation of the enterprise’s results and future.

“There’s nothing wrong with a few more obstacles for the youths.

“There’s still another hour before its first transactional day ends. Will you truly fire Celine if Sena doesn’t manage to exceed 120 US dollars? You should know that doing so would create a rift between you and this Somer businessman. Your relationship would take a horrible turn,” Franklin spoke.

Paulson shrugged. “The world needs the United States and the United States needs Wall Street. As the largest investment bank in the world, the last thing Colossal lacks are partnerships. I’m sure he’ll know what to do if he’s a qualified businessman.

“Perhaps he’s already considering admitting his loss to me.

“As for Celine, she’s indeed the daughter of an old friend of mine. I won’t fire her because of this, but I will have to teach her a lesson.

“I need them to know that many things in this world aren’t in their control. After all, there are still people like us who are more experienced and more authorized. We can’t possibly let them get away being so full of themselves.”

Paulson had just finished speaking when someone hastily knocked on the door.

“Come in,” Franklin spoke calmly.

Jameson entered the room quickly and greeted the two old men, “Hello, President Paulson, Mr. Franklin.”

Seeing his own subordinate enter the room, Paulson frowned slightly and asked, “I thought you were supposed to be by Jasper’s side, Jameson? What are you doing here?”

Life at the Top Chapter 797

Jameson reported with a strange expression on his face, “President Paulson, I just received reliable news that Sena has given an official statement about preparing to repurchase 300 million Somer Dollars worth of Sena’s shares. They claim that it’s to ensure the interests of their shareholders.”

Paulson gasped at that. “What?!”

Even Franklin was stunned.

Jameson quickly continued, “The news caught us off guard and Jasper didn’t tell us anything before he made the decision... Perhaps he did tell the general manager of the Terra regional branch, Celine, but she did not report it to us.”

“He has the right to make any decisions he wants when it comes to Sena. After all, Colossal Investments are just providing service and a partnership. You aren’t Jasper’s superior, so there’s no need for him to report everything to you.”

Franklin looked at Paulson intently and smiled. “Looks like you miscalculated today, old friend.”

“This little Easterner brat. Where’s all this bravery coming from? Does he not fear that doing so will induce panic and cause the upward trend to crash?”

Paulson spoke angrily, feeling humiliated. Then, he opened the computer and pulled out Sena’s share chart.

Franklin came over to take a look as well. After taking a glance, he laughed aloud. “Looks like the Goddess of Luck is standing in the east today.”

Sena’s share price was at a whopping 121 US dollars.

From the trade volume, it seemed that the upward trend was still going strong and would not stop even when the trading day came to an end.

“This little brat!” Paulson spat out the words with his jaw set, only to suddenly break into laughter.

Paulson turned to Franklin as he laughed and spoke, “How long has it been since we last saw someone like this? The last person who dared make such a thrilling move must’ve been Winston Benett, that old fella.”

Franklin nodded in deep agreement. “To some degree, those two are the same kind of people.

“They take risks that the world believes to be unnecessary, only for them to receive a reward that greatly outweighs their risks. Not to mention that they know the moment they make their decisions that they’ll win.”

Franklin sighed in awe, slightly saddened about the end of a hero’s era but relieved to know that a new hero had arisen to take their place. “The world does indeed belong to the youths. Perhaps we’re really growing old.”

Paulson looked at Sena’s share prices quietly and closed his eyes. He began to think back on Jasper’s actions since Sena went public.

First was the advertisement and paving of the path for the shares before Sena went public. This was so all investors in the United States knew that this was a very outstanding share that had broken many of the dot-com industry's records.

Thanks to that, Sena's share prices then doubled from its issued price in a very short amount of time after going public.

Following that was William troubling him, but instead of panicking, Jasper countered it with his own contacts.

This caused the first surge in prices.

Then came Winston Benett's tacit help, leading to the second surge.

However, this current move of Sena releasing its statement was one of extreme determination and ambition. This move truly proved how intelligent Jasper was and Paulson could not help but be impressed.

Life at the Top Chapter 798

The analog clock ticked slowly on the display until the second hand finally rested on the number 12.

It was currently 3:30 p.m. in New York and Nasdaq Exchange was officially over for the day.

Following the end of the trading day, a loud cheer resonated throughout the exchange center.

A red flag with five stars on it appeared on the electronic display again, and below it were Nasdaq Exchange Center's and Sena's logos.

Everyone was cheering about the miracle they had seen today.

They had watched as Sena's share leaped from its issued price of 25 US dollars and grew almost five times in just six hours to 122 US dollars when the market closed!

At this moment, the host of the financial radio channel spoke excitedly, "You heard it right, Somerland's Sena has once again made history. Reality has proven to every one of us that as long as you are capable enough, you can create true miracles here in the United States!

"The share has grown five times its price in just one day. This means that thousands of people have become millionaires and more thanks to Sena's shares in just six hours!

"According to the latest news and a reliable source, eight people from Sena's managerial ranks have net worths of a few millions, four are worth a few tens of millions, and one is worth hundreds of millions thanks to such phenomenal success!

"This is a great moment for Nasdaq and Sena! Sena has proven to us today that despite enduring a pop in the dot-com bubble, the industry is still filled with potential and it's still a viable direction for the world to further develop. Perhaps all of us could ask ourselves if we've been looking at the dot-com industry with a biased gaze."

Jasper could not hear the host's intonated speech anymore for he was currently surrounded by Jack and the rest.

If everyone was not restraining themselves, they would be throwing Jasper into the air to celebrate by now.

"Have fun relaxing in New York for the next couple of days, everyone. Understand the charm of this international financial center."

Jasper spoke with a smile to the group of people who had gazes filled with excitement and admiration.

At that moment, it was as if Jasper was glowing.

The man shone brighter than anyone, and a simple small smile from the man was so charismatic that it could leave people feeling intoxicated.

“All your expenses will be paid by the company, except for shopping. After all, you guys have just made a lot of money.”

Jasper’s joke pushed the atmosphere to its climax.

Meanwhile, Henry was long gone.

The man was shaking vigorously from excitement upon realizing that he had earned 50 million from this. He immediately went to contact an aircraft manufacturer and decided to spend his money on buying a private plane.

Celine took a step back from the crowd and watched quietly as the group of elites were in a frenzy. These men in suits all resembled excited little children who had just gotten an award.

At this moment, the deepest feelings of a person were exposed out in the open.

Yet no one would mock them. If anything, there was only envy.

As the harbinger of this all, Jasper was surrounded by people but there was no sign of any excitement on his face at all. The man was still very much composed.

He stood there with a charming and confident smile on his face as always. It almost seemed like nothing could shake him out of his calm state of mind.

Celine really wanted to open Jasper's brain up sometimes, just so she could take a look at what he was hiding inside. 'How is he so calm no matter what happens?

'It's almost as if nothing in the world is worth his excitement.

'Or perhaps... he has a different goal in mind?'

Life at the Top Chapter 799

The possibility suddenly came to Celine.

For ordinary people, or perhaps for Sena's senior executives who were already at the peak of their careers, this achievement was tantamount to great success.

Yet to Jasper, this might just be one small step toward his final goal.

If that was the case, then it made sense why the man was barely excited at all. He still had a long road ahead of him; his future was somewhere much higher and much further.

"What are you thinking about?"

Jasper's words suddenly snapped Celine back from her wayward thoughts.

Upon returning to reality, Celine saw Jasper's smile right in front of her.

"You," Celine teased Jasper instinctively.

"I thought as much," Jasper replied, and it was obvious he was in a good mood.

The two shared a look before they broke out into laughter.

“Come on, let’s go look for your superior, Paulson,” Jasper spoke.

Celine knew what Jasper wanted to do, but she showed no fear at all and immediately followed Jasper to the exchange center’s elevator. She knew that Paulson had stayed in Franklin’s office the entire day in the exchange center instead of returning to Colossal.”

“Hey, how much did you earn today?” Celine asked nosily when they got in the elevator.

While everyone was calculating their profits, Jasper had also done some rough calculations in his mind.

Sena had risen from 25 US dollars to the current 122 US dollars, which meant profit was five times whatever he initially put in.

According to the rise in price today, Jasper then calculated his profit according to his percentage of shares. The amount came up to an overall profit of around six billion Somer Dollars.

Considering how much it had cost him to acquire Sena back then, he had made big profits today.

However, there was no way Jasper could liquidize all his shares, for Sena was currently his golden goose. For a man who was not even willing to let go of his full authority, Jasper was definitely not going to sell the company.

As such, this six billion was merely an income in his book of accounts. If Jasper did not want his control over Sena to waiver, he most likely would only be able to liquidize around two billion.

He had already invested five billion in the skyscraper’s construction, so it would not be too much of an issue to support operations in all his companies with a reserve fund of two billion.

Not to mention that the electronics company was making a daily net profit of one million and Elbert's team was currently researching how to manufacture an even cheaper MP4.

The MP4 was now being sold in other countries and had a rich product lining. According to Jasper's conservative estimation, he was making a daily profit of at least three million.

Coupled with United Legends, another cash cow, JW Capital and its subsidiaries should be able to operate self-sufficiently.

Jasper had indeed reaped many rewards from Sena going public. The problem of his tight cash flow had been resolved and most importantly, he had opened the doors to doing business in Wall Street.

As to what Jasper wanted to do with that, well, he would decide when the time came.

"Probably a small profit of a few billion," Jasper spoke with a beam.

"Sena's market price has exceeded tens of billions of Somer Dollars. It's one of the largest enterprises in Somerland, part of the Ten Billion Club. Companies like Sena are considered huge even over here in the west and I'm sure you, as the founder, have earned much more than just profits that could be written in your books of accounts." Celine was a professional for a reason and managed to identify the true benefit of it all.

Jasper looked at the president's office in front of them and spoke calmly, "We've arrived. We can talk about that later."

Life at the Top Chapter 800

This was the second time Jasper saw Franklin and Paulson in Nasdaq Exchange Center.

The two of them reacted to his arrival very differently.

Franklin's gaze was filled with curiosity and admiration, while Paulson had a tense and expressionless look on his face.

"President Paulson, it seems like I've won our bet."

Jasper went straight to the point as he was not in the mood to deal with Paulson's temper and the fact that the man thought he was better because he was older and more experienced.

Paulson nodded. "Correct. Sena's share price is valued at 122 US dollars currently, so you've indeed won."

"And our agreement?" Jasper asked.

"I'll keep my end of the promise. I'll hold a meeting with the board of directors tomorrow and fully support Celine in assuming the position of the president of the Terra regional branch, as well as cancel all reviews on her," Paulson replied curtly.

Jasper was very pleased.

Meanwhile, Celine, who was standing beside them, was stunned.

She knew of Jasper and Paulson's bet, but she had no idea that Jasper's condition was her promotion.

President of the Terra regional branch. This was a position she had worked hard for years but could never assume, yet this man had so quietly dealt with it for her!

Celine felt a strong urge as she glanced at Jasper who was beside her.

She wanted to rush over and just pounce on the man!

The urge was tremendous despite it only just appearing and it was almost impossible to suppress.

Celine flushed and her eyes grew moist, almost as though tears were about to fall.

Jasper paid no attention to the change in Celine's expression.

"Laine, I have to admit that I've underestimated you," Paulson suddenly said.

Jasper smiled softly and replied unaffectedly, "You have your own views, President Paulson, just as I have my own beliefs. No one in this world, including the two of us, can claim that our decision will definitely be the right one. All we can do is try our best to make fewer mistakes and make better decisions."

A smile finally graced Paulson's features as he spoke, "The more I talk to you, Laine, the more I admire you. To be honest, I don't feel as though I'm talking to a young man in his early 20s when I talk to you. You're experienced and mature. I can't help but feel like I'm talking to a friend."

"It's my pleasure," Jasper replied, neither overly humble nor arrogant.

Paulson smiled and continued, "To be honest, I've been thinking about it... If possible, I'd like to invest in your company."

Jasper frowned slightly but still chuckled. “Sena is already a company listed on Nasdaq. You’re welcome to invest in us any time, President Paulson.”

Seeing how Jasper was deliberately acting clueless, Paulson cursed internally at the man’s craftiness.

He decided to ask directly, “I mean I hope to invest in your other companies.

“You should know that Colossal Investments is currently the largest investment bank in the industry. We wish to partner with every promising company and I can promise that no matter how many shares we own, Colossal will not interfere with the day-to-day operations of your business.”

Jasper sighed internally at Paulson’s proposal.

As expected, the issue that concerned him the most ended up happening anyway.

With his outstanding capabilities and the fact that his subsidiaries were growing larger and stronger, it was only natural that they would attract attention from other capitalists.

In truth, Colossal’s investment was something more than 90% of the world’s start-up companies wished for.

After all, such an investment would give the company a surge in cash flow in a short amount of time, and it could also rapidly increase the company’s competitive ability thanks to its relationship with Colossal Investments.

For example, if Colossal Investments was one of Sena’s shareholders, Sena could easily enter the United States share market and gain market share of the web portal and gaming markets.

However, Jasper did not want these things.

With the memory of the following 19 years, Jasper was not afraid that he would be unable to enter the market. He knew better than everyone where the world's future was headed.

“Sorry, but Celine has suggested something similar to me before and my response hasn't changed. I don't plan to accept any investments.”

Paulson did not look too happy about Jasper's direct rejection.

He felt that Jasper was not respecting him at all by putting him in a difficult spot.

“Won't you consider it again?” Paulson asked persistently.

Jasper shook his head firmly and replied, “Perhaps Colossal and I could have future partnerships, but it certainly won't be now and it definitely won't be through investing in one of my companies.”

The atmosphere in the office thickened, and the office fell into silence.

Franklin watched quietly and mirthfully like an old witty fox.

Celine did not say anything either and merely looked at Jasper with admiration. ‘He's too manly.

‘He's so different from the average man.

‘What do I do? The urge to pounce and eat him alive is growing stronger. I don't think I can hold it back any longer.’

Paulson looked at the man before him silently. Jasper's jet black hair, warm skin tone, and dark brown eyes—all of this made Paulson think that Jasper was different from the other people he had been in contact with before.

For example, no one had ever rejected him so unyieldingly... Or at least, others had always done it indirectly to preserve his dignity. Yet Jasper did not.

Jasper seemed to be stating his firm stance resolutely, that he would not allow anyone to meddle with his company.

Paulson was now faced with a choice, either to be Jasper's friend or his enemy.

With Paulson's status and temper, the latter was something he did not even need to consider.

After all, no matter how outstanding Jasper was, he was still too weak and too young in comparison to Colossal.

This was something Jasper knew very well.

That did not mean he was afraid.

Ownership and complete control over his properties were Jasper's bottom line. If he could not keep that, then there was no point in his reincarnation at all.

The stronger the force in front of him, the more he could not give in.

If he gave in once, then the other party would only force him to give in again and again until there was nothing left of him.

After some time, Paulson suddenly smiled.

He reached out and took the initiative to shake Jasper's hand. "Capital is free, as is a person's desires. While it is a shame, I respect your decision and will protect your right to make a free choice. I hope we'll still have a chance for further partnership in the future."

The atmosphere in the office loosened with Paulson's smile and words.

The smile hanging on the corner of Franklin's lips grew as well.

He knew that this witty and young Easterner had won again. He had forced his old friend to compromise after so many years.

Jasper smiled as well as he reached out to firmly shake Paulson's hand. "I'm sure we'll have the chance."

Life at the Top Chapter 801

Walking out of the president's office, Celine stared at Jasper who looked very carefree and asked, "Were you not nervous at all?"

"About what?" Jasper asked despite knowing full well what she was talking about.

"About Paulson. He's not as kind as he looks. The fact that he managed to become Colossal's president despite starting from a normal project manager means that he's more ruthless than anyone if need be," Celine replied.

Jasper smiled and spoke, "His ruthlessness is a testament to how smart he is, and smart men tend to choose options that are the most beneficial to them. He won't get anything by starting an all-out war with me, so he won't do it."

"Bullsh*t." Celine rolled her eyes at Jasper. "Sure, your companies have unlimited potential and they've already grown quite a bit in size, but they're still nothing more than weaklings to Colossal, okay?"

"The investment bank wants to make money and Paulson wants fame. Getting rid of a weakling like me won't bring the investment bank money nor will the world suddenly respect Paulson more for it. Plus, on the off chance that they don't manage to crush me, they'll have a monstrous force to deal with in the future. Why go through all that trouble?" Jasper replied calmly.

"God knows where you got this confidence from," Celine spoke calmly.

Still, despite her words, Celine's eyes shone as she looked at Jasper.

As of that moment, Celine had already lost all ability to ponder and mull over Jasper's words. She would not think about whether Jasper's words were realistic or not.

She only had one thought in mind, and that was how handsome and dominant Jasper was. She just wanted to pounce on him!

"Are you free tonight?" Celine suddenly asked.

"I'll be out celebrating with Jack and the rest. Why?" Jasper asked.

"Celebrate with them another day. Leave your schedule tonight for me," Celine demanded.

"What do you want to do?" Jasper looked at Celine warily.

"You're still scared that I'll take advantage of you?" Celine spoke distastefully.

"Fine." Jasper believed that it was unbecoming of him, as a man, to back down before Celine, a woman, did.

A look of pride was concealed in Celine's shining eyes as she pushed the excitement she felt within her away. She walked out of a long-emptied Nasdaq Exchange Center with Jasper.

A short distance away from the center, the two saw a familiar figure being forced into a police car embarrassingly.

It was William.

When Jasper and Celine saw William, he saw them too.

"F*cking b*tch and b*stard! You cheating wh*res!" William began to shout madly when he saw the duo.

Celine stood in front of William and curled the corner of her lips into a cold smirk.

“Look at you now. What’s the difference between you and a defeated dog?”

Celine’s words greatly bruised William’s confidence. Staring at her wretchedly, he roared, “Don’t you dare look so proud! You only got to where you are today because you seduced some barbarian! I’d like to see how much longer you can keep up this proud act!”

Celine looked at William pitifully and spoke, “Say I did seduce men, I’d still never seduce you. Does that anger you?”

William ground his molars hard. If not for the two burly men holding him in place, he would have rushed over and shown her a piece of his mind.

“You b*tch!” William spat out the words.

The mocking sneer on the corners of Celine’s lips grew, but she showed no signs of anger at all.

Life at the Top Chapter 802

“What a pitiful loser. All the insults you throw at me are nothing more than the rewards of my victory. It sounds better than songs of praise from someone else because the more you insult me, the more tragic you’ve lost. And, the more I’ve won.”

Jasper, who was standing beside, could not help but take another look at Celine when she spoke. In all honesty, women really were superior when they argued. This alone was enough to get rid of a large group of people and their potty mouths.

William's body trembled in infuriation but Celine was no longer interested in arguing with him.

"Do you even know what a true winner is? No, you don't. Look at this man beside me that you called a barbarian. Yet has he paid you any attention from the get-go? Your every insult sounds nothing more than the barks of stray dogs to him.

"You can insult us as much as you want, but remember that you're going to trial soon while we're going to celebrate. This is the true difference between a winner and a loser. It's not about who has the loudest voice."

With that, Celine wrapped an arm around Jasper's arm and the two turned to leave.

William's eyes were bloodshot as he glared at the two retreating figures. He was too infuriated to speak.

After taking just two steps, Celine seemed to have thought of something and suddenly turned with a smile.

"Oh yeah, I've also gotten Paulson's promise that I'll be taking over your position.

"I'll be the president of the Terra regional branch.

"See you, or maybe not. We belong to two different worlds now and there won't be any reason for us to meet again. You've already lost and have nothing left. How tragic."

Celine and Jasper left, leaving William to roar and shout. Following this was the sound of the car door closing and then, silence.

...

Since he had promised Celine, Jasper did not go out to celebrate with Jack and the rest. After all, with a superior like him there, those senior executives might not be able to fully relax.

Jasper may be around their children's age, but his status was completely different. Not to mention that with Jasper's growing wealth, his subordinates' attitude toward him only became more courteous.

Jasper told Jack about it and got into the car Celine had prepared for them. The car made its way deeper into New York City.

Celine brought Jasper to one of New York's, and even the world's, most famous tourist attractions—the Empire State Building.

Jasper joked as he took in the tall Empire State Building that seemed to shoot for the sky. "I can almost taste money in the air when I take a deep breath."

Celine chuckled and spoke, "Come on, I have something special prepared for you."

Jasper was a little shocked but did not ask any questions, opting instead to follow Celine into the Empire State Building.

Jasper once again realized how broad Celine's contracts were.

This woman had actually transformed the rooftop area on the Empire State Building into an open bar.

Frankly speaking, a mere general manager of Colossal Investments' Terra regional branch should not be able to invite Winston Bennett for an interview, nor make the rooftop of the Empire State Building into her own private garden and bar.

Jasper was curious about Celine's family background, but if she did not want to tell him, Jasper would not waste his time asking either.

They were friends, after all, and family background did not matter.

Jasper did not have a great family background, so all he could do was be the background for his future generations. He would not envy others who came from wealthy families, or it would truly be bad for his heart to spend every day by Henry's side.

"Come and look at the city's skyline. Stand here. You're going to own a building even taller than the Empire State Building soon and it'll only be a matter of time before countless people look up to you like they look up to the Empire State Building!"

Life at the Top Chapter 803

Jasper felt a ripple of emotion in his heart as he looked at Celine who stood by the roof railing of the Empire State Building and listened to her speak.

He walked over to stand beside Celine by the railing.

Feeling the chilly and raging winds 400 meters up in the sky, his surroundings were dimly lit this evening and Jasper felt as if the entire New York City was beneath his feet.

The neon lights in this immense city spread from under his feet and stretched all the way to the horizon beyond what he could see. The city bustled with liveliness.

No one could tell for sure how many separations and reunions the city, populated by millions, went through each day.

Or what went on in the families behind every lit window.

As one of the busiest cities in the world, New York was indeed heaven for the powerful and the rich.

“One day, I’m sure,” Jasper murmured to himself as he stared at the night sky, now brightened by the city lights.

Beside him, Celine turned to focus her gaze on Jasper’s side profile, completely besotted.

She loved these moments of Jasper.

Unlike how gentle and reserved he normally was, the man’s aura was now tinted with dominance and fame. It was as though Jasper was in his true form at this very moment. He was a man waiting for the right timing to stun the world.

Celine personally believed that men should not be too humble or keep too low a profile. A man was supposed to walk with an aura of dominance to him, and a man who could make her look twice had to be one with the strength to conquer the world.

Jasper fitted her requirements perfectly right now.

“For tonight, you’re the king,” Celine spoke softly.

“What did you say?”

The wind blew loudly on the rooftop and Jasper turned to ask Celine what she had said because he did not hear her.

“Nothing much.” Celine chuckled, turning to walk over to the sofa where the wind was not as strong. Sitting down, she asked, “Is there something you’d like to drink? I can have someone prepare a lot of alcohol for you.”

“White wine. I’m not really used to drinking stronger spirits, and I’m so-so with red wine,” Jasper replied.

Celine pulled out her phone and made a call.

Less than ten minutes later, ten bottles each of white and red wine were brought up.

Following this was a table full of mouth-watering and colorful Somer dishes.

Jasper glanced at the bottles of white wine that had all been aged for at least ten years and bottles of collection-grade red wine that were all from the same oak cellar. “Is the Empire State Building your wine cellar and kitchen?”

Celine took off her shoes and curled up comfortably on the sofa barefoot. Smiling mirthfully, she replied, “It’s not that exaggerated, all I did was borrow the rooftop. Plus, when it comes to alcohol and food, nothing is impossible in New York as long as you’re willing to spend money.”

Jasper’s stomach was starting to feel uncomfortable by the Western food he had been eating these days, so he was undoubtedly elated to be able to enjoy the taste of home again.

Celine seemed to have loosened up as well, no longer complaining about being on a diet as she dug into the scrumptious dishes that filled the table.

Jasper drank the bottles of white wine while Celine drank the red. Under the strong cold winds on the rooftop of the Empire State Building, the two toasted and ate.

After finishing an entire bottle of white wine, Jasper began to feel a little tipsy.

Sitting on the single sofa, Jasper stared past the railing at the skyline, all the way to the horizon until he could not see anything anymore. Then only did he pull his gaze back.

“What are you looking at?” Celine looked at Jasper and asked, her cheeks slightly flushed after drinking one and a half bottles of red wine.

“Looking at whether New York City has an owner,” Jasper spoke.

“It does,” Celine replied with certainty.

Life at the Top Chapter 804

Jasper turned to look at her. Celine chuckled and pulled out a 100 US dollar banknote and waved it. “Look, the city’s owner.”

Stunned for a moment, Jasper then laughed aloud. “You’re right. So very right.”

“I want to own this US banknote of yours,” Jasper suddenly spoke after he finished laughing.

Celine’s smile vanished after he finished speaking and she stared intently at him, to the point where Jasper felt his hair rise out of caution.

“Why are you looking at me like that?” Jasper asked.

Celine did not respond, but she stood and walked over to Jasper.

Jasper sat on his single sofa with Celine standing before him.

The wind continued to howl on the rooftop but it could not dissipate the warming tension between the man and the woman.

Suddenly, Celine put her arm on Jasper’s shoulder so he would not get up and then turned around to plop herself on his lap.

All of a sudden, there was a woman in his arms.

Feeling the gentle softness and shocking suppleness of the woman in his arms, Jasper's mind sobered substantially.

"What are you doing?" Jasper asked, instinctively moving to push Celine off and stand.

Yet Celine seemed to have anticipated that, for she pressed his shoulder down with one hand and looked up at Jasper. "Are you really willing to push me away? Do you dare to push me away?"

Jasper instantly froze in place, and at the same time, he realized something. 'How the f*ck is she so strong?'

Just as Jasper made a mental note to spend more time at the gym once he returned, Celine then wrapped herself around him and got closer to him. Her red lips whispered in Jasper's ear, "But don't you want to be my owner?"

"You're married and I have a girlfriend," Jasper replied, trying his best to keep his mind sober.

"So you're throwing me away?" Celine asked pitifully.

Jasper was just about to apologize when he saw a sly expression on Celine's face. He realized then that he had been played.

"Girlfriend? I don't want to be with you anyway. What's the point in doing all that? Marriage is a grave," Celine whispered.

Jasper was just about to speak when a slim and fair finger rested on his lips to quiet him.

"Don't say anything, and don't move.

"Let's keep drinking."

Celine's voice was soft and her mesmerizing tone seemed to be laced with magical power. Jasper sat on the sofa and stopped moving as instructed. He did not say anything either as he looked at Celine.

Celine chuckled and commented, "Men. They just can't hold their ground when you flirt."

With that, Celine then grabbed a bottle of white wine and took a large swig. Instead of swallowing, she put the bottle back down and turned to wrap her arms around Jasper's neck...

Jasper's eyes widened as he felt something soft and damp touch his lips. Following this was the fiery burn of white wine. Those were two very different feelings and the strong alcohol burned as it reached his heart.

Just like that, Celine fed Jasper another two bottles of white wine.

Coupled with the bottle before, Jasper had already drunk three bottles of white wine while Celine drank five bottles of red.

"Let's go! To the hotel room!"

Celine finally got off Jasper's legs, which were now numb.

Life at the Top Chapter 805

There was a complicated yet addictive taste in his mouth.

The aroma of pure white wine was mixed with a hint of indescribable fragrance.

Jasper felt his body heat up as the fragrance and the aroma of the wine entered his throat from his mouth.

Jasper felt rather dizzy after drinking two more bottles of white wine in such a new method. All he knew was that the moment Celine got up, his heart felt empty along with the loss of weight on his lap.

He felt an urge to pull her back, to have her sit on his lap obediently and not go anywhere.

Then, Celine said something that caused Jasper's head to snap up.

"What now, are you scared?"

Celine teased as she looked at Jasper with a shine in her eyes.

With that, Celine slightly leaned down to close the distance between them. Celine's face was so close to Jasper's that not even the harsh winds could dissipate the romantic air between them.

"Or perhaps, you want to do it here?"

A pair of fair and soft arms fell on Jasper's shoulders. Celine half knelt and half squatted before the man, asking her question in such an amorous and attractive posture.

Jasper did not know whether this was caused by the influence of alcohol or if it was something else, but he grabbed one of Celine's snow-white and flexible arms. He flicked his wrist so that he could hold her hand in his. "It's exciting on the rooftop of the Empire State Building, no?"

"I don't want to catch a cold," Celine spoke and then pulled Jasper to his feet from the sofa. Leaning her chin on his shoulder, Celine spoke by his ear, "My body feels weak. Carry me downstairs, I can't move."

Standing up, the harsh breeze cleared a considerable amount of Jasper's drunkenness.

Celine leaned into Jasper's ear to speak again, seeing how the man had yet to make a move. "Are you a man or not? I'm going to hold this over your head for the rest of your life if you bail on me now. I already told you I don't need you to take responsibility."

"Not everything is up to you once they happen," Jasper warned.

Celine scoffed and taunted, "Come on, then! As if I'd be afraid of you."

'Motherf*cker!'

Mr. Laine was a man and he had never once backed down in such a situation in either of his lives, albeit he had spent his previous life as an apple-polisher.

Throwing all rationale and consideration out the window, Jasper princess carried the woman who was leaning against him. Her soft gasp at the movement stroked Jasper's ego.

"It's too late for you to regret now."

Jasper then kicked the rooftop doors once he was done speaking and made a beeline downstairs.

A moment later, in the Empire State Building's underground car park, Jasper followed Celine's instructions and found a car waiting for them. There was a young woman sitting in the driver's seat. She was most likely the assistant or driver Celine had brought along.

Jasper was too lazy to ask so he threw Celine inside and got in behind her.

"Four Seasons Hotel, I've already booked a room," Celine spoke.

Shock flashed through the other woman's face when she heard Celine. After all, Celine had never been so intimate or taken such initiative with a man before.

She did not dare ask more, opting to start the engine instead. With its roar, the car came to life and left the underground car park.

The scent of wine filled the car compartment and the temperature rose. Both Celine and Jasper were flushed.

Not even opening all the windows in the car could quell the frustrating heat within them.

Celine leaned against the chair and reached out to put an arm on Jasper's leg. At the same time, she instructed the other woman, "Drive faster."

The only difference between a beauty and a wh*re was that the former could spark a desire within a man with the simplest actions and words.

Life at the Top Chapter 806

Jasper felt it at this moment.

The sports car sped up without his awareness and dashed through a rather short distance before it screeched to a halt at the hotel lobby's entrance.

Jasper immediately alighted and opened the car door. Then, he carried the soft woman in his arms and made his way straight to the hotel's concierge without looking back.

Jasper tossed both his and Celine's passport to the check-in counter and said, "The room's already booked, give me my card."

While the concierge in Four Seasons Hotel had seen his fair share of things, Four Seasons Hotel was still one of New York's most prestigious hotels and it was rare to see such a rushed couple.

However, upon reading the information from the system and realizing this Eastern couple had booked a Deluxe Presidential Suite that cost 20,000 US dollars a night, the concierge immediately changed his mind.

Rich people were just different and it showed in the ways they booked a hotel room for salacious activities. They were especially extravagant and carefree. They were much better than broke hypocrites who arrogantly pretended to be gentlemen.

Just as Jasper carried Celine to the hotel lobby and checked in under plenty of the guests' gazes, an exceptionally handsome and gentlemanly Westerner was also staring at them from the lobby's lounge.

Precisely speaking, he was staring at Celine.

The young man oozed an air of nobility, and while his expression was calm, anger and humility swirled in his eyes.

Sitting opposite him was a middle-aged man.

“Sir Wharton?”

Wharton snapped back to reality when the middle-aged man called out to him.

Smiling apologetically at the man, Wharton spoke, “My apologies, my mind drifted somewhere else. I’m a little tired today, so I’ll send someone to contact you about what we discussed just now. That’s all.”

At that, Wharton watched as the stranger carried Celine toward the elevator and immediately left the confused middle-aged man alone as he made his way to the concierge.

“I want a room right next to those two,” Wharton demanded the concierge expressionlessly.

“My apologies, sir, but those two booked Four Season Hotel’s Deluxe Presidential Suite. You’ll need to book three days in advance if you want the room next to them...”

Before the concierge could finish his formal reply, Wharton pulled out a low profile black card.

“Your president is a common visitor in my backyard. Could you quickly get to it? I’ll explain it to him for you if it comes to it, but do not waste my time. Understood?” Wharton looked at the concierge calmly and spoke.

The concierge’s eyes widened greatly at the sight of the black card.

This was a top-notch card with no limits from the Swiss Bank. Only extremely formidable and powerful people around the world had one. It was an existence the concierge could never imagine having for himself.

Coupled with Wharton's words, the man did not dare to hinder him and frantically replied, "I apologize for my disrespect, noble sir. I'll check you in right now."

Ignoring the frantic concierge before him, Wharton turned to look at the elevator.

Just then, Jasper was facing the elevator while princess carrying Celine. The woman had her arms around Jasper's shoulder and her eyes met Wharton's.

Wharton could clearly see the inexplicable smile that hung on the corners of Celine's lips.

There was mockery, disdain, and indifference, but no hatred and definitely no love.

With a ding, the elevator doors opened and Jasper carried Celine inside.

The elevator doors closed and cut off the gaze shared by Wharton and Celine.

"Sir Wharton, that was?" The middle-aged man rushed over and quickly asked when he noticed Wharton staring at the young couple who walked into the elevator.

"That woman is my wife, Celine Maynard, the second in line to inherit the Maynard business in the eastern United States." Wharton had a small smile on his face when he spoke, but his tone could not be more chilling. The middle-aged man sucked in a cold breath at the words.

Life at the Top Chapter 807

The United States was rather special.

Excluding Alaska and Hawaii, which were not connected to the main country, the United States was separated to its eastern and western parts at the Mississippi River.

The political center of the eastern United States was headed by Washington DC.

While the western financial center was headed by New York.

The formidable Maynard family, a group of Somer descents who were second to none, had a special existence in the east.

Despite clearly being of Somer descent, the family had an exceptional status and authority in the east.

The middle-aged man was born and raised in the United States, so he knew quite a bit about this family.

As to how strong the Maynard family was, it could be seen in their marriage partner.

Wharton was a member of the Welling family.

As a noble family from the era of the British Empire, the Welling family was limitlessly powerful and they had quite an influence over Continental Europe.

'How could such a thing happen in the marriage union of two formidable characters?

'How could the second heir to the Maynard family check into a hotel room with another man in front of her own husband?'

The middle-aged man felt immensely regretful. He should have left just now, and he should not have come over to ask. He was screwed now that he had seen such a scandal in Sir Wharton's family.

In a few seconds of silence, Wharton had already regulated his emotions.

A polite smile reappeared on his face as Wharton apologized to the middle-aged man remorsefully, "My apologies, I have to go up now. If there's nothing else, please excuse me."

The middle-aged man looked at Wharton who remained gentlemanly despite being cheated on and felt a chill run up his spine.

'How deep are this man's thoughts? He might as well be a sociopath, or how else can he remain so gentlemanly in such a situation?'

Not daring to hold Sir Wharton back, the middle-aged man quickly replied, "Of course, Sir Wharton. We shall continue this conversation on a later date."

"Then I'll take my leave. Please excuse me." Wharton turned and left for the elevator.

Watching Wharton leave, the middle-aged man's lips twitched slightly. He held a moment of silence for the man who dared touch Wharton's wife before turning and leaving without looking back at all.

At the same time, on the 36th floor of the Four Seasons Hotel, in the Deluxe Presidential Suite.

Celine stood on the floor on her tiptoes with her arms around Jasper's neck. Her head was tilted up to meet Jasper who was looking down at her. The tips of their

noses touched and they could both feel the searing heat of each other's exhales mixed with the scent of alcohol.

Celine suddenly let Jasper go and took two steps back. She pulled out a pair of red high heels that Jasper could not be more familiar with. Then, before Jasper's eyes, she bent down and squatted to change into those heels.

A crude man would believe that a woman looked most beautiful when she took her clothes off, while a man with taste would tell you that a woman looked best when she was putting clothes on.

Yet when it came to a man like Jasper who was with a beauty like Celine, every frown and smile from her was the best view he had set his eyes on.

Despite how she was merely changing into a pair of shoes, her demeanor was elegant and poised. A mischievous lock of hair hung beside her ear when she looked down. Celine lifted her hand to tuck the lock behind her ear, and that act alone was filled with the essence of a woman's beauty and charm.

"How do I look?" Celine smiled and asked Jasper after she turned around in place upon changing into her pair of heels—almost as if she wanted to show off her figure to him.

"Stunning."

"Then what are you waiting for?"

Celine's soft words and gaze were laced slightly with anticipation and chiding, but there was also a flash of well-concealed shyness and determination.

Jasper no longer hesitated, marching forward to grab Celine and throw her aggressively onto the bed.

This was a room that cost 20,000 US dollars a night, more than 100,000 Somer Dollars. This was how much it cost in 2001, and all decorations and furniture in the room were of the highest quality.

Celine's shapely figure was tossed unceremoniously onto the bed, and her body bounced on the extremely springy Simmons mattress before landing on it again. It seemed more like she had landed in a pool of cotton—soft and comfortable.

Jasper looked down at Celine as he hovered himself above with his arms supporting his weight.

From that angle, the slightly flushed and glossy-eyed woman under him looked naturally coquettish. She was akin to the most valuable treasure in the world.

Life at the Top Chapter 808

"I don't want you to regret this," Jasper spoke.

Celine reached out to loop her arms around Jasper's neck and chuckled. "Do I look like someone who's going to regret it?"

"Have you two divorced?" Jasper asked in a serious tone.

Celine chuckled. "Why? Isn't adultery always more exciting to you men?"

After the entire trip over, Jasper had more or less sobered up. He replied, "This is a moral issue. I have no interest in involving myself with other people's marriage."

"Don't worry about it."

Seeing how serious Jasper looked, Celine pointed at the purse she had thrown by the bed and said, “Open the zipper on the outside and you should see a compartment. Take out what’s inside.”

Jasper got up and did as Celine told. There was a very thin piece of paper in the compartment and Jasper was shocked when he looked up to find that it was a divorce agreement.

“He and I divorced last month. Do you remember my former secretary who was always at odds with you? She was one of the people he sent over to keep an eye on me. If it weren’t for the divorce, how could he not have rushed over to look for me when I got rid of her?”

Celine sat up on the bed calmly.

“It’s just that both of us come from huge families and for the sake of our family’s interests and his dignity, we can’t publicize our divorce.”

Celine then sneered, “He’s already gotten what he wanted anyway. He’s taken every single cent of capital that I’ve saved up over the past seven years.”

Jasper looked at Celine and asked, “Is it okay to divorce in secret if this is a union between families?”

“What’s wrong with that?” Celine grew calmer as if she was talking about someone else.

“There have never been any feelings between us throughout the entire relationship and we were only husband and wife in name. He married me for my status and had another puppet he could control. I only agreed for the sake of my family. My father left me 15% of the family’s shares before he passed but Wharton took that too. All that’s left is me as a person while he’s already taken all he wanted.”

Just then, someone knocked on the room door.

Despite having controlled his emotions, the rather rushed knocks betrayed his anger and frustration.

Jasper frowned slightly, assuming that it was some foolish hotel staff knocking on the door.

Celine, however, knew exactly who the man was, so just as Jasper got up to open the door, she reached out and pulled Jasper over her.

A man and a woman's body was built very differently, to the point that they might as well be two different species.

All Jasper felt then was something soft and plump underneath him. An indescribable scent enveloped his body with the shocking touch.

At the same time, Celine opened her mouth and let out a gentle, feminine sigh.

Her sigh passed through the room door and drifted into Wharton's ears clearly as he stood outside.

Wharton's hand froze in mid-air as he prepared to knock again.

Slowly, he curled his fingers and balled them into a fist. He did not knock again.

Inside the room, Celine told Jasper directly and frankly, "He's the one outside."

"He knows that we're here?"

Jasper was not completely sober from the residual alcohol-induced haze and he began to ponder how he should deal with this complicated situation.

Thank goodness that Celine was a victim of this marriage and they had already divorced. Jasper no longer had any psychological burdens and all he thought about now was how to support Celine through this.

“Are you scared?” Celine’s gaze burned into Jasper as she suddenly smiled.

Jasper did not answer, opting to raise his hand and pull Celine’s arm away from his neck. Then, he got up and opened the door.

The action had Celine’s heart lurching. While she did intend to take her revenge and give Wharton a shock, she had not expected Jasper to face Wharton right this moment.

She was too well aware of the true wretched character Wharton hid under his gentlemanly facade. Jasper was not yet Wharton’s opponent.

When the door opened, Wharton was met with a calm-looking Jasper and Celine who rushed over.

“Was my wife to your taste?”

Wharton stared at Jasper and asked calmly.

Life at the Top Chapter 809

Jasper was rather impressed when he first saw Wharton.

Be it the man’s appearance or his aura, Wharton was surely an exquisite character among men of his caliber.

People like him had to have generations of nobility before them, for they would not turn out like this otherwise.

“From what I understand, you’re divorced,” Jasper replied.

As he spoke, Jasper intentionally took a step to the side to stand in front of Celine protectively.

It was a detail that both Celine and Wharton caught onto.

Wharton's expression remained unfazed as his gaze shifted to land on Celine. "So you dare go against me but you don't dare to admit that you did?"

Celine's face popped out from behind Jasper as she replied lazily, "Would you stop acting like you've caught me having an affair? We aren't related anymore, Sir Wharton."

'Sir?'

Jasper acutely caught on to the information Celine leaked with her words.

This was a modern society, so ordinary people could not possibly be called 'sir'.

This title had thus exposed Wharton's identity.

He was from a noble family, one conferred by the royal family.

While this was a modern society and being conferred by the royal family did not suddenly grant someone more power, it was symbolic enough that it showed this man carried the royal bloodline. This was something others could not and would not impersonate.

Wharton glared at Celine and spoke coldly, "We've already agreed that while we are divorced, it will not be publicized and you must defend the status of our marriage in public. You were not to taint my name and yet what have you done? Checking into a hotel room with another man?"

"You're provoking me, and in extension, the entire Welling family!"

“Did I make such a promise?” Celine asked curiously. Chuckling, she replied to Wharton, “Never believe a woman’s words, because lying comes naturally to women. Don’t tell me such a plain and easy concept is foreign to you, Sir Wharton.”

Wharton suddenly smiled. “Good, very good. You’ve finally impressed me.”

Celine replied calmly, “I’ve impressed you? It’s a shame that I’ve already seen through you. You want to talk about promises? Sure, then what about you? You won’t even leave my secretary alone and you made her supervise me for you. You truly have inherited the degenerated style of your so-called nobility, Sir Wharton.”

Anger flashed through Wharton’s fair and clean face due to humiliation. He turned to Jasper and spoke coldly, “I don’t care who you are to her nor do I care what has happened between you two. All you need to remember is that from this moment on, you will be an enemy that I have to eliminate.”

“I’ve never lacked enemies before, so what’s one more?” Jasper spoke calmly.

“Very well, then. At least Celine did not disappoint me on this. She didn’t find a completely useless piece of trash.

“But do not forget that you’ve provoked an enemy you cannot afford to provoke. No matter what your family background is, you have no right to show off in front of me. My power is much further beyond your imagination.”

Wharton glared at Celine and Jasper coldly as he spoke in a bone-chilling tone, “Enjoy your days, for there won’t be many left.”

With that, Wharton then turned and left without looking back.

“Wait.”

Jasper suddenly halted Wharton.

Wharton stopped walking. He did not turn, but he did not leave either.

“It’ll only be a matter of time before the things that do not belong to you get taken away.”

“That’s what I should be saying,” Jasper stated calmly.

Wharton finally turned around and scoffed at Jasper as if mocking how ignorant the man was. Then, he turned and left.

Jasper did not speak anymore and watched Wharton vanish at the end of the corridor.

Life at the Top Chapter 810

Jasper returned to the room and grabbed his clothes.

“Are you leaving?” Celine asked.

“Come with me, I’ll get you a room in the hotel I’m staying in,” Jasper spoke.

“Wharton already knows that you’re staying here, so there’s no saying what he’ll do. Just in case, it’s safer if you follow my suggestion,” Jasper stated.

Celine chuckled and said, “He wouldn’t dare do anything to me.”

“That’s a different story.” Jasper shook his head.

Celine got up and grabbed her purse, replying, “Alright. As you say, then.”

The two walked out of the room and immediately left Four Seasons Hotel.

The moment they left, Wharton also received notification in his room on the same floor.

“Leave, go ahead. I’d like to see how far you can run.” Wharton shed his facade in his room, and his expression turned wretched, horrifying, dark, and stormy.

He grabbed an expensive ashtray from the table and threw it harshly at the television. Panting harshly, the man let out an animalistic roar.

“No man will ever allow being cheated on, Celine! You b*tch! Just you wait!”

After venting it all out, Wharton pulled out his phone to make a call.

Wharton’s mood was regulated once the call connected.

“Charlie, I need all the information you have on the man Celine has been in intimate contact with. And have someone bring that b*tch Yvonne over to me. I have questions that need answers.”

...

Returning to DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Jack and the rest had yet to return from their celebration when Jasper booked a room for Celine.

Celine sat on the room’s sofa quietly and obediently as she watched Jasper walk toward the door.

“Get some rest. We’ve had a bit too much to drink today so I’m a little tired. We’ll talk more tomorrow.”

Jasper spoke as he stood at the door.

Celine looked at Jasper intently and said, “We’d be chatting in the bathtub now if not for Wharton, right?”

Jasper chuckled but did not reply. Instead, he wished her goodnight.

The door closed softly and Celine sighed. She settled her chin on her knees that were brought up to her chest, her gaze looking a little lost.

The following morning when Jasper woke up.

All traces of alcohol from last night had disappeared and Jasper's mind could be any clearer.

It was at that moment he found out Celine had checked out of her room an hour ago.

"I went back to hand over my position. Don't worry about me, coward."

Jasper looked at the message and chuckled.

Celine was the same as ever and it seemed like nothing could change her unique, inimitable personality.

Keeping his phone, Jasper opened his door only to knock right into Henry.

"What the f*ck?! You vanished for a day and came back early in the morning to murder me?" Jasper stated distastefully.

Henry had a solemn expression on his face as he shoved a pamphlet in Jasper's face.

"Take a look. What do you think of this airplane I chose?"

Life at the Top Chapter 811

It was very rare for Jasper to see Henry desire something so passionately.

Thinking about it, Jasper realized it made sense. Henry's family background ensured that he would have everything he wanted.

Even though the Law family was much stricter with him, they would not throw Henry to a farm somewhere to train his endurance like a ridiculous plot from a novel considering their wealth.

It was unrealistic.

A private plane, however, was a different story.

A private plane burned a lot of resources and while money did not mean much to the Law family, they were rather strict. The only reason Zachary had a private plane was that there was no alternative since he had to take frequent business trips since taking over the family's business.

To Henry who had been given anything he wanted since he was a child, the best things to him were those beyond his reach.

Henry had been extremely excited these days now that buying a private plane was no longer just his wishful thinking.

Jasper took the pamphlet and flipped through it.

'What the f*ck is this?'

'Helicopters too?'

“Which one do you have your eyes on?” Jasper asked, looking at Henry suspiciously.

“This one.” Henry pointed at a plane on the pamphlet and began to describe it, “The Dassault Falcon 2000. It’s 20.2 meters long and its main wings are 21.4 meters. Its height is 7.1 meters tall. This private plane can fly up to a speed of 851 kilometers per hour and is estimated to be able to fly 7,030 kilometers in one go.

“It’s cool right?”

Seeing how proud Henry looked, Jasper replied, “It is. But this plane costs 80 million. Do you have that much?”

Henry cleared his throat and whispered, “I borrowed 30 million from Anna.”

Jasper was shocked. “How did you persuade her?”

Henry sighed and replied, “I promised that I’d pay her back with interest in a year. And the money has to come from a legitimate business.”

“And if you can’t?” Jasper asked with a smile.

According to his understanding of Anna, her conditions would only be backed up with countless ruthless punishments.

As expected, Henry’s expression darkened. “Then she’ll confiscate my plane and freeze my credit cards, leaving me to fend for myself for two years.”

At that train of thought, Henry sucked in a cold breath and glared at Jasper. “You’d better do something instead of watching me suffer. I’m expecting you to start new companies and make them go public. I’ll come and join in on the profits.”

“Don’t worry, it shouldn’t be too hard.” Jasper consoled him as he could not bear to watch Henry wandering on the streets.

Henry immediately beamed. It was as if a nod from Jasper meant that making 30 million was no problem.

He leaned over to Jasper and spoke gleefully, “This Falcon 2000 is perfect no matter how I look at it. It has a cool appearance and awesome specs, so why don’t you get one too? Then we can ask for a discount.”

“I’ve already decided.” Jasper tossed the pamphlet back to Henry and continued, “These aren’t good enough for me.”

“F*ck you too, man!” Henry was enraged at how someone was bashing his precious love. Harrumphing, he asked, “What are you buying, then?”

“When it comes to private planes, everything is child’s play compared to the Gulfstream series.”

Henry’s eyes widened as he looked at Jasper, and the corner of his lips twitched.

While he was upset about Jasper calling his Falcon 2000 child’s play, he did not have the courage or the facts to argue since the man was comparing it to the Gulfstream.

There was too big a difference! Even the cheapest of the Gulfstream series cost at least 100 million!

Henry’s net worth was not even enough to buy that.

Henry looked at his pamphlet and his treasured plane no longer felt as valuable anymore.

Just then, Jasper had already made a call to Jameson.

“Jameson, could you contact General Motors for me? I remember that they acquired Gulfstream Aerospace last year, and I’d like to buy a private plane.”

With Jameson at his disposal, it would be a waste for Jasper not to use him.

Not to mention that Jameson contacting them on behalf of Colossal Investments would be much more efficient than if he went to look for them himself.

A wealthy man’s time was precious.

Jameson replied with an extremely envious tone, “Alright, I’ll contact them right away.”

After seeing the miracle yesterday with his own two eyes, Jameson now treated Jasper as a VVIP and immediately went to contact General Motors.

A moment later, Jameson called Jasper back. “Laine, they’d like to ask you which aircraft you’re interested in purchasing.”

“Has the first-generation G500 been manufactured yet?” Jasper asked, thinking back to his memories from his past life.

If his memory served him right, the G500 should already have been produced. Flying at a speed of Mach 0.88 kept the G500 as the fastest private plane for six years, until the record was broken by the Gulfstream G650.

Still, the Gulfstream G500 remained to be one of the best private planes.

“Alright, I’ll ask right away. Please hold.”

Jameson brought another phone to his ear and asked before replying to Jasper, “They’re shocked as the first-generation G500 was only commercially manufactured last month. They’ve just obtained a commercial sales license but have yet to give an official statement.

“They’ll send someone over to talk to you about this in person tomorrow because they just so happen to have two planes from their first batch on hand. They’re newly manufactured and if you’re happy with the price, they can sell one to you straight away and you wouldn’t need to wait at all.”

Jasper nodded, evidently pleased.

In the future, people even had to wait to buy cars that were in short supply, let alone airplanes.

There was no reason for manufacturers to keep planes worth hundreds of millions in garages waiting to be purchased, for it would take a toll on their funds.

Thus, most planes were preordered a year or two in advance and only paid when the plane had been manufactured.

To have the plane right now was indeed the best option.

Looking at the time, Jasper realized that it was already Tuesday and he had a meeting with Winston Benett on Wednesday afternoon. As such, Jasper said, “Have them come tomorrow morning. I’m busy in the afternoon.”

Jameson replied, “Alright, I’ll pass the message along.”

Hanging up the phone, Jasper found Henry looking at him sorrowfully.

“I want a Gulfstream too,” Henry wailed pitifully.

“Then go make your own money. It’s not that nice always reaching out and asking your family for money, is it? You don’t even get to choose what you want,” Jasper spoke.

“I know. But I want a Gulfstream now. Won’t you lend me some money?”

“I don’t mind lending you money, but tell your dad or Anna to ask me instead or they’ll hate me. They’re hoping you use this chance and get yourself together. You need to stop wasting your days away.”

Life at the Top Chapter 812

Henry wailed tragically. Upon realizing that it was impossible to scam Jasper of his money, he left with despair on his face.

Despite it no longer being as great, the Falcon 2000 was still a private plane he had been dreaming of owning. Plus, it was more than cool enough to brag about back in Harbor City.

Henry immediately confirmed the purchase after he consoled himself. He did not want to stay by Jasper’s side anymore in fear of suffering more.

Jasper found himself held back by Jack and the other senior executives after Henry left.

“You have to come join our celebratory party today no matter what, Mr. Laine,” Jack told Jasper with a smile.

“Won’t my presence restrain you from fully enjoying yourselves?” Jasper smiled.

Jack waved him off. “The older ones are resting today and they’re planning to buy souvenirs for their family. It’s just a few of us today and we’ve all been following you for quite some time. There’s nothing to be restrained about.”

“Alright then, let’s go celebrate.”

Jasper gave in at Jack’s persistence.

After all, celebrations like this were a good way for him to build better relationships with them.

He may be their superior, but it was still very important to gain his subordinates' favor.

Nothing was going on today anyway, so he was glad to relax his taut nerves that had been getting worse recently.

In Four Seasons Hotel, while Jack dragged Jasper away for daytime drinking.

Wharton was sitting behind the desk in the study with his hands held together under his chin. He was slightly frowning as he looked up at the frantic woman who was shifting in her seat not too far away from him.

This woman was Yvonne Stone, the secretary Celine fired.

Yvonne, who was once a high-spirited and high-ranking white-collar worker, had now fallen into an embarrassing state full of despair all in half a month.

Yvonne looked at Wharton cautiously. While she had a few lovely memories with this man in front of her, Yvonne knew his character all too well.

He had used too many women that he could no longer count them, and none of the women who ever thought that they could gain benefits by selling their bodies had ended well.

That was why Yvonne did not dare to think that Wharton would treat her any differently because they had slept together before. Instead, all she felt was fear when she learned that Wharton had asked her to come over.

“Yvonne Stone.”

Wharton called out Yvonne's name softly and stood from where he sat. He walked around the desk and stood in front of her before reaching out to gently lift her face.

Reflected in his pupils was a relatively beautiful face with a petrified expression.

"Sir... Sir Wharton," Yvonne spoke shakily and it was evident that she was trying to control her fear.

"You're terrified of me?" Wharton's tone grew even softer as though he was afraid of further scaring or terrifying the woman.

Yvonne was close to tears as she replied, "I'm sorry, Sir Wharton, I... I..."

"Why are you saying sorry? Do you perhaps think that you've done something wrong that you didn't tell me about?" Wharton asked gently.

His tone grew even gentler and his expression was calm, but his gaze was filled with ice-cold disgust.

"Tell me, why did Celine fire you? Who is that man beside her?"

"And why didn't you tell me she fired you? Why was your first response to hide? Did you think you could hide from me?"

Yvonne's heart instantly sank in despair at Wharton's words.

Life at the Top Chapter 813

She gulped and replied, "I didn't mean to do it, Sir Wharton. I just thought that I was of no more use to you, so I didn't dare return to your side."

“Because you’ve seen me get rid of everyone I’ve lost use for, because you were afraid, that’s why you didn’t dare come back. Is that what you’re telling me?” Wharton asked.

Yvonne was too terrified to speak.

“You do not get to decide whether you are useful to me or not, I do!

“If I claim that you are, then you’ll live a great life even if you’re in a persistent vegetative state. If I claim that you’re not, then you can be the most outstanding person in the world and I will still wipe you off the surface of it. I do not need smart*sses, understood?”

Wharton’s gaze was ice-cold and void of any emotion.

“Un-Understood.” Yvonne nodded frantically.

“Is there a man by Celine’s side?” Wharton asked indifferently.

Yvonne nodded and replied, “His name is Jasper Laine. A Somer businessman, he’s produced great results.”

“Great results, huh?” Wharton chuckled humorlessly. “That makes sense, or he wouldn’t dare touch women like Celine. Nor would Celine like him if he wasn’t an accomplished man.”

Yvonne mustered up the courage to speak, “Sir Wharton, Celine fired me because of that Jasper.”

With that, Yvonne received a harsh slap across her face from Wharton.

This was a strong slap, and it had Yvonne falling on the ground from the impact. Her reddened cheek immediately began swelling as blood trickled from the corner of her mouth.

Yvonne did not dare to make a sound, so she cupped her cheek with one hand and held back her tears. She was too afraid to cry.

“Who gave you the right to call Celine by her name? You lowly b*tch!” Wharton spoke in a dark tone.

“I’m sorry, Sir Wharton,” Yvonne swallowed and spoke, ignoring the pain and fear she felt.

“From now on, I will ask questions and you will answer them. Do not anger me again,” Wharton warned indifferently.

...

Colossal Investments’ headquarters, Paulson’s office.

Celine sat in the wide chair carefreely as she played around with one of the trinkets on Paulson’s desk.

Paulson signed a nominating document and handed it to Celine. “Alright. You’re officially the president of Colossal Investments’ Terra regional branch from now on.”

Celine glanced at the document that countless people could only dream of having and spoke lazily, “Meh. The moment you sign a document handing your position as president to me is when it gets truly interesting.”

“Why? Are you already tired of the position?” Paulson asked meaningfully.

“It’s different.” Celine left the trinket alone and supported her chin on her hand. “I always wanted this position when I couldn’t have it. But now that I do, you realize it’s not actually that big of a deal.

“But it’s different when it comes to people, you know. I’m a good woman who loves all the way to the end.”

Paulson furrowed his brows at Celine’s words and spoke, “Doing that will bring Jasper a lot of trouble. You know that your husband is hardly someone who can be negotiated with.

“As a man, I’m very well aware that no man will remain unaffected in face of such a situation. He will do everything he can to take revenge on you. Jasper will also end up a target of his revenge.”

Celine scoffed and replied disdainfully, “Wharton? Forget it. He’s only got a few tricks up his sleeve at most. He’s not shameless enough to take revenge on us blatantly.

“Or our secret divorce would immediately spread throughout Great Britain. He’ll become a laughing stock and the Welling family will be faced with humiliation.”

Life at the Top Chapter 814

At that, Celine suddenly smiled.

“As to him suspecting that I’ve committed adultery, well, I didn’t. Any intimate relationship I’ve had with other men can’t be considered that since we’ve already gotten a divorce long ago. Nothing happened between Jasper and me before we got the divorce.

“Not that anything happened between us after.”

Adding that last part, Celine then sighed, looking rather despondent.

After that great opportunity last night, it was going to be difficult for her to find another chance to pounce on Jasper.

That man was too smart and too difficult to persuade. He was still able to remain sober after all that drinking.

Celine spitefully speculated whether Jasper was even a man at all.

Paulson listened quietly as Celine spoke. He waited for her to finish speaking before he slowly said, "Honestly speaking, I would've fully supported you choosing Jasper if he had appeared before you got married."

Celine chuckled. "I don't remember seeing you stand up for me when the family forced me to marry Wharton for their benefit, though."

"The situation was special, then. Plus, it was a matter among the Maynard family. I'm merely an outsider and, at most, the man your father asked to watch over you after he passed."

"Let's stop here, Mr. President. You promised me not to speak of our personal feelings here at work." It was evident that Celine did not want to continue the conversation.

"Alright, then, let's talk about something else. What are your plans after this? Take this as a review from a superior to you, the new president of the Terra regional branch." Paulson changed the subject.

"What else can I do? I'm going to make the Terra regional branch greater so that it'll have the best results among the five branches under the headquarters. Then hopefully I'll get to use that to get a spot for myself in the board of directors and you'll get to retire two years earlier than your original plans."

"I told you this before when you first became the general manager of the Terra regional branch. The situation there is more complicated than you think, and

many people are reluctant to see such a strong character of Somer descent appear...”

At that, Paulson looked at Celine intently. “Suppressing private Somer businesses from taking the path of internationalization and globalization is one of the most important things to them!

“This is something Colossal Investments’ shareholders as a whole cannot prevent, let alone me. As second in line to inherit the Maynard business, you should know better than I that businesses frequently rely on politics for survival.”

Celine frowned slightly. “You mean that Somer businessmen like Jasper would have to trek a rocky path when they try to spread beyond Somerland?”

Paulson chuckled aloud when he saw that Celine understood what he meant. Then, he diverted the conversation away from such a sensitive and secretive topic.

There were many things better hinted than said, for being too blatant about it might only reap the opposite results.

“As to you wanting me to retire two years before my plan, I’m afraid your wish will come true very soon.”

Celine frowned at Paulson’s words and sat straight, looking at the old man in front of her seriously and silently.

“I’m retiring next year. It was a decision made among the shareholders during their general meeting. As of now, it’s still absolutely confidential,” Paulson explained.

“Thos b*stards!”

“You’ve worked your entire life to make Colossal Investments the best investment bank in the world. You’ve put decades of hard work into this and they’re kicking you out just like that?” Celine was enraged.

“Haha.”

Seeing how Celine was genuinely angry, Paulson smiled in gratitude and spoke, “It’s not that exaggerated. I’ll still get 3.8% of Colossal Investments’ shares and I’ll become one of Colossal’s investors.

“You have to understand that Colossal Investments is a professional internationalized enterprise. Its ordinary share rights are very complicated.

“There is no individual large shareholder and the shares are all distributed to all sorts of large companies. With everyone holding a small portion of shares, the company itself may be able to make its own decisions, but rights to the company are also spread out.

“That was why as humiliated I felt when Jasper rejected Colossal’s investment, I was also very grateful.

“Look at it this way, Mr. Maxus founded Colossal Investments in 1869, yet his descendants have all been thrown out of the bank at least 100 years ago. There’s not even a sign of them left.

“Jasper has his eyes on a very long-term goal, so if one day...”

Paulson’s gaze was profound. “Jasper will become the king to his own business kingdom one day, and no one will be able to doubt his power.”

Celine sighed after she heard him. “That path is too difficult to tread.

“Other large international capitals aren’t like Colossal Investments and Colossal Investments won’t be the same once someone else takes your position. That

person might not be as easy to talk to, so if I can't take it, I might as well destroy it before it gets too strong for me to do so. That's just how the world works, no?"

"Which is why..."

Paulson stood up and placed a beloved trinket that he had kept on his office desk for years into Celine's hand. Then, he patted her shoulder with the affection of an elder and spoke, "If Jasper really manages to open a bank one day, go help him and leave Colossal.

"Then again, this is if such a day ever comes.

"I'm giving you this trinket now. This was something your father gifted me to celebrate my promotion as Colossal Investments' president, and it's also the only thing I've never changed in my office all these years. I'm returning it to its owner now."

...

Jasper, Jack, and the rest spent the entire day moving between bars and places to drink, having a ton of fun. Jasper had lost count of how many places they went and how much alcohol he drank.

All Jasper remembered in his blurred mind was receiving a call from both Anna and Wendy who congratulated him and nothing more.

In the end, Jasper remained the last one standing. He was proud of the fact that he had outdrank Jack and the rest thanks to his strong physique and youth.

With great difficulty, Jasper managed to return to the hotel thanks to Julian's help and he fell asleep the moment he hit the bed.

It was 2 p.m. on a Wednesday when he woke.

Jasper reacted instantly when he opened his eyes and looked at the time. He was late!

Life at the Top Chapter 815

“Jul, why’d I sleep in so late? Why didn’t you wake me?” Jasper got up and spoke to Julian who walked in. He pressed a finger against his throbbing temple.

Julian replied exasperatingly, “I came over to wake you twice, Jasper. You didn’t wake up the first time, and you were incoherent when you replied the second time only to fall right back asleep after. I realized that you weren’t in a good condition anyway, so I let you sleep.”

Jasper got off the bed and went to clean himself up. Jasper saved a mental note to himself to not drink so much next time. Making him late was one thing, but the hangover the following morning was horrible.

“Have the people from General Motors arrived?” Jasper asked while brushing his teeth.

“They arrived half an hour before the agreed time at 9:30 this morning. They’re still waiting,” Julian replied.

“I’ll be there right away,” Jasper spoke.

“Won’t you eat something first?” Julian asked.

“It’s fine. I’ll be meeting Winston Benett later anyway and there’ll be food to eat for afternoon tea,” Jasper replied.

In DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel's executive lounge sat two irritated men clad in suits.

"It's already 2:10 p.m., Dalton. I don't think there's any need to wait anymore," the slightly chubby man spoke irritatedly.

Dalton was also irked as he glanced at the time. "Let's wait another ten minutes. We'll leave if we don't see him. It seems like this person isn't sincere at all."

"What if they're just joking? The Gulfstream G500 costs 47 million US dollars. How could someone with such horrible time management afford that?"

"I don't think that's possible. This is someone whom Colossal Investments' Jameson introduced..." Dalton spoke hesitantly.

"If he's not coming to buy later then we're not going to be very polite either. People like this need to be taught a lesson."

Five minutes later, Jasper hastily appeared in the executive lounge.

Jasper made a beeline for the two commercial sales representatives. He was about to apologize before one of them spoke impolitely with a frown.

"What on earth is going on with your boss? Where is he? Just tell us if he's not willing to buy the plane and stop wasting our time. Why'd he send a young man like you over anyway? To apologize?"

Dalton almost could not conceal his anger when he saw Jasper.

After being made to wait aimlessly for four to five hours, the other party decided not to show up and instead sent a young man over. Dalton felt severely humiliated.

Hearing him, Jasper knew that they had misunderstood.

“I’m Jasper Laine, the person who wants to buy the Gulfstream,” Jasper stated.

“My apologies, I’ve had too much to drink yesterday.”

Jasper did not fault them for their resentment considering he had made them wait four to five hours. He apologized sincerely.

This had nothing to do with wealth but rather a person’s upbringing. Having made them wait so long, Jasper was aware that it was his mistake and there was nothing wrong with being more humble.

“Mr. Laine, we’re only here because you’re Mr. Jameson’s friend. If you can’t even manage your own time, we’re seriously doubting your sincerity in buying our plane. Plus, with how young you are, do you even have the money to buy it?”

Dalton spoke coldly.

Jasper’s brows furrowed slightly. It was his fault for being late and he would not refute them if they scolded him about his lack of time management. However, that last comment did not sit right with him. This was the United States and he did not know looking down on people was a trend here too.

“Age and wealth have no direct correlations. I entrusted Jameson to contact you on my behalf because I sincerely do want to purchase your Gulfstream G500 private plane,” Jasper explained patiently.

Dalton sneered and mocked, “Really? You’re telling me you’re actually going to buy this plane priced at 47 million US dollars?”

At this moment, Dalton still did not believe that Jasper would buy his company’s plane.

Firstly, Jasper was too young.

Secondly, he was of Somer descent.

As far as he was concerned, Somerland was an extremely poor and underdeveloped country. There was no way people from such places could afford a private plane costing tens of millions of US dollars.

“I don’t like joking about serious things, nor will I make a fool of people because of a simple joke.”

Jasper spoke as he looked at Dalton calmly.

Dalton scoffed and replied, “I can’t imagine that people from the poor and underdeveloped Somerland can afford private planes. When Mr. Jameson said it was a Mr. Laine, I thought it would be some big shot from Coreana willing to do business with us. Looks like I’ve misunderstood.”

“How ridiculous of you to make us wait here aimlessly from 9:30 a.m. to now when it’s almost 2:30 p.m.”

Dalton then glanced at Jasper mockingly, saying, “The Gulfstream G500, priced at 47 Million US dollars with no available discounts. There’s nothing wrong with you buying it, but I’m going to need to check your bank account first. Please hand me your bank account card with the most money in it. I’ve already brought my device.”

At that, Dalton pulled out a small machine.

“Imagine if he brings out his payroll card and there’s only a few hundred thousand in it.” The slightly chubby commercial sales representative suddenly turned to Dalton and mocked with a sneer.

“I heard that instead of being given checks, people in Somerland receive their salaries by having it transferred to their bank accounts at the same time. Everyone earns a monthly payment of at least 100 US dollars.”

“Pfft.” Dalton laughed aloud exaggeratingly. “100 US dollars? Damn it, what a big amount. My daily coffee costs even more than that.”

The two shared a look and laughed aloud.

Jasper calmly pulled out a debit card and stared at them, saying, “Here you go.”

Dalton took a look at the normal debit card. Seeing how it was not some limited edition card either, he looked down on Jasper even more and simply swiped it over the machine.

“Please key in your password,” Dalton told Jasper lazily, “I just don’t get it, why do you actively try to make a fool of yourselves? Are all you people of Somer descents like that?”

Putting the machine back down, Jasper received a call.

“Hello, Mr. Laine. I’m Mr. Bennett’s personal life assistant. I previously invited you on behalf of Mr. Bennett for afternoon tea today. Are you free right now?”

“I am,” Jasper replied curtly, “But I’m currently dealing with something in the hotel’s executive lounge.”

“Alright, Mr. Laine. I’ll be there shortly. Mr. Bennett asked that I personally bring you over to meet him.”

While Jasper was on the call, Dalton and his colleague had also seen the balance in Jasper’s debit card on the machine.

Unit: US Dollars.

Balance: 31,294,124.12.

Life at the Top Chapter 816

The terrifying nine-digit balance had both Dalton and his colleague's hearts skipping a beat.

Dalton pinched his thigh harshly to confirm that he had read the number right and was not hallucinating.

Frankly speaking, no matter where a person was, a nine-digit balance in someone's bank account was enough to shock anyone.

Dalton felt his throat dry up and his scalp grow numb.

He could claim that the number was fake if Jasper had brought his own machine, but this was a machine Dalton brought from the company and it was made to check the balance in a customer's card. There was no way it would be wrong.

That meant the balance in the card was true!

This was money that he could withdraw at any time!

Looking up at Jasper again, Dalton did not dare to be disrespectful at all. Trembling, Dalton was lost for words.

"Are you done checking?" Jasper asked.

"Ye-Yes." Dalton immediately became alert and quickly replied, politely handing the debit card to Jasper with both hands.

The large change in attitude was because they knew, from the balance in his bank account, that this person of Somer descent was not someone they could afford to offend.

Dalton began to sweat abnormally. While he fumbled for words, Jasper continued to speak.

“I’m a little short on time right now as I have an important meeting in a few minutes, so let’s get the procedures dealt with quick and concisely.”

Dalton was so moved by Jasper’s words he could almost cry. “Thank you for your understanding, Mr. Laine. Let me first introduce the latest G500 to you.

“The G500 is a private plane manufactured precisely for VIPs like you, Mr. Laine.

“It can reach up to a speed of Mach 0.8 airborne, which is 0.8 times the speed of sound. This is the fastest private plane in the world, and it—”

Jasper raised his hand to interrupt Dalton and spoke calmly, “What I meant by quick was to sign the contract right away. I don’t need to know about the details.”

Gulping, Dalton turned to look at his colleague.

Frankly speaking, they had come in contact with quite a few wealthy customers considering they sold private planes.

However, even rich customers tended to ask about the plane’s specifications, like normal people with cars, as this was a purchase of tens of millions of US dollars.

This was the first time Dalton and his colleague had met such a ‘hasty’ customer.

“Is something wrong?” Jasper frowned slightly.

He did not hold it against them for looking down on him, for he had made them wait aimlessly for about five hours. Even the most patient man had his limits and Jasper would not be calculative about this with them.

However, the fact that these two seemed so easily stunned made Jasper wonder if they were reliable salesmen or not.

“No, no problem at all!” Dalton quickly replied, seeing how Jasper was beginning to feel displeased. He quickly pulled out a document and was about to pass it to Jasper when a middle-aged man in his 40s entered the executive lounge.

Doyle found Jasper at first glance when he arrived at the executive lounge. While he had never met the man before, Doyle had certainly seen pictures of Jasper.

Making his way to Jasper right away, Doyle spoke courteously, “Hello, Mr. Laine. I’m Doyle, Mr. Benett’s personal life assistant. We’ve spoken on the phone before?”

Jasper got up and shook Doyle’s hand with a smile. “My apologies, Mr. Doyle, but it seems like I’ll have to make you wait a little longer. I have a contract to sign.”

“Are you Mr. Doyle?” An extremely excited voice sounded beside them.

Doyle turned to see Dalton and his colleague looking at him excitedly.

“Mr. Doyle, I’m Dalton. We’re employees of Gulfstream Aerospace under General Motors. We met once when we went to do maintenance for Mr. Benett’s private plane early last year. How is Mr. Benett doing?”

Dalton’s voice trembled in excitement.

Doyle seemed to be used to such scenes. He gave a small smile and replied politely, “He’s doing quite well. He still drinks a bottle of coke a day and insists on having two beef burgers in the afternoon.”

“That’s great. Are you perhaps here to invite Mr. Laine, Mr. Doyle? He’s our new customer.”

Hearing Dalton, Doyle looked at Jasper in shock and asked, “Are you planning to buy a private plane as well, Mr. Laine?”

Jasper smiled. “I thought that since I’ll be flying a lot in the future, it’d be more convenient to have a private plane of my own.”

“Is there anything I can help with? I’m rather close with Gulfstream Aerospace’s president and Mr. Benett is one of their shareholders. I’m sure Mr. Benett would be glad to help you secure a satisfactory discount.”

Doyle spoke enthusiastically.

Jasper smiled. “It’s alright, I’m already signing the contract anyway.”

One had to take a look at the time, place, and from who when it came to taking favors.

Jasper did not believe owing Winston Benett a favor over a bit of money was a worthy trade.

Not to mention that Jasper did not care much about a discount.

He could have bought a Falcon 2000 with Henry if he wanted something cheap.

Plus, there was an invisible yet real price to pay for securing a discount through Winston Benett’s name.

It was an overall loss.

As he spoke, Jasper directly took the contract from Dalton and signed his name.

“I’ll transfer the deposit into your company’s account today and I’ll pay the rest in full when you hand over ownership of the plane. I would prefer it if you completed the procedures as fast as possible as I’m planning to return to my home country shortly,” Jasper spoke.

Dalton had nothing but utter respect for Jasper, a man who could enjoy afternoon tea with Winston Benett. He did not dare to harbor any other thoughts as he quickly replied.

“Of course, Mr. Laine. We’ll go through all the procedures for you so that you can proudly return to your country on your own private plane, the world’s first Gulfstream G500.”

“Thank you. You have quite the way with words” Jasper smiled.

After dealing with the purchase of the private plane, Jasper did not linger and followed Doyle out of the hotel.

A Maybach was waiting for them at the door.

Doyle personally opened the car door for Jasper and only got in after Jasper was settled inside. Only then did the car slowly drive off.

This was a scene that quite a few reporters waiting outside the hotel had managed to take pictures of. Instantly, the relationship between Sena’s owner, Jasper, and Winston Benett became another hot topic among the public.

Life at the Top Chapter 817

As the globally recognized stock god, Winston Benett had already made a name for himself in the 1990s’ financial industry around the world.

While the financial industry was considered one of the more sophisticated and closed-off ones, the man truly made his name known among ordinary folk when he started to auction his lunch for charity in the year 2000.

Jasper still remembered that this year in 2001, Winston Benett's lunch would be auctioned off at 18,000 US dollars, which was the cheapest in history.

In the year 2020 in his past life, Jasper had reincarnated before the auction that year. The latest he remembered was 2019. One might ask how much his lunch was auctioned off at.

4.56 million US dollars, which was 31.54 million Somer Dollars according to the exchange rate at that time.

Jasper had always thought that Winston Benett had made a great move by doing so.

For it had gotten him fame and actual benefits.

While it was done in the name of charity, Jasper's keen eyes and understanding of things had greatly exceeded those of ordinary people. He was well aware that Winston Benett auctioning his lunch was a much more complicated and wise business skill.

Ordinary people would never understand why someone would spend tens of millions for a plate of steak that Winston Benett had eaten before, but the increase in reputation was much worth the price paid.

The Maybach quietly drove past New York's streets and boulevards before it finally arrived at a seemingly normal restaurant by the streets.

Jasper realized that a white old man seemed to have been standing at the restaurant's entrance for quite some time.

That man was the legendary Winston Benett, an old man with a kind smile that never left his face.

Jasper had already stepped down from the car before Doyle could open the doors for him, and he made his way toward an approaching Winston Benett.

“Hello, Mr. Benett, it’s an honor to receive an invitation to join you for afternoon tea. I’m sure our conversation today will be immensely joyful,” Jasper spoke first.

Winston shook Jasper’s hand and spoke gently, “Mr. Jasper, while this is the first time we’ve met, I must say that I’m greatly impressed by your achievements. I’m also very glad to see such an outstanding talent emerge from the mysterious Somerland in the East.”

“My country has one of the oldest civilizations in the history of mankind. It’s also the only one of the four ancient civilizations that have continued into the present...”

“I believe all we lack back home are opportunities. Now that opportunities have arisen, I’m sure that there will only be more people like me making a name for ourselves outside the country for the world to know.”

Jasper was neither too humble nor arrogant when he spoke, and his confidence in his own ethnic race was rewarded with Winston’s admiration.

A man’s success would be limited if he did not even love his country and its people.

The two chatted happily as they entered the restaurant.

It was a normal restaurant and there did not seem to be anything special inside.

Considering the time now, the restaurant was rather empty. There were only two waiters with Jasper and Winston as the only customers.

Winston must be a regular here, for the waiters did not seem too excited at the sight of the man. They merely greeted him and asked if he wanted the usual.

Winston turned to look at Jasper and introduced, "I love the food at this restaurant so I chose to meet you here. Is there something you'd like to eat, Laine? I personally quite like their beef Wellington. It's very authentic."

"Alright then, I'll have a beef Wellington with a fruit salad and a cup of tea please." While Jasper was not used to eating Western food, he had no other choice but to go with the host.

Jasper was really hungry considering he had not eaten anything since he woke up hungover, so the large portion of beef Wellington actually tasted delicious.

"I must thank you for the statement you released on the first day Sena went public, Mr. Benett. Had it not been for you, I don't think Sena's share prices would've managed to reach 122 US dollars," Jasper told Winston after finishing half his food.

Winston smiled and replied, "It's what I usually do, releasing a statement after I've purchased a certain percentage of shares. It's nothing to thank me for. Plus, even if I didn't release any statement, I'm sure someone will manage to find out from the published data sooner or later."

"But there will be different implications to the public if they were to realize it themselves and if you were to release a statement about it yourself. Its effects and time taken are different too," Jasper spoke seriously.

Winston smiled and slowly said, "Laine. I actually invited you today because I'd like to discuss business with you."

"Business?"

Jasper put down his cutlery and looked at Winston intently, waiting for the other to elaborate.

As expected, Winston did not make Jasper wait too long and quickly spoke, “Laine, you own a company called Terizone Inc back in Somerland, correct?”

That sentence immediately raised Jasper’s defenses.

After a moment of thought, Jasper replied calmly, “I wouldn’t say I own it. Terizone has a group of founders and I’ve agreed that while I do own a majority of shares, I will not interfere with the company’s day-to-day operations.”

Winston smiled as if he had seen through all of Jasper’s thoughts.

“I understand. We play quite the same role most times, looking for promising companies and investing in them to earn profits in the end.

“But the difference is that the companies you’ve invested in as of late are all companies with unlimited potential. Your foresight is something no one can compare to and this Terizone Inc is one of the most outstanding of them all.”

Winston’s gaze shone with great interest. “From what I can tell, Terizone will one day become an entity so large it’ll stun everyone. It’ll become a topic everyone talks about in the internet era, but it’s a shame that you were a step ahead of me.”

In all honesty, if not for the fact that it was impossible, Jasper might seriously suspect Winston to be another reincarnated man.

This old man’s foresight was too accurate.

Terizone had already shown its strengths, but it still had a long way before it became a household name.

Especially the base of Terizone’s business, the instant messaging domain, which would be known as the social networking domain when the concept expanded in the future.

As of that moment, in the year 2001, no one in the world had any idea how socializing on the internet would completely change the way people socialized.

Yet Winston Bennett had already realized it.

“Are you interested in Terizone Inc, Mr. Bennett?” Jasper had to ask.

“I am!”

Winston replied straightforwardly and frankly.

“If possible, I’m even willing to invest one billion US dollars to buy all the Terizone shares you have.”

Life at the Top Chapter 818

Jasper smiled at Winston’s words.

One billion US dollars.

That was still an astronomical amount in the year 2001 when all currencies were severely depreciated.

Such money was enough to make an utterly poor man into the top 1% of the world’s richest people.

People slaved away for a better quality of life, yet how many people could ever make so much money their entire lives?

This was certainly a convincing price.

“That’s a very appealing price you’re offering, Mr. Benett,” Jasper commented.

Winston shook his head regretfully at Jasper’s response. “Yet I feel like you won’t agree to this business proposal.”

“Indeed.”

Jasper admitted without hesitation.

“Terizone is very important to me. It’s a major part of my plans for my business career that I cannot afford to lose. So unless you’re proposing to buy my entire future, I apologize as I cannot sell it to you.”

Winston laughed along with Jasper’s words. “That’s a very interesting way of speaking. You managed to reject me without making it too awkward. So, Laine, how much for your future?”

“Do you really want me to make an estimate, Mr. Benett?” Jasper asked.

“Haha.” Winston laughed out loud and spoke, “I hope we’ll have more chances to work together in the future.”

“I’m sure we will,” Jasper affirmed.

Jasper had begun testing online payment, be it for online shopping or for socializing online.

These were the main features that would change the rules the world played by, and Jasper would make sure all of the technology spread across the world.

Winston had made a huge name for himself in the United States and even the majority of the West, so he was one of the most important candidates for future partnership.

That was why Jasper believed that there would certainly be opportunities for them to work together.

“Then let us toast to our future.”

Winston, a great fan of coke, raised his cup of it which Jasper toasted with a cup of coffee instead of alcohol.

It was already evening when Jasper got back into the Maybach Winston had prepared for his return to the hotel.

While the two had not solidified any future partnerships, the conversation today had left the two with a chance for happy meetings in the future.

Both of them anticipated the day they would get to work together in the future.

Upon returning to the hotel, Jasper received a notification from General Motors.

Winston had indeed helped him secure a few advantages when he found out that Jasper had bought a Gulfstream G500.

Gulfstream had prepared a professional crew that would fly Jasper back to Somerland. This team would then stay to help Jasper train his own team of flight crew and teach them how to fly the world's most advanced private plane.

This alone had saved Jasper 500,000 US dollars.

In addition, Gulfstream would also gift Jasper three years of free maintenance service, which would save Jasper at least two million US dollars.

This was an advantage of making more friends. Of course, Jasper could always purchase such services with money, but it would not be as convenient or attentive.

It had to be known that Winston was a shareholder of both General Motors and Gulfstream Aerospace, so his words were just as powerful as the chairman of Gulfstream.

With his own plane dealt with, Jasper thought of Henry and immediately called the other. He then found out that Henry had left to pick up his own Falcon 2000.

To quote Henry, he 'could not wait to show off anymore.'

The man had taken dozens of pictures of his new plane, and half of Harbor City's circle of trust fund babies now knew that Young Master Law had bought a private plane with his own money. If not for the fact that WeTalk Memories had yet to be a thing, the man would have been trending throughout the country.

Now that all this was dealt with, Jasper was left with one last issue.

One last and most important issue of all.

The meeting with Google's founders.

Google!

It was one of the greatest companies in the 21st century! One could only imagine how powerful this company was.

Due to political reasons, ordinary people in Somerland might not know much about this company's influence.

Yet outside of Somerland, Google's influence was sensational.

It was a company that started off through search engines and its status in the search engine domain around the world was comparable to Terizone's status in Somerland's social networking domain.

Moreover, Google would soon play an active role in highly advanced industries such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and biotechnology.

It was as if Google excelled in every industry it dabbled in and had never failed before.

For example, Google had also decided to venture into mobile phone operating systems and the product they came up with was widely used.

The operating system went by 'Andriod'.

87% of the world's mobile phones in the market used this operating system.

If not for Apple's Steve Jobs being quite the man himself, Android would have taken over the world.

Thanks to Todd, Jasper had contacted two of Google's founders, Page and Brin. Both parties had agreed to meet in Hilton Hotel three hours later.

Jasper was confused about this.

'I clearly remember that Google's first office was actually one of their female classmate's garage. They only got an actual company with offices after they received enough funding half a year later.

'Yet the two claimed they'd arrive at the hotel in three hours, meaning they're in New York.

'What are they doing in New York, then?'

...

At the same time, in a luxurious office in another corner of New York City.

A young Westerner in a white suit and leather shoes sat behind his office table. The man's features were laced heavily with arrogance and indifference as he stared at the uneasy young man in front of him.

"My father is Rogers, the president of Quantum Fund, and I'm the senior investment manager at Layman Investments. How dare you reject me and turn to cooperate with a Somer businessman?"

Life at the Top Chapter 819

Morrison's overwhelming force had Page and Brin looking embarrassed and afraid.

While the three of them were of similar age, Morrison had grown up in a wealthy family and received the best education available. When he graduated, he got a job in the world-class Layman Investment Bank's middle management.

As for Page and Brin...

Page's family could still be considered slightly powerful, but Brin had come from an ordinary family.

Not to mention that Page's family background was nothing in comparison to Morrison's.

"We have no intention of offending you, Mr. Morrison, but you understand that cooperation has to be done on common grounds, at least. And we believe that you..."

"I mean that Layman Investment Bank's conditions are too harsh. By purchasing 80% of our shares with 60 million as well as accepting you as our operational supervisor, we would then lose all initiative."

Page glanced at his partner and spoke with difficulty.

“We cannot possibly accept such harsh conditions.”

Morrison scoffed and leaned back against the chair as he spoke coldly, “You need to know that there are at least 8,000 to 10,000 start-up companies like yours in the United States. Do you know what makes you different from them?”

“The only difference is that I like you and I’m willing to invest. Yet you’re criticizing me for having harsh conditions?”

“What makes you think that a small company like yours will still find other sources of investment after rejecting Layman Investments, huh?”

Page clenched his jaw at Morrison’s words and replied, “There are other people interested in our company, at least.”

“That man of Somer descent?” Morrison’s expression grew even more mocking.

“Somerland is nothing but a poor, underdeveloped, and feudal country. The only people you’ll find there are scammers and ruffians! Do they even know what the internet is? Or what a technology company is?”

“You’re people of the United States, and yet you lower yourself just so you can work with the lowly people of Somer descent? How shameless!”

Page frowned heavily at that and was about to speak when Brin tugged on his hand to stop him.

After stopping Page, Brin then gave Morrison an apologetic smile. “We’re merely getting in touch with them, Mr. Morrison. After all, this is someone Mr. Todd has introduced. He bought 27% of Google’s shares from Mr. Todd.”

“Even if not to discuss the terms of cooperation with him, it’s only right we meet him considering he’s one of our shareholders.”

“So you’re using Todd’s name to shut me up, then?” Morrison scoffed.

“Who the hell is Todd in comparison to my father?”

“Yes, yes, of course.” Brin smiled, much more tolerant than Page.

“But we aren’t you, Mr. Morrison. You have a powerful family supporting you and you’re the senior investment manager of Layman Investments. We’re but the founders of a small start-up company. We don’t have any power at all so we don’t really have a choice when it comes to a lot of things.”

Brin’s extremely humble attitude slightly brightened Morrison’s dark expression.

“Hmm, not bad. At least, you’re respectful when you speak.

“Go if you must, then. But remember that my conditions are here. You’d better decide quickly because if I change my mind, I won’t entertain you even if you come begging at my door.”

“Yes, yes, of course. We’ll definitely think it through and give you a satisfactory reply, Mr. Morrison.”

Brin spoke and dragged an upset Page out of the room.

After they left, a beautiful and lithe secretary strutted into the room.

Morrison slapped her on the butt.

“Have someone find out who that person of Somer descent in touch with Google is. Google’s a very promising company and investing in them will help me fight for the position as president of the Terra regional branch. There’s no way I’m going to let some stink*ss person from Somerland screw my plans over.”

“Very promising company?” the secretary asked.

“Yahoo has already agreed to use Google’s search engine technology. That’s what my dad said. No one knows about this yet, not even Google themselves have been informed.

“Google’s market price will immediately skyrocket by the time news gets out. Only idiots will think that Google’s an ordinary start-up!”

...

Page and Brin arrived at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel one and a half hours after they left Morrison’s office.

They were shocked to see Jasper standing by the entrance to greet them.

Sitting in the car, Page, who had been wearing a dark expression on his face because of Morrison the entire ride over, suddenly turned to Brin when he saw Jasper standing by the entrance from afar. “Brin, I would prefer accepting this person of Somer descent’s investment if his conditions aren’t too harsh.”

“Why?” Brin asked.

“Take a look.”

Page pointed at Jasper’s silhouette that was getting clearer as the car drove toward him and said, “We’ve been smiling as we begged others to invest in us all this while, yet who has ever come out to greet us before? It’s been a very long time since I’ve been treated with such courtesy. He makes me feel respected.”

Brin’s gaze burned into Jasper as he pursed his lips silently.

Life at the Top Chapter 820

“It’s nice to get to meet you two.”

Jasper reached out to shake Page’s and Brin’s hands as he spoke, approaching them once they got out of the car.

Page shook Jasper’s hand and spoke with a smile, “Hello, Mr. Laine. I’m Page and this is Brin, we’re the co-founders of Google. It’s an honor to meet you.”

“I’m honored to meet you as well.”

In truth, Jasper had seen pictures of these two people in his past life.

Page was a shut-in obsessed with technology, a direct and blunt man. While Google was still in its most difficult incubation stage, they had relied mostly on generosity to overcome it.

Brin, on the other hand, was more restrained and had more tact. He was more of a businessman than Page.

When Google grew, Page became the face of Google most of the time but true control of the company still laid in Brin’s hands.

He was a low profile man who had self-restraint.

After quick small talk, Jasper invited the two into the hotel’s restaurant as they enjoyed dinner.

Page and Brin had just sat down when they realized that Jasper had attentively prepared a meal that catered to their Jewish tastes.

“To be honest, Mr. Laine, I’m feeling a warmth from you that I’ve never felt before during this time,” Page told Jasper, feeling touched.

Jasper smiled. “I learned that you two are Jewish from Mr. Todd, so I had the hotel prepare something else instead. It’s nothing much, actually. I just believe that mutual respect is the foundation of mutual trust between people.”

Page and Brin shared a look before nodding.

This alone had earned Jasper brownie points from both of them.

As they ate, Jasper also began to chat aimlessly with Page and Brin.

Jasper had merely been an employee of a small financial company back in Somerland in his past life, so he had only eaten meals outside with his superior a handful of times—let alone top-notch talents like Page and Brin.

Yet here Jasper was, eating dinner with them as the duo spoke politely to Jasper.

Such was life...

After simple small talk, Page first brought up the issue of investment.

“We know that you’ve bought 27% of Google’s shares from Mr. Todd, Mr. Laine. Do you perhaps see a bullish trend in our company’s future?” Page asked excitedly, extremely eager for Jasper’s recognition.

After all, in comparison to them, Jasper had achieved way more. They were both in the dot-com industry, and Jasper’s Sena had already successfully gone public and evoked the enthusiasm of the investors in the United States to invest in the industry. Sena’s share price had also exceeded 150 US dollars in a few days!

“My apologies, I don’t really know Google too well, so I can’t say whether I have a bullish or bearish stand on your company’s future.”

Admiration was one thing, but Jasper was not going to compromise at all when it came to business—even if he was facing future big shots.

Everything Jasper said now would affect the investment and distribution of benefits later, so Jasper made sure he spoke in accordance.

Ignoring the disappointed looks on the duo's faces, Jasper continued, "To be honest with you, I bought 27% of your shares because of my friendship with Todd. Google itself did not play too big a part in my decision.

"I heard that you're lacking in funds?"

With just a few sentences, Jasper managed to put Page and Brin, two future wealthy businessmen, through an emotional rollercoaster. At the same time, he had also grasped the initiative of the negotiation tightly in his hands.

"We are. Our company does indeed need more funds for future development. Not to toot our own horn, but our patent search engine technology is irreplaceable worldwide!

"All we need are funds to expand our company's business. Once we have the funds, I'm certain that we'll be able to further develop in a short amount of time. I promise that you won't make a loss if you invest in us, Mr. Laine."

Page spoke hastily.

After a moment of thought, Brin added, "We've been in contact with Yahoo three months ago, Mr. Laine. And we've proposed a partnership with them. We're willing to provide our search engine technology to them for free.

"The partnership hasn't been approved yet, but once it has, Google's search engine will immediately take up most of the United States' market share and we'll be able to gather a large number of users' data in a short amount of time.

"These are all beneficial to Google's development."

Both Brin and Page felt rather guilty after saying those words.

After all, including themselves, no one would believe that Yahoo would partner with such an insignificant company.

Yahoo was currently the largest web portal in the world and the technology company with the second-highest market price just after Weresoft.

Yahoo and Google were miles apart, so there was no way the former would consider their technology.

Yet Jasper smiled as the two were worried.

Page and Brin were still fresh to the world.

Life at the Top Chapter 821

Jasper knew that Yahoo was going to use their search engine.

He also knew that this partnership would help Google gather a large amount of technology and data, which would help them completely perfect the Google search engine.

Yahoo had only agreed to this partnership because they did not believe that the search engine domain would be a big profitable market. They merely saw the search engine market as a small direction for composite dot-com enterprises to gain more technology.

The fact that Google was willing to provide their technology for free meant Yahoo did not have to form a team of technicians to research search engine technology.

As such, it was already too late by the time Yahoo realized how search engines would become the gateway to the entire internet.

By that time, Google's technology would already have been completely perfected and no matter how skilled Yahoo's team of technicians was, there was no way for them to surpass Google's technology in such a short time.

Not to mention that Google would already have taken a majority of users and market share, so they no longer needed Yahoo anymore.

Humiliated and angry, Yahoo then cut Google off. Not that Google minded, as their company became independent.

Thus began the rise of Google and the fall of Yahoo.

"I'm willing to continue investing," Jasper replied.

Both Page and Brin were shocked by Jasper's words.

"What are your requirements in return, Mr. Laine?" Page asked carefully.

Jasper smiled meaningfully. "From what I can tell, Google won't need any other shareholders excluding the three of us. So I'd like at least 70% of the shares."

Both Page and Brin frowned at that.

The duo had sensed the same thing on Jasper as they had on Morrison... Greed!

"But I will not interfere with the day-to-day operations of the business, nor will I interfere with your managerial rights," Jasper explained unprompted as if understanding Page and Brin's concern.

Page and Brin gasped. "Really, Mr. Laine?"

Jasper shrugged and replied, "We're talking about a large business transaction here and I have no reason to joke about this with you. Of course, to ensure my interests, you will have to accept my requirement to control the company's financial rights."

Page nodded. "Of course, but your required percentage is too high."

Jasper sipped on his coffee and smiled at Page.

Page took a deep breath and came to a tacit understanding with Brin through eye contact. He said, "It's 70% of the shares, after all. That means we'll have to kick the other shareholders out and minimize mine and Brin's percentage. This... is costing us a bit too much."

"Whether it costs too much or not depends on what you're getting in return."

“For 70% of your shares, you will receive 150 million US dollars. I promise that the first 100 million will be transferred on the day we sign our contract and the second batch of 50 million will arrive after six months.”

Jasper’s words sparked Page and Brin’s ambition.

“150 million?!”

Page gasped in shock.

Even Brin’s expression turned excited.

As of that moment, Google itself had a market share of 100 million US dollars at most. Yet Jasper was willing to pay 150 million US dollars for 70% of their shares.

Doing so would triple Google’s market price.

Meanwhile, Morrison was offering 60 million US dollars for 80% of the shares and the company’s managerial rights, which meant that he could fire these two founders at any time.

In comparison to Jasper’s generosity, Morrison was just giving the bare minimum.

“I can sign the contract anytime, but I won’t be staying in the United States for long. I have to return to Somerland to deal with some things, so if you two need some time to think it over, please do give me a reply as soon as possible,” Jasper spoke.

Page and Brin replied at the same time, “No need, we agree.”

Jasper smiled and reached out his hand. “Then I wish for cordial cooperation.”

Page and Brin shared a look and then each shook hands with Jasper. “I’m sure it will be.”

“Alright then, we can sign the contract tomorrow. As we agreed, I will not interfere with the company’s day-to-day operations, but you’re free to contact me anytime you want an extra opinion. Of course, the final decision lies with you as well.

“I also hope that you can persuade the other shareholders as quickly as possible because I’ll only transfer the funds after the shares are under my name.”

Both Page and Brin nodded at Jasper’s words.

“We’ll get it done as quickly as possible, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper was in a great mood after the situation with Google was settled.

Seeing that it was getting late, Jasper directly checked the duo into a suite and dragged Jack over to talk for a few hours.

Everyone was working in the same industry, and with Page and Brin as top-notch technicians, they were able to give Jasper and Jack quite a few epiphanies in that aspect.

Jack was also a top-notch professional manager, so he was able to give the duo inspirations on enterprise management. Their conversation was an extremely joyful one and it lasted until midnight.

It was 2 a.m. when Jasper returned to his room and fell asleep after lying on the bed.

The following morning, Jasper woke up and planned to return to Somerland once he signed the contract with Google. However, a problem arose when they were signing the contract.

“Mr. Laine, we’ve talked to the other shareholders and they were very willing to sell their shares. But they suddenly declined this morning when we called to confirm.”

Brin looked unhappy, feeling ashamed about the fact that a problem arose the very first moment they partnered with Jasper.

“One of our shareholders, who’s one of our friends, told us the truth because we’re quite close. She told us that Layman Investment Bank decided to interfere with this transaction earlier this morning and asked to buy their shares at high prices.”

Life at the Top Chapter 822

“F*ck! It has to be Morrison! He’s the one behind all this!”

Page immediately roared after Brin spoke.

Jasper looked at Page and asked, “Who’s this Morrison you speak of?”

Page clenched his jaw and replied, “Morrison is the senior investment manager of Layman Investments. We’ve contacted him before for funds but his conditions were too harsh so we didn’t agree...”

“In truth, we were only in New York yesterday to negotiate with Morrison.

“But his condition was to have 80% of Google’s shares and its managerial rights for 60 million US dollars. We might as well sell ourselves to him if that’s the case, so we didn’t agree.”

Brin sighed and spoke, “Not only is Morrison the senior investment manager of Layman Investments, but his father is Rogers, the president of Quantum Funds.

“As far as he’s concerned, Google either has to accept Layman Investments’ humiliating conditions or it’ll be completely destroyed. I’m not surprised he would do such a thing.”

Jasper, who had not reacted much at all, arched his brow slightly at that.

Quantum Funds. Rogers.

After the Harbor City billion-dollar stocks rescue plan, the Law family and the other rich families had also found out who the culprit was.

Quantum Funds had been the culprit behind it all. While the head of Quantum Funds was Soros, the culprit behind Harbor City's stock crisis was Quantum Funds' second in charge, Rogers.

The first time Jasper had lost since he started his business was to Rogers.

This loss had Jasper deeply realize that he could not look down on others just because he had the memory of the world before he reincarnated.

The last thing the world lacked was capable people and Rogers was one of the most outstanding of the batch.

He was a man who could make art out of capitalism.

Jasper had never expected that by mistake, he was meeting Rogers' son, Morrison, before he got a rematch with Rogers himself.

Jasper did not know if Morrison was aware of his past with Rogers, but Jasper knew that Google was a chance he would not miss out on nor would he allow Morrison to screw this over for him.

"How much is Layman Investment Bank willing to pay to stop us?" Jasper asked directly.

Page replied embarrassedly, "According to our classmate, Layman Investments is willing to pay double of what we're offering to buy their shares."

Jasper chuckled at that and spoke, "That's a large amount. Is that actually Layman Investment Bank's decision, or did Morrison decide that on his own?"

Neither Page nor Brin dared to answer Jasper's question.

The question was too sensitive.

“Alright, don’t worry about this for now. I’ll deal with it. Go back and rest in the hotel first.”

Page and Brin nodded at Jasper’s words in agreement.

The acquisition of Google was now a personal fight between Jasper and Morrison, or even Jasper and Layman Investment Bank.

Page and Brin could easily partner with the person who was willing to pay the most, but they could not help but feel that Morrison had only made this move to prevent Jasper from acquiring Google.

Life at the Top Chapter 823

Should they end their partnership with Jasper for the current benefits before them, then they would have no choice but to be put under Morrison's control.

After a moment of discussion and thought, both Page and Brin decided that they would not participate in Jasper and Morrison's fight. Instead, they would wait for a winner to emerge and sign a partnership with whoever won.

The only difference was that both of them favored Jasper. After all, when they compared the conditions, the two of them would only get to operate according to Morrison's whims if Google fell into his hands. This was something the duo refused to accept.

After settling Page and Brin, Jasper contacted Paulson directly through Jameson.

Half an hour later, Jasper appeared in Paulson's office.

"President Paulson, I need Colossal's help."

Jasper went straight to the point and told Paulson what was going on.

However, he made sure to jump over the fact of how promising Google was and emphasized the history between himself and Morrison as well as the latter's father, Rogers.

Paulson frowned slightly after he heard everything. "You have to understand that Layman Investment Bank isn't any weaker than Colossal, Laine. Plus, there's only so much Colossal can do in your acquisition plan ... What do you want us to do and what benefits will Colossal gain from this?"

Jasper fell silent for a moment. After weighing his options, he spoke, "I need Colossal Investments to hold back all malicious movements Layman Investment Bank is making toward me and Google. As for the other business battles, I will deal with Morrison myself."

Paulson spoke calmly, "A clash between two parties over acquiring a company resembles an auction. Whoever pays more, wins. Do you believe that it's worth going to war with Morrison, or even Rogers, over an insignificant company, Laine?"

"More than just me, this is a question that they have to consider as well. The only difference is how much we believe the other party is willing to pay for this company."

Jasper spoke calmly.

"I've made a slight loss to his father Rogers before, so I have no other option but to win this battle with his son."

Paulson chuckled and spoke, "You're indeed a youth. I really envy you young people... but you still haven't told me what Colossal is going to get out of this."

"You'll have my friendship," Jasper spoke without hesitation.

"President Paulson, my friendship is very much worth the cost."

The United States subprime mortgage crisis in 2008 would trigger a global financial crisis.

Layman Investment Bank would end up going bankrupt while Colossal Investments would lose 120.3 billion US dollars, almost going bankrupt as well.

As long as Jasper was willing and Paulson believed him, Jasper was fully capable of helping Colossal Investments evade such horrifying loss.

As such, Jasper was fully dependent on Paulson's decision now.

If Paulson agreed, then Colossal would survive the crisis.

If Paulson disagreed, then Jasper had no chance to compare capitals with Morrison without Colossal's help.

Hearing Jasper, Paulson fell silent.

After a long while, Paulson replied calmly, "Trust me when I say that I would've thrown anyone else out like they've gone mad if they were to tell me that, Laine."

Jasper replied calmly, "But I'm still here."

"Indeed. Because I don't think that you're mad. Perhaps your friendship is worth a bit of investment from Colossal."

Life at the Top Chapter 824

Walking out of Colossal Investments, Jasper then contacted Page and Brin.

Jasper intended to meet Morrison through the two of them, but he had not expected the duo to tell him that Morrison was waiting for Jasper at the hotel.

Without hesitation, Jasper returned to the hotel.

In the executive lounge of DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Jasper met Morrison.

“You! You’re the one stealing what I have my eyes on, aren’t you?” Morrison sat on the sofa as he watched Jasper approach. The man showed no signs of getting up to greet Jasper but instead stared at him with an evaluative gaze that carried a hint of a sneer and disdain. The man’s tone was downright arrogant.

Jasper walked over to Morrison who was still sitting down and spoke, “Steal? I don’t think that’s the right word here. Google didn’t want to accept your offer so they came to me instead. That’s very normal.”

Morrison scoffed and played with the ring on his pinky as he spoke slowly, “You just got here, so perhaps there are things that you don’t quite know about.”

Morrison then looked up at Jasper sinisterly. “No one who’s tried to steal from me has ever ended well. No one can take what I want!”

“Your tone is misleading. And here I thought that you were Layman Investment Bank’s president, instead of an investment manager,” Jasper spoke calmly.

Morrison scoffed and spoke, “You mean that as an investment manager, I’m not qualified to offer such a high price? Fine then, I’ll use my own power. Let’s say, Quantum Funds?”

He then looked at Jasper intently before slowly speaking, "I've done some digging on you. You were the one who stopped Quantum Funds, weren't you?"

"I remember how my father told me that he met an interesting fellow when he came back. You must be this interesting fellow, then. Why? Haven't you learned enough from my father's harsh lesson?"

Jasper was not surprised that Morrison had found out about him, for most of what Jasper had done before was no longer a secret.

"You've got it wrong. First of all, when your father and I fought, I indeed lost but he did not win either. He and I could've earned even more from Harbor Stocks.

"It's a shame that I'm just a man of Somer descent, so I lost a few billion to prevent your father from earning tens of billions of profits."

At that, Jasper turned his palms over and spoke indifferently, "Do you still think I was taught a harsh lesson?"

Morrison's gaze turned cold as he sneered at Jasper, saying, "You honestly think that you could've won my father if not for how unique the situation was?"

"What unique situation? He was just afraid that he'd cause Somerland's government to take action. If he offended Somerland's government, then it won't just be a question of how much profit was made. The entirety of Quantum Funds would've met its end there." Jasper exposed the reality of the situation and did not leave Morrison any ground to retreat.

Quantum Funds had taken a huge risk to attack Harbor Stocks.

It was very similar to the stock crisis during the year of the handover. The only difference was that in the crisis during the year of the handover, Quantum Funds had led the entire Western capital into the financial economy of all Southeast Terra countries.

Harbor City could not defend itself then so they sought help from Somerland's government that then made a move.

That time, Jasper had merely contained the situation within Harbor City's government.

As expected, Morrison's gaze darkened as he sneered, "What's the use of all this talk? You want to acquire Google? Well, then you can dream on if you think I'll let you!"

Life at the Top Chapter 825

“If you pay one million, I’ll pay two million; if you pay five million, I’ll pay ten million. Let’s see who has more money. I heard that you’re in a poor financial situation right now.

“How much money can you afford to play this game with me?”

“You ignoramus! You need to understand that Somerland is a backward, garbage country. The United States is the ruler of the world, whereas you’ll always remain a pitiful little creature in front of me. If my father can take you down, then I can also crush you under my feet!

“Of course, to show you how generous the Americans are, I’m willing to give you a chance. If you’re willing to comply, I’ll probably give you a bit of compensation because that way, at least you won’t have to go back as a penniless good-for-nothing.”

Jasper looked calmly at the complacent and savage Morrison, saying in an intrigued tone, “Is that so? Let’s hear it, then.”

“I know you bought 27% of Google’s shares from Todd. Look, I’ll buy those shares from you for two million US dollars. Maybe I’ll be in a better mood that way,” Morrison said.

Jasper cast a meaningful glance at Morrison and said, “Looks like you’re really optimistic about Google, huh?”

There were slight changes in Morrison’s expression when Jasper said those words.

He stared at Jasper with intense displeasure.

He had a feeling that Jasper knew about the upcoming partnership between Google and Yahoo.

The news of it remained confidential, though. What did Jasper really mean when he said that?

“I have the habit of not letting others snatch the things that I fancy no matter how good or bad that thing is. I would rather throw it away instead,” Morrison said with a blank countenance.

He then pointed at Jasper’s nose and said, “A man who comes from a poor and backward country like you will never understand the United States’ law of survival. Wealth is the only truth, and this point alone shows that you’re not qualified enough to challenge me.”

“I will not give up on Google. If you’re interested, we can just fight for it,” Jasper uttered flatly.

Seeing how stubborn and ungrateful Jasper was, Morrison flew into a rage and said coldly, “Why don’t you look into the mirror first and see if you’re qualified enough to fight with me?”

“Just wait. Soon, Page and Brin will come crying to me begging me to buy their shares, whereas you’ll be eliminated! You’ll stay an ignoramus forever!”

As he spoke, a figure rushed into the executive lounge.

Looking as pleased as Punch, Henry’s eyes lit up when he saw Jasper. He rushed over excitedly to share his experience as a private plane owner with him.

He was not far away when he heard a man sitting in front of Jasper calling him an ignoramus.

Without hesitation, Henry walked up and smacked Morrison on the back of his head, nearly sending him falling to the ground face first.

“Idiot, you’d better clean that mouth of yours. If I hear you say degrading things like that to someone else of Somer descent, I’ll stomp the sh*t out of you.

“Motherf*cker, men these days have terrible mouths, don’t they? They always have ways to ruin my good mood.”

Life at the Top Chapter 826

Henry smacking Morrison nearly cracked Jasper up.

Morrison covered the back of his head and turned around, glaring at Henry with scarlet eyes. He roared, "Who are you?! How dare you hit me? Do you know who I am? I'll kill you!"

Henry was astonished when he heard the familiar script.

"He's a trust fund baby?"

Henry asked, turning to look at Jasper.

Those words sounded far too familiar and could be considered as the standard official words used by trust fund babies whenever they were bullied.

"His father is Mr. Robin, the president of Quantum Fund, the western capitalist who caused trouble in Harbor City share market previously," Jasper explained.

Henry immediately understood what was going on.

Jasper did not need to say more. As the saying went, when enemies come face to face, their eyes would blaze with hatred.

Morrison's head was struck the second time.

Morrison might be young and robust, but Henry had done some training himself. Other than learning a few moves from Julian, he was also a frequent gym-goer.

He was no doubt more skilled than Morrison, whose skills were merely for superficial displays.

Therefore, after two consecutive strikes, Morrison was so furious from the attacks that he nearly spat out blood. However, he could do anything other than glare fixedly at Henry. He was too apprehensive to launch a counterattack.

However, that did not mean Morrison was going to let this off just like that.

He made a call, and within a minute or two, six to seven tall and burly bodyguards clad in black suits and sunglasses rushed into the executive lounge's entrance.

Anyone could tell that these were a bunch of well-trained professional bodyguards.

Jasper frowned at the sight of this.

Julian showed up at the door immediately and stood in front of Jasper and Henry, staring calmly at the group of bodyguards.

Morrison stood up and said to Jasper with a sinister smile, "This is the States. You're in New York, my territory. How dare you lay a finger on me?"

"Idiot," Henry sneered.

Morrison's mouth twitched as he fixed his gaze on Henry, snarling. "Who exactly are you?!"

"Law is my last name. Stop comparing your family to mine. Your dad is nothing but a high-class wage earner, he's nothing compared to my dad," Henry said smugly.

Morrison said coldly, "I know. You're Henry Law, right? A useless good-for-nothing."

Henry looked sideways at him. "Speak another word of nonsense and I'll punch all your teeth out today."

A hand patted Henry's shoulder, and Jasper stood up.

"There's only one way to deal with a man like this, and that's to teach him a lesson he'll never forget," Jasper said.

Having said that, Jasper looked at Morrison and said, "I'm sure you've prepared yourself before you showed up. Don't waste everyone's time. Show me what you got. I'd like to see how you're planning to eliminate me?"

Morrison laughed and said arrogantly, "You came to the United States to get Sena listed, didn't you? Yes, Sena may have gotten listed and has excellent share price performance, but you've made the wrong choice to offend me. Do you not remember what line of work I'm in?"

Life at the Top Chapter 827

“Finance. I have the ability to destroy your company, Sena. This will be a lesson for you so you’ll know better than to offend me.”

After saying those words, Morrison fished out his phone and called his subordinates who had been on standby a long time ago.

“I want you to act immediately and strike Sena’s shares with full force!”

Morrison felt as though he had transformed into a big boss like the ones in movies. He was about to crush Jasper to death and it would be done easily.

On the other end of the call, however, his subordinates made no reply even after a very long time.

“What are you doing, idiots? Why aren’t you responding?!” Morrison questioned furiously.

After some time, a voice rang out from the other end of the call. It was Morrison’s immediate superior, the general manager of Layman Investment Bank’s Investment Department.

“Morrison, are you abusing Layman Investment Bank’s power to retaliate against someone for your own private interest? Do you know the severity of the situation?”

As Morrison listened to the voice on the other end of the call, his eyebrows knitted tightly together. He was speculating about how his superior, Dom, had found out about this.

After taking a deep breath, Morrison lowered his voice and said, “Mr. Dom, this isn’t about my private interest. Sena shares a close relationship with Colossal, which isn’t conducive for our investment bank...”

“That’s enough, Morrison. Colossal Investments has issued a strict warning letter to Layman’s higher-ups, so from now on, you’re not allowed to touch Sena. Do you hear me?” Dom had no time to listen to Morrison’s explanation and cut him off straight away.

Morrison’s countenance changed as he said incredulously, “How is that possible? How does Colossal know about my plans? And why would they threaten Layman for Sena’s sake? Aren’t they afraid that a war will break out between the two investment banks?”

Dom smiled and said in a meaningful manner, “Do you really think the old birds on the board of directors can’t figure out your plans?”

“How could Colossal and Layman possibly start a war over something so trivial? This is just a warning from Colossal. Layman isn’t going to offend Colossal for something this trivial, okay?”

“I don’t know why you’re going against Sena nor do I care about the techniques and force you’re resorting to, but there’s one thing you need to know and that is Layman will not get involved in this. This is something that both higher-ups in Colossal and Layman have agreed upon.”

Dom hung up the call after saying those words.

Faced with the crowd, Morrison held the phone that had been beeping a long time ago and glared resentfully at Jasper while hissing. “Are you behind this?”

Although Jasper had no idea what Morrison and the man on the other end of the call had talked about, he could roughly guess that Paulson had stepped in and brought this issue forward to Layman.

In cases like that, results were usually seen soon enough.

Colossal merely gave Layman a warning this time. This was no big deal, but if Layman ignored Colossal's warning and did things their own way, it would be a huge move of disrespect to Colossal, the world's best investment bank. They would surely not let this matter drop so easily.

Layman's higher-ups were probably aware of this, hence they refused to offend Colossal for something that would not even benefit them in any way.

Therefore, Morrison's plans naturally fell through.

One could imagine how aggrieved and ashamed Morrison must be feeling now that his plans had fallen through before he could even unleash his power.

"That's it?"

Henry guffawed, failing to hold back his laughter. He said hilariously, "I thought you were going to throw some kind of a grenade, perhaps a massive one, but you f*cking pulled out the smallest card in the deck. This is so darn hilarious. Is this the IQ of all trust fund babies in the United States?"

As if pouring gasoline into a blazing fire, Henry's words turned Morrison's face crimson and almost drove him crazy.

"You're simply despicable, Jasper! I can't believe you resorted to dirty tricks behind my back!" Morrison roared.

Jasper frowned slightly. "Is this guy a fool?"

Life at the Top Chapter 828

“You’re allowed to attack me but I’m not allowed to fight back?” Jasper asked.

Morrison’s face was flushed crimson. He was so embarrassed that he was eager to dig a hole in the ground and bury himself in it.

He thought that everyone in the executive lounge was laughing at him, especially that idiot Henry Law. The look on the man’s face was as if saying, ‘You’re so embarrassing’.

Morrison clenched his fists and took a deep breath, saying coldly, “You mean to say you’re planning to fight me to the end, huh?”

“This is just a countermeasure that I have to take.” Jasper’s expression turned cold and indifferent as well.

After letting out a malicious chuckle, Morrison glanced coldly at Jasper and said in a low voice, “Aren’t you something, Jasper Laine? Let’s wait and see, then. I’ll double all that you’ve done to me today and return it back to you one day.”

Having said that, Morrison turned around and led his bodyguards away.

Jasper did not stop him.

He and Morrison had officially become sworn enemies. Jasper had met people like Morrison far too often. Morrison would definitely think of a way to get his revenge.

Jasper’s top priority at the moment was to acquire Google as things would change if he dragged it for far too long.

If Morrison intended to fight him to the end, it could spell trouble and stir up great waves. Therefore, Jasper approached Brin and Page immediately to consult other shareholders in order to make decisions about the purchase of shares.

On the other side, Morrison looked terrifyingly grim upon leaving Hilton Hotel.

“Mr. Morrison, shall we continue contacting other Google shareholders and purchase their shares based on the previous offer?” a confidant asked.

“Purchase my *ss!” Morrison cursed.

The confidant clammed up upon seeing Morrison’s forbidding expression.

“We’ll go back. I need to see my father immediately.” Morrison hissed maliciously.

Soon, Morrison got home and found Robin working in his study.

Robin raised his head when he heard the door open and frowned upon seeing the look on Morrison’s face.

“Why do you look so mad? What’s with the slap mark on your face? Did you get into a fight?”

Morrison flew into a rage upon hearing Robin’s questions and spoke between clenched teeth, “Father, I want to destroy Harbor City’s Law family! Henry Law, that idiot, slapped me!”

Robin closed his laptop after hearing what he said and responded flatly, “Do you think Quantum Fund belongs to me?”

Morrison raged, yelling, “Am I supposed to just let him hit me for nothing then?”

“Tell me what happened,” Robin said.

Morrison recounted the incident and hammered his fist on the study desk, saying furiously, "I have never felt more humiliated in my life, nor have I ever suffered such a tremendous loss!"

"Who does Jasper think he is? Have the old birds in Colossal Investments gone crazy? Why are they standing on his side to the extent where they would not even hesitate to threaten Layman?!"

"What do you know?" Robin shook his head. He thought his son was simply too immature.

"Just because you're my son doesn't mean you can throw your weight around. After all that's said and done, Layman is still way more powerful than Quantum. When interests are involved, those old birds will not even show me any respect, let alone show you any.

"What's more, this is all happening because you offended Colossal. Who do you think you are to have such an insanely arrogant idea?"

Refusing to take it lying down, Morrison said, "But Father, Quantum Fund has made a lot of profits for them under your leadership. Regardless of everything else, they gained a tremendous profit during the Harbor City market share incident last year!"

"That's what capitalists are. They look at profits, not feelings." Robin waves his hand. It was clear that he did not take Morrison's words seriously.

"The Laws aren't as easy to deal with as you think. They have an extremely firm foundation in Harbor City, and to some extent, the four richest families will advance and retreat together.

"This includes Wallace Langdon, that old fox. Do you think he's our ally? That old fox is the hardest to deal with and will not hesitate to bite us viciously during critical times.

“More importantly, the Laws share the strongest bond with Somerland’s government, and they will not allow anyone to knock down the reputation they had built so hard for overseas Somer businessmen just like that. Therefore, you can keep dreaming about dealing with the Laws.”

Having said that, Robin looked at the slap mark on Morrison’s face and continued with a frown, “However, this is all just a game theory on a larger scale. What you got involved in with Henry was nothing more than an argument between children. If you’re that capable, use your own capabilities to make Henry suffer losses without anyone fussing over it. Do you understand what I’m saying?”

Morrison raised his eyebrows and stood up, saying, “Father, I would like to be transferred to the Terra regional branch of Layman Investment Bank as the president. Please help me.”

Robin pondered for a moment before saying, “Johnson is the current Terra regional branch’s president. He’s too old. Besides, his investment strategies are extremely conservative and he’s being pressured every step of the way by Colossal in the Somerland market, causing dissatisfaction in Layman’s higher-ups from a long time ago...

“I’ll handle this for you, but you must remember that Henry is easier to deal with while Jasper is the real pain in the *ss. No matter what you do, make sure you do it in one clean strike and give him no chance to rise back up. Otherwise, I would suggest you to not do anything at all!”

Life at the Top Chapter 829

After Morrison withdrew from the acquisition of Google, coupled with Page and Brin's cooperation, Jasper's subsequent acquisition went on without hindrance.

Jasper did not go easy on the shareholders who were selling only to make a fortune by getting a good price.

He lowered the price by 30% and put on an air of nonchalance.

Page and Brin gave Jasper their full cooperation. These shareholders had made them really unhappy previously when Google nearly fell into Morrison's hands because of them. It was tantamount to taking Brin and Page's lives.

What was more, Jasper bought the portion of their shares at a high price.

In the end, Jasper spent 120 million US dollars to acquire 70% of Google's overall shares and became Google's largest shareholder. Meanwhile, Page and Brin were the two remaining shareholders holding 30% of the shares in total.

The rest of the shareholders were flushed out by Jasper.

At this moment, those shareholders, including Todd, still felt as though they had made a fortune.

With the Sena shares Jasper gave Todd, which were still rising during this period of time, Todd had earned nearly 80 million US dollars.

In other words, Google's 27% shares translated to 80 million US dollars, which made this a really lucrative deal no matter how one looked at it.

At this critical juncture, at almost the same time Jasper completed the overall acquisition of Google, Yahoo made an announcement.

Yahoo agreed to partner up with Google by fully adopting Google's search engine technology.

All of a sudden, Google went from being an underdog that everyone had doubts about to being a new sensation that was backed up by Yahoo. It quickly became the top US internet search market share.

When Page and Brin received news about this, they had just finished finalizing the contract with Jasper and received a one billion dollar check from him.

"My God." Page looked at the check in his hands with a dumbfounded expression and then looked at Jasper, feeling that this whole ordeal was slightly unfair.

If the news had been released a day earlier, Google's value would definitely be far more than this.

"Mr. Laine, your 120 million US dollars investment has doubled just after it's completed," Brin said with a strange look on his face.

At this point, he began to wonder if Jasper had planned everything in advance. How else was he supposed to explain this coincidence otherwise?

Despite that, Brin reasoned with himself and thought that it was impossible. If he, the party involved, did not even know what Yahoo was up to, how could Jasper know?

However, Brin still felt conflicted because he had sold off the company at its lowest price on the exact same day its value skyrocketed.

Jasper laughed. "I believe that Google will do far better than this in the future. This bit of good news is just the beginning of the rise of Google."

Brin and Page let out a wry chuckle upon hearing Jasper's words. What was done could not be undone. The contract had been signed and the shares had been transferred. They had even received their checks. It was too late for regrets.

"Cheer up and be far-sighted." Jasper patted their shoulders. He empathized with them very much and had not expected the news to arrive so quickly either.

"Google will be a global market in the United States in the future. Don't focus on these small benefits that you'll be getting from partnering up with Yahoo."

Page nodded and said, "Yes, our goal is to make Google great. Just like Yahoo, BIM, and Weresoft."

"Google now owns the most advanced web ranking algorithm technology. The only thing that's missing is cumulative users. The partnership with Yahoo will be an opportunity for us, but I suggest not relying on Yahoo too much.

"In my opinion, Yahoo only agreed to work with you because they haven't seen the potential of the search engine market in the future. When they finally realize what's happening, I'm afraid Google will be the first to be kicked out by them."

Jasper's tone sounded extremely stern.

"In this partnership, Google needs to do two things—accumulate user data and enhance its technology. These are the only two things that belong to Google. Even if Google leaves Yahoo, it can still conquer the market in no time at all.

Upon hearing Jasper's words, Page and Brin nodded in agreement.

Later, Page and Brin left New York to make preparations for the cooperation between Google and Yahoo.

Jasper calculated his assets.

The initial 300 million US dollars was the profit he obtained by cashing out shares after Sena was listed. This was done on the premise that he had full control over the company.

However, buying a private plane and acquiring Google had cost him almost 180 million US dollars.

He had 120 million dollars left.

Although Sena's share prices had risen again during this period of time and reached a new high of 150 US dollars, even the hottest share would slump one day. Today, Jasper realized that Sena's share prices were beginning to weaken.

If there was no major news, Sena's share prices would eventually settle between 130-140 US dollars.

That was also to say that Jasper could once again cash out about 40 million US dollars from the share market.

Currently, JW Investment Company was in urgent need of funds to support the development of various subsidiaries. JW was still operating at a loss, hence Jasper did not hesitate to cash out the 40 million US dollars. A total of 160 million US dollars and Google were the two things that Jasper gained from his trip to the United States this time.

Money was no big issue as it would be used to help in any emergencies JW may later face. Acquiring Google was the highlight of the show.

After everything was complete, Jasper had nothing else to do in the United States, hence he brought Henry and Julian to a major supermarket in the States to buy some luxury goods as souvenirs for when they returned.

These were for Wendy, Dawson, his parents, and so on. Gifting was absolutely essential.

Jasper spent hundreds of thousands of dollars, roughly three to four million
Some Dollars, without a single frown.

Thus was the dull life of the rich...

Jasper, who planned to return the next day, received a call that night and
contacted Gulfstream Aerospace to request an overnight flight home.

His father, Charlie Laine, was hospitalized after getting beaten up by someone.

Life at the Top Chapter 830

Nauritus City International Airport in Somerland.

Gulfstream G500, one of the only two private planes of this model in the whole world, landed gracefully on the airport runway.

Many tourists and even the airport employees looked at the unfamiliar-looking aircraft curiously.

Only pilots, who often kept up with the current news about aircrafts, were able to recognize the aircraft's origin.

“F*ck me, look at that, Brett. Isn't that the Gulfstream G500 we saw in the pilot magazine the other day?”

In the cockpit of a Boeing plane that was about to taxi to the runway, the co-pilot stared and exclaimed at the Gulfstream G500, which had just landed on the runway and was about to enter the apron.

Brett, the pilot, immediately turned over to look and recognized the private plane at first glance. He said while drooling, “Are you kidding me? This aircraft has just obtained the sales permit but someone has already bought it? Could this be Gulfstream's test flight flown by their own employees?”

“Have you ever seen a foreign private plane flying to Somerland for a test flight? It must be a new aircraft that a super-rich boss just bought,” the co-pilot said as though he knew this very well.

“Damn. These rich people are just dope, purchasing a plane as soon as it's listed in the market. How much does this cost...”

“Money isn’t the main thing here but that person’s network. It’s crazy to think how broad this person’s network is to be able to buy a private plane immediately after it’s listed,” the co-pilot said enviously.

Under countless envious gazes, the Gulfstream slowly came to halt at the tarmac. Jasper disembarked the plane first.

Jasper did not have the mood nor the time to appreciate the fact that he had returned to his country. He headed straight to Wendy who was already waiting there.

“What’s wrong?” Jasper asked with a sullen expression.

No man would be able to stand the fact that their parents were beaten up by others.

Jasper was a man of status and identity, which was all the more reason why this should not be allowed to happen.

If he could not even protect his parents and his family, what was the use of having so much power and wealth?

Wendy had no time to exchange greetings with him and said, “Don’t panic. Uncle is fine but suffered a broken rib. He needs to rest. My father is already investigating the specifics. From what Uncle told us, he was out on a walk when he had a conflict with a young man who was walking his dog. That young man gathered a few men to beat him up.”

“Let’s go to the hospital first,” Jasper said, taking Wendy’s hand.

Julian rushed forward to drive the car.

Henry was the only one who followed closely behind. For Jack Tanner and the rest, Jasper had arranged for a flight crew to fly the Gulfstream overnight to send them back to Swallow Capital.

Sena had just been listed, so there were plenty of things that needed to be handled at the headquarters. It was crucial that the management team was there.

“Henry, should I get someone to send you to a hotel to get some rest?” Jasper asked.

Henry’s face broke out in a grin as he said, “It’s fine. I’ll go and take a look with you. We’re friends. I can’t possibly turn a blind eye when something like this happens, can I?”

“Alright then.” Jasper flashed a smile of gratitude at him and got into the car with Henry.

Nauritus City Province General Hospital. Jasper and the group rushed to the intensive care unit.

Jasper met his parents in the ward.

“How are you feeling, Dad?” Dad walked to the bed and asked with concern.

Life at the Top Chapter 831

Although Charlie was lying on the bed, he was in good spirits. He waved his hands and said, "I'm okay. It's just a broken rib. I've experienced all kinds of things doing farm work in the field back then. This minor injury is nothing."

"Stop acting tough," Sally said grumpily, "Do you think you're still a young man in your 20s? Do you not know how old you are now? Don't you think it's time to change that attitude of yours?"

Jasper breathed a sigh of relief when he saw that his parents were fine. He then asked, "What exactly happened?"

Charlie was just about to speak when the door of the ward was kicked open.

A young man walked in with a sullen and sinister expression, cursing at Charlie who was lying on the bed, "F*ck! This wretched old man isn't dead yet?"

As soon as he said those words, the expressions of everyone in the ward sank.

Henry stood at the door and was ready to listen to Charlie's story, though when he heard how brusque this idiot who came out of nowhere sounded, he burst out laughing in anger.

"Where did this idiot come from?"

When the young man detected the unfriendly gazes from the people in the ward, he sneered and said, "What? You think I'm scared because you have more people here? I can get two cars full of men over to end all of you any minute so don't act tough in front of me."

As he said those words, he swaggered up to Charlie and said, “Hey, you beggarly old man, I heard you refuse to let this matter drop and insist on suing me for assaulting you? I know what people like you are thinking about. Money, right?”

Having said that, he pulled out his wallet and drew out a stack of money. He tossed it on the hospital bed, sneering, “This 3,000 dollars is for your hospital fee. Go and withdraw the lawsuit or I’ll destroy your entire family.”

As soon as the words left his mouth, a punch had already landed on his face.

It was from Jasper.

Standing on one side, the furious-looking Wendy and Sally exclaimed. On the other hand, Charlie cheered, “Good punch!”

Henry widened his eyes. He rarely saw Jasper hitting anyone himself. This would have qualified as a souvenir if a photo had been taken.

Julian walked out immediately and stood next to Jasper lest the man returned the punch.

“Motherf*cker, who do you think you are?! How dare you hit me?!” The young man covered his face and roared at Jasper with a malicious look on his face.

Jasper did not even spare him a glance when he ordered Julian, “Julian, he broke my father’s rib. I want both of his arms broken.”

Julian responded and stepped forward. Although it did not look like he moved much, he had already clamped the young man’s arms with his hands that were like a tiger’s claws. After a quick interlock, two clicks were heard as the bones dislocated and cracked. It was followed by the man’s tragic screams that echoed throughout the ward.

Jasper pulled out a stack of US dollars from his pockets. He had just rushed back from the United States, hence the cash he was carrying was all in US dollars.

Jasper tossed the US dollars on the man's body and said coldly, "These are your hospital fees. Get lost immediately. Don't worry, this isn't over yet. I'm just charging you a bit of interest."

The young man was lying on the ground letting out a blood-curdling screech. When he finally got up, he could not even exert any strength in his arms as they hung limply on both sides of his body.

He screamed in terror and fury, "Motherf*cker! Do you know who I am? I'm Gabriel Webb, my father is Thompson Webb! We contracted the Southface River Project and the Laws' amusement park construction project! My father is friends with the Laws' young master. How dare you hit me?! You're dead! I'll kill you!"

As soon as he said those words, everyone, including Jasper, looked at Henry with enquiring gazes.

Not knowing who Henry was, Sally and Charlie were the only ones who were dumbfounded. Gabriel seemed like a really influential man.

In the crowd, Henry wore a puzzled expression before slowly turning his gaze to Gabriel who was still clamoring non-stop.

Without hesitation, Henry raised his foot and kicked the idiot's waist while cursing aloud, "Motherf*cker, stop talking crap using my name. Who the f*ck do you think you are? And who the f*ck is your father?"

Life at the Top Chapter 832

With Gabriel's shoulders dislocated, his arms had lost their strength and he was barely able to maintain his balance. He was caught off guard when he was kicked in the waist by Henry. He shrieked on the spot before rolling a few times on the floor.

Henry's expression sank as he stared fixedly at Gabriel, itching to snap this idiot's bones in half.

This idiot could hit anyone in the world but chose to hit Jasper's father. If his sister learned about this, then his puny life would be over.

"You know him?" Jasper asked, patting Henry and pointing at Gabriel who was lying on the ground.

Henry spat out the words sullenly, "Don't taint my name. Do you think idiots like him are qualified enough to get acquainted with me? But I do know his father, Thompson Webb, the man he mentioned earlier. He's the amusement park supplier for the equipment. I've met him several times before."

"Hold on, I'll summon Thompson over this instant," Henry said.

Jasper nodded, saying, "Be quick. Let's get this over with."

Henry drew out his phone and dialed a number, most probably making a call to the person in charge of overseeing the Laws' amusement park project.

Henry scolded into the phone like a machine gun. When he was done scolding, he ordered the other party to drag Thompson, that idiot, to the province's general hospital.

When he put his phone away, Gabriel had also stopped screaming. He looked at Henry in trepidation and asked frightfully yet furiously, “W-Who exactly are you?!”

“Who am I? I’m your ancestor,” Henry cursed, glaring at Gabriel.

“Motherf*cker, you used my name to brag to everyone out there yet you don’t even know who I am? Do you live with the dogs?”

How could Gabriel not know who Henry was after hearing what he said?

He stood blankly on the spot, his complexion paling instantly.

Disregarding the pain he felt, he crawled his way up and tugged at Henry’s trousers while pleading, “Young Master Law, I didn’t know this old man was related to you. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have the guts to disrespect him at all.”

“Motherf*cker!”

Already humiliated enough to begin with, Henry was even more irritated now. With a smack, he hit Gabriel to the ground. “Why do you keep calling him an old man? Do you have a death wish?”

“That’s enough. Stop hitting him,” Jasper persuaded him.

“It’ll be difficult to clean up this mess if anything happens to him.”

Since Gabriel was indeed Henry’s partner, he should more or less show Henry some respect.

Henry said with a sullen expression, “This idiot deserves to be beaten to death. You don’t have to think of my feelings. I’ve met far too many people like that!”

“Let’s not even talk about the damned partnership, this piece of trash is beneath contempt. Even if he’s related to me, I’ll still be the first to end him for being such an idiot.”

Jasper turned to look at his somewhat astounded-looking parents, saying, “What happened before this, Dad?”

Charlie saw the wretched state Gabriel was in currently and shook his head, saying, “He was walking his dog without a leash. His huge and fierce dog frightened the children who were playing by the roadside, so I lectured him, to which he reacted by trying to attack me.

“However, his attacks were really weak and I could easily tell that he came from a well-off family. He was no match for me and I managed to press him to the ground in no time at all.”

Charlie actually sounded a little smug at this point.

Life at the Top Chapter 833

Jasper had no doubt about this.

His father was no martial arts master, but he had been farming all his life, so his strength surpassed ordinary people's—let alone someone like Gabriel whose health had long deteriorated from drinking too much wine and fooling around with too many women.

“He wasn't happy about it so he called a few helpers. I was no match for them and ended up having one of my ribs broken from getting kicked.”

Charlie finished his sentence, and the overall incident had been roughly described.

“Idiot!” Henry could not help but curse again, glaring at Gabriel who was now too afraid to say a word.

If Jasper was not around, he would have gone over and stamped on him again.

“I thought I was wicked enough. But at least I don't bully the young and the old. You share the same qualities as your dog. I can't believe you went to get help even after you lost in the fight.”

Sally felt sorry for her husband, so she chimed in, “He's really arrogant. When he realized how serious things had gotten and that we were planning to call the cops, he kept saying that he wanted to take revenge. He threatened to hurt us and said that he could easily kill everyone in our family.”

Jasper smiled and looked coldly at Gabriel, saying, “You struck my father and threatened my family. I now stand before you, so why don't you try killing one of us to show me?”

Gabriel glared resentfully at Jasper and gritted his teeth. "If it isn't for Young Master Henry, do you think you—"

Before he could finish his sentence, Henry lifted his foot and kicked Gabriel's mouth, causing him to scream as he spat blood and saliva all over the floor.

"You refuse to admit your mistakes even now?!"

Henry sounded extremely irritated. "Also, don't call me Young Master Henry. Who gave a person like you the right to call my name?"

As soon as he said those words, the door of the ward opened.

A group of men rushed in hastily, led by a shrewd and experienced man in a suit and leather shoes. As soon as he spotted Henry, he rushed forward and said reverently, "I've brought him here, Mr. Henry."

Behind him, a plump middle-aged man rushed out anxiously. Upon seeing Gabriel lying on the floor covered in blood, he exclaimed and trotted over to hold his son. He lifted Gabriel's head to say to Henry, "W-What happened, Mr. Henry?"

"What happened?" Henry sneered. He pointed at Gabriel and said, "Ask your son. He caused all this."

Thompson was thrown into confusion when he noticed how furious Henry was. He then glared at Gabriel and said, "What did you do to anger Mr. Henry?"

Gabriel had a guilty conscience. Too afraid to tell the truth, he stuttered for a very long time but still could not utter a word.

Thompson knew that his son must have done something wicked to be reacting like this. At this critical moment, he quickly tried to think of something before frantically slapping Gabriel's body without giving him a chance to explain.

“I asked you to keep a low profile and learn business from me but all you do is go out and mess around with those hooligan friends of yours!

“As an adult, not only do you not work, but you’re also fooling around all day, causing trouble out there just because you’re a bit rich!

“You ran into problems today and nearly landed me in trouble. You’ve wrecked our family!”

To ensure survival, Thompson did not go easy on his strikes.

Gabriel was struck so hard that he started screaming, but Thompson continued to strike without blinking.

Thompson knew very well that regardless of what happened today, they were now in deep trouble for offending Henry. If he did not go heavy on his strikes and hurt his son to placate Henry, then both of them would be in huge trouble.

Life at the Top Chapter 834

“That’s enough, stop f*cking pretending.” Henry was irritated by what he was seeing.

Perhaps due to his lack of interest, Henry was slightly incapable when it came to doing business, but that certainly did not mean he was not clever enough or that he was a dunce others could wrap around their little finger.

Truth was, a prodigal son like Henry had cultivated the ability to act according to his elders’ mood since he was a kid.

If he did not know how to fawn over his elders whenever he got into trouble out there, he would easily get hung and beaten.

Therefore, the act that Thompson was putting on looked no different than a monkey show to him.

Thompson stopped hitting his son after hearing that. He wore a pained and regretful expression on his face as he said to Henry, “I don’t know what my insolent son has done to offend you, but now that this has happened, you only need to say one word and I’m ready to punish him if justice demands it. As long as it makes you happy, Mr. Henry.”

“As long as I’m happy, my *ss! Motherf*cker, I’m itching to throw both of you into the sea to feed the sharks right now!”

Henry cursed without hesitation.

“Do you think I’m a fool? Your son’s character is clearly a result of bad influence. Who would believe that this has nothing to do with you?”

“I heard that you like to play dirty tricks and are terribly unbridled. In order to get my contract, you secretly messed with a lot of people. Do you really want me to tell everyone what happened to the two bidding companies during the invitation to tender?”

Thompson’s countenance abruptly changed. He started stuttering, not able to say a clear word.

Henry sneered, saying, “I don’t care about rubbish like that. If anyone gets the contract, then so be it. As long as everything goes smoothly, I don’t give a sh*t about other things!”

Jasper looked at Henry in a different light after hearing what he said.

Sure enough, these trust fund babies who had received elite education from an early age were no easy targets. Henry’s superior attitude of disregarding his employees’ struggles as long as they got things done was one that no ordinary family could cultivate.

Kindness was a taboo subject to superiors. Take, for example, the invitation to tender that Henry mentioned. If Henry had refused Thompson’s service just because he resorted to dirty tricks against the other companies, then he would be an idiot.

It was precisely because Thompson was great at using dirty tricks that he was the perfect candidate to work with him.

Jasper figured that he needed to speed things up with training Henry.

Jasper narrowed his eyes, lost in thoughts.

“Also, I’m not the one you offended today. It’s him.”

Henry pointed at Jasper and sneered at Thompson, "You're working on the Southface River Project too, aren't you? I'm sure I don't have to tell you who he is?"

Thompson followed Henry's finger and turned over to look. The moment he saw Jasper, he quivered all over.

Who in Southeast Province had not heard of Jasper?

This was especially the case for someone like Thompson. He had heard so much about Jasper that the stories were like thunderclap piercing his ears.

Besides, as he was working on the amusement park project, he knew things that others did not. For example, he knew that Jasper was friends with the Laws, often flirted with the Laws' daughter, Anna, and was good buddies with the Laws' son, Henry Law.

Thompson, who knew a thing or two about Jasper, felt his blood freezing.

He would rather have provoked Henry than Jasper.

What Jasper said next chilled his limbs, and he could not wait to beat his son to death.

"The man lying on the bed is my father. Your son asked someone to beat him up and broke one of his ribs."

Life at the Top Chapter 835

Jasper said calmly, staring at Thompson.

“It’s wrong for any children to treat their parents with disrespect. Now that my dad has been beaten up by your son, do you think I should just let it slide?”

Thompson, whose limbs were ice-cold now, heard a ringing in his head. He nearly fell butt first to the floor.

He looked at Jasper with a teary face and said in trepidation, “M-Mr. Laine, there’s nothing more to say about this. Since my good-for-nothing son has done something so horrifying, we admit our mistakes and are willing to accept your punishment. We just hope that you can give us a chance to make amends.”

Jasper said indifferently, “How do you plan to make amends? With this?”

Having said that, Jasper pointed at the 3,000 dollar bills that Gabriel had tossed to the ground earlier. He said vaguely, “Your son threw the cash to us just now.”

Thompson turned around to look at Gabriel, whose face was full of blood, trembling and too afraid to speak. The older man was so furious he nearly fainted.

His good-for-nothing son had never been able to achieve anything but was always able to ruin things.

“From now on, my son and I will take care of your father for you until the day he’s discharged from the hospital. When the time comes, I’ll take this good-for-nothing son of mine to your father and apologize to him. You can punish him all you want and I will not comment a word,” Thompson said between clenched teeth.

As soon as Thompson said those words, Jasper had a whole new level of respect for Thompson. If this fellow was able to snatch the amusement park project from his competitors, it just proved that he was indeed capable.

He had remarkable skills for coming up with the perfect way to placate him in such a short period of time.

“Jasp,” Sally called out to Jasper softly.

“Yes, Mom?” Jasper responded quickly.

“Let’s just forget about it. Your dad isn’t terribly injured. Besides, the doctor said that he only needs a few days’ rest.”

Sally was a soft-hearted person. When she noticed how pitiful the pair was, especially Thompson, who had little to do with this yet pleaded for leniency and vowed to take responsibility for the trouble his son had gotten into as soon as he entered the door, she felt compassion for them.

Jasper glanced at Thompson without a word.

“Forget it, Jasp. All parents are the same,” Charlie, who was lying on the bed, added.

Looking wretched, Thompson’s gaze dulled at his words and he walked up to Charlie to thank him reverently.

“Send your son overseas after this and only allow him to come back once he has cultivated his moral character,” Jasper said flatly.

Thompson knew what Jasper meant. In other words, he wanted his son to leave so he would never appear in front of him ever again.

This was still better than losing his life! Thompson hastened to say, "Okay. I'll send him away tonight."

As soon as Thompson said those words, he kicked Gabriel and raged, "You'd better thank Mr. Laine!"

Gabriel had grown wiser by now. Without wiping the blood off his face, he stood up and said to Jasper, "Thank you, Mr. Laine."

He then ran up to Charlie and Sally, sobbing. "Thank you for sparing my life."

Charlie waved and said, "Just go."

Thompson and Gabriel left after thanking them profusely. Henry pulled a long face and dragged the person in charge of the amusement park as well as his subordinates outside to lecture them.

Jasper, Wendy, Charlie, and Sally were the only ones left in the ward.

Wendy peeled apples for Charlie when she heard Jasper saying, "Wendy, should we find something for Mom and Dad to do?"

Life at the Top Chapter 836

“Do what?” Wendy asked curiously.

She did not even notice that Jasper had said ‘Mom and Dad’ instead of ‘my mom and dad’, giving Jasper the chance to take advantage of her.

When Wendy noticed Jasper’s smirk, she realized what was going on. She said angrily and embarrassedly, “Ugh, stop it! Can you judge the situation before you get into mischief?!”

“Your son needs to be disciplined, Aunt Sally, Uncle Charlie!”

When Sally saw Wendy protesting like a child to her, she chuckled and said, “Jasp did a great job this time.”

Wendy was both embarrassed and mad, itching to punch Jasper, that idiot, to death.

“I’m serious about the things I say. I’m not joking.”

Jasper stroked his chin and said, “Actually, Mom and Dad, you’re not that old yet. Besides, you have been busy working all these years and probably don’t feel comfortable having so much free time all of a sudden. So I’m just thinking if I should bring you to Brac County?”

Wendy was a quick-witted woman. She reacted instantly, asking, “Are you referring to the shipyard in Brac County?”

Jasper laughed. “Not bad. You know me best.”

The shipyard was the Zions' property that Jasper had previously acquired for 50 million. Jasper sat by the bed and explained it to his curious-looking parents.

"I acquired a shipyard at Brac County previously. It's a factory that makes ships. I have too many businesses to handle right now so I don't plan to focus too much energy on that for now. But it's still a factory with huge assets, so it'll be such a pity to abandon it!

"Therefore, I've decided to send you there to take care of the shipyard. Doing so will keep you busy and it's not even that tiring to do. You're mainly supervising production and managing workers. It's not going to be tedious work."

Jasper liked his arrangement, though as soon as Charlie and Sally heard what he said, they quickly shook their heads in unison.

"No way, I don't know anything about that." Charlie refused.

"That's right. Your dad is used to being supervised by others and has never supervised anyone. If you send us to a shipyard, we won't know what to do and will only mess things up for you," Sally added.

Seeing how his wife was looking down on him, Charlie hastened to explain, "Who says I've not supervised anyone before? I was the deputy captain of the production team when I was a young lad!"

"Mm, and you got kicked out in two weeks. Don't you feel embarrassed to say that?" Sally exposed him mercilessly.

Jasper and Wendy exchanged glances with each other, smiling. Jasper said, "You don't have to worry about your managerial roles. I'll send you helpers. Let them do the complicated stuff. You just need to watch them and keep an eye on the products, that's all.

"I will be the one to make the orders, and when things slowly begin to settle and you've also learned a thing or two, you can then take over completely."

In fact, Jasper did not care about the shipyard at all.

It was mainly because Jasper had realized a problem after this incident.

His parents were simply too bored.

Things were still fine when they were in the countryside. They knew their neighbors and had a few plots of land to manage. Even though work was tough, they had no time to laze around doing nothing.

Jasper would never let his parents go back to farming, but it would be damaging to a person's physical and mental health to suddenly become idle when they were already used to a hectic life.

Therefore, Jasper decided to send his parents to the shipyard near the sea to manage it. Jasper did not care if the factory was not managed well. He just wanted his parents to be happy.

Of course, persuading them required skills.

"Therefore, I'll assist you in getting businesses this year but you still need to make a few trips yourself. This shipyard means a lot to me and I'm worried about leaving this to someone else. See, I don't have the time to manage it, but at the same time, I find it a pity to just let it lie idle. I'm too busy."

Sally and Charlie immediately changed their minds after hearing what Jasper said.

In their opinion, they were doing something to help their son.

As parents, nothing could stop them from helping their children.

"That's true. The factory is pretty big. It's not safe to leave it to outsiders." Charlie agreed.

“If that’s the case, we’ll go over once you’ve made the arrangements for us.”

Jasper laughed. “Okay. Get some rest first, Dad. I’ll send you over immediately once you’ve recovered. I’ll leave everything there to both of you, then. Be sure to watch over it for me.”

“Don’t worry. We’ll manage it well,” Charlie said heroically.

Half an hour later, Jasper and Wendy walked out of the hospital together.

As she was worried about her husband, Sally decided to stay behind and take care of him.

As soon as they left the hospital, Jasper noticed that Henry was still lecturing his subordinates with a sullen expression.

A bunch of professional elites in suits and leather shoes stood obediently in a uniform line at the hospital yard as Henry lectured them like a father lecturing his sons.

Upon seeing Jasper, Henry finally let the matter drop and drove the group away.

“How embarrassing.”

Henry said to Jasper.

Jasper laughed. “This has nothing to do with you. You can control your subordinates but can you control your partners? Don’t be too hard on them.”

Henry gnawed on a cigarette and said thankfully, “I’m glad that this project is ending soon. I’ll soon be released from this agony.”

“Are you going back to the hotel right now?” Jasper asked.

“Hehe, I know where to have some fun. Don’t worry about me.” Henry chuckled.

“Don’t mess around,” Jasper reminded before climbing into the car with Wendy and driving off.

In the car, Wendy could finally spend some time alone with Jasper.

“You must’ve been really busy in the United States, right?” Wendy asked softly.

“It’s alright. What’s most important is that everything went well,” Jasper said, holding Wendy’s hand with a smile.

“That’s good to hear. Initially, I thought you couldn’t make it to the Southface River Project’s topping-out ceremony,” Wendy said.

Jasper suddenly recalled something and said, “Give your father a call and tell him that everything here has been settled. Ask him not to worry.”

Wendy rolled her eyes at Jasper and said, “I would have grown old by the time you recalled this. I informed him a long time ago. He asked you to drop by when you’re free.”

“Sure. I have to go, that’s for sure. The Southface River Project is close to completion, and I still have many things to discuss with him. Is there anything else happening in the company recently?” Jasper asked.

“I have to tell you something,” Wendy said in a deep voice.

“I’ve been discussing with Chad a lot lately about integrating the job title system of state-owned enterprises. We put together an idea and plan to implement ranking posts within the company.”

Life at the Top Chapter 837

Jasper was no stranger to this concept.

In the future, even huge internet technology corporations like Abbylon, Terizone, or Warwick employed this strategy.

Among them, Warwick, the largest enterprise with the most employees, had as many as 25 internal rankings and 22 rankings that were opened to the public.

Divisions like that would be beneficial for internal management. At least they would be able to provide salaries according to academic qualifications and different levels of responsibilities.

For employees, there was a clear goal they could work hard to achieve.

Unlike in the past where an ordinary office clerk could not even serve as a manager even after working for a few years.

There were only so many leadership positions, and the number of employees would always be greater than that of leadership positions.

However, after separating salaries and administrative ranks, making them completely unrelated to each other, it would be beneficial for a company to grow stronger and larger.

“That doesn’t sound like a problem to me. This is a crucial path a company must take to modernize itself. An all-inclusive management strategy isn’t suitable for a huge corporation.

“Do you have a specific plan?” Jasper asked with interest.

Seeing how Jasper approved the idea that she had been racking her brains to think about during this period of time, Wendy said excitedly.

“I do. Chad and I discussed it for a very long time, revised it several times, and eventually formed two versions of the final draft. It’s on the computer at home. You can check it when we get back.”

It took only half an hour to drive home from the hospital.

When they got home, Jasper took a quick shower and sat in front of the computer, looking at Wendy’s fruit of labor during this period of time.

Jasper reviewed the 67-page report while listening to Wendy’s explanation, asking questions from time to time.

“Based on what you said, each applicant is ranked using a similar set of formulas. Can the formula guarantee objectivity and fairness?” Jasper asked.

Wendy replied, “Yes, the formula is used specifically on people.”

Jasper nodded after hearing what she said. Actually, Jasper had already planned to propose the idea during the last meeting.

However, he considered the fact that the company’s scale was not large enough and reformation needed to be done step by step. The entire hierarchy needed to be implemented after rigorous and careful considerations.

As this was a reformation that would affect the salaries of everyone in the company and perhaps even the situation as a whole, Jasper had decided to put off the plan temporarily.

Little did he know, Wendy and Chad had acted ahead of him.

Not only had they come up with the idea, but they had also formulated a perfect plan.

“Not bad. The plan is logical and workable. Most importantly, you were the ones who discovered this and even worked to solve it.

“To be honest with you, I did notice this problem and wanted to solve it, but my plans weren’t as good as yours,” Jasper shut his laptop and said to Wendy with a smile.

Wendy blinked, saying, “Do I get a reward, then?”

“Yeah. It’s in my luggage. I’ve prepared it for you a long time ago,” Jasper said with a smile.

Wendy cheered and rushed over to unzip Jasper’s luggage.

She eventually found a set of Givenchy limited-edition lipstick gift boxes, a total of 16 lipsticks that cost Jasper 30,000 US dollars.

“That’s cheating. This is clearly the souvenir you bought for me. It’s not a reward!” Although Wendy was over the moon, she quickly realized that she was nearly fooled by Jasper.

Wendy thought about it and then narrowed her eyes as she looked at Jasper, saying, “I won’t ask for much. You just need to answer one question.”

Jasper’s muscles contracted as he asked vigilantly, “What question?”

“Why are you so guilty?” Wendy’s eyes glinted sharply.

“I’m not guilty.” Jasper calmly picked up the cup of coffee and walked to the door. “I’ll go pour some coffee.”

“Wait!” Wendy stood at the door and stared at Jasper, saying, “Don’t change the subject. You are guilty!”

“Look, why don’t we do this? I’ll owe you the reward first. Since you’re the one who proposed the plan, submit a document to me tomorrow under your and Chad’s names.

“Once I approve it, you and Chad will implement this together with you as the leader and Chad as the assistant. I will determine the reward for you after that, okay?”

Wendy hesitated slightly. “Chad is the director of the Human Resources Department, though. Wouldn’t it be better if he leads?”

Jasper knocked on Wendy’s smooth forehead and said, “Silly, you’re the boss lady. He’s just a worker. Who do you say is better for the job?”

“Do you think a human resources director is capable enough to implement something this major? Only you and I are qualified to do this in the entire company. Therefore, I’m certain he won’t be bold enough to be the leader.”

Life at the Top Chapter 838

“Excuse me? What lady boss? You can dream on!”

Wendy glared coyly at Jasper before running back to her room.

At the sight of Wendy’s flurried back, Jasper laughed. “Do you think you’d have so many things to worry about if you weren’t the lady boss? Just admit it.”

“Go to hell!”

The door closed with a bang, cutting off Jasper’s field of vision.

The next day at the Southface River Project site. Jasper and Dawson patrolled the site while accompanied by a large group of site managers.

“It’s nearly done.” Looking at the clean road, refreshing greenery, and newly built buildings around him, Jasper said to Dawson with a smile.

“Yes, it’s all done. Now it’s just the ceremony.” Dawson was in a good mood as well.

They had both invested a lot of money and energy in this project in the past year.

Now that everything had finally come to fruition, even Dawson, someone who was used to seeing turbulence in life, felt a sense of joy and gratification. It was just like an old farmer who was finally harvesting his crops after a whole year of busy farming.

“Have all the invitations been sent out?” Jasper asked.

Dawson nodded and said, “The preparations are done. We were just waiting for you to come back from the United States, actually. We have also begun seeking investments. At the moment, 70% of the shops and office buildings in the entire Southface River Project have been rented out.

“However, in order to meet the publicity requirement set by the city’s government, the rental fee for the first three years is extremely low. The city’s government will give us a 70% subsidy and we will bear the 30% ourselves.”

After listening to what Dawson said, Jasper nodded and said, “This is all just a small sum of money. It’s fine. Let’s get this place crowded with people first. As soon as this place starts bustling with energy, we can easily earn back the rental fee by double in three years. Giving comes before receiving. There’s no need to be petty-minded with small gains like that.”

Dawson laughed. “Speaking of which, the city’s government is really considerate. They exempted as much as they could for Schuler Group’s and JW Company’s taxes. For the first five years, all the properties rented out here will be tax-free. After further calculations, we’re still making a profit.”

“The city’s government wants to attract more investors. We’ve invested billions in place of the city’s government so it’s crucial that they do something to show their appreciation. Now that the Southface River Project has been completed and Nauritus City’s investment has taken on a new look, the higher-ups of the city’s government will be over the moon,” Jasper said with a smile.

While talking, the group arrived at the core center of the Southface River Project.

At the sight of the 26-story building in front of him and the three dazzling words ‘Southface River Tower’, Jasper said, “Don’t rent out the ten levels at the top of Southface River Tower.”

“Are you saving them for yourself?” Dawson asked.

Jasper nodded and said, "Yeah. The tiny villa is too cramped. There are four to five people crammed in the room working. We should've changed locations a long time ago. We still need to wait for a very long time for the building in Waterhoof City to finish construction as I don't think it'll be done soon, so it's better to move the company over here first. Ten floors should be more than enough."

Dawson said in agreement, "Since JW is slowly building up its reputation, paying attention to the company's image is crucial. This is something that many people are concerned about. The building in front of us is almost in line with JW's current reputation. When JW becomes even more powerful in the future, the construction in Waterhoof City would be almost completed as well."

Jasper laughed. "When the time comes, Schuler Group can move there too."

Dawson laughed while waving his hands. "No thanks. Since its establishment, not once has Schuler Group left Southeast Province, so there's no need to waste the resources moving into a new place. However, I'll consider setting up a branch there. After all, Schuler Group has a large organizational structure. I plan to set up several branches in the country so it'll be easier to manage them when they're all divided."

Jasper and Dawson were chatting when a group of men approached them.

Conrad Monty!

Seemingly here to see Jasper, Conrad did not halt in his footsteps as soon as he saw him and walked straight to him.

There were several other men next to him. With a glance, Jasper knew what was going on. These were all the leaders of relevant departments in the city's government whom he had talked to before.

What were these two groups of people doing together?

Jasper narrowed his eyes and walked toward Conrad.

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“Aren’t you as pleased as Punch after your trip to the United States, Mr. Laine? Not only did you earn a reputation for yourself but you also made a fortune. The news about Sena has spread throughout the entire domestic financial circle. Well aren’t you something, Mr. Laine?”

Conrad looked at Jasper and said ambiguously.

Jasper let out a faint smile and said, “I don’t have a choice, do I? I need to earn a living for my family. Money isn’t easy to earn, so I have to do something. I’m surprised you still found the time to show up at Southface River despite your busy schedule, Mr. Monty. Are you here to give me some advice?”

“I don’t consider this advice. Judging from your reputation and status, do you think I have the guts to advise you?” Conrad said with a calm countenance.

“If that’s the case, are you here to attend Southface River Project’s topping-out ceremony then?” Jasper asked with a faint smile.

Conrad’s gaze turned icy. He looked at Jasper and said calmly, “Jasper, we can shed all pretense of cordiality. You know I will never come here to celebrate your project’s topping-out ceremony.

“However, we can make a fortune together. I’m here to partner up with you this time.”

As soon as Conrad said those words, Dawson and the rest looked at him with inquiring gazes.

Jasper and the Monty family’s strife was no longer a secret in Southeast Province. They were even so close to bringing their fight to the streets.

Following the success of Sena being listed in the United States market, everyone was speculating the amount of money Jasper had earned this time around.

Although no one knew the specific amount, everyone knew one thing at least.

Jasper had changed ever since he returned from the United States.

Many people were racking their brains thinking of ways to curry favor with Jasper.

Looking at Conrad now... Was he admitting defeat?

Was he seeking peace with Jasper?

Everyone was weirded out by that thought.

As the richest family in Southeast Province, the Monty family had been a giant sitting above the Southeast Province's upper class circle for far too long.

Right now, this giant was about to collapse.

All of a sudden, everyone felt conflicted.

Jasper was the calmest of all.

They said that your enemy knew you best.

Jasper understood people like Conrad the most.

There was no way he could settle as an official or a general because it was absolutely impossible for him to yield to others.

A person like that would only end up in two ways—be a king, or die.

How could Conrad submit to him?

Jasper was extremely vigilant, yet his tone remained calm while revealing a hint of curiosity.

“Partner? Let’s listen. I’m really curious to know how this cooperation would work.”

Life at the Top Chapter 840

“There are too many people here. Why don’t we find somewhere quiet to talk in detail?” Conrad said flatly.

“Let’s go to Southface River Tower. One of the floors has been renovated. There’s a slightly more quiet reception room there,” Dawson suggested.

Jasper and Conrad had no comments about that. Therefore, they turned around and walked into the building.

Upon stepping into the new building, Conrad was still wearing a calm countenance yet his gaze would not stop darting all over the place.

Actually, although he was here today to hinder Jasper, he had been carefully observing the entire Southface River Project on his way here.

He came to the conclusion that even though Jasper was contemptible, he had to admit that from the day Jasper started from scratch up until now, the man had portrayed traits of an extraordinary man.

Disregarding everything else, the Southface River Project had a formwork that could not be found in any other cities in this country.

On the contrary, this place would become a formwork for other cities.

When word about Southface River Project’s topping-out ceremony got out and the nation took a look at the style of this place, Conrad could almost see JW Real Estates becoming the first partner anyone could think of for the construction of the nation’s New City Project.

This place was simply too advanced!

In terms of concept, other real estate companies had fallen way behind JW Real Estates.

Conrad lifted his head to look at Jasper who was walking ahead and could not help but wonder if he had a different brain structure than other people. Why was he always able to impress his competitors no matter what he did?

When the group entered the reception room, Conrad had also put away the messy thoughts in his head.

When they had all taken their seats, Conrad did not wait for Jasper to speak and took the initiative to say, "You know, mining is the Monty family's main industry, so we know a thing or two about minerals."

There were only Conrad, Jasper, and Dawson in the reception room.

Upon hearing Conrad's opening remark, Jasper and Dawson remained quiet as they waited for him to continue.

After a slight pause, Conrad continued, "In the previous aluminum incident, the Monty family was more than capable of fighting for it to the end, but before that, something else happened and our family refused to invest too much in a site that has already been exploited to a certain extent."

When Conrad said those words, Dawson's expression changed. He understood the implicit meaning of his words.

From what Conrad was saying, he seemed to have located a new mining site?

This would be major news.

Dawson turned to look at Jasper.

Jasper, however, was seen shaking his head almost imperceptibly, motioning him not to be anxious.

Conrad observed their reactions with a blank face, and his expression did not even fluctuate.

“That mine is located in Hill County, at the junction of Southeast Province and Mustiece Province. As the name suggests, 90% of Hill County is covered by mountains. It’s a poor county where more than 40% of the villages and towns do not have access to road facilities.

“It’s precisely because of its harsh conditions that no one had discovered the aluminum mine, not even the Monty family.”

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“In recent years, we’ve dispatched more than a dozen exploration teams to search for new minerals, spending at least ten million annually. Aside from national mining enterprises, the Monty family has spent the most money among other private enterprises.

“Our hard work finally paid off. In the mountains of Hill County, we located this aluminum mine. In the preliminary exploration, we found at least ten million tons of aluminum ores, sufficient for continuous mining for ten years according to the annual mining volume of one million tons. Its value is no less than 90 billion.”

At that point, Conrad’s blank face revealed a rare excitement.

“Therefore, I plan to partner up with you to do this business.”

When Jasper was done listening, he raised his eyebrows slightly and said, “If that’s what you’re saying, Mr. Monty, then you can easily make a fortune from this aluminum mine yourself. Why would you want to share it with me?”

Conrad was not the slightest surprised by Jasper’s question. He replied, “Funds.”

“Like I said, Hill County is extremely poor. In order to develop a mine, the first thing you will need to do is build a road that leads directly to the mine so that heavy machinery can go in and out using the road.

“Judging from the current situation in Hill County, at least one billion Somer Dollars in investments is required to construct the road. Another tricky thing is that the minerals are located in the territory of provincial natural resources reserves. According to regulations, the vegetation and trees destroyed from building a mine will have to be replanted.

“That will be at least another billion in expenditure.

“Also, Hill County’s government once stated their conditions to me, saying that if I build a mine, the mining workers must be recruited from Hill County itself. That’s fine with me since building a mine requires workers, after all. But the problem here is the second condition. We must supply electricity and water to the towns and villages wherever the road passes.

“The expenditure is slightly lesser here, about 300 million Somer Dollars.

“In other words, excluding capital investment such as mining equipment and large amounts of employee safety equipment, as well as other funds, the additional expenditure required in the initial period to construct this aluminum mine is 2.3 billion Somer Dollars. In addition to that, we need at least three billion Somer Dollars in investment when the mining begin, and at least 500 million Somer Dollars for maintenance and operational costs in subsequent years.

“Although the mine is capable of making profits once operations and maintenance begins, during the initial period, including the additional expenditure of 2.3 billion, a total of 5.3 billion Somer Dollars is needed.”

After saying those words, Conrad spread his arms open and said nonchalantly, “If it weren’t for these funding issues, do you think I would want to split this juicy piece of meat with anyone? I would have kept it a secret. Why would I take the initiative to let you know and even invite you to partner up with me?”

“5.3 billion.” Jasper tapped his fingers gently on the armrest of the couch and said calmly, “That’s not a small sum.”

“The Monty family can take out three billion. The remaining 2.3 billion can be converted into shares. The approximate ratio is 60:40. I can give you the 40%.” Conrad put forward his condition for the partnership.

Jasper laughed. “Not everyone can take out so much money at a time even if it’s just 2.3 billion. You think too highly of me, Mr. Monty.”

“Others may not be able to do it, but I believe you can. Don’t tell me that you didn’t even earn two billion when you went to the United States to get Sena listed?” Conrad said indifferently.

Jasper chuckled and said, “Looks like you know a lot about me, Mr. Monty. That’s far too much concern on your side, don’t you think?”

“Let’s cut to the chase. I will give you two days to think about it. If you don’t want to do it, then I will find someone else.” Conrad stood up and walked to the door after finishing his sentence.

“Sure, I’ll give you an answer two days later,” Jasper said.

Conrad had just left when Jasper said to Dawson with a chuckle, “Did you smell it, Uncle Dawson?”

“Smell what?” Dawson frowned, still thinking about the aluminum mine.

“The smell of conspiracy.”

Life at the Top Chapter 842

Dawson asked with a frown, "Are you saying that he's lying to you? But you can't lie about a mine that has been explored. We can easily send someone over to investigate. Why would he use such a lousy trick?"

Jasper said knowingly, "Some simple tricks can play a key role in crucial times. It doesn't necessarily need to be a scam. Half-truths are always the most difficult to expose."

"Are you going to decline, then?" Dawson asked.

Jasper pondered and said, "If we don't destroy the Monty family, then they will remain a thorn in our sides or a fish bone stuck in our throats. He wants to destroy me, and I want to use this opportunity to remove the seeds of future troubles."

"I'm afraid this is not going to be easy to deal with. If Conrad wants to set us up, he will leave plenty of ways out for himself when so much money is involved."

Dawson frowned slightly as he continued, "Besides, the Monty family has deep roots and a firm foundation. We may be able to deal with Conrad, but let's not forget that he has a backer, and that person is the hardest to deal with."

Jasper chuckled and stood up, saying, "No matter what happens, we'll see how things progress first!"

Two days was neither too long nor too short.

In the midst of his hectic life, two days went by in the blink of an eye.

In the past two days, Jasper and Dawson worked together to prepare for Southface River Project's topping-out ceremony.

On the other hand, Jack planned to officially launch the online point card payment system, a joint partnership between Sena and Terizone. There were many tasks involved that required frequent communication with Terizone and Commercial Bank.

Plus, Sena was now a proper listed company and currently the most popular foreign-listed internet company in the domestic internet industry. Therefore, he planned to hold an annual meeting in Waterhoof City.

Jack's intentions were clear when he reported this to Jasper. He wanted Jasper to attend it.

Jasper did not decline. After deciding on a time with Jack, they waited for Sena's annual meeting next week.

The topping-out ceremony for the Southface River Project would be held immediately after Sena's annual meeting.

There were many complicated affairs to handle, and when Jasper was done handling them one by one, two days had already gone by.

Today, Conrad showed up at his doorsteps.

He was not alone. He brought with him Valentine Estrada, a man Jasper once had dealings with.

The two of them brought a stack of information and went straight to Jasper's office.

"If I hadn't heard about it in advance, I wouldn't believe that your parent company is squeezed into such a tiny villa." Conrad sat across from Jasper with a smile.

Jasper asked the clerk to prepare two cups of coffee and laughed.

“When Southface River officially opens, my company will then shift over. We can only do what we can at the moment. We have no choice. The company is less than a year old and is still very weak. It’s best to take things slow.”

“Why do I feel like you’re mocking old companies like us?” Conrad said meaningfully.

“Are you here to have idle talks with me today, Mr. Monty?” Jasper said with a grin.

Conrad motioned to Valentine and the latter immediately pulled out a stack of documents. Conrad said, “Two days are up. I’m here to ask if you have an answer? This is all the information regarding the aluminum mine.

“You will find verifications from the county, city, and province mining departments, as well as detailed and official certification of the surrounding environment of the reserves and mineral resources. I can’t fake these things nor am I allowed to fake these things. Just take a close look at them and you’ll know what I mean,” Conrad said.

Jasper carefully read the documents in his hands without a word.

Conrad picked up his cup of coffee and took a sip in an unruffled manner, turning around to study Jasper’s office. The competitive aura that emitted from within him when he faced Jasper in the past was non-existent now.

Honestly, Jasper knew nothing about the mining industry. The jargon and data shown in this thick stack of information made his head hurt. It was all Greek to him.

Jasper could at least tell a private document and an official document apart.

Among them were a few official documents with clear-written words to prove that the aluminum mine that Conrad mentioned did exist.

No one would fake things like that because, on the one hand, one could make a call to the department to know if this was fake. It would be too easily exposed.

On the other hand, once exposed, one would have to pay a huge price for forging official documents.

“I don’t understand the data and statistics, but I know this is probably real,” Jasper said bluntly while putting down the papers.

Conrad, who was studying Jasper’s office, withdrew his gaze and said mildly, “It’s alright if you don’t understand the data and statistics. You can find any undergraduate with a degree in mineral exploration and he’ll give you a clear calculation.

“If you’ve confirmed that it’s genuine, can you give me an answer now? Do you want this partnership or not?”

After pointing at the large stack of papers on the table, Jasper said with a grin, “Look, I don’t know about these things. Even if I find a professional to go through it, it’ll still take some time. Why don’t you give me two more days?”

Frowning slightly, Conrad looked at Jasper and said, “I’ll give you one more day at most. With every delay, I’m wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars. No one can bear this cost for too long. If you don’t want to, then I can just find other partners.”

“Okay, one day it is then,” Jasper said with a smile.

“Don’t worry, I’ll definitely give you an answer tomorrow at this time.”

Conrad stood up and said, “Hopefully.”

Life at the Top Chapter 843

After bidding an insincere farewell to Jasper, Conrad and Valentine left the villa.

Upon getting into the car, he lifted his head and said, "Cancel all the plans we prepared previously."

"Mr. Monty, we spent a lot of money and effort to prepare those plans. Are we... cancelling all of them?"

Sitting at the front passenger seat, Valentine turned around and asked.

"Cancel it all. Use a new plan."

Conrad added mildly, "Starting from the day Jasper built up his fortune, I can recite every piece of information I found about him backwards.

"From those pieces of information that can almost be written into a novel, I can tell that Jasper is an extremely conceited person. He's distrusting to his core and only believes in his own judgment.

"No matter how outrageous a judgment may seem to outsiders, he will execute his plan once he has made his decision. He has never cared about what outsiders think or say.

"Most terrifyingly... his outrageous judgments have all succeeded. The more outrageous it is, the more benefits he gets. It's precisely because of this that he's able to accumulate so much wealth in just one year's time.

"Ever since Sena was listed, there are not many people in Somerland who can compare to him in terms of wealth and fortune. No more than three digits.

“Just how arrogant and conceited can this man be? He isn’t afraid of schemes and tricks. He believes that he can solve everything.”

At this point, Conrad’s lips were curled into a strange arc.

“A conceited man like him will still eat the poisonous cake we sent him despite knowing that it’s poisonous because he believes that he can handle the poison to get rid of us.

“He covets the gains in front of him without being aware of the danger behind him. Jasper covets the gains yet has no idea that I’m the danger lurking behind him, pointing a sniper at his head.”

After hearing what he said, Valentine could not help but gasp in admiration.

Conrad had lost to Jasper twice, suffering tremendous losses. Moreover, Jasper was always able to leave with a bunch of benefits each time.

Valentine was not around the first time, but he had heard about it.

He experienced it himself the second time.

This was the third time.

Valentine had observed how terrifyingly fast Conrad had grown during this time. Conrad had been reviewing his defeat almost every day, carefully thinking about what went wrong that caused his defeat and Jasper’s victory.

In Valentine’s opinion, Conrad had completely transformed now. It would not make any sense if he did not win this time.

More importantly, Valentine had met Conrad’s father, Steven Monty, recently.

After meeting that man, Valentine realized what a true upright and indomitable man in Southeast Province actually looked like. With a man like him as Conrad's father and to have him back him up, how could Conrad possibly lose?

...

"They sure are willing to fork out so much money for this bait."

In the evening. In Jasper's office, Henry yawned constantly while Jasper studied an encrypted document that had been sent urgently from Harbor City. He tutted non-stop.

He rested his legs on the armrest of the couch, lying flawlessly on the couch. Henry picked a comfortable posture to lie down and said with disdain.

"That idiot Mitch didn't even have the guts to dig a hole and bury someone on the mountains previously but now he's bold enough to transport hundreds of tons of aluminum ores to the mountain and hide them, pretending like it's a new mine that has just been explored? He's pretty smart, isn't he?"

"Have you actually buried someone before?" Jasper asked.

"No."

Henry waved his hands.

"It's not what you think it is. We just beat up the idiots we don't like and drag them to the mountain, dig a pit, strip them bare, and throw their clothes into it. Then we bury them up to their chests. This way, no one dies and we can also teach them a good lesson. That's it, basically."

Having said that, Henry smirked and said, "Do you remember Bon Lancaster's son, Zane Lancaster? He's currently the one who has been buried the most among other trust fund babies in Harbor City. Hahahaha."

“Can you guess who made it to the top of the list for burying the most people? I’ll give you a hint. You know this person very well,” Henry said while winking his eyes.

“It’s not you, is it?” Jasper hissed.

Although he was talking to Henry, his eyes were fixed on the document that came from Harbor City. He was searching his brain for all the clues he already had, reassembling and restoring them as he tried to play out the scenes in his head.

“Hehehe, I knew you’d say that. You got it wrong this time. It’s my sister.” Henry laughed.

Jasper withdrew his gaze from the documents upon hearing his words and shifted it to Henry, asking dubiously, “Anna? I don’t believe you.”

“You don’t believe me? Although my sister doesn’t hang out with us, she has a reputation for teaching all the trust fund babies in Harbor City a lesson. Only Kayden, Fabian, and those who are much older than her had not been bashed up by her before.

“In the years before we met you, if she found any trust fund babies in Harbor City unpleasant to look at, or if they pissed her off, none of them would end well.

“When she was done crippling them, I would bury them. But she’s still the initiator, after all, so those idiots would shudder in fright whenever they see her now!”

Jasper recalled Anna’s matchless beauty and chuckled. “I can’t tell at all.”

“She changed after meeting you. She’s way quieter now,” Henry said with a sigh.

When he finally put down the document that was three to five pages, Jasper ignored Henry’s sighs and said, “I’m afraid Mitch won’t be able to handle something this big…”

“Sneaking hundreds of tons of aluminum ores through customs, burying them, and disguising them as a fake mine so flawlessly that it could even fool the most experienced veterans in the industry... This scam alone would cost them hundreds of millions of dollars, right?”

“They sure are willing.”

Life at the Top Chapter 844

“What’s the situation now?”

Henry managed to lift half of his body from the couch and asked Jasper.

“Mitch, that idiot, colluded with Conrad to transport hundreds of tons of aluminum ores from Harbor City just to trick you?”

Jasper nodded and said, “Something like that.”

“F*ck!” Henry cursed with displeasure. “Why has no one paid such a huge price to trick me before?”

“It only takes a few women to trick you,” Jasper shot back mercilessly.

“F*ck, I don’t like to hear that!” Henry roared grumpily.

“Stop shouting. It hurts my head.”

“This is all thanks to the Laws’ great influence. Your family was able to find out about this in just a few hours.

“Since they’ve spent so much effort preparing a good show, it would be such a pity if we don’t go along with their performance, don’t you think?” Jasper said meaningfully.

...

The next day, Conrad took the initiative to make a call. This time, Jasper agreed to meet him at a location.

“I think the partnership can go on,” Jasper said with a smile while looking at Conrad who was sitting across the table.

“Before that, though, I have a question.

“Aren’t you afraid that working with me will irk you when you have enmity against me?”

After hearing what Jasper said, Conrad said indifferently, “Enmity and business are two completely different things. If I can’t even draw a clear distinction between them, then why bother doing business at all?”

“Okay.” Jasper nodded, seemingly impressed by this answer.

“How will this partnership work?”

Conrad’s eyes twinkled as he said with a faint smile, “Like what we mentioned earlier, we will establish a company. I’ll hold 60% shares and you 40%. We’ll invest according to the ratio. You will contribute 2.3 billion while I will fork out the remaining three billion.”

“The interests that belong to the company after that will also be divided according to equity.”

Jasper nodded and said, “Not bad. This is a standard and reasonable way to distribute it. However, I don’t know anything about the mineral industry. What about the sales channels?”

“Don’t worry about the sales channels. I’ve already contacted several state-owned mining companies. As soon as the company is established, we can then sign a business contract with them as our suppliers and operate according to the market price.”

“In other words, you’ve done everything from exploration to mining to sales and I only need to fork out money before waiting for my share of profits?” Jasper asked.

Conrad looked at Jasper and asked indifferently, “You’re afraid that I’ll set you up?”

Jasper laughed. “Would you believe me if I say I’m not afraid?”

“I don’t believe you.” Conrad shook his head and raised his brows, saying, “I explained the reason to you earlier. Had it not been for insufficient funds, I wouldn’t have shared this with anyone—let alone you.

“At present, if I want 60% of these benefits, I will have to let someone have the 40%. In addition to that, I don’t have many candidates to choose from. After deliberating for a very long time, I think you’re the most suitable candidate of all.

“If you’re worried, then I can let you handle the aspects of legal representation, management, and even the signing of the sales contracts.”

“In that case, I can kick you out anytime. You’re not afraid of that?” Jasper asked.

“Would you believe me if I say that I’m not afraid?” Conrad replied to Jasper with his own words.

“I don’t believe you.” Jasper laughed.

“I’ll be in charge of setting up collateral,” Conrad said.

“Collateral? We have enough money. Why would you still need to set up collateral?” Jasper asked, raising his eyebrows slightly.

Smiling, Conrad said, “Do you think we can just cash out three billion so casually? I don’t have a listed company to be my backer like you. I need to put up the entire company’s equity as collateral. The loan will be at least 2.5 billion.”

The company was short of funds, and it seemed perfectly normal to apply for bank loans.

Jasper looked unruffled when he listened to Conrad’s words and said, “I thought you’d fork out three billion yourself and inject it into the company, but from what you’re saying right now, I will be the one forking out a large sum of money whereas you won’t have to pay anything?”

Conrad replied calmly, “You can’t say that. Is it not enough that I have put up the entire aluminum mine as collateral? You must know that the only reason why our partnership can work and the bank loans can be approved is that fundamentally, this aluminum mine exists, no?”

Jasper pondered for a moment and said, “I need to do a field trip.”

“Of course.” Conrad agreed readily.

“We can go anytime as long as you’re free.”

“I won’t be there. I won’t understand anything anyway so I’ll be going there for nothing. I’ll send relevant experts, though. I just need a bit of help from you when the time comes, that’s all,” Jasper said.

Conrad replied flatly, “Inform me when you’re done with the arrangements. I’ll be ready at any time to serve your men.”

...

Life at the Top Chapter 845

Jasper sat unmoving in his seat even after Conrad had left.

Wendy arrived soon after. After he stood and exchanged seats with her, Jasper beckoned to a waiter to order a table's worth of food.

"Conrad has pretty good taste. The food at this restaurant is quite good."

As Jasper spoke to Wendy, he ladled a helping of her favorite chicken onto her plate.

Wendy blinked as she gazed at Jasper, asking, "How did the discussion go?"

Jasper smiled and said, "It went just as I expected it to, but there were also some surprises."

He did not keep anything hidden from Wendy as he relayed the details about the conversation he had with Conrad, making sure to emphasize the request Conrad brought up.

Wendy had a solemn expression on her face as she nodded and said, "The request for a loan must not be agreed to!"

"After all, no matter who is responsible for applying for the loan, the bank will have to assess the company's assets regardless. Once the loan is approved and becomes an overdue loan, the bank will seek out the lender and legal representative, which would be you and the new company.

"Both parties need to repay the loan, but Conrad Monty would not have to shoulder even an ounce of responsibility."

“That’s right,” Jasper said calmly as he spat out a bone. “This is where Conrad’s schemes came into play.

“It might seem as if he’s given me all the power, but with great power comes great responsibility. By becoming the legal representative, I’ll be able to manage the company.

“However, I’ll also be the first to be blamed if anything were to happen to the company. If he takes out a loan of 2.5 billion dollars and fails to make the repayments, the bank will come looking for me instead of him.”

Wendy said angrily, “What a despicable person he is! We must not make any promises to him.”

“I didn’t reject him. I told him I needed to send some professionals over to conduct some field research and he said he would take good care of them,” Jasper said with a smile.

Wendy said angrily, “How could you have made a blunder at such a critical stage? If he’s already made that many preparations, there’s no way your experts can find anything when they arrive at the scene. They’ll tell you that everything is perfectly fine.”

Jasper shrugged and said, “I know, but I’m only doing this to placate him.”

Wendy stared confusedly at Jasper as she frowned and asked, “What are you planning to do?”

Jasper chuckled and said, “Conrad’s plans are about to be revealed at this point.

“He first obtained fake aluminum ore, which he’s using to swindle my funds from me. Everything will seem fine at first when I’ve invested enough money to set up the new company. We’ll even be making huge profits.

“However, as time goes on, I’ll suddenly discover that the mine has run out of ore to be mined. Thus, that would cause a breach of contract, and the state-owned enterprises who have already signed contracts with us will file a lawsuit against us. Then, the bank will also file a lawsuit when the loan repayments are overdue.

“When that happens, I either have to swallow the bitter truth of having to pay the state-owned enterprises for breach of contract and the bank interest on the loan principal, or I can deny everything and fight a lengthy legal battle with both parties. However, I will be on the losing side no matter which option I choose.

“As for Conrad, he’ll end up becoming the winner with the 2.5 billion dollars he loaned.”

Wendy gritted her teeth as she listened to Jasper. “How can such despicable people exist in the world?! Jasp, we should ignore him and make his plans fail!”

“I won’t cough up a single cent, but this scheme...”

Jasper had a meaningful look on his face as he placed a drumstick on Wendy’s plate. Smiling, he said, “We’ll take things one step at a time.”

At that very moment, Conrad had already arrived home.

He was sitting in the study and having a video call with Kennedy who was in Harbor City.

“Things are about 80% complete at this point.”

A look of delight appeared on Kennedy’s face when he heard what Conrad said.

“Not bad. I knew things would go well with you in charge.”

However, Conrad shook his head when he heard the praises and said, “Mr. Kennedy, we can’t get too excited just yet. We must wait for Jasper’s funds to be processed.”

Kennedy nodded and said, “Alright. One must not be impatient if one wants to achieve big things. I’ll be accompanying my father to America in two days. Thus, you’ll be reporting any updates regarding this matter to Mitch.”

Conrad frowned slightly as he said, “Maybe I should report directly to you instead, Mr. Kennedy?”

Kennedy said softly, “Conrad, Mitch has made progress since the last time. We’ve already planned everything out, so all he needs to do is follow the instructions I’ve given him. Nothing will happen. Get in touch with me if you need any difficult decisions made.”

When Conrad heard that, he sighed softly and said, “Alright, I understand.”

After hanging up, the corners of Conrad’s lips curled upward into a cold smile as he muttered to himself, “Stupid. The dad is just as stupid as his son.”

Then, Conrad took his phone and dialed another number.

“Start buying out Sena’s shares now, and remember to take each step carefully. This time, I’m going to turn on Jasper and cause him to suffer his most major loss yet!

“Who cares about the W. Langdon family? They’re just bait for me to tempt Jasper Laine with. Everyone will only realize they’ve been fooled by me when I reveal everything!”

Life at the Top Chapter 846

Conrad had never expected to fool Jasper with a scheme that seemed so costly and elaborate.

Thus, Conrad had from the very start abandoned the Langdon family and begun planning his scheme.

In his opinion, it would be best if Jasper was fooled by this scheme, but he knew the chances of that happening was tiny.

After dealing with him multiple times, Conrad understood exactly why Jasper was so terrifying.

Thus, he did not have a lot of hope.

He placed even more hope on the fact that he had secretly abandoned the W. Langdons and had another plan directed at Sena.

Conrad, who had done thorough research on Jasper, knew that Jasper would immediately be alerted if he took action against any of the companies the man owned.

Jasper had complete control over these companies because they had never been listed publicly. Nothing could escape his eyes.

Sena was the only one that was different.

After all, Sena had been listed publicly on the Nasdaq Composite. The company's shareholding structure would be a multi-class structure for sure.

Conrad knew Jasper would maintain a firm grip of control over Sena, but he did not care. He did not want to fight with Jasper for Sena but rather cause Sena to completely collapse once he was done making his move.

No one knew that Conrad had already begun laying out the share prices for Sena, and that was the last trick he had up his sleeve.

“Oh, Jasper. This time, it’ll be a battle of wits between the two of us. On the surface, I’m using the W. Langdons as a cover-up for what I’m about to do in the dark. I’m going to pull the rug out from under you through the Nasdaq Composite... Tell me, how are you going to win this time?”

...

Without surprise, the team of experts in the minerals industry that Jasper had gotten in contact with through Elbert Mcgee did not find anything out of the ordinary in Hill County.

After two days of field research, the report the team submitted to Jasper stated that there was indeed a large reserve of aluminum ore within the depths of Hill County. Moreover, these ores were worth billions because of their high quality.

The only downside was that Hill County was an undeveloped place with harsh conditions. A large amount of money would need to be invested before the ores could be mined...

Jasper put down the report the experts had submitted and dialed John’s number.

“John, it’s me.

“Haha, let me apologize in advance. I was in America before this and had a lot of things to take care of. That’s why I wasn’t able to keep in touch with you guys.

“You’re not wrong, I do have a favor to ask from you today.

“I was wondering if you could ask around your company and the other major banks in Southeast Province if Conrad Monty has taken any large loans that are worth millions?”

“Yes, it’s quite urgent. I wouldn’t have called you if it wasn’t.

“Alright, I’ll wait for you to get back to me.”

Within an hour of ending his call with John, Jasper received a message from him.

Conrad had requested a special financing loan of 2.9 billion dollars from Agricultural Bank.

It was a three-year loan that would be used for business development, with the collateral being the aluminum mine that had been newly discovered at Hill County.

The loan had not yet been approved because the lender had not been determined yet. Thus, it was still pending while Jasper and Conrad finalized the contract for the newly-established company and an expert from the bank did field research on the mine.

“Jasper, not only does Agricultural Bank view this loan as one of utmost importance but other banks, including mine, would like to claim it as ours too. Conrad has a lot of money under his name, and the banks are not worried that anything may happen. The amount of money he wants to loan is huge in Southeast Province. It’ll be a win for anyone who manages to secure the deal.

“Since you’re the one asking, let me add on something else. Make sure nothing happens. 2.9 billion dollars is a lot of money, and a huge fuss will be made if anything happens. No one will be able to handle it.”

John’s words swam around in Jasper’s mind as he sat in his office and thought deeply about things.

What could be confirmed now was Conrad was seemingly giving Jasper a huge opportunity to take hold of.

The minute he took it, it would clamp down on him and render him immobile. When that happened, the one gaining profits would be Conrad, while Jasper had to shoulder all the responsibility.

After a long while, Jasper called John again.

“John, help me get in touch with whoever is in charge of the Agricultural Bank’s Southeast Province branch. I want to treat them to a meal.”

After another few minutes of pondering, Jasper dialed another number.

“Old Master Hurlbutt, how has your health been lately?” Jasper asked as he smiled.

“Oh, it’s nothing. I was just wondering if you could help refer me to a few people?”

“I want to meet the head of the state mining enterprise, someone reliable.”

...

JW Company and Monty Group were about to collaborate and form a brand new company. This particular company had only one task, which was to focus on the development of the mining industry.

This piece of news was a shocker that traveled like lightning through the entire upper class of Southeast Province.

Not a single soul trying to make a living in Southeast Province did not know that Jasper and Conrad were sworn enemies. They had been in so many feuds that

you could practically write a book about them. In short, the two simply hated each other.

However, they were working together now?

The industry they were collaborating in was none other than the minerals industry, which Jasper had zero experience in while it was where the Monty family thrived.

The upper class of Southeast Province was more willing to believe Jasper had killed Conrad or vice versa than they were to believe the two were working together.

It was as if a cat was working together with a mouse.

However, the news was already out now and no one had dared to spread rumors that involved both families.

It was true, then.

While the upper class society of Southeast Province was still in shock, the new company was established with fanfare.

It was located near the Southface River Project, which would be officially ready in just a few days!

The company was registered to operate on the sixth to the eighth floors of the Southface River Tower.

Both Jasper and Conrad attended the unveiling ceremony. Photos of the two of them cutting the ribbon and shaking hands as they smiled at the cameras were published by all major printing companies in Southeast Province.

It was also deemed the creepiest photo of 2001 by the upper class society of Southeast Province.

Life at the Top Chapter 847

Jasper immediately sought out John after the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

John had rushed over from work and began complaining the minute he walked into the bar where they had planned to meet. “Mr. Jasper Laine, couldn’t you have told me what you wanted to say over the phone? Must we meet here?”

“It’s not a good idea to talk about it over the phone. I’m alright, but you’re a high profile man. I don’t have the means to compensate you if anything happens to a man holding an important job like you,” Jasper said as he smiled.

As the two grew closer, John and Jasper slowly became less formal when they spoke to each other, paying no attention to titles or tone. John did not treat Jasper as a multi-billionaire, and Jasper did not treat John as the vice president of one of the largest banks in the country.

John had a startled expression on his face as he glanced suspiciously at Jasper, saying, “Just listen to what you’re saying. Why have you come looking for me? You aren’t trying to team up with me and rob the bank, right? I won’t take part in these crazy schemes, but you can go ahead.”

Jasper did not know if he should laugh or cry as he said, “Do you think I need to rob your bank? With time, I can easily earn as much money as a bank in the province has.”

John suppressed a smile as he said, “That’s the most depressing thing I’ve ever heard in my life.”

After the two sat down, Jasper beckoned for a waiter to serve them some appetizers as he said, “Frankly, this isn’t anything major. But it is quite urgent,

and after a lot of thought, the only person I could think of who would execute this efficiently without compromising quality was you.”

John said boldly, “Stop beating around the bush. Tell me, what do you need me to do?”

“Help me register a shell corporation in the Cayman Islands,” Jasper replied.

Startled, John said hesitantly, “You could just pay a corrupt intermediary to take care of matters like this for a couple of million dollars.”

“That’s why I said it wasn’t a major problem, but do you think there are intermediaries who could get it done by tomorrow morning?” Jasper asked exasperatedly as he tossed John a cigarette and lit himself one.

John’s eyes widened as he asked in disbelief, “Tomorrow morning?! Do you think I’m a god?!”

Jasper laughed and said, “No one else would be able to do it, but you won’t have a problem.”

John ran his fingers through his hair, which had grown considerably thinner ever since he got to know Jasper. He said, “Give me a minute to think about it.”

“Registering a company in the Cayman Islands isn’t hard... but a shell corporation? Do you want it to have the minimum registered capital?”

“Yes, one US dollar will be enough,” Jasper said as he smiled.

Several places in the world were tax-evading heaven for multinational companies, and the Cayman Islands was one of them. In fact, even in the year 2020, after 19 years had passed, several large corporations would still register either their branch offices or mother company in the Cayman Islands.

First of all, that place was tax-free. Second of all, foreign companies entering and investing within the domestic market was beneficial to countries like Somerland, which relied on foreign funding to develop in the year 2001.

Every place was trying to attract investors now, and being able to attract a foreign investor was considered a big plus. Thus, those who could think outside the box would seek the opportunity to register their company in other countries.

Without considering anything else, just the preferential policies and lifetime exemption from taxes were enough to cause the masses to rush like ducks.

“I’m not planning on having all the companies registered overseas. The first reason being that the procedure is much too complicated and time-consuming. The second reason, which is also the main reason, is that as a person of Somer descent profiting off my countrymen’s money, I must pay taxes to my country.

“That’s why I’m getting you to do this for me. I just need a shell corporation that I can get rid of once I’m done with it.”

John nodded knowingly as he listened to Jasper speak. Then, he let Jasper watch as he took his phone and made four or five phone calls in a row.

Half an hour later, John said, “Thank the Lord I still have a couple of friends who are in this business. One of them has immigrated to the Cayman Islands and often helps others with procedures like these. At least you would be doing it in a somewhat legal manner.

“Having it done by tomorrow does prove to be a challenge, but my friend has promised he’ll make it happen. It’s almost daytime where he is thanks to the six-hour time zone difference, so we should send him the information now. He’ll go get in line first thing in the morning and get a headstart on the procedures. Everything should be done, at the very latest, in the afternoon,” John said.

“Alright, give me your friend’s contact information, then. I’ll arrange for someone to get in touch with him regarding the information and relevant payments,” Jasper said.

When he heard that, John wrote down a number for Jasper.

Jasper immediately passed the number to Malcolm after receiving it.

Perhaps it was due to cultural influences, but this American was exceptionally good at unorthodox shenanigans like these.

He was also the one who had come up with this plan that would help prevent Jasper from getting into trouble with the law.

“How did your meeting with Agricultural Bank go?” John asked curiously.

“No major problems. I didn’t ask for him to do much except to keep an eye on the loan Conrad wants to take out and ensure it’s channeled into the new company’s account in its entirety. Not a single cent can find its way into his account. Isn’t this what’s usually explicitly requested when taking out loans with a bank?”

Jasper laughed as he asked.

John nodded and said, “Then that shouldn’t be too big of a problem. However, if you hadn’t popped in beforehand regarding such matters, who knows if anything had been wired to another personal account.”

“You know what things are like. No one’s going to look into it if there isn’t anyone acting as supervisor. These are all minuscule things to the president of a district branch, and his words act as rules so long as no major incidents happen.”

After a while of eating and chatting, Jasper stood to leave.

“Well, that’s all for today. I’ve still got to rush to meet a few other people,” Jasper said as he stood.

“It’s late. You still have appointments?” John asked confusedly.

Jasper smiled mysteriously as he said, “We’re signing the contract tomorrow. Of course, I’ll have to prepare all my plans beforehand. I must ensure the people in charge of those state-owned enterprises are in place before I sleep.”

John shook his head and said, “Whoever is trying to go against you will have seven years of bad luck lined up for them!”

Life at the Top Chapter 848

After saying goodbye to John, Jasper immediately traveled to Sheraton Hotel in Nauritus City.

The supervisors of two separate state-owned enterprises had long since been waiting for him.

After a mandatory round of introductions, Jasper smiled at the two blushing and grinning supervisors as he said, "Guys, we'll be going through with the normal process of signing the contracts tomorrow, but don't forget our promise to each other.

"I'll first represent the new company in signing the contract with you tomorrow, but we'll also sign a memorandum in private. It's both to help me and prevent you guys from getting tricked, which is why we must ensure nothing happens!"

"Don't worry, Mr. Laine. We would have walked right into the trap if you hadn't reminded us. Who would have thought that Monty Group, a company that's somewhat well known in the country, would do something like this?"

"We won't let him get what he wants now that we're working together!"

One of the supervisors thumped his chest as he spoke.

They would not be idiots seeing as they were able to climb up to their current positions. They were actually much smarter than they seemed.

The first time Jasper met with them, he had skipped all niceties and told them straight to their faces that Conrad's mine was a fraud. Except for the surface layer, the ground underneath was completely devoid of any minerals.

The two men immediately believed what Jasper said when he procured the relevant customs declaration forms from Harbor City.

While in shock, the two were also gritting their teeth with hatred for Conrad.

They would have been held responsible if they fell for his tricks and caused their enterprises to suffer major losses. If that were the case, they would have reached the end of their careers.

To senior executives at state-owned enterprises like them, ending their careers was basically ending their lives.

Jasper did not even need to say much about a grudge like this before they immediately agreed to assist him.

Thus, Jasper's plans were born.

He would agree to Conrad's request to collaborate and would use the shell corporation he had registered to join shares with Conrad and act as the legal representative for the new company.

Then, he would secure the money Conrad got from the loan using the company's bank account and forbid Conrad from taking a single cent of it.

This time, he had formed a deal with the two supervisors from the state-owned enterprises. On the surface, they were signing an acquisition agreement, but they would also secretly sign a memorandum that denied the fact that the three of them had any responsibility to withhold in this situation. When things finally went wrong, Conrad would be the one to shoulder all the responsibility.

Jasper had managed to poke holes in Conrad's elaborate scheme using these three steps, and he was confident he could let Conrad have a taste of his own medicine.

It was already past midnight when Jasper was done doing a second run-through of what would happen tomorrow with the supervisors. He then returned home.

The night passed in the blink of an eye.

The next morning, Jasper and Wendy set out to the venue where the contract would be signed.

Jasper had just gotten into the car when he received a call from Malcolm.

The procedures to set up the shell corporation had been completed.

Upon receiving that piece of news, Jasper heaved a sigh of relief and finally relaxed.

“Has it been done?” Wendy asked when she saw Jasper hang up the phone with a relaxed expression on his face.

Smiling, Jasper nodded and said, “Now all we have to do is head over there and sign the contract.”

The multipurpose hall in Sheraton Hotel had been furnished to function as a small-scale launch event today.

[Cloud Rider Mining Company has been officially established!]

[Conrad Monty has made a private investment of 3 billion dollars, while Jasper Laine has invested 2.3 billion dollars under his newly registered foreign company, Tenra Corporations!]

[The company boasts a joint registered capital of 5.3 billion Somer Dollars and will operate mainly in the mining industry.]

[Cloud Rider Mining Company has already signed a sales contract with two of the five largest mining companies in the country on the day it was established. They have promised to provide no less than 700,000 tonnes of quality raw aluminum ore every year to both companies!]

[The Monty family has discovered a brand new mine, but instead of excavating it themselves, they have chosen to collaborate with their biggest enemy, Jasper Laine!]

[Could it be that, as Monty Group had put it, they lack the necessary funds to excavate the mine or because the Monty family is also attempting to extend an olive branch to the newly emerging power in Southeast Province, Jasper Laine?]

[No matter what, this company has been destined to shine since the day it was established. It's full of secrets and seems to be determining the fate of Southeast Province.]

Piece after piece of news was spread out from the venue of the launch event, and they quickly became the topic of discussion for every single family in Southeast Province.

After Jasper stamped his seals as the legal representative of the new company, he stood and exchanged the contracts with the two supervisors from the state-owned enterprises. Lights flashed as the contract officially took on legal validity.

“Mr. Laine, we hope this will be a good collaboration.”

The two supervisors of the state-owned enterprises roared with laughter as they spoke meaningfully to Jasper.

Jasper laughed lightly and said, “That’s a must. We’ll definitely enjoy working together.”

The three exchanged looks and smiled. Then, they went along with the reporters' wishes and turned to look at the cameras, giving them more time to take pictures.

Life at the Top Chapter 849

Conrad, who was sitting on the other end of the podium, had a slight smile on his face. No one could tell what was running through his mind now.

“Be happy now, Jasper Laine. Be as happy as you want to be now. The happier you are now, the more miserable you’ll be when you realize you’re trapped!”

After taking a deep breath, Conrad was just about to walk toward Jasper and the two supervisors so that they could exchange pleasantries and answer any questions the reporters might have when Valentine hurried over.

“Mr. Monty, the money for the loan has been approved,” Valentine said solemnly to Conrad.

When Conrad heard a reporter calling out to him, he immediately turned and smiled as he waved. His great mood made him exceptionally cooperative, and the reporter was delighted as they pressed wildly on the shutter.

Conrad, who was heir to one of the richest families in Southeast Province, would rarely treat such insignificant reporters so well.

“That’s a good thing. Why do you seem so panicked?” Conrad’s smile widened as he parted his lips to whisper to Valentine.

It was only then Valentine said, “But the bank didn’t do what we previously agreed on. They transferred it right into Cloud Rider’s account.”

Conrad frowned slightly as he said, “Didn’t we agree to have the money transferred into the personal account I provided? How could they have made such a mistake? Have you clarified things with them?”

“Yes, I have.”

Valentine lowered his voice and said, “The bank explained that headquarters has been tightening security measures lately, so it’s difficult for them to go around the rules.

“Moreover, they needed to report back to the headquarters because of how large the loan is, which means the higher-ups were paying even more attention to where the money was going. Thus, the only thing they could do was transfer the money into the company’s account. After all, we applied for the loan using the company’s name.”

Conrad narrowed his eyes. With his keen senses, he had managed to detect something deeper going on through this seemingly insignificant detail.

His gaze turned instinctively to Jasper who was being surrounded by a crowd.

He watched Jasper, who was surrounded by a crowd of clamoring people and flashing lights, who had a familiar smile on his face as he calmly spoke to everyone who came forth to speak to him.

He was not overly humble, nor was he domineering. The adjectives ‘gentle’ and ‘elegant’ could be used to best describe Jasper Laine.

However, Conrad only thought that Jasper was most dangerous and horrifying when he seemed unable to harm anybody.

It was as though there was a bloody gaping mouth behind his smiling face that was ready to pounce and swallow Conrad whole.

“Find a way to have the money transferred out immediately,” Conrad said determinedly.

“That money must not be left in the company’s account. It doesn’t matter if it’s a scheme to do with Jasper or not. The minute he knows we’ve transferred the money into the company’s account, he won’t let us have it transferred out easily.”

Conrad had fast reflexes and came to a decision within a minute of receiving the news.

However, no matter how fast he was, he would never be faster than Jasper who had begun making plans and arrangements a few days ago.

“I’m worried we won’t make it.”

Valentine smiled bitterly and said, “The people from Agricultural Bank just told me that when Cloud Rider was established half a minute ago, someone had already made a copy of the account’s documentation in the bank’s system.

“The company’s legal representative must sign off any transactions above one million dollars!”

Crash!

The sound of a chair being flipped caused many people who were present to look toward where the sound had come from. They were surprised to see that it was Conrad who caused that loud crash.

At that very moment, Conrad had an ugly expression on his face!

Conrad, who had caused the chair to flip over when he abruptly stood in shock and anger, did not seem to notice that people were staring at him. He glared intently at Jasper.

Jasper just happened to turn around.

Their gazes met and collided in mid-air.

Taking a deep breath, Conrad forced himself to suppress the chaotic and complicated emotions rushing through him. He knew that both the timing and venue did not allow him to lose control of himself no matter the situation.

“Let’s go!” Conrad said before he turned and walked off.

“Hey... Mr. Monty? We haven’t finished taking pictures!” the reporter yelled in panic at Conrad’s retreating figure.

However, Conrad had no time or patience for them. He did not even bother turning around as he walked off.

The reporter sighed, mumbling to themselves about how temperamental and hard to please these public figures were.

As he mumbled and lowered his head to look at the photos he took, he realized he had managed to take clear shots of how Conrad’s expression changed from one of happiness to confusion, and finally, to suppressed rage.

“Hello. Do you mind selling those photos to me?” A voice rang out by the reporter’s ears.

Startled, the reporter jumped and whirled around to find Jasper standing beside him.

“Mister... Mr. Laine!” The reporter’s voice trembled with excitement. He never dreamed that Jasper Laine would talk to him one day!

“Can you?” Jasper asked with a smile. “Those photos are very meaningful and will become sentimental items to me, which is why I’m interested in buying them. Name any price you want.”

“Of... Of course! I can give them to you right now if you need them, Mr. Laine. I don’t need money, but will you agree to do an interview with me?”

The young reporter had graduated barely two years ago and knew to hold on to opportunities that came his way.

Jasper chuckled and said, “No problem, but I might be busy lately. Why don’t you give me your card and I’ll have someone get in touch with you in a bit?”

“Thank you so much, Mr. Laine!”

The reporter did not seem to worry that a public figure like Jasper would lie to him as he excitedly took his name card and passed it to Jasper with both hands.

Jasper took the card and glanced at it. His name was Kennard Fraley and he was a reporter for the Southern Financial Times.

Jasper put the card in his pocket after reading it.

It was a seemingly insignificant gesture, but Kennard felt as if he was being respected by the other party. His heart bloomed with gratitude as he hurriedly fiddled with his camera and gave the roll of film to Jasper.

He swore that Jasper Laine was the only tycoon who could make others feel this charmed throughout his career as a journalist.

Kennard was feeling charmed, but Conrad felt as if he had fallen into an ice cave!

Life at the Top Chapter 850

“No can do, Mr. Monty. I’ve already spoken to the finance team over at the company and they’ve all given me the same answers. After reporting to the bank, no outsider is allowed to withdraw a single cent without the legal representative’s signature.”

Valentine had a vexed expression on his face as he hung up the phone and spoke to Conrad who was pacing around the room.

Conrad took a sharp breath and said, “Which means the 2.5 billion dollars we went to such great lengths to obtain has now genuinely become equity capital in Jasper’s hands.”

Valentine hurriedly said comfortingly, “Don’t be so pessimistic. At least the money is in the company’s account and not Jasper’s bank account.”

Ignoring Valentine’s comforting words, Conrad muttered to himself, “Now the most troublesome part is that we don’t know if Jasper did it on purpose or if it was a coincidence... What did our people in the bank say?”

“I’ve checked with them. It’s not just Agricultural Bank, but the remaining four major banks have also been doubling down on security lately.

“This is related to the recent spike in non-performing loans due to banks’ reckless lending to companies. The notice to enhance overall risk control was distributed by Central Bank to the headquarters of the four major banks at the end of last month.”

When Conrad heard that, he sat on the couch and closed his eyes without speaking.

After a moment's thought, Valentine said softly to Conrad, "Mr. Monty, if that's the case, this might have perhaps been a coincidence."

"Coincidence?"

Conrad opened his eyes and said quietly, "I've never believed in coincidences, nor am I willing to attribute everything to mere coincidences. I would rather believe this was one of Jasper's schemes."

Valentine said awkwardly, "So what should we do next?"

"We can't do anything..."

"It'll be a mistake to do or even say anything more since we'll be at risk of exposing ourselves completely. Let's see what Jasper does first."

Conrad's eyes glinted as he spoke.

"After all, this money was obtained through a loan using Cloud Rider. I didn't fund the money myself.

"At the very most, we'll have it remain in the company's account and have it go to whoever it belongs to when the scheme is exposed in the future. The bank can file a lawsuit against the two state-owned enterprises for that. My ultimate goal is still to trap Jasper's funds..."

...

The ICBS branch in Nauritus City.

In the president's office.

Raymond Lovell knew he had only become president of the best-performing branch in the province, the city center branch, because of John, who was one of

the most influential people in the Southeast Province branch. He had always been looking for a way to repay John and the chance finally arrived for him to do so.

Raymond had just hung up the phone when someone knocked on his door.

“Come in.”

Raymond spoke calmly. Ever since becoming president of the city center branch, he felt as though he could finally become the dignified man he had been waiting a long time to become.

The person who entered was the manager of the bank’s Risk Management Department.

“President Lovell, we’ve discovered a major problem in the account that Cloud Rider Mining Company opened at our bank during our inspections today,” the manager said in a panic.

Raymond calmly took a sip of his coffee and smiled as he said, “Don’t panic, Wesley. Tell me calmly what’s going on. The sky isn’t falling on us is it?”

Mr. Wesley smiled bitterly as he said, “It’s a major problem, and the sky might as well fall on us if this is made public!”

“The company registered its equity at 5.3 billion dollars, but when we checked the account today, we saw that the account has only transferred the 2.5 billion dollars it obtained from a loan with the Agricultural Bank’s branch in Southeast Province. Not another cent has been transferred into the account. How can I be calm when 2.8 billion dollars is missing?”

Life at the Top Chapter 851

“So what you’re saying is, the company’s actual finances differ from its funds in the books by 2.8 billion dollars, is that right?” Raymond asked calmly.

Mr. Wesley hurriedly answered, “Yes, that’s it.”

“That has to do with the company itself. Why should we work ourselves up into a frenzy when the company hasn’t even said anything?” Raymond replied as he smiled.

Mr. Wesley looked stunned for a moment before he hurriedly said, “But we should request Cloud Rider to submit a report and file a registration with the Bureau of Industry and Commerce regarding their financial shortage.”

“Wesley,” Raymond said as he smiled, “The higher-ups ordered this to happen.”

Raymond pointed upward as he spoke.

“So you don’t need to think about this so much. Don’t worry, nothing’s going to happen.”

Still not convinced, Wesley said, “President Lovell, this is going directly against the rules. Are we really not going to do anything?”

“Wesley, this is why you’re still a manager after so many years. I heard that you went to argue with the province branch after you failed to get the position of vice president at one of the branches last year?”

Raymond patted Wesley meaningfully on the shoulder. “That’s why we say the higher-ups can see through every person. As a manager, you should know better.”

...

“Alright, everything has been signed now.”

Jasper passed the supervisors of the state-owned enterprises a copy of the signed memorandum each as he said, “It’s finally over.”

The two supervisors gripped the memorandum in their hands and exchanged a look with each other before saying.

“Mr. Laine, we’re going to head back soon. After all, this matter is too big for us and we’ll have to report it to the higher-ups. However, we won’t be able to hide anything the minute we file a report. Will you be able to deal with things here?”

“Deal with what?”

Jasper spread out his hands and laughed as he said, “The 2.5 billion dollars lying in the company’s account came directly from Conrad’s bank loan.

“The minute he’s exposed, you can file a lawsuit against Conrad and hold him responsible for contractual fraud.

“But it’s alright if you don’t have any concrete plans to calculate your losses, I don’t really mind. After all, I haven’t transferred a single cent of mine into Cloud Rider Mining Company.”

The two supervisors said in surprise, “You’re so good at this, Mr. Laine. I was already shaken to my core as I watched and I’m only someone who’s partially involved in this. You could have lost everything if you made one wrong move!”

“It’s fun to fight with people,” Jasper said as he smiled slightly.

Then, Jasper stood and shook their hands. “I won’t be sending the two of you off.”

The two supervisors nodded and said sincerely, "Our flight is this evening, and we'll probably arrive late at night. We'll immediately report to our superiors the minute we arrive."

"We'll probably be in emergency meetings all night long trying to come up with strategies. At the very latest, the news will be made public tomorrow afternoon."

Jasper nodded when he heard that and said, "Alright, thank you for that clear explanation. I have an idea of what's going to happen now."

The two of them were doing him a favor by giving him a deadline so he could finish everything he needed to do before then. Naturally, Jasper understood what they meant by that.

Laughing, the two supervisors said to Jasper in unison, "Mr. Laine, we hope we'll get the chance to work with you in the future. We think that it'll be a great experience for us all."

As Jasper thought of the huge mines located overseas, he said meaningfully, "That day will definitely arrive!"

Life at the Top Chapter 852

It was late at night when Jasper returned home. Wendy was sitting on the couch and watching television as she waited for him.

"Didn't I ask you to head to bed first? You didn't need to wait for me."

Jasper bent down and spoke gently to Wendy who had a bleary expression on her face as she curled up on the couch.

A smile appeared on Wendy's face when she saw Jasper's face in front of her. Taking her hands out from under the blanket, she encircled Jasper's neck as she said, "I can't fall asleep if you're not home. Are you hungry? Do you want supper?"

"It's okay, I'll just make myself some instant ramen," Jasper said.

"That stuff is so unhealthy," Wendy said as she glared at him. She got up and walked to the kitchen as she said, "Wait for me. I'll make you some pasta."

Jasper smiled as he watched Wendy's retreating figure and inhaled her pleasant scent before turning to walk into his study.

A sheet of paper was lying on his fax machine.

John had sent over Cloud Rider Mining Company's assets list.

Question marks were listed in every column, indicating that the amount was unknown, except the column for cash assets. That one was stated with a hefty 2,500,000,000—a string of numbers that would cause one's heart rate to increase.

However, such numbers had long since lost their appeal to Jasper.

Jasper was still staring at the sheet of paper when Wendy entered with a steaming plate of pasta.

"What are you thinking about?"

Wendy placed the plate in front of Jasper and leaned forward to take a look before she said jokingly, "Why, are you thinking of taking this money away?"

Jasper shook his head and said, "I wouldn't have left it in the company's account if I wanted it for myself. 2.5 billion is not a small amount, and it's also the

country's money. No matter who you are, you'll find yourself in hot water if you touch it. I'm not that irrational. If not, wouldn't I have walked right into Conrad's trap?

"So this money must not be touched and should remain in here. When the scheme is exposed, it'll return to where it came from."

"So what are you thinking about?" Wendy asked curiously.

"I'm thinking about what Conrad is planning." Jasper frowned slightly as he picked up his fork and began eating his pasta distractedly.

"Based on my estimations, he must have learned that the money is in the company's account and can't be transferred out without my signature.

"I initially thought he would try and swindle the money away from me by saying he wanted to invest it into the mine site, pay salaries, purchase equipment, or anything of the sort. There were so many excuses he could use, and I had even prepared for the scenario in which he would confront me.

"The only thing I did not imagine was for him to let the day pass as if nothing had happened."

Jasper's eyebrows knitted themselves tightly as his voice turned even more serious.

"This makes me think that Conrad still has other people working for him, and they might be experienced people who we've never heard or thought about."

Wendy followed Jasper's train of thought and realized that it was indeed creepy Conrad had stayed put. However, no matter how much she thought about it, she could not come up with a logical explanation.

It seemed as if the whole plan had been laid out fully, and all the connections could be seen clearly.

The only abnormality was the way Conrad reacted.

However, none of the clues could support the reasons for Conrad's actions.

"Alright, stop thinking about it," Wendy said gently.

"The more you think about something, the less likely you'll be to make a conclusion. It's already happened, and you've done what you were supposed to do. At this rate, neither you nor Conrad can stop things from progressing.

"Maybe we should wait for a while longer. Perhaps Conrad will reveal something himself?"

When he heard what Wendy said, Jasper gave a wide smile and said, "Not bad. What you said makes sense. I'm overthinking things.

"I'm not a god, how could I predict Conrad's every thought?"

"It's good that you know that. You've always demanded so much from yourself," Wendy said.

...

Jasper had Wendy to prepare pasta for him, but Conrad did not receive such great treatment.

His eyes were bloodshot, but he was oddly energetic.

There was no way he would be falling asleep tonight because he had decided to start his plan ahead of time.

"I can't wait any longer. The more we wait, the more passive we'll become. We can't let Jasper have any time to catch his breath if we want to attack him!" Conrad said determinedly.

Valentine had a solemn expression on his face. Naturally, he had to accompany Conrad as well if the man was not going to sleep.

“What time is it in the United States now?” Conrad asked.

“It should be one in the afternoon now,” Valentine answered.

“Alright, it’s almost time. Tell our traders to come online now,” Conrad said.

Valentine immediately set off to make preparations when he heard that. In about ten minutes, which was the time Conrad took to smoke two cigarettes, everything had already been set in place.

As he sat in front of his computer and watched the lead trader through the video call, Conrad said in a low voice, “I’ve put my life savings of ten billion US dollars into this battle!

“At the same time, this battle will be the one that leads you into fame. If you succeed, you’ll become one of the best trading teams in the country. If you lose, well, we don’t need to say anything more. We’ll just have to jump off the nearest tall building.”

The plain-looking middle-aged man on the other end of the line said in a low voice, “Don’t worry, Mr. Monty. We’ve been preparing for this day for a long time.”

“We found out that although Sena has a solid share price with no premiums and wonderful company performance, it also possesses two critical drawbacks.

“Firstly is how there’s a majority shareholder. Jasper’s grip on power is too tight, and he’s the only major shareholder in the group, holding direct control over more than 67% of the shares.”

“Secondly, and most importantly, at the end of the day, Sena is still a Somerland company. Americans don’t trust companies from Somerland at all, which is why Sena’s shares are priced at this range instead of higher.

“You could say we wouldn’t have stood a chance at all if Sena were listed in the country. But things are different now. Sena can’t change these drawbacks of theirs, and we can use this opportunity to make our killing strike.”

Conrad nodded continuously as he listened to the man speak.

“Very well.”

Conrad sighed softly and said, “So we’ll begin moving according to the pace you’ve set. I won’t interfere too much with what you’re doing, but I do have one request. Be quick.

“We don’t have much time left.”

The man said solemnly, “Mr. Monty, we already have quite a lot of shares with us after several days of purchasing, but we still need time if we want to secure a win.”

“So start now!”

Life at the Top Chapter 853

The next day, many people were still discussing the news about the establishment of Cloud Rider Mining Company when they received a fresh new piece of gossip.

The two state-owned enterprises that had just signed contracts with Cloud Rider Mining Company found out that the so-called aluminum mine at Hill County had all been a set-up!

The sales contract they had signed was also fraudulent!

Once the two state-owned enterprises found out, they immediately halted the upfront payments they were supposed to make to Cloud Rider Mining Company. That helped prevent any major losses for the two enterprises.

However, the two state-owned enterprises would take legal action against Cloud Rider Mining Company for the fraudulent contract.

Everyone's initial reaction was to laugh when they first heard the news.

They had just signed the contract yesterday, but they were claiming it was all a hoax today? Everything sounded ridiculous. It must have been some guy with a death wish who was spreading the rumors about.

However, as more and more detailed news was released, everyone achieved an understanding.

Some even claimed to have seen with their own eyes the huge aluminum mine at Hill County. Except for that one layer on the surface, it was just soil and rocks all around without even a trace of aluminum ore.

In an instant, everyone felt a wave of shock ripple through them.

Jasper and Conrad's collaboration had always smelled fishy. Now, the basis of the whole collaboration, the mine, was said to be fake.

Who was the one who had been tricked?

What would Jasper and Conrad do after this?

Everyone stared intently at Cloud Rider Mining Company, which had only been established for a day, as they waited for the company to issue a statement.

However, creepily enough, there were no reactions at all.

Both Jasper and Conrad seemed to not care one bit about the rumors flying around. The two seemed to have gone mute as they did not provide any updates.

While the rest of the world was flying into a frenzy over the reveal of the set-up, Jasper was having coffee with John.

“I had an old friend of mine harvest these black tea leaves from their hometown, a tiny village in Empress Wood Village. There’s only this tiny bit available for harvest, and you can’t buy it no matter how much money you have. Tastes good, doesn’t it?” John said to Jasper.

Jasper picked his cup up and took a sip. It tasted sweet, refreshing, and much better than your average tea.

“Not bad. This is good tea,” Jasper said.

In his past life, he had never understood why the rich enjoyed drinking tea. However, now that he had achieved a certain level of status himself, his stance on this topic had changed.

When you were nearer to the bottom of the social ladder, the tables would be filled with bottles of beer that were drunk in exchange for a business deal. However, when one was not required to drink as a means of earning money, they would realize that tea was a great beverage.

It did not have much to do with wellness or showing off, but merely a simple understanding that tea was superior to beer.

“What do you think about the thing I mentioned to you just now?” John asked as he put his cup down, a concerned expression on his face.

“The set-up has been exposed, but Agricultural Bank has not lost a single cent from the loan they issued. They’re in awe of your abilities and are trying to get you to join them from Commercial Bank?” Jasper asked.

John nodded as he smiled bitterly, saying, “I’ve been working in Commercial Bank ever since the start and have never thought about job-hopping. They might both be in the banking industry, but you begin forming attachments as time passes...

“But Agricultural Bank was super sincere and promised me that I’ll hold the position of vice-president at the province branch. I’ll be in charge of the province’s corporate banking department. Who knows how long it’d take me to get to that position if I stay in Commercial Bank?”

Jasper smiled and said, “Vice-president of the province branch and in charge of corporate banking. Seems like whoever in Agricultural Bank who made this decision is a ruthless person.”

“They have their eye on our relationship. Agricultural Bank has always been the weakest among the four major banks in terms of corporate banking while Commercial Bank is the most powerful. And we have such a close relationship...”

“They’re hoping to attract all the companies under my name to Agricultural Bank through you.”

John smiled and said, “That’s precisely it, which is why I’ve purposely come to seek your opinion.”

Jasper hummed to himself. He could tell that the more his abilities improved, the larger the butterfly effect he brought about would be.

Take John as an example. He did not have anything like this happen to him in his past life and had always worked in Commercial Bank. He had pretty good luck too and retired as the vice-president of the province branch.

Although both spots were vice-presidents of the province branch, the responsibilities that came with the position were different, which led to the amount of power held being vastly different.

For example, Agricultural Bank was letting him be in charge of corporate banking. Besides bank savings and loan issuance, corporate banking was the third pillar holding it up. As the country's economy developed and socialism became ever more prevalent, new companies were emerging rapidly and corporate banking was becoming essential.

Corporate banking was definitely high in demand.

It would be beneficial to both Jasper and John.

"I think you can accept it," Jasper said.

When John heard what Jasper said, he heaved a huge sigh of relief.

To put it frankly, is there anyone who would refuse the opportunity to climb up the corporate ladder?

Agricultural Bank was providing John with so many benefits that he was finding it hard to refuse.

However, John understood at the same time what Jasper was referring to. Agricultural Bank might as well admit they were extending an olive branch to Jasper in hopes of working with him by offering John such an illustrious position in the company...

Life at the Top Chapter 854

There was not a single soul in Southeast Province's banking industry who did not know about his close relationship with Jasper. They would gain Jasper's support if they managed to get ahold of him.

However, John knew he could not get too big for his britches no matter what other people thought.

Which was why today's meeting was taking place. He wanted to know what Jasper's thoughts were.

He would have to give up the idea if Jasper did not agree. After all, Agricultural Bank could easily go back on their promise to give him the position if they did not receive Jasper's support. John was not a foolish person and knew he did not yet have the experience nor ability to fight against the superiors in Agricultural Bank.

Things would be totally different if he had Jasper's support, however. No matter how many cronies were in Agricultural Bank, Jasper would be able to defeat them all with just one of the many companies he owned. No one could hold it against him.

"Alright then. I'll get back to them tomorrow," John said happily.

Jasper picked up his cup of coffee and gently clinked it against John's as he smiled, saying, "I'll congratulate you in advance on your promotion."

John suppressed his excitement and happiness as he waved his hands, saying, "No, I still have to hand in my resignation letter and hand over my work before I familiarize myself with Agricultural Bank. It'll take at least a month or two before everything is finalized."

Jasper was just about to speak when his phone suddenly rang.

It was from an unfamiliar number he had never seen before.

When Jasper answered the call, a familiar sensual voice rang out.

"Mr. Jasper Laine, you returned to Somerland without so much as a goodbye after you used me. You just wanted to have a good time without taking any responsibility, right?"

Jasper nearly spat his coffee onto John's face when he heard what Celine said.

"Watch your words. What you said can easily cause misunderstandings."

Jasper had a befuddled expression on his face when he spoke, but there was a barely detectable trace of happiness in his voice.

John, who was sitting opposite him, raised his eyebrows slightly before his lips curled upward into a meaningful grin.

What sort of women could make men indescribably happy when they received a call from them?

It might be a girlfriend they were in an intimate relationship with.

It might be a mistress of theirs they had gotten together with after getting married.

It might be their daughter.

There was no fourth option.

"Misunderstandings? Who would misunderstand? Do you care what other people think of you, Mr. Jasper Laine?" Celine asked in a light-hearted tone.

"Here's a chance for you to repent. Come over to the airport now.

"A traffic accident happened in front of Nauritus City International Airport, causing a huge traffic jam to occur."

Celine was sitting in a brand new Audi TT as she spoke on the phone without a care in the world. Parked in front of her was a BMW 7 Series that had been rear-ended and badly scratched. The owner of the car was a young man who was currently screaming at Celine through the glass window of the Audi TT.

Finally losing her patience, Celine rolled down her car window and bellowed to the young man, “What are you screaming about? So what if I rear-ended you? Would I have hit you if you hadn’t been so aggressive and did an emergency brake when you were in front of my car? I’ll hit both you and your car if you don’t shut up.”

When Celine finished speaking, she did not spare the furious man another glance as she rolled the window back up.

“Are you in trouble?” Jasper asked as he frowned.

“I’ve met an idiot. I don’t have many connections in Southeast Province, and I might be kidnapped if you don’t hurry over.”

When Celine spoke to Jasper, she immediately switched from the shrewish woman she had been just seconds before to a damsel in distress who required his saving.

“Don’t get out of the car or open the door before I arrive. I’ll be right there.”

Then, Jasper immediately hung up the phone and stood to walk toward the door.

“I have something to attend to. We’ll meet next time,” Jasper said to John.

John stood and said, “Feel free to give me a call if you need my help with anything.”

“Sure,” Jasper said as he waved and walked out the door.

Jasper got Julian to drive to the coffee shop to fetch him and they rushed to the airport once he got in.

...

“Stupid b*tch, get the f*ck out the car! My name won't be Leonard Wagner if I don't kill you today!”

Leonard screamed crazedly at Celine who was sitting in her Audi TT.

However, Celine did not seem to hear him as she remained seated in the car. She even retrieved a mirror and began touching up her makeup with languid movements.

When Leonard saw that, he became even more angered. His features became contorted as he hit the car and growled. “Stop acting all high and mighty. I've seen enough b*tches like you. Some man lent you this car, didn't he?”

After he finished speaking, Leonard did not even have the time to look at the expression on Celine's face before he felt someone clap a hand on his shoulder. When he turned around, he saw a young man staring at him.

Behind the young man was another person with a cigarette hanging from their mouth. They narrowed their eyes to stare at him.

“Julian, teach this foul-mouthed man a lesson,” Jasper said calmly.

Upon receiving Jasper's orders, Julian's eyes glinted dangerously as he raised his hand and squeezed Leonard's mouth. A terrified expression appeared on the latter's face, and he did not have time to speak before Julian brought his fist down.

Crack!

The crisp sound of teeth being broken rang out.

Leonard covered his face with his hands as he howled in pain. The immense pain caused him to jump around in circles. When he felt the lower half of his face going numb and the warmth in his mouth, he spat out a pool of blood and two teeth.

“Teeth! My teeth!”

Leonard’s voice trembled.

Life at the Top Chapter 855

As he pointed at Jasper, Leonard bellowed, “You f*cker, you absolute piece of dog sh*t! You’re done for! You’re done for, you hear me?!”

Leonard did not seem to have vented out enough and was dissatisfied. He turned back to Celine who was still in the car and bellowed, “As for you, you stupid b*tch, just wait! I’ll take your last name if I don’t f*ck you so hard till you can’t get out of bed.”

Leonard had just finished speaking when Jasper slapped him across the face.

His mouth was already filled with blood after losing two of his teeth. Leonard howled even louder in pain after getting slapped.

His cheek became swollen and turned bright red as the blood in his mouth mixed with saliva. It dribbled from the corner of his mouth, which he could not shut. His upper torso was stained with blood and saliva, making him seem even more horrifying.

“It seems like your parents never taught you any manners. I guess I’ll teach you some instead. The first thing to know is you should always watch your words when you’re not at home,” Jasper said calmly.

“F*ck you!” Leonard was enraged now, and his eyes were bloodshot. With a roar, he pounced toward Jasper.

However, Julian had long since had his eyes on Leonard. When he saw Leonard pouncing toward Jasper, he raised a leg and kicked Leonard onto the ground where he lay panting.

Leonard trembled as he took his phone out and made a call...

“That slap was so cool!”

Celine smiled as she walked up to Jasper and spoke to him.

Jasper said exasperatedly, “How did you get yourself involved with someone like this?”

Celine replied lazily, “I didn’t do anything to him. Flies like him are always buzzing around me, and I can’t be bothered to give him another look. He was causing trouble because he failed to chat me up.

“He even said he would give me a ride from the airport in his BMW 7 Series.”

Celine chuckled, her eyes showing a multitude of emotions.

“Look at how generous he is. When are you going to let me ride in your Bentley?”

Jasper turned to look at his Bentley, which was parked by the road, and said, “I can give it to you if you want it.”

“I wouldn’t dare accept it.”

Celine was still speaking when the low roar of an engine sounded from a distance. In the blink of an eye, a Ferrari that would seem flashy even in 2020 drove up to them.

A young man jumped out of the car after it screeched to a stop. He had a dark expression on his face.

Leonard, who was sprawled on the ground, looked as though his savior had arrived when he saw the man. Gaining a sudden burst of energy, he hurriedly crawled over to the man.

“Brother, what took you so long? These two were about to kill me!”

Joshua gazed solemnly at the scene. He had been on his way to discuss an important matter with the head of the Monty family, Conrad Monty, but rushed over after receiving his brother’s call.

Joshua first opened the car door and said to Conrad, “I’m so sorry, Mr. Monty, I have some personal matters to take care of. It’ll just take a few minutes!”

Due to the angle the car was parked at, Jasper did not see Conrad.

Then, Joshua frowned as he walked up to Jasper and Celine before asking, “What’s going on?”

Leonard sobbed, saying, “I was driving on the road when this b*tch rear-ended me for no reason. As if that wasn’t enough, she also got one of her boy toys to beat me up. Look how bad these two men hurt me. I’ve lost two teeth!”

He clearly pronounced each word, and Celine managed to hear everything. She laughed but was too lazy to retaliate.

After all, the complete truth could not be known by just listening to what Leonard had to say.

Most importantly, Celine was too lazy to explain herself to Leonard’s brother. Who did he think he was?

Jasper shared the same sentiments. At this point, he had such a high status and standing in society that he no longer needed to explain himself to anyone else. It was usually the other party who had to guess what he was thinking.

If this person was willing to listen to reason, they would be able to solve this matter peacefully.

If they were not willing to listen to reason, then Jasper would not care either. This was not the first time he had met people like that.

In most cases, it was even easier to deal with someone who refused to listen to reason than someone who did.

Joseph huffed and walked up to Jasper, saying, "I know my brother's personality. Things are never as simple as he makes them out to be."

When Leonard heard that, the expression on his face changed as he said, "Brother, what I said—"

"Shut up!" Joseph roared, effectively shutting Leonard up.

It seemed that Leonard was extremely afraid of his older brother. After Joseph yelled at him, he shut up although he was extremely indignant about it.

Then, Joseph turned and continued saying to Jasper, "But no matter what caused this to happen, what I can see is that you've beaten my brother up. We can't let this just slide past. My brother's wounds might heal, but the reputation that I, Joseph Wagner, have lost from this will never be recovered.

"So, you must pay!

"That man can first kneel so my brother can beat you up. Then, we'll put a temporary stop to things while my brother takes the woman away for three months. Things will be settled once we return her in three months. I won't hold anything against you after that."

Joseph spoke rapidly and did not so much as glance at Jasper or Celine when he spoke.

The way he spoke and acted made it seem as if he was doing them a great kindness through the decisions he had made.

“Pfft.” Celine was the first to lose her composure as she leaned against Jasper and laughed hysterically.

“I was wondering what sort of backup he had called, and it turns out it’s a maniac who has escaped from the asylum!

“Hey, idiot, are you really crazy, or have you been playing the role of a king for so long you can’t tell reality apart from the story anymore?”

Life at the Top Chapter 856

“What did you say!?”

Joshua glared at Celine angrily, his eyes eerily cold.

“Do you know that no one in Southeast Province dares speak to me like that?”

Leonard also said angrily, “You’re done for. How dare you speak to my brother this way?!”

“Hmm,” Celine said as she poked Jasper with her finger, “This person seems pretty powerful. Have you ever heard of him?”

“No,” Jasper said as he shook his head.

He had never heard of a Wagner family that was powerful in Southeast Province. Right now, there was only the Monty family left who was slightly more powerful. The rest of the families did not even dare to breathe loudly in front of him.

“How ignorant,” Joseph said in disdain as he laughed coldly. “That makes sense. How could lowly people like you have heard of us?”

“Alright, stop with the bullsh*t. I’m giving you a chance to call your parents.”

Joseph seemed to have lost all his patience as he stared at Jasper and said, “It’s okay if you don’t know what to do, your parents should know. When faced with me, your parents won’t just make you kneel in front of me. They would push your head down and force you to eat sh*t if I wanted you to do that!”

“Haha, Brother, that’s a good idea. Let him be sprawled on the floor and eat sh*t later,” Leonard said as he laughed.

“I do have parents, but I’ve been on my own ever since I entered society. So there’s no need to call my parents over,” Jasper said calmly, “I’m in a rush too. We’ll be leaving now if there’s nothing else you want to talk about.”

“Thinking of leaving?”

Joseph laughed coldly as he said, “I think you’re crazy. Trying to run away now that you’re scared? Dream on!”

“So what do you plan to do?” Jasper had a curious expression on his face as he gazed at Joseph.

Joseph huffed coldly as he stared at Jasper and said, “You’ve made me very angry, and nothing good ever happens to people who’ve done that.

“Do you dare tell me what your job is? Or perhaps you own a company? Do you dare tell me the name of your company?” Joseph said haughtily as he stared at Jasper.

He laughed lightly as he said slowly, “It’s okay if you don’t dare to tell me. I have my own ways to find out about your details. Believe me, when that happens, I’ll have you become so poor that you can’t even afford a pair of underwear!”

“Oh, are you that powerful? No wonder you’re so arrogant.”

Jasper spoke calmly. He did not seem to notice the odd expressions on Julian’s and Celine’s faces as he sighed, saying, “I feel quite worried upon hearing you say that, but since I’ve already offended you, I’m sure you’ll be able to find my office anyway. I might as well tell you the name of my company.”

Then, Jasper retrieved his business card and passed it to Joseph.

Joseph's gaze fell on the card.

President of JW Investment Company, Jasper Laine.

It was a very simple-looking name card, unlike those who wanted to slap every title they had on the card when they only had just the slightest bit of credibility.

Jasper's name card only carried that one title. Underneath it was his name, phone number, and office landline.

Joseph sank into deep thought as he stared at the name card in his hands.

The names JW and Jasper Laine seemed inexplicably familiar to him as if he had heard someone mention it every day. However, he could not recall what this business was, nor who was the one who had mentioned the names to him.

Shortly after, the insurance company Jasper had contacted arrived at the scene.

Although Jasper did not know which company Celine's car was insured under, he thought it would not be a big deal to have someone come to have a look at the damages at the scene and give them an estimate. Thus, Jasper contacted the company he had insured his car under, People Insurance Company of Somer, otherwise known as PICS.

When the general manager of PICS heard that Jasper's car was damaged, he led a team and rushed over to the scene.

When he arrived at the scene, he did not stop to even catch his breath before he hurried over to Jasper and said respectfully, "Mr. Laine, I'm so sorry we're late. The traffic was horrible on the way."

Jasper smiled and said, "That's alright. Help me take a look at the damages to this Audi and give me an estimate. The owner of this Audi is my friend. If it's not insured under your company, I'll have one of my men take care of the necessary paperwork after this."

The general manager of PICS thumped his chest and said, “Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. Any paperwork is a small matter now that you’ve made your wishes known.”

“Are you... the general manager of PICS’ branch office?”

The general manager of PICS only realized that there were others present when Joseph’s voice rang out.

He obviously knew Joseph too. With a smile, he said in a polite voice, “You’re Young Master Wagner, aren’t you? Long time no see.”

Joseph’s heart thudded when he saw how respectfully the general manager of PICS treated Jasper. He could not stop himself from asking, “You guys know each other?”

Life at the Top Chapter 857

“Is there anyone in Southeast Province who doesn’t know Jasper Laine from JW Investments?”

The general manager of PICS replied matter-of-factly. Then, he jolted back to his senses and asked, “It’s not your car that’s in trouble is it?”

Joseph’s grip on the business card tightened when he saw the horrified expression on the general manager’s face. He replied, “It’s my brother’s car.”

The general manager’s lips twitched as he turned instinctively to look at Jasper. When he saw Jasper looking back at him with an indecipherable expression on his face, he hurriedly straightened himself and instinctively took several steps backward. He increased the distance between himself and the Wagner brothers.

“You must be crazy! How dare you hit a car belonging to Mr. Laine’s friend?!” the general manager reprimanded.

Leonard said indignantly, “This b*tch rear-ended me!”

Just then, Joseph, who had started realizing that things were going wrong, glared at Leonard as he yelled in a low voice, “Can’t you be more f*cking civil?!”

Leonard had an aggrieved expression on his face. He wanted to say more, but he did not dare speak a word.

The general manager of PICS had a feeling that things were not as simple as they seemed when he looked at Leonard who had blood all over his face. He had no interest in getting involved and said hurriedly, “I’m going to take a look at what’s going on.”

Then, he turned and walked to the two cars.

He rarely needed to survey the scene of an accident as a general manager. These were all done by his staff. However, the general manager felt that these two cars were much easier to deal with than the brewing warzone that was happening behind him.

The more Joseph thought about it, the more insecure he felt. He glanced at Jasper before walking toward the general manager, whispering to him, “Tell me the truth. What’s his background?”

“What’s his background?”

The general manager laughed coldly before saying, “His name is his background. I’m advising you not to get caught up in such messy matters anymore.

“He’s two years younger than you, but all you do is loiter around with the rich kids of Southeast Province while flaunting your family’s riches. Him, on the other hand, tsk tsk...”

“He’s not someone you can cross. Seeing how your parents are on good terms with me, I advise you to immediately apologize to him and show him you mean it. He’s not a man who won’t listen to reason. If you don’t do this, no one can save you!”

...

Joseph had an odd look in his eyes as he gazed at Jasper after returning from his conversation with the general manager.

He had a dark expression on his face as he mulled things over for a long time. In the end, he decided not to say anything.

“Let’s go!”

Joseph said to Leonard.

Leonard had a stunned look on his face as he said, “We’re leaving?! Brother, are my ears failing me?!”

“This b*tch crashed into my car and I got beaten up by them, but we’re not going to do anything about it?!”

“F*cking hell!”

Joseph, who was already annoyed, became enraged when he listened to Leonard continuing to call Celine a b*tch. He raised his hand and slapped Leonard across the face as he bellowed, “You useless piece of trash, we’re leaving when I say we’re leaving! What are you blabbering about?!”

Leonard’s pitiful face received another blow. With his new wound adding to his old ones, his face puffed up like a blowfish.

“You’re going? Don’t you think it’s a little rude of you to leave after what just happened?” Jasper asked calmly.

Joseph hurriedly turned and stared at Jasper. He could tell he was in deep trouble now.

When Joseph recalled his previous attitude as well as what he had said, he felt his face burn bright red.

However, he would still not beg for mercy from Jasper.

“Don’t take matters too far. This issue ends here, and no one makes a loss. I won’t let you take advantage of me if you insist on making a fuss.”

Jasper began laughing after he heard what Joseph said.

“I’m the one making a fuss now? Who was the one who wanted to force me on my knees earlier?”

“I thought I had time-traveled back to imperial times with the way you went on and on about making me go on my knees. What’s going on? Do you think you can just leave after making so many demands?”

Joseph’s lips twitched slightly as the expression on his face darkened. He took a deep breath, realizing that things would not be as easily settled as he had expected.

Thus, the only thing he could do was walk over to his Ferrari, open the door, and say, “I’m so sorry for delaying your schedule, Mr. Monty. We might need a little more time to solve the issue at hand here, why don’t you...”

Conrad did not even look at Joseph. While he was sitting in the car, he had caught sight of Jasper.

After all, it was hard to miss a human being standing by the road.

To be honest, Conrad had the urge to turn and leave the minute he saw Jasper.

He did not want anything to do with Jasper during such a critical time.

The next time they met would be when they decided who was the winner, but this was not the time!

However, when he remembered the relationship his family shared with the Wagner brothers and what he wanted to do, Conrad had no choice but to grit his teeth and get out of the car.

Conrad ignored Joseph's prattling and walked up to Jasper.

"What a small world Southeast Province is." Jasper took the initiative to speak first and smiled as he gazed at Conrad.

That opening sentence stunned both Joseph and Leonard.

They had initially thought Jasper would be terrified and might even go down on his knees and beg for mercy when he saw Conrad.

Yet, why did they sound like a pair of old friends reuniting?

A strong feeling of unease arose in the two brother's hearts.

What caused their fear to increase was what Conrad replied.

"Small world, indeed. If I had known you were the person they offended, I wouldn't have bothered coming over at all. I would have let you beat them to death."

Life at the Top Chapter 858

Who was Conrad Monty?

Conrad Monty was the head of the Monty family!

The Monty family was the oldest, strongest, and most powerful family in the entire Southeast Province!

It could be said that the Monty family presided above all the other powerful families in Southeast Province.

Plus, Conrad Monty was a one-of-a-kind prodigy. He was a genius in Southeast Province that only emerged once every 50 years!

He had just started when he managed to completely turn a nearly bankrupt company around into what was now known as Monty Group. Since then, the group had always held a spot in the list of top three companies and reported the highest earnings every year.

Conrad Monty was the role model for the younger generation in Southeast Province.

However, Conrad Monty from the Monty family was now showing so much humility when he was speaking to Jasper Laine?

Joseph felt his blood vessels contracting as oxygen failed to reach his brain.

Leonard, who was standing beside him, was in even worse shape. All color had drained completely from his face, and he looked as pale as a ghost now.

“You’re too polite,” Jasper said calmly as he turned to gaze at the Wagner brothers who had identical expressions of shock and horror on their faces.

Conrad turned around and asked, “What’s going on?”

Joseph’s lips were mumbling, but he did not dare say anything. He turned to look at his brother, Leonard.

Leonard shuddered when Conrad’s gaze landed on him. He was just about to stutter an answer when Conrad slapped him across the face.

Leonard’s face had suffered through plenty of beatings today. After getting hit multiple times, his face was now as swollen as a pig’s head.

Leonard howled in pain as he took two steps backward, the fear apparent in his eyes.

“You got slapped because you don’t know what’s good for you.”

Conrad retrieved a handkerchief and wiped his hands slowly as if his hands had been contaminated after he touched Leonard.

“I understand what you usually get up to, but I don’t care about those things. The Wagner family might be on good terms with my father and our fathers might be sworn brothers, but that has nothing to do with me. I don’t have any obligation to educate you on how you should behave.

“However, as hedonistic brothers, you should know who you should and should not offend. You’ll get yourself killed if you can’t distinguish between the two.

Conrad’s eyes grew colder as he raised his foot and kicked the two brothers. They covered their stomachs with their hands as they bent down, their faces contorted in pain.

After that, Conrad turned toward Jasper. He still had a demure smile on his face.

It was as though he had not just been insulting and beating up people.

“How’s that, are you satisfied now?” Conrad asked Jasper.

“I’m impressed, Mr. Monty. You know how to separate your private and official matters,” Jasper said,

Conrad pretended not to have heard Jasper’s dig at him as he turned to look at Leonard and Joseph.

“Get over here and apologize to Mr. Laine!”

The two were so terrified they did not dare say anything else. Crawling over hurriedly, they begged for mercy from Jasper with tears streaking down their faces.

“Mr. Laine, I’m sorry. It was my fault for being so f*cking rude. I shouldn’t have lost my temper like that. Please, treat me like a fart you need to let go of!”

“Mr. Laine! My brother and I are at fault here. I’m so sorry, please forgive us.”

Jasper ignored them and turned to look at Celine.

He had made his stance clear. Celine was the one in charge here.

If she was alright, then everything would be alright.

If she did not agree, Jasper would continue toying with them until the very end.

Celine immediately understood what Jasper meant and chuckled as she said, “Hurry up and get it done with. I’m hungry.”

Life at the Top Chapter 859

When Jasper heard what Celine said, he said calmly, "Let's go."

Then, he and Celine walked toward the Bentley.

Conrad's eyes were dark as he watched the two walk off.

"Mr. Laine, we've assessed the scene. There aren't any major problems, and everything can be fixed in a couple of days," the general manager of PICS said respectfully as he walked toward Jasper.

Jasper replied, "Please have the car towed to a car dealership that can fix it. And pass me the receipt for any costs incurred."

The general manager hurriedly said, "No need for that, Mr. Laine. We've already looked it up. This car is indeed insured with PICS, and we'll take responsibility for all damages. It'll probably take two to three days, and I'll have someone deliver the car to you once it's fixed."

"Thank you so much," Jasper said politely.

"Not at all, not at all. It's my pleasure to be of service, Mr. Laine."

The general manager, who was in his 40s, did not seem to find the way he spoke to Jasper odd. Nothing but niceties came out of his mouth.

After another round of exchanging pleasantries, the general manager got someone to tow the Audi away before he bade goodbye and left.

He did not dare stay and watch the impending war. Everything was fine so long he managed to establish a good image of himself with Jasper.

Soon, Julian fired up the Bentley and turned back around.

After everyone had left, Conrad spoke to the Wagner brothers who were still kneeling on the floor, "You can get yourselves to the hospital if you're not dead.

"Don't blame me for being cruel, I was trying to save you. Based on what I know of his personality, it won't be just you two but your entire family who will fall into misfortune. I don't care if you've seen through my pity act or not, but he has. Either way, remember to never cause trouble for me in the future!"

Joseph summoned all the bravery he had to ask, "Mr. Monty, is he that powerful? To the point where even you are afraid of him?"

Conrad stared at the Bentley that was rapidly disappearing into the night sky before he laughed coldly, saying, "Powerful? Oh, he has much more than power.

"What would you guys know? Don't think you're better than everyone else just because you've read a few biographies. You're no better than your brother in that sense. Pack up that high and mighty act of yours, or you might die before your brother does.

"F*ck off. I've got a lot to do lately, and I haven't got any time for you."

...

As Celine sat in the Bentley, she suddenly burst into laughter.

"What are you laughing at?" Jasper, who was sitting beside her, turned and asked.

“The one who came after that, what’s his name again? You called him Mr. Monty?” Celine asked.

“Conrad Monty, the head of the largest family in Southeast Province,” Jasper replied quietly.

“Oh, I couldn’t tell. He seems to be in his early 30s. I guess that makes him quite powerful?” Celine asked.

“You still haven’t told me what you were laughing about,” Jasper asked with great interest.

“I was laughing at how calculating Conrad Monty was. He knew that you wouldn’t lose your temper if he put on a pity show for you,” Celine said.

Jasper shook his head and said quietly, “Both he and I know that this problem wouldn’t be settled because of the show he put on. His pity show wouldn’t have an effect on me if I wanted to pursue the matter.”

“So why didn’t you insist on pursuing the matter?” Celine asked.

“You’re one of the main parties involved and you aren’t going to press charges, so why should I pursue it any further? At the end of the day, those two brothers are only minor characters who won’t be able to make it big. There’s no need for me to go all out with them,” Jasper replied.

Celine leaned over, her fragrance permeating the space around them as she asked, “What if I had insisted on pressing charges?”

“Then we’ll turn back and pummel them until they’re half-dead,” Jasper replied determinedly.

“I would be a fool to believe you.”

Celine glared at Jasper as she said, “I can tell that you and Conrad Monty are enemies, and you two have a massive grudge. I refuse to believe you would mess up your plans over such a minuscule thing.”

“Didn’t you say you were hungry? What do you want to eat?” Jasper insistently avoided that topic.

“Can we go to your house so that you can prepare noodles for me?”

Life at the Top Chapter 860

This showcased the importance of having a driver like Julian and the need to have soundproof curtains that separated the backseat from the front.

If Jasper had been the one driving, he would probably have crashed right into a ditch after that.

Firstly, it was because he never expected Celine to suddenly become flirty and passionate that quickly.

Secondly, it was because Jasper was reminded of how Wendy had prepared a steaming plate of pasta for him last night.

It caused Jasper to feel just the slightest bit guilty.

“Alright, alright, I’m just messing with you. I won’t eat anything you prepare even if you begged me to. Look at the shock on your face.”

Celine straightened her body as she complained to Jasper.

Although she seemed fine on the surface, women had always been difficult to understand. No one could tell if Celine was genuinely fine with things.

Jasper pulled the curtain apart as he asked Julian to drive them to a place that served good supper before he asked Celine, "So why did you come to Southeast Province all of a sudden?"

Celine had initially planned to tell Jasper it was because she missed him, but after seeing the odd expression on his face, she huffed and said...

"Just pretend as if I'm a client making a return visit. After all, both parties have gained huge benefits from working with you. I even got a promotion. So, Mr. Laine, are you pleased with the service you've received from Colossal Investments?"

"Yes, I'm satisfied," Jasper replied solemnly.

Celine giggled as she said, "Moreover, I have another piece of news for you."

"Morrison has been promoted to president of Layman Investment Bank's Terra regional branch. He's already arrived in the office. Soon, he'll be in charge of everything that goes on in Layman Investment Bank in the Terra region."

Jasper's eyebrows raised slightly.

Celine smiled mysteriously as she continued saying, "According to the news provided by our business consultant, Morrison will do two things upon taking over. First, he'll conduct a thorough investigation on all the businesses you own. Then, he'll get in touch with all of your enemies.

"Both matters affect you directly, Mr. Laine. Seems like you have quite a big influence."

"You even managed to find this out? Business consultant? More like a business spy, don't you think?" Jasper replied indignantly.

“Why say it out loud? Should have just kept it to yourself.”

Celine said languidly, “Tactics like these aren’t that common in Somerland, but they can be seen everywhere overseas. After all, the business industry is like a warzone. Insider information is the most important thing.

“At crucial moments, a single piece of information can determine the success or failure of a business deal involving tens of millions of dollars. Colossal Investments spends more than a billion US dollars per year hiring over a million business spies across the world. They hold more power than you can imagine!”

Celine smiled and said, “Let’s not talk about this now. What are your thoughts on Morisson’s promotion and the two things on his to-do list?”

“What thoughts can I have other than be jealous of the fact he has a great dad?” Jasper laughed as he said, “Look at him. You both work in investment companies, and Layman is even a tad smaller than Colossal Investments is. He has just committed a crime, but he even got a promotion by just turning his head to the other side. And look at you. Both of you are presidents of branches of the Terra region, but you had to put in so much more effort than him.”

Celine gritted her teeth as she glared at Jasper, saying, “You never know what’s good for you. I shouldn’t have bothered worrying about you. I’m showing you kindness by providing you with information, but you’re making cutting remarks about me”

“You just want to rock my boat, don’t you?” Jasper asked as he smiled.

“Boat or bed?” Celine was starting to talk inappropriately again.

Life at the Top Chapter 861

Without waiting for Jasper's reply, she said, "I know that I can't hide anything from you. As the newly appointed president of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments, is there any better way for me to highlight my abilities than to exterminate Layman Investment Bank's influence in Terra?"

"That's why everything will remain the same as it has been in the past. This will benefit both of us, so we need to work together earnestly.

"Perhaps I've been rather busy lately, which is why I haven't had the time to look at what he's been doing. He has only just started working in Terra. Even if he can't wait any longer to go against me, he should at least gain a firm foothold and build his own team up first. You're in the same situation as he is, so you can't rush things," Jasper said in a lukewarm tone.

"Don't worry. I'm not asking you to go onto the battlefield tomorrow. I'm just notifying you about it in advance so that you won't be taken aback when you go against him in the future. In any case, what have you been busy with lately?" Celine asked.

"I have too many enemies. They're all queueing up to attack me now. I have no choice but to slowly defeat them one by one," Jasper said with a smile.

"What a loud-mouth," Celine said, rolling her eyes at him.

Julian had been by Jasper's side for some time now. Jasper also realized that he was getting better and better at coming up with sneaky ideas.

Jasper had originally intended to take Celine to a snack stall to grab some scrumptious supper, so Julian had found a snack stall for him. However, the stall was surrounded by several small hotels. What was he trying to imply?

The streets surrounding them were full of men and women that were wrapped in each other's arms as they walked into the hotels impatiently. Jasper could not even tell if they were lovers or not. The women in the men's embrace may not even be their own wives—they could well be the wives of other people.

Celine evaluated their surroundings in amazement. She then cast a meaningful glance at Jasper.

Jasper fixed his gaze on the hotpot restaurant in front of them. "Do you eat mutton?" He asked Celine without turning to look at her.

"I don't mind," Celine said cheerily in a tone that resembled Jasper's usual demeanor. The explicit and implicit meanings behind her words were obvious.

"Let's go then. Let's have some mutton. I haven't had it in a really long time," Jasper said as he made his way into the hotpot restaurant.

The both of them soon sat down at a table. After placing their orders, Jasper regretted everything almost immediately.

A couple was seated right next to their table. Jasper and Celine both heard the man tell the woman that he had just bought some imported condoms with an evil smirk on his face. The woman then pouted shyly while she accepted a call from someone that she addressed as her husband.

"I'm working late tonight. I may be crashing at Lily's place tonight, so you should rest first.

"Yes, I know. You're so annoying. You don't have to fetch me or wait for me. I'm busy catching up with my work right now. Alright, goodbye."

The woman walked out of the hotpot restaurant in the man's arms while she talked to her husband on the phone. They then made their way into a small hotel nearby.

From their conversation, Jasper could picture a man putting down the phone in despair with a bitter expression on his face, then getting up to continue doing the chores

He just knew it. He had spent his all his days living that way in his past life.

However, Penelope Hunt had never cheated on him during their time together. Usually, she only stayed out late to play poker with a few of her female friends. Jasper was quite pleased about that.

Time truly flies. Those days felt like they were eons away now.

“Hey!”

Celine’s voice startled Jasper.

He returned to his senses and caught sight of Celine waving her hand in front of him. “What is it?” Jasper asked.

“What are you thinking about? I’ve called your name a few times now, but it seemed like you didn’t hear me,” Celine said. A mischievous smirk formed across her face as she said, “Were you thinking about what the couple that had just left are doing in their room right now?”

Life at the Top Chapter 862

“Do I seem that lifeless?” Jasper asked in annoyance.

Celine placed slices of mutton into the hotpot intently. She replied nonchalantly, “I don’t know. After all, you’re still a man.”

Jasper chuckled and asked, "How long do you intend to stay in the Southeast Province?"

Celine thought about it for a while before replying, "I guess I'll stay three to five days at most. I need to rush back to settle some work as my workload is piling up. I'm getting a few days of rest before I busy myself. I won't have much time to go around once I officially take up the position."

"What a coincidence. The topping-off ceremony of the Southface River project will be held soon. You can leave after attending it," Jasper said.

"I don't have much time. When does it start?" Celine asked.

"The day after tomorrow," Jasper said as he massaged his temples. "I've been working day and night lately. I have so much work," he added.

Just then, Jasper and Celine's phones rang at the same time.

Both of them exchanged glances and proceeded to pick up their phones.

Jasper received a call from Jack Cullen. The first thing that he said caused Jasper to frown.

"Mr. Laine, I realized that Sena's shares are fluctuating abnormally, which is very unusual, but I'm not sure why this is the case. Would you like to take a look at it yourself?"

Jasper replied, "Alright, keep your eyes on it. I'll take a look as soon as possible. Let's contact each other if anything happens."

"Alright, Mr. Laine."

After hanging up the call, Jasper looked at Celine. He realized that she was staring at him as well.

“I’m guessing that we’ve just received the same news,” Celine said. She seemed to be rather pleased that the both of them were often on the same wavelength.

“Is it regarding Sena’s shares?” Jasper asked.

“It seems like we can’t finish this meal,” Celine sighed.

“Let’s go for now. I’ll ask Julian to pack some supper for us later,” Jasper said as he got up.

Having fun was great, but business was still business. Jasper always recognized the boundaries that existed between them.

At this stage, he had to prioritize his career. Everything else came second.

After all, he did not have complete autonomy over his empire right now. There were too many people and forces working in the shadows right now. Even if he was unwilling to move forward, he would be pushed forward by the people and environment around him. If he stopped, his enemies would destroy him and everything around him immediately.

This was the price that he had to pay for his rapid rise to success. It was a necessary sacrifice.

On the way back to the office, Jasper’s head hurt. The internet speed during this era was way too slow.

If this had happened during the era before his reincarnation, everything would be much easier. He could just turn on his phone and check everything online.

However, as things stood, the phone was just a tool that enabled him to receive messages and make calls.

Staring at the latest Nokia model that Wendy had gifted him with, Jasper was lost in thought.

Should he lay out the market of the mobile phone in advance to accelerate the development of mobile data?

However, this was an extremely complex industry, and it involved the most sophisticated technologies. Forget him as an individual, other countries may not be able to successfully navigate this industry either.

All things aside, Warwick was considered the world's largest mobile phone manufacturer in terms of the number of units sold before his reincarnation. Officials from Somerland had also been vigorously showing their support for Warwick as it was a national enterprise. However, what were the results from all this?

The United States had its hands on all the technology. Without the processor chip technology, Warwick could only try to win over people's hearts to try and make an impact.

If Jasper were to do this, he would not walk down the same path. He had to get a firm hold of the processor technology.

Life at the Top Chapter 863

He did not aim to overtake the countries from the West, but he also did not want to be taken for as a fool. The last thing he wanted was to get tricked or driven off by other countries.

However, things were never this simple.

On an international scale, the technical blockade of Somerland and its businessmen was extremely serious.

If one was from Somerland, one could only dream of getting their hands on the best technology. They could only get their hands on things like the MP3, which none of the technology conglomerates took seriously, easily. This was evident from Sentel's careless attitude toward them previously.

Just as he was thinking about this issue, the car arrived at the company.

The company had already moved into the Southface River Tower. As it was around eleven o'clock at night, most of the lights in the building were off. The corridors were quiet as well, and the entire building seemed desolate.

Jasper took the elevator to the top floor. After entering his office, Jasper asked Julian to buy some supper. After that, he sat in front of his computer with Celine and opened the interface of the US Nasdaq index.

Sena's share price was 225 US dollars right now. It was an extremely high price.

However, Jasper frowned when he set his eyes on the share price.

Sometimes, a high share price did was not a good thing. If it was abnormally high, it indicated that someone was speculating about the share. It was fine if they just wanted to offload their shares and earn a large sum of money, however, things would be different if they had ulterior motives.

Li Jin opened the trend chart and transaction data from the past week. He then stared at the complicated data on the computer screen and fell into contemplation.

As the president of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments, Celine knew the financial share market well. After looking at the data for a while, she could tell that the overall direction of the index seemed normal. However, there were a few subtle points that most people would fail to notice.

Just as she was about to turn around and tell Jasper about it, she caught sight of Jasper's side profile. His brows were pinched into a slight frown while his gaze was fixed on the computer screen.

He was pondering something.

Right then, Celine had the urge to pounce on him and take him as hers as she stared at the conscientious expression on his side profile.

In Celine's eyes, a man's charm was definitely not found in his facial features.

Celine would not even bat an eye at the handsome young men out there. Furthermore, the youth were now ushering in a non-mainstream trend where men liked to grow out their hair and surround themselves with a melancholic aura. Celine was amused by this trend.

It made them look neither manly nor feminine. It was simply a deformed aesthetic.

In Celine's opinion, men had to have their own characteristic aura. It could be the residual scent of washing powder on clothes, or it could be the elegant scent of a cologne, but most importantly, they had to emanate self-confidence, maturity, and power!

A man should have a spine that was strong enough to support a woman. A man should have arms and shoulders that were capable of blocking all wind and rain for a woman.

"There's a problem."

Jasper was oblivious to the intense thoughts running through Celine's mind at that moment. After saying these three words, he immediately called Jack Tanner.

He did not even spare a glance at Celine.

Keen as he was, Jasper had detected something unusual in the index. The potential ploys raised by these unusual signs could give rise to very serious consequences!

Therefore, he did not have time to discuss or mull it over. He instantly woke Jack up from his deep slumber with a phone call.

“What’s wrong, Mr. Laine?”

Far away in Swallow Capital, Jack turned on the bedside lamp in his dark bedroom. He put on his glasses and asked Jasper over the phone.

“Haven’t you noticed that the trend of Sena’s share price is moving in an abnormal direction? We’re a listed company, so your vigilance really disappoints me!

“If any of our enemies want to go against Sena right now, they would start with the Nasdaq!

“They’re already pointing their guns at our doorstep, but you’re all still sleeping?”

Life at the Top Chapter 864

Jasper’s words caused all of Jack’s drowsiness to instantly vanish.

He snapped to attention, immediately awake.

“What’s going on, Mr. Laine? I did not receive any reports,” Jack said as he put on a coat. He rushed into his study without putting on his slippers.

Jasper suppressed the burning rage within him and spoke in a heavy voice.

“Some people have been secretly collecting shares since last week. It’s possible they have been doing so for even longer. They have pushed the stock price up by 8%. So, what does this mean?”

“This means that they have accumulated a large number of shares. If they aren’t worried about being discovered, they single-handedly have the ability to cause Sena’s share price to rise or absolutely plummet.

“Once they start doing that, the retail investors will definitely sell their shares in order to protect their investment due to the continuous fluctuations. This will happen regardless of if the price rises or falls to its limit.

“At this moment, if they accept any orders, the number of shares under their control will increase greatly. If they don’t, Sena’s share price will collapse. Do I still need to explain all this to you?”

After registering Jasper’s words, Jack, who was waiting for his computer to turn on, broke out into a cold sweat.

He understood why Jasper was behaving so sternly right now. Thus, he gulped and replied, “Sorry, Mr. Laine. We were being negligent.”

“You guys have been way too complacent lately. Do you think that you can sit back and relax now that you’re the top Internet company in the country?”

Although Jasper’s tone was not heavy, his words were harsh.

“I deserve to be penalized, Mr. Laine,” Jack said.

“It’s not the time to talk about punishments now. Ask the person in charge of this area to wake up and come up with a countermeasure right now.

“If I’m not satisfied with your plan, I don’t mind firing the entire department!”

Jack smiled bitterly as he heard the beep of Jasper hanging up the call.

Right then, Jack’s wife, who had gotten up as well, came in with a cup of hot tea. It was the blend that Jack usually enjoyed. She placed the cup beside Jack and said in a gentle voice, “What’s wrong? Did you get scolded by Mr. Laine?”

Jack sighed and said, “I don’t blame him. Everyone at the company is at fault, including me. Too many people have been blinded by the glory of our successful listing. We shouldn’t have acted that way.

“Alright, you should go rest. I don’t think I’ll get any sleep tonight,” Jack said as he patted his wife’s hand.

...

Nauritus City, Southface River Tower.

“You’re unexpectedly fierce when you scold people,” Celine told Jasper.

Jasper massaged his temples and said in exasperation, “It’s understandable if the people from Sena didn’t notice this problem, but I’m displeased at the fact that everyone, Jack included, has been blinded by the wealth and glory of the company’s listing!

“Do you know what half of Sena’s executives were up to some time ago? They were either throwing celebratory parties or accepting interviews from financial magazines. What nonsense!

“Dane Warren, the founder of Sena that I had previously kicked out, turned out to behave the best out everyone in the senior management team. He reaped the most profits amongst all the executives with all the shares that he owned. Nevertheless, he was down-to-earth and managed to operate most of the company’s business on his own.”

Celine shook her head. "This usually happens once a company expands. All sorts of birds tend to flock into a large forest. Those employees have worked hard for so many years. Now that the company has been listed and is making a large sum of profits, their bonuses have increased greatly as well. It's natural for them to become conceited," she said in an understanding tone.

"Such fickle-minded people. In that case, I'll pour a bucket of cold water over their heads. Only those who return to their senses can remain. Those who can't recover from their current states should all leave the company," Jasper said in an even tone.

"What do you intend to do about this?" Celine asked as she pointed to the computer screen.

"I have no idea," Jasper heaved a sigh while he shook his head.

"We don't know the identity nor goals of our opponent. The only thing we can do now is to keep track of their activity.

"We need to raise funds and wait for our opponent to take action. Once they hammer the market, we need to spend a large sum of money to get a hold of their shares. Otherwise, the share price will collapse. If that happens, Sena will suffer a major loss. We won't be able to recover from the damage even after a whole year. Now, everything depends on the number of shares that they own and what they intend to do with it."

"Look here!" Celine exclaimed suddenly as she rotated Jasper's computer monitor. She inched closer to Jasper and got up to grab ahold of the mouse.

She had to lean across Jasper's body to do so.

Jasper watched as Celine slowly approached him. When Celine moved the mouse and began to retrieve the data on the screen, strands of her hair tickled Jasper's face in a mischievous manner.

His face itched, but his heart craved for her even more.

The fragrance of her perfume lingered about his sense as strands of her hair brushed against his skin. It felt like she was teasing him slowly and trying to test his limits.

However, Celine did not notice all these details this time around. She did not even realize that the distance between both of them was very inappropriate at that moment.

After displaying the data on the screen, Celine sat back down on her seat.

“Generally speaking, the larger the trading volume, the higher the share price will be. After all, the price will naturally go up if there’s a consistent amount of trading.

“Although Sena’s trading volume has continually increased since last week, the share price has remained stable.

“This person is a master. His methods are extremely confusing.

“However, the data won’t lie. Linking all of these clues together, I’m almost certain that the person behind all this definitely isn’t trying to earn a fortune by manipulating Sena’s share price...

“This person is aiming to take over Sena completely by absorbing a large number of shares!”

Life at the Top Chapter 865

As soon as Celine finished speaking, she noticed that Jasper was looking at her like she was an alien.

“Why are you looking at me like that?” Celine asked.

“I realized that for you to be able to replace William and take the position of the president of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments, that you must be quite capable as well,” Jasper said sincerely.

“Why’s that? Don’t you think that I got this position just because I rode on your coattails?” Celine asked proudly.

“I never said that,” Jasper chuckled. “You got the position because of your own abilities,” he added.

Celine glanced at Jasper and continued speaking in a serious tone.

“We can basically confirm our opponent’s goal now. He doesn’t want money. He has acquired a book loss of approximately 200 million US dollars in order to stifle the share price during this period. This is just a rough estimate that we can use to make an educated guess.”

“Can you find out who is it?”

Jasper shook his head after hearing Celine say this. “As I’ve told you previously, I have too many opponents. All of them are imbued with a motive and the ability to pursue their goals. With the limited number of clues that we have right now, I still can’t tell who’s behind all of this,” he said.

“In that case, there’s no way to find out.”

Celine spread her arms and said, “I can only help you by analyzing the other party’s intention and possible goal on a technical level. I can’t help you resolve this problem or tell you how to fish them out.”

“You’ve already helped me a great deal,” Jasper told her in a sincere tone.

Jasper knew how to interpret the market board. His skills were impressive as well.

However, his skills only applied to general situations. They were not enough for him to see through the meticulous plots set up by masters in the share market like the one that he was facing right now.

He did not emerge victorious in the stock markets of Harbor City and Nasdaq because of his skills. Rather, he had managed to do so because he possessed a strategic vision and planning that went beyond the current era and extended almost two decades into the future.

He knew about the classic financial battles that would happen in the future. He also knew a lot of cases whereby immaculate manipulation of the market led to fascinating results.

Therefore, this knowledge served to greatly improved Jasper's strategic planning.

Meanwhile, he simply relied on the technical skills that he had gained from his experience of working at a financial company for more than ten years in his previous life to get by.

When it came to his technical skills, Jasper could not even begin to compare to Jake Cullen.

At that moment, Jasper had finally witnessed the extraordinary trading skills of the top trader of the era.

Ordinary people may see streaks of broken lines when they looked at a market index, but Celine Maynard could instantly detect the true meaning concealed by the data whenever she looked at it.

Jasper was beyond jealous of her talent and abilities.

“Now that we know that the other party is trying to hammer the market, we aren’t left with many options.”

Jasper said in an exceptionally calm and even tone.

“If an ordinary person were in such a situation, they would definitely be overcome with anxiety regardless of how self-confident they were. But, look at you. You don’t look nervous at all,” Celine remarked in amusement.

“It’s important not to panic before the battle begins. Furthermore, it’s useless to do so. I think that I’m rather lucky, as , at the very least, we have uncovered our opponent’s plans. It’d have been too late if we discovered his plans after he made his move,” Jasper said.

“By the way, was the person that reminded you about this issue one of your subordinates? If he is, you should really reward him. One of the professional teams from the investment bank discovered this problem on our side. That person managed to find out about it at the same time as our team did. His skills are pretty extraordinary.”

After hearing this, the image of Jake’s face flashed across Jasper’s mind. He chuckled and said, “He deserves a reward, but we’ll talk about it after we overcome this challenge.”

Since they had already uncovered the other party’s plans, the next steps that Jasper planned to take were extremely simple.

He began to raise money from Sena’s company funds as well as whatever money he could pull from his private account.

The share market could be complicated, but it was also extremely simple at times.

At the end of the day, everyone was just fighting for money.

Jasper planned to catch their opponent off guard by making sure that he did not have the chance to mobilize his funds. That way, he could achieve a highly satisfactory result with a minimum cost.

However, once they got into a tug of war, it would be a battle waged with money.

If their opponent offered to buy shares from the sellers for five dollars per share, Jasper would offer them a price of six dollars per share. If their opponent offered the sellers six dollars per share, Jasper would offer them seven dollars.

If their opponent sold his shares for five dollars per share, Jasper would sell them for four dollars per share. If their opponent offered to sell his shares for three dollars per share, Jasper would sell them for two dollars.

In the end, the one who finishes spending all of their money first would lose the battle.

“As the actual head and majority shareholder of Sena, you can always release some shares into the market. No matter how many shares our opponent buys, he would still only be buying the shares that you’ve released. There’s no need for you to personally engage him in battle.”

Celine told Jasper when she saw him mobilizing his funds.

Jasper shook his head and said, “I cannot lose control of the company. Who knows? This might very well be our opponent’s goal. Won’t I be in great trouble if some people came together and asked me for additional shares after forcing me to give up my rights as the company chairman? If that were to happen, I’d lose control of Sena.”

“In other words, you have a strong desire to have control over everything. If someone wants to overthrow you and gain control of Sena, it’d cost them a sum of more than 4 billion US dollars given Sena’s current share price and market capital. That is pretty much impossible,” Celine said.

“I managed to get all the way here because I’m good at making the impossible possible, and dashing my enemies’ hopes of defeating me,” Jasper said calmly.

Celine was stunned. She could not help but smile when she thought of his shocking life experience. “You’re right, I forgot how you made it big. In that case, I won’t comment any further on your choices,” she said.

“I need your help in terms when it comes to technical skills. I’m not as good as you are,” Jasper said.

“You need to pay me for this,” Celine said in a satisfied tone.

“Sure, I’ll pay you an hourly wage of 100000 dollars per hour.”

“Talking about money will hurt my feelings. I don’t need your money. Why don’t we talk about our feelings instead?”

“It’s a waste of money to talk about our feelings. I’d rather hurt your feelings.”

“You scumbag!”

...

Conrad Monty opened the door of a villa located in Nauritus City. Valentine Estrada was in the midst of a heated discussion in a video conference with their team in the United States.

“Mr. Monty.”

Valentine got up and greeted Conrad when he entered the room.

Valentine’s eyes were bloodshot, and she looked extremely tired. “You’ve worked hard during this period. I’ll let you go on a long holiday once things are over.

You'll be given a nice bonus as well, so you'll have time to relax by then," Conrad said in a gentle voice.

Valentine grinned and said, "I don't find it difficult. I've found something truly meaningful to do with my life; I've been wasting my life away before this."

Indeed, this was meaningful. They were attempting to pry apart a listed company with a market value of billions of dollars, with a capital flow of 10 billion US dollars. How could it not be meaningful?

"How's everything going?" Conrad asked.

Life at the Top Chapter 866

“Everything is going smoothly.

“As things stand, we have used up 600 million dollars. According to our original plan, 200 million dollars from the total of a billion dollars will remain as our backup funds. Once we get our hands on 800 million dollars worth of shares, we can start taking action,” Valentine said.

“At our current pace, we can start taking action the day after tomorrow as there’s still one more trading day tomorrow. We will start carrying out our plan at about nine o’clock in the evening on the day after tomorrow during Nasdaq’s trading time.”

“The day after tomorrow?”

“It must be fate. The topping-off ceremony of his project at Southface River will be taking place on the day after tomorrow. I wonder if Jasper Laine will be so touched by our massive gift for him that he’ll lose sleep over it at night,” Conrad said with an unreadable expression on his face.

Valentine chuckled when she noticed that Conrad was in a good mood. “I’m not sure if he’ll be touched, but he’ll surely lose sleep over it,” she remarked.

Conrad guffawed loudly.

...

Sena was instantly thrown into a state of turmoil after Jasper’s phone call.

Jack had called everyone in Sena’s financial department to the company in the middle of the night. The sky outside was still pitch black, but the meeting room

within the company was brightly lit up. Jack scolded each and every one of them harshly.

“First off, I need to reflect upon myself for causing this incident as I’ve indeed become complacent. I’ve been blinded by our recent success.

“However, from this incident, it’s clear to see that the moment we get too relaxed, we’ll encounter a crisis. Mr. Laine managed to discover it early on this time around, but what if he didn’t manage to?!”

“Can anyone tell me who Mr. Laine would hold responsible for this incident?! Will it be you guys or me?!”

All the executives lowered their heads, not daring to look at the heavy expression on Jack’s face. Although there were more than ten people in the room, nothing else could be heard except for Jack’s voice. Nobody dared to utter a single word.

At that moment, someone knocked on the door of the meeting room. Jack’s secretary then entered the room.

“Mr. Tanner, here’s the data. It can be projected on screen right now,” the secretary said in a cautious tone.

“What are you waiting for? Project it at once!” Jack shouted.

The secretary responded to him aggrievedly and began to start up the equipment in a hurry.

Not long after, Sena’s share trading data and trend chart during this period appeared on the huge projection screen in the meeting room.

Everyone in the room was involved in financial trading. Thanks to Jasper’s guidance, they managed to detect the unusual parts of the data after some careful observation.

Everyone instantly broke out into a cold sweat.

Obviously, someone was manipulating Sena's share price. Once the other party started attacking them, the consequences would be unimaginable.

"Mr. Tanner, the other party has been planning this since a long time ago. It seems like they own a hefty amount of shares right now. I'm afraid we can't resolve this on our own," a pale-faced deputy manager said.

Jack replied icily, "What's wrong now? You guys were busy celebrating, shopping, and accepting interviews from financial magazines without anyone reminding you to do so. That's why none of you managed to detect the problem.

"Now that someone else has given you a clear reminder, you're telling me that you can't resolve this on your own. In that case, why did the company even hire you?"

The deputy manager's lips quivered. He did not dare to say a word.

"From today onward, none of you are allowed to go back home until this problem is resolved. All of you are required to stay at the company and pay attention to the activity on the Nasdaq at all the times. Meanwhile, Mr. Laine and I come up with a plan to salvage this situation."

Life at the Top Chapter 867

"However, due to the time difference, we need to pull an all-nighter if they take action. Make sure to re-adjust the work schedules of your departments. If anyone makes a mistake, don't bother explaining it to me. Explain everything to Mr. Laine himself."

Everyone gazed at each other after hearing Jack's words. Heaving a collective sigh, they agreed unanimously.

...

Back in Nauritus City, it was already two in the morning when Jasper arrived home after sending Celine back to her hotel.

Jasper had been communicating closely with Jake throughout his journey home.

Jasper did not have anyone that he could rely on in the United States, and the topping-off ceremony would be held in two days' time. Because of this, it was impossible for him to stay up all night just to monitor the American stock market. Thus, he had no choice but to hand this task over to Jake.

"Sena's funds amount to 600 million dollars right now. I have another 300 million dollars on hand. This is all held in US dollars. I'll let you handle this sum of money for now—our main goal is to snatch back all of their shares."

Jasper remained on the phone with Jake after arriving home.

"Mr. Laine, it shouldn't be hard to take over their shares, but the other party has been preparing for such a long time. It is unlikely that we'll be able to obtain an equivalent number of shares within such a short period of time. If we try too hard to do so, the share price will rise. If that happens, we will have to pay a higher price."

"We'll just have to pay the price then."

Jasper said in an even tone. "After taking down this cunning wolf, we'll gain a considerable amount of profits. The problem now isn't money. We need to know is how many shares they have under their control, and when they intend to take action."

“Mr. Laine, we’ll surely be able to notice the signs before they start carrying out their plan. I will be monitoring the share price the entire team. If anything happens, I’ll be the first one to tell you.”

Jasper nodded with satisfaction and replied, “Sure, I’ll hand this task over to you.”

“Don’t worry.”

After hanging up the call, Jasper stared out the window. The sky was always darkest before dawn. He sighed lightly.

Time passed at an alarming rate. The next day, people from Easy Media told Jasper that they have already completed all the equipment debugging and rehearsals required for the topping-off ceremony.

The Southeast Province, which was thrown into the spotlight after the mining company’s scam was resolved, became the center of everyone’s attention due to the upcoming topping-off ceremony.

Everyone had their eyes set on the Southface River project. Hundreds of millions of dollars had been invested into this project, which had lasted for a year. Now, it was finally time to unveil it to the world.

On this day, the mining company incident was collectively resolved with the joint intervention of the municipal government, the bank, and two state-owned enterprises.

Vista Mining Company declared bankruptcy less than a week after its establishment. The funds obtained from the Agricultural Bank in the company account were all recalled by the bank. After this, Vista Mining Company would no longer be held accountable by the Agricultural Bank or state-owned enterprises.

This included Hill County. Conrad had invested a lot of money into the poor county town of Hill County for the construction of roads and to develop utilities.

Since the people of Hill County benefited from the substantive welfare that he had provided, they did not continue to hold Conrad accountable for his actions.

After all, it's not like any of them were made worse off by this.

Conrad, who had set up the entire scheme from the very start, was the only one who suffered from this. The funds that he had previously invested vanished into thin air.

Most parties considered this to be an acceptable ending. However, they were now not as friendly toward Conrad as they had been in the past.

After all, anyone would be cautious when dealing with a vicious person who was willing to lose a hundred million dollars just to set up a trap for someone else.

Therefore, the number of people gloating over Conrad's misfortune soon outnumbered the number of people who felt sympathetic sorry for him after his scheme failed.

Life at the Top Chapter 868

The topping-off ceremony attracted plenty of prominent figures due to Jasper's renowned reputation and extensive connections.

Among other things, Zachary Law's appearance at the event alone garnered a lot of attention.

"Not bad. I heard that a lot of celebrities from Harbor City have volunteered to attend this event. Something like that is truly rare."

Seated in one of the reception rooms in Southface River Tower, Zachary chuckled as he stared out at the lively and happening ceremony going on outside the building.

The large reception was empty except for Jasper and Zachary. Meanwhile, Henry sat by the side of the door like he was a mascot for the event.

“Everyone simply feels obligated to show their support,” Jasper chuckled.

“You’re now a big boss within the entertainment industry. Those celebrities will definitely have to deal with the two entertainment companies under you. Nobody would dare to not show you their support.”

Zachary seemed to be in a good mood that day as he joked around with Jasper for a while. However, a frown formed on his face once he turned around to look at Henry.

“What’s with that private jet of yours?” Zachary asked him with a dark expression on his face.

“I bought that with the money that I earned on my own. It’s none of your business,” Henry said in an aggrieved tone.

Zachary was angered by his response. “Money you earned on your own? Do you think I’m unaware of how much money Jasp lent to you? He’s paid for half of that private jet. How dare you say that you bought it with your own money!” He barked at him.

“Besides, that private jet is parked in our space now. Our family is paying for its maintenance crew. How dare you tell me that it’s none of my business?”

“I’m your son. Do you need to be so calculative with me over every single thing that I do?” Henry asked bitterly.

“Hmph, when I took over our family business from your grandpa back then, I used the car that your grandpa passed down to me. I would never dare to even think of a private jet. What did I tell you? All you know how to do is enjoy life. You’ve never thought about where those luxuries come from.

“Let me tell you right now. If you continue being such a bum, I’ll pass down all of our property to Anna in the future. When that happens, you’ll have to rely on the family trust fund for your daily expenses. I’ll give you an allowance of a few million dollars every month. Let’s see what will happen to you then.”

“No! I can’t live a single day in such poverty!” Henry shouted out in terror.

“Pfft...”

Zachary and Henry both turned around to look at Jasper, who had spit out a mouthful of tea, with an odd glance.

“It’s alright, sorry for interrupting. Please continue,” Jasper said as he waved his hand awkwardly. He wiped away the water on the coffee table immediately.

The life of an aristocrat was really extraordinary! Even a disobedient son could receive a monthly allowance of a few million dollars. In this era, an ordinary person may not even be able to earn a few million dollars in their entire lifetime.

In the eyes of an aristocrat, a few million dollars was simply their monthly allowance.

Henry turned around and told his father, “Father, why don’t you give me more allowance? Besides, Anna is my younger sister. Isn’t it all the same if you gave all the property to me?”

“Besides, I’ve thought about it. Why should I follow in you and grandpa’s footsteps? Both of you are always tired. Why should I work that hard? Grandpa is smarter than you—he retired a long time ago.

“Those old men around the same age as Grandpa who are still reluctant to retire are all riddled with illness. None of them are as healthy as Grandpa. If you go for a health checkup right now, you may discover that you are less healthy than him. Because of this, I reckon that I’m meant to live a busy working lifestyle. It’s good to live in idle relaxation.”

“Pfft...”

Jasper spit out another mouthful of tea.

As the father and son were busy expressing how much they cared for each other, Wendy came over and knocked on the door of the reception room.

“Mr. Law, Jasp, the officials from the municipal and provincial government have arrived. My father has gone to meet them. Shall we head over to greet them as well?” Wendy asked.

Jasper got up and told Zachary, “Uncle Law, shall we head over?”

Zachary nodded. He left Henry, whose figure was now slumped from all the scolding, and said, “Alright, let’s go.”

They made their way out of the building. The entire area was glowing with bright decorations and immersed in a lively atmosphere.

A short distance away, Dawson Schuler was chatting with two middle-aged men in front of some cars with special license plates. Those with lower-ranking positions did not even have the right to approach them.

Jasper and Zachary made their way toward them. In an event like this, Zachary had to stand behind Jasper. Meanwhile, Wendy stood next to Jasper because of her relationship with him. They then joined in the conversation with the highest-ranking officials from the municipal and provincial government.

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Law.”

“Hello, Mr. Law.”

The two high-ranking officials from the municipal and provincial government smiled widely when they caught sight of Zachary Law. They immediately took the initiative to greet him.

Zachary laughed cheerily. After shaking hands with the two officials, he said, “Look at me. My memory is getting poorer now that I’m older. I was chatting with Jasper in the reception room and I forgot to look at the time. Otherwise, I would have come out and welcomed both of you.”

Zachary’s words were a sign of respect to the two officials.

As the head of the Laws, Zachary had every right to stand tall amongst these government officials due to his prominent status and social ranking. However, he took the initiative to lower himself before them in order to please them.

The official from the provincial government laughed and said, “You’re being way too courteous, Mr. Law. We should have greeted you at the airport when you arrived in the province. After all, we’re the hosts, and you’re our guest.”

Zachary smiled and said, “I’ve invested in a number of projects here. Now that the amusement park and Southface River projects are complete, I should be partly considered as a host as well.”

The group exchanged glances, then burst out into laughter.

“Learn from your father,” Jasper told Henry.

Henry pouted and said, “It’s impossible for me to learn how to speak courteously like these cunning foxes.”

While they were speaking, the official from the provincial government chuckled and said to Jasper, “This must be the young talent from Southeast Province. This is our first time meeting, right?”

Jasper behaved respectfully but without any hint of inferiority toward the high-ranking official. He grinned and spoke to him in a tone that was neither humble nor arrogant.

“This is your first time meeting me, Sir. However, I’ve often seen you on television. Also, the province is burgeoning with talent. I’m young, but I won’t say that I’m talented. I simply managed to get things done at the right time.”

The provincial official was stunned. He laughed out loud and told the municipal official, “Look at how slick he is with his words. My son is about the same age as Mr. Laine, but they’re on completely different levels.

“Nauritus City has produced a real talent!”

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The municipal official had previously dealt with Jasper a few times before this, and Jasper had left a great impression on him. The official chuckled softly.

“Yes, the Nauritus City Government is planning to compile a list of young and promising entrepreneurs; we intend to give them a commendation in order to encourage all the young people within the city to learn from their peers!

“Mr. Laine from JW Capital is on the list. However, he hasn’t been officially notified.”

The provincial official nodded and said, “That’s good to hear. A young man like him deserves to be supported.”

“We shouldn’t just stand here and chat. How about Jasper and I bring all of you to see the Southface River?” Dawson asked them at the perfect timing.

“In that case, Mr. Law, why don’t we take a look together?” The provincial official invited Zachary as he turned to look at him.

“Alright, let’s go and take a good look at the project,” Zachary said with a chuckle.

Not only did the Southface River project mean a lot to Jasper, Dawson, and JW Real Estates, the Nauritus City Government and the Southeast Province City Government also considered it an extremely important project.

JW Real Estates had spent a total amount of 1.8 billion Somer Dollars on the project. With the support of massive funding and Dawson Schuler’s full-time supervision, the project had progressed at an astounding pace!

Amazingly, the construction was completed within ten months.

Usually, the construction of a complex, large-scale project like the Southface River project typically took three to five years. It was common for such projects to encounter a shortage of funds. Occasionally, construction could take as long as ten years.

However, JW Real Estates had outperformed them all.

While Jasper and Dawson brought the group of prominent figures to the Southface River and began introducing the area to them, a young man glared coldly at Jasper’s silhouette from a short distance away.

“Damn f*cker! This jerk does not deserve any of this!”

Zane Lancaster, who had just arrived at the Southeast Province only two days before this, had been greatly shocked within the past forty-eight hours.

He initially thought that Somerland was a poor and undeveloped country, and had expected farms and wooden houses to litter the real estate. He did not even expect there to be a single six-story building in the entire country.

However, once he stepped out of the airport, he was faced with the sight of a bustling city as he traveled along the airport highway.

Although the excessively broad roads and tidy streets looked slightly aged, a vibrant energy surged through them!

None of this could be seen in Harbor City, which was small and cramped.

Harbor City was still much more developed than most cities within Somerland, and was filled with plenty of skyscrapers. The business district was extremely lively and happening as well.

However, anyone could tell that the development of Harbor City was now at a bottleneck, whereas Somerland had only just begun.

There was nothing wrong with this.

What Zane found the most unacceptable was Jasper Laine's prestigious reputation over here!

Almost everyone knew him!

Zane had just been here for two days, but he had heard the people around him shower Jasper with all sorts of praise.

The prince of business?

A young talent?

A business prodigy?

What an over-exaggeration.

They talked about Jasper like he was a deity.

Zane was filled with jealousy.

“F*ck this. Back in Harbor City, I’m always on the newspaper, and I’m also well-known by the public, but what do those newspapers say about me?”

“They either report on my recent purchases, my spending, or the women that I’ve slept with! Those reports make me seem like a useless jerk!”

Mitch Langdon stood beside Zane. His gaze flashed ambiguously as he replied in an even tone, “Aren’t you a useless jerk? Those newspapers are merely telling everyone the truth.”

“Is Jasper Laine any better than I am? Does he have less women around him than I do?” Zane huffed angrily.

“This has nothing to do with women. He’s different from you because he managed to get those women with his own abilities. What about you? Has any woman ever approached you after you left your father?” Mitch asked with a cold sneer.

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“.....”

Zane was rendered speechless. Nevertheless, the jealousy on his face grew much stronger and more obvious.

“Look at how glad Law is. As a young master from Harbor City, he’s truly an embarrassment. He’s so happy being someone else’s follower. He’s acting just like their assistant—he has nothing to be proud of,” Zane huffed in annoyance.

“At least he doesn’t rely on his family’s money and managed to buy himself a private jet. Do you think we have the ability to do so?” Mitch asked him.

Zane turned around to look at Mitch. “You always tell us that they are good, and we’re worthless, Mr. Langdon. Is it really that fun to do so?” He asked Mitch in distaste.

“Do you think that I want to do it?” Mitch sneered and replied, “However, it is the truth. Let’s wait it out for a few more days. Soon, he won’t have the chance to hop around freely like this anymore. What’s wrong with that?”

All of a sudden, Zane seemed to have thought of something. He lowered his voice and asked Mitch, “Mr. Langdon, how is the plan that you previously mentioned going on? If everything goes smoothly, Jasper Laine will be out of luck today, right?”

Mitch cast a wide-eyed glance at Zane and replied to him in a low voice, “This isn’t Harbor City. Jasper Laine may have eyes and ears everywhere, so you’d better be careful with your words. If Jasper hears about any of this, you and I will be in big trouble.”

Zane curled his lips in distaste. “Who does he think he is? Even if he hears about it, what can he do to me?” He said in an irritated tone.

While Zane and Mitch were talking to each other in hushed voices a short distance away, Henry patted Jasper’s arm.

“Look over there. Why are those two fools here?” Henry remarked with a curious expression on his face.

He looked like he had finally found something that piqued his interest and amused him amidst this sea of boredom.

Jasper glanced in the direction that Henry was pointing.

A slight frown formed across his face when he caught sight of Mitch Langdon and Zane Lancaster.

Neither Bob Lancaster nor Kennedy Langdon were his friends.

Although Jasper had sent them invitations out of courtesy, he did not know if they would be attending the event since they did not notify him beforehand.

Mitch and Zane were here at the event instead of Bob and Kennedy. What were they trying to do?

They were here without an invitation. What did that imply?

Hence, Jasper sensed that something odd was going on.

Just as Jasper was thinking about how to handle the situation, Henry walked over to them with a wide grin on his face.

“Don’t cause any trouble.”

Jasper only had time to give him a single reminder.

“I know, I know. It’s your big day today. I won’t cause any trouble,” Henry said, waving his hand nonchalantly. He did not even turn around to look at him.

“The Southface River project has been completed. This is the biggest urban reconstruction plan for our city since it opened up to the world!

“With this project, JW Real Estates broke the national construction time record due to their strong financial power, advanced design concepts, and the support of the municipal and provincial governments!

“The entire construction of the barren South Bank of the Southface River was completed within ten months.”

Meanwhile, Wendy, who was standing next to Jasper, began to give an overview of the Southface River project to the provincial and municipal officials. Naturally, she did not forget to shower them with praise every once in a while.

Jasper turned away from Mitch and Zane after hearing Wendy’s eloquent introduction. Then, he continued socializing with the two officials intently.

On the other hand, Mitch and Zane’s expressions instantly changed when they saw Henry walking over to them with a large grin on his face. Instinctively, they attempted to avoid him by walking away.

“Hey, why are you guys running away after seeing me? Am I that scary?”

Henry called out to the both of them, who had now turned away from him.

Zane and Mitch could not pretend not to have heard him in a situation like that. After all, they were all people of status. If they really did run away from Henry, it would be absolutely humiliating.

“Young Master Law, we didn’t do anything to provoke you,” Zane said in disdain as he looked at Henry.

He could not compare to any of these wealthy men from the four richest families of Harbor City. Although Bob Lancaster was a prominent figure in Harbor City, he was nothing compared to Zachary Law and Kennedy Langdon.

Henry tended to target Zane the most amongst the group of second generation youth, which led to Zane being overcome with frustration whenever he saw Henry.

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“I didn’t say that you did,” Henry replied, stopping in front of him. He wrapped his arm around Zane’s shoulder. “Why’d you even suggest that? Did you provoke me behind my back without my knowledge?” He asked in a cheery tone.

Zane, who was overcome with guilt, glanced at Jasper instinctively. However, he instantly returned to his senses and looked away from Jasper. He tried to pry off Henry’s hand.

“I did not do anything to you, so let’s both mind our own business. Don’t cling to me like that—we’re not that close to each other.”

“Oh.”

Henry patted Zane’s face with a wide smile across his face as he continued to speak, “I haven’t seen you in a few days, but it seems like your temper has improved. Why won’t you let me cling to you? In the past, you didn’t even dare to breathe loudly in front of me. I’ve just left Harbor City for a few days, and now you’re acting up against me.”

While Henry spoke, he cast a brief glance at Mitch Langdon, whose expression was dark and overcast. “Do you think that you can go against me because this guy is here?” He asked.

Zane stared at Mitch, silently pleading him for help.

Mitch could not bear to watch Henry bully Zane in front of him. After all, one still had to check with a dog’s master before hitting a dog.

“That’s enough from you, Law. We’re just here to look around. Why are you coming after us?”

Henry let out an evil snicker. He was acting like a gangster right now. "I didn't ask you why you were here. Why are you in such a hurry to explain things to me? Are you here with an ulterior motive or something?" He asked.

"But, with an idiot like him..."

Henry patted Zane's face again and scoffed. "I'm afraid nothing good will come your way."

Zane's face flushed red in anger. Rage surged through him as he flung off Henry's arm and said angrily, "Henry Law, you're crossing the line!"

Henry scoffed after his arm was thrown away. "Oh, why are you so pissed off today, little mutt? Do you want me to play with you?" He cooed.

Zane huffed in annoyance and said, "Who do you think you are? You're just one of Jasper Laine's followers. Do you think that you're that much better than me? What a f*cking disgrace to Harbor City. How did someone like you get born in Harbor City?"

Mitch's expression changed as soon as Zane finished speaking.

He knew that Henry despised such words the most.

As expected, a vicious rage flashed across Henry's gaze. He stared at Zane emotionlessly.

"Motherf*cker," Henry spat out as he slapped Zane across his face. "Why can't you talk to me properly? Are you asking for a beating?"

Zane shouted out in pain. He held his face with his hand and roared out in anger, "I've had enough of you, Law! Don't f*cking force me to do something that you'll regret!"

“Force you?” Henry sneered. “Even if I force you to die, what can you do to me? Motherf*cker,” he cursed.

“How dare you ask me not to force you to do anything? Do you think that you’re the main villain that everyone fails to defeat in a game? You’re nobody. You’re just a piece of worthless trash, idiot.”

Mitch took in a deep breath and put himself in front of Zane in order to prevent the dimwit from acting rashly.

“Gloat as much as you want, Henry Law. Let’s see how long all of this will last!” Mitch said, trying his best to suppress the burning anger within him.

“Oh? From what you just said, it seems like your devious scheme is yet to be in action.” Henry asked with narrowed eyes.

Mitch sneered and replied, “Those are your own words. I didn’t mention anything about a scheme.”

The commotion caused by Henry and Zane’s argument attracted a lot of attention. Jasper, who was paying some attention to them from a distance away, frowned slightly. Hence, he excused himself from the officials that he was talking to and headed over to the group.

As he made his way over, he coincidentally overheard what Mitch had said.

“Are the both of you here to celebrate the completion of the Southface River project?” Jasper asked with a smile.

Zane glared at Jasper and huffed in irritation. “I’m afraid that you’ve overthinking our actions,” he replied.

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“Oh? It seems like you aren’t here to celebrate then.”

Jasper turned around and called out, “Julian.”

“I’m here!”

Julian made his way toward Jasper.

“Kick these two people off the venue. They weren’t invited.”

As soon as Jasper finished giving his orders, Zane yelled out in a fit of rage.
“Jasper Laine, what are you doing?!”

Mitch had an extremely unpleasant expression etched across his face as well.

He did not expect Jasper to act in such an arrogant manner and kick both of them out after exchanging just a few sentences with them.

If he and Zane were to get kicked out of the event like a wounded dog in front of everyone, it would be beyond humiliating for them. They would be too ashamed to even return to Harbor City.

“This is a topping-off ceremony. I had personally invited everyone present to celebrate the completion of the Southface River project. Since both of you aren’t here to celebrate, why should I let you stay?” Jasper asked them calmly.

The corner of Zane’s mouth twitched; What Jasper said made sense. Thus, he glanced at Mitch instinctively.

There was a dark expression on Mitch's face. He sneered coldly and said, "There's no need to use your tricks on me, Jasper Laine. Didn't you send out invitations to both our families? We're here to attend the ceremony, but you're kicking us out instead. If news about this breaks out, who will seem to be the one at fault here?"

Jasper raised his brow and said, "You're mistaken. I sent out invitations to your fathers, Mr. Bob Lancaster and Mr. Kennedy Langdon. I intended to invite both of them, but neither of your are on the guest list."

Mitch and Zane's expressions changed. They had both seen Jasper's invitation. As he had said, their names had not been on the invitations. The invitation did not invite Bob and Kennedy to bring their respective family members along either.

Mitch's face flushed red in anger as he let out a disgruntled huff and said, "Since we're not welcome here, we'll leave."

"If you're here to celebrate the completion of the project, you're definitely welcome."

Jasper's words caused Mitch and Zane, who were both walking away crestfallenly, to freeze in their tracks.

"Regardless of your original purpose behind coming here, there's no need to leave in such a hurry now. Stick around to greet some guests with me."

Zane laughed derisively after listening to what Jasper had said. "Are you crazy? What do you take us for? Do you think that we're your followers like Henry Law? Why should we follow you while you greet your guests? Do you think that you're that important?" He questioned.

"In any case, I've already told you what I wanted to say. It's alright if you don't wish to come along," Jasper said. He then led Julian toward the entrance of the building.

Zane stared at Jasper's silhouette suspiciously. "Mr. Langdon, what is he playing at?"

Mitch shook his head slowly and said, "I'm not sure. Let's see what's going on."

Henry sneered as he glanced at the two of them. Based on his understanding of Jasper, he knew that there had to be some kind of trap awaiting them.

Jasper had just walked back to the entrance when a few luxurious cars arrived and came to a stop in front of the entrance.

Initially, the arrival of these few cars did not attract anyone's attention. After all, apart from the reporters, everyone attending the event was of a noble and wealthy background. The event was packed with people, and there were plenty of rich and reputable bosses amongst the guests.

No matter how wealthy they were, could they compare with the Laws?

No matter how much authority they possessed, could they compare with the official from the provincial government?

Therefore, those who noticed the cars simply disregarded it after sparing it a brief glance.

However, everyone's hearts began to race once they caught sight of the person that stepped out of the car.

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Kennedy, of Harbor City's Langdon family.

Kayden, of Harbor City's Langdon family.

Bob Lancaster, one of Harbor City's bigshots.

While Bob did not hold a candle to the four richest families in Harbor City, the man's wealth and status were definitely that of an elite in venues where the four main families were not present.

No one had expected Jasper to be able to invite three of Harbor City's richest families for his topping-out ceremony.

The reporters felt lightheaded and were moments away from going crazy. They were all too excited and could barely contain the urge to step forward and interview the newly-arrived guest, but the stern-looking bodyguards in black suits were very effective in deterring them.

Both Zane and Mitch were stunned when they saw their fathers.

They had not expected their fathers, who had remained impartial all this while, to suddenly rush over for this.

Even so, they dared not hesitate and quickly went to greet them.

"You've done well, Jasper." Kayden smiled at him after observing the surroundings.

Jasper shook Kayden's hands and smiled. "Quite a bit of hard work and ideas were pitched during the designing process back then, and we've taken inspiration from quite a few of Harbor City's design concepts in order to have Southface River look the way it does today. I could bring you around for a tour later."

Kayden nodded. "Sure, I've got to get a good look at it. If I could, I was hoping to buy a few businesses here, and wait for its value to rise."

"You're very welcome to do so."

Jasper then turned to extend his hand toward Kennedy. "Thank you for coming, Mr. Kennedy."

Kennedy chuckled and shook Jasper's hand while replying, "Not bad, it looks much better than I imagined. It seems like we elders need to learn more from youths like you, or we'll only get left behind and forgotten."

Jasper smiled. "Your experience and knowledge is something we youths can only dream of having. We're still young and there are many places where we'll need guidance from elders like you."

Kennedy shook Jasper's hand and turned to smile at Bob as he spoke, "See? I told you Jasper's the best wordsmith amongst all the youth in Harbor City. The way he speaks makes you feel good, doesn't it?"

Bob smiled humorlessly and replied, "That's not right. Jasper isn't from Harbor City, he doesn't count as one of Harbor City's youths."

"Harbor City's part of Somerland now, it means the same thing," Jasper replied calmly.

Scoffing, Bob spoke rather emotionlessly, "Don't think that you can butter me up with your honeyed words. I've got miles more experience than you; have you no shame trying to show off?"

Just then, Zane and Mitch rushed over as well.

“Dad.”

The two greeted their respective fathers.

“What are you two doing here?” Bob frowned at his son and asked solemnly.

“I, I...”

Zane stammered and kept glancing at Mitch.

Mitch frowned. He could not help but think that Zane was an utterly stupid motherf*cker.

“We came over to the Mainland to scout the market, but we couldn’t find anything worth investing in. We were passing by the Southeast Province when he heard the news, so we came over to take a look as well.”

Mitch’s excuse was completely unconvincing.

However, in an event as grand as this one, no one truly cared whether your reason to attend was believable or not. As long as you had a reason, that was good enough.

Kennedy glanced at his son and turned to Jasper. “Jasper, the Boyle family wanted me to help extend their apologies. He’s on a business trip right now and his children are preoccupied with their previous arrangements, so he could not come this time.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly at Kennedy’s words.

He had sent the Boyle family their invitation alongside the Law family.

Despite this, the Boyle family had yet to inform them whether or not they would be attending.

Logically speaking, guests tended to inform the host if they could not attend the event due to specific reasons, or if they could attend, what time they would arrive.

It was unusual for someone else to pass the message.

Zachary had unintentionally mentioned to Jasper before that the Boyle family was the most fickle out of the four richest families. The man followed went wherever there were benefits to be found, which was also why the Boyle family had the most shallow roots compared to the other three richest families.

If he could not afford to offend anyone, then he would just steer clear of the event altogether.

Jasper's relationship with the Boyle family was rather amicable thanks to the Law family. They had worked together a couple of times and their cooperation was always all mutually beneficial.

In any case, Jasper had personally invited the four richest families for this event.

The Law family's attendance was a given, but even Kennedy, who was not on good terms with Jasper had come as well. Yet, the Boyle family was nowhere to be seen.

Kennedy was the one who brought word of this as well.

Not to mention, his message was rather intriguing.

Chuckling, Kennedy spoke, "Why, do you not believe me?"

Jasper smiled and replied, “Why would Mr. Kennedy lie to me? If Mr. Boyle can’t come, then we could always meet again in the future. Shall we go inside? Uncle Law and the officials from the Provincial and City Government are already inside.”

“Sure, let’s.” Kennedy smiled meaningfully as he followed Bob and Kayden, who were smiling silently the entire time, inside.

Zane glared at Jasper, who was walking away alongside the other bigshots, and spoke enviously, “What the f*ck. We’re around the same age. Hell, that b*stard’s even two years younger than me! Who gave him the right to be on equal footing as my dad’s generation?”

“How the f*ck did you consider that equal footing?” Mitch glared at Zane and said irritably.

“Who does he think he is? He’s nothing more than an entertainer for the important guests here, okay? He’s nothing more than a clown in my dad’s eyes.

“Don’t worry, he’ll be nothing more than a stray dog on the street very soon,” Mitch murmured as he stared at Jasper’s retreating figure in disgust.

A content smile hung at the corner of both Mitch and Zane’s lips as they imagined Jasper’s despondent look in the future.

...

Now that all the bigshots had arrived, the ceremony could officially begin.

With so many impressive guests in attendance, Jasper and Dawson had a quick discussion and decided to change the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the last minute.

Ribbon-cutting was the most important part of the topping-out ceremony. The person in charge of cutting, as well as the placement of the guests were very important details.

“You can rearrange them then. Oh, and remember not to add me into the mix. I’ll just watch the ceremony.”

Dawson patted Jasper’s shoulder as he walked into the crowd and spoke with a smile.

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Jasper was momentarily stunned before he quickly spoke, “What? No way, you worked even harder than I did for the project. How can you not be here for the ribbon-cutting ceremony?”

Dawson pointed at the representatives of Harbor City’s richest families as well as the officials from the Provincial and City Government, then said with a smile, “You’re more suited for this kind of event than I am.”

Seeing how Jasper was about to protest, Dawson spoke meaningfully, “I’m growing old, Jasper, but you’re still young. The stage will be yours in the future, and you’re meant to reach further heights than I have!

“That’s why I’m going to help you as much as possible while I still can. I’m an old man about to retire, what’s the point in me joining this kind of event?”

“I have no intention of growing the Schuler Group anymore, it’s enough for me to have managed to obtain the majority market share of the supermarket industry. This is already way past what I ever imagined achieving, but I don’t have the energy to manage nor to fight in business anymore.

“However, it’s different for you. You need this event, so let the Southface River project become a halo over your head. This halo will help you find your footing among those people quicker and easier!

“So go!”

When he heard Dawson’s moving speech, Jasper stopped protesting and nodded solemnly.

He knew that Dawson was letting him take all the glory.

If both of them went up there, then the world would remember that this project that had shaken the entire country had been completed by two people.

However, if Jasper went up there himself, then Jasper would become the mastermind while Dawson would merely be the man that worked in the shadows.

The world was cruel in that it doomed its people with a horrible memory. Thus, people would only remember the first to achieve something, but never the second.

Dawson was too well aware of such a concept, so he decided that he would let Jasper enjoy all the glory.

Jasper then officially rearranged the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Zachary stood on the left with the Provincial official on the right. Following that was Jasper and Kennedy, who were located behind the former two individuals.

Kayden had declined the invitation to cut the ribbon, which was in line with the Langdon family’s low-profile style.

Jasper had also asked Bob out of respect if he wanted to join, but Bob had merely glanced at the position at the back of the stage before rejecting him darkly.

Under countless camera flashes from the reporters and the enthusiastic voice of the prettiest female host in the television station, the bigshots stepped onto the stage together.

Everyone, including celebrities, reporters, staff, and guests invited to the topping-out ceremony, all looked up at the decadent stage.

Everyone understood that only powerful people and those with extremely distinguished statuses could step up onto the stage.

Most of the people there were destined to never be able to step onto that stage.

Suddenly, the guest in attendance realized something strange.

Among the bigshots, Kennedy was considered one of the younger ones. This was despite the fact that the man was in his forties, and was almost halfway to his fifties.

Next was Zachary who was forty-nine.

The Provincial official was the oldest, at the age of fifty-two.

Even so, he was considered young for someone who held the position he did.

However, when they came to the topic of youth, everyone's gaze fell on Jasper.

This man, that stood behind Zachary and had stunned countless people in one year as he shot up to become one of Southeast Province's richest men, was unexpectedly young.

Everyone then realized that Jasper had achieved far too much.

To the point that everyone seemed to have forgotten that he was just a young man.

Only then did everyone remember that Jasper was only turning twenty-three that year!

Such a young man should not have been able to achieve such success and recognition, yet reality had proven them wrong right before their very eyes.

Wendy stared at Jasper excitedly among the crowd, happier for him than she would have been if she herself were standing on that stage.

Dawson sat beside her, finally taking a break after an entire day of work. He lit a cigarette and looked at Jasper happily, before turning to his daughter and asking, "Wendy, do you know why I agreed to the two of you being together?"

"Because he's outstanding, I guess."

Wendy did not even turn around as her eyes remained glued on Jasper. It was as if this man had become the center of her world right now.

Dawson chuckled at Wendy's reply and asked, "Outstanding? There are plenty outstanding people in this world and, and while Jasper certainly take them pound-for-pound, the reason why I admire him is not the same reason why I support your relationship.

"The former is an opinion I have on him as his senior, in that I hope that the business world will shine even brighter in the future. However, the latter is a consideration I have as a father. I have very different thoughts when looking at the same man but from a different perspective."

Wendy continued to stare at Jasper as she asked mindlessly, "So what's the reason then?"

“Because this young man remembers which woman means the most to him no matter the time or place.”

Wendy’s expression changed when she heard this, and she turned to look at her dad guiltily.

“What’s with that guilty expression? You’re not the one having external flings, he is,” Dawson spoke exasperatedly.

There was no hope for this daughter of his anymore. She was completely devoted to Jasper now, and even in times like this, her first thought was to defend Jasper in case Dawson were to reprimand him.

“Zachary’s daughter is called Anna, right?” Dawson asked calmly.

Wendy cleared her throat and said with a forced calmness, “I think so? We’re not too close.”

“Forget it, then. I don’t want to intrude into the relationship of you youngsters. I’ve thought about it, and considering his wealth and status at such a young age, I’d prefer that he finds someone with class to act as your competitor, rather than arbitrarily have relations with shady women in the future.”

“Dad! What are you talking about?!” Wendy was rather unhappy.

‘What do you mean have relations with shady women? Jasp is not that kind of person!’

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“Do you think I’m blind? Your dad is a man, I’ve been through this and I know it better than you do.

“There’s nothing wrong with men having flings outside, as the worst thing would actually be the inability to attract flings. Jasper at least has the capital and qualifications to do so.”

“But you are my daughter so I’ve hesitated for a long time over this. I don’t want you to end up suffering from this relationship in the future.

“I’ve watched him for a while, and I can say that Jasper still knows his limits. He knows that you’re the most important one and I can be certain that no matter how much JW Capital grows, no other woman will be able to tamper with its core!

“You’re the only exception in all of this. Didn’t you realize that he gave you have one of the main powers at the very beginning, and has slowly shifted the resources and authority over internal affairs over to you?”

Wendy was stunned for a moment before responding dumbfoundedly, “No? All I know is that I do my work every day. It is true that I’m getting busier though.”

“Silly girl, had it not been for Jasper, you’d be helping whoever scammed you now!” Dawson said in disappointment.

“Look at all those heads of the families onstage. Tell me who among them doesn’t have at least a few secret wives?

“Jasper’s only just started, but considering his growth and speed of development, it won’t be long before a whole new Laine family makes a name for itself. With an enterprise as huge as JW Capital and its subsidiaries, no one could possibly ignore its existence.

“While Jasper will spend the first twenty years trying to grow his enterprise, he’ll be spending the next twenty on how to continue the business and ensure that someone inherits it after him.

“You two will have children, and with children comes the issue of inheritance. Fights for authority and control will arise the moment the family grows bigger.

“These are all problems that you two will have to worry about in the future, but it’s obvious now that Jasper’s already made his choice. When it comes to his official wife, he chose you.”

Wendy waved him off and spoke nonchalantly, “You think too much, Dad!

“Jasp told me that he doesn’t like the family business idea, nor does he plan to hand his business to his children unless they’re outstanding enough and have won his approval. Otherwise, he’d much prefer the western model with plenty of professional managers, whereby he can spread out the authority and managerial rights... basically it’s not what you think.”

“Silly girl.” Dawson shook his head.

He was about to say something else when he was interrupted by the celebratory pop of confetti. He looked up to see Jasper, standing at the center of everyone’s gaze with a mature and confident smile. The man oozed an indescribable charm.

Dawson suddenly smiled and muttered to himself, “Perhaps. Maybe he trusts you with this because you’re so innocent and pure that you’ve never thought of such things.”

Meanwhile, among the crowd stood two pairs of eyes that reddened with envy as they glared at Jasper.

“What the f*ck! Why! Why!” Zane held his heart gnaw maddeningly as if there were seven to eight crabs trampling over it with their pointy feet. It itched and it hurt, but as a whole, he felt sour.

“What the f*ck does he think he is? He’s just a country bumpkin, a dog from the farms! How dare he walk all the way up there while all I can do is stand here and watch?”

Mitch’s gaze was stormy and his slightly shaking balled fist betrayed the unease within him.

Just then, Jasper's gaze swept over the crowd. It fell on Mitch and Zane for a short moment before he averted his gaze.

Zane could barely hold back their anger when they spotted this.

"What the f*ck was that look from that son of a b*tch? Is he looking down on us?"

"Or is he mocking uh, huh? Is he mocking us because we can only stand down here and watch him show off onstage?"

Mitch harrumphed and spoke sinisterly, "What's he even being so proud for? So what if he is up there? He's still standing behind someone isn't he? Does he think that he can somehow stand on equal footing with my dad and the rest now?"

"F*cking naive! He's just a piece of trash that's joining in on the fun."

Right after Mitch said this, the ribbon-cutting ceremony was about to begin. Suddenly, Zachary turned around to speak to Jasper.

Under everyone's surprised gaze, they watched as Zachary swapped places with Jasper as the latter tried to refuse him.

"Motherf*cker! What the hell does this mean?!" Zane was in disbelief.

'Jasper was standing in front of Zachary?

'What did that mean?

'The Head of Harbor City's richest family, the Law family, was acting as Jasper's second?!

'Has the world gone mad?'

“You’re the host today, Jasper. You should be the one to stand here,” Zachary told Jasper.

There was no way Jasper would let Zachary stand behind him, so he immediately declined, “No way, Uncle Law. You’ve helped me so much all this while. Moreover, because of your experience and everything else, there’s just no way I can stand in front of you.”

Zachary smiled widely and spoke, “This is where you’re wrong. Standing behind someone doesn’t indicate anything except who the guest and the host are. Now, this is something we can’t afford to mess up.

“Listen to me! Come on, stand here!”

With that, Zachary pulled Jasper to stand in front of him while he moved to occupy Jasper’s previous position.

This turn of events had stunned everyone offstage, and even Kennedy’s face darkened as he stood beside the Provincial official.

‘What is Zachary doing? Is he forcefully dragging Jasper up and letting him step over him?’

Kenney felt the urge to turn and leave, but he held back only because it would make him look back.

He thought back to the conversation his father and Rogers from Quantum Funds had with him and forced himself to accept the current situation. He continued to wear a smile on his face, but his gaze was frighteningly sinister.

“Here, Mr. Laine. Let’s cut the ribbon.”

On the other hand, the [rovincial official did not seem to care too much about this and invited Jasper gleefully.

Jasper turned around and took a pair of golden scissors from the tray held up by the hands of the province's number one female television host—hands that countless men in Southeast Province had dreamed about, and lifted it with the provincial official. He said with a smile, "Let's cut the ribbon then."

The long red ribbon was then cut in three places, in one spot by Jasper and the man from the provincial government, as well as Zachary and Kennedy, who each held a pair of scissors of their own.

The moment the ribbon was cut, countless fireworks shot into the air, lighting up the night sky over the Southface River. Half of Nauritius City's city folk looked up to see the blindingly bright firework show.

It was a sensational sight.

Life at the Top Chapter 876

Fireworks shot into the sky once the ribbon was cut. The night lit up, and everyone applauded in celebration.

Jasper was in a great mood.

After all, the Southface River project was the first big project he had completed since he had arrived at Nauritus City.

As that moment, with the exception of the skyscraper in Waterhoof City, the Southface River project was the biggest, most expensive, and most effective real estate project in the province.

Jasper was very pleased now that all his hard work had borne fruit, and everything had ended well.

Walking off the stage, Jasper bumped into Lance, who had an elated expression on his face.

“How’s the situation today, Lance?”

As the new General Manager of the real estate company after Sean was promoted, Lance was only in charge of one thing today, and that was to sign contracts with clients who showed interest in shop or building lots in the Southface River project.

“It went very well, Mr. Laine! We’ve signed around 500 million worth of contracts today, with 300 million worth of contracts of intent that we’ll be able to solidify after following up on them later. 70% of the properties in the project have already been rented out as well.

“Things were especially busy when it came to the few promotional living districts we completed. The sales were downright terrifying today, and someone managed to buy almost all of them. The houses in those districts have already been sold out.”

Jasper nodded in satisfaction and replied, “Not bad. We’ll be able to sell them all at this pace.”

“Remember, we can sell residential properties, but when it comes to shops and commercial buildings, those can only be leased out. If you don’t know how to handle some of them, then turn to Sean, alright?”

Lance nodded. “Alright, Mr. Laine. I actually came to look for you because I wanted to report something else as well, something that I don’t think Mr. Tucker will be able to handle himself.”

“What is it?”

Jasper brought Lance backstage. Jasper made small talk with people on the way there as everyone greeted him, regardless of whether they knew him or not. Jasper replied to every single one of these individuals with a smile and a nod.

“Mr. Kayden’s assistant came to me with the intention of buying the three commercial buildings on the left of the Southface River Tower, beside the river.”

“These three buildings are high-quality and represent the primary assets in this project. They’re also the most valuable pieces of property after the tower itself. However, Mr. Kayden asked for them, and I didn’t dare make a decision, so I came to ask you instead, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper smiled and replied, “And here I was worried about what was wrong. If he wants it, then sell it to him!”

“But remember to give him a run for his money. The Langdon family is very rich, and the father-son duo are rumored to be able to buy out half of Harbor City. After all, that’s why they’re called Half-the-Harbor Langdons.”

“The fact that he wants to buy into the Southface River projects means that he’s acknowledged the value of the property. There’s no reason for us to keep all the benefits to ourselves—it’s only fair that we share. Having said that, it doesn’t mean we can’t wring his wallet a little.

“Price is no obstacle for people like him when it comes to something they’re interested in, understand?”

After hearing Jasper say this, Lance nodded in enlightenment and chuckled, “You’re so smart, Mr. Laine. I know what to do now.”

“Stop your flattery.”

Jasper chided with a smile. Seeing Ted, the man in charge of Easy Media, jog over, he continued, “Alright then, go ahead.”

After Lance left. Ted stopped before Jasper with a large smile on his face. “So, Mr. Laine, how’s the Gala tonight?”

Jasper nodded. “Not bad.”

Seeing Ted’s prideful expression, Jasper had no choice but to rain on his parade, “The fireworks show was a rip-off of Advent Entertainment Group’s idea during the Olympic Banquet in Swallow Capital. Can’t you guys come up with something new?”

Ted smiled awkwardly and spoke, “We were short on time and we didn’t have that many good ideas...”

“So, why did you seek me out? I still have a bunch of other people to entertain. Tell me quickly so I can deal with it now,” Jasper said this as he entered a small room and took off his suit jacket in exchange for a looser top.

Ted went straight to the point and replied, “Mr. Laine, do you still remember the woman who goes by the name Scarlet Yates?”

Life at the Top Chapter 877

Jasper thought back to the pretty actress he had met when he first took over Michael’s Gladness Movies before it became Advent Entertainment Group.

‘She’s looking for me through Ted?’

‘Does she want fame?’

‘More resources?’

These were nothing new in the entertainment industry.

Jasper furrowed his brows as this was not good news.

“I do.” Jasper nodded.

Ted was a smart man, and from the slight change in Jasper’s face, he could tell that Jasper was unhappy about this. Ted’s eyes shifted as he silently regretted agreeing to help Scarlet and began thinking about how best to frame the issue.

“Just tell me, what is it?” Jasper looked at Ted and sighed.

Ted smiled wryly and replied, “It’s just that Scarlet came to look for me because she wanted to introduce a friend to you, Mr. Laine. It’s the talented Stephen Cole. You’ve heard of him right, Mr. Laine?”

‘Stephen Cole?’

It was rare for people not to recognize this top-notch master of comedy.

At the height of his career, it was said that every citizen owed that man a movie ticket since they were all pirating it online instead of watching it in cinemas.

Jasper liked Stephen Cole’s movies as well, but he could not fanboy over celebrities considering his current status. Not to mention, he was well aware that celebrities were often completely different on and off-screen.

Stephen Cole, for example, was a hilarious man in his movies, yet he was a stern and unsmiling man in private.

‘Don’t believe me?’

‘Yet that was the truth.’

‘In any case, what is Scarlet trying to do by introducing Stephen Cole to me?’

“I’ve heard of him. Bring him over quickly if she wants to introduce him, then. I have around fifteen minutes.” Jasper gave it some thought and decided that he would give this master of comedy some of his time.

After all, he had watched quite a few of Stephen Cole’s movies in both his past and present life, and, to put it kindly, he had never done watched him in a cinema.

Not to mention, this man was sort of like Jasper’s idol in his past life, and Jasper was curious about him.

There was no harm in meeting the man.

Ted joyfully acknowledged Jasper's agreement and quickly jogged out.

In no time at all, Ted managed to find Scarlet and Stephen, who were waiting anxiously in another room.

"How'd it go, Mr. Swanson?"

Scarlet asked excitedly as Ted entered through the door.

While she had seen Jasper before, Scarlet knew that her seemingly high status, countless fans, and plethora of suitors, were nothing as compared to Jasper, who was stood at the peak of the business world.

Celebrities were nothing more than playthings for bigshots like him.

Therefore, Scarlet was not confident about meeting him for the first time.

Despite this, Ted chuckled and replied, "Don't worry, there's nothing I can't do once I give you my word. Mr. Laine's agreed to meet you two, but he's busy and can only spare fifteen minutes. So come with me quickly."

Life at the Top Chapter 878

Ted spoke to Scarlet as he walked ahead, "Don't forget what you promised me either. Please introduce my artists to others in the industry so they can advance their careers."

"Of course, Mr. Swanson. Don't worry, I'll definitely do so," Scarlet whispered.

She turned to look at Stephen, who seemed rather nervous, and comforted him, “Mr. Laine agreed to meet us, which means we’re already halfway there. Don’t worry too much about it.”

Stephen forced a smile and replied, “Yeah, I hope so. Thank you.”

“We’re friends, aren’t we?” Scarlet smiled brightly.

Stephen felt his heart skip a beat at Scarlet’s beautiful smile.

There had been countless people surrounding him, calling him Steph and buddy, back when he was famous. Yet, they had all run away now that he needed help. The only one willing to forgo her image to help him was Scarlet, who he did not even talk to much.

This was a favor he would never forget.

Shortly after, Ted brought the two before Jasper.

“Mr. Laine,” Scarlet greeted cautiously.

“Hello, Mr. Laine,” Stephen greeted as well.

“Hi.” Jasper smiled and nodded. His gaze fell on Stephen first. It was a rather interesting feeling to see someone he was so familiar with in films appear before him in real life whilst acting so courteous.

In all honesty, this did wonders for his ego.

“Well, you can probably already tell that I’m a bit busy today. I don’t have much time—maybe around fifteen minutes? So let’s talk as we walk and try to be as concise as possible. Is that okay?” Jasper suggested.

Scarlet looked at Stephen.

Stephen hastily replied, "Of course, Mr. Laine. We won't waste your time."

Jasper walked toward the door as Ted quickly ran over to open the door for him like an attendant. This was hardly befitting of the president of the largest entertainment company in half of the Mainlands, but he seemed rather happy and proud to do it.

Jasper walked out first, with Scarlet following half a step behind. Stephen stood on his right as they walked.

"It's like this, Mr. Laine. I wanted to meet you, and Scar helped because I was hoping that you could invest in my company, Mr. Laine."

Stephen's first sentence told Jasper a lot.

Scar.

Invest.

Jasper remembered how some rumors surrounding Stephen and Scar had surfaced back when the two had filmed *A Somer Odyssey* in his past life. Jasper was still a normal civilian then, so he did not know whether the rumors were true, nor did he have any understanding of the lives of such high-class celebrities.

Jasper also remembered that Stephen had opened his own film company in the year 2000. However, while the films involving Stephen himself made plenty of money, the company as a whole ended up making terrible losses the first two years.

Unfortunately, there was no way a film company could survive from the revenue of just one person.

Thus, Stephen found himself in a very troublesome financial crisis back then.

This was further worsened by the fact that Stephen did not have many friends in the entertainment industry, which placed him in a difficult position. This had also been one of the reasons why Stephen had become more withdrawn.

However, after a few more years of financial difficulty, Stephen's film company began to find its footing again after the release of blockbusters like *Monastery Soccer* and *JC7*. While these films did not make immense profits, they still brought in quite a bit of revenue.

"I heard that you recently opened a film company, but it's not going very well for you," Jasper spoke.

Stephen nodded and admitted curtly, "You're right. The company is barely making ends meet."

"I've produced a few films, but they all ended up losing money. I couldn't even earn back a tenth of what making the films cost me, and I'm surviving purely on my own savings. I even got a loan from the bank with my home as collateral, but I don't know how long that'll last me."

"Why didn't you ask other entertainment companies in Harbor City to invest in yours? Why run all the way here to ask me?" Jasper asked with a smile.

As they spoke, the group of people made their way out the room and to the backstage area. More than half the people present were celebrities changing their attire before they got on stage to perform. In a space like that, one would bump shoulders with a celebrity or manager and every turn.

All the celebrities recognized Jasper as he walked over, and they all wanted to approach him.

Life at the Top Chapter 879

Some were celebrities from Harbor City, and their expressions turned curious when they saw Jasper and Stephen talking.

The entire Harbor City entertainment industry knew of Stephen's situation, but no one had expected him to ask Jasper for help.

"Frankly speaking, I've sought them out before. Most of them just rejected me on the spot in hopes that I would star in their films instead. But I want to make my own films," Stephen spoke sincerely.

"How much do you want?" Jasper asked.

"Huh?"

The question caught Stephen off guard and he was stunned speechless. He looked at Jasper in confusion.

Jasper repeated himself, "You wanted my investment, did you not? How much?"

"I... I'll need at least 10 million US Dollars, but I can give you half of my company's shares in return," Stephen mustered the courage to speak.

"Deal."

That single word shocked both Scarlet and Ted, let alone Stephen.

'Is this how rich people acted nowadays?

'They'll drop 10 million US Dollars the way ordinary people spend 1 buck?'

“Let’s do it this way. Ted, you’ll be in charge of this transaction. Easy Media will pay the money and the shares will fall under Easy Media.

“Stephen’s company will be Easy Media’s first foothold in Harbor City’s film industry to test the waters. However, keep the priority on the Mainland’s film industry. After all, the Mainland’s the bigger market—Harbor City’s is too small.” Jasper turned to Ted.

“Alright, Mr. Laine,” Ted quickly nodded.

He knew that Jasper was giving him a chance.

“Alright, then you’ll be in contact with Ted from now on,” Jasper shook Stephen’s hand and said with a smile.

“Thank you, Mr. Laine. But I have to ask Mr. Laine, aren’t you going to review my company first? What if I’m... scamming you?” Stephen asked unable to hide the curiosity bubbling within him.

He had not hoped to get anything out of a fifteen-minute talk, much less expect a deal to be completed in less than five minutes.

All that had transpired was a quick conversation with Stephen answering a handful of Jasper’s question. Yet, that was all it took to receive a 10 million US Dollar investment. Stephen wondered if this was reality or if he was merely dreaming.

“You wouldn’t.” Jasper smiled meaningfully.

“Nor do you dare.”

Stephen understood. ‘Indeed, who didn’t know about Jasper in Harbor City?’

‘So what if Jasper was a Mainlander? No one in Harbor City dared to claim that they could afford offending Jasper.

‘One would first have to look toward the Law family name and determine if they were strong enough to overpower them.’

‘Even the entertainment industry that is very discriminative to Mainlanders has no choice but to accept the new reality in Jasper entering the industry and taking a large portion of the market share. In a world like this, what can small fries like us even hope to achieve?’

“Alright, I’ll have to get going now. Please enjoy yourselves,” Jasper spoke.

He turned and coincidentally came face to face with a few celebrities from Harbor City, including A-line superstars like Superstars Kong and Lynch.

“Hello, Mr. Laine.”

Superstars stood on both sides of the aisle as they greeted him politely.

“Hello,” Jasper returned the greeting with a smile.

“Now that’s how a successful man looks,” Scarlet murmured as she stared at Jasper’s glowing figure.

“Yeah. How can an ordinary person compare with that?” Stephen smiled wryly.

Life at the Top Chapter 880

Scarlet felt rather disappointed, for she thought that Jasper would speak to her more. She had not expected that their interaction to be limited to a brief greeting

at the very start, as the man seemed to have forgotten her existence altogether just a moment later.

“Oh, right.” Jasper suddenly turned around after walking quite a distance away.

“There’s another gala tonight. Scarlet, would you be interested in coming with me as my plus one?”

When he said this, the large group of superstars and A-line celebrities all looked at Scarlet enviously.

There was indeed a ceremonial banquet happening that night, and only top-notch bigshots like the Law family would be attending. This was the type of banquet that the celebrities could only dream of joining.

While some famous celebrities had already received an invitation, it was very different going by themselves, and going as Jasper’s companion.

A few specific female celebrities set their sights on Scarlet, their gazes boring a hole into her.

“Yes, of course!”

Scarlet was temporarily stunned, feeling as if she had just won the lottery, but replied ecstatically.

“Alright, I’ll have someone pick you up later, then.” Jasper smiled and left coolly.

After he left, all the celebrities, famous and not, came over to them. A small portion of them wanted to know what Stephen and Jasper had been talking about, while the majority stepped forward to make friends with Scarlet.

This was the charm of power and wealth.

Scarlet felt her mind blur as celebrities much more famous than her who would never have previously given her the time of day now surrounded her. One single thought surfaced in her mind.

'It must be nice being rich and powerful.'

...

Thanks to the press, the already-famous project now became a household name. Following that, the ceremonial banquet involving most of Harbor City's and the Mainland's rich and famous only further spread the name of the Southface River.

More than half of the South were now aware of this place known as the Southface River.

They also came to know of a company that went by the name JW Real Estates.

Under the gaze of countless pairs of eyes, the topping-out ceremony finally came to an end.

More than sixteen television stations had come to cover it, and both Nauritus Television and Southeast Television had live-streamed the entire event. Twenty-three newspaper representatives had also come to the scene to get some questions in during the Q&A session.

Thus, a series of powerful publicity was in place to roll out that night as they planned to spread the news all over the country.

This was a decision Jasper had made with Dawson.

If JW Real Estates wanted to make a name for itself throughout the nation in the shortest possible time, then it had to have a signature project. The Southface River project was their only choice.

The Southface River project managed to meet two key criteria at once, in that it was a good fit for the country's current economical climate, and was also the type of development that modern society currently desired. Thus, it met those needs at precisely the right time and place.

Jasper had to use this project to publicize JW Real Estates, for the next opportunity would be the topping-out ceremony for the skyscraper in Waterhoof City. This would take at least another year.

Jasper could not afford to wait, as the real estate industry was beginning to develop and he did not have much time.

Wendy and Dawson were exhausted, for the two had essentially been ensuring that the ceremony ran smoothly the entire time.

Jasper, on the other hand, had been lazy as he spoke to Zachary for a few hours and then chatted a bit when the senior officials from the city and provincial government had arrived.

After the ceremony was complete, the banquet began. The father-daughter duo was exhausted so they decided to head back first, no longer bothering to entertain the guests.

Jasper was now left to host the entire event by himself.

The banquet was held in the newly constructed hotel in the Southface River Center. It had a huge banquet hall, and could easily fit hundreds of people.

With Jasper's individual attention, the banquet turned out to be extremely classy.

They got the most experienced servers from Nauritus City's largest five-star Hilton Hotel while even the team of chefs was the best that the Southeast Province had to offer.

Expenses for this alone had cost Jasper at least seven figures.

Life at the Top Chapter 881

Money poured out like a steady stream of water. Even so, Jasper had never been frugal when it came to events like these.

If morning was said to be the time for financial and daily reports to shine, then nighttime events were heaven on earth for entertainment news reporters.

There were celebrities everywhere. Three out of Harbor City's four richest families led the way, accompanied by many important and powerful people from the Southeast Province's and its surroundings. Furthermore, eight bigshots out of the dozen or so state-owned real estate enterprises within the country were also present.

Superstars were aplenty as well. Beautiful ladies, all of Harbor City's four main Superstars, and multiple Miss Harbor City's fighting over who got to appear first. The gala had gathered almost all of Harbor City's and the Mainland's top-notch celebrities.

A simple thank you banquet had now turned into an extremely classy gala.

Female stars were dolled up and looking beautiful as they walked the red carpet into the hotel.

Reporters could take a photo at random here and they would probably have a shot of rich sons with beautiful celebrities or models in tow. An abundance of people who tended to be the center of scandalous rumors were present, and the reporters grinned so wide that their smiles stretched from ear to ear.

Wendy did not like such events, and the past two days had indeed tired her out, so she opted to stay home that day.

However, Jasper felt that it would be rather embarrassing to appear alone in such situations, so he asked Scarlet to join him.

This action alone did not mean much, but then rumors started to circulate about Jasper waiting for Scarlet to arrive by the entrance.

Goddess Scarlet Seemingly Dating the New Billionaire Jasper Laine!

Scarlet Blooms into a Smile with the Youngest Billionaire by Her Side!

Harbor City's Goddess Stolen by Mainland Billionaire!

Similar headlines instantly began to appear in the reporters' minds.

Just as Scarlet reached out to take Jasper's arm, the dark night lit up like the afternoon sun with camera flashes.

The group of reporters no longer held back as they rushed over to interview them, but a group of bodyguards quickly held them back.

Jasper ignored them as he ushered Scarlet into the hotel.

"There's a lot of people," Scarlet commented with her arm looped around Jasper's.

"I didn't know celebrities feared crowds," Jasper spoke with a smile.

"But these aren't normal people," Scarlet replied.

"How are they not normal? All of them have a head resting on their shoulders. There's nothing special about them."

Scarlet pursed her lips and smiled, her gaze sparkling with a certain allure as she turned to Jasper. "You're the most special one out of them all."

Jasper turned to look at Scarlet and chuckled, "You know, I'm sort of a fan of your films."

"Oh?" Scarlet looked at Jasper in shock, then she pouted, "Isn't this the line that rich playboys use to deceive female celebrities?"

"I've watched A Somer Odyssey at least ten times," Jasper exclaimed softly.

He was technically speaking the truth, but he had watched it during his past life.

No one could stay back from Purple Fairy.

"Tell me just one of my lines and I'll believe you." Scarlet realized that Jasper was a down-to-earth person that did not seem to keep his nose in the air, so she mustered up the courage to joke with him.

"Do you see that man? He looks like a dog," Jasper softly recited a classic line from Scarlet's film.

Coincidentally, at that moment, Zane had turned around and spotted Scarlet, so he and was running over in surprise when Jasper said this. Hence, he happened to hear the quote as well.

"Who the f*ck are you calling a dog?!" Zane roared.

Jasper turned to look at Zane and frowned. "I never realized that there were people so proud to be called a dog that they'd run all the way over to accept the title."

When he said this, Scarlet could not hold back and immediately burst into a melodic laugh, causing her body to shudder slightly.

Life at the Top Chapter 882

Zane felt his dignity crumble when he saw how happy Scarlet was while laughing.

He had always liked Scarlet.

He liked her differently from how he liked the other female celebrities that he had by now tired of fooling around with.

Those female stars were willing to sleep with anyone for the sake of a bit of money and status.

Scarlet was not like that.

Scarlet was the kind who would rather die than let anyone force themselves onto her.

Such purity and will were extremely rare in such a day and age.

Despite this, Scarlet was precisely that.

Zane had been trying all sorts of tactics to get close to her, but he was never given the chance.

Now that he finally had the chance to see Scarlet tonight, he was just about to seize the opportunity to get close to her when he suddenly earned himself the title of a dog.

Not to mention, Scarlet had watched the scene unfurl. This was not something Zane could accept.

“What did you say, you country bumpkin!” Zane grit his teeth.

Already harboring a deep hatred for Jasper, this incident only added to the resentment. Now that Mitch was not here to hold him back, Zane was about to lose his mind.

“Ridiculous.”

Jasper pulled Scarlet away after coldly commenting on Zane’s behavior.

He was the host tonight, and he could not lower himself by causing a commotion with Zane. This would only make Jasper look bad in front of everyone.

“Wait!”

Zane called out to stop them.

He stared at Scarlet’s hand that was wrapped around Jasper’s with envy and resentment. Zane’s anger skyrocketed as he could acutely see how Jasper’s arm would subtly brush past Scarlet’s chest while he walked.

“Scarlet is mine! You better watch yourself!” Zane spoke coldly.

“Does she look like some property you can own?” Jasper asked.

Zane scoffed and replied, “Stop acting like you’re some f*cking sh*t. She’s just a woman! I’ll get whoever I want, property or not!”

“See? This is the difference between us.”

Jasper shook his head disappointedly. ‘Zane’s got to be one of the most moronic trust-fund children around.

‘Scarlet’s paled expression clearly shows what she thinks of his statement.

'Yet, he's trying to flirt with girls like that?

'What woman's going to love him if not for the power and money his family provides?

'Truly father like son.'

As he brought Scarlet away, Jasper asked, "Do you know him?"

Scarlet seemed terrified that Jasper would misunderstand, so she quickly replied, "It's not like that, he just won't leave me alone."

Jasper nodded and spoke calmly, "I'll put in a word to the group later. Try to angle your work toward the Mainland in the future. People like him will do just about anything to get what they want."

Scarlet asked softly, "Won't that be too much trouble?"

"Trouble? All I have to do is say a single word," Jasper replied with a smile.

"Don't worry about losing out. Harbor City's entertainment industry might be more developed than the Mainland's right now, but the Mainland is the future. All of Harbor City's celebrities will come over to start competing for stardom when that happens, so it'll be good for you if you come now and make a name for yourself."

"Okay, I'll listen to you then," Scarlet replied gently.

Jasper's brow twitched slightly. 'Did she misunderstand?'

Jasper was thinking about how to explain himself when Henry suddenly walked over with a bounce in his steps.

“Good, I’ve finally found you. My dad wants you to come over, the main table’s waiting for you. You better get there, you host, before I become a f*cking microphone,” Henry spoke in irritation.

“Alright, I’m going. Help me watch over her; don’t let Zane harass her,” Jasper told Henry.

Life at the Top Chapter 883

Henry glanced at Scarlet and chuckled. “Yo, if it isn’t Scarlet.”

“Hello, Mr. Law,” Scarlet greeted softly, slightly afraid in the face of Harbor City’s most formidable Young Master.

“I didn’t know you liked such soft and gentle women. Then why would you fancy someone as terrifying as my younger sister?” Henry grinned at Jasper evilly.

“Cut the nonsense,” Jasper glared at Henry.

Bidding Scarlet goodbye, Jasper made a beeline for the main table.

Scarlet watched Jasper walk toward the main table that was filled with extremely distinguished people and sighed. ‘I’ll never be qualified to stand there, will I?’

“Stop looking there. Where’s that stupid f*cker? Where’s Zane?” Henry’s voice jolted Scarlet out of her thoughts.

“Ah, he was there just now.” Scarlet pointed in the general direction behind her. “Are you going over?”

“Your boss asked me to take care of you and not let that f*cker harass you, no?”

Henry grinned evilly.

“The best way to protect someone is to get rid of their enemies first.”

Henry then happily went over to screw with Zane.

Unfortunately, Henry was doomed for disappointment.

This was because Bob had gotten to Zane first.

“Did you start something with Jasper again just now?” Bob asked angrily.

Zane replied irritably, “Motherf*cker. That country bumpkin stole my woman! I’m going to kill him!”

Slap!

Bob smacked Zane across the face in front of everyone.

“Dad! What the hell, why are you hitting me?!” Zane shouted as he cupped his cheek.

“F*cking Hell, you’d have gone and gotten yourself killed if I didn’t slap you!”

Bob growled and glanced at the main table where Jasper and Kennedy were engaged in a very happy conversation at that moment. The two did not look like enemies at all.

“Look at Jasper. He and your Uncle Kennedy want nothing more than to rip each other apart, yet here they are talking happily like friends when they meet. Look at you, f*cking useless! How’d I even give birth to something like you?”

“Look around and think about who the host tonight is before you act!”

Bob glared at Zane one more time before he continued angrily, “I have to go over there as well, so do not cause any more trouble for me! Otherwise, I’ll have you return to Harbor City immediately, and teach you a lesson when I get back!”

Zane cupped his cheek as he watched his father leave. At that moment, Jasper was currently raising his glass to toast everyone, causing Zane's eyes to drip with resentment at the sight.

"Stop looking, he won't die no matter how much you glare at him."

Mitch's voice was suddenly heard beside Zane.

Startled, Zane turned to look at Mitch and asked, "Where've you been? I almost died from an anger-derived heart attack!"

"What's there to be angry about?" Mitch sneered.

"I went to contact one of the spies I hid here. There's no way we can screw Jasper over in this kind of event."

"How'd the talk go?" Zane asked in surprise.

Zane was willing to die early if it meant that he could get rid of Jasper.

As they stood in the crowd, Mitch glared at Jasper darkly before turning to Zane, who had a similar expression on his face. "Let's not talk about this now. Come on, we're leaving!"

"Where are we going?" Zane asked.

"F*cker, we're going to look for the person that can get rid of Jasper! I won't let him step all over me! I'll let anyone do it, anybody but him!" Mitch seethed.

Zane's eyes shone in excitement. "Nice! Let's go now, then!"

The two figures vanished into the crowd while Julian, who had already received Jasper's cue long ago, secretly weaved through the crowd and followed them.

Life at the Top Chapter 884

After toasting the main table and giving them his thanks, Jasper realized that Julian had vanished, which meant that the latter had gone to work.

With a small smile, Jasper took the napkin Scarlet handed him to wipe his mouth. Then, he said, "Let's go, I still have twenty to thirty tables to toast and thank. How's your alcohol tolerance, by the way? Do you want to come with me?"

"It's not too bad," Scarlet replied softly, sneaking a glance at Jasper's expression. It was as if she was worried that Jasper would get upset upon finding out that she drank.

It was evident that Scarlet was overthinking as, instead of being upset, Jasper replied with satisfaction, "Great. Let's drink a bit and hold them off."

"..."

Half of Scarlet's gentlemanly image of Jasper immediately shattered when she heard the words 'hold them off'.

However, the man's kind and caring reputation still held firm in her mind.

The banquet lasted for at least another two hours.

Despite calling it a gala, it was essentially an event for the upper class to socialize.

Everyone seemed to understand the modus operandi as they chatted aimlessly with each other. Everyone was friends regardless of whether they were acquainted or not, almost like how men who sat at the same table in bars became sworn brothers.

Julian only rushed back when the gala was about to end. He whispered in Jasper's ear for a bit as the latter nodded before he continued to send the guests off.

It was only right that Jasper sent people like Kayden and Kennedy off in person.

After watching them get into their cars and driving away, Jasper said calmly, "Go dig a little further and find out whose villa they went to. We might find something. Who knows?"

Julian nodded understandingly.

"Let's go, Jasper." Zachary arrived a little late. His complexion was flushed, and the man seemed to have drunk a bit too much, but he was in a great mood.

Jasper definitely had to send Zachary back to the hotel himself.

"You don't need to come with me, Jul, I'll leave by myself later. Send Scarlet back to her hotel then go back and rest," Jasper instructed Julian.

Julian glanced at Scarlet, then nodded and turned to start the car.

"Go back first, see you next time," Jasper told Scarlet.

Despite her reluctance, Scarlet nodded obediently and bid him farewell, "Alright. I'll get going then."

Scarlet did not forget to bid Zachary, the extremely distinguished figure, goodbye as well.

"I'll be leaving, Mr. Law."

"Hmm."

Zachary nodded faintly.

While the tone was indifferent, Scarlet still let out a sigh of relief.

She knew that no celebrity in harbor City's entertainment industry could illicit such a response from Zachary.

For those celebrities did not even have the right to greet Zachary.

After Scarlet left, Jasper got into the car with Zachary and Henry.

"Uncle Law, what's the situation with the Boyle family?"

Now that they were finally alone, Jasper immediately asked about the situation with the Boyle family.

"What do you think?"

Zachary scoffed. "The Boyle family got into big trouble with some business over in Southeast Terra, and Kennedy just so happened to be able to help. The two families have been contacting each other very frequently lately."

Jasper nodded and chuckled. "Looks like the two families have reached an agreement."

"Ignore him. Boyle won't be able to cause any major issues," Zachary stated domineeringly.

Life at the Top Chapter 885

“Now that I think about it, you’ve done very well on the Southface River project. If possible, I think we can work together to spread it across the country.”

Zachary had been very excited throughout the drive since he had witnessed first-hand the overall effect of the Southface River project’s topping-out ceremony. Thus, he had been thinking about expanding the domestic real estate market alongside Jasper.

“It’s a great idea, Uncle Law, but it won’t be easy to execute,” Jasper smiled wryly.

While the Southface River project was completed quickly, and its effects were almost immediate, this was partly due to the fact that they were the first to accomplish such a feat. Coupled with the fact that the Southeast Province was Jasper and Dawson’s Territory, and that they had the support of the officials, the overall project was not very challenging.

It would be a different story to take on such a huge project in a foreign city. Merely coming to agreements with the official departments would be a major headache.

After all, every city has its own set of interests, and if you wanted to make money there, paying the toll was unavoidable.

Zachary naturally understood what Jasper was saying, and he smiled meaningfully, “That’s okay. Business isn’t always smooth-sailing everywhere we go.”

The car pulled up at the hotel lobby as the two spoke, and Henry was about to slip out of the car secretly when Zachary grabbed ahold of him and frowned. "Where are you going?"

"I... I'm not staying here."

"Don't worry. I checked Uncle Law into a suite, there are multiple rooms." Jasper smiled with crescent-eyes as he helped Zachary attack Henry.

"Perfect. You're coming with me tonight. There's something I need to talk to you about," Zachary spoke sternly.

"Come on, Dad, I'm not a child anymore, what's there to talk about? Moreover, I've got a room of my own on the other side of town. It'll be a waste of money if I stay here with you." Henry was in despair.

"So now you want to be frugal? I don't need you to be frugal with this sum of money. I'd buy ten hotels and it'd still be worth it if you're willing to turn your personality around and actually focus on business instead of playing all day.

"Cut the nonsense and come with me."

Jasper chuckled as Zachary dragged a wailing Henry away. He was about to ask Julian to send him back when he received a call from Celine.

"Where are you?"

Celine's voice was drawled out as usual and laced with the magnetism and charm that other women could never imitate.

"Hotel. I'm about to go back though," Jasper replied.

"Hotel? Yo, I've never heard a man tell a woman that they've just stepped out of a hotel, let alone so unashamedly," Celine teased.

“Enough, why are you calling so late at night? Did something happen?” Jasper asked.

“Don’t go back, come straight to mine.”

Jasper furrowed his brows slightly, “It’s late. Is something wrong?”

“As much as I want to tease you a little more, we’re a little short on time right now. So to prevent you from scolding me, I’ll get straight to the point. They’re going to make a move tonight.”

Jasper’s brows froze mid-furrow and he replied grimly, “I’m on my way.”

...

Celine sat in the hotel room, curled lazily over the sofa. Her laptop was on her knees and there was a glass of red wine in her left hand. On her right was a pile of snacks.

This was the scene that Jasper was met with when he hastily rushed over.

Jasper almost suspected this woman was watching a movie on her laptop instead.

Or how could she look so at ease?

Jasper had already contacted Jake on the way over, but Jake could not detect any abnormalities. Instead, he claimed that the other party was still fighting them for shares as per usual.

Coupled with Celine’s laid-back posture, Jasper immediately began to doubt her statement.

“You’re going to be in very big trouble if you tricked me into coming over,” Jasper said.

Celine harrumphed softly and pushed the laptop onto the coffee table as she spoke, “Take a look for yourself, then.”

Life at the Top Chapter 886

Jasper walked over to the coffee table. Without caring for much else, he squatted down and began to look at the Nasdaq market index that indicated that it was currently trading hours.

With Jasper active in the market and fighting for shares, Sena's share prices had already reached 240 US Dollars over the past two days.

This was an extremely high share price—one that had greatly exceeded Sena's estimated value.

Therefore, Sena's share price was now overvalued and now had a market surplus.

Many of the United States' financial media were reporting this, and some organizations had already classified Sena as a highly risky share. This had made it unaffordable for many investors.

Jasper looked at the date and realized that while Sena shares had undergone more transactions today, things were still not quite right.

After all, with investors losing trust in Sena, it was only a matter of time before the market corrected itself and got rid of the surplus of over-valued shares. That was why many investors would choose to sell the Sena shares they held.

A majority of these shares would then fall in Jasper and the other party's hands, while some fearless retail investors would also claim a small percentage of them.

"I've asked one of my subordinates, but he said he didn't detect anything abnormal. How'd you conclude that they'd attack tonight?" Jasper looked up and asked.

The only thing Jasper saw when he looked up was a pair of long slender legs in black stocking, placed casually before his eyes.

A soft couch, a plush carpet, long legs, and a beautiful woman.

This was a view that could easily excite a man.

Yet, Jasper was in no mood for that.

Celine harrumphed softly at how Jasper's gaze only lingered on her legs for a moment.

Lying on the sofa with a fair wrist supporting her temple, Celine replied as she laid sideways, "You guys are just looking at the surface. Go expand the two other sites that I opened."

Jasper did as instructed and clicked on the two websites.

These two websites belonged to New York's famous financial news platform.

The articles were dated yesterday and today.

Unsurprisingly, the articles were filled with warnings to investors that Sena's share prices were severely overvalued and extremely risky. It also persuaded investors to invest wisely.

One might have even suspected the portal of lying if they had merely compared the contents of the articles to the market board.

The articles warned that Sena's share prices were severely overvalued and consisted mainly surplus shares. Despite this, people were still making money from trading it every minute as the price continued to rise.

It seemed like the more they warned, the more Sena's share prices increased.

Jasper's clicks between the websites and market index sped up, and soon his expression became extremely solemn.

"No, you're right. Something's going to happen soon," Jasper suddenly stated.

Seeing Jasper react in this way, Celine smiled in satisfaction and replied, "There we go. I'm inclined to believe that those articles were released by this secret rival of yours.

"He's trying to brew tension in the market and lower the investor's psychological defense as much as he can," Jasper continued after Celine.

"At the most important moment, he'll sell everything, and Sena's share prices will resemble a tidal wave against the shore. Upon reaching its highest point, there will only one outcome—and that's to come crashing down."

Life at the Top Chapter 887

Celine clapped her hands together and spoke, "When that happens, the investors will lose all hope and Sena's share price will be done for."

At that moment, Jasper pulled out the trendline over the past two months since Sena went public on the Nasdaq.

"I was the one who pushed Sena's share prices when it first went public, but I estimated that it should be worth around 150 US Dollars. Normal share prices should be around 100 US Dollars, or even 80 US Dollars if the market isn't doing so well. Exceeding 130 US Dollars meant that the share was already greatly overvalued.

"Even so, I had predicted the pullback from this to occur around one to two weeks after Sena went public.

"Despite this, the pullback didn't happen as I predicted. Instead, the prices kept climbing. Sena's stock still hasn't shown any signs of a pullback yet and is still climbing."

Jasper let out a long sigh and spoke, "It's my fault for neglecting it. I should've done something to pull the share prices back down before this."

"It's not your fault. All I can say is that Western traders love Sena too much," Celine consoled.

"I know what these capitalists are thinking. They entered the market while Sena was the most profitable stock out there, and the share prices kept rising. They could only continue to profit if the price continued to rise.

“The main issue is that people are still affected by the popping of the dot-com bubble, and there are only so many companies listed on the market. Sena’s existence aligns perfectly with their interests, so they subconsciously tried to raise Sena’s share price.

“This is an immense force, and there was no way you could fight against an entire army of capitalists. You’d instantly lose—not to mention that an increase in Sena’s share price would benefit you the most.”

Jasper spoke grimly, “They, on the other hand, only care about profits. Thus, they won’t hesitate to drop Sena once the risks outweigh their benefits. Especially now, after they’ve already earned enough... Yet, I have to be the one to clean up after them.

“That’s why all your opponent has to do now is light the fuse, and Sena’s stock will immediately come crashing down,” Celine spoke.

At this moment, as Jasper waited for his opponent to sell out all his shares, he received a call.

The sound of the phone ringing almost seemed more rushed and panicked than usual.

Jasper did not hesitate to accept the call.

Jasper was surprised to find that it was a call from across the ocean.

It was a surprising call from Winston.

“It must be midnight over in Somerland, Laine. I hope my call didn’t disturb your sleep,” Winston’s gentle voice sounded over the phone.

Jasper immediately dismissed his frustrations and smiled, “Mr. Bennett. I haven’t gotten to bed yet. Is something wrong?”

Realizing that Winston Bennett was calling Jasper, Celine then wrapped her arms around Jasper's neck curiously to place her ear next to Jasper's phone. Without any concern for how they currently looked, she eavesdropped on the call.

"Basically."

Winston fell silent for a moment to think about how to start before he slowly spoke.

"You know that I've bought quite a few of Sena's shares, correct? I've been very satisfied with its movement all this while, to the point where I'm starting to feel nervous about this satisfaction.

"I've told you before that to us investors, profit isn't all we desire and aim for. In a way, we even become afraid of huge profits as they tend to hide the looming danger behind them."

Jasper's heart sank bottom as he heard Winston say this, and he replied calmly, "I agree, Mr. Bennett. You're telling me that Sena's share prices have begun to make you feel uneasy, correct?"

"Do you think that there's a risk behind Sena's extremely high share price?"

Life at the Top Chapter 888

“Haha,” Winston chuckled and spoke, “While we are friends, I still have to be responsible for my funds.

“I can tell that there’s something wrong with Sena’s share price—it’s almost as if you’re fighting an invisible opponent. But your conflict has caused the share’s risk to increase several fold, so I have to make a decision.”

Jasper replied sincerely, “I understand what you mean. I am immensely grateful for the fact that you’re calling to inform me first before you make your move.”

“We’re friends, after all,” Winston’s voice sounded from the other end of the line. “Benett Funds will make an official statement tomorrow. This is the most I can do for you. I hope you make the necessary preparations.”

As she listened to the conversation between the two, Celine could not help but feel surprised by how great Winston’s and Jasper’s friendship was. Yet, at the same time, she felt that it was a shame how Winston prioritized his identity of a businessman. He had a clear distinguishment between his business and private life; People like him would never risk their own interests due to personal relationships.

If he did this, the man would not be the stock god people regarded so highly.

Nor would so many people trust him and be willing to place their money into his funds.

Just as Celine felt like Jasper was caught between a rock and a hard place, the man arched his brow and spoke to Winston, “How about we make a trade, Mr. Benett?”

“Oh? What trade? I’d love to work with you.”

“There’s no need to publish a statement, nor do you have to wait until tomorrow. I can purchase all of Sena’s shares that you currently hold.

“To be frank with you, someone is trying to cause Sena’s share price to crash. But the market has its own defense mechanisms, and while Sena’s share prices will definitely drop, someone will also come bargain hunting once it reaches a certain price.

“There’ll be many people like that. Some people will make huge losses while others might make a hefty profit. A sizeable profit can only be made through high-risk trades like these.

“And the last thing this world lacks is someone willing to risk their lives to make a dollar.

“All my opponent can do with what the number of shares he currently holds is light the fuse. He still needs major funds or organizations like yours to recognize that the risk and act accordingly in order to topple Sena. When that happens, the other organizations will surely follow.

“When it comes to investors, you have the best reputation, and also hold the highest percentage of Sena’s shares.

“Your lack of activity will easily increase the confidence of these risk-taking investors. These people will then become my main pillar as I attempt to keep Sena’s share price afloat.

“I can buy all of Sena’s shares that you have on hand right now at the current market price, but my only request is that you only release a statement about this in three days’ time.”

Jasper did not hide his plan and told Winston everything.

This was because Jasper knew that Winston would be able to guess it even if Jasper did not say anything.

As expected, Winston fell silent for a long on the other end of the call.

He seemed to be pondering Jasper's words.

Meanwhile, Jasper was in no rush either, for he believed that Winston would agree.

After all, Winston would only profit from this trade.

Not to mention, beside the zero risk factor in the deal, Jasper would also end up owing Winston immensely if he agreed.

At this moment, Jasper was completely oblivious to the fact that Celine was looking at him as if Jasper were an alien.

Just like how Jasper did not understand how Celine could be so talented and capable when it came to the stock market, Celine also did not understand how Jasper could respond so insanely fast to a crisis and immediately react appropriately.

Any normal person who heard that Winston was about to sell out his shares would have immediately gone mad.

Their first thought might be to beg Winston and plead for him not to sell the shares.

Yet, this was not realistic.

Not to mention, that by doing so, Jasper and Winston's friendship would have ended with that phone call.

However, instead of doing this, Jasper had come up with the best solution in the blink of an eye. The idea resembled a lamp in the dark as it immediately brightened the bleak situation.

“You’re insane!”

Life at the Top Chapter 889

Celine muttered.

“To be honest, Laine, you really manage to surprise me...”

Winston’s voice was heard.

“But I have an idea. How about we sign a VAM for one month? I can lock Sena’s share prices that our fund hold, and we won’t buy nor sell for one month”

“During this month, I’ll follow your plan, but if Sena’s share prices drop below 150 US Dollars, you’ll have to purchase them all at 300 US Dollars.”

Jasper’s brows raised slightly at Winston’s suggestion.

At the end of the day, Winston was a capitalist, so the last thing he would forget about was making money.

Even so, this suggestion was very advantageous to Jasper.

What Jasper lacked the most now was cash, as the money he had liquidated from the stock market had gone to support the daily operations of JW Capital. He had taken half his money out to deal with Sena’s crisis, so he was also slowly running out of money.

He would have had to borrow money from the Law family should Winston agree to sell the shares. However, with this proposal, it seemed like there would be no need to turn to the Law family after all.

This plan would firstly save Jasper money in the short term.

Secondly, Winston has also made the situation easier for Jasper to handle.

The plan implied that for the following month, Jasper would have the Benett Funds' support, while Winston would also refrain from releasing any statements that were disadvantageous to Sena's market position.

This was an extremely rare tranquilizer for investors that used Winston to steer and ease the worries of the masses.

If Winston did not sell his shares, then who could challenge him in claiming that the share was done for?

This was how reputable Winston was in the United States.

This had also dramatically increased Jasper's odds of winning.

Winston had left an escape route for himself as well. Say that Jasper did not manage to control the share prices and Sena's share price ended up crashing, then Jasper would be the one to compensate for any loss Winston had suffered. In fact, Winston was asking for more than just that.

Sena's current share price was at 240 US Dollars, which was probably twice more than it should have been. If the prices fell below 150 US Dollars, then Jasper would have to buyback the shares at the astronomical price of 300 US Dollars each.

If Jasper lost this battle, he would most likely go bankrupt.

Celine looked hesitant at that moment, and she wanted to persuade Jasper to give it up.

There was just too much on the line.

Just as she was thinking about how she was going to talk to Jasper, she heard the man respond firmly, "Alright, I agree."

...

Meanwhile, as Jasper and Winston had this international phone call, Zane was currently rendered speechless by everything he saw in a villa somewhere in Nauritus City.

It was a huge study, one that took up half the area of that floor.

This was nothing much considering Zane's background; he himself had seen his fair share of luxuries and studios littered with the nude bodies of beautiful women.

However, what stunned Zane was the gigantic screen before his eyes, which was currently filled with data from the Nasdaq Exchange.

Conrad passed Zane a cigar and spoke with a crescent-eyed smile, "So, Mr. Lancaster, what do you think? Do you understand our plan?"

Zane pointed at the screen and spoke, "So you're planning to attack Sena's shares on the Nasdaq?"

Conrad and Mitch exchanged a look and chuckled, then he spoke, "That is exactly it."

Life at the Top Chapter 890

“You weren’t present during the mining partnership, Mr. Lancaster, so you might not have been aware of it. However, none of that matters now.

“Our goal is to scam Jasper under the guise of a partnership. If it succeeds, then Bob’s your uncle, but I don’t think this plan is going to work.

“After all, I’m sure you know how crafty Jasper is, Mr. Lancaster.”

Zane sneered at Conrad’s words and replied, “He’s more than just crafty. That man’s downright vile and shameless. How can such a person even exist in this world? He should be the first to die!”

“He’d take this as a compliment if he heard you,” Conrad said with a shrug.

Zane harrumphed and looked at Conrad in displeasure as he spoke, “Stop keeping me in suspense. How’s the plan progressing?”

“Calm down, Jasper has indeed seen through the partnership once before, but we predicted that. This actually benefits us because now Jasper will lower his defenses against us, under the assumption that he’s already seen through our plans.”

Conrad glanced at Mitch and smiled. “The most important part of our plan is what you see before you, Mr. Lancaster.

“He’ll definitely use a lot of funds to retaliate against our first scam attempt, so what I need to do now is control Jasper’s cash flow. That way, when Sena’s under attack, Jasper won’t have any money to defend himself.”

As he said that, Conrad's calm eyes shone with madness, elation, and anticipation.

"Even though our first plan failed, I've planned this next crucial step for over half a month. From my cautious actions in the very beginning, to slowly accumulating enough strength, it will all come to fruition tonight!"

"All my hard work will become the blade that kills Jasper tonight! I'll make him suffer a pain worse than death!"

Zane felt slightly afraid as he looked at Conrad who looked like he had gone mad. Thus, Zane took a step back from Conrad and frowned as he spoke.

"Aren't you underestimating Jasper? What is Sena to him? He's got plenty more businesses under his name."

Conrad chuckled and his expression immediately returned to normal as he replied casually, "You're in too much of a rush, Mr. Lancaster. Jasper's already made quite the name for himself, and he's no longer a sprout that needs to be protected from harm.

"His businesses are rather spread out, and there's quite a few of them too. All of them are distinguished businesses in their own industries, so we have no choice but to take it slow if we want to deal with a person like him.

"The only way to completely get rid of Jasper in one night is to send hitmen to kill him. That's the only way."

Zane sneered and replied, "I really want to f*cking kill him."

"Watch your choice of words, Zane." Mitch took a drag from his cigar. Staring at the market index on the screen before him, Mitch spoke calmly, "Jasper isn't the same nameless nobody anymore. You'll be asking for the wrath of the law if you touch him. Not to mention, the Law family won't let you get away with it."

Zane harrumphed and grumbled indignantly, "It's not like I'm actually going to kill him."

Conrad chuckled as he silently watched the two speak before cutting in, "Instead of causing slight losses to all his companies, why not completely destroy one? If we want to target Jasper, then we should first target Sena, as it is the one with the easiest loopholes to exploit."

"People like him who've only ever felt victory can't survive failure. Therefore, if he starts to fail, then he'll soon run down the path of destruction. That's why tonight will be start of his downfall."

"Haha!"

Zane patted Conrad's shoulder and turned to look at Mitch, "Where'd you find such a convenient and useful dog, Mr. Langdon? Not bad. Maybe you could lend him to be for a bit..."

A sinister and angry look flashed through Conrad's eyes at that moment, but it disappeared almost instantly. He plastered a faint smile in its place, as if nothing had happened.

He looked at Mitch only to see the man reply calmly, "We can talk about other matters after all of this is over."

"Haha, alright then. I'll stay tonight. I'd like to see how Jasper's going to die." Zane laughed aloud.

Conrad chuckled and turned to look at the screen. The man's gaze burned brightly with madness, devouring everything in its path.

...

With the details discussed, Jasper hung up the phone in satisfaction.

Turning around, he saw Celine look at him in displeasure.

“What’s wrong with you?” Jasper asked.

“What do you mean what’s wrong with me? You’re going to end up on the streets if you lose this time,” Celine spoke angrily.

Jasper replied with a smile, “I know.”

“So why did you bet with Winston? He might still be helping you now, but he’s not shouldering any risks at all. He’s pushing all his risks onto you!” Celine exclaimed.

“There’s nothing good in this world that comes without risks. People like Winston are the perfect partners, but not the perfect friend. I understand this, so as far as I’m concerned, this is a very reasonable trade where we both merely take what we need.”

Jasper explained to Celine gently, “It’s called a risk because it’s essentially just chance. If I lose, the risk becomes a genuine danger.

“But if I win?”

“If I win, then everything will belong to me!

“These risks will no longer exist for they will instead be used to tear down my opponent.”

“How? How can you be so confident that you’ll win?” Celine frowned and tilted her head in confusion.

“I have to win!” Jasper looked at Celine and spoke both calmly in a tone rich with certainty.

“I could never afford to lose ever since I first decided to walk down this path. If I lose, I lose everything.

“That’s why this doesn’t seem too different to me as compared to my previous battles. The higher the risk, the higher my possible benefits. We’ve managed to get Winston’s full support without even paying a cent, and it’ll turn out to be a really important factor in winning this battle.”

Celine sighed and swallowed the words she wanted to say. Instead, she spoke grimly, “Fine, do what you want. I’ll just work harder and make more money to support you if this fails.”

“Thanks for providing for me, Boss.”

“Go to hell.”

While the two joked around, Sena’s market data on the forgotten laptop screen suddenly spiked...

An extremely large sales order had appeared!

Life at the Top Chapter 891

A large sales order appeared without warning, which had an effect as though one were splashing a bucket of cold water on a steaming pan.

Sena's shares that were undergoing countless transactions just moments ago suddenly came to an eerie halt.

Everyone began to guess what this order meant.

No one dared to make a move—not the retail investors, day traders, or funds.

Sena's shares seemed to freeze in those few short seconds as there was no activity at all.

After a few seconds of silence, the second and the third large sales order were also thrown out.

In the blink of an eye, a hurricane seemed to have swept through all the buy-orders.

3 consecutive large orders of more than 5000 shares put Sena's market in an uproar.

"It's begun!"

Jasper sat before the computer and stared at the screen as he spoke.

Celine sat down as well and stared at the screen solemnly. She pursed her lips and said nothing.

Her crystal-clear eyes reflected the unending trading information that was continuously updating on the computer screen. It was a waterfall of data.

It was as if a large play was set into motion as the public speculation over the past week finally began to rear its ugly head.

A large number of retail investors scrambled to escape, in fear that they would be trapped inside if moved any slower.

Thanks to the bandwagon effect, the somewhat stable and rising prices immediately plummeted. The other investors could not remain calm either and they began to choose to sell their shares.

“It looks like an avalanche.”

Celine sighed deeply.

“The moment the first chunk of snow on the tip of the mountain fell, all the snow in its path will also join in as they sweep through everything in their path. There’s nothing we can do to stop it.”

Jasper replied expressionlessly, “All we can do now is wait. We’ll wait until the situation stabilizes before we make a move. All we can do now is watch the price fall. Considering its price, not even the richest man in the world can fight against this trend and save it alone.”

“It’s begun.”

Conrad’s sentence in the villa in Nauritius City greatly excited Zane and Mitch. The two stood up and walked toward Conrad as the three stared at the screen.

The screen currently showed Sena’s market index on the Nasdaq.

Conrad swirled the red wine in his glass and smiled slightly.

Valentine stood by the side. After all, he had no right to stand with the other three.

Looking at Conrad, he spoke softly, "Mr. Monty, we've already put three large sell orders out. From the looks of things, we've already met our preliminary goal."

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“Coupled with the recent public speculation, we’ve managed to perfectly ignite the investors’ panic. Any slight slip in Sena’s price will cause them to immediately flee; Considering the trend, Jasper won’t be able to stop this even if he were a God.”

Conrad narrowed his eyes and spoke softly, “There’s no point in him acting now. It doesn’t the market, the strongest people in it are never organizations or large funds, but rather retail investors. These retail investors represent at least 85% of the global share market.

“It’s just that they are too disorganized and cannot be harnessed as a single unit. This is why the retail investors who actually hold the most power are merely seen as small fries when compared to organizations and dealers, and are often used for the organizations’ and dealers’ own benefits.

“However, the moment there comes an opportunity for them to work together, for example, on a share that they collectively agree is over or undervalued, then you only need a few of them to create an immense force that neither hell nor high water can hold back.”

Zane replied in disdain, “I don’t care about these things. It’s too confusing and I don’t understand it either. My only question is, how much longer until you kill Jasper?”

Conrad glanced at Zane with disgust and distaste hidden deep within his eyes. He looked at the latter as if Zane were a lower-class animal that had not yet evolved to have brain.

By the time Zane felt Conrad's gaze and turned around, Conrad was already wearing a polite and small smile on his face. This made Zane feel comfortable and respected.

"Jasper isn't easy to deal with at all. He hasn't made a move since it started, and just like how he can't guess what we're going to do next, we won't be able to predict how he'll react either. What I can promise, though, is that Jasper will definitely make his move soon.

"Now, regarding when we will be able to completely destroy Jasper's Sena will depend entirely when Jasper makes his move. We'll have to make our next move after that. All of these are still unknown variables right now."

Zane scoffed at Conrad's words and spoke in disdain.

"So all that bullsh*t you said just now was a bluff? And here I was marveling at how impressive you were. Turns out that this is all you can do. Don't act so happy before the results come out; I can't believe you made me feel so excited for nothing."

When he heard that, even Valentine's lips twitched as he stood by the side, much less Conrad's.

All Valentine knew was that Zane and Mitch were trust-fund children from Harbor City. He had no idea who exactly these people were, but he was fully impressed by Conrad since he's been working with the latter for some time. This man was pretty much Valentine's idol.

Valentine was about to speak up when he heard how Zane insulted Conrad so brashly.

He had just opened his mouth when Conrad's fierce glare had made him swallow his words.

“You’re right, Mr. Lancaster. I shouldn’t have gotten ahead of myself,” Conrad spoke calmly.

Zane huffed and returned to sit on the sofa. Shaking his leg, Zane said, “It’s so boring just waiting here and doing nothing. Get me a few pretty ladies to pass the time with.”

Conrad sighed internally at Zane’s request...

Zane was truly on a whole new level of moronic.

Even so, he was not in the place to say anything, nor would Zane listen to him. If anything, he might only end up infuriating Zane. Thus, he turned to look at Mitch, the only person in the room who could keep Zane in line.

As expected, Mitch frowned and looked at Zane before he began to reprimand him without holding back, “Are you stupid?”

“Do you not know what we’re doing here? The last thing we need is a new problem to arise, but you want to invite women over? Run back to Harbor City if all you can think about is sex.”

Zane replied in indignation, “Mr. Langdon, we’re all the way in some remote place, so what’s wrong with inviting a few women over? I’ll bring them to the other rooms if it bothers you so much, and I’ll make sure they won’t step foot in here.”

Mitch fumed. “This is Nauritus City, Jasper’s territory. How brainless do you have to be to think that he won’t hear of even the slight movement in his territory, huh?”

Zane waved him off in irritation and replied, “Fine, fine. I was just asking. I won’t go anywhere and I won’t invite any women over. Happy?”

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Mitch scoffed and instantly began to regret ever bringing Zane, a completely useless failure, over.

However, he did not have a better option now, so he could only suppress the irritation he felt as he said, “The most important thing now is to deal with Jasper. Think of how he’s humiliated you before—don’t you want to take revenge? What pastime could possibly compete with the joy of watching Jasper lose everything?”

A cruel look flared up in Zane’s eyes and he replied harshly, “You’re right, Mr. Langdon. I’ll go f*cking vegan and start going to church if it means Jasper’s gotten rid of!”

Mitch only turned back to Conrad now that Zane finally seemed to take the matter seriously. “We’ll follow your plan. All I request is that you hit him quick and sharp. Jasper has to fall this time!”

Conrad glanced at the screen and said confidently, “Don’t worry, Mr. Langdon. I have full confidence that we’ll beat him this time.”

...

“The price is falling too quickly.”

Celine glanced at the laptop screen and frowned in worry.

“Excluding the past few global financial crises, I’ve never seen the share price of such a popular share plummet so quickly. It’s been no more than ten minutes and it’s already approaching the limit down price. According to Nasdaq’s trading rules, you have three options now.

“One, you request for a trading halt. But doing so will severely damage Sena’s credibility and damage investors’ trust. You’ll have to resume trading eventually, and there is a very high chance that the prices will plummet like a landslide when that happens.”

Jasper shook his head and replied, “I can’t choose that option. It’ll solve the issue now, but the consequences aren’t worth it. There’s no point doing that when it’ll give me more problems to deal with in the future.”

“Then the second option will be to watch it hit the limit down price,” Celine continued, knowing fully well what Jasper was considering.

Jasper replied calmly, “That’s no different from the first option.”

Celine’s eyes burned into Jasper as she stared intently and asked, “So you’re choosing option three?”

Jasper let out a light sigh and dialed Jack’s number, muttering, “Do we have any other choice?”

“The enemy’s already launched an attack, we have no other chance but to shift the battlefield to make it advantageous for us to counter.

“We either annihilate them, or we will get annihilated.”

Celine shook her head. “But what if this is what the culprit aimed for from the start? We won’t be able to retreat if we do that!”

“I can’t know for sure whether this is what they intended, but just as how it will cut off all escape for us, they will have no way out too. We don’t know what they’re thinking, so all we can do now is create as many advantages for ourselves as possible.”

With that, the call connected and Jack's voice was heard through Jasper's speakers. Jasper brought the phone to his ear and spoke to Jack, leaving Celine to shake her head speechlessly.

For how gentlemanly this man seemed, the man hid an utterly fierce character underneath. All would be well if people stayed in line, but if one were to offend him, this man would then counter with the most ruthless and bloody attacks. All without hesitation.

"What are your orders, Mr. Laine?"

Jack immediately asked after accepting the call.

Jack was currently seated in Sena's brightly lit conference room, where real-time trading data was being displayed on its big screen.

The plummeting of Sena's share price had the group of senior executives sweating profusely. They were discussing countermeasures maddeningly when Jasper called. Some had suggested applying for a trading halt, while others had suggested watching it play out first and enduring the prices hitting the limit down since it was just a 10% loss at most.

Every suggestion had its fair share of supporters, so there was no consensus.

Jasper's call had quieted everyone as they all stared at Jack. They knew that Jasper was going to make a decision.

"You've seen the situation, haven't you? Any thoughts?" Jasper asked.

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This was a question Jack dreaded the most, but since Jasper had asked it, Jack had no choice but to muster his courage and reply, “Everyone’s still discussing what to do. Some of them support the idea of applying for a trading halt, while some of them favor waiting it out and letting it hit the limit down price first before they make a decision.”

As he looked at the group of subordinates that were staring at him in anticipation, Jack’s heart softened at the fact that these people were hesitant about making a mistake. “Mr. Laine, we don’t actually have any good suggestions...”

“It’s okay, I know what you’re trying to say.”

Jasper interrupted Jack.

While he was irritated at Sena’s senior executives’ impulsiveness and irresponsible attitude toward their work, he could not blame everything on his subordinates or their superior, Jack.

“There’s no need to discuss further, I’ve already made my decision. As Sena’s President, Jack, I need you to immediately apply for us to issue additional shares with the Nasdaq Review Committee.

“JW Capital will immediately transfer 1 billion Somer Dollars to increase the number of shares on the market. This is a major asset restructuring, so for the next three days, Sena’s shares will not have any price limits.”

Jasper’s words had Jack feeling lightheaded.

“Mr... Mr. Laine, there are too many risks in doing that.”

Jasper replied calmly, "I've already considered all the risks. Jack, ever since I first invited you to be a part of JW, every decision I made was risky. But when have I ever lost?"

"Trust me."

Jack fell silent for a moment when he heard Jasper's voice echo through the speakers. Taking a deep breath, he grit his teeth and replied, "I'll get to it immediately, Mr. Laine!"

"I'll have JW Capital release a statement."

After hanging up the phone, around a dozen employees in the conference room, all of whom were financial and business talents in Sena, now blinked at Jack like obedient children waiting for their teacher to hand out their test results.

They had a premonition that Jack was about to give them an earth-shattering piece of news.

After a moment of silence, Jack spoke.

"According to Mr. Laine, Sena's holding company, JW Capital LLC, will transfer us 1 billion Somer Dollars to increase our share issuance.

"We will use the excuse of Sena undergoing a major asset restructuring to request for a review by the Nasdaq Review Committee. During this time, Sena's share price will not be restricted by any price limits."

The conference room fell pin-drop silence after he said that.

Every's eyes widened and they felt their minds ring.

As people who worked in the industry, they immediately realized something from this decision.

'Mr. Laine's planning to fight the mastermind head-on. Whoever loses will have to leave.'

Manly men do not back down.

'Screw with my company's shares and I'll destroy all your escape routes!'

Despite their rationale telling them that big boss Mr. Laine was being very impulsive with the decision, the people in the conference room felt their blood rush with excitement!

Compared to suggestions to surrender and apply for a trading halt or to watch the prices hit the limit down price, Mr. Laine's suggestion was just...

Too manly!

Life at the Top Chapter 895

Just as countless investors and funds began to feel afraid from the large drop in Sena's share price, the Nasdaq Exchange published three official statements in a row.

The first was to inform all investors that Sena's share price was currently undergoing extreme oscillations and were highly risky. Thus, investors were reminded to invest cautiously.

This was essentially an official statement of utter nonsense. It served no purpose other than to remind people of its existence.

The second statement was that Sena had already applied for a special procedure with the Review Committee due to major asset restructuring. As of that moment, the Committee was currently reviewing Sena's application to ensure that it complied with Nasdaq's trading regulations.

When they read this statement, many people let out an unsurprised smile.

Sena had indeed panicked at such a time.

There were only so many outcomes when a public company applies for a major asset restructuring with the exchange center.

There was a ninety percent chance that Sena was making preparations for a trading halt.

After all, when a public company goes through asset restructuring, it was not uncommon for it to experience a trading halt for a few trading days.

This was a reasonable request.

Considering Sena's current situation, everyone could tell that Sena was unable to endure the plummet in share price and had chosen to halt trading to prevent further loss.

The more experienced and skilled traders began to shake their heads at this. They wondered if something was wrong with Sena's decision-makers.

It was evident that investors in the market currently lacked trust in Sena, and this lack of trust was the reason for the drop in share prices. Yet, instead of releasing good news, Sena had decided to avoid the battle. This would only shatter the trust of the remaining investors who still had any faith in Sena.

Applying for a trading halt would only result in even more severe consequences, with more investors losing hope in Sena.

Moreover, a public company could not halt trading forever, and the day Sena resumes trading would be the day Sena's valuation will be completely shattered.

This was a stupid move!

After mocking Sena's decision-makers, these people then clicked on the third official statement.

With a few lines, the third statement had everyone swallowing their words.

It stated that after review from Nasdaq's Review Committee, Somerland's JW Capital Ltd. Co. had invested 1 billion Somer Dollars into Sena as its majority shareholder to increase the issues of shares.

Sena's request for their major asset restructuring situation was proven true, and so, special procedures had been approved.

Sena's share prices would undergo special procedures, effective immediately, and Sena's shares would not be restricted to any pricing limits for the next three days.

This third official statement served as a harsh awakening to the people who had previously made assumptions after reading the second statement.

Instead of applying for a trading halt, Sena had applied to cancel all price limits due to the increase in issues of shares.

‘This means a f*cking huge event is about to occur!’

Analysts and investors did not have time to regret their words as they became all fired up.

Canceling rising and limit down restrictions meant that Sena was initiating battle. This was a matter of life and death!

These were rare battles.

After all, the shifting of price limits usually led to the oscillation of tens of millions in market value. A person’s wealth could either skyrocket or vanish in the blink of an eye, and people were usually never impulsive enough to make such a decision.

Despite this, Sena had shown the world that even if others did not dare to face such a challenge, they would!

Life at the Top Chapter 896

...

“Jasper really is Jasper. He doesn’t disappoint, does he?”

Conrad smiled’s smiled grew more carefree at the sight of the third official statement displayed on the screen.

Mitch’s eyes flickered beside him as he stared at Conrad with a complicated gaze.

He had claimed that Jasper would have Sena apply for a trading halt when he saw the second official statement, but Conrad dismissed this and replied that Jasper would instead fight back guns blazing.

Mitch did not believe Conrad at all, but following the third statement, Mitch could not help but be impressed by Conrad’s in-depth understanding of Jasper.

The smarter Conrad was and the better he understood Jasper, the more relieved Mitch became. Conrad’s knowledge would increase their odds of beating Jasper.

“So, what do we do now?” Mitch looked at Conrad and asked.

Mitch’s tone and attitude were subconsciously much gentler now.

Noticing the change in Mitch’s attitude, Conrad replied calmly, “It’s currently two a.m. Taking into account the time difference, the trading day should be ending over in New York. We’ll have to wait for the market to open tomorrow to do anything.”

When he said that, Conrad's gaze flared with determination and decisiveness. "When that happens, our victory will be announced, and he will perish!"

...

The market immediately reacted to Sena's statement.

The most obvious reaction was that Sena's share price immediately stopped plummeting as it began to pace very closely to the limit down price. While it was very close to the value, the price never hit the limit.

The 1 billion Somer Dollars invested to increase its shares issuance also reignited a bit of hope in the market. Many investors decided that they would watch the situation play out a little longer while some bolder investors decided to buy shares around the lower limit in hopes that it would rise again.

While all sorts of speculation flew about, Jasper got up from the hotel in Nauritus City and got ready to leave.

"There are still fifteen minutes until the end of the trading day, so there won't be much change for now," Jasper exhaled softly and spoke.

"You used 1 billion Somer Dollars to prevent Sena from hitting the lower limit today." Celine was rather aggrieved by Jasper's decision.

"Tomorrow will spell another battle," Jasper added with a smile.

"Sometimes I really wish you'd lose." Celine looked at Jasper and spoke with a subtle smile, "I really want to see how you'd look if you lost."

"How do you think I'll look? I'll still eat and drink to survive; I'll still sleep and wake up. Even if Sena's share prices completely crash, I wouldn't say that it's a substantial loss. There's no way I'd let go of my shares in Sena and cash out.

“Only people who might cash out their shares in return for a large amount of money will be afraid of their company’s share price plummeting.

“As far as I’m concerned, Sena itself is a money-making machine with its own business model. Worse comes to worst, I’ll just pull out of the market and go private.”

Jasper’s tone was very calm as he was speaking the truth.

“Everyone’s overestimating how important Sena is to me. I don’t understand why they think that I can’t afford to see Sena’s share price drop.

“In fact, to a certain extent...

“The lower Sena’s share prices, the more advantageous it is to me. I’ll just privatize it and pull out of the market!

“After all, the main reason why Sena went public in the beginning was to use the market and speedily raise funds to ease JW’s tight cash flow .

“Now that the problem’s dealt with, they still think that Sena’s market on Nasdaq is a weakness they can exploit. People see going public on Nasdaq as the ultimate goal, but that’s never been my target!”

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Celine's eyes widened as she looked at Jasper and said, "Don't tell me you purposefully let the opponent beat Sena's share prices down so you can privatize it. You didn't, did you?"

The more Celine thought about it, the more she convinced she became that Jasper was very much the type to do this sort of thing.

All this while, Jasper had excelled in weaving what other people believed as impossible into the possible.

From Jasper's perspective, this might actually be a good idea.

"What are you talking about?" Jasper sighed.

"If the situation allowed it, I might have done just that. But the problem now is money."

"It would be astronomically expensive to privatize Sena now. While all of JW Capital's subsidiaries have a lot of potential, there's still a limit to how much money they can make right now. JW Capital still has to fund their operations.

"Why would I have Sena go public if not for the fact that I'm broke as hell?"

"How long do you think it's been since then? Where am I supposed to find so much money to try to reprivatize it?"

Jasper shook his head and said, "Privatization is my final plan, and that's only if I don't have any other options left. As far as I'm concerned, a small win or loss doesn't really matter that much to me. However, when I have the option to not lose, then there's no way I'm not grabbing the bull by the horns and winning it all!"

“In any case, it’s time for me to leave.”

Celine was curled up on the sofa as she smiled at Jasper crescent-eyed and said softly, “But it’s so late. Why not just spend the night here?”

Jasper glanced at the woman warily and shook his head, declining her invitation, “No thanks. I’m going home. Why would I stay here with you?”

“What, afraid that your girlfriend’s going to check up on you?” Celine chuckled and provoked Jasper further, “I’m a woman and even I’m not scared of that. Who are you to be afraid of her?”

“Trying to taunt me, are you?” Jasper smiled and grabbed his jacket as he replied, “Too bad it doesn’t work on me. Bye.”

Jasper was about to walk away when a calf hooked around his leg.

Through the stockings, a soft and shiny toe rubbed against Jasper’s thigh as Celine said coquettishly, “But I’ll be if I’m afraid all alone here.

“Don’t tell me that you’ve been asking your secretary to sleep with you all these years,” Jasper said sternly.

“You d*ckwad!” Celine let go of Jasper’s thigh and harrumphed, speaking in an upset tone, “I came to work for you for free and you’re just going to throw me away after you’re done using me? I should’ve known that all men are trash.”

“This is where you’re wrong.” Jasper shook his head.

“The true battle’s only just begun. I haven’t finished using you yet, so I’ll only throw you away later.”

After saying that, Jasper strode out of the room with a loud laugh.

“You b*stard! I’m going to buy the earliest ticket out of here and leave! I hope you lose this round you heartless b*stard!”

Celine threw a pillow at the doors that Jasper had quickly closed behind him. Staring at the closed doors, Celine suddenly chuckled in amusement.

...

The sky was already slightly brightening by the time Jasper got home after essentially burning the midnight oil. Thus, Jasper slept until noon and had only exited his room exhaustedly then.

“What time did you get back last night?”

Wendy took a look at Jasper’s exhausted appearance and immediately had a maid prepare Jasper some food as she asked in concern.

“After five I think.” Jasper sat on the sofa and said slowly, “Something happened to Sena’s share price over at the Nasdaq, but because of the time difference, I most likely won’t be getting a good night’s sleep anytime soon.”

“Is it bad?” Wendy asked as she sat down beside Jasper.

“It’s not a lost cause yet!”

Life at the Top Chapter 898

Jasper smiled and patted Wendy's hand to comfort her and asked, "Did you not go to work?"

"I'm leaving now."

Wendy got up and reminded him, "Remember to get some more rest in the afternoon after you eat then."

"Alright. I won't come into the company, but I'm sure it'll be fine with you and Malcolm there," Jasper said with a smile.

"All you know how to do is to push your responsibilities onto other people! I'm going to need a pay raise by the end of the year!" Wendy demanded.

"Sure, sure, I'll give you my being too. Is that enough for you?"

"As if I'd want that!"

After joking with Jasper, Wendy left for the company.

With JW Capital's subsidiaries gaining traction, Wendy had also gotten busier as one of the major supervisors to the projects. Jasper was rarely at the company, so she had to watch over them for him. These businesses were essentially under her charge.

Malcolm was very capable too, and he had shouldered quite a bit of her responsibilities. This solidified how great of a decision it was for Jasper and Wendy to pay such a high price to get Malcolm to work for them.

Wendy had only just left when Julian entered through the doors.

“Jasper.”

Eyes slightly closed, Jasper felt his energy return with full force when he heard Julian’s voice. Flipping himself around, Jasper asked, “Did you find anything?”

Julian reported seriously, “There are a few leads. With regards to the villa that Mitch and Zane went to yesterday, I did some checking on who the property belonged to and found out that it was bought by a Somer businessman from Nauritus City who returned from overseas four years ago.

“The most interesting part is that this Somer businessman had not returned to Somerland for decades, and the first thing he did once he returned was to buy a villa. Then, he left the country a few weeks after the villa was bought and he’s never been back since.

“As for that villa, he’s never lived in it ever since he bought it. Instead, he stayed in hotels during those two months he spent in the country.”

Jasper replied calmly. “That means he bought it for someone else. Do you know who?”

“According to the property development company, the Somer businessman had bought the villa with a offshore account. The funds were traced back to a foreign trade company under the Monty family,” Julian replied softly.

Jasper chuckled when he heard that. “So it is him. I don’t suppose that it couldn’t have been anyone else.”

“There’s no way Zane and Mitch would come after me in Nauritus City all the way from Harbor City. That would be a suicide mission.

“Therefore, they would have needed someone who’s potentially a threat to me where I currently am. Conrad’s the only one that fits the bill, be it in terms of capability or status.

“Looks like they’ve been working together for a long time now, then.”

Julian asked softly, “Jasper, do you think they could be the culprit behind the drop in Sena’s share price?”

“Unlikely if it was just Conrad, but with Mitch partnering with him and the Langdon family funds backing him up, I can’t say.”

Jasper rubbed his chin and narrowed his eyes as he said, “Only one way to find out then. Let’s test them.”

“How? By going to the villa?” Julian asked confusedly.

At that moment, impatient insults were heard outside the door, followed by Henry’s hasty footsteps. A second later, Young Master Law rushed into the room and roared with reddened eyes.

“All I did was f*cking sleep. How the f*ck did Sena’s share price drop like that? F*cking Hell even my retirement money’s in there!

“What the Hell happened, Jasper?! Who’s f*cking with Sena?

“Tell me, I’ll f*cking kill him!”

Life at the Top Chapter 899

This morning, the first thing Henry did when he awoke was push away the woman by his side and pull out his laptop to check gleefully how much Sena's share prices had risen on Nasdaq.

This was something he had done every day without fail in recent days.

Ever since he had bought his private plane, Henry finally understood what it meant to be painfully broke.

He even requested for the alcohol that he had left unfinished during previous visits whenever he frequented bars, for he was reluctant to open a new bottle. He only had a few million left in his accounts, which caused him to constantly worry. He could not help but feel like he would die due to how broke he was at any second.

In dire need to make money, Henry had an idea when he saw Sena's share price rising every day.

His heart set, Henry decided to put all his money into Sena's shares.

Indeed, the share price had shot up every day.

Soon, Henry had already gained more than 50% of what he had initially invested, and with the new influx of money, Henry's mood brightened greatly.

He felt different from other trust-fund children who only knew how to ask their family for money. He felt like he was somehow better than them now.

He bought a private plane with his own money, and he did not even need to ask his family for allowance. At that point in time, he was completely self-sufficient.

Yet, this new reality had shattered that morning.

Sena's share prices plummeted, and Henry immediately kicked out the woman he had held tightly and called 'baby' the night before. Putting on a set of clothes, Henry rushed over to Jasper's place,

Jasper was amused when he caught sight of Henry's resentful expression. "Since when did you buy Sena's shares? Why didn't you tell me?"

Henry spoke embarrassedly, "It's just a few million, I was a little embarrassed."

"..."

Julian turned his head away silently and held back the urge to hit Henry.

"So, is someone screwing with Sena?"

Henry asked in a rage, not forgetting the reason why he had come.

Jasper was shocked. "Not bad, how'd you find out?"

Henry harrumphed and replied proudly, "How could I not know about your company? The share prices has been rising all this while only to fall so rapidly without warning. What else could it be if someone was not intentionally screwing it over?"

Jasper was rendered speechless.

Henry's mind was straightforward to the point that one could claim that he was simpleminded.

Despite this, such simple thoughts had easily helped him see the truth at first glance.

Anyone with even the slightest knowledge of shares and finance might come up with explanations like pullbacks from a high price, an overestimated market price, or perhaps risk premiums, but they would never propose the idea of malicious activity.

On the other hand, Henry, who knew nothing of the industry, had managed to hit the nail on the head the moment he spoke.

“Stop dilly-dallying. Tell me, who’s the person behind it? I’ll go and kill their entire family right now! They might as well have killed my parents... Holding me back from earning my money. This b*stard wants me to die!” Henry roared.

Jasper gestured Henry to take a seat and said, “Can you calm down? There’s no point in shouting like this.”

“I’ve already found out who it is, but I can’t be certain. So, I’ll need your help today and we’ll go confirm whether or not it’s them.”

Henry’s eyes shone when he heard Jasper’s words. “You’re going to show off... Oh, wait, no. What are you planning this time?”

“Tell me what you need me to, and I’ll comply unconditionally. But just make sure you find the f*cker that’s screwing with Sena’s shares. I’ll f*cking rip his head off.”

Jasper smiled crescent-eyed and said, “Easy. Call Mitch later tonight and invite him and Zane out for dinner.”

Henry, who was still thrumming with excitement, was stunned for a moment as he looked at Jasper doubtfully.

“You suspect them? When it comes to the two f*cking imbeciles, Mitch is still alright, but Zane’s inexistent intelligence means that he can’t earn money even if it’s sitting right in front of him. There’s no way he could do this.”

“It’s not that simple,” Jasper replied, “I’m still not too certain right now, but that’s why we’re going to test them.”

Henry shrugged. “Sure, no problem. I’ve got it.”

“Good.” Jasper nodded in satisfaction.

Watching Henry make the call, Jasper did a quick time-check. According to the time difference, Somerland was around 12 hours ahead of New York, so it would be 9 p.m. in Somerland when the market opened there at 9 a.m.

After confirming this, Jasper called Conrad.

The phone rang for quite a while before it connected.

“How can I help you?” Conrad sounded very calm.

“Nothing much. It’s just that topping-out ceremony for the Southface River project ended yesterday, but I couldn’t help but think that something was missing without celebrating it with you, Mr. Monty.

“That’s why I’ve been planning to invite you to dinner tonight, Mr. Monty. Will you be free?” Jasper asked with a wide smile.

Conrad fell silent for a moment before he spoke calmly, “Stop pretending, Jasper. We’re enemies, not friends. Have fun celebrating yourself, I don’t have the time nor the mood to celebrate with you.”

“Here’s where you’re wrong, Mr. Monty. We’re both from the Southeast Province, so any conflict we have should be kept and dealt with privately. Why not bring everything to the table for us to discuss?”

“If you’re not coming, Mr. Monty, then I could easily look for you at your house and eat there,” Jasper chuckled.

“You’re just being unreasonable, Jasper!” Conrad was enraged.

“I am,” Jasper admitted immediately.

Conrad fell silent for a moment, as if stunned by Jasper’s straightforwardness.

“Oh, there’ll be two young masters from Harbor City present as well. Just take the dinner as a chance to meet new friends. Or perhaps... you’re already acquainted with them, Mr. Monty? You’ve got to agree this time, right?” Jasper smiled.

Conrad’s silence dragged on.

“When and where?” Conrad asked after a long bout of silence.

“Tonight at eight, the First Emperor’s private room at the Imperial Kitchens. I look forward to seeing you then,” Jasper replied.

“Haha, very well then. I’ll be there on time.”

Conrad hung up after saying this. Looking up, he realized that Mitch had also just hung up the phone.

“Jasper just invited me for dinner.”

“Henry just invited me for dinner.”

The two said almost the same thing at the same time.

Conrad’s brows furrowed tightly and he spoke grimly, “Jasper must know something. Or at the very least, he already knows that we’re working together.”

“No way. We’ve hidden it very well,” Mitch could not help but feel that something was off.

Zane shrugged and growled, "Look at how terrified you two are. Jasper's just a man and this is just a dinner. What can he even do to us?"

Life at the Top Chapter 900

“We have to attend this dinner,” Conrad said darkly.

Mitch nodded. He did not dare skip dinner when Henry was personally inviting him.

That night, they left the villa and made their way to the restaurant.

The restaurant was a hidden establishment by the Southface River shore, not too far from the large overbridge built last year that linked the two banks. Lights shone brightly every night, making it a stunning sight.

Serving one of Nauritus City’s best Falc cuisines, the Imperial Kitchen required ordinary folks to place a reservation at least a week in advance in order to dine there.

However, considering Jasper’s status and identity, the man did not need to make a reservation anywhere he went.

The Imperial Kitchen, for example, was considered a very distinguished restaurant. Yet, when Jasper had come here before to host guests, the owner had brought the general manager and the main chef over to greet him. The service was similar to how one would treat a king’s arrival.

Jasper alighted the car and shook the hand of a slightly chubby man by the name of Orson Reese.

“I didn’t expect to disturb you, Mr. Reese. My apologies,” Jasper said with a respectful smile.

Considering Jasper's current identity and status, Orson might be the owner of Imperial Kitchen, but he still had to tend to Jasper's whims.

Orson was rather startled in the face of Jasper's respect. He shook Jasper's hand with both of his and he bowed with a ninety-degree angle as he replied.

"It's an honor that you're willing to eat at the Imperial Kitchen, Mr. Laine. It's only right we come to greet you in person. We've already canceled all other reservations today and cleared the restaurant just to serve you well today, Mr. Laine."

Despite knowing that Orson was only saying this to please him, such treatment had greatly stroked Jasper's ego.

"I'll have to trouble you then, Mr. Reese," Jasper smiled.

"It's no trouble at all. The private room's already been prepared, so please follow me, Mr. Laine."

Thus, Orson courteously led with Jasper and Henry following them behind.

"Why're you so polite to people like this too?"

Henry was angry at everyone today after losing a considerable amount of money. He walked with an expression so dark it deterred people from engaging him in conversation. On that day, Henry only spoke in front of Jasper.

"Small characters are useful in their own ways. It's just a smile and a few polite words for us, yet it leaves a good impression and helps their reputation. It might not seem like much most of the time, but once accumulated, they can greatly benefit you."

Henry looked at Jasper as if he was a monster when he heard him say this.

“Don’t you get tired of living like this? I’m starting to believe even your farts are timed and purposeful at this point. Seriously, I don’t even know how you haven’t f*cked yourself over with how calculative you are.”

Jasper smiled. “You just don’t understand the fun in this. Or rather, you haven’t gotten to the point where you can understand the fun in this yet.”

Henry scoffed. “I hope I never understand. All I’m thinking of right now is how I can get rid of those two f*ckers.”

“Remember what I told you. Don’t act rashly. We don’t have any evidence nor are we completely certain—acting rashly will only make them go further into hiding,” Jasper exhorted.

Henry waved him off irritably and said, “Yeah, yeah, I know. You nag more than my dad does. I’ll just follow your cue, okay?”

At the same time, in a luxury car a short distance away from the Imperial Kitchen.

Zane was sneering in the car as he filed his nails casually. From time to time, he would glance at Mitch and Conrad ,who were discussing what would potentially happen during the dinner.

“Seriously, guys? It’s literally dinner and you’re already this terrified? It’s not like he’s going to eat us alive or something,” Zane commented uncaringly.

Mitch frowned slightly and said, “Watch what you say later you brainless fool. The more you talk, the more mistakes you make.”

Life at the Top Chapter 901

Zane felt displeasure wash over him, but he did not dare to retort.

“One more thing, and you better remember this: no matter what Henry does later, do not act rashly,” Mitch said grimly.

Zane grit his teeth at the name and said, “What? So I’m supposed to take it even if he disrespects me and treats me like sh*t?”

“As if he’s the first person to disrespect and treat you like sh*t. Henry’s been screwing you over every single time he meets you. Are you telling me you’re going to fight him head-on this time?” Mitch sneered.

Zane’s expression darkened, but he knew that Mitch was speaking the truth.

The only reason he dared to argue with Henry was because he had Mitch supporting him. In the past, he would have taken a detour every time he saw Henry.

Even so, this did not mean Zane was willing to put up with such an insult.

“F*cking Hell, I’m going to kill him one day,” Zane spit out venomously.

“Don’t speak so harshly when we get there. It’s likely that Jasper and Henry will try a series of methods to break us, and you’re our biggest weakness here. I’d never have brought you over if not for the fact that Henry specifically asked for you.

“You better remember that if you become the reason why this plan is foiled, forget Henry, I will be the first to rip you a new face!”

Zane clenched his jaw at Mitch's words but he knew that Mitch meant what he said. Hence, Zane harrumphed and replied, "I know."

By the time they finished this conversation, the car arrived in front of the Imperial Kitchen.

As he got out of the car, Zane glanced at the empty entrance and scoffed. "Laine sure is arrogant. He invites us over and he's just leaving us at the door to look for the private room ourselves? What the f*ck, who does he think he is?"

"Enough bullsh*t, let's go," Mitch said impatiently with a grim look on his face as he pushed open the door to step inside.

The doors to the First Emperor private room were pushed open.

Jasper and Henry looked up and met the gazes of Conrad, Mitch, and Zane.

Their gazes locked midair, each with their own intent.

Jasper turned to Conrad and greeted him with a small smile, "Looks like you are indeed a punctual man, Mr. Monty."

Conrad frowned slightly when he saw that Jasper had greeted himself first. He glanced at Mitch instinctively from the corner of his eye and, and, as expected, the man's gaze had already darkened.

Conrad sighed internally when he realized that despite all the reminders he had given during the ride over, Jasper had immediately managed to provoke Mitch the moment they met.

These young masters from Harbor City were truly idiots with untameable tempers.

Despite how Mitch had reminded Zane to be logical, the facade instantly broke when he was the one being tested.

“It’s an honor to be invited by the great Mr. Laine. How could I possibly decline?”

Conrad let go of the disappointment he felt and replied to Jasper calmly.

Jasper chuckled, then turned to look at Mitch, who had a dark expression on his face, and then at Zane, who was not even trying to hide his dissatisfaction. After this, he turned back to Conrad curiously.

“You know these two, Mr. Monty? And here I thought that you guys weren’t acquainted. That’s why I had Henry invite them. I was hoping that we could all get to know each other.”

Something flashed through Conrad’s eyes when he heard this.

Despite how methodical they had been in preparing for the dinner, they had forgotten this crucial detail.

He should not have arrived together with Mitch and Zane!

Life at the Top Chapter 902

Conrad felt a chill run down his back at the sight of Jasper's calm smile.

'How terrifying can this man be? How can he catch on to every single detail?'

Just as Conrad was thinking about how he should reply, Jasper took the initiative to change the topic.

"It's even better that we're all acquainted, then. Come in and sit, let's talk while seated."

Conrad's mind was filled with question marks as he saw Jasper turn to gesture the three of them to their seats.

'What's he doing? Why is he changing the subject?'

Countless questions filled Conrad's mind like nightmarish crows, causing the man to frown heavily as he sat on the sofa. Despite this, his expression remained unfazed and he did not say a word.

Just then, a loud chide attracted everyone's attention.

"Motherf*cker! Sit further away from me! Don't you know that stupidity's contagious? Don't sit next to me, you f*cking imbecile!"

Henry spat out coldly as he stared at Zane's purpling complexion.

Zane immediately flushed dark red, and he stared at the seat between him and Henry before speaking through gritted teeth, "Henry, I'm not even sitting next to you, nor do I want to. Aren't you being a little too obvious as you pick on me?"

“Pick on you?”

Henry snickered. “That’s exactly what I’m doing. What’re you going to do about it, then?”

Zane stood up in anger and glared at Henry. He felt a compelling desire to punch Henry across the face.

However, his long-standing fear of the man coupled with Mitch’s words from earlier caused him to hold back.

He did not dare to do so.

In the end, Zane held swallowed the humiliation that swarmed inside his chest and took a step back, finally sitting down two seats away from Henry.

Henry was unamused at how Zane retreated so easily.

He sneaked a glance at Jasper, only to see a satisfied smile on the man’s face.

This was precisely what Jasper and Henry had discussed earlier. Jasper would usher Zane to the seat around Henry so that Henry could pick on Zane.

With Zane’s temper, it was only normal for the man to spit back a sentence or two. If he did not, then the entire situation would become even more interesting.

As they carried out their plan, instead of arguing with Henry, Zane had indeed chosen to retreat straight away.

All Jasper needed to do now was to test them step by step. Be it Mitch, Zane, or Conrad, the more the three of them endured, the more tests the group would be subject to.

Soon after, the waiter brought the dishes over.

Jasper paid no heed to the dishes, for he knew that Orson would make the correct choices.

Soon, aromatic and colorful dishes filled the table, and Jasper was not disappointed.

While he and Conrad were enemies, they were both of high enough status such that their conflict was incomparable to those between gangsters in the city's shadows. Thus, considering the setting, Jasper did not stoop so low as to order cheap and disgusting dishes.

That would only damage his own dignity.

The dishes on the table cost at least seven figures in total, and it could be considered a rare top-notch feast during that era.

Jasper thoroughly enjoyed the food, but the others hardly had an appetite.

Henry was merely focused on how he would end these three b*stards who were stopping him from earning money.

Mitch's expression was heavy, and the man did not dare to speak too much.

Life at the Top Chapter 903

Conrad was deep in thought, seemingly pondering over something important.

What Zane felt was even more evident. The man did not eat a single dish as he thought back to how he had made a complete fool out of himself today. An indescribable bout of anger swarmed within him and he could barely hold back from exploding on the spot.

“Mr. Monty.”

Jasper put down his cutlery and spoke slowly after taking a few bites of food.

“Picking up from where I left off before, it’d be nice if you don’t forget to bring me along for large projects with the two young masters from Harbor City, Mr. Monty. It’s only right we all make money together.”

Conrad set his cutlery as well. He did not have much of an appetite before, but he did not even have the mood to look at the table full of dishes today.

Conrad seemed to have decided something when he heard Jasper speak and replied calmly, “Let’s not beat around the bush, Jasper. What do you want?”

“What do I want?”

Jasper smiled at Conrad’s willingness to show his hand.

“What I want isn’t important. The question here is you, what do you guys want?”

“Or maybe I should put this differently. I don’t care what you want to do as long as it doesn’t involve provoking me. Otherwise, I’m going to start attacking you too.”

When he said this, Zane’s expression changed, overwhelmed with fury.

“Stop f*cking bluffing.”

Zane spoke in disgust, “You’re just a country bumpkin from the Mainlands. Who do you think you’re threatening here?”

“Attacking us? How about you go ahead and try? Don’t think that we are willing to be your lackeys like Henry is. Piss me off and I’ll kill you before you even know it.”

Jasper looked at Zane and replied calmly, “How are you planning to kill me, then?”

“How?”

Having been infuriated for the past few days, Zane glared at Jasper and smiled wretchedly. “You’ll know very soon. Stop acting so arrogant, I’m telling you, the only outcome from this is that you’ll get trampled on!

“You think you’re better than everyone just because you got lucky and made some big bucks? There are plenty of people who can walk all over you!”

Jasper chuckled. “Seems like you really hate me, then. I suppose you’d be able to do anything if it meant getting rid of me. For example, being Mitch’s lackey... Or perhaps working with Conrad to plot against Sena?”

“How did you know?!”

The duo's conversation absolutely flew by, lasting only a few seconds. Two sentences were all it took for Jasper to successfully get Zane to confess.

"What the f*ck are you talking about!" Mitch's expression changed drastically as he roared.

Zane also realized that he had said something wrong, and the man was instantly dumbstruck. He sat simply frozen in his chair.

Before his mind could process what had just happened, Henry had already thrown his cutlery at Zane's face.

"Motherf*cker! So, you were the f*cker that plotted against Sena! F*ck you, you b*tch! I'm going to f*cking kill you right now!"

Henry was both pleased and frustrated.

Pleased by the fact that Jasper had managed to get Zane to confess.

Frustrated by the fact that he had to wait. Considering Henry's temper, a mere suspicion was enough for him to rush to their house and start getting physical. There was no need for troublesome things like gathering evidence.

In addition to the pleasure and frustration, Henry felt his heart hurt more as he thought of the money that he had lost the day before.

"F*ck you!"

The more he thought about it, the more aggrieved Henry felt. A second later, the man stood up and grabbed a chair before throwing it at Zane.

Life at the Top Chapter 904

The scene changed rapidly in a split second.

It was still a harmonious dinner a minute ago, yet it had turned into a battlefield of life and death instantly.

Zane shrieked as Henry threw the chair at him. While he had managed to escape being fatally injured, Zane did end up falling to the floor on his butt.

Looking at the shattered chair, Zane broke out in a cold sweat.

“Are you f*cking crazy, Henry?! Are you actually trying to kill me?” Zane roared.

Quarrels between trust-fund children went no further than a harsh one-sided beating. A broken bone or two were already the worst injuries that one could come out with.

After all, they all belonged to the same circle, and there the differences in the statuses between them were often minor. Not to mention, their parents were also part of the picture.

Any deaths would result in a bloody fight between the families until one of them was completely destroyed.

Be it Zane, Henry, or even Mitch, they had all held back when they quarreled in the past.

Yet, upon seeing how Henry was coming for his neck this time, Zane did not have too many inhibitions either.

“Aren’t you afraid that my dad’ll come after your entire f*cking family?”

Henry scoffed and spoke, oozing with a sinister aura, “As if Bob Lancaster, that f*cking wimp, would dare do anything to my dad.

“The only reason why your dad, some B-list figure, could make a name for himself during these last few years isn’t cus he’s good, it’s because we four richest families decide to keep a low profile! Somehow you think that makes you the sh*t?”

“Henry!”

Mitch had no choice but to step up upon seeing the situation take a turn for the worse. Staring at Henry, he clenched his jaw and spoke, “This matter is between us and Jasper. Why’re you so angry about it?”

Henry snickered and replied, “Are you f*cking stupid or do you just not have a brain to use?”

“Who do you think Jasper is? Everyone f*cking knows that Jasper belongs to the Law family! F*cking Hell, look at my sister, you think she’ll fall for anyone but Jasper?”

“My dad’s already recognized the fact that Jasper will be his son-in-law. He is my brother-in-law, and if you’re going to f*ck with him, it means you’re f*cking with me and the Law family!”

“Moreover, I put money into Sena too. When you screw with Sena’s shares, it means you’re taking my money too. You think I’ll forgive you for this?”

“So tell me, are you f*cking stupid, or do you just not have a brain to use? Huh?”

Mitch’s expression turned sour when he heard Henry’s rant.

When he and Conrad planned for the dinner, the two of them had anticipated a hundred scenarios, yet the last thing they expected Jasper being able to exploit Zane so quickly, or the fact that Henry would so whole-heartedly support Jasper.

Mitch felt lightheaded as he thought of this. There was nothing he could do now.

Looking at Zane again, Mitch seethed internally; His mind was filled with the urge to step on this imbecile.

The situation would not have progressed to this point of not for this imbecile.

“Listen to me, Henry. Killing Zane won’t put any of us at an advantage, not to mention that no one will be able to console Bob when he goes mad over this. Be rational,” Mitch stepped up to tell Henry.

Henry scoffed and replied, “You think too highly of Bob. As far as I’m concerned, this father-son duo is nothing to me!”

After saying that, Henry approached Zane, who was still shaking from the previous fright.

Zane was petrified as he watched Henry walk over menacingly.

While Henry was a trust-fund child as previously mentioned, it must have occurred to him that in case anything were to occur, he should at least be able to come out unscathed even if he could not win in future fights. Thus, he had been training persistently and even picked up a few tricks from Julian.

Because of this, Zane, a very unfit man obsessed with alcohol and sex, was no match for the man who was now striding over.

His first reaction was to crawl behind Mitch.

“Save me, Mr. Langdon! Save me, he’s gone mad! He’s really going to kill me, he’s not kidding!”

Mitch felt lightheaded at Zane’s shrieks.

He felt the urge to crush Zane under his foot, but he did not act on this urge. After all, he still had to do something, for Henry would only come after himself after he was done with Zane.

This was the first time Mitch realized that the situation had evolved completely beyond what he could control or solve.

“That’s enough.”

At the most crucial moment, Conrad spoke up.

He had not turned to Henry, but instead to Jasper, who remained silent the entire time.

“Hasn’t this gone far enough, Jasper?”

“What’s happened has happened, and there will always be a solution to solve the issue. You’ve already gotten what you wanted from this play, so why push everyone’s relationship to such extremes?”

Jasper glanced at Conrad briefly as the other spoke.

All Conrad saw in Jasper’s eyes was unaffected tranquility.

Conrad frowned slightly at the lack of expected pride. He could not help but wonder how deeply concealed Jasper’s thoughts were.

‘How does he do it? How can he hold back the excitement and pride even at such a time?’

“Henry, Mr. Monty’s right. What’s happened is in the past, but now we can look to solve it. Going too far won’t solve the problem but instead turn it into a bigger one that we will not be able to resolve.”

Jasper finally spoke.

During such a time, Henry would only listen to Jasper.

His footsteps came to a halt as he looked at Zane darkly, “So, you stupid f*cker. Do you want to resolve this or not?”

Zane did not have any other choice but nod profusely.

“Easy, let’s solve the smallest issue first. You’ve made me lose more than 5 million from Sena’s shares this time, so as long as you and Mitch pay me 5 million each, then we’ll move on from this.”

Henry finally revealed his metaphorical fangs and pierced them into Zane’s and Mitch’s necks, intending to suck them dry.

Both Mitch and Zane’s expressions changed.

Sure, they came from wealthy families. However, while Mitch was a skilled trader who had made quite a bit of money, Zane survived purely from the money his family made. 5 million was pretty much all he had.

Especially after losing most of his family’s wealth to Jasper in Harbor City in the past, 5 million was a huge amount to Zane.

Even the 100 million that they had used to scam Jasper before was an amount the two of them had needed to try their best to scrape together. Another 5 million now was an almost impossible feat.

“Aren’t you too evil asking for 10 million right off the bat? Not to mention that this has nothing to do with me,” Mitch claimed darkly.

When he heard that, Henry snickered and replied, “I’m evil? Nothing to do with you? Okay.”

A second later, Henry grabbed the second chair and lifted it.

Life at the Top Chapter 905

“Henry! You’re going too far!”

Mitch roared.

“So what if I am?”

Henry’s smile was chilling and ruthless.

“And you don’t think playing dirty tricks is going too far? Somehow it’s only too far now that I’m here to make you pay for it, huh?”

“If this is the line of logic you follow, then I’m sorry to say that I won’t be very logical with you!”

By now, Henry had already approached Zane with the chair in his hands.

Zane was hiding behind Mitch, so when Henry approached, Mitch felt as if Henry was coming for him.

As he stared at Henry walking over with a chair raised and killing intent oozing out of him, a mental image of a bloodthirsty Henry who was immune to all reason whilst slamming the chair against Zane’s head flashed through Mitch’s mind. Mitch’s brow twitched.

“Wait!”

Mitch took a step back, only to stagger when he bumped into Zane behind him. Glaring at Zane furiously, Mitch took a deep breath and turned to Henry, “I’ll pay the money.”

Henry immediately stopped moving toward them and sneered. “Don’t treat me like a kid. If you want to pay, pay now.”

Mitch glanced at Henry resentfully and reluctantly pulled out his checkbook from his coat pocket.

“This is 10 million,” Mitch spoke coldly as he ripped out the check. “Don’t worry, this isn’t a check from my personal account. It’s Langdon Enterprise’s public check. With this, you’ll be able to withdraw money from the company’s account. I wouldn’t go so far as to make a company go bankrupt just to lie to you.”

Flicking the check in his hands, Henry immediately returned to his chair and smiled widely. “It wouldn’t have gotten to this if you’d just cooperated at the very beginning.”

Mitch grit his teeth and turned toward Jasper, looking away from Henry. “Are we done with the dinner then? We can leave now, right?”

Jasper shrugged and said, “There are still a few questions we haven’t dealt with yet. What’s the rush, Young Master Langdon? Are the dishes not to your liking, or are you busy?”

“If it’s the dishes, I could always ask someone to change them so they better fit your tastes, Young Master Langdon. If it’s because you have other commitments then I’m afraid I’ll have to hold you back for a little longer.”

“What do you want, Jasper?” Mitch roared.

“That depends on what you’re doing,” Jasper spoke indifferently.

Conrad looked at Jasper and suddenly sighed.

“What do you want, Jasper?”

In face of such a question, Jasper remained calm and replied, "So can we have a frank conversation now?"

"To what extent do you plan to screw with Sena's share price?"

Conrad looked down and replied calmly, "Like many things, it's no longer in our control once it's begun."

"So you're hammering the market, then?" Jasper spoke meaningfully.

"Are you scared?" Conrad suddenly looked up and stared intently at Jasper as he spoke.

"Do I look scared to you?" Jasper asked, pointing at his nose.

Conrad chuckled. This was the first smile he had shown since he arrived.

"Looks like I attacked the right place, or at least, I've caused you a lot of trouble."

Conrad beamed with confidence when he spoke.

"It's not the first time we've fought, Jasper. Sure, I lost before this, but after what happened back then, I dare say that no one knows you better than I do. I've at least disrupted your pace and destroyed your plan, hahaha."

"I don't even know what you're laughing about."

Jasper spoke coldly, "If that alone is enough to make you happy, then I've really overestimated you."

Life at the Top Chapter 906

Slam!

Conrad slammed the table and stood up.

“Like I said before, Jasper, you’ll lose to me one day. And something tells me that that day will come very soon.

“You think that by stopping us from leaving we won’t be able to control the market and Sena’s shares will be saved? You’re too simple-minded if that’s the case!

“I’ve never once planned to crush Sena’s share price by myself. All I needed to do is act as a catalyst, one that would trigger the market’s masses to destroy Sena. Don’t forget, you have so many enemies waiting to see your downfall.

“Let me be frank with you, Jasper. Even if you make us stay here, you still won’t be able to change what’s going to happen.

“There’s still ten minutes before the Nasdaq starts trading. If you applied for a trading halt yesterday, then fine, there’s nothing I can do. But since you applied for special procedures, then don’t blame me for what’s going to happen next.

“Your other enemies and the market’s combined power will help me achieve everything I want to do!

“All I needed to do is plant a fuse. Nothing I did mattered after that because the fuse had already been lit. Today will mark the beginning of the explosion in Sena caused that I ignited!”

Jasper remained expressionless in the face of Conrad’s hysteria as he merely rapped his fingers against the table.

Knock knock.

Two clear sounds cut through the air.

The door that had remained dormant despite the chaos Conrad and Henry had caused was suddenly pushed open.

It was Orson.

Orson kept his head down cautiously for he did not dare look at anyone in the room. Facing Jasper, he asked courteously, "How can I help you, Mr. Laine?"

"Could you bring me a laptop, Mr. Reese? I'll need to connect to the internet as well if that's alright?" Jasper asked gently.

"Yes, yes, of course. Please give me a moment, Mr. Laine."

Orson quickly fled the room after this.

Conrad, Mitch, and Zane all stared at Jasper in confusion.

Zane was still the one who cracked first and asked, "What the hell do you want to do, Laine?"

"Go online through the laptop, of course. What else do you think I'm going to do? Let you play Minesweeper on it?" Jasper asked naturally.

Zane's expression darkened and he mocked, "Go online? Looks more to me like you're going to die. Is your brain even functioning? Even in such a situation, you're still trying to go online?"

"He wants us to look at the Nasdaq market," Conrad answered Zane's question.

Jasper chuckled and spoke, "Mr. Monty is the smarter one, after all."

Zane fumed at the implications, “What are you implying here? That I’m an idiot?”

“You’re not an idiot, you’re f*cking stupid. And shut up, your voice is giving me a headache.”

Henry’s sentence caused Zane’s expression to sour immediately.

Just then, Orson also returned with a laptop in hand.

Like before, he did not look at anyone as he placed the laptop in front of Jasper.

“Here’s the laptop you asked for, Mr. Laine. It should be able to connect to the internet right away,” Orson replied courteously.

“Thank you, Mr. Reese.”

Jasper turned the laptop on and spoke with a smile.

Orson walked out courteously and closed the door behind him. Letting out a deep breath, he felt sweat drench his back from walking in and out of the room.

Life at the Top Chapter 907

Orson only recognized Jasper in the room.

He did not know who the other people were, their family backgrounds, nor their identities.

Even so, Orson was well aware that the noisy youths who seemed to have been quarreling were all formidable people who could crush him like an ant.

As the owner of a restaurant, all Orson wanted to do was to serve customers and make money.

Orson was a smart man. He knew what he was allowed to listen in on and what he could not risk overhearing.

Thus, during the few times that he had entered the room, Orson had acted like a dumb and blind man.

He had never been more relieved over his cautiousness, but he also wondered if those bigshots would suddenly remember him and come after him in the future...

Fortunately, in the private room, Zane and the rest were not in the mood to deal with Orson.

“Who’re you kidding!”

Zane looked at Jasper and spoke with a sneer.

Mitch scoffed as well. While he had not said anything, his expression remained disdainful.

“You know what I’m most impressed about when it comes to you, Jasper? The fact that your ignorant and self-righteous character will never change.

“What are you trying to prove by showing us the Nasdaq market situation? Are you telling me you think you’ll succeed in stopping the crash? Hahaha!

Mitch chortled at Jasper as he spoke, “I’ll kneel and lick your shoes if you manage to turn the tables against the entire market!”

When he said that, Jasper looked up from the screen and smiled subtly at Mitch. “Really?”

“I just said so!”

Mitch harrumphed. He was not an idiot like Zane.

Among the trust-fund children in Harbor City, he had the most extensive knowledge of shares and the financial market.

Otherwise, he would not have been given the title of the stock genius by Harbor City’s media.

From what Mitch could tell, Sena’s share prices had already shown signs of a downward crash, and he was confident in his prediction. The only way he could be proven wrong is if Jasper managed to go against all the economic and financial knowledge he accumulated over all these years!

At that moment, Jasper clicked on Sena’s index.

Henry moved over just as Nasdaq’s trading floor opened on the other side of the world.

In an instant, the frozen data quickly changed and refreshed to show the trades from the new day.

Henry's expression darkened as he watched Sena's share prices drop another few US Dollars in just a few seconds.

He was losing money.

Even though Henry had already received a form of compensation, he was still greatly displeased by the loss in accounts book.

Right then, Jasper's long-distance call with Celine connected.

"Yo, this feature your Terizone came up with sure is convenient."

Celine's gentle voice was heard through the laptop. It served to slightly ease the tense atmosphere in the private room.

"Of course. Perhaps your investment bank could consider using it?" Jasper spoke with a smile.

"The investment bank already has its own communication software. It won't be sold to others, nor will we buy other's software. You can dream on. But if you wish, Colossal is very much willing to invest in Terizone, you know." Celine chuckled.

"Dream on."

Jasper rejecter her without hesitation.

While Terizone and Sena were both companies in the internet industry under his name, Jasper placed completely different levels of importance of these two companies.

Sena was a pawn that could be given up if absolutely necessary, but Terizone was an important component in his future business strategy. There was no way he would let funds from Colossal Investment claim a portion of his benefits.

Celine harrumphed lightly as if she had anticipated Jasper's response, but quickly let the topic go.

At that moment, Zane could not endure it anymore.

"So you're just asking us to watch you flirt?"

Zane scoffed. "At least look at the people around you if you're going to flirt. Aren't you ashamed flirting with a woman that wouldn't even dare show herself in front of us?"

"I could always introduce one to you if you can't find any. I'm sure that any young model or celebrity you want will be better than the one you have here."

Zane smiled pridefully, feeling that he had won this round.

Zane believed that he was the best when it came to playing with women and that Mainland country bumpkins like Jasper naturally did not know better.

"Oh? Which celebrity? Could they be the ones under my companies?" Jasper asked calmly.

Zane's smile froze on his face when he heard Jasper's reply.

He had forgotten that Jasper was the highest authority in Harbor City's and the Mainland's entertainment industry. Countless female stars that he had and had not spent nights with were probably lining up to climb into bed with Jasper.

Thinking back to the situation with Scarlet, Zane's expression turned even sourer.

It was as if he had found a coin on the floor and went to show it off to Jasper, only for the man to pull out a bag of gold.

This greatly pissed the arrogant man off.

Just then, Celine's voice sounded from the computer.

"You're not alone?"

Jasper was just about to reply when Celine scoffed. "Which blind fool called the President of Colossal Investments' Terra regional branch a woman that wouldn't even dare show herself, huh? And even compared me to escorts and prostitutes?"

Celine may not have been present, but her voice rang clearly in everyone's ears via the laptop.

Excluding Henry, who remained unfazed, the other three's expression all changed.

Conrad frowned heavily and he looked at Jasper with a complicated glint in his eyes.

Zane's expression darkened in embarrassment and frustration.

The corner of Mitch's lips twitched furiously.

Among the three, he had the best understanding of Celine. They had met a few times before, and from asking around, he had come to know that this woman was a unique and terrifying character.

Be it her family background or her own capabilities, this was not a woman he could risk offending. She was no less dangerous than Anna Law.

He took a deep breath and spoke with a dry smile, "Hello, Miss Maynard. I don't know if you remember me, I'm Mitch Langdon, son of Kennedy Langdon. We met once during Christie's Auction last year..."

“I don’t remember. I’m also not interested in people who like using their parent’s name as a brand right off the bat.”

Celine immediately cut Mitch off and shut the man up. When this happened, Mitch’s expression became sour, almost as if he had swallowed a fly.

Henry almost chuckled out loud. ‘What an interesting woman.’

Life at the Top Chapter 908

Mitch clenched his jaw silently as Celine's words trampled on his dignity. He said, "Miss Maynard, I..."

"Miss your foot! Your entire family's made out of missuses!"

Celine was suddenly enraged.

Mitch was speechless, but he roared back, "Be grateful for the respect I'm sparing you, Celine. How powerful do you think you are, huh? Who do you think you are? You think you can step and sit all over my head?"

"I don't think I'm anyone, nor do I want to sit on your head. To avoid any misunderstandings, please stop saying something so disgusting. If I wanted to sit anywhere, I'd sit on my Jaspy's face, okay?"

Celine's words had even Conrad and Jasper feeling extremely weird, let alone Mitch and Zane.

Henry laughed aloud, only to become slightly worried after laughing.

'This woman's in a very different league compared to Wendy. Can even Anna take on such an opponent?

'This woman is a devil!'

"You could always sit on me if you don't want me sitting on you, Jaspy."

Celine chuckled.

Jasper could almost see Celine falling onto the sofa gleefully in the hotel with her black-stockings-clad legs kicking about.

Sighing slightly, Jasper ignored Henry's inquisitive expression and replied, "Focus on what's important here."

"Boring."

Celine murmured.

Right after, Celine's voice was heard from the computer again.

It had only been a few seconds, but there was an immense change in the woman's tone and words this time.

If Celine's aura before this had been that of a female devil that ignored the rules of mankind, then Celine right now was like a precise and rigid machine.

"Target share, Sena.

"Ending at 205 US Dollars the previous day, Sena's suffered a large drop in share price for two continuous days, while the trend indicates the possibility for further drops.

"The current trading days' been open for three minutes and twenty-four seconds as of this moment and it's dropped by 3 US Dollars, currently oscillating between 200 and 201 US Dollars.

"It's been three minutes since the market opened and the trading volume continues to increase in comparison to the previous trading day. Trades are frequent enough, but the rate of purchase is slowing down. Shorts are under immense pressure right now and an intense fight's begun between the shorts and longs over where the share prices is going once it reaches 200 US Dollars.

“If you’re analyzing the current situation, Sena’s share prices will definitely drop further. The question is just a matter of when it’ll break 200 US Dollars.

“The moment it drops, so will the market’s trust in Sena, thus increasing the chances of undesirable consequences arising, such as Sena’s share price plummeting at a rate faster and harsher than before.”

As the President of Colossal Investments’ Terra regional branch, Celine had been working with the financial markets ever since she became an adult. Her intuition was much sharper than ordinary people when it came to the analysis the market.

Even though she was just repeating the data that was already available, the situation had massively cleared up thanks to her vocalizing it, while the future trend also began to form before their eyes slowly.

Because of this, even Henry, who knew nothing about the stock market, frowned in worry.

As far as he was concerned, he thought that Jasper had lost this round.

This was not due to Henry’s limited abilities or lack of understanding of shares, but rather that no one had a solution considering the current situation.

As expected, Celine continued to speak.

“From how it looks now, Jasper, Sena doesn’t have any other option. The market’s made its decision.”

Celine’s semi-conclusive sentence greatly improved Zane’s and Mitch’s mood.

Even Conrad, who had been frowning the entire time, showed a small smile.

Life at the Top Chapter 909

He could tell that this Celine woman was a master when it came to stocks. She was not the kind of typical analyst or trader someone could readily employ and commission, but a true top-notch professional.

One could only acquaint themselves with such people and never request them, for every one of them were treasures of large organizations that would never be let go.

One merely had to look at Celine's position to see this: The President of Colossal Investment's Terra regional branch.

This was a title that would have someone of Conrad's background and status feeling lightheaded.

'Colossal Investments! The best investment bank in the world!

'The President of the Terra regional branch! The head of one of the five large regions in the world!

If even she claimed that Sena was doomed, then what can you do, Jasper?'

Conrad looked at Jasper, feeling exceptionally pleased. This was the first time he was truly seeing Jasper's powerlessness.

While this was a situation Sena had been doomed for since the beginning, Conrad had acted as the spark that set it all off!

This feeling of success had Conrad feeling very giddy.

Zane and Mitch shared the same glee.

“Hahaha, do you hear her, Jasper?”

Zane looked at Jasper and laughed out loud.

“Even the person you called to help says you’re doomed. What’s the point of struggling now?”

“Just accept defeat. How hard can it be to accept defeat anyway?”

“I already told you long ago that there’s a bunch of people out there who can deal with you. It’s just a question of whether they’re willing to or not. What a coincidence, your arrogance pissed us off and now we have no other choice but to get rid of you.”

With that, Zane leaned over to Jasper and smiled wretchedly. “I am the winner. Are we clear?”

“You’re blocking my screen,” Jasper spoke indifferently.

Zane harrumphed. “What’re you still pretending for? You’re actually terrified, aren’t you?”

Just as he finished speaking, Henry raised his hand and dragged Zane back by the collar, causing him to stagger and almost fall on his bottom.

“What are you doing, Henry?” Zane was angry from the humiliation.

“Did you not hear him? You’re blocking his screen. Would it kill you not to be a d*ck?” Henry asked solemnly.

“Hmph!”

Zane readjusted his top and said coldly, "Fine then. Go ahead, keep acting! I'd like to see how much longer you can keep this pitiful act up!"

Jasper ignored Zane and stared at the screen seriously before he suddenly asked Celine, "How long more do you think it can stay on 200 US Dollars?"

Celine replied immediately without hesitation, "Half an hour at most before it breaks sub-200."

Jasper's brows knitted tightly when he heard this.

The situation was worse than he had expected.

"Admit defeat, Jasper."

Mitch sighed and spoke calmly.

"On behalf of the Law family and Celine, I can promise that Sena will still survive if you admit defeat. Otherwise, I'll make sure to force you to pull Sena out of the conglomerate, at which point it will essentially spell the end for Sena."

"Admitting defeat."

Jasper looked up at Mitch deeply and replied, "Does not exist in my dictionary!"

Life at the Top Chapter 910

“Your loss is already certain and you’re still so stubborn!”

Mitch stared as Jasper sneered.

At almost the same time, Celine’s voice rang out slightly nervously.

“There’s been a change in the situation.”

Everyone in the room, harboring different thoughts, turned to look at the screen in front of Jasper simultaneously.

The sight they saw in the laptop screen was Sena’s k-line taking a harsh plummet as if it had been dragged down.

A few subsequent large sale orders entered the market and instantly pushed Sena’s share price downward where it paced around 200 US Dollars.

The share prices dropped from 202 US Dollars to 196 US Dollars instantly.

While it may seem like a slight difference of 6 US Dollars per share, an astronomical amount of funds were involved considering Sena’s huge market.

In that instant, 5 million US Dollars vanished from Jasper’s bank account.

Even Henry, the person who knew least about the share market, sucked in a cold breath at the sight. This was an attack from a large investor.

Normal retail investors did not have such power.

Even if the market had an overall bearish stance on Sena's share prices, a drop in share prices was a gradual process. These astronomical sale orders were not something normal investors could come up with.

The first thing Henry did was glare at Mitch and the other two.

Zane who was relishing in Jasper's loss immediately spoke when Henry glared darkly at them, "What're you looking at us for? The three of us are here, how could it be us?"

Henry snorted. "You could have gotten your subordinates to trade for you."

"Then we'll have to pay for their time and work. Do you think it's as easy as grocery shopping? Choosing anyone at random?" Mitch spoke grimly.

"It's not them."

Jasper spoke calmly.

"They're not skilled enough to do this."

That final comment had Mitch's expression darkening.

"The funds came from a new account I've never seen before," Celine's voices drifted over as well.

It was evident that Celine had gone to check the source of the funds during that moment of silence.

"I've already memorized the accounts those ignorant idiots with you now used. This is a new account, so it's most probably someone new."

Celine's words had Mitch and the other two's expressions darkened further.

Mitch was infuriated.

Even though they had the upper hand, Mitch could not help but feel like a slab of meat on the chopping board under Jasper and Celine's insults. There was nothing he could do to defend himself as the dastardly duo insulted him.

The drastic change in moods had ignited ire in Mitch's core.

He felt the urge to act on it, but once he glanced and realized that Henry was looking for a reason to fight, Mitch forced the embers to simmer within him.

After all, as far as he was concerned, victory was only a matter of time. All Mitch had to do was hold off until then and he would be able to force Jasper's head on the floor with his foot.

Plus, both Mitch and Conrad were curious who this helper, owner of this order, was.

Life at the Top Chapter 911

Regardless of who this person was, it was evident that the man's goal was to get rid of Jasper.

"I've got it."

Celine's voice sounded light and cheery on the other end and the sound of fingers snapping could be heard with her words.

"The funds are from Layman Investments."

Jasper's mind immediately supplied him with Morrison's rather dark expression at the mention of Layman Investments.

As the President of Layman Investment Bank's Terra regional branch and a man that held a grudge against Jasper, Morrison had the reason and ability to deal a fatal blow at such a crucial time to Jasper.

With the puzzle solved, Jasper's focus returned to the screen where Sena's share prices continued to drop.

"After breaking the 200 US Dollar mark, the market's trust has already completely broken down. Without a large number of funds to rescue the market now, Sena will end up making Nasdaq's history as the share with the largest fall in share prices."

Celine's voice continued to echo from the laptop speakers.

Just as Celine finished speaking, Sena's share prices had also fallen to 190 US Dollars with a promise for further drops.

At that moment, something strange happened to Sena's trading market.

All the orders were of people selling out while the buy-in column remained empty.

This meant that no one was choosing to buy Sena's shares now.

Not even madmen with a great deal of courage dared to speculate or bargain hunt by investing money from their bank into Sena, a share that even idiots could tell would continue to drop.

"The market's panic resembles a typhoon, taking everything in its path as it gathers all the power into itself."

Conrad spoke, looking at Jasper calmly, "Do you still have a plan, Jasper?"

Jasper ignored Conrad and spoke to Celine, "Celine, help me rescue the market. Like we discussed before, we'll follow your pace."

"Are you sure?" Celine asked.

"I'm sure," Jasper replied calmly.

Jasper's words echoed in the private room and everyone heard him clearly.

Even Henry was speechless.

He knew that attempting to rescue the market now was a suicide mission.

It was as if someone was trying to keep a falling tower from crashing down by themselves. This was no different from putting their own lives on the line for nothing.

Mitch laughed aloud and spoke, "You're crazy, Jasper. How much money can you throw in?"

“100 million? 200 million? Or perhaps 1 billion?”

“Can’t you tell that the entire market’s trying to sell out Sena’s shares now? Unless you empty the bank’s reserves and buy all the shares, there’s no way you’d be able to rescue the market!”

Just as Mitch finished speaking, Sena’s trading market on Nasdaq showed a list of large buy-in orders.

Every order was 1000 rounds.

According to Sena’s current share price of 190 US Dollars, 1 round cost 19000 US Dollars, 1000 rounds would cost 19 million US Dollars!

10 consecutive orders meant that Jasper had tossed out 190 million in a few seconds. According to the current exchange rate, that was almost 2 billion Somer Dollars.

Such a large number of funds had caused Sena’s share prices to halt mid-drop before the prices stabilized at 190 US Dollars and stopped dropping!

Life at the Top Chapter 912

While they had managed to temporarily halt the drop in share prices, everyone knew that this was merely an illusion.

2 billion Somer Dollars would still make a sound even if it was fully tossed into the sea.

The current halt was merely the market devouring the 2 billion.

As expected, after a minute or two, the 2 billion Somer Dollars Jasper had Celine buy-in had all turned into Sena's shares.

People continued to sell-out Sena's shares and no one followed Jasper in buying-in.

So the share prices continued to fall.

"Hahaha, do you see this, Jasper? I told you that your hard work would be for naught, didn't I?" Who knows how many more 2-billions you have to save Sena?"

Mitch chortled.

"Keep taking money out. You threw out 2 billion just for a short minute or two. You sure are rich, Jasper, I can't possibly compare. Hahaha."

Just then, Conrad who had learned to remain solemn after two consecutive losses began to feel excited as well.

Staring at Jasper who was frowning heavily, Conrad spoke, "You've lost, Jasper."

Jasper looked up to meet Conrad's eyes as if only snapping out of his thoughts now.

"Did you think that I was wondering how I should solve this problem you proposed?" Jasper asked.

Zane laughed aloud. "Are you not?"

"Or are you trying to tell me that you're thinking of how you'll beg us for mercy later?"

"Hahaha. Don't worry, I promise I'll be very forgiving if you're actually that self-aware. Get on your knees and crawl over, lick my shoes and call me Daddy. That's it, easy right? Hahaha."

Jasper merely shook his head at Zane's mocking tone.

As far as he was concerned, living things like Zane were very much different from people like himself. Being calculative with Zane was like arguing with a centipede, utterly stupid.

However, just because Jasper thought like that did not mean Henry did as well.

Already irked, Henry's cold glare swept over Zane and he smiled chillingly crescent-eyed as he spoke, "Would it kill you to stop barking and shut up?"

"How about I glue your f*cking mouth shut for you if you can't shut it on your own?"

"Hmm?"

The final hum at an octave higher ran a chill down Zane's spine.

He looked at Henry in terror. Zane would have merely taken it as a simple 'f*ck you' if this was anyone else. After all, there were tons of people who claimed that they wanted to f*ck him but they had never succeeded.

So he would just ignore it.

However, considering that Henry was the one who spoke it, Zane felt the need to consider the man's words. Past tragic experiences had taught him that Henry was fully capable of making his threats come true.

Still, no matter how furious Henry was, it did not change the fact that Jasper was utterly defeated.

Jasper's gaze was locked on the screen. While the 2 billion Somer Dollars that entered the market had managed to slightly slow down the fall of the share prices to some degree, that was also all it could do.

The market had completely consumed the 2 billion that Jasper tossed into the market in less than two minutes.

From how the situation looked, everything seemed calm.

"Did you guess wrongly, Jaspny?"

Life at the Top Chapter 913

Celine's causal tone hinted with a tint of schadenfreude drifted from the laptop.

"You threw your bait, but it doesn't seem like you've caught any big fishes, though. Even Morrison who surfaced above the water unprompted disappeared as well."

Jasper interlocked his fingers and placed them under his chin as he spoke after a short moment of silence, "Keep baiting."

"This time, 1 billion."

Celine snapped her fingers and concisely carried out the operation out instead of doubting Jasper's decision at such a crucial time.

Conrad frowned when he heard Jasper as well, suddenly realizing a horrifying possibility.

"You're fishing?!" Conrad gasped raspily.

Zane frowned and stared at Conrad's sudden shock distastefully. "What fishing? Jasper's the fish on the cutting board right now ready to be slaughtered. What can he even fish?"

"You don't know sh*t!" Conrad suddenly roared.

Ignoring Zane's murderous expression, Conrad turned to Jasper. "You're a cruel man, Jasper! You're willing to risk so much just to fish out all potential dangers in one go?"

Jasper replied calmly, "Why wouldn't I get rid of all of you now? Do I look like I have all the time in the world to play with people like you? It might be you three today, then two others tomorrow, and then another gang the day after. I don't have the kind of energy to play such ridiculous games with you."

Jasper turned to Conrad who was paling with fury and smiled as he continued to speak, "As for money. I have more than enough for this."

"No way! We've already checked your cash flow before, there's no way you could take so much money out!" Conrad seethed.

"You're right about that. But how much money do you think I can borrow from the bank?" Jasper chuckled.

That sentence seemed to have lifted the metaphorical mist over Conrad's eyes.

Everything that could not be explained now made sense.

Mitch reacted as well.

"You b*stard! You actually threw money you loaned from the bank into Sena's market so that everyone including us thinks that you'd risk yourself just to protect Sena, only to get rid of all of us?"

At that, Zane began to panic despite not understanding what was happening.

"What do you mean? Why don't I understand what you're talking about?"

"Wasn't Jasper screwed over?"

As of that moment, no one was in the mood to deal with an imbecile like Zane. Both Mitch and Conrad now looked at Jasper with shock and a bit of terror.

They knew that Jasper was currently hung up in the sky by a thin thread. Any large winds high above, let alone small mistakes, could easily cause Jasper to fall and shatter.

Yet Jasper had done what he did anyway.

By the time Conrad and the rest reacted, Celine had already carried out the instruction.

10 consecutive Somer Dollar buy-in orders entered the market and the act resembled throwing a slab of meat toward a famished wolf-pit. Countless hungry wolves pounced and began to tear at the large piece of meat.

Countless investors trying to escape immediately threw out their sell-out orders and let out a deep sigh of relief at the notification of a successful transaction.

Everyone thought that Sena was screwed and whoever managed to leave was the winner.

Following that, countless unfamiliar accounts suddenly appeared with large sell-out orders and instantly devoured Jasper's 1 billion buy-in order.

Jasper chuckled at the market board that no longer showed any sign of his previous order and spoke, "Time to pull in the net, Celine."

Life at the Top Chapter 914

Following Jasper's instruction, an intense ominous premonition came over Conrad and the other two.

It was a common fear that human beings tended to have for the unknown.

Conrad's expression no longer carried the victorious look from before. Instead, his brows were tightly furrowed and his expression was extremely solemn.

Up until this moment, he still had no idea what Jasper's plan was.

Indeed, Jasper had managed to shine a light on the people who were secretly attacking him. Everyone had thought that Jasper was willing to use the stupidest and most pessimistic method to protect Sena.

Despite knowing that it would be for naught, Jasper still threw his funds into the market.

The people attacking Jasper must have been filled with glee then.

Conrad looked at Jasper and remembered how he used to be the gleeful one as well.

No matter how he looked at it then, Jasper was screwed.

However, he now found out all of this had been Jasper's intention. Conrad could not help but wonder how Jasper planned to win this doomed game.

Jasper was even willing to use three billion just to lure out the enemy hiding in the dark.

Jasper had to have a 100% guarantee that it would work, or the only reason left would be that Jasper had gone mad.

Just as Conrad frowned heavily while wracking his brain to think of what Jasper would do next, the release of an official statement caused another uproar.

This was a statement from the Nasdaq Review Committee.

It was a simple statement that only consisted of one sentence.

[Sena's holding parent company, Somerland's JW Capital LLC, will begin a privatization evaluation on Sena, effective immediately!]

Privatization meant that a company would buy out all outstanding shares in the market and become a 100% shareholder, pulling the company out of the market.

Sena was pulling out of the market!

No one suspected the truth of the statement and no one doubted JW Capital's ability to do such a thing.

JW Capital already held 67% of Sena's shares in the beginning and was a major shareholder. Not to mention that one billion Somer Dollars had been used to issue more shares and three billion Somer Dollars worth of buy-in orders had also entered the market.

JW Capital now owned at least 93% of Sena's shares!

While a majority of the shares had been devoured by premium shares, JW Capital did not seem to care.

The sinister and gleeful smile on Morrison's face froze when he saw the statement. He was sitting in the president's office of Layman Investments' Terra regional branch.

A loud bang rang out in the room.

It was the sound of him slamming his fist on the office table.

“That damned Somer descent! You’re sly and vile!

“Privatization? What a large cost you’re willing to pay!”

Morrison ground his teeth and spoke.

Just then, a young man looked up from a side table in the office and reported to Morrison, “Mr. Morrison, Sena’s share prices have begun to rise!”

Morrison harrumphed and clicked on his computer to pull out the line chart that represented Sena’s share prices.

It had only been a few minutes since the statement was released and Sena’s share prices had already risen from the lowest 185 US dollars to 193 US dollars. There was also a trend for future increases.

“Jasper used this chance to buy a large number of shares on the market with that three billion Somer Dollars. There aren’t many outstanding shares left so the news managed to get the investors to crazily start buying them.”

Morrison’s expression turned unpleasant.

“How many of Sena’s shares do we currently have?”

Life at the Top Chapter 915

The young man replied awkwardly, “We’ve already liquidated our account... Should we buy in, Mr. Morrison?”

“Forget it!”

Morrison shook his head and exhaled. “This was an opportunity we came across by accident. Best case scenario, we inflict a bit of suffering upon Jasper. But if we don’t succeed, we won’t lose anything either. Leave it be.”

“But Mr. Morrison, we’ve just lost more than 20 million US dollars. I...” The young man spoke, feeling conflicted.

“I can afford to compensate for that.”

Morrison scoffed and suppressed his anger as he spoke, “Let this 20 million act as a greeting for Jasper. Let it tell him that we’re here.

“Exit the market. No matter who it is attacking Sena this time, think of a way to contact them. They’ve failed this time so there’s no way they’ll give up just like that. An enemy of our enemy is a friend.”

“Yes, Mr. Morrison.”

...

In an office in New York, United States.

A bright and clean office sat amid the unparalleled city scenery of the international financial center that was New York.

Winston sat behind the computer. Watching the market for at least three hours each day was something he had made into a habit.

As of today, he was only focused on one stock, Sena.

Winston watched everything occur before his eyes and chuckled when the statement was released.

“You really do surprise me, Laine. Full privatization, huh? Is that your trump card?”

“I have to say, it’s a good move.”

While muttering to himself, Winston took his phone and dialed the number of his administrative secretary.

“Have the fund company release an official statement saying that we don’t plan to sell Sena’s shares as of now nor do we plan to cash them out.

“We continue to insist that Sena is a company with long-lasting blue-chip stocks. If JW Capital still decides to carry out full privatization, we welcome them to form a partnership with us.”

With Winston’s statement, investors who went through a drastic emotional rollercoaster thanks to Sena’s share prices immediately realized their mistake.

Up until now, stock god Winston had not sold any of his shares no matter the increase or decrease in Sena’s share prices.

Now that Sena was about to go private, Winston had instead released an official statement.

The message was clear. Winston took a bullish stance on Sena and did not plan to sell his shares to the market.

With that, investors who were planning to use this chance of Sena going private to buy its shares and make a lot of money were thrilled. They increased their orders.

Investors who had sold their shares earlier on now regretted it deeply. They felt the urge to cut their own hands for selling their shares and returned to the market exasperatedly, not wishing to lose out on such a great opportunity.

There were not many outstanding shares left, so with huge capitals entering, Sena's share prices began to quickly rise.

193 US dollars!

198 US dollars!

200 US dollars!

Once the market hit the high price of 200 US dollars, a scene that should only appear in fiction became reality.

The buy-in column was packed with orders to purchase shares, while the sell-out column remained empty with no sell-out orders.

A similar scene had happened merely half an hour ago. The only difference was that the sell-out column was filled while the buy-in column was empty.

In 30 minutes, the entire market's demand had turned a whole 180.

"The epitome of the fickle finger of fate!"

Conrad looked at Jasper dazedly, the latter's expression calm as he sat behind the laptop. Conrad felt a storm wreak havoc in his chest and his mind was buzzing, leaving that sentence the only coherent thought in his mind.

Life at the Top Chapter 916

Up until now, Sena's share prices had rebounded unimaginably.

This was a strong rebound, and Sena had changed from a stock that everyone avoided to a treasure everyone wanted and desired. It was now something not even money could guarantee.

The eyes of Conrad, Mitch, and Zane widened as they gaped in shock at how everything was unfolding before their eyes.

They had predicted thousands of possibilities and concluded that Jasper did not have any chance of turning the tables around unless Nasdaq exploded.

Yet...

"What's going on? What the hell is happening? Sena's share prices were dropping just now, so why are they rising once Sena stated they're going private? Are the investors stupid?"

Zane roared, going crazy. His wretched expression was filled with resentment and indignation.

With his intellect, Zane could not understand how Jasper managed to do it, nor did he understand how those millions of investors across the Pacific Ocean managed to be played to Jasper's whims.

"Privatization was a final backup plan you came up with a long time ago, right? You were certain that with Sena's business results and profitability, news of privatization would cause the share prices to leap greatly. And you were planning to use that to write off the damage we caused, correct?"

Conrad asked, staring intently at Jasper's face.

This question answered Zane's confusion.

"That's not right. Isn't he afraid that Sena's share prices would continue to fall?"

"I heard that many companies' share prices start dropping the moment they release a statement about going private. The investors are scared that shares of a business that's no longer on the market would become null, so they sell them," Zane muttered to himself.

"That's because this is Sena we're talking about! The investors won't earn anything out of those stupid companies and their rubbish shares once they go private, so of course, investors will think of ways to sell their shares.

"But Sena is different. Sena's business performance is too strong and the amount of money it can make each day is enough to trigger people's greed. You don't even need to advertise this because the investors would go and search it up first hand."

Conrad spoke, his jaw set.

"But the main problem here is that there are still people trying to screw with Sena's share prices in secret. So they'll try and use this chance to pull Sena's market price down. If Sena's share prices continue to drop after news of privatization, then Sena will truly be over.

"You're a brave man, Jasper! Aren't you afraid that you'd make a mistake and end up losing everything?"

Jasper replied to Conrad's interrogative questions calmly, "You've correctly guessed it all. But it's also not a possibility. Those people couldn't hold on in the end, could they?"

Conrad shook slightly, and his phone continued to vibrate. He knew that those were phone calls from Valentine and the traders he employed in the United States asking him for help.

However, there was nothing he could do.

Now that they had arrived at this point, even though Conrad did not want to admit it, he was well aware that his plan had completely failed.

“Plus, so what if I fail? I could always just privatize it for real. It’s a loss I can afford.”

Jasper’s words had Conrad widening his eyes, pulling him out of his previous despair. Conrad shouted raspily, “Privatize for real? You never intended to privatize?”

“No sh*t. I need money to go private.”

Jasper glanced at Conrad as if the latter was an idiot. “Didn’t I just tell you guys that the money I used is the money I got from a loan? I have to pay it back! Understood?”

Jasper had signed a commercial loan credit of eight billion from ICBS’ Waterhoof City branch. During the validity period, the bank could transfer eight billion in funds into Jasper’s specified account if necessary.

Life at the Top Chapter 917

The three billion he used today had come from the commercial loan.

If not for the commercial loan, Jasper would not have been able to come up with another three billion after spending one billion to issue an increase of Sena's shares due to his tight cash flow.

"Tomorrow or perhaps another day, JW Capital will release a statement claiming that after a considerable amount of evaluation, we realized that it's not time for Sena to go private just yet and JW Capital will postpone privatization indefinitely."

Jasper's words had Conrad paling further.

Mitch glared at Jasper with a harsh gaze and ground his teeth together as he spoke, "You b*stard! You're intentionally lying to Nasdaq and your investors! Aren't you afraid of the consequences?"

"Consequences? Privatizing a public company is not some small decision. After a thorough evaluation, I realized that it's not possible, so I decided not to do it in the end. That's it. What consequences do I have to bear?"

"JW Capital didn't buy one single share of Sena's from the stock market, so there won't be suspicion of malicious manipulation of Sena's shares prices. God can come over and trial me and I still won't have to face any consequences. Everything I did was legal and lawful."

Jasper's words had Mitch's face slowly paling.

Jasper took a look at the trio's expressions and shook his head in slight disappointment.

There were many unspecified details. For example, Benett's help and Morrison's decision to retreat.

Jasper had decided to go big this time so that he could get rid of Conrad and the other two, as well as lurking enemies like Morrison. Even if Jasper could not fully get rid of Morrison, he refused to back down without dealing a huge hit.

However, Morrison was too crafty, or perhaps there was more to his retreat than Jasper knew.

Still, Morrison had retreated without hesitation once he realized his plan could not go through. Jasper estimated that Morrison had lost a dozen million or so, but he had no idea what the exact amount was.

Still, Morrison's retreat was a very decisive one.

This only made Jasper think that Morrison was a much more dangerous man than he previously thought.

"Only the people who trust you will fall for a beginner's lie.

"The people who know you will fall for an intermediate lie.

"The liars themselves will fall for an advanced lie.

"The entire world fell for your lie, Jasper. So which does it fall under?"

Conrad looked at Jasper and asked despondently.

"I don't like thinking about things like this."

Jasper shook his head. He did not have the time nor effort to spare to feel proud about his plan—not when there were more important things he had to do next.

“I think my gift to you should be arriving soon.”

At almost the same moment Jasper finished speaking, someone knocked on the door.

The knock was evidently out of respect, for a group of officers pushed open the door the next moment and entered the room before anyone inside could reply.

A stern-looking middle-aged man swept his eyes around the room before marching over to Conrad and spoke coldly, “Conrad Monty, we have evidence that you’re involved in loan fraud. Please come with us to the station.”

Life at the Top Chapter 918

Conrad's expression changed drastically as he shouted, "What loan fraud?! I want to see your warrant!"

The middle-aged man pulled out a document with a red seal and handed it to Conrad, speaking indifferently, "Agricultural Bank's Southeast Province branch has reported to us that you were involved in deliberately defrauding a ten-figure loan."

Conrad's eyes burned into the black and white document with a red seal. Its contents were no different from the words the middle-aged man said.

"Hasn't the situation been solved already? The bank didn't lose anything and the loan was never moved from the company's account at all. Why are you only investigating this now? What were you doing then?"

"Are you implying that you wanted us to arrest you earlier?" The middle-aged man scoffed.

"Are you aware of the concept of investigation? Any simple case requires an in-depth investigation. We can only make a move once we have concrete evidence in hand, or we'd end up arresting someone innocent and letting the culprit go!

"Now that we're here to arrest you, it means we have solid evidence!"

Conrad abruptly turned his head to stare at Jasper intently, roaring, "You're behind this, aren't you, Jasper?!"

“Now, now, watch your choice of words. You were the one who broke the law, so how can you blame me? Now these words come with consequences,” Jasper spoke calmly.

Conrad shot forward and slammed on the table in front of Jasper. With red eyes, the man shouted, having gone crazy due to anger.

“No one would’ve investigated this at all if you hadn’t done anything! Not when I didn’t cause a single cent’s loss! The loan was done with your company’s name, so how could they have traced it back to me?”

“You were the one who did all this in secret! Admit it if you had the guts to do it!”

“I would admit it if I were you, Jasper. At least then I’ll still look at you with respect. Otherwise, I’ll look down on you for the rest of my life even if I end up losing everything!”

Conrad’s words were strong as he drilled his eyes into Jasper, unwilling to miss out on any slight change in the other’s expression.

However, he was only disappointed in the end for there was not the slightest ripple in Jasper’s expression. There was not even a shine in his eyes as the man locked gazes with him expressionlessly.

“To be honest, Conrad, as far as I’m concerned, those two are idiots.”

Jasper pointed at Mitch and Zane as he spoke. He did not even wait for the two to explode over his insult before continuing, “Those two idiots can hardly amount to the threat you pose to me. You’re much smarter than the two of them.

“This opportunity you found, be it timing or point of attack, was perfect. If not for chance, I’d have lost much more than I have. At least from this ripple in Sena’s share prices, you’ve made me lose 500 million.”

Instead of elation, Conrad looked like he was in extreme pain when he heard Jasper's words.

"But I lost two billion! All of it! Gone!"

"You did that to yourself," Jasper spoke calmly.

"Not to mention that even now, you continue to set me up with words. But let's be honest, do you think that'll work on me?"

"You're right, the loan was signed under the company's name. But you were the one who participated in the entire loan process and reviewed the follow-up procedures."

Life at the Top Chapter 919

“Not to mention that you tried to secretly skip half of the loan process before the company was even substantively established. I’m sure there’s no need for me to specify how you planned to use the loan and how you planned to set me up, right?”

Jasper smiled and pointed at the group of stern-looking officers, saying, “I trust them. They wouldn’t take action without concrete evidence, which implies that they’ve done a very extensive and detailed investigation. After all, the head of the Monty family is a prominent figure in Southeast Province. It wouldn’t be right if they were to arrest falsely.”

There was not a shred of emotion in the stern middle-aged man’s face as he spoke, “Since we’ve already decided to take action, then we wouldn’t be arresting the wrong person. Conrad Monty, would you like to come with us yourself or should we bring you away by force?”

This was as rude as they could be.

Conrad’s superior status was the only reason he was being given such special treatment by these people working in special departments like this. Anyone else would have been arrested and dragged to the station without the chance to do so much blabbering.

Still, since they were taking action, it was without a doubt that they would be leaving with Conrad in tow.

Conrad’s eyes flared with anger and fear. He was overwhelmed with conflicting emotions. He never thought that after all he had done, he would land himself behind bars in the end.

This explained why Jasper did not have a reaction when the incident regarding the partnered company came to light. Jasper's lack of activity was not in line with Conrad's understanding of Jasper.

It had not made sense to Conrad then, but he did not dwell on the matter as the follow-up plan to attack Sena's share prices was much more important.

Jasper's counter-attack finally appeared now.

"You never once gave up taking revenge on me, Jasper! You've been preparing in secret all this while! Fine, you win!" Conrad ground his teeth and growled.

Jasper stood from the chair and looked Conrad straight in the eye, speaking calmly, "Just like how you never gave up on attacking me. Think about it, since when have I ever taken the initiative to offend you?"

"Every incident stemmed from you thinking that my existence is standing between you and your interests. Or perhaps you think my existence is a threat to your title of being Southeast Province's first genius in 50 years.

"You act as though only by completely defeating me can you secure your beautiful title as the first genius in 50 years.

"But has it ever crossed your mind that I was never interested in something like that?"

"All I'm interested in is the benefits I have in hand and the benefits I'm about to have in hand. Just these two, that's it. What people think and say is up to them, I don't care. So why are you going so far and running yourself down just to get rid of me?"

Jasper sighed lightly and looked at Conrad before speaking calmly, "Don't even think about getting a cent back from the two billion you threw into Sena. I can promise you, it's not happening."

Conrad's eyes widened as he glared at Jasper, roaring, "You wouldn't dare, Jasper!"

Jasper did not speak anymore.

The middle-aged man walked over to stand in front of Conrad and spoke expressionlessly, "I'll ask you one more time, Conrad Monty. Are you coming with us yourself or do we have to bring you away forcefully?"

Conrad trembled, and his complexion changed abnormally before it flushed red like he was drunk. With a roar, he opened his mouth and spat out a mouthful of blood that held what little strength he had left in his body.

Everyone watched as Conrad's eyes rolled back before the man fell limply onto the floor.

Life at the Top Chapter 920

Conrad suddenly fainting was the last thing anyone had anticipated.

Zane was misfortunate enough to be standing opposite Conrad, so the blood Conrad spat out before he fainted ended up splashing all over Zane's face.

Warm and fresh blood with a heavy metallic scent covered his entire face.

Taken aback, Zane began to wipe his face and scream crazily as though there was fire under his feet.

On the other end of the room, the middle-aged man's expression changed and he immediately caught Conrad. Carrying him in his arms, the middle-aged man turned to shout at his subordinates, "Quick, we're sending him to the closest hospital now!"

Conrad may be a suspect, but he had yet to be charged by the judge. Not to mention that Conrad was the head of the Monty family. The middle-aged man would be screwed if anything happened to Conrad.

The group frantically brought Conrad away but the embarrassing scene had yet to end.

Ignoring Zane who continued to shout, Jasper looked straight at Mitch.

For some inexplicable reason, Jasper's gaze sent a harsh shiver wracking through Mitch.

He saw with his own eyes how Jasper infuriated Conrad to the point of actually spitting blood out and fainting.

Under Jasper's calm gaze, indescribable fright spread all over Mitch's body.

"What do you want?"

Mitch growled fiercely. His expression was defensive as if he was trying to scare Jasper away by shouting.

"Are you afraid of me?" Jasper asked with some intrigue.

Mitch scoffed and suppressed the unease within him, replying, "Afraid of you? What kind of joke is that? Don't think that just because we're in the Mainland it suddenly means you're above the law, Jasper. You wouldn't dare hit me."

"Hit you?"

Jasper shook his head and spoke, "Your intellect only goes so far. Why would I hit you?"

Mitch gave it some thought and realized that Jasper was right.

'Jasper would never dare hurt me.

'Unless he's suicidal.'

At that, Mitch's mood immediately brightened as he spoke, "At least you're not stupid, Jasper. You win this time but just wait. It'll only be a matter of time before your consequences catch up to you. Don't you dare let me find an opening to attack, or I'll make sure you die a tragic death!

"Everything you have now, be it women, wealth, or status, will all belong to me by then. You're destined to be nothing more than a pitiful pest."

Jasper spoke calmly, "I wasn't done. I definitely won't hit you, because the world is filled with too many solutions that are much more terrifying than getting beaten up to the point of being crippled."

Mitch's proud smile froze on his face and he took an instinctive step back. After gulping, he scoffed in an attempt to muster confidence. "Stop f*cking bluffing. What can you even do to me, huh?"

Just then, Zane had finally calmed down a little. The traces of blood on his face made him look wretched and horrifying. Glaring at Jasper, Zane ground his teeth together and spoke, "This is all your fault, Jasper!"

"How is it my fault when you came all the way from Harbor City to get rid of me, only to end up like this in the end?"

Jasper fired back calmly.

Zane replied in a dark tone, "If I said it's your f*cking fault, then it's your f*cking fault! What's with all this bullsh*t?"

"I'm telling you, Jasper. All you did was get rid of a stray dog of ours, okay? I have plenty of stray dogs like this. All I have to do is call for them and they'll pounce on you like mad! I'd like to see how long you can keep up this proud act!"

Zane had just finished speaking when a whole roast chicken was slammed into his face.

It was a delicious roast chicken, yet it was treated as a weapon now. A weapon that brought out a pitiful cry from Zane and gave him a nosebleed.

Life at the Top Chapter 921

Coupled with the traces of the blood Conrad spat out earlier, Zane looked even more embarrassing now.

“What the f*ck?! Does this look like a place for you to talk, you stupid f*cker? Do you think you’re some sh*t?” Henry glared at Zane sinisterly and spoke.

He had held back for a very long time and there was no way he would back down from a chance to show off.

Striding over, Henry grabbed Zane by the collar and snickered. “I’ve never met stupid f*ckers with memories as bad as yours. How are there people in this world who only remember having fun but not the times they got beat up, hmm?”

Zane’s cheek burned, either from the roast chicken or the slap Henry gave him. He looked at Henry with terror and forced his anger aside to speak, “Have you gone mad, Henry?!”

“I’m mad?” Henry laughed aloud. “You’ll be the first one I kill if I go mad.”

“Henry, stop,” Jasper called out softly.

He wanted to get rid of Zane and Mitch, but it definitely would not be through violence.

Otherwise, he would have asked Julian to deal with them instead.

However, while Mitch and Zane were indeed small fries, the true trouble was the people supporting them.

“Violence will solve many problems, but those that violence cannot solve are the actual big messes.”

Jasper then pulled out his phone to call Jake after he finished speaking.

The call connected in no time.

“Mr. Laine.” Jake’s polite voice sounded from the other end.

“How’s progress on the matter I asked you to look into?” Jasper asked.

Jake chuckled evilly and replied, “It was really easy. As long as you’re willing to pay, there’s nothing you can’t do in Harbor City. This person Zane has quite a few issues. I found out from his driver that Zane actually has syphilis.

“And the woman who gave Zane syphilis apparently used to be Bob’s lover for a while. This is huge news and not many people know about it, but I’m certain it’s true. According to your requests, I’ve already leaked the news to the entertainment and gossip media outlets.”

Jasper raised his eyebrows.

He had only planned to expose some of Zane’s dirty secrets to Harbor City but he did not expect to dig out such a huge scandal.

Things were getting interesting.

Jasper looked at Zane pitifully.

This imbecile had just gotten into a lot of trouble.

The gossip reporters would not let him live this down, and it was likely that his father Bob would not let such a disobedient child run free either.

Jasper's brows furrowed when he looked over only to see that Henry was still grabbing Zane's collar tightly and blood from Zane's bleeding nose was about to get on Henry's hand. He quickly spoke, "Henry, let him go."

Henry was stunned and turned his head to ask why. "I've been wanting to beat this stupid f*cker for a long time already! I only got to slap him once."

Henry evidently did not want to let go of this punching bag.

However, the next thing Jasper said had Henry immediately letting go as if he had been electrocuted.

"He has syphilis."

"Holy f*ck! Why didn't you say that earlier?"

Henry immediately jumped a few meters back as expletives continued to come out of his mouth.

Life at the Top Chapter 922

Henry was not the only one shocked as Jasper's words had Mitch's expression changing drastically!

To get rid of Jasper, the two of them had been in close contact recently. Mitch only knew that syphilis could be transmitted but he did not know in what ways!

Even if he knew that his relationship with Zane was not intimate enough for syphilis to be transmitted, the fact that Zane, whom he had spent every day side by side with, had syphilis made Mitch want to barf and vomit.

Zane, the person in question, went completely pale.

It was ingrained fear and shock that seeped from his bones.

Not even Conrad's blood and his own nosebleed over his face could cover up his pale complexion.

He looked at Jasper with pure fear, his eyes swirling with craze and disbelief as he roared, "Bullsh*t! What are you talking about? Who the f*ck has syphilis? I'll kill you!"

Zane resembled a little child who had been exposed for taking a dump in his pants. He defended himself and threatened Jasper maddeningly in an attempt to hide the fact that Jasper was speaking the truth.

He did indeed have syphilis and it was not a glory story. If anything, the news of it should never see the light of day.

"Oh? So it's fake news?"

Jasper's tone was light.

"So the fact that you slept with your dad's ex-girlfriend is fake too?"

Jasper directly pressed the loudspeaker button on his phone as he spoke. He did not look at Zane who was trembling, nor Henry who was excited for gossip, or even Mitch who had an inexplicable weird expression on his face.

"Repeat the news you told me," Jasper requested calmly.

Jake's voice quickly echoed through the speakers.

"Zane does indeed have syphilis. To confirm the news, we went to his private doctor and found his entire medical record that included his diagnosis and treatment.

"We also found out from his private doctor that a woman called Tina Gross had also joined him for syphilis treatment.

"This Tina is an Auman and she dated Bob half a year ago. The press found out about it, but Bob ended up dumping her three months later.

"Tina continued to stay in Harbor City after that, living in a high-end neighborhood under Zane's name. A few paparazzi took pictures of Zane and Tina kissing by the window before, but Zane paid them off in secret.

"We managed to get a few films of those pictures, though."

Jasper spoke calmly after Jake was done, "Alright. Thanks for the trouble."

"It's no trouble. It's part of my job, after all. News should be all over the press tonight, I think," Jake replied calmly.

From the call, Jake could hear that Zane knew he was the one on the other end. Not that Jake cared, though.

As far as Jake was concerned, offending Zane was no issue as long as he had Jasper to protect him.

Even idiots knew who to choose between Jasper and Zane.

Ending the call, Jasper turned to Zane who was not looking well and spoke calmly, "You heard him. I'm pretty sure the Harborers will have a nice show to watch tonight. Wonderful, I'm sure it'll be able to entertain the bored Harborers."

"That's f*cking cool, man!" Henry slapped Zane's shoulder and spoke with a shocked expression on his face, "Holy hell, I didn't know you had it in you to do something like this. What's this even considered, incest?"

Life at the Top Chapter 923

“Oh, but then again, this was just his ex-girlfriend and not your actual stepmother. Though I’d like to know, did you ask that woman if you or your father was better in bed? Hahaha.”

Henry slapped his thigh as he chortled. The louder he laughed, the more unpleasant Zane’s expression became.

Then, he suddenly pounced on Jasper, taking everyone back with this unexpected reaction.

Jasper’s brow arched. Without Julian here, he could only take a step back and find a weapon he could use as quickly as possible.

Henry made a weird sound. Terrified that Zane would do something to Jasper, he grabbed a ceramic plate and shattered it against the table, ready to hurt Zane before Zane could hurt Jasper.

Even Mitch’s brows twitched. Following that, a beautiful shine flared in his eyes as he looked at Zane who was pouncing on Jasper.

Everything would be great if Zane went mad and got rid of Jasper right now.

Zane would be doomed, but Mitch would walk out of this unscathed. Not to mention that Mitch would also have a huge problem like Jasper resolved for good.

In an instant, Zane, whom he had looked down on all this while, suddenly became a grand figure in his eyes. Mitch even felt the urge to cheer Zane on.

This was how a lackey was supposed to act.

Yet... something no one expected happened.

Zane had indeed pounced.

Although, it was not to hurt Jasper.

Instead, the man fell to his knees with a thud in front of Jasper.

He reached out to grab Jasper's thigh, beginning to sob and wail. "I'm sorry, Mr. Jasper. I'm sorry, I shouldn't have offended you and I shouldn't have caused you trouble. It's all my fault. I'm f*cking stupid! I'm the blind fool who doesn't know better."

Zane then lifted his hand to slap himself harshly.

The slaps were strong, for it immediately caused blood to seep out the corner of Zane's mouth and his cheek was already swollen red.

"But please, Mr. Jasper, please have mercy! Don't leak the news out, my dad will actually beat me to death if he finds out!

"Please, save me this once, please! I won't offend you again!"

Henry gulped with a weird look in his eyes when he took in the sight of Zane wailing and begging for mercy.

These young masters from Harbor City were all arrogant people. People like Zane only picked on Jasper for one reason.

Jasper did not come from a formidable family, so they looked down on him. People like Zane trample over people like Jasper to prove how sophisticated they were.

Among the circle of trust fund babies, their reputation and image mattered the most whenever they quarreled among themselves. They would admit defeat, but no one had truly begged another for mercy before.

While Zane's background was no match to the young masters of the four richest families, Zane was technically still a trust fund baby who had never kneeled and begged for mercy even when Henry gave him the worst beating.

After all, everyone was from a wealthy family where reputation and dignity came first. Lives would not be taken anyway, so no one would beg for mercy at the risk of being mocked by other trust fund babies.

Yet, the reality was right before Henry's eyes.

Zane, a vile, shameless, disgusting, and abominable man who was known for being stubborn had been reduced to kneeling and begging in front of Jasper! He was a mess now!

Life at the Top Chapter 924

A similar flurry of emotions was brewing within Mitch as well.

He looked at Zane in disbelief. He and Zane had the same enemy—Jasper. As such, Mitch was well aware of how much Zane hated the other.

It would not be inaccurate to say that Zane wanted to cook Jasper alive.

Yet here the man was, kneeling in front of Jasper. After watching with his own eyes how Conrad had spat out blood and fainted after getting enraged by Jasper, this was the second time Mitch felt utterly terrified.

The terror cut even deeper this time than it did with Conrad.

After all, he and Zane were, to some degree, the same kind of people.

The only difference was that his status was above Zane's. As for their identities, both of them were from wealthy families and belonged to Harbor City's circle of trust fund babies.

As such, there was not much difference between him and Zane.

'If Zane can be reduced to kneeling before Jasper while begging for mercy, who's to say that the same fate won't befall me someday?'

At that train of thought, Mitch felt a deep sense of fear engulf his heart.

He looked at Jasper in both fear and curiosity as he wondered if he had any similar weaknesses—the kind that he would do everything to ensure Jasper never found out.

At that, Mitch realized he was doomed.

It occurred to him that he was filled with weaknesses to exploit. He had done too many bad things in the past.

He would be fine if he were facing anyone else, but it was a different story when Jasper was involved as the man was unpredictable. If Jasper ended up shining light on those things, just his family finding out about it would be enough to screw him over. His dad Kennedy would be the first to beat him to death.

At that moment, Mitch understood why Zane was willing to get on his knees for Jasper.

The nature of the situation was too horrendous and severe.

“Hehe, Bob and Zane, this father and son duo sure are exquisite. Like father, like son. To them, bedding women is just like taking public buses; they get in like it’s nothing. They don’t even care if reporters write about this.

“Bob even told my dad proudly once that all men are the same, he just doesn’t like hiding it. That there’s nothing weird about a man sleeping with multiple women.”

With glee, Henry looked at Zane who was still kneeling in front of Jasper.

“I wonder what your old man is going to think when he finds out that you followed him into the same public bus?”

Already terrified, Zane paled further with Henry’s words.

“Please don’t expose the news, Jasper! Or I’ll really get beaten to death by my dad! Please, I’m begging you!” Zane wailed as he begged Jasper.

To trust fund babies like them, the only thing they feared was their own elders.

After all, they were well aware that their power and wealth, as well as respect and fear that other people showed for them, all came from their elders.

It was because they were born into a good family!

Zane knew his father, and while that man did not care much about many things, being his son would not save him from punishment when it came to things that Bob cared about.

If the news got out, then the situation would surely become something Bob cared about.

Jasper remained unfazed despite how long Zane had been begging him. This time, Zayne turned around and pounced on Henry instead, startling him.

“Mr. Henry, please! Please help me convince him! This really can’t be leaked out!”

“Mr. Henry, please! I’m sorry, I’m really sorry! I’ll never argue with you again! Whatever you say goes. I’ll never create trouble for you anymore.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Henry! Please help me!”

Life at the Top Chapter 925

Seeing how Zane was pleading for mercy wretchedly, Henry twitched his mouth and glanced at Jasper. Eventually, he said, "Crawl farther away. Do you think I don't know the type of person you are?"

"You said the same thing when I stripped you bare and hung you up on a tree when we were 13. What happened then? You immediately found a gang of men to stand in my way in school. Had I not run fast enough, I would've been beaten up by you at the time.

"Two years ago, you f*cking smacked Kayden's girlfriend's butt. Do you remember how you pleaded with Kayden? It was way worse than this.

"What happened next was that you found gangsters to assault that woman in turns and even pretended as though you had nothing to do with them. You think no one was aware of this?"

Henry, who was slightly moved with compassion earlier, grew angrier as he spoke. He turned around and said to Jasper, "End this idiot. This b*stard is extremely ungrateful. If you don't end him this time, he'll come and bite us back in the *ss later."

Jasper nodded in agreement.

He was not a fan of being merciful to his enemies.

When this incident passed, Zane's pity at the moment would be quickly replaced with viciousness.

Besides, there were simply too many incidents to prove that a person like Zane would never be grateful.

How many idiots had been killed by their idiotic kindness in historical films and novels?

Clearly, they had all the chance in the world to kill the villain, or at least cripple them, but the main character would insist on sparing them in hopes that they would turn over a new leaf.

What happened next? The main character's wife and mother would be assaulted by the villain, and his father and brothers would get slashed to death.

Idiotic storylines like that would never happen to Jasper.

Jasper had lived a lowly and humble life in his past life. He knew the ways of the world and the human heart clearer than anyone.

"Stop begging. Save some of your saliva to explain it to your father," Jasper said indifferently.

As soon as Jasper said those words, Zane immediately stopped begging.

He looked up at Jasper and climbed to his feet slowly, looking maniacal and full of bitter resentment. He squeezed a sentence between clenched teeth, "Are you trying to kill me, Jasper Laine?"

Jasper said calmly, "I never wanted you dead, but since you're so passionate about giving me trouble, I'll have to do something to return the favor, don't I?"

"Otherwise, if you keep turning up at my door and I keep solving the problem without getting rid of you, the root of the problem still exists.

"It happens to be such a coincidence that I'm a person who hates trouble and likes to solve something all at once."

“Stop your motherf*cking bullcrap!” Zane roared suddenly. “Fine, don’t blame me for your own decisions!”

Having said that, Zane snatched the ceramic plate from Henry’s hand.

Henry had smashed the plate on the table earlier so what was left of it had extremely sharp edges. Zane put on a maniacal and thrilled expression as he waved the ceramic plate and slashed it at Jasper’s neck.

Everyone was caught unprepared by his move.

Zane had pounced on Jasper just a moment ago, seemingly trying to harm him only for them to realize that Zane simply wanted to plead for mercy. As such, no one expected Zane to attack so suddenly when his pleas failed.

Like a pot of boiling water, the entire place was in chaos.

Jasper’s defensive stance and Zane’s violent wave of his arm had formed a tremendously confusing scene.

Amid the waving of limbs, a hint of blood shot out.

Someone was hurt!

Mitch, who had retreated to a corner a long time ago, felt a tingling sensation on his scalp. He had goosebumps all over his body as he gawked at the scene, trying to figure out if it was Jasper’s blood!

Life at the Top Chapter 926

Regardless of whether the trace of blood belonged to Jasper or Zane, things had gotten way out of control.

The nature of the situation had changed completely.

If the blood belonged to Zane, then Jasper had only done it out of self-defense.

If the blood belonged to Jasper, then Zane would be charged with intentional homicide. Even a slight injury would be considered deliberate harm.

No matter whose blood it was, the nature of this whole incident had been raised to a whole new level. This was no longer just an ordinary dispute. This was an intentional crime!

In the room, the sound of physical combat between men, cries of unknown men, clanging of tables and chairs, and crashing of tableware clearly traveled outside of the private room.

Julian, whose nerves were already taut to begin with in preparation to handle any situations, felt a ringing in his head. Without any hesitation, he roared angrily and broke his way in like a dragon that had gone berserk and rushed into the room.

He looked up and found Jasper at a glance. He looked at him up and down. Julian breathed a sigh of relief at what he saw. Thankfully, Jasper was fine.

Jasper stood on one side, and although his clothes were disheveled, his expression was stern with no obvious trauma on his body.

Henry stood next to him holding his arm, glaring furiously at Zane.

Zane was still holding a blood-stained porcelain plate, standing in front of Jasper and Henry as he breathed heavily. He resembled an irritable and mad bull.

When Zane snatched the plate earlier, Henry was able to react in time. Even so, Zane still caught him unprepared and managed to snatch the plate from his hand.

Henry had no time to think at all as he let out a roar and rushed up to Zane.

As soon as he rushed up, he saw Zane waving and slashing at Jasper using the plate that was as sharp as a knife like a madman.

In crucial moments like that, Henry had no time to think and pushed Jasper away. Jasper was unharmed, but there was a wound dripping with blood on his arm.

The wound was extremely deep, but thankfully, it did not cut any veins. Besides, arms were not fatal points, so even though he was bleeding profusely and was in tremendous pain, Henry knew he was okay.

“Are you okay?”

Jasper rushed over, pulled Henry’s arm toward him, and asked with concern.

He looked at the ghastly and horrendous-looking gash on Henry’s arm. From the slit in his clothes, it could be seen that his skin and flesh had been torn apart. His arm was badly mangled.

Jasper flew into a towering rage at once.

He had countless underlings and friends, not but many faithful friends.

John Jackson, Julian, and definitely Henry.

There were only three of them.

From the time he began by carefully interacting with the top-notch prodigal son to getting to know each other, Jasper knew that Henry was not naturally evil. He was different in nature compared to someone like Mitch.

Up until now, even though Jasper often teased Henry and enjoyed looking at his embarrassed expression, he was only doing so because this brat was too egotistical and unbridled. His attitude needed fixing.

However, that did not mean that Jasper did not care about Henry's life.

Jasper had lived two lifetimes and came across all kinds of people, hence he particularly treasured friendships that he had acknowledged.

To be honest, not that he was trying to look cool or anything, Jasper would rather have his arm slashed instead.

"I'm okay." Henry grinned. He felt a gush of warmth in his heart when he saw the genuine expression on Jasper's face.

As a prodigal son, he had plenty of underlings—even more than flies—but never a true friend.

Those guys were either in awe and reverent in front of him yet calling him a spoiled child behind his back, or they were hypocrites who were only with him for the benefits.

Life at the Top Chapter 927

How could someone like him have any genuine friends?

Henry had none.

However, things changed when Jasper appeared.

He knew that Jasper truly cared about him and their friendship had nothing to do with the fact that he was a Law. At most... it was a tad bit related to his gorgeous sister.

Had it not been for their true friendship, would a prodigal son who was naturally selfish take a slash for Jasper? Usually, others would take a slash for him instead.

“It’s just a gash. It looks scary but it’s just a superficial wound.”

Henry said between clenched teeth.

“Julian!”

Jasper turned around and called out to Julian.

“I want you to rip Zane’s arms apart!”

After receiving Jasper’s orders, Julian turned around and looked coldly at Zane before immediately springing into action.

Zane had no chance to even struggle in front of Julian.

He held Zane down as though he was pinching an earthworm. He could not even budge. Julian did not even need to make any exaggerated moves and Zane was already heard shrieking before his arms hung limply by his sides.

Zane was overcome by the intense pain that he slumped to the ground and passed out.

“Hey, hey, don’t kill him. Darn it, I haven’t taken my revenge yet,” Henry yelled.

“He won’t end well. You should probably treat your wound first. Even if it isn’t serious, you’re going to bleed yourself to death if you don’t do anything about it,” Jasper said.

Henry took a deep breath and sat on the chair, saying with a grin, “Ask Julian to bind up my wound. You can proceed.”

Jasper darted a glance at Julian who walked over to study Henry’s wound before saying to Jasper, “It’s just a superficial wound. I can bind it up. Once the bleeding stops, we just need to disinfect it. That’s all.”

“I’ll leave it to you, then,” Jasper said.

He turned around and looked at Mitch.

The latter shuddered under Jasper’s gaze.

When the feeling of excitement earlier had worn off, Mitch was suddenly filled with regret.

He regretted provoking Jasper.

Now that Conrad had been taken away after passing out and Zane had fainted after being driven mad, he was the only one left. Mitch could not help but sympathize with the situation they were in.

It was as if they were in a pigsty and he was watching as his friends were taken away one after another, all while feeling a sense of fear that it would soon be his turn.

Mitch was considered a hoodlum as well. Before Jasper could say anything, he took the initiative to say, "Jasper, now that things have gotten out of hand, why don't we make peace and I'll compensate you?"

"You only have one chance. If your compensation does not convince me, then it'll be the end for you," Jasper said indifferently.

Jasper's attitude made Mitch grit his teeth inwardly. The peasant he had always looked down on was actually behaving in a domineering manner. However, in the face of unfavorable conditions, Mitch had no choice but to stomach this insult.

Where there was life, there was hope.

Mitch's eyes rolled in their sockets and while gritting his teeth, he went all out, saying, "Fabian Atticus has been searching for ways to deal with you. Although I have no idea about his specific plans, I do know that he has been in contact with several domestic internet companies recently. I think he's planning to attack Terizone.

"Is this news enough compensation?"

Life at the Top Chapter 928

Jasper narrowed his eyes.

His and Fabian's enmity had begun in an extremely nonsensical manner.

They became enemies without having met each other.

This was directly related to Jonathan from Coreana.

Though no matter what, he should not let his guard down since they were now enemies.

From the way Fabian had caused Kayden to suffer tremendous losses, it was clear that he had a much higher status than someone like Mitch.

Jasper had not let his guard down and had been guarding against Fabian in preparation for his next attack.

However, Jasper had too little information in hand. He simply had no idea what Fabian would do.

Right now, Mitch had delivered the news to his doorstep.

Jasper did not question the authenticity of the news because Mitch had no reason to make up fake news like this to deceive him. Besides, it would be too easy to expose this lie.

When Mitch saw how quiet Jasper was, he gritted his teeth and continued.

“Although we’re not friends, Jasper, I’m not afraid to tell you that I’m more willing to deal with you than someone like Fabian. He’s a jackal that wouldn’t hesitate to devour himself when he becomes vicious, let alone someone like me...

“He came to me but I refused to act against my own interests. Henry isn’t entirely clueless about Fabian’s reputation. You’ll know if you ask around. There are many people in Harbor City who want him dead but no one is brave enough to offend him.

“He’s too powerful and no one is confident enough to take him down with a single attack. Besides, if you can’t end him in a single try, then you’ll only find yourself in endless trouble.

“Although I have no idea how you provoked him, this has nothing to do with me. I’m only telling you this news in hopes that you’ll let this matter drop. I’ll have nothing to do with what happens to Zane and Conrad after this. I won’t interfere at all.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes at Mitch, seemingly thinking of ways to deal with him.

Mitch gritted his teeth. He disliked the feeling of helplessness from being put to trial, especially when Jasper was the judge.

However, Mitch had no other choice but to grit his teeth and endure it.

At this moment, Henry walked over after Julian was done binding up his wound.

“Leave it to me?” Henry said to Jasper.

Jasper lifted his eyebrows and nodded when he noticed that Henry was serious about it.

Since Henry insisted on doing it himself, Jasper would show due respect for his feelings and let him deal with the situation no matter what. Even if Henry released Mitch, Jasper would not interfere either.

Honestly, a prodigal son like Henry might not be as shrewd and guileful in public, but he was great at playing dirty.

Henry was seen taking out his phone, switching to the camera application. He pointed the phone's camera lens at Mitch. After fixing the angle, he chuckled and said, "That's enough. I want you to repeat what you just said."

"F*ck, Julian, hold this for me. My arm hurts so bad. This darn Zane. Motherf*cker, I'll kill him this time!"

A smile hung at the corners of Julian's mouth at the sight of Henry's behavior. He walked over and held the phone, pointing it at Mitch.

Although the camera function of mobile phones was still terrible in this age and its visual impact was poor, it was not difficult to make out a person's face.

As soon as the lens was pointed at Mitch, he immediately lost it.

"What's the meaning of this? Don't you believe me?!" Mitch roared furiously.

How could he possibly dare to allow Henry to take videos of him like that? If he took videos and showed them to Fabian, then he would be dead for sure.

Although his father was Kennedy Langdon and his family was one of the four richest families, Mitch feared Fabian from the bottom of his heart.

"Stop all the f*cking crap. Are you filming or not? If you don't want to, then we'll do what we need to do. If you do it, then we can all get lost once we're done. This is only for insurance. If you don't play any dirty tricks, then this video will remain on my phone forever."

"However, if you play dirty, then I guarantee that Fabian will see your big face on the screen as you talk bad about him."

Having said that, Henry chuckled. "Fabian is not a person who's easy to deal with. When the time comes, you'll be the first to be fixed by him, so you'd better not play tricks on us."

Mitch's eyebrows were twitching violently. He looked at Jasper only to see that he had no intention of speaking up.

After struggling for a period of time, Mitch resigned to his fate.

He knew that doing so would give Jasper something to use against him, but so what?

If he did not do so, then he was certainly not going to live through today.

He did not have a choice, especially since Conrad and Zane had ended in such horrendous states themselves.

After taking a deep breath, Mitch looked into the phone's camera lens and repeated what he said earlier.

Once the video had been filmed, Henry admired his work and waved to Mitch without even looking up. "Get lost. I want you to go back to Harbor City without looking back. Don't let me see you in Nauritus City ever again."

Mitch was agitated by Henry's way of driving him away like he was chasing flies. Even so, he did not have a choice and could only leave while gritting his teeth and clenching his fists.

He did not even glance at Zane who was lying on the ground.

Noticing this tiny detail, Henry darted a sidelong glance at Mitch's back and sneered.

“Good job. You’ve helped me tremendously this time,” Jasper said to Henry with a smile when Mitch was gone.

Henry grinned and said, “Mitch is not like Zane. His father is Kennedy Langdon. If he messes up, then it’ll spell trouble. We have something to use against him and this is more useful than beating him up.”

“What about this guy?” Jasper asked, pointing at Zane lying on the ground.

Henry chuckled. “You’re testing me?”

“I guess so. If you pass, then I’ll give you a big gift after that,” Jasper said with a grin.

“Really?!”

Henry’s eyes lit up. “I’m not a fan of ordinary gifts.”

“Do you think I’ll use ordinary gifts to trick you? Since I said it’s a big gift, then I assure you that you’ll be satisfied.”

Henry’s pupils rolled in their sockets and he suddenly pulled out his phone to make a call. When the call was connected, he burst into tears in front of Jasper, wailing and choking with sobs. His voice carried a trace of fear and grievances.

He looked like a kid who was running home to seek help from his father after he was bullied outside.

“Dad, someone slashed me! I’m about to die!”

Life at the Top Chapter 929

Nauritus City Province General Hospital.

From the superiors to the juniors, the dean to the nurses, everyone was standing reverently in front of the corridor with their heads lowered. They were staring at the provincial and municipal officers with admiration as they walked in a uniform line to No. 1 intensive care unit for a visit.

The hospital employees gulped, exclaiming about how they had gained new knowledge and insight today.

The one responsible for receiving these bigwigs was not the person in charge.

It was the person in charge's assistant.

Despite that, these bigwigs were not unhappy about it at all and even expressed their concern. After leaving their gifts behind, they even ordered these bunch of hospital employees like they were lecturing them and giving them a task.

They must ensure that the patient in the ward recovered as soon as possible at all costs!

Hearing the bigwigs saying the words 'at all costs' turned this whole affair so serious that it was unimaginable by common people.

Unlike the hubbub outside the ward, everything was quiet inside.

There were three people in total.

Jasper and Zachary were sitting next to the bed while Henry was lying on the bed.

There was a blood bag hanging on Henry's arm. This brat was so bored that he started swaying the IV tube, and when he noticed Zachary's sullen gaze, he immediately pretended to be weak and began crying out in pain.

"Stop pretending. You're not going to die!"

Zachary roared sullenly.

Even though Zachary said so, his eyes were filled with heartache and anger.

This was, after all, his son. On top of that, he was also the Laws' only son. Any parent would panic when their child's arm was slashed. This had nothing to do with status and identity but the love of parents for their children.

Of course, his son needed to suffer a little in order to toughen up, but which idiot was so bold to slash his, Zachary Law's, son?! Did they not want their head anymore?

"I'm a patient, Dad. My arm was just slashed. The doctor said that if it was just a tad deeper or if the angle was a little off, my arm would've been crippled forever," Henry said, feeling extremely wronged.

"Uncle Law, it's my fault for being too careless," Jasper said sincerely to Zachary.

Jasper did feel a bit guilty. He was fully prepared but did not expect Zane to go berserk and go all out to fight him. Otherwise, Henry would not have blocked the attack for him either.

"This isn't your fault," Zachary turned to Jasper and said with a much calmer tone.

“This kid is finally a bit fearless and upright. If he had just stood there and watched, I’d be the first to teach him a lesson. A man should always do the right thing.”

Upon hearing a rare compliment from his father, Henry was just about to grin smugly when he quickly recalled that he was now a patient. He continued to moan and grunt to make his presence known.

At this moment, there was a knock on the door and it was followed by Julian walking into the ward.

“Jasper, Mr. Zachary, Bob Lancaster is here.”

Jasper glanced at Zachary and then exchanged glances with Henry while keeping silent in tacit agreement.

Now that the matter had gotten so serious and they had done everything they could, it was time for Zachary and Bob, both bigwigs of similar status and identity, to grapple with each other.

“Let him in,” Zachary said with a sullen expression.

Julian glanced at Jasper, saw him nod, and turned around to go out.

After Julian went out, Zachary said to Jasper, “This bunch of men is really annoying. I’ll use this opportunity today to help you get rid of one.”

Jasper was stunned. Sure enough, none of these old cunning foxes were easy to fool. He had probably seen through Henry’s clumsy act a long time ago.

Life at the Top Chapter 930

He was about to speak when Bob, with a complicated look on his face, pushed the door in. Followed closely behind him was a bruised, battered, and weak Zane.

“Zachary, I brought this brute here today to apologize to you,” Bob walked toward Zachary and said apologetically as soon as he entered the ward.

“You sure have some guts to show up, don’t you?” Zachary stood up with a sneer.

Before Zachary listened to Bob’s explanation, he raised his hand and slapped Bob across the face.

Bob had just finished apologizing when he received a hard slap on the face.

The slap froze the atmosphere immediately.

Even Jasper was stunned.

He had only seen young men in their 20s with short tempers getting into fistfights thus far. He never expected Mr. Zachary to be a grumpy middle-aged man too.

Henry nearly jumped up from the hospital bed to cheer for his father.

Indeed, people were used to seeing trust fund babies’ arrogant and domineering characters, yet they almost forgot that the fathers of these trust fund babies in the four richest families in Harbor City were also once outstanding trust fund babies and top-notch profligate sons of the rich.

After taking over the family business, they may have gotten much calmer and steadier, no longer making decisions based on their emotions. Even so, they were still top-notch young masters from 20 years ago to their cores.

Bob was dumbfounded by the slap.

He never thought that a man like him who had such status and identity would get slapped in the face.

He glared at Zachary, barely able to suppress the wave of anger that was ready to burst out.

Men who had such status and identity like them paid attention to their image more than anything else. Their level of tolerance was so great that it was simply impossible for anyone to destroy them. Therefore, at the end of the day, image and reputation were really the only things they were striving for.

Things had barely started yet Zachary was already ruining his image and trampling on his dignity.

“What’s wrong? Unsatisfied?”

Zachary asked in a sullen tone.

“You’re probably thinking that I’ve broken the rules when I slapped you, right? That men of our age should not use our fists no matter what?”

Bob suppressed his anger and said coldly, “Of course, I’m not bold enough to think that way!”

Even though he said that he was not bold enough, Bob’s towering rage was evident.

“Hehe, you’re not bold enough? Is there anything you’re not bold enough to do when your son is already bold enough to murder my son using a weapon?”

Zachary lifted his arm and pointed at Bob’s nose, nearly pushing his head to the back.

“Bob Lancaster, I, Zachary Law, will say this once only. Yes, my actions may have broken the rules, but it’s in line with the Law family’s rules!

“Motherf*cker! If you’re that bold, why don’t you challenge the Laws this instant? I’ll let you go back to Harbor City now so both of our families can fight it out. My old man is still around. I’d like to see if you’re bold enough to show an attitude in front of the Laws!”

When Zachary was done yelling, Zachary stared at Bob whose complexion started changing as he was unable to suppress his fear. Zachary sneered, “You and that group of brats must have noticed the Laws keeping a low profile these few years and thus grew bold, haven’t you?”

“Have you forgotten how Old Master Law did business in the Southeast Alexandria arms industry with a ring of grenades wrapped around his waist and several guns on his shoulders back then?”

“Old Master Law may be old but he’s not dead yet!

“With Old Master Law around, with the both of us around, it’s not your turn to bully the Laws’ son yet!”

Jasper turned to look at Henry who looked absolutely astonished and sighed.

Little Henry Law still had a long way to go to become a true and promising hedonistic son of the rich.

Life at the Top Chapter 931

Zachary had gained full control of the situation.

By setting an example, Zachary had shown Henry how a top-notch hedonistic son of the rich could use words and might to intimidate the other party, eventually achieving his goal.

Bob looked exceedingly sullen.

When Bob learned about the things Zane did today, he knew that this was going to be a tricky problem to solve.

Bob knew better than younger generations like Zane that the Laws were the ones they should never mess with.

Three other rich families were just ordinary business families who made their fortune by taking advantage of Harbor City's unique status and the rapid development of society in the early years.

Later, even as their family status grew and they embarked on the journey of business and held government positions, they were still businessmen at heart.

The Laws were different.

Old Master Law started off with minor achievements in turbulent times and carved out a niche for himself.

The four richest families knew each other through and through. Why did the three other richest families not take the initiative to provoke the Laws even when they were keeping such a low profile?

That was because they knew that they could not afford to provoke the Laws.

At least when Old Master Law was still alive, no one would lay a finger on the Laws.

Since the handover, the help that Old Master Law had extended to the Mainland had earned him supreme status today. This was something that was becoming increasingly prominent.

Seeing that Zachary had no plans of overcoming this matter, Bob gritted his teeth and decided to endure the humiliation first.

He turned around and slapped Zane hard across the face.

Zane screamed. Already battered to begin with, Zane was wounded further, which made him look extremely dreadful and miserable.

Bob did not go easy on his strike, splitting open Zane's wounds that had just recovered. Blood came flowing in torrents.

"Now that things have come to this point, Zachary, nothing I say can change anything. In any case, my unfilial son has lost his head and committed this mistake. You'll decide how you want to punish him and I'll agree to it without a single frown," Bob said in a deep voice.

He sounded extremely sincere, or at least it sounded that way.

Zachary slapped Bob, and Bob then slapped his son.

Jasper and Henry watched with fascination at the constant plot shift.

Zachary sneered and said, "You're inflicting injury on your son to gain my sympathy, huh?"

Bob let out a wry smile. "Zachary, I'm not trying to gain your sympathy. I'm offering my sincerest apology. Seriously. You can do anything to this unfilial son and I won't say a thing about it."

Bob had made plans of his own. Zachary would never kill his son, right? At least he would still be alive and this would all be over soon.

As for his reputation, Bob already knew that it was impossible to secure his reputation when he noticed Zachary's stance. He had received a slap in the face for nothing.

It did not matter anyway. There were only so few of them in the ward. When he stepped out of this door, he, Bob Lancaster, would remain as Harbor City's magnate.

However, Bob, who was busy hatching a plot, had underestimated Zachary's power.

"Sure, if that's what you say."

Life at the Top Chapter 932

Zachary pointed at the window of the ward and said, "Ask your son to jump out of there and I'll let this matter drop."

Bob and his son's expressions changed with great shock.

Jump out of there?!

Zane glanced with horror at the window that was ten stories above and then at his father Bob. Despair and pleas filled his eyes.

Bob looked beyond awkward as he was unable to back out now.

He was not going to allow his son to jump out the window no matter what.

"Motherf*cker, are you trying to play tricks with me? You're leaving the decision to me because you think that I wouldn't argue with a junior and would just scold and beat him. All would be fine since he's not going to die anyway, right? As long as he doesn't die, this will all pass, right?"

Zachary sneered, "Well, I insist on not doing things your way today. C'mon then. Didn't you say that I can punish him any way that I want? Well, I'm not going to kill or harm your son. I just want him to jump out of the window. Are you going to jump out or not?"

Bob's expression changed constantly. Ultimately, he said between clenched teeth, "Tell me what you want. Just don't cross the line. I admit that I was wrong."

Zachary let out a satisfied smile and said mildly, "I want 30% of the artificial canals in Southeast Alexandria that you're involved in developing."

Bob's expression changed abruptly as he responded subconsciously, "No way! That's my core asset. I will never allow anyone to touch it, let alone 30%!"

"It's fine if you don't want to. I'm sure you can give me a share of the natural gas contract you signed earlier, then?"

Bob looked like he had seen a ghost when he heard Zachary's words. "You're spying on me?! Only a few people know about that. The public has no knowledge about that at all!"

"Bob, you're so used to a smooth sailing life all these years that you have no idea about the dangers in the business world, huh?"

"Why do you think you were able to sign that contract so easily? I was just waiting for someone to clear the obstacles for me before I went over to pick the peaches."

Zachary's expression turned cold as he spoke, "This is my final limit. I will not touch the canals since that's so crucial to your survival, but if you refuse to give me the natural gas contract, then let's go back and fight it out."

Bob gritted his teeth hard and said with much difficulty, "Fine! But you'll let this matter drop."

"Get lost," Zachary said coldly.

After a period of time, Bob led Zane out of the ward.

When Bob saw his son staggering, looking absolutely battered, he was so furious that he raised his hand to hit him.

Zane looked absolutely miserable at the moment as he shrieked subconsciously, raising his hands to shield his head. He was shuddering constantly.

Seeing how useless Zane was, Bob put down his hands angrily and roared, "You unfilial son! Do you know how much money we've lost because of your impulsiveness?! The natural gas contract could've given us at least a billion in profits!"

Zane was too frightened to speak. Until now, the news that Jasper exposed had yet reached Bob's ears. He dared not imagine how furious Bob would be if he learned about the news.

"Please send me abroad, Dad. I'd like to go abroad to further my studies for two years," Zane muttered under his breath.

Stunned, Bob stared at Zane and said, "You didn't want to no matter how I persuaded you in the past but you've finally changed your mind now?"

Zane hastened to say, "Yes, I've thought it through. This was a huge lesson for me and I would like to go out and have some time alone to think about my future."

"That's more like it. You've finally grown up. Looks like this punishment was well worth it."

Feeling rather relieved, Bob turned around and said, "Let's go back to Harbor City immediately. I will arrange for you to go abroad as soon as possible."

Life at the Top Chapter 933

“You let them off easy, Dad.”

In the ward, Henry thought it was a pity.

It was the perfect opportunity to take down both Lancaster father and son, yet Zachary had chosen to let them off just like that?

Although they did get some benefits, Henry did not care about those benefits at all. The Laws were a big family that owned major industries. They received plenty of benefits that losing a few was not enough to starve them to death.

In Henry’s opinion, he could give up on this bit of benefit and use this opportunity to trample the Lancaster father and son to the ground.

“Know when to stop. Some things are not that simple. Do you really think Bob is that easy to deal with?”

Zachary replied, though it was clear that he had no plans of making further explanations about this as it involved the power struggle of the upper class in Harbor City. It was too complicated.

Jasper, however, took the hint and said with a smile, “When two giants fight, it’ll be difficult to bring each other down unless it involves life and death.

“The giants will not start a war so easily because of their sizes as the impact will be too great and the consequences too heavy. Hence, most of the time, both parties will take turns in suffering losses and sharing benefits.

“In the long run, after a few more wins and as one rises and another one falls, the gap between the giants will be pulled apart. When that happens, you’ll get to decide what you want to do with the other party.”

Zachary nodded and said, “Yup, that’s how it is. It’s similar to two countries engaging in a conflict. Almost all of them fight with words.

“It is extremely rare to see fights that involve weapons and firearms. After all, there are simply too many factors to consider—the country’s power, the other party’s strength, and the covetous eyes of neighboring countries. Who knows, many people would start fanning the flames, sit around, and watch the fight. When both sides are exhausted, they’ll come to reap the spoils.”

Henry was even more confused as he listened to their conversation. He waved his hands in irritation and said, “I don’t understand. Whatever it is, was I injured this time for nothing?”

“If getting an injury could earn me hundreds of millions of dollars of profit each time, then remember to invite me next time,” Jasper said with a grin.

Having said that, he turned around to look at Zachary, asking, “Can I ask you a question, Uncle Law? Is that the natural gas contract for Marina, the capital of Filopo?”

Zachary was astounded. “How did you know that?”

Jasper chuckled. How could he not know?

Following the rapid economic development of Filopo’s capital city Marina, a series of construction projects were to be carried out for the modernization of the city. Congress had made the decision for 80% of the city to have access to natural gas facilities.

At the time, everyone thought this was a great business opportunity and countless neighboring countries swarmed in.

Though surprisingly, even though this was a multi-billion dollar contract, the companies in Filopo did not seem to be interested at all.

According to Jasper's memory from his past life, the contract was eventually given to a company in Harbor City along with another natural gas company abroad.

Now it seemed that the Harbor City company that Jasper had heard of back then when he was still a commoner was probably Bob's company.

He had a deep impression of this incident because Jasper, who still had his memories after reincarnation, knew that this was a huge trap.

In the upcoming construction works, the entire construction process would be a difficult one. Then, there was the protest of the locals which caused huge problems for the contractors. Filopo thwarted their plan, using all sorts of means to rip off these two companies.

In the end, both sides completely fell out and the contract was breached. The two companies and Filopo's international lawsuit lasted for seven to eight long years. Even when Jasper was reincarnated, there was still no result.

At the thought of this, Jasper said to Zachary.

"Uncle Zachary, I received news from a friend that this is no simple contract. Filopo might change their mind. Disregarding everything else, why are there so few of Filopo's domestic companies fighting for this opportunity? You must be careful because this isn't normal at all."

Life at the Top Chapter 934

“If it’s possible, I suggest converting Bob’s benefits to cash. It’s still worth it even if it’s slightly less.”

Yes, this was a huge trap alright, but it was also important to note who was going to step into it.

In Jasper’s opinion, if Zachary stepped into it, then this would be a trap.

If Bob and the rest stepped into it, then this would be good news.

Zachary was shocked by the things Jasper said. He pondered for a moment, having no intention to ask Jasper who his friend was. Everyone would have their own channels by now and inquiring about it was obviously an unwise move to make no matter how close they were.

Therefore, Zachary did not ask but instead began considering this matter.

This saved Jasper from finding an excuse. Of course, he did not have a friend who received news from Filopo. All he had were his memories from before reincarnation. However, this was Jasper’s deepest secret—one that he must never share with anyone.

“Alright. I’ll send someone to investigate. If there’s something fishy about this, we’ll do as you say.”

Jasper breathed a sigh of relief after hearing what Zachary said. From how Zachary behaved, he knew that Zachary had taken his words seriously.

Judging from the Laws’ capabilities, whenever they noticed something amiss and began investigating, there were rarely things that could go unnoticed.

...

While Jasper and Zachary talked in the ward, somewhere in the heavily guarded part of Nauritus City.

A car was parked at the door, and a tall, sturdy man stood by it. He kept looking at the locked gate as if he was waiting for something.

Soon, there was a clanging sound of metal and the door pulled open with a creak. A battered young man staggered outside.

It was Conrad.

When he saw how dejected and soulless Conrad looked, the tall and sturdy middle-aged man frowned slightly. He stopped Conrad from trying to speak, saying, "Let's go. We'll talk when we get back."

Conrad nodded and climbed into the car with his father, Steven.

The car's engine revved up and began driving steadily on the road. Hardly any tremors could be felt.

Despite that, Conrad's heart was surging like the waves.

He was feeling regret for his blunder, sorry for his father, and hatred for Jasper.

"I've settled this matter for you, paid a price, and made some promises. No one will ask you anything about that loan again," Steven said to Conrad, his calm voice sounding in the car.

Conrad clenched his fists slowly, saying unwillingly, "This is Jasper's scheme, Dad! He colluded with those people in order to put me—"

"Watch what you say!"

Steven hissed, staring at Conrad and saying, "Don't you know what you can say and what you can't say?"

"Who do you think Jasper is? Do you not know where you just walked out from? How could they have possibly colluded with Jasper?"

"How could they have arrested you if you didn't leave traces behind? Everything was done according to the law. You're the one who's confused here!"

Life at the Top Chapter 935

Realizing that he had said the wrong thing, Conrad sighed deeply and leaned back in the soft car seat with his eyes closed. He muttered under his breath, "I said the wrong thing. I'm sorry."

"You're my son. You don't need to apologize to me."

Steven sighed as well.

"I thought you were mature enough to step in and handle the family business for me, but now it seems you're still a little too inexperienced. You're too obsessed when it comes to dealing with Jasper."

Conrad opened his eyes and asked, "What do you mean? Are you saying that I shouldn't go against him, Dad?"

Steven put his hands behind his back and said in a deep voice, "Think about it. Would you have had a conflict with Jasper if the guys from Harbor City hadn't persuaded you to form an ally with them for some benefits?"

"You wouldn't have! Now, the Lancasters and Langdons are gone, leaving this mess behind. They've returned to Harbor City while you continue to suffer crushing defeats over and over again. Can you even calculate the losses you've suffered?"

After hearing what Steven said, Conrad said unwillingly, "I can't afford to lose to Jasper!"

"That's why I said you're obsessed."

Steven shook his head, looking even more disappointed.

“You must know that the Monty family does business. We’re businessmen and so is Jasper. The greatest taboo in the business field is letting your emotions affect your decision.

“When you can finally talk and laugh with Jasper, perhaps even sit down and discuss a business partnership with him, that’s when you have truly matured.”

Conrad said angrily, “No way! I will trample Jasper to the ground!”

“I’m not saying that you’re wrong to think that way. There are no absolute friends or absolute enemies in the business field. Wherever profit is involved, partnerships and enemies can be formed. You, however, have failed in this respect.

“If there’s a partnership right now that you and Jasper can do together that’ll potentially earn you lots of benefits, then from my understanding of your character, you’d rather give up on those benefits than let Jasper have them, right?”

After hearing the question, Conrad opened his mouth to retort but eventually replied dejectedly, “Yeah.”

Conrad’s innermost thoughts would always be exposed in front of his father.

His father’s words were exactly his thoughts and also what he would do.

“That’s why I say you’re immature. Remember what Jasper did last time when you approached him with the fake partnership? He merely suspected your motives but did not reject your partnership. Instead, he went and investigated the matter. If it turned out to be genuine, he was not going to refuse.

“This is why you’ve repeatedly lost to Jasper. You’re not worse than Jasper, you were just born into the wrong family.”

Conrad said in disdain, “What do you mean by that, Dad? I’m your son. Jasper is nothing but a poor man born into an ordinary family of farmers yet you’re saying that I was born into the wrong family?”

Steven shook his head. “You’re my son, hence everything has been smooth sailing for you. You grew up having everything that you wanted. Even though you work hard unlike other hedonistic sons of wealthy families, you don’t need to grind and rarely get knocked down by society. These are all things that the Monty family can’t offer you.

“Look at Jasper. He grew up in an environment where he was surrounded by malicious people. If he wanted to rise, then he would need to understand the intentions of everyone who came knocking at his door. You never need to worry about these things.

“That’s because you know that those people won’t harm you or lie to you, hence you’ve grown accustomed to being praised and to the label of the so-called genius that only appears once every 50 years. These are all your shackles.

“Maybe it’s not usually that noticeable, but once you face someone like Jasper, he’ll be your jinx and you’ll suffer a crushing defeat.”

Life at the Top Chapter 936

Steven's words left Conrad speechless.

He had heard similar things from Jasper.

Hearing the same words from the mouths of his closest family member and his enemy, he started to wonder if this was actually his fault?

Conrad looked out the car window in a daze, looking as though his mind, body, and soul had been sucked out of him. Even his eyes had dulled.

At this moment, a broad hand was placed on his shoulder, followed by Steven's gentle voice.

"Conrad, losing isn't scary at all. No one can win forever. However, you need to know why you lost and improve yourself. Make yourself stronger and go back to find the glory that belongs to you. This is what I hope you'll do."

Listening to his father's gentle words of encouragement, Conrad felt a lump in his throat and choked out the words, "But I lost terribly for so many consecutive times. This time alone I've lost two billion and now we're having financial difficulties all because of me."

"These are all trivial things," Steven patted Conrad's shoulder and said in a soft voice, "I will solve these problems, but from now on, you need to concentrate fully on training yourself. Defeating Jasper isn't what you should be thinking about now. Instead, you should be thinking about how to arm yourself."

"You don't have to go to work from tomorrow onward. I'll handle the company's affairs and pass the role back to you once you can stand back up again."

“I’m sorry, Dad.”

“I told you, you’re my son. You don’t have to apologize.”

...

Though dangerous, Henry’s injury was just a superficial injury. In just two days, this brat was already leaping up and down, chasing Jasper down to ask about the big gift.

“F*ck, I took a knife for you. You won’t be so despicable as to lie to me, right?”

In the brightly lit ward, Henry widened his eyes and stared at Jasper, looking extremely wary.

Jasper said lazily, “Why should I lie to you? If I say there’s a gift for you, then there’ll be a gift. However, this isn’t the time yet. When you’ve recovered from your injury, then it’ll be about time.

Henry waved his arms around and said, “I recovered a long time ago. If it weren’t for those stupid doctors, I would’ve been discharged long ago.”

“They’re doing it for your own good and you’re calling them stupid? People like you deserve to be thrown to the side of the road. No one will bother you there,” Jasper said grumpily.

Henry leaned back on the hospital bed, crossed his legs casually, and twitched his mouth, saying, “They’re doing it for my own good? They’re doing it for a living and I know that better than anyone else.”

“Whatever the reason, you still have to listen to the doctors. You’ll only be discharged when they allow you to be discharged.”

Jasper glanced at Henry. "Your father took the morning flight back to Harbor City today. He has already given me this task, so you have no choice."

Henry yawned and was about to speak when Jasper's phone started ringing, interrupting his series of complaints.

Jasper took a look at the unknown local number and chose to answer the call.

"Hello, this is Jasper."

"Hey, it's Steven."

Life at the Top Chapter 937

“Oh, it’s Old Master Monty. How can I help you?”

“Let’s meet up and talk! You won’t refuse, will you, Jasper?”

“Sure!”

...

In front of a coffee shop without a signboard. Jasper raised his head and looked suspiciously at this oddly quiet place that was even a little deserted despite being located in a busy area.

If Steven had not told him about this place, he would not have known that an elegant and quiet coffee shop like this existed in the most bustling area of Nauritus City.

Who the hell would run a business without hanging up a signboard?

Just as Jasper pondered about whether to give Steven a call, the courtyard door creaked open.

An old man with gray hair walked out.

The old man was dressed in plain clothes and had an extremely kind face that could put anyone at ease. He looked just like a neighborhood grandpa.

“Mr. Laine?” the old man called out in a soft voice, sounding extremely polite.

“Yes. Mr. Monty invited me and I’m here for the appointment,” Jasper replied politely.

The old man let out a slight smile. He spared Jasper a second glance due to his refined bearing, stepped aside, and raised his hand to lead him into the courtyard, saying, “Old Master Monty has been waiting for a long time. Please come in with me, Mr. Laine.”

“Please lead the way, Mister,” Jasper said with a smile.

The old man nodded and led the way with a smile on his face. Jasper followed him into the courtyard.

As soon as he entered the courtyard, he felt as though he had stepped into a new world. The courtyard was filled with flowers and shaded by trees. As he walked along the ancient-looking corridor, he could hear the sound of clear streams gurgling under his feet.

Isolated from the hustle and bustle of the outside world, they had stepped in from a concrete jungle into paradise with green hills and clear streams.

After walking for two to three minutes, Jasper saw a tall and sturdy middle-aged man in a courtyard pavilion.

This man was dressed in casual clothes and looked at him with a smile.

That man was none other than Steven Monty, the true backbone of the Monty family and the previous head of the Monty family that had Dawson sighing in admiration at the mere mention of his name.

“Jasper Laine?”

“Mr. Steven Monty.”

They exchanged glances with a smile and could spot a trace of admiration on their faces for each other.

“Come, have a seat,” Steven invited Jasper to take a seat.

“This is a place that I designed and built privately. It’s a quiet place to relax when I’m busy. It isn’t open to the public, and you’re considered the first outsider to have visited this place. What do you think?”

After both of them sat down, Steven said to Jasper with a smile.

“This is a very unique place,” Jasper praised while looking at his surroundings.

It was no wonder this so-called coffee shop did not have a signboard. This was a place that the owner opened purely for his own enjoyment.

On the topic of extravagance, the older generations were much better at it.

Ordinary rich kids would buy a bunch of luxurious goods, a villa, a luxury car, or a yacht.

Steven, on the other hand, bought an entire courtyard downtown. As soon as the main doors closed, this place immediately transformed into a mini-secret garden.

Steven chuckled and said, “Humans often fight for money, career, and status in the beginning, and when they’ve attained a certain level of achievement, they’d use what they’ve gained to enjoy life. What’s the point of earning so much money and getting to a high position otherwise?”

“That’s truly wise, Mr. Monty. My sentiments exactly,” Jasper said with a grin.

At that moment, the old man who brought Jasper to Steven returned with a coffee set. After lighting up a scented candle, he started brewing coffee without a word.

“Oh, the way of coffee. There’s a reason why coffee is called the way of life.

“Coffee beans make coffee, and coffee will lead you to the truth. Jasper, try this cup of coffee.”

As Steven said those words, he suddenly picked up a cup of coffee and handed it to Jasper.

His actions raised the eyes of the old man who was brewing coffee. He glanced in astonishment at Steven, perhaps it was because of his astonishment that his calm and steady hands trembled a little.

He had worked with Steven for 30 years and even watched Conrad grow. His last name was Whitlock, and even Conrad addressed him as Grandpa Whitlock.

He had never seen Steven treat a person like that even after working for him for so long.

It was a young man in his early 20s too.

Jasper, however, did not know much about the inside story and simply thought that Steven was excessively humbling himself in front of him.

Jasper picked up the cup of coffee and took a sip. He closed his eyes slightly, feeling the strong and fragrant taste of coffee rolling in his mouth. He felt a lot more refreshed.

“This is good coffee.” Jasper opened his eyes and praised.

Steven laughed and said, “Have a few more cups if it’s good.”

When they were done drinking coffee, Steven pondered for a moment before saying slowly.

“Jasper, I’ll be in charge of Monty Group from now on. I might make a series of strategic adjustments, perhaps even bring up a few opportunities to partner up with JW. Do let me have the honor to partner up with you when the time comes.”

Jasper looked at Steven.

He knew that the highlight of today’s meeting was starting.

“What about Conrad?” Jasper asked.

“He’s too tired and needs a good rest.”

Steven said to Jasper with a smile, “He made some directional errors which resulted in tremendous losses. It’s okay, though. This can be made up and salvaged. Therefore, I decided to let him rest while I manage Monty Group in the meantime.”

Jasper said meaningfully, “I wonder how you’re planning to make up for and salvage the losses?”

Life at the Top Chapter 938

Steven laughed upon hearing Jasper's words. He pointed at the courtyard and asked, "What do you think about this courtyard? If you like it, I'll give it to you as a gift."

"This gift is worth at least ten million. You're too generous, Mr. Monty," Jasper said.

Although he said that the courtyard was worth a lot, he was actually expressing his veiled refusal.

Was this man trying to dispel enmity with a single courtyard? How could Jasper possibly allow that to happen?

Steven took the hint and said, "This is just a gift. Monty Group took some wrong turns when Conrad took over. It will now return to its right path.

"Diversification is not entirely impossible, but we can't give up on Monty Group's fundamentals in pursuit of diversification. Monty Group will only be involved in the mineral industry and will not venture into other fields anymore."

If the courtyard was only the lead-in that no one cared about, then what Steven just said was invaluable.

Monty Group would not venture into other industries for at least three years.

In Southeast Province today, there were only two and a half local companies that were capable of contending.

Jasper's JW Consortium counted as one.

Monty Group counted as one.

Schuler Group counted as half.

The Southeast Province market was huge, covering an area of 110,000 square kilometers with nine prefecture-level cities, 20 administrative counties, and 60 million people.

At the same time, it was quite small too. After all, there were only so few that could catch JW and Monty Group's eye. Moreover, only one leader was allowed in each industry.

Jasper laughed. "You understand the principles of right and wrong so well. It would be disrespectful of me as a junior if I continue to shilly-shally."

Hearing Jasper addressing himself as the junior now made Steven chuckle inwardly.

Steven stood up and stretched out his hand toward Jasper, saying, "Congratulations to the two of us, then."

"Congratulations on what?" Jasper took Steven's hand and asked curiously.

"On having a new friend and one less enemy."

Steven watched as Jasper entered the car and left. Standing at the door, Steven's smile faded gradually.

"He's not arrogant from success nor dismayed by failure. He looks unconcerned and casual yet can take up huge responsibilities. At the same time, he knows when to advance and retreat. This kid is extremely unpredictable... Conrad has indeed lost to a worthy competitor."

Standing beside Steven, Mr. Whitlock asked, "Are you really going to give this courtyard to Jasper, Mr. Steven? This is your favorite place."

Waving his hands, Steven said, "I've given what I've given. These are all materialistic things. What's wrong? Do you think it's a pity to leave this place, Mr. Whitlock?"

Mr. Whitlock chuckled and said, "If this is what you want, Mr. Steven, then I have nothing to feel pity about."

"You can't make an omelet without breaking eggs. I don't know if I've made the right decision today, but I'm buying three years' time for Conrad. Hopefully, he understands," Steven said calmly.

"Don't worry, Mr. Steven. Mr. Conrad is wise. Even though his confidence has taken a huge hit after going through several failures, he's showing progress. I believe that he'll not let you down," Mr. Whitlock said to console him.

Steven laughed and said, "Thanks for the kind words. Let's go. We should head back and inform the servants to clean up this place before transferring the ownership to Jasper. We're not coming back here anymore."

...

Southface River Tower. In JW Investment Company's office.

Wendy was assigning work to her subordinates.

"Mr. Ardolf, this is an extremely important case so you must follow closely with your team. Investigate the other party's background, and other relevant works must also be done without fail. Besides, we're tight on time, so I can only give you one week at most."

The middle-aged man who was called Mr. Ardolf let out a wry smile. "Ms. Schuler, that's a huge challenge for me. I can finish the job because that's my

responsibility, but one week is simply too short. I need at least half a month to get some results.”

Wendy, who was sitting behind the desk, frowned. She closed the folder and looked up at Mr. Ardolf. “Half a month to get some results? If it’s going to take such a long time, don’t you think it’s better if I get someone else to do this job?”

Mr. Ardolf could tell that Wendy was displeased and dared not say anything else.

Everyone in the company knew that the boss would not normally interfere. If anything happened, they would only discuss it with the CFO, Chief Financial Officer Wendy Schuler, and the COO, Chief Operating Officer Malcolm Malibu. Between them, Wendy was the lady boss, so she would have the final say in the company.

The lady boss was usually easy to talk to and unbelievably gentle. Though when work was involved, she would not show due respect for anyone’s feelings. During this period of time, there had been senior executives who cried after getting criticized by her. There were some who even got dismissed.

“The company spent so much money to hire you because we acknowledge your ability. If you can’t complete the tasks that the company requires you to do in time, then that means that the company has made a mistake in hiring you. We’ve overestimated you.

“For employees who fail to meet the expectations for their position and the money they’re earning, the company will have no choice but to act in accordance with the rules and regulations. Do you understand what I’m saying?”

Upon hearing what Wendy said, Mr. Ardolf responded loudly, “I understand! Don’t worry, Ms. Schuler, I’ll get it done within a week even if it means that I have to work overtime. One week from now, I’ll send all the information to you so you can have a look.”

“Go on then,” Wendy said indifferently.

Mr. Ardolf breathed a sigh of relief and turned around to leave when he saw the big boss Jasper standing at the door with a grin.

Of course, the big boss was not smiling at him. Even so, Mr. Ardolf still had chills as he greeted him carefully and with infinite admiration, "Hello, Mr. Laine."

"Mm. Hello." Jasper waved his hand. "You can go out now."

When Mr. Adolf left, Wendy stood up from behind the desk with a look of surprise and greeted Jasper, "What brings you here?"

Jasper took Wendy's hands with a smile, saying, "If I hadn't come, I wouldn't have known that we have an iron-fisted queen in the company."

Life at the Top Chapter 939

Wendy was a little embarrassed by Jasper's words.

Though in no time at all, she scrunched up her nose and said, "If it weren't for you, the boss who's always absent and does nothing, I wouldn't have to be like this either."

"Now that the company is growing and we're getting more business, our employees are growing in numbers as well. If I don't put on an attitude and use some means, I'll get bullied by those old birds at work instead."

Wendy sat on the couch looking slightly exhausted and said, "Now I understand why it was so hard to meet my dad when I was young. It's too tiring to manage a company."

"This is after we've implemented structural optimization in the company. If it isn't for the fact that the company's branches handle the majority of the businesses themselves, I think I'd really need to clone myself to finish so many tasks."

Hearing Wendy prattling on, which was rare, Jasper poured her a glass of water and said, "If you're really that tired, take a few days off to relax. The company is so big and there are always people to take care of the company. Let Malcolm share your burdens, and if that's not enough, hire a few more people who can do it. Work is never-ending. It won't be worth it if you suffer from burnout."

Wendy held the glass of water Jasper gave her and took a sip. "I don't feel comfortable leaving so many tasks to others."

After saying that, she blinked and looked at Jasper. "Why are you so early today?"

Jasper played with Wendy's fingers and said nonchalantly, "I went to talk to Steven."

"Steven? Conrad's father? The previous head of the Monty family? What did you guys talk about?"

The woman's curiosity was completely aroused. Wendy turned around and sat on the couch, facing Jasper while asking excitedly.

"What else could we have talked about? If he planned to stand up for his son, then he wouldn't have anything to discuss with me. Since he wanted to talk, then it's definitely a compromise.

"We each took a step back. I let the matter drop, whereas Conrad returned the position of authority in the family to his father. Also, the Monty family will not get involved in industries other than minerals for three years.

"This will give JW a chance to develop at ease for three years. Three years later, JW will not be afraid of anyone anymore."

Jasper was overflowing with confidence as he said with certainty.

"That's it?" Wendy was obviously a little disappointed.

"I also received a secluded courtyard downtown. I think your father will love that place. I'll transfer it to his name so we can go over and get some rest whenever we're free," Jasper said with a smile.

"Transfer? Don't bother. It's the same either way," Wendy said.

While they were speaking, Jasper's phone rang once again.

The caller was Darrel who was currently working on a business project.

On the phone, Darrel's voice sounded more mature than before.

"Jasper, it's me, Darrel."

Jasper asked, "I know. What's up?"

"Jasper, our first Hello Hotpot restaurant is opening tonight. Do you want to come over and try the food?" Darrel asked apprehensively.

Meanwhile, inside a newly renovated hotpot restaurant in the bustling downtown of Nauritus City, lights and colored banners were all over the place. Standing next to Darrel who was currently talking to Jasper on the phone was a young and stocky man. The man looked expectantly at Darrel as he waited for the result.

After some time, Darrel put down the phone and said to the man in delight, "It's done! Jasper said he'll come over with Wendy!"

"Really?!" the man exclaimed in surprise. He then waved his fist hard, saying, "That's awesome!"

This man was Jonas Yale, the founder of Hello Hotpot.

Life at the Top Chapter 940

Compared to Darrel's naivety, Jonas was a man with deeper thoughts.

In fact, after learning that Jasper was Darrel's cousin and Jasper's power from several friends, Jonas vowed to hold on tight to the precious treasure that was Darrel even if it meant risking everything he had.

It was not because of anything else but simply because Darrel had a great cousin.

Jonas was an extremely ambitious and cunning person. Although business in the several other Hello Hotpot restaurants he ran was good and his daily profits were as much as an average person's salary for half a year, Jonas was still not satisfied.

He knew that the true rich big bosses in this world would turn their noses up at his small business.

Unfortunately, he did not know how nor did he have the chance to venture into something else. Moreover, Darrel was the fastest and best opportunity for him to rise rapidly.

Equipped with a keen sense, Jonas realized that as long as he could hold onto this big ship that was Jasper, even if it was only a tiny position in a corner, it would still be a great opportunity for him to soar.

Perhaps Hello Hotpot could use this opportunity to skip the difficult stage of traditional accumulation of capital and head straight for nationwide expansion!

Driven by these interests, Jonas was more concerned than Darrel about whether Jasper would show up today.

“I told you your cousin would definitely come, didn’t I? You were so embarrassed to invite him earlier. There’s nothing to be embarrassed about. Honestly, he’s the actual big boss because he owns 60% of the shares!

“How could he not come to the opening of our first Nauritus City branch today? Besides, he’s your cousin, not a stranger,” Jonas said excitedly to Darrel.

Darrel scratched his head simple-mindedly. After months of working hard, his complexion was now darker and he was glowing with vitality. He was no longer the same white-collar worker just sitting around waiting for his doom.

“Yeah, it’s all thanks to you,” Darrel said from the bottom of his heart.

Staring at Darrel who had been taken advantage of by him, Jonas let out a pleased smile and said, “Let’s go. What does your cousin like to eat? We can make some preparations. We must not let him down tonight.”

Shoulder to shoulder, arm in arm, both of them discussed excitedly on their way to the office amid the greetings of the waiters.

At the corner of the crowd, a 16 to 17-year-old girl who was still very young but who had grown up to be a beautiful girl stood out among a group of pretty-looking waitresses as she stood shyly on one side.

She looked enviously at the bosses as they walked farther away, thinking about how she could pay for her little brother’s tuition fees after getting this month’s salary. At the thought of this, the smile on her face grew a lot brighter.

Even when she was clad in an ordinary waitress uniform, her beauty could not be concealed.

...

In the evening, in front of Nauritus City's first Hello Hotpot branch that was brightly lit, decorated with colorful banners, and bustling with activity, a Bentley slowly pulled up across the road.

"Okay, Julian. Find a place to park the car and come and have something to eat when you're done," Jasper said to Julian before getting out of the car.

Julian nodded with a smile to indicate that he understood.

He turned around and took Wendy's hand. While leading her to Hello Hotpot, Jasper said, "Hey, you can't say that I don't bring you out for dinner in the future. We'll have hotpot tonight. You can order whatever you want and I guarantee that you won't be disappointed."

"You're really sneaky!" Wendy chuckled.

At the entrance of Hello Hotpot, Jonas and Darrel greeted them while dressed in suits. Jasper was about to walk over when his eyes were drawn to a timid and delicate figure in the corner of the crowd.

It was her!

Jasper had not felt ripples in his heart for a very long time. Now, this thin and weak figure had stirred his heart once again.

Life at the Top Chapter 941

In his past life when he wasted more than 40 years of his life, only two and a half women actually stepped into Jasper's life.

One was Wendy, the woman who was unattainable and eventually forgotten, yet whose hand he was currently holding.

The other one was Penelope Hunt, whom he had more resentment for than grace. Even so, both of them had completely cut off contact, leaving each other to lead their own lives.

The remaining half was this thin and delicate figure in front of him.

Jasper remembered very clearly that this girl's name was Tiffany. In his past life, the first time they met each other was in the company where Jasper worked. Tiffany was assigned a mentor on her first day as a trainee and that mentor was Jasper.

The naive and innocent Tiffany was clumsy in her work and was often scolded by Jasper, yet even so, the girl remained optimistic and confident.

Tiffany was the only one who would send Jasper a bowl of hangover stew after he was drunk from socializing.

Like an alarm clock, she was the only one who would remind Jasper to take his medicine on time when he was sick.

It was something that his own wife Penelope Hunt never did.

Tiffany was born into a poor family. Her mother died at childbirth while her father was an alcoholic, hence she and her little brother could only depend on each other.

Not only did she need to support herself, but she also needed to raise her little brother. She had been doing odd jobs since high school and gave up the opportunity to study in university after she graduated. She joined the workforce at an early age just so her little brother could continue his studies.

Unfortunately, the kind-hearted girl did not get the good ending she deserved.

Jasper remembered that Tiffany, who had been working diligently in the company for several years, could not stand the shady practices of the company and went to the big boss to make a complaint even after Jasper tried to stop her. In the end, Tiffany resigned.

When the silly girl left, she hugged him and told him that she liked him.

However, Jasper was married then and they had a seven to eight-year gap in age, hence Jasper had always just treated her like a sister. How could they possibly end up together?

After separating on that rainy night, Tiffany dragged her luggage and left, never appearing in Jasper's life ever again.

At this moment, the lights were dim, yet he could see clearly the girl who looked so much younger and more youthful than what he remembered her to be. She was timidly hiding in a corner just like the first time he met her, too afraid to say a word.

He motioned to Darrel and the rest to wait for a moment while he walked through the crowd straight to Tiffany.

The hearts of the group of waitresses who had been assigned by their boss to stand at the entrance to welcome the guests started pounding when they saw

Jasper walking over. They were fantasizing that Jasper was approaching them and wondering if this was their opportunity to be Cinderella.

All the young women raised their heads and stood straight, looking expectantly at Jasper in hopes that he would walk up to them.

Tiffany, however, was the only one who tried to dodge to one side when she noticed Jasper heading straight for her.

Jasper stood in Tiffany's way and stared straight at her.

At the sight of her flustered and helpless face, her casual attire, and refined elegance, Jasper blurted out, "We meet again."

Again.

Those words left many people stunned, and even Tiffany was a bit confused.

This was her first time in Nauritus City and it was only a few days into her job. Before this, she had been living in the countryside with her brother. With her tiny social circle, she was certain that she had not met Jasper before.

"Do we know each other?" Tiffany asked in a soft voice.

Tiffany's innocence had other waitresses snickering.

If it were them, they would admit it regardless of whether they actually knew him or not. It was a rare opportunity for them to get involved with big shots. This village girl knew nothing and had no idea what she just missed out on.

"Yes and no." Jasper sighed.

He remembered just then that he had reincarnated.

He carried those memories with him, but Tiffany, who was standing right before his eyes, saw him as a complete stranger. She did not know him at all, so how could she talk about their past?

“Are you a waitress here?” Jasper asked.

Tiffany nodded shyly and replied, “Yes, I joined two days ago. I don’t know anything yet but I’ll do my best!”

At the sight of the energetic young lady, Jasper chuckled and said, “Good. I believe you’ll do a good job.”

At this moment, Darrel and the rest had walked over. Darrel looked at Tiffany curiously and then at Jasper, hesitating to speak.

“She looks like an old friend I know. It’s nothing. Let’s go in,” Jasper said.

Having said that, Jasper smiled apologetically at Wendy and the latter responded with a smile.

Wendy had many questions as well. From her woman’s intuition, she could tell that Jasper treated this young girl differently. He had a very different kind of affection for her.

However, Wendy was sure that this affection was not the kind a man would have when he saw a beautiful woman.

Despite her many doubts, she did not ask. She knew that Jasper would let her know about it if necessary. If he did not explain, then he must have his reasons for doing so.

Moreover, Jasper was not the kind of man who would fall head over heels for beautiful women. Therefore, Wendy was extremely relieved and trusted Jasper very much.

They walked into the restaurant hand in hand. Darrel rushed forward to catch up to them while Jonas was one step behind.

He glanced at the slightly fearful Tiffany curiously, and with a twinkle in his eyes, he asked, "Are you a regular waitress here?"

As the first branch in Nauritus City, Jonas was ambitious and determined to shoot to fame. As such, positions in the restaurant like the supervisor and manager were all filled by well-trained confidants he had brought from his hometown. Only some ordinary waiters were recruited locally.

"Yes, Mr. Jonas," Tiffany replied in a restrained manner.

"From now onward, you'll be the assistant manager," Jonas said, hinting at the manager who was also his confidant with his eyes. "She's the manager. You probably know her... Learn how to manage the restaurant from her. Work hard."

After saying those words, Jonas rushed to catch up with Jasper.

Tiffany, who suddenly got lucky, had yet to return to her senses when she was surrounded by her envious and ingratiating colleagues.

The manager looked at the foolish and innocent girl in front of her and sighed. This was power, right?

That man had merely greeted her and said that she looked like an old friend he knew, but his words were enough to turn this silly little girl who had just come from the countryside and whom she had recruited herself into the assistant manager.

If it were not for her lack of experience, perhaps she would even take over the position as manager.

Life at the Top Chapter 942

”Mr. Laine, the entire restaurant was renovated based on the standardized requirements for all Hello Hotpot branches. Everything has been designed to create a comfortable dining environment for the customers. Also, Hello Hotpot focuses on customer service.

“I think that as one of the most popular industries in the service domain, the food and beverage industry is well worth doing. But domestic businesses have yet to realize that customers don’t only need food that smells, looks, and tastes great; they also need to be meticulously taken care of when dining in.

“We need to make them feel a sense of enjoyment from being treated like superiors and let them enjoy the service provided by the waiters and waitresses. This is the biggest distinguishing point that sets Hello Hotpot apart from other hotpot restaurants and even other businesses in the food and beverage industry.”

Jones introduced Hello Hotpot’s distinguishing points and advantages to Jasper, looking as though he was itching to pour out all the contents from his brain and lay them out in front of him.

Jasper looked around as he walked, nodding from time to time.

Jasper knew Hello Hotpot’s distinguishing points better than Jonas himself.

Was Hello Hotpot really that tasty?

To be honest, the food was only average.

Though what made it successful was its extremely meticulous service.

As other businesses in the food and beverage industry were racking their brains to cook better food, Jonas was keenly aware of the fact that it was difficult to cater to everyone's tastes. Even the best chef could not cook a dish that everyone liked. Therefore, he took a different approach and started from the service.

Then, Hello Hotpot succeeded.

At its peak, the Hello Hotpot brand was worth hundreds of billions, and with Hello Hotpot's glorious reputation, Jonas was also listed among the top 50 most influential businessmen in the country.

Making it to a ranking list like that did not mean anything substantive, but at least it proved that Jonas was, at the time, already standing on higher ground in the business world where he could smile at the passing scene before his eyes.

In fact, only a few knew that Jonas' personality was problematic.

However, this had nothing to do with Jasper.

No matter how arrogant he was, Jasper did not think that Jonas could ride roughshod over him after his reincarnation.

As for his cousin... Jasper looked meaningfully at Darrel. He was in danger.

How could a fresh graduate who started his own business with less than two years of working experience contend with an old bird like Jonas?

He knew just by seeing how Jonas was talking incessantly the whole time without leaving a chance for Darrel to speak at all that Darrel was no match for Jonas.

However, Jasper had nothing to say about this either.

Whether it was his cousin or his younger brother, they had their own paths to take. There was no way that Jasper could help them for life.

Their ability to comprehend and grow was up to their luck.

If Darrel failed to comprehend and grow, was Jasper supposed to press Jonas' head down and make Darrel the boss?

"It's pretty good." Jasper nodded, finally giving his comment.

"I think you have really innovative ideas and it's completely doable. The food and beverage industry is different from other industries. Catering to all tastes is a problem that has existed a very long time ago, not to mention with a large-scale restaurant chain.

"If we just focus on food, we won't satisfy everyone, but if we manage our service well and as long as the food is decent, then we can always win the majority's favor."

Jasper's words had hit the nail on the head.

Although Jasper was much younger than him, Jonas admired Jasper very much at this moment.

Sure enough, he was worthy of the reputation for venturing into a major industry at a very young age. He needed only to say a few words and Jasper could already tell what he was thinking about.

"I feel much more confident after gaining your recognition, Mr. Laine," Jonas said excitedly.

After a chuckle, Jasper said, "As I said, I don't know much about the food and beverage industry."

“I only invested this time because Darrel wants to start his own business. I listened to his idea and thought it was really good. I also agree with your concept, Mr. Jonas, that’s why I invested some money. However, I will not interfere with the specific operations of the restaurant. You guys do what you need to do.

“This cousin of mine is inexperienced and can be immature at handling certain things. Experience can always be accumulated from the process of suffering losses. These are all trivial matters.

“You’re experienced in this, Mr. Jonas. Can you give him a hand?”

Upon hearing Jasper’s reminder, Jonas hastened to say, “Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. I’ll treat Darrel like my own brother.”

“I’m glad to hear that,” Jasper chuckled and said, “As for Hello Hotpot, apart from everything else, you don’t have to worry about its early-stage development in Southeast Province. If you need capital, then I’ll give you capital. If you need prestige, then I’ll get you prestige.

“The only thing I ask of you is to stick to what you intended to do in the first place and do your very best.”

Perhaps Jasper was the only one who could say such bold and lofty words in Southeast Province and actually stay true to his words.

Jonas was so excited that his face was flushed. He felt as though he had seen a golden and dazzling path revealing itself in front of him. He said excitedly, “Don’t worry, Mr. Laine, I definitely won’t let you down.”

“You mean ‘we’,” Jasper pointed at Darrel and said meaningfully.

“Haha.” Jonas laughed dryly to conceal his awkwardness. “Yes, we.”

After taking a tour around the place, Wendy interrupted their conversation.

“Are you done? I’m starving to death,” Wendy said to Jasper with displeasure.

Jasper smacked his forehead. “I was too focused on talking that I forgot. My baby must be starving. Let’s go, then. Prepare a hotpot for us. I haven’t eaten this for a very long time and I really miss it.”

Both bosses Jonas and Darrel took on the role of waiters, personally setting up a hotpot and preparing the dishes for Jasper. However, Jasper was displeased with their exaggerated attitude.

“It’s your opening today. There are many things that you need to handle, so don’t linger around us. We’ll manage. Just treat us as ordinary customers.”

After chasing the duo away, Jasper took Wendy to the sauces area and said with a smile.

“Try these sauces. The seafood and hot sauces are secret recipes from Jonas’ hometown. I heard that Jonas spent a lot of money to get these recipes. Let’s see how different it is from the hotpots in Nauritus City.”

Just as Jasper and Wendy were choosing the sauces, loud cursing was heard coming from the next table. Then, Jasper heard a soft and tender female voice crying out in a panic, followed by the sound of tableware crashing to the ground.

Tiffany!

Jasper immediately turned around to look.

Life at the Top Chapter 943

There was a lot of publicity done in the early stages before Hello Hotpot's opening today. Coupled with the fact that Hello Hotpot was located in the downtown center of the most bustling and liveliest area, as well as the promotion offered this day, many customers came to join in on the fun.

They had just opened for business not long ago but the hotpot restaurant with more than 150 tables was already 70% to 80% full. Even so, there were still customers pouring in.

There was bound to be chaos when customer volume rose.

Clearly, Tiffany was still not used to the assistant manager position, hence when she noticed that the place was short-handed, she immediately rushed over to help.

As a result, problems cropped up as soon as she served the first table of customers.

"Wow, how awesome is this hotpot restaurant? Even a random waitress is so gorgeous," the man teased Tiffany with a grin.

"F*ck me, she really is quite gorgeous." Another man was amazed when he saw Tiffany.

"Hey, gorgeous. What's your monthly salary for being a waitress here?"

Tiffany was a little overwhelmed by the question.

She had just been promoted as the assistant manager and was most happy about her pay raise, though no one had told her how much of an increase she would get.

Therefore, Tiffany could only respond honestly, "My initial pay was 800 dollars, but the boss just made me the assistant manager. I don't know how much of a raise I'll get yet."

"Assistant manager?" The man chuckled, saying, "You were promoted to assistant manager when you were just a waitress on your first day of work? Did you sleep with your boss?"

Although Tiffany was naive, that did not mean she was intellectually challenged. After hearing the malice in the question, Tiffany quickly responded in anger, "No! You're talking nonsense!"

"No? Hehe." Magnus Canne let out a strange laugh as he stared at Tiffany who was flustered and whose face was flushed from anger. The malicious desires in his heart swelled up infinitely.

"Who will ever know? However, your original salary is just 800 dollars. Now that you're the assistant manager, you'll be given 2,000 dollars at most. This is less than the money I spend to raise my pet dog.

"Why don't you... quit your assistant manager job and follow me? I'll provide for you and give you 3,000 dollars a month. How's that?"

Tiffany pulled a long face and said, "No, I like my current job."

Magnus snickered. "That's because you haven't seen how cool the life of a rich person is. What can you do with these few thousand dollars? Even if you throw that money to the ground, I won't bother bending down to pick the bills up.

“You might as well follow me. You don’t have to do anything, just let me screw you every night. And if I’m happy screwing you, I’ll give you some cash. That’ll be more than enough for you to live a wealthy life.

“Hehe, other women can’t get this chance no matter how hard they try. What are you waiting for?”

As he said those words, Magnus reached out to touch Tiffany’s hand.

However, Tiffany pulled back her hand immediately, and unfortunately, Magnus’ dirty hand ended up pressing on the edge of the bottom of the pot.

The bottom edge of the heated and boiling pot was made of metal, and cooking a piece of meat would only take a few minutes. As soon as his hand brushed over the edge, he immediately felt as though a branding iron had touched his hand. He drew back his hand after letting out a shriek.

As Magnus frantically waved his hand, he glared maliciously at Tiffany. “F*cking b*tch, how dare you hurt me?!”

Tiffany was struck dumb by the plot twist and explained in a hurry, “No, I didn’t do it on purpose. You were the one who pressed your hand on it. I... I... What should I do?”

Magnus flew into a rage and roared, “What should you do? A thot like you can’t even afford to pay for a single strand of my hair. This will be your end—f*ck!”

Having said that, Magnus raised his hand to slap Tiffany.

Even though his hand was raised high, it never fell.

It was because Jasper had grabbed his wrist.

Magnus turned around to look and saw Jasper who had a blank expression on his face. Magnus cursed, "Darn it, which idiot is this? How dare you stop me when I'm teaching this that a lesson?"

At this moment, Wendy had pulled Tiffany back after witnessing the whole process and was beyond infuriated.

Fights like that should be left to the men.

"You must have gotten a fright, haven't you?" Wendy asked Tiffany.

Tiffany, who was on the verge of crying, quickly shook her head as though she had met her savior. She said, "N-No. I didn't do it on purpose. I didn't know things would turn out this way. What should I do? The boss will sack me for sure."

Wendy consoled her and said, "Don't worry, it's okay. Your boss won't sack you.

"Listen, you'll meet a lot of sickening people like that out there. You must learn how to protect yourself. It's obvious that he had bad intentions from the start. You don't have to go easy on someone like that at all."

Tiffany felt a great sense of relief after hearing Wendy's words. She nodded her head hard but was still so filled with panic that she was unable to say a word.

Her biggest worry at the moment was that she had offended a customer. Her boss told her that even if the customers scolded her, she was supposed to take it with a smile and must not start a conflict with the customer or she would be sacked.

She treasured her job very much and did not want to be sacked.

"As a man, not only did you try to take liberties with a woman, but you also tried to hit her after you failed to touch her. You have no regard for the law, do you?" Jasper said blandly.

Magnus broke away from Jasper's grip and sneered, "Which idiot is this? I don't need you to teach me how to do things. Get lost or I'll bash you up!"

"Bash me up?"

Jasper chuckled, his expression gradually turning cold. "There are many people who are interested in doing so but none have succeeded, to say the least. Why don't you try me?"

Magnus' gaze fell on Tiffany and then on Wendy. He was instantly amazed.

Yes, Tiffany was gorgeous, but she was not a fully grown woman yet, hence she was slightly inferior in terms of womanly charm. Like a budding flower, it was not time for her to bloom yet.

Wendy was different.

As the number one beauty in Southeast Province today, how could a man like Magnus ever resist her beauty?

"Hey, here's an even prettier one. Wow, kid, you're trying to play the hero in front of these women? Be careful because I'll beat you up so hard that you won't even know how you died!"

"Now get lost and I won't make a fuss over this with you. But these two women will stay, do you hear me?"

Life at the Top Chapter 944

It was Hello Hotpot's first branch opening today, so there were many customers around.

The commotion had long attracted the attention of many people—most of whom were fanning the flames and watching the scene unfold. Some were even jeering rowdily.

Jasper's expression turned to ice after hearing Magnus' words.

At this moment, Darrel and Jonas had anxiously rushed over as well. Coincidentally, they overheard what Magnus had said.

Darrel was, after all, a young man. He admired his cousin Jasper tremendously and treated him as his idol. When he heard those words, he felt his blood boil and rushed up to punch Magnus to the ground.

When Darrel, the boss of the restaurant, hurled a few punches himself, the whole place slid into chaos.

Jonas' expression fell as he grabbed the startled and astonished manager, ordering, "Quick, arrange for all staff members to pacify the customers and try your best not to let news of this get out. Otherwise, our restaurant will close down in just a day."

Having said that, Jonas rushed toward the chaotic scene.

At this time, Darrel and Magnus had become entangled with each other. Magnus had brought a friend with him, and just as Darrel was about to lose the fight, Julian arrived.

Julian's moves were straightforward and clean-cut.

When Jonas squeezed his way in, Julian already had the entire situation under control.

"Are you okay?" Jasper asked Darrel.

Darrel huffed and puffed, saying, "I'm okay. Men like him are simply despicable. They deserve to be beaten up!"

"You're not wrong, but this is your restaurant and your first day of business. Aren't you worried about bad publicity?" Jasper asked.

"What bad publicity? If Hello Hotpot is good enough, then even if this affects our customer base now, we can still make up for the loss sooner or later. If Hello Hotpot is terrible, then things will remain the same regardless of what happens today."

Jasper thought highly of Darrel after hearing what he said.

Even though Darrel was still young and inexperienced, he had the potential to become a successful businessman.

"That's a good point," Jasper praised him and walked up to Magnus.

At this moment, Julian had clasped onto Magnus and his friend as though he was carrying a chick in each hand.

"F*ck. Ask your dog to let go of me, do you hear me?!"

When he saw Jasper walking over, Magnus clamored frantically and viciously.

"How dare you hit me? Do you know who I am? My father is the chairman of the self-regulatory council of the food and beverage industry!"

“He can shut down this stupid hotpot restaurant of yours anytime! Listen up, this isn’t over! If this stupid hotpot restaurant doesn’t close down, I won’t call myself Magnus!”

“The self-regulatory council of the food and beverage industry? It sounds really dope,” Jasper replied blandly.

Many industries in the country advocated market dominance and the government’s complete withdrawal from administrating industries.

Therefore, apart from some necessary administrative approvals and tax audits, service industries like the food and beverage industry were mostly managed by self-regulatory councils set up by the industry itself.

Although self-regulatory councils did not belong to any government organization, they had a considerable amount of authority. They could conduct checks on stores under their jurisdiction at any time. If they discovered any problems, they could give orders for owners to rectify the problems.

If the stores ignored it or if problems were serious enough, then self-regulatory councils would report this to the government, leaving it to the officials to solve the problem.

Therefore, under normal circumstances, the title of chairman of a self-regulatory council was indeed intimidating.

After all, the officials sitting in the county seat could not order people around like the council. What was more, this was a superior who happened to be in charge of their business!

Though in Jasper’s opinion... this was utterly useless.

He had no idea who the chairman of the self-regulatory council of the food and beverage industry was because this man was not qualified enough to know him.

“Are you scared now?” Magnus could not detect the hidden meaning behind Jasper’s words. He sneered, thinking that like everyone else who had offended him in the past, Jasper would pee his pants as soon as he mentioned his father’s identity.

“It’s too late now! Darn it. You think you can offend anyone? Aren’t you really arrogant? You finally realized that you’ve offended the wrong guy, haven’t you?”

“Let me tell you, then. There’s no use regretting it now. I will definitely get to the bottom of this!”

“Hehe, you must have spent a lot of money to open up a hotpot business here, huh? It’s such a pity that it has to close down on its first day of operation. This is what you get for messing with me!”

Jasper asked Magnus, “Are you saying that my apology is useless now? That you’ll definitely get your father who’s a chairman to close down our hotpot business?”

“Apology?”

Magnus laughed hysterically.

“Apology my *ss. If apologies worked, the world would be at peace by now! You idiot. You finally realized that you’ve messed with the wrong person, huh? I love to see this look on your face. Hit me, then! Keep hitting! If you’re that capable, why don’t you keep hitting me, then?!”

“Sure, if that’s what you want.”

Jasper’s words left Magnus dumbfounded.

If they went according to the normal script, Jasper should be thinking of ways to plead him for mercy right now, offering him benefits and women in hopes of obtaining his forgiveness, no?

What did he mean by 'if that's what you want'?

Soon, Magnus knew what it meant.

He heard Jasper saying to Julian, "Did you hear his request? I've never heard such a ridiculous request before. He wants someone to hit him.

"If that's the case, we'll satisfy him. Hit him. Make him shut up and throw him out. I can't believe I ran into someone like that when I'm just trying to have a meal. It's ruined my appetite."

Magnus widened his eyes abruptly, almost thinking that he had heard wrongly. He shrieked, "Are you f*cking out of your mind? You're still bold enough to hit me? Aren't you afraid that I'll destroy you?"

"Yes, I'm afraid."

Jasper shrugged. "Therefore, I can only do my best to fulfill your request and please you. Perhaps that way, you'll be in a good mood and let me off the hook."

The bystanders nearly laughed out loud.

On the other hand, Darrel and Jonas wore thrilled looks on their faces as they stared at Magnus.

They were not the least bit worried about the consequences because they knew that Magnus was the one who had messed with the wrong person, not Jasper.

Magnus tried to speak but Julian stuffed his mouth with a towel.

After all, Jasper had said to make him shut up.

Julian pinched both Magnus and his friend's jaws with his fingers, dislocating them immediately.

Julian then dragged both Magnus and his friend out of the hotpot restaurant while they let out incomprehensible cries.

At this moment, Jasper had already walked up to Tiffany. He said, "Alright, it's all settled now. You don't have to be afraid."

Tiffany was on the verge of tears.

How could she not be afraid?

Even the boss had personally stepped in to fight because of her. She figured that this was the end of her. She was bound to be sacked.

Life at the Top Chapter 945

Nobody took Magnus and the others seriously.

After asking Julian to kick them out, Julian brought Wendy and Tiffany back to the room where he was having his meal.

Meanwhile, Darrel Laine and Jonas Yale continued greeting the new customers without taking a break.

After all, the previous incident had scared off some cowardly customers. As the bosses of the restaurant, it was their obligation to handle this situation on their own.

In the room, Tiffany told them about her personal experience without any reservations after Wendy asked her about it.

Wendy, who had never experienced a lack of food, clothing, or fatherly love since young, was shocked when she knew that Tiffany was born into such a family.

“I used to read news about how miserable the children of poor families are. Such stories always felt extremely distant to me. Today, I’ve realized that these things are happening all around me. How could there be such a father? On top of that, you actually need to work to earn money for your brother’s tuition fees. Don’t you find it hard?”

Wendy was inherently kind and gentle. After knowing about Tiffany’s life experience, she immediately felt a sense of compassion toward her.

“It’s not hard.”

However, Tiffany thought that it was normal.

“We’ve always lived that way. Although I was often famished when I was young, I have the ability to earn money now. I can feed myself now. Furthermore, the old people in the village and the teachers from the school all treated me very well.”

Wendy was overcome with discomfort once she heard what Tiffany said.

Perhaps, in Tiffany’s view, it was a good day as long as she did not have to starve. If she could afford her school fees and was able to go to school, life would be close to perfect for her.

However, these were all the basic needs of an ordinary human living in this world.

“Big Sis Schuler, will I get fired by my boss?”

She was still thinking of her job even now.

“I got this job after going through a lot of hardships and struggles. My boss even appointed me as the assistant manager. However, I caused trouble on the first day of work. What if he doesn’t allow me to continue working here anymore?”

Tiffany said with a worried expression on her face.

Wendy glanced at Jasper and said softly, “Don’t worry, I’ll talk to your boss later. He won’t blame you.”

“Let’s eat first.”

Jasper said as he placed a plate of earl grey cake, which he recalled was Tiffany’s favorite dessert, in front of her.

Tiffany blinked at him. She seemed to have suddenly thought of something. She immediately got up and said, “Ah, I’m a waiter here. How could I sit here and eat with you? I should stand up.”

Wendy was amused by Tiffany's reaction. She immediately pulled her back down to her seat and said, "Your boss just told us that you're here to accompany us. I want you to sit down and eat with us."

"Is this appropriate?" Tiffany asked in an abashed manner.

"There's nothing inappropriate about this."

Wendy handed a fork and spoon over to Tiffany and told her in a gentle voice, "Eat whatever you want to. Don't be embarrassed. Otherwise, I'll get angry."

With Wendy's gentle reassurance, Tiffany's panic and nervousness gradually waned.

She glanced at Jasper who had not said much with a cautious look. She then took a slice of earl grey cake once he gestured for her to eat.

"Wow, this is delicious."

After taking a bite of the cake, she was instantly amazed by its soft texture and sweet aroma.

"Have you not eaten this before?" Jasper asked.

Tiffany shook her head and said, "Nope, this is the first time I've ever had such good food."

Jasper sighed lightly. Tiffany's fate had not changed much.

He remembered that she had also told him she never had any desserts before in his past life. Earl grey cake was the first dessert that she tried after coming to the city. After that, she fell in love with the sweet, fragrant, and unforgettable taste of this cake.

In this life, it was her first time having earl grey cake as well. From the expression on her face, she probably would never forget its taste all the same.

Wendy tried to place some of the dishes on Tiffany's plate and kept asking her to eat more throughout the meal. Meanwhile, Tiffany continued to become less reserved as well. She gradually fell into conversation with Wendy.

The more they chatted, the more Wendy pitied and liked this determined, kind, and optimistic young girl.

Most of the people her age were still studying in high school.

Tiffany seemed to be enamored by Wendy's gentle and kind aura. She quickly let go of her guard and naturally began to address her as 'Big Sis Schuler'.

Not long after they began eating, a commotion started outside the door.

Darrel ran into the room in a state of panic. He told Jasper, "Cousin, Magnus brought a bunch of people over. His father is here as well. He brought some people from the self-regulatory council as well. They said that they'll close down our hotpot restaurant for rectification."

Jasper huffed in annoyance and said, "Those people from the self-regulatory council are a bunch of rats. Come on, let's take a look."

When Jasper arrived at the door, a large group of people was driving off the customers who wanted to enter the restaurant. They grumbled about the restaurant being dirty and told them that they would have food poisoning if they ate here.

Those customers immediately left regardless of the truth behind their words.

Jonas was in the midst of talking things out with a few people. A few waiters were staring angrily at Magnus who was standing in the middle of the crowd with a proud expression etched across his face.

Noticing that Jasper had walked out, Magnus' eyes lit up. It was as if the master whom he had been waiting for had finally arrived.

“Grandson, I told you that nothing will go well if you go against me! I want to close down this hotpot restaurant right now! What can you do about it?!”

“It's useless even if you get down on your knees to beg before me. Hmph, you've offended me. Let's not even talk about this hotpot restaurant, I'll close down every single restaurant you open in Nauritus City. How much money do you have to spare?”

Jasper looked at Magnus who was acting beyond arrogant and the crowd of people that had started to gather around them. The situation was getting worse. Not only were the new customers being driven off by Magnus' people, but some of the customers who were eating in the restaurant were also quickly leaving after seeing the commotion.

The waiters could not stop them from leaving. They glanced at their boss worriedly. At the same time, they also glared at Magnus' smug face.

“Cousin, if this continues, our restaurant will be doomed,” Darrel told Jasper in a panicked tone.

“Don't worry, it won't be doomed.”

Jasper walked toward Magnus after reassuring Darrel.

Life at the Top Chapter 946

“Grandson, even if you beg in front of me now, everything will still depend on my mood!”

Magnus said smugly as Jasper approached him.

“I’ve taken all the legal procedures and everything is compliant with the regulations for my restaurant. Furthermore, it has always been properly operated. What right do you have to close down my restaurant?”

Jasper said calmly as he glanced at the people from the self-regulatory council standing around Magnus.

Magnus stared at Jasper like he was looking like an idiot. “Are you a fool?” he asked, bursting out into laughter.

“You’re asking me what right I have to do so?”

“Alright, I’ll tell you, then. I can do so because my father is the chairman of the self-regulatory committee of the food and beverage industry in Nauritus City! If he says that your restaurant has a problem, that’s it for your business!”

Magnus guffawed maniacally. The people surrounding him sneered as well. They all looked at Jasper with ridicule in their gazes.

“Young man, were you the one who hit my son?”

Right then, a plump, middle-aged man showed himself. He sneered at Jasper while he pinned an icy gaze on him.

As the chairman of the self-regulatory committee of the food and beverage industry in Nauritus City, Jerome Canne was one of the first restaurant bosses to have made a fortune in Nauritus City.

As of now, Jerome currently ran eight hotpot chain restaurants that were distributed throughout various parts of Nauritus City. Due to these hotpot restaurants, he earned a lot of money every day, which allowed him to hold onto the position as chairman.

However, he was extremely sensitive toward new hotpot restaurants as his main income came from operating a hotpot restaurant chain.

He treated those within the same industry as enemies. Furthermore, Hello Hotpot was a hotpot restaurant as well.

However, Jerome could not find a suitable excuse to attack them.

When Jerome found out that his son had gotten beaten up by someone from Hello Hotpot tonight, he was beyond overjoyed.

He immediately sent people to head over to the restaurant. He was determined to take advantage of this opportunity to exterminate this competitor that posed a potential threat to his hotpot chain's business.

Jasper looked at Jerome and said, "Since you're not doing a good job at educating your son, I have no choice but to help you do so.

"However, now it seems like the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. It seems like you intend to support your son by using your power for personal gain."

Jerome sneered. He should have obliterated Hello Hotpot a long time ago.

If he went against another restaurant without any reason, the other members of the council would think that he was getting rid of everyone in the same industry as him. In that case, he would lose his position as chairman in the next election.

However, if the other council members found it reasonable for him to do so, they could not say much about it. As a father, he could not sit back and do nothing when his son had gotten beaten up, right?

“Young man, didn’t your parents teach you not to mess with the wrong people before you left your house?”

“If you want to blame someone, blame it on them for not teaching you well. Consider this loss as some tuition fees.”

Jerome said coldly. He then told the people around him, “Jot this down now. Hello Hotpot’s hygiene is unsatisfactory. The ingredients they’re using have all gone past the expiry dates and are of subpar quality. Furthermore, they’ve added prohibited chemical flavorings into their sauces. Everything is illegal.

“In accordance with the rules and regulations, the self-regulatory council will now officially issue a notice of cessation of business for rectification. When the rectification is complete, you can resume business again.”

The people around him showed understanding smiles.

Everyone knew that rectification was equivalent to an indefinite suspension of one’s business. No matter how much the hotpot restaurant changed, it would be impossible to meet their requirements.

After giving his orders, Jerome received a rectification notice of closure from one of the people around him. He flung it toward Jasper and sneered, “Close down your restaurant now. Do it immediately!” he shouted.

Jasper glanced at the notice by his feet and chuckled. “The self-regulatory council is just an unofficial organization managed by the industry. The notice you issue has no legal effect on me. I can make an appeal to the official department any time to request for the removal of any of your notices,” he said.

“Oh, it seems like you know a little of the law,” Magnus drawled sarcastically. He then continued smugly, “In that case, go on and lodge an official complaint. Go right now. I’m begging you to file a complaint. Let’s see if anyone will bother to deal with you?” he added.

“Do you really think that you’re someone important? If a fool like you lodges an official complaint, they’ll just treat you like an idiot! Darned fools!”

The expressions on Darrel and Jonas’ faces were extremely unpleasant.

Darrel was poor and did not come from a prominent family background. He did not have many connections either.

Although Jonas was slightly more active in the industry, he was from a foreign country. He did not fare any better than Darrel in Nauritus City.

They both panicked due to the evident oppression they were being subject to because of Jerome and his son’s power. Other than closing down the restaurant, there was no other way for them to resolve this problem.

Both of them turned around to look at Jasper at the same time. They hoped that Jasper could resolve this huge problem.

Meanwhile, Jasper did not say anything. He took out his phone, went through his contact list, and dialed one of the numbers.

The call went through immediately.

“Secretary Lee, it’s me. Jasper Laine.”

Life at the Top Chapter 947

Secretary Lee, the first secretary of the Nauritus City Government, was shocked to be receiving a call from Jasper Laine.

After receiving the call from Jasper, he walked to an isolated corner and picked up the call. “Mr. Laine? Haha, you’re a busy man. Why did you call me?” he asked politely.

“Don’t worry, I’ll definitely help you out as long as it doesn’t violate the law.”

Despite Secretary Lee’s status and position, it was evident how much he valued Jasper’s call from the courteous way he spoke to him.

Jasper was now extremely popular among the provincial officials. Secretary Lee had heard that one of the middle-ranking executives from ICBS had gotten scouted by Agricultural Bank just because he was close to Jasper. He had even gotten appointed as the vice president of the provincial branch.

Something like this was the envy of everyone working in the Nauritus City Government.

Jasper could sense Secretary Lee’s well-concealed diligence. He chuckled and said, “It’s actually nothing much. I invested in a hotpot restaurant started by my cousin and his friend.

“Today is the opening day of the restaurant. I wanted to invite you over for a meal, but just as I was about to do so, a bunch of people from the self-regulatory council from the food and beverage industry ordered my restaurant to close down for rectification without a valid reason. I’m flabbergasted by their actions.

“Let’s not talk about how excellent the restaurant is, but I wouldn’t invest in a restaurant that violates the law in the first place. All the approval procedures are legal as well.

“The government has given me a business license that allows me to do business, but this self-regulatory council is capable of closing it down just like that?”

Jasper’s words were not harsh in nature, but Secretary Lee was alarmed after he registered his words.

A stern expression formed on his face as he said, “Mr. Laine, the self-regulatory councils of each respective industry have the authority to supervise and manage businesses within the industry, but the government still has authority over the final review of their decision.

“Also, if their judgment is wrong, any business is allowed to file a complaint to the government. After all, they’re a non-governmental organization... What about this? Tell me your current location. I’ll head over to take a look at the situation. How about that?”

“Alright, I’m at the intersection of Manhattan Road and Avenue Road. You’ll see when you get there.”

“Alright, it’s not far from the city hall. I’ll be there in a few minutes.”

After ending the call, Secretary Lee made another call with a heavy expression on his face.

He no longer sounded as polite and courteous as he did when he was talking to Jasper just now. Conversely, he started reprimanding the person on the other end of the call once it went through.

“Director Sund, what the hell are you doing?!”

“During the past few meetings with the municipal senior officials, we have repeatedly stressed the fact that as the direct supervisors of the self-regulatory council, you must manage the behaviors of the councils in each respective industry. They shouldn’t be bullying others just because of the little authority they have. How have you been doing your work?!”

“What’s wrong?! Why are you still asking me that? I’m not taking out my anger on you right now. You’re lucky that Mr. Laine called me to notify me about this incident today. It seems like he doesn’t intend to cause a ruckus.

“If he had called the higher-ups of the municipal government, you’d be called in for a review and dismissed from your position tomorrow!”

“Which Mr. Laine? There’s only one Mr. Laine in Nauritus City!”

“Head over to the intersection of Manhattan Road and Avenue Road and look for a restaurant called Hello Hotpot right now. A bunch of people from the self-regulatory council of the food and beverage industry has issued a notice to Mr. Laine and ordered the closure of his restaurant! If we don’t handle this issue well, we’ll both be in trouble!”

...

Meanwhile, at the entrance of Hello Hotpot.

Jonas walked over to Jasper’s side cautiously after noticing that he had ended his phone call. “Mr. Laine, is the person you called reliable?” he asked.

Jasper laughed and said, “I just asked one of my friends to come over to celebrate the opening of your restaurant. We’re a legal business that has done nothing to violate the law. As long as we’ve done nothing wrong, we can do anything.

“Do you think that our restaurant will close down just because of these clowns? Does that even make sense?”

If Darrel was the one who said these words, Jonas would not be surprised at all.

After all, Darrel did not have much practical experience. He was still extremely naive and thought that everything would be alright as long as he did his own part well.

However, Jonas found it extremely odd for Jasper to say something like that.

“That’s what you think, but there are some unreasonable people out there, Mr. Laine. If you don’t look for someone with a high level of authority to support us, I’m afraid that we’ll be in great trouble this time around,” Jonas said despondently.

Jasper cast a brief glance at Jonas and asked, “Are all the procedures operated by the restaurant legal? Are there any problems with the ingredients that we use?”

Jonas immediately thumped his chest and said, “I’m a man with a conscience. I would never do anything like that!”

“That’s great. Let them struggle. Let’s see what they can come up with,” Jasper told him.

“Hahaha, did I hear wrongly? Do such fools exist in the world?” Magnus guffawed loudly.

Jerome scoffed and shook his head. He must have overestimated how much of a threat Jasper would be.

It seemed like Jasper Laine was an idiot. Conversely, Jonas looked like he had some brains.

Just as Jerome was about to say something, two cars came to an emergency brake in front of the road. Three to five people got down from the cars.

The person in the lead was the first secretary of the Nauritus City Government,
Secretary Lee!

It had been less than ten minutes after his call with Jasper ended.

Life at the Top Chapter 948

Given Jerome's status and position, he was still not qualified to know Secretary Lee personally.

However, he knew Director Sund, who was following Secretary Lee's lead from behind, very well. After all, he was the direct supervisor of the self-regulatory council. He was in charge of managing Jerome's council.

Jerome headed over to greet Director Sund instinctively when he caught sight of him.

However, once he noticed Director Sund, who was usually friendly toward him although they were not particularly close, sending him a harsh glare, he immediately stopped walking toward him.

At the same time, a sense of uneasiness arose within him.

"My apologies for coming late, Mr. Laine."

Secretary Lee made his way in front of Jasper in a hurry. He extended his hand toward him from a distance away and shook Jasper's hand politely, speaking to him with a sincere expression on his face.

Jasper chuckled and said, "You're not late. It's the opening of my restaurant today, but Mr. Canne from the self-regulatory council claims that our restaurant has violated the law. He's ordering us to close down the restaurant for further rectification, so our opening is being delayed."

Secretary Lee smiled awkwardly after detecting the dissatisfaction in Jasper's tone. He turned around and dragged Director Sund in front of him. "Mr. Laine, this is Director Sund. He's the office head who's in charge of managing the office

directors from the self-regulatory councils of various industries within the city,” he said.

Director Sund extended his hand at once. “Mr. Laine, it’s nice to meet you,” he said courteously.

After shaking hands with Director Sund, Jasper said, “It’s great that you’re here. Please check if my restaurant has violated the law in any way,

“If my restaurant has really violated the law, I’ll close it down at once and never get involved in the food and beverage industry ever again without any complaints. However, if nothing’s wrong with my restaurant, we will need to have a long talk about it.”

Director Sund looked at the rectification notice thrown onto the ground by his feet while he registered Jasper’s words. A look of distress formed on his face.

To be honest, he did not have to carry out an investigation to know what the results would be!

Director Sund was not favoring Jasper by using his power for personal gain. There was an extremely simple question instead.

What was Jasper Laine’s current position and social status?

He had invested in one of his cousin’s hotpot restaurants. Would he bother to use low-quality ingredients or artificial additives just to save on some costs?

If news about this broke out, everyone would laugh at it.

Director Sund felt his face heat up. It was as if someone had slapped him right across the face.

He turned around and glared at Jerome. “Mr. Canne, were you the one who issued this rectification notice?!”

While he spoke, Director Sund bent down to pick up the rectification notice and threw it at Jerome’s face.

Even if Jerome was a fool, he knew that things had escalated greatly.

He looked at Jasper and then at Secretary Lee, whose identity was still unknown to him. Finally, he looked at Director Sund while he stuttered. He could not bring himself to say anything.

“I’m asking you a question. Did you issue this notice?!” Director Sund roared in anger.

His yell shocked Jerome, causing him to tremble in fear.

Right then, Magnus, who was yet to get a grasp of the situation, joined in the exchange. “My father was the one who issued it. Is there a problem with that? My father is the chairman of the self-regulatory council. He has the authority to close down any shop he wants to!” he exclaimed.

Director Sund sneered and said, “Hah, it seems like you have an immense amount of authority!”

He pointed a finger at Jerome, who was as pale as a sheet, while he spoke. “Mr. Canne, you were elected as the chairman by the council members. Is this how you intend to use your authority? Huh?!” he questioned him.

The situation seemed to be worsening. Jerome was just about to put in a nice word when Magus interjected their conversation. He could not resist it anymore. “What do you mean by that? How dare you speak to my father like that, you b*stard? Do you know that I can put your life to an end?” he blurted out.

As soon as Magnus finished speaking, Jerome raised his hand and slapped him across the face harshly. Magnus cried out in pain and fell to the ground.

“Shut up, you unfilial son!”

Jerome shouted out loud.

He did not spare Magnus, who was completely stunned, another glance after that. He turned around and smiled at Director Sund. “Director Sund, there must be a misunderstanding. It’s all a misunderstanding!” he exclaimed.

“A misunderstanding?” Director Sund questioned with an impassive expression on his face. “However, from your son’s attitude and the notice you issued, I don’t think it’s as simple as a misunderstanding,” he added.

Jerome felt like bursting out into tears. He knew now that Jasper was leading the entire situation. He rushed in front of Jasper and begged him. “Mr. Laine, Mr. Laine, I was wrong to do so!” he pleaded.

“I shouldn’t have offended you. I was being thoughtless. Please be generous and let me go just this once. I assure you that this will never happen ever again.”

A moment ago, Jerome had been trampling all over Jasper in a haughty manner. Right now, he was begging for mercy in front of him like a pitiful loser. Everyone was dumbfounded by the theatrical scene unfolding before their eyes.

Jonas was especially stunned. He looked at Jasper like he was a deity.

Not long ago, he was still wondering if Jasper was in his right mind. He now knew the difference between Jasper and himself.

Jasper could easily crush someone like Jerome Canne by making use of some of his connections.

He had gotten worried for nothing.

Of course, Jasper did not know about the change in thoughts in Jonas' mind.

“Don't say that. As the chairman of the self-regulatory council of the food and beverage industry, you have so much power and authority, Mr. Canne. I'm an ordinary businessman. I would never dare to misunderstand you,” he said calmly.

“Since you claim that my hotpot restaurant has violated the law, let's do this instead. Director Sund, please inform the relevant departments and ask them to carry out a thorough investigation of the restaurant. How's that?”

Director Sund smiled bitterly. He would never dare to agree to a request like that. He cast a pleading glance at Secretary Lee.

Secretary Lee broke out into cold sweat as he pondered upon it. After a while, he said, “Why don't we do this, Director Sund? Let your men carry out a thorough investigation of the restaurant in accordance with the regular procedures and see if there are any problems. Let's continue talking after the investigation. How about that?”

“That sounds like a good idea,” Jasper said in an even tone.

Life at the Top Chapter 949

“No, no, no. There’s no need to do so. There’s really no need to do that.”

Jerome was the most anxious person among everyone right now. He rushed forward and pleaded with all his might, “There isn’t a problem with this restaurant. I didn’t carry out an investigation just now. I made a mistake by issuing this notice. You don’t have to carry out an investigation!” he begged.

Jasper looked at Jerome and said in a calm tone, “Oh? Mr. Canne, you were the one who claimed that there’s a problem with my restaurant just a moment ago. Now, you’re the one who’s saying that there’s no problem as well. Can you tell me if there’s a problem with my restaurant or not?”

“No! I guarantee that there isn’t a problem with it!” Jerome cried out in a state of panic. He was so desperate that he was close to bursting out into tears.

Jasper’s expression hardened. “Since there isn’t a problem, how do you explain this notice?” he questioned.

Jerome stared at the notice in regret. “It’s all a misunderstanding...” he said listlessly.

“Secretary Lee and Director Sund, do as you wish,” Jasper said coldly.

His words wielded the power to determine Jerome Canne’s fate.

After determining Jerome’s fate, Jasper did not bother to spare him another glance. He invited Secretary Lee into the restaurant for a meal.

As for Director Sund... He would be staying behind to deal with the aftermath of the incident. Besides, he was not qualified to have a meal at the same table as Jasper.

Director Sund stared at Jerome, who was as pale as a sheet, with a cold look. "Jerome Canne, submit a resignation letter to me when you're back. I'll organize an election for the new chairman of the self-regulatory council of the food and beverage industry tomorrow," he said in a stiff tone.

After speaking, Director Sund turned around and left without sparing another glance at Jerome and Magnus whose expressions were full of despondence and disbelief.

Through this incident, Director Sund realized that there were many internal problems within the self-regulatory councils. Furthermore, the self-regulatory council of the food and beverage industry was not the only council in Nauritus City. There were plenty of different councils in each industry.

Therefore, Director Sund intended to think carefully and devise a plan to increase the positive impacts brought about by these self-regulatory councils in order to reduce the mess caused by idiots like Jerome and Magnus Canne.

...

The farce ended just like that. After that, Jasper and Secretary Lee did not mention this incident again.

After all, in the eyes of both Jasper and Secretary Lee, Jerome and Magnus were nobodies who did not deserve to be mentioned. There was no need to bring them up again.

They knew that it was unlikely for Jerome and Magnus to appear before them ever again.

“Mr. Laine, this hotpot restaurant of yours is rather exquisite,” Secretary Lee remarked as he admired the interior furnishing of Hello Hotpot. Besides, the waiters spoke to the customers passionately and provided extremely meticulous service.

Jasper chuckled and said, “This is one of the reasons why I decided to invest in this restaurant. Come on, Secretary Lee. Let’s make a toast. Make sure to frequent this restaurant in the future. I won’t let you eat for free, but I’ll give you a discount since we’re friends.”

Secretary Lee guffawed loudly as he made a toast with Jasper. They both downed the contents of their glasses in one go.

...

It was ten o’clock at night after they finished their meal.

Secretary Lee repeatedly told Jasper he did not need to send him off at the entrance of the restaurant. He then turned around and left.

Darrel and Jonas made their way toward Jasper excitedly.

“How is it? How’s the turnover today?” Jasper asked.

“Although the customers declined in between due to the commotion caused by Magnus and the others, we still did pretty well today,” Darrel said happily.

“We had a turnover of more than 80,000 dollars tonight. It has exceeded our expectations by quite a lot. This was mainly due to the good feedback from customers. Some of the customers also suggested their recommendations for areas of improvement. We’ve collected all of their feedback and we can review them later on.”

Jasper nodded and said, “Not bad. This is a very good start. Let’s continue to work hard.”

As Jasper spoke, he turned around to look at Tiffany who was standing anxiously beside him. She seemed like she was at a loss of what to do. He chuckled and asked her, "Where do you live? Do you need me to send you home?"

Tiffany blushed and hid behind Wendy instinctively. Wendy was the person she trusted the most right now. Conversely, she felt slightly aversive toward Jasper for reasons that were unclear to her as well.

"I... I'm not off work yet."

"You're off work now! You can go home right now! You're free to go now, Tiffany!" Jonas exclaimed immediately. He was a natural prankster.

Tiffany gasped and stared at her boss in a stunned manner. "But, didn't you say that we're supposed to operate the restaurant till half-past two in the early morning?" she asked in a daze.

The corners of Jonas' lips twitched. He was at a loss for words.

How could there be such a silly girl in the world?

Wendy could not help but chuckle. "Your boss is giving you a special holiday today. You can get off work in advance," she told her.

"Will... Will my salary be deducted?" Tiffany asked in confusion.

Jonas turned his head around silently. He was afraid he would not be able to resist cursing in front of her.

Every word that came out of this young girl's mouth made him look at this young, sweet, and silly girl in a different light.

"No, it won't," Wendy said patiently.

“Tell me. Where do you live? We’ll send you back. Otherwise, I’d worry if you went home alone,” Wendy said.

“I don’t have a place to live in. Before coming over to work, the shop owner told me that I can sleep in the extra space in the storeroom. I brought my sheets over as well,” Tiffany said embarrassedly.

As soon as she finished speaking, everyone was overcome with a sense of pity.

Jonas was stunned as well. He then started to consider if they should rent a dormitory for their employees.

However, Jasper suggested it first, “Darrel and Jonas, rent out an apartment unit nearby so that employees who don’t have a place to live can reside there. Include the fees in the operating costs of the store. We can cut our costs in terms of other aspects, but we cannot mistreat our employees,” he said.

Both of them nodded in response. Jasper was about to suggest that Wendy could bring Tiffany home so that she could spend the night at her place when Wendy said, “Tiff, do you want to follow me home tonight? You can sleep in my room.”

Life at the Top Chapter 950

“Bis Sis Schuler, that wouldn’t be appropriate. I can stay at the dormitory...”
Tiffany said in a flustered tone.

“It’s alright. Don’t be afraid. I’m lonely when I’m home alone. You can keep me company at home.”

A sincere smile flashed across Wendy’s face.

Jasper and Dawson were way too busy nowadays. She had nobody to keep her company when she arrived home. She had nobody to rant to.

After all, she was a woman. Furthermore, she had such a heavy workload. She wished to have a true friend who could accompany her as well. She hoped that she had someone to talk to whenever she was tired.

Tiffany had left a pretty good first impression on her. She had already begun to treat her as her own younger sister.

“Tiff, listen to Wendy! It isn’t easy for you to live outside on your own,” Jasper said.

“In that case...”

“It’s decided, then. You can stay with us. It wouldn’t be safe for a young girl like you to live outside on your own.”

Tiffany nodded in a daze due to Jasper and Wendy’s persistent persuasion.

Tiffany followed Jasper and Wendy back home after they left Hello Hotpot.

She was beyond shocked the moment she arrived at Wendy's house.

"Oh my God! Big Sis Schuler, you have such a big house!"

Standing at the door, Tiffany looked at the wide central living room. The magnificent house was a villa that consisted of two separate floors.

A huge crystal chandelier that shone brighter than the shiniest treasure from Tiffany's dreams hung from the ceiling in the center of the room. Everything was beyond her imagination.

"Why are you standing at the door? Come in," Wendy told her with a cheery smile on her face.

"I... I've never seen such a big house in my life. Everything is way too pretty. I'm afraid that I'll dirty the furniture," Tiffany said in embarrassment, her cheeks beginning to blush.

"The cleaners will tidy up and clean the place every day."

Immediately, Wendy pulled Tiffany into the house.

Although Wendy wanted to treat Tiffany well, she knew how to take care of a young girl's self-esteem as well. Wendy was a wise woman.

"You don't have to worry about anything when you're staying here. However, you'll be staying in one of the guest rooms and you'll have to clean up the room yourself."

Tiffany nodded heavily and said, "Alright, Big Sis Schuler. I'll make sure to pay attention to the cleanliness of the room."

Wendy chuckled and said, "Come on, I'll bring you to your room."

Jasper's mood was lifted when he saw both of them walking upstairs while happily chatting.

Putting aside the complicated fate of Tiffany's past and present lives, Wendy really needed someone she could talk to.

Wendy's life usually revolved around her home and the office. In the office, she would be swamped with work.

Back at home, Dawson was getting busier and busier with his own work, so he was rarely at home. Wendy did not have anyone to talk to except for her unreliable bodyguard, Fallon Murray.

Now with Tiffany at home, it would be a good thing for Wendy.

After taking a shower upstairs, Jasper sat down in his study. He was just about to handle some business matters when he received a phone call from Brac County.

"Mr. Laine, this is Lucas Wadler."

"Lucas? Why are you calling me so late at night? Did anything happen?" Jasper asked with a slight frown.

Lucas was a talented senior manager in the shipbuilding industry whom Jasper had hired from Harbor City through his connections with the Laws.

His parents did not know how to operate and manage the shipyard in Brac County, which was the reason why he hired Lucas to lead the team working in the shipyard.

"Mr. Laine, I'm calling you because a situation has arisen over here. I thought about it for some time and I think that I should report it to you."

Life at the Top Chapter 951

“Half a month ago, didn’t you obtain a manufacturing order for three 5,000-tonne cargo ships through your connections in Harbor City? This was originally a good thing. The entire shipyard has been working together to complete this order.

“However, a few days ago, the buyer suddenly came to the shipyard for an inspection. He found out that we were using a batch of imported steel plates of subpar quality. He was furious about it and he proceeded to sign a new contract with another shipyard.

“I received news that the other shipyard had secretly contacted the buyer a long time ago. They offered him a price that was nearly 20% lower than ours.

“Therefore, this deal was determined to be done for. The old mister and madam have been so troubled over this lately that they can’t focus on anything else.”

After listening to what Lucas said, Jasper frowned. “I obtained this order through a special connection of mine. However, one always has to consider their own interests in business,” he said in a heavy tone.

“I know about these three ships. The value of each ship is around seven million dollars. It makes up a total of 21 million dollars, which isn’t a small number. The buyer will definitely be careful about it.

“Why are we using a batch of imported steel plates of subpar quality?”

“That’s the odd thing,” Lucas replied immediately.

“Mr. Laine, you’ve told us time and time again that we must only use genuine materials. The old mister and madam have never violated this rule. We would never dare order a batch of defective steel plates.

“I checked this batch of steel plates. There’s no inventory record and no purchasing record. It was as if the steel plates had suddenly appeared out of thin air.

“Someone must have been in the factory the night before without anyone knowing. The next day, the buyer came in for a surprise inspection as soon as the factory opened.

“Of course, we could not come up with any excuses when the buyer saw the batch of defective steel plates in the factory. The buyer was reluctant to listen to our explanation as well. He left after throwing a tantrum.”

Jasper’s expression darkened as he gently rapped his knuckles against the table.

“That means that the order was already leaked when the shipyard just received it. When the buyer was here for an inspection, a batch of defective steel plates from an unknown source suddenly appeared in the factory and the buyer just so happened to see it.

“Therefore, you didn’t have the chance to clarify things as the buyer left in a fit of rage. Not long after, another shipyard offered the buyer a lower price for the same order and snatched this deal from us?

“That’s what happened. The entire incident is suspicious. After thinking about it for a while, I thought that I should report it to you,” Lucas said with a firm voice.

“You made the right decision. Someone is plotting against our shipyard.”

Jasper sneered and said, “This is a big buyer. His orders exceed two billion dollars in value annually. Most importantly, we could quickly expand the shipyard’s market in Harbor City and Auma City through this. That’s why I put in a lot of effort and asked someone for a favor to get my hands on this order.

“It seems like someone is after our accomplishments.

“A single order is nothing much, but I won’t allow others to fool and belittle my parents’ shipyard like that. Furthermore, this is such an important buyer.

“I’ll make a trip to Brac County tomorrow. Let’s talk then.”

“Alright, Mr. Laine,” Lucas said excitedly as he breathed out a sigh of relief.

After putting down the phone, Jasper raised his head and caught sight of Wendy who had walked into his study.

“Has Tiffany gone to bed?” Jasper asked.

“She’s resting,” Wendy said. She sat down in front of his study table and supported her chin with a hand.

“Do you want to tell me anything?” Jasper asked with a chuckle.

Wendy was slightly hesitant, but she still voiced her opinion, “I don’t think it’s suitable for Tiffany to be working outside due to her personality. She has too little experience,” she said.

“What are your plans?” Jasper asked with interest.

“I think that we should let her stay at home as our nanny. How’s that?” Wendy suggested.

Jasper was slightly stunned. He smiled bitterly and said, “That doesn’t sound appropriate. She’s still so young. She just came of age this year.”

“Just let her help us out at home. Let’s pay her a salary every month. We can reduce her burden by doing so.

“I pity her way too much. Furthermore, her innocence and kindness give me a good feeling about her. If I didn’t know her, I wouldn’t bother to do anything.

However, since I know about what she's going through, I want to help her if I have the ability to do so."

"You can decide for yourself. I'll support you," Jasper said gently.

"Alright," Wendy said as she smiled radiantly.

Life at the Top Chapter 952

Wendy and Tiffany got along with each other exceptionally well. Jasper was extremely relieved to see this.

He wanted to make up for the regrets from his past life. Anyways, since fate had arranged for Jasper and Tiffany to meet again, he could not bear to watch Tiffany continue to live as miserably as she did in her past life.

Jasper was not one who did many good deeds, but he did not mind putting in some effort to provide a pitiful girl like Tiffany with a better future.

The next day, Jasper woke up early as he had to head over to Brac County. As soon as he stepped out of his room, he noticed that the door of the room at the end of the corridor was open. Tiffany, who had finished washing up, walked out of the room with her luggage.

Jasper was stunned. "Where are you going with all your luggage?" he asked.

Tiffany seemed to be shocked by Jasper's sudden appearance. After a momentary daze, she said in a soft voice, "I'm going to work."

"Didn't Wendy tell you that you don't need to work anymore?" Jasper asked.

"Huh?!"

Tiffany was evidently shocked by the news. The next moment, tears began to well up in her widened eyes and a look of distress flashed across her face.

"Did I really get fired?"

Jasper was amused when he heard the teary tone of her voice. “What are you thinking? We just don’t think that you should be working as a waitress in the hotpot restaurant because you’re way too soft-hearted. Also, you have too little experience, and you’re so pretty,” he said.

“Even if you were appointed as the assistant manager, what do you know about the responsibilities of an assistant manager? An assistant manager’s main responsibility consists of assisting the manager to manage the other waiters and staff of the hotpot restaurant.”

“This is a managerial position. Do you think that you’ll be able to do well?”

Tiffany shook her head as a sense of inferiority overcame her upon registering Jasper’s words. “No, I don’t know how to do any of that,” she said.

“Exactly. Therefore, we intend to let you help us out at home. You can start from being a nanny. You will have a salary of 5,000 dollars per month.

“Your main responsibilities include cleaning, tidying up the house, and tending to the plants in the garden.

“We actually have special maids to tend to these chores, but you can learn from them. If you find it hard to learn from them, you can cook for us. The cook who used to be in charge of cooking for us has resigned to take care of her grandson at home.

“You should know how to cook, right?”

Actually, Jasper could pay for all of Tiffany’s living costs, but it would be inappropriate for him to do so. After all, she was a young and pretty lady. It would be odd for him to take care of her at home.

Besides, he was taking Tiffany’s self-esteem into consideration as well.

He knew that Tiffany was actually extremely determined and sensitive despite her weak appearance. She would reject the charity of others as she hoped that she could change her life through her own efforts.

“I know how to cook!” Tiffany nodded in enthusiasm.

She had raised her brother since young, so there was no way she did not know how to cook. Her cooking skills were pretty good too.

Tiffany’s eyes shone once she heard that she would be getting a salary of 5,000 dollars per month.

“Alright, Wendy will explain everything to you after she wakes up. Don’t worry about anything and just stay here. It’s an easy and carefree job. You can just tell us if you need anything. If you have nothing to do, you can just stay at home or go out for a walk.

“I have work to do, so I need to leave now.”

Jasper said before walking downstairs.

“Brother... Brother Laine.”

Tiffany’s conflicted voice rang out from the stairwell. Jasper stopped walking and turned around to look at her.

Tiffany’s small face was flushed bright red, and she fidgeted awkwardly. It seemed like she wanted to tell him something but was embarrassed to say it aloud.

Jasper did not urge her to say anything. He simply smiled as he looked at her.

Life at the Top Chapter 953

“There’s something else... Brother Laine, could you lend me 1,000 dollars?”

Tiffany sounded like she was about to cry. “I know that it’s wrong for me to do this, but my brother’s school fees have been in arrears for almost a week now. I...I don’t want the others to look down on him in school,” she said.

Jasper sighed lightly as he looked at Tiffany’s conflicted expression.

1,000 dollars was nothing to him.

The profits that he had earned effortlessly from the companies under his name exceeded this amount by a lot. However, this sum of money was enough to cause Tiffany to feel conflicted and awkward.

He took out 2,000 dollars in cash from his wallet and stuffed it into Tiffany’s hands. He then spoke to Tiffany who was desperately searching for the right words to say to him in a kind tone.

“Here’s 2,000 dollars. 1,000 dollars is for your brother’s school fees, and the remaining 1,000 dollars is for your brother’s living expenses. You need to take care of the remaining expenses on your own. However, this money is part of your salary. I’m just giving it to you in advance. When you get your salary, it’ll be deducted from the total.”

Tiffany nodded nervously as a bright expression flashed across her face.

Jasper’s words made her feel extremely at ease. She felt like the 2,000 dollars he had given her was her salary and not a form of charity.

“Thank you, Brother Laine! I will work hard!” Tiffany exclaimed in a determined tone.

Jasper chuckled and waved at her. He then turned around and headed downstairs.

Julian had driven over to the villa after receiving Jasper’s call and was waiting for him outside in his Bentley.

“Let’s head over to Brac County. I think we’ll be staying there for about two days.”

Jasper said as he got into the car and accepted the breakfast sandwich handed over to him by Julian.

The Bentley zoomed along the road, catching the attention of passersby on the street. It then entered the highway and dashed toward Brac County.

They arrived at Brac County in the afternoon, and Jasper headed over to the shipyard straight away.

Charlie and Sally were shocked to see Jasper.

“Why are you here, Jasp?” Sally asked while she turned her head to look behind his back. The expression on her face dimmed when she did not see the person she wanted to see. “Where’s Wendy?” she asked.

“She’s busy in the office. I came here alone this time. If you want to see her, call her and ask her to visit when she’s free,” Jasper said in amusement.

“That’s such a hassle,” Sally said as she shook her head.

“Dad, Mom, has anything special happened at the shipyard lately?” Jasper asked.

Charlie frowned, obviously not in a good mood. "You haven't eaten, right? Come on, let's eat at the canteen. We'll talk while we eat," he said.

"Alright," Jasper said. He did not want to expose them either. He followed both of them out of the office as they walked toward the shipyard.

The shipyard, which had still been deserted not too long ago, was now bursting with liveliness after a period of operation. The sound of machines whirring added to the bustling atmosphere.

The workers gradually gathered at the canteen when it was time for lunch.

It was evident that Charlie and Sally had a good reputation in the shipyard. Ordinary workers and managers of every position would take the initiative to greet them when they passed by. It seemed like they really liked these two bosses. They did not look like they were faking it.

However, not many people knew who Jasper was.

Charlie and Sally greeted workers throughout their journey to the canteen. They did not receive any special treatment either. They queued up after grabbing a tray each and joked with some of the workers every now and then.

Jasper followed his parents. He took a tray and stood behind them. The factory's canteen, which had dozens of workers, took its food seriously. More than 20 dishes had been prepared, and the portion of meat and vegetables was extremely reasonable. His parents had obviously put in a lot of effort and consideration on this aspect.

After taking their food, the three of them sat down at an empty table. Charlie started talking, "Not too long ago, the order you obtained for us got snatched away by someone else!"

Life at the Top Chapter 954

Everything that Charlie told him was roughly the same as what Jasper already knew.

However, he discovered something new from his father's account of the incident.

There were surveillance cameras in the factory. Although there were not many cameras, they covered most of the important areas.

However, none of the cameras had captured the scene of the batch of defective steel plates being moved into the factory.

"I've checked before. There are at least three surveillance cameras along the way to the factory. There's one at the main entrance, another one at the entrance of the production area, and one at the entrance of the warehouse. These are all important pathways, but none of these cameras managed to catch anything on footage.

"Therefore, there can only be two explanations for this. It was either a supernatural event where everything was the work of a ghost or the perpetrator is someone familiar with the environment of the factory and acted as a snitch."

Lucas brought two executives over in a hurry when Charlie mentioned this.

"Mr. Laine, you didn't notify us when you arrived. We should have come outside to greet you," Lucas told Jasper.

Jasper waved his hand while he continued to eat. "You don't have to be so courteous around me. I don't like such behavior. Have you guys eaten? Let's eat together if you haven't," he said.

Lucas flashed a meaningful gaze at one of the executives. The executive rushed off to take food for them at once.

Not long after, the three of them sat down. The small table was occupied by six people. The atmosphere was rather lively as everyone huddled together.

“My father told me about the surveillance cameras. Do all of you know about it?” Jasper asked.

Lucas nodded and said, “Yes, Chairman Laine was the one who proposed this idea to us. After investigating and drawing comparisons between the footage, we didn’t find anything suspicious.”

“If it wasn’t a supernatural event, I’m sure that there’s a snitch among us,” Jasper said in a steady tone.

“I’ve never believed in ghosts. Our investigation will begin with the internal staff of the factory.”

Jasper glanced at Lucas as he spoke, “You’re more familiar with the workers here. List down some suspects and carry out the investigation slowly. As long as that person has done it, some evidence will be left behind.

“Look into the people who were in the factory and those who weren’t there on the night of the incident. Anyone could be the culprit. Don’t spare anyone.”

“However, remember that you shouldn’t cause panic. The factory has already lost a huge order, so everyone is feeling uneasy. Therefore, you need to carry out the investigation without anyone knowing.”

Lucas nodded sternly after listening to what he said. “Alright, I understand, Mr. Laine,” he said.

Jasper looked at Charlie and chuckled. "Relax, Dad. This isn't a big issue. Everything will be in the clear soon. It'll be alright as long as we avoid similar incidents from happening in the future," he said.

"Why are these people so mean? Don't they feel guilty for using such shady methods to plot against us?" Charlie questioned in distaste.

"Guilt is nothing compared to the benefits that come with riches. Plenty of people have thrown their conscience away a long time ago," Jasper said.

"Mr. Laine, Chairman Laine and Madam Laine have been monitoring the production line for days on end lately just because of that order. They've put in a lot of effort. We're all angry now that something like this has happened. We must find the true culprit!" Lucas exclaimed right then.

"Dad, Mom, although your work at the shipyard is important, your health should be your main priority. Don't wear yourselves out over a small issue like this. That would be real trouble," Jasper said in a concerned tone.

Sally laughed and said, "Your father and I have been spending time in a fulfilling manner lately. Now that we have something to do, we feel much more energized than before. We don't find it hard to fall asleep at night anymore. It's a good thing that we're busy now. Don't worry."

Jasper smiled as he nodded.

Although Jasper continued chatting about some casual topics with them, he still felt extremely uneasy.

Life at the Top Chapter 955

Jasper did not really care about the shipyard. It was not worth it to allocate so much of his efforts into this business.

He only came over personally to handle this issue because he did not want it to affect his parents' emotions.

However, from the way his parents were behaving right now, it seemed he had to resolve this problem as best as he could. Otherwise, they would be sick with worry.

After lunch, Charlie and Sally headed back to rest. Meanwhile, Jasper and Lucas discussed the investigation procedures to be carried out in order to find out who the snitch was.

Once that was done, Lucas left to continue with his work whereas Jasper and Julian left the shipyard together.

"They plotted against us when we least expected it. We don't even know what exactly happened. It won't be easy to find out the truth in just a few days."

Jasper massaged his temples in the car. He had a headache.

"You can slowly investigate if you don't manage to find out anything within a few days, Jasper. There's no need to pressure yourself," Julian said while he drove the car.

Jasper sighed and said, "I don't have that much time here."

While he spoke to Julian, Jasper noticed a figure outside the window of the car that moved swiftly along the road. "Julian, stop the car!" he shouted at once.

The Bentley came to an emergency stop by the side of the road.

A short distance away from the car, a huge scene was taking place at the entrance of a high-end residential area.

A man who was pushing a baby stroller and carrying a lot of vegetables with an apron wrapped around his waist was being slapped by an extravagantly-dressed woman in public.

“Greg Costa, what did I tell you yesterday night? I want to drink sweetened milk, but you bought me pure milk. Did you do it on purpose so I won’t feel like drinking anything?! Did you?!”

The woman scolded Greg in a shrill voice as she slapped him.

Greg raised his arm to block the woman’s hand. However, he did not dare to retort against her. He simply explained to her in a stiff voice.

“I was too tired last night. Our child hasn’t been feeling well these few days. He wakes up a few times every night. I haven’t been sleeping well for almost an entire week. You’ve misunderstood me. Don’t hit me anymore. There are many people watching...”

“There are so many people watching?!” the woman yelled in a shrill voice. She sneered and said, “Good, then. I want everyone to see how useless you are. You’re just a piece of garbage who relies on women for money. I’m paying for your living expenses and you’re living in my house. Can’t I hit you a few times, huh?”

Greg seemed to be used to the mocking and derisive gazes being directed at him. “I’ll buy some sweetened milk for you right now,” he said with a dark expression on his face.

“You don’t need to go anywhere now!” the woman yelled, raising her hand and slapping him across the face once again. “I’m going out now, and you’re telling

me that you're going to buy it now? Are you causing trouble on purpose?" she questioned.

"Why are you standing there in a daze? Go home and do the chores at once. Remember that you need to hand wash my clothes. If I find out that you ruined any of my clothes, I'll beat you to death! You're just garbage who lives off his woman's money! Scram!"

After the pretty woman finished yelling at him, she walked toward a red sports car.

Meanwhile, Greg, whose face was streaked with marks from being slapped repeatedly, sighed heavily. He coaxed the baby in the stroller who was crying as he had been frightened by all the commotion. Greg then made his way back into the residential area silently.

"Greg!"

Right then, a man's voice rang out from behind him. His voice was tinged with disbelief.

Greg was stunned the moment he heard his voice. He turned around in shock to look at Jasper who was standing a short distance away from him. He shouted out loud, "Jasp?!"

Life at the Top Chapter 956

Greg Costa and Jasper were from the same hometown.

They were childhood friends who had grown up together. They had been playmates when they were young.

Both of them graduated from the same high school in the town in their past and current lives. Jasper went on to study in university whereas Greg, who lost his father at a young age, gave up on his opportunity to attend university and started working. After that, they lost contact.

In Jasper's past life, he had met Greg once after a long time.

At the time, he was dressed extravagantly and had a posh car. In the eyes of the people from their hometown, he was the epitome of success for those from their generation. However, Greg had told Jasper not to envy him back then as his life was worse than that of a dog.

Jasper, who had been buried in debt back then, did not understand what he meant. He was dressed in clothes worth tens of thousands of dollars and had a car that cost a few hundred thousand dollars. Nothing was bad about all of that.

What kind of dog could live a life like this?

However, Greg did not explain much, and Jasper did not ask him any questions either.

They had not seen each other since then, which was to say that their last meeting was a lifetime ago.

Jasper did not expect to bump into Greg in Brac County.

“Who was that just now?” Jasper asked.

Greg’s expression changed. “You saw everything?” he asked bitterly.

Jasper frowned as he looked at his childhood friend. “I heard that you got married. That woman is your wife, right?” he asked.

“Wife? Haha.” Greg chuckled. “Have you ever seen a wife who treats her husband like a dog? Have you ever seen a wife who scolds and hits her husband however she wishes? Well, that’s my wife,” he said.

Greg then carried the baby in the stroller in his arms. “Look, this is my son,” he told Jasper.

Right then, a genuine smile finally appeared on Greg’s face. This was a sight that was familiar to Jasper.

Jasper cooed at the cute child. However, the child was still frightened from the argument just now. He kept crying non-stop.

“He looks like you. What’s his name?” Jasper asked.

“His name is Terrius Wellington,” Greg said.

“His last name is Wellington?” Jasper asked with a stunned expression on his face.

“You’ve already seen what happened just now, so I’m no longer afraid that you’ll mock me. I married into the Wellington family, so our child has to take their last name,” Greg said bitterly.

Jasper was shocked. “Does your mother know about this?” he asked.

It seemed like everything that Greg had told him in his past life was genuine.

He married into his wife's family, and this was not something to be proud of. Furthermore, from the way his wife treated him, it seemed like his life was indeed worse than that of a dog.

"Back then, I agreed to this condition to get money so that my mother could treat her illness," Greg said emotionlessly.

"However, my mother passed away not long after."

"Brother, you've been through so many things. Why didn't you tell me about any of it?" Jasper asked with a sigh.

"It'd be useless even if I told you all of this," Greg said with a bitter smile, "I know that Penelope Hunt is quite a hassle. You must be having a hard time as well. If I ranted about my struggles to you, wouldn't I be adding to your troubles?" he asked.

Jasper was at a loss for words. His relationship with Penelope Hunt had ended in what felt like eons ago.

Life at the Top Chapter 957

Just as he was about to say something, Greg said, "Wait for me. We rarely see each other. I'll send my son home so that someone can look after him. I'll be back soon. Let's have a drink together."

Greg then turned around and ran off.

Jasper shook his head as he looked at Greg who was carrying his son in one arm while pushing the stroller with another. He was also carrying bags of groceries with an apron wrapped around his waist.

In his memory, Greg had always been a strong, independent, and capable man. He did not expect him to choose a path like this. A moment later, Greg appeared in front of Jasper after changing his clothes.

Greg was quite handsome, tall and dashing too. During their high school days, he was the school's most popular hunk. He was pursued by many girls back then, and he was way more popular than Jasper.

Otherwise, that woman from the Wellington family would not have fallen for him.

"Let's go! I know a restaurant nearby. It serves pretty good food," Greg told Jasper with a smile as he pulled him toward the entrance of the residential area.

Jasper instinctively walked toward his Bentley, which was parked a short distance away. However, Greg stopped him.

"Where are you going? Let's go this way. My car is parked here."

Greg pulled Jasper and veered him toward an Audi. He laughed and said, "Did you want to take a look at that Bentley? Haha, don't look at it. Only prominent

figures deserve to sit inside a car like that. If we offend such people, we'll be in big trouble. My Audi isn't that bad either."

Jasper was amused, but he did not say anything. After all, he could write a whole novel if he were to tell him about his entire experience up till this point in life.

Right now, he was more curious about what had happened to Greg throughout the years.

Jasper opened the door of the Audi and sat down in the passenger's seat. Greg turned on the engine and started driving. He tapped the steering wheel and struck up a conversation.

"We bought this car at the full price of 600,000 dollars. Of course, the Wellingtons paid for it. The price of this car alone is enough for me to buy three commercial houses in our town, but it's nothing to the Wellingtons. It was just their 'betrothal gift' to me.

"Sometimes, I think that living like this isn't all that bad. After all, if I were to work hard on my own, how long would it take for me to be able to afford a car like this? It'd be impossible."

Greg chuckled at himself as he continued speaking, "I know that a lot of people scold me for being a weak and useless scumbag who lives off my wife's money. Jasp, do you think of me that way too?" he asked.

Jasper responded in a stern voice, "Greg, I know that you aren't someone like that. You have your own hardships as well."

"Yes, I have my own hardships."

Greg chuckled lightly and said, "If my mother hadn't been lying in the ICU while waiting for the surgery fees to be paid, I wouldn't have done this. I caved in at the offer after that.

“I don’t think there’s a need for me to be upset. So what if people look down on me? So what if I get beaten up, scolded, and my son doesn’t share the same last name as me? He’s still my son. I live in a better house and drive a better car than other people. That’s enough.”

“Greg, you’ve changed,” Jasper said.

“Jasp, you’re still too naive. Society isn’t the same as school. Reality is way too harsh and cruel. Aspirations and determination mean nothing in society. Without money, authority, or an affluent background, you’re nothing but a dog to others! In fact, your life will be worse than that of a dog!

“People change. I don’t have a choice. I want to live a better life as well.”

The car suddenly came to an emergency brake in the middle of the road while Greg was talking.

Jasper’s head was almost slammed into the dashboard due to the sudden emergency brake. He raised his head and was about to say something when he saw Greg staring outside the window with a pointed gaze. A livid expression gradually formed on his face.

Jasper turned toward the direction of his gaze and caught sight of the pretty woman who had scolded Greg like he was a dog in front of the entrance of the residential area earlier. She was wrapped up in the embrace of a plump and greasy middle-aged man with a flirtatious expression on her face.

She even let the middle-aged man reach his hand under her shirt and roam it freely on her body.

This... They were doing this on the streets in broad daylight!

Life at the Top Chapter 958

The most unbearable thing for a man was seeing his woman with another man.

The scene unfolding before their eyes evidently left a great impact on Greg.

He gripped the steering wheel tightly as if he wanted to crush it with his bare hands.

The corners of Jasper's eyes twitched as he watched the woman fool around with the man.

This woman was being way too reckless.

Just when Jasper thought that Greg would get out of the car and do something about it in a fit of rage, he suddenly spoke up.

"Let's go."

Greg's voice was terrifyingly calm.

It was as if the woman outside the car was not his wife.

Jasper stared at him in shock.

"Aren't you going down to take a look?"

Greg gritted his teeth and said, "There's nothing much to see. It isn't the first time."

Jasper was rendered speechless by the calm and icy tone of Greg's voice.

Was it worth it?

Living like this just for a posh car, a luxurious house, and a life without having to worry about basic necessities?

Was he willing to tolerate his wife cheating on him just like that?

Jasper felt like Greg was not the passionate young man he once knew anymore. He was no longer a daring man who was willing to fight for his dreams.

Greg started up the car again, and he drove away.

Both of them did not utter a single word throughout the entire ten-minute journey.

They finally arrived at their destination. Greg had brought them to a Criucian restaurant. His preferences for food still remained the same. He loved spicy food.

Greg ordered a whole table of dishes after arriving at the restaurant. He also ordered two bottles of Criucian wine, which the restaurant had limited stock of.

“That’s enough. We can’t finish eating so much food,” Jasper told Greg who still intended to order some more food.

“Eat whatever you want and order anything you like. If you can’t finish the food, we’ll just throw it away. It doesn’t cost much,” Greg said. It seemed like he was venting his anger.

Jasper raised his brows. “Greg Costa, I know that you have a lot of money now, but is it fun for you to splurge your money and waste food like this just to show off?” he questioned him.

“F*ck this! You’re looking down on me as well, Jasper Laine. You’re mocking me for using my wife’s money, right?!” Greg roared at Jasper, suddenly bursting into a fit of rage.

“I’m not looking down on you. You’re the one who’s giving up on yourself instead! You’re sabotaging yourself!” Jasper retorted.

Greg gritted his teeth as he remained seated without saying anything.

He opened the bottle of Criucian wine after the dishes were served. He raised his head and downed a whole glass of wine in a single gulp.

“Greg, you were bold enough to pick a fight with more than ten gangsters in the past because of me. You also told the teacher that everything was your fault so that I wouldn’t be expelled back then.

“When I got together with Penelope Hunt, you told me that she wasn’t a good person. You threatened to end our friendship so that I would end things with her. Why have you become like this now?” Jasper quizzed as he stared at Greg.

Greg closed his eyes slowly. He seemed to be recalling the past incidents that Jasper had mentioned. A carefree smile formed across his lips.

“Now that I think about it, we were really fools in the past, haha.” Greg chuckled.

“Let’s not talk about me anymore. How about you? Are you still with Penelope Hunt?” Greg asked.

“We broke up,” Jasper said in a steady tone.

“You guys broke up? An infatuated man like you actually broke up with her? Who was the one who initiated it?” Greg grinned as he asked Jasper.

“It was a mutual decision. We weren’t right for each other anymore, so it was meaningless to continue being together. You were right. We don’t suit each other. I must have been blinded in the past. After calming down and returning to my senses, I finally understood everything,” Jasper said. He filled his glass with wine and clinked his glass against Greg’s.

“Everyone has their own hardships when they choose to make a certain decision. I won’t ask you about it, and I respect your choice as well. Come on, let’s not mention anything today. Let’s just talk about the old times. Let’s drink!”

Greg burst out into laughter and said, “That’s right, that’s my brother. Come on, let’s drink!”

Greg was trying to numb himself by getting drunk whereas Jasper had no choice but to accompany him. Both of them continued to drink and eventually finished the two bottles of Criucian wine.

Just as Greg began feeling tipsy, the door of the private dining room suddenly got pushed open aggressively.

Greg’s wife, Mary Wellington, stood at the door. She pointed a finger at Greg and began to scold him, “Greg Costa, I asked you to take care of our son and do the chores at home, but you’re out here drinking? You’re drinking so much in the morning, why aren’t you dead yet?!” she shouted.

“How dare you tell me that you’re busy and tired from doing housework everyday?! If I hadn’t walked by and seen your car parked at the entrance, I would’ve been fooled by you!

“How dare you drive out the car I bought for you and spend my money on alcohol?!”

Mary’s sudden appearance shocked Jasper and Greg.

Greg stood up. There was an unpleasant expression on his face. “My childhood friend is here. I was just greeting him. Don’t be so angry...” he stuttered.

Before Greg could finish speaking, Mary walked up to him and slapped him right across the face.

“Have you learned how to talk back to me? Childhood friend? What childhood friend? What kind of childhood friend would a useless piece of garbage like you have?”

As Mary continued rambling on, she glanced at Jasper in disgust. After noticing that Jasper was dressed plainly in clothes that did not seem to be worth more than 200 dollars, the disgust in her gaze grew more evident.

“Where’s this poor thing from? Do you want to borrow money from this useless man? I’ve seen plenty of people like you. Many of his poor relatives came over just to borrow money from him. Last time, his uncle came and told us how difficult his life was while crying out loud. How disgusting.

“Let me tell you this. I don’t care if you’re childhood friends or whatnot. Greg Costa doesn’t own a single penny. Everything that he owns, including his underwear, was bought with my money. Don’t even dream of taking a single penny from me!”

A slight frown formed on Jasper’s face. “You’re mistaken. We’re actually childhood friends. I just came over to reminisce upon the old times with him. I don’t intend to borrow any money,” he said in a frigid tone.

“Haha, you have no intentions to borrow money?” Mary said with a sneer, “A free meal and free drinks are a bargain as well, right?” she asked.

“Mary, things aren’t like that. Jasp isn’t that type of person,” Greg said while he resisted the pain flaring across his cheek.

“What type of person? What kind of friends can a useless piece of garbage like you have?” Mary said sarcastically.

“Don’t think I’m clueless about your intentions. Did you want to act like you were rich in front of your friend? Please get a grasp of reality. All of your money belongs to me. How dare a man like you who lives off his wife’s money act like you’re a big shot in front of your friend?”

Greg gritted his teeth and said in a heavy tone, "Yes, my relatives and friends are poor. They aren't as rich as those men of yours who are all allowed to hug you and touch you to their heart's content!"

As soon as he finished speaking, Mary's eyes widened as she stared at Greg in disbelief. The atmosphere within the room instantly grew heavier.

The next moment, the shrill scream of a woman rang out in the private dining room. The entire room was thrown into a state of frenzy.

Mary had exploded in a fit of rage.

Life at the Top Chapter 959

“Greg Costa, what do you mean?”

“What nonsense are you talking about? Are you saying that I’m fooling around with other men outside? Are you still a f*cking man? How dare you say that about me?!”

Mary Wellington’s high-pitched screams almost shattered the glass panels of the private room.

She panted heavily, her shapely chest rising and falling rapidly. She pointed a finger at Greg with her eyes rounded in anger. Her expression was so hideous it was almost distorted.

“Just look at you! You’re nothing but a wastrel of a kept man, eating and living off me! Even your pocket money is given to you by me! You’re only worthy of washing my underwear at home, cleaning the floor, and cooking. What else can you do?”

“You don’t have any capabilities but now you want to throw me under the bus, huh?”

“You wretched ingrate! Are you even worthy of being called a man?”

Mary’s finger almost poked Greg on the nose.

It was not apparent if it was because of the effects of alcohol or because of the long-suppressed anger that had reached the point of exploding, but Greg let out a furious roar.

“That’s enough!”

After all, Greg was a tall man of 1.8 meters with a burly figure, so his roar was enough of a deterrent.

Mary was taken aback by that yell, her screams and curses coming to an abrupt halt.

“I’m a f*cking kept man of yours, but so what? All these years, you’ve just been raising a dog. Even if I only wag my tail in front of you every day, I should still get some benefits, right? I deserve all of that!

“I’m a man. Don’t you think I want to go out and work? It’s you who looks down on me and refuses to let me out, incessantly saying that I’m your kept man. Your Wellington family is rich, the shipyard you established is very influential, and you have assets worth tens of millions. I’m not worthy of you, but does that give you the right to insult me like this?”

Hearing this, Jasper raised his eyebrows.

A shipyard?

There were only two shipyards in Brac County.

One belonged to him, while the other one was called Eastwind Shipyard. It would seem that it belonged to this Mary Wellington’s family.

As for the problems faced by his shipyard, the order was taken away by this Eastwind Shipyard. Right now, Lucas and the others were suspecting that Eastwind Shipyard had bought off some of their internal people which led to this mess.

It would seem that the waters ran deep here.

While Jasper was thinking about this, Greg was still talking.

“All these years, I’ve been working my *ss off for you. If you wanted to wash your feet, I’d carry a basin of water and wash them for you. I cut your toenails, I wash your underwear, and I’ve done all sorts of dirty things for you. I’m even more of a mother to you than your own mother, but how do you treat me?”

“Even if you yell at me the whole time, I can put up with it. Who told me to choose this path in the first place?”

“But how many men do you have outside? Do you really think I don’t know? I’ve seen six of them with my own eyes! Six!”

“There was that bald old man from three months ago. When you thought I was asleep, you took him to our wedding room for the night and I listened to it next door all night! That bald old man even took pills for it! You really aren’t picky at all, are you?”

“And that guy with a fat head and big ears just now. He’s old enough to be your father and the grease on his face can be used as cooking oil. He’s the big boss from Harbor City who you’ve been accompanying the past few days, right? He gave the Wellington family a big order and just look at you... You can’t wait to kneel at his feet and lick his toes. You slept with him too, didn’t you?”

“Now, I can even encounter a man who has slept with you before even if I just go out to buy a pack of cigarettes. Mary Wellington, don’t you find yourself dirty?”

A series of shouts from Greg made Mary turn pale.

It could be from shock or anger.

However, looking at her appearance, the latter was more likely.

At this time, Mary did not display any shame of being caught cheating at all. Instead, she cursed more vigorously, “Fine, I’ll go out on a limb today and just admit it to you. I’ve slept with many men, so what? Who told you to be so useless?”

“A capable man can find a wife and also keep a few outside. You’re not capable, so you can only watch your wife go out and find a new man every day!

“If you have the ability, why don’t you divorce me? I can kick you out of the house immediately. At that time, you’ll end up begging on the streets! I’ll see what you can do then!”

Mary’s words were like a knife that stabbed through what remained of Greg’s little self-esteem.

He gritted his teeth and stared at Mary with bloodshot eyes, wishing he could swallow this woman alive.

The anger made Greg’s body tremble, and he seemed to be trying desperately to restrain his impulse to explode completely.

Seeing Greg’s appearance, Mary sneered and crossed her arms while saying coldly, “You don’t dare to, right? I’ve already said you’re a man with no balls. You have the anatomy of a man but not the ambitions and abilities of a man. You’re already scared to death when you hear that I’ll kick you out of the house.

“Are you willing to give up that big house? Are you willing to give up that Audi? You’re not. I gave you all that. I can reward these things to a dog and I can take them back just as easily!

“So, you should just do your part properly. If you piss me off again, you can pack your bags immediately and f*ck off!

“Now, get your *ss back to your chores right now and don’t let me see you out and about with lowlifes again, do you hear me? Get the hell home now!”

Greg’s body trembled more and more severely, and he almost broke a tooth gritting his teeth so hard.

At this moment, he was in an unprecedented struggle.

He wished he could punch Mary on the cheek, spit in her face, and tell her that she was the one who should get lost.

However, he did not have the courage to do so.

Even so, for him to just give in like this, Greg was afraid he would die from anger.

Especially since all this was happening in front of Jasper, the childhood friend he cared about the most. Greg was not willing to let Jasper see his state now that was even more miserable than a dog's!

“Why are you still here? Have you drunk yourself silly? What a wuss!” Mary said coldly.

Amid Greg's rapid breathing, Jasper stood up.

“Greg, have a seat. We haven't finished drinking yet.”

Life at the Top Chapter 960

Initially, Jasper had no intentions to interfere in this matter.

That was because no matter how excessive Mary was, or how much Greg was suffering due to his weaknesses, this was the couple's domestic affairs.

As a bystander, it was hardly appropriate for him to say anything. No matter how close they were as friends, it was most taboo to intervene in the matters of other families.

Not to mention the relationship between Jasper and Greg. Although they practically grew up together, that was in the past, after all.

Although they were not as unfamiliar as strangers, they had each experienced different growth and changes. It would take some time before they could be as close as during their teenage years.

However, Mary's words and actions, combined with Greg's response, made Jasper unable to bear it any longer.

Regardless of anything else, just because he was suspecting that Mary Wellington was involved with the matter of his shipyard, made Jasper determined to get to the bottom of this.

As soon as Jasper spoke, Mary immediately gave him a sideways glance.

"Who are you? What gives you the right to speak here?" Mary sneered.

"I'm Greg's best friend. We're sitting here drinking and talking, but you started yelling the minute you stepped in. Have you never been properly educated since you were young?" Jasper responded.

Mary was furious and screamed, “Are you saying that I’m uneducated?!”

“It shows in your actions. Do I need to say it out loud? Or don’t you realize it at all?”

Hearing Jasper’s words, Mary was so angry that she could only say ‘well’ three times in a row.

She continued, “As expected of this lowlife you call your friend. Greg Costa, just look at the attitude of your friend. By hanging out with such a person, what else do you hope to achieve?”

“Are the clothes he’s wearing even worth more than 200 bucks? You can only find a little comfort in such poor people at the bottom of society, right?”

Greg’s face paled as he said, “I don’t need you to point fingers at my friend.”

Mary did not expect that Greg would dare to retort her, so she said angrily, “Well, you’ve learned to talk back now, haven’t you? I’ll show you!”

With that said, Mary raised her hand to hit Greg’s mouth, but this time, her raised hand was blocked by Greg.

“After all these years, haven’t you beaten me enough?” Greg stared at Mary as though he wanted to swallow her whole and said with ragged breathing.

Mary was frightened by Greg’s gaze.

She was a woman, after all, and Greg was a tall man. There was an innate difference in their physical sizes alone.

“You’ve grown some balls now, haven’t you, Greg Costa?”

Mary screamed as she acted like a shrew, frantically scratching Greg with her nails. "Do you want to hit me? If you have the guts, just try and touch me! I'll call my father and brother over to kill you right now!"

Greg stood on the spot like a puppet. Although furious, he had to suppress his impulse and allowed Mary to tear his clothes apart. Even his face was marked by scratches.

When Mary finally got tired of venting, a knock sounded on the door of the quiet private room from outside. It was followed by a man's voice that had a thick foreign accent.

"Mary, are you done with your business yet? We should return to the room."

When Mary and Greg heard this voice, both their faces changed.

Mary's expression was nervous but pleased at the same time, while Greg was absolutely livid.

It turned out that the fat middle-aged man with his arms around Mary earlier had been at the door all along, and Mary had come here with her lover!

Greg felt the utmost humiliation.

This matter hurt him more than ten slaps.

Life at the Top Chapter 961

“Coming,” Mary shouted at the door, her coquettish voice a stark contrast to the dominant attitude she normally used with Greg.

“Hehe, is your husband inside too? Let me meet him.”

The man outside spoke before directly opening the door himself.

Jasper and Greg watched as a chubby middle-aged man walked into the private room pridefully.

The man showed no reserve when he entered the room and directly reached out to pull Mary into his arms. Then he turned to Greg and Jasper, the former looking very embarrassed, and grinned playfully. “Which one’s your husband?”

Mary leaned against the man’s chest without protest and pouted before pointing at Greg. “This useless piece of trash over here.”

The man laughed out loud and stretched out a pudgy hand as he spoke to Greg, “So you’re Mary’s husband? Hello, I’m Baxter Daniels, from Harbor City. I assure you that your wife’s been very well entertained during her stay the past few days. I envy you, you know? Hahaha.”

With the way Baxter was acting, it was obvious that he had come here with the intention to humiliate Greg.

Baxter had his arm around Greg’s wife, yet he still took the initiative to shake Greg’s hand. Had it not been for Baxter’s shocking words, anyone who saw the scene would believe that Mary was actually Baxter’s wife instead of Greg’s.

A vein bulged on Greg's forehead as the man drilled his gaze into Baxter's suspended hand. Jaw clenched, Greg's stubbornness and dignity refused to let him shake the hand.

The urge to beat the adulterous swine before his eyes to death overwhelmed him.

Mary glared at Greg and shouted ferociously, "Don't you dare offend Mr. Daniels, useless trash! I'll divorce you right away if he ends up blaming me! I'll make sure you leave with nothing to your name!"

Mary then continued to speak without regard for anyone else in the room, "It's not like this is the first time I've cheated on you anyway. Just humor Mr. Daniels and shake his hand so we can all move on from this."

Anyone with morals or ethics should not have been able to say such a thing.

Yet, here Mary was, speaking as if she had done nothing wrong.

Baxter's hand remained suspended in midair. The man was not angry as he laughed out loud, "Exactly. We're in the same 'field' aren't we? My hands have spent a long time in your wife's arms; Shake it and you're indirectly touching her too. As men, we should always be more generous and open-minded."

'Gnarl gnarl...' This was the sound of Greg grounding his molars together.

His eyes were bloodshot and the man was shaking slightly. Greg balled his fists, feeling as if he were moments away from breaking down.

"I'm giving you one last chance, Greg. Shake his hand if you don't want me to chase you out of our home!" Mary shouted frantically and fiercely at Greg when she noticed Baxter's smile beginning to fade.

Greg's hand shook and it began to rise slowly. It seemed like Greg had caved in to his wife's demands.

“Greg, don’t make me lose respect for you.”

Jasper’s icy tone was heard from the side.

Greg’s hand froze midair as he turned to look at Jasper.

Greg’s eyes were a sight to behold.

Reddened with extreme anger and humiliation, the man’s eyes were teary as if he was forced to his limits, moments away from breaking down.

Mary’s expression grew cold and she shrieked at Jasper. “You have no right to join this conversation! You’d get lost if you know what’s good for you, or I’ll make sure you never leave Brac County alive! My mother’s family can get rid of you in Brac County at any moment, and no one will be able to find you!”

“Someone from the Zion family told me the same thing before, then the entire family ended up fleeing across the ocean.”

Jasper spoke indifferently before he walked over to Baxter.

Jasper pulled out his name card and placed it into Baxter’s hand, the same one that was suspended in midair waiting for Greg to shake it.

“Let me introduce myself. The name’s Laine, Jasper Laine.”

Life at the Top Chapter 962

“Jasper Laine? I can already tell that you’re a poor man from your name.”

Mary mocked him, “I can’t believe you made yourself a name card just because you saw other people doing it. Look at yourself in the mirror first. Who’d want your name card anyway? Save the money and use it to buy some proper clothes, would you?”

However, Mary had not noticed that next to her, Baxter froze upon hearing the name Jasper Laine.

While Jasper’s current status had yet to reach the point of being a household name, his name was no stranger among those of a high enough rank and influence.

This was no different for Baxter, the face of a large company in Harbor City’s transportation sector. Baxter was well aware that the Law family’s request was why his superior had even made an order with the shipyard all the way in Brac County.

As for who the Law family had made the request for...

It was none other than Jasper Laine.

As a mere representative, Baxter’s status had yet to reach the same heights as his superior, the Law family, or Jasper. Thus, he had no idea what Jasper’s identity implied.

However, Baxter understood that Jasper’s status put him on at least equal footing with his own superior, which meant that this was a formidable bigshot Baxter that could not afford to offend.

Sweat instantly began to bead over Baxter's forehead.

Internally, the man screamed, 'F*ck! Off all the people in the world, it had to be him!'

He shifted his gaze onto the name card in his hand.

It was a simple name card, one without dazzling decorations that covered every corner.

Jasper Laine, President of JW Capital LLC.

Below it was a personal contact number and a landline for his office telephone.

It was all written in simple Somerish, without any English translations that were prevalent in those days.

In an instant, the color drained from Baxter's face.

There were many Jaspers all over the world, yet there was only one JW Capital.

A metaphorical hand clasped over Baxter's throat as he wondered who had turned off the air conditioning in the private room. He started to feel short of breath.

"There's nothing wrong with being poor. What I'm looking down on is people like you who continue to act like you're dignified when you're broke as balls. Just like Greg, that useless filth. Take a good hard look at yourself before you start following other people and handing out name cards. Ridiculous."

Mary continued to mock Jasper.

However, in the next moment, Baxter removed his carefree hand from around her as though he had been electrocuted.

It was as if Mary, who was still prized goods moments ago, had turned into a disgusting pest.

Mary turned around to look at Baxter confusedly, only to be met with a chubby face frozen and devoid of color.

“What’s with all that sweat, Mr. Daniels? Are you feeling hot?” Mary asked curiously.

Baxter ignored her and smiled at Jasper dryly as he spoke, “I, Mr. Laine...”

Jasper interrupted Baxter indifferently, “Mr. Daniels, the owner was it?”

“No, no, I’m just an employee. There’s no need for such a title.”

Baxter was close to tears with how afraid he was. He was screwed to death of what would happen if Jasper discovered that he had told everyone he was the owner of the company just so he could look cool in the Mainlands and suck Mary and her family dry.

“Makes sense. After all, I don’t remember a Mr. Daniels owning Open Sea Shipping Transportations. Your superior should be Mr. Heath, right? How’s the old man doing?” Jasper asked with a small smile.

“He’s doing great, still strong and healthy,” Baxter wiped the sweat off his forehead and spoke.

“Mr. Heath’s growing old, and there are many responsibilities that he might have his subordinates take over. But I’m sure Mr. Heath only trusts intelligent people, wouldn’t you say so, Mr. Daniels?”

Baxter gulped and instinctively averted his gaze. He did not dare to meet Jasper’s sharp gaze as he replied, mouth dry, “Yes, yes, of course.”

“There’s something my friend and I need to talk about. If there’s nothing else, could you please bring this woman away while my friend and I converse with you, Mr. Daniels?”

Life at the Top Chapter 963

Mary almost laughed out loud at Jasper's words.

"Who do you think you are? You think that just because Mr. Daniels was polite to you that it means you can take advantage of him? 'Bring this woman away'? You really don't know when to stop, do you..."

"I don't know this woman!"

Baxter's voice rang out, cutting Mary off.

Mary was stunned.

For some unknown reason, she could not help but feel that Baxter was terrified of Jasper.

'That would be utterly impossible.

'Baxter owns of Harbor City's best transportation companies, Open Sea Shipping Transportations!

'But who is Jasper?'

Mary did not know the answer to that, but she was certain that Greg did not have any outstanding friends.

"I'll be leaving now, right now."

Baxter did not care too much, for all he wanted to do now was escape. He felt that the longer he looked at Jasper, the more danger he was in.

He knew that his life would be over if the news surrounding his solicitation with the Wellington family was brought into the public limelight.

Terrified, Baxter turned and ran.

Mary shouted and frantically followed after him, paying Greg and Jasper no attention.

The more she chased him, the faster Baxter ran in fear of Jasper realizing something.

Jasper's gaze in the direction of their retreating figures turned icy until the duo was nowhere to be seen.

Turning around, Jasper looked at an embarrassed Greg with renewed calmness and said, "Get a divorce, Greg."

Greg kept his head down but did not reply.

His mind was a mess and he did not realize many of the details earlier. Even if he did realize those details, he did not have the mental capacity to dwell on them.

Jasper pulled out a chair and sat down before he spoke, "You told me the same thing when I was still with Penelope. All I'm doing is repeating your word of advice. The two of you aren't the same type of people. She's not the one for you."

Greg let out a deep sigh and covered his face with both his hands. His dry voice drifted out from the gaps between his fingers.

"But what do I do now?"

"You f*cker."

Jasper was enraged by Greg's useless behavior.

Jasper grabbed Greg's hand and roared at him, "You have hands and legs, don't you? You're a man—there's no way you won't be able to make a living!

"Start from scratch if you have to, work for people, earn buck by buck. What is housing and cars for anyway? You are a man and if you can't move on from this, then I don't know how I'm supposed to f*cking respect you anymore!

"One word, Greg, one word is all you need. Tell me you're willing to walk out of this and I'll give you a new start in life!"

Jasper stared intently at Greg and spoke heavily.

At that moment, Greg had absolutely no idea what the implication of Jasper's words were. If word of this got out, it would surely cause an uproar.

Jasper did not offer this option because he was a saint, but rather that he was aware that Greg was a capable man. Greg had a lot of talent and courage when it came to managing an enterprise, and all he needed was an opportunity.

Jasper could not even save himself in his past life, so there was nothing he could do then. However, now he was capable of giving Greg the chance he needed.

"But if you can't move on, then forget it. You can continue wallowing in self-pity and not getting anything done. If that's the case, then I won't with you anymore either."

Greg looked like he was in pain after hearing Jasper's words.

Life at the Top Chapter 964

“Think about your son. Do you want your son to grow up and find out what kind of dad he has? A father that’s reduced to nothing but his mother’s dog, forced to take humiliation and to live in the shadows?”

Jasper’s words struck Greg like a bolt of lightning.

Greg’s head shot up and he stared at Jasper while replying, “No. I can’t let that happen.”

“Then make your decision now,” Jasper said.

Greg clenched his jaw and replied firmly, “Yeah, you’re right. Even if not for myself, I have to think of my son.

“I can’t let him learn that he has such a useless dad when he grows up. I’d rather tell him his mother died than let him know what kind of woman his mom actually is.”

“So make your decision.” Jasper clasped Greg’s shoulder.

“I’ll divorce her!”

...

At the same time, Mary was frantically trying to get Baxter to stay.

“Didn’t you say that you were staying for a few more days, Mr. Daniels? Why’re you in such a rush to return to Harbor City?”

Baxter was not in the mood for anything involving the alluring woman before his eyes, and he barked out irritably, "Don't think that I don't know what you and your family's intentions are. You just want me to sign the papers and give the order to you, right?"

"But I don't get to decide things like that. The company hasn't told me anything yet, and I don't want to stay here."

Mary's expression changed and she immediately replied, "You can't do that, Mr. Daniels. My family and I are already happy and ready to sign the contract. Not to mention that we've already done so much prep work for the order already. This is the last step. Didn't you say that it'd be fine?"

Baxter scoffed and replied, "It used to be fine, but at least take a look at who just arrived. There's no way I would dare to stick around while he's here—I'll be screwed if he found out about this."

"What person? There's no special person here." Mary was confused.

Baxter felt irritated as he saw the look of confusion on Mary's face.

He could not believe that he had slept with a woman that only had looks and no brains.

Had it not been for the fact that Mary was good in bed, Baxter would have cast her aside and left long ago.

"Good luck."

Then Baxter turned and left without looking back.

Mary grit her teeth in frustration as she watched Baxter leave.

The benefits, including her body, she had given him over the past few days were for naught!

“Baxter Daniels!” Mary shouted indignantly.

“I’ll report the things you did to your company immediately if you leave now! Worse comes to worst, we’ll go our separate ways! My family might not get your order, but you’ll be fired by your superior! Think carefully before you decide!”

Baxter’s expression changed drastically once he heard Mary say this, and he turned to glare at Mary. “Are you threatening me? How dare you threaten me, you b*tch!”

Mary spoke with a forced calmness, “I’ll stay with you if you’re willing to work with us and sign the contract. I’ll give you whatever you want, including the 500 thousand I promised.

“But if you leave now, then all the effort my family put into this will be for naught. Hence, you can’t blame me for threatening you. If anything, blame your own greed.

“Our plan would not have worked so smoothly if you didn’t agree to it.

“The company’s already requested for us to end the contract with that old Laine’s shipyard, and you’re about to sign the contract with us. Yet, here you are leaving. Tell me, how are we supposed to let you go just like that, hmm?”

Life at the Top Chapter 965

Baxter cursed in a rage, but he did not have any other choice.

He knew that the Wellington family would come after him if he left now.

The moment the company in Harbor City came to know of such news, he would be screwed.

Despite this, when he thought of Jasper, Baxter did not dare to stay either.

Caught between a rock and a hard place, Baxter truly understood what it meant to dig one's own grave.

Mulling over the thought, he replied darkly, "I'll go back to the company to speed up the process. With the company's agreement, I'll return to sign the contract immediately. We shouldn't see each other until then, so I'll be returning to the hotel now. Please wait for my message."

With that, Baxter left in a hurry.

Mary harrumphed as she watched Baxter leave and cursed him quietly, "Damn pig. I'd like to see how much longer you can keep this arrogant act up!"

Just then, Mary's phone rang.

Seeing that it was her mom, Mary accepted the call without further thought.

Before Mary could speak, a middle-aged woman's scream rang out from the speakers.

“Has Greg gone mad, Mary? That has to be it! Find a chain and tie him up if that’s the case, don’t let him hurt my grandson!”

Mary was shocked by what she heard and quickly asked, “What happened, Mom? Calm down and tell me slowly. Useless trash like Greg would never dare to offend you! What happened?”

“Never dare to offend me? He almost hit me just now! I was walking by your house and I decided to check in on my grandson, but who’d have thought that Greg, this mad dog said he wanted a divorce and was going to bring the child away... Come home now, I’ll call your brother. Greg’s got no respect for anyone now!”

The call ended immediately after this.

Mary was both shocked and angry at the contents of the phone call.

She was shocked that Greg dared to suggest a divorce and take the child, but angry about how ungrateful Greg was acting.

Even so, there was no point in saying anything now, so Mary immediately got into her car and made her way home without another word.

...

At the same time, in Greg’s home, Jasper was currently standing by the side with a cold look in his eyes while a woman in her fifties, with a bloated figure and covered with jewelry, pointed at Greg and scolded him.

“Who do you think you are, Greg? Ter is my grandson; He’s a Wellington! He has nothing to do with you, Greg Costa! You want to leave? Fine, get lost then! But there’s no way I’ll let you take Ter with you! I’ll kill you if you do!”

“You ungrateful b*stard! You’ve been living under our roof for so long, using our appliances, and eating our food, and here you are suggesting a divorce? Who

gave you the right to ask for that? Huh? Even if you get a divorce it'd still be Mary divorcing you, not the other way around! Who do you think you are?"

Greg carried the wailing child in his arms and stared coldly at his mother-in-law that continued to shout and berate him.

At that moment, he suddenly realized how he had made the correct decision by listening to Jasper.

This divorce was long overdue.

He had spent the past few years enduring endless accusations and humiliation in this household.

Now, he was finally deciding that he would not endure such mistreatment ever again.

"I am Terrius' dad. Why can't I bring him with me? I don't care what you think, nor do I care who divorces who. It's not going to stop me from bringing my son with me, and I'm going to change his surname as well! He'll be a Costa, like me!"

Greg finally voiced out the words he had hid within him for years. Now that they were finally out in the open, he felt extremely relieved and relaxed.

Life at the Top Chapter 966

Greg was the only relaxed person in the room.

His mother-in-law standing in front of him was absolutely infuriated.

She was about to combust as the man she used to order around like a dog all these years shouted at her.

“Wow, what an ungrateful b*stard you are! You’re getting brave now, huh? After spending your days leeching off my family, now you’re even daring to talk back to me!”

She slapped Greg across the face as she spoke.

Greg did not hide nor protest as the loud slap echoed through the room upon contact with his face.

The silhouette of a palm was visible on his cheek, but despite this, Greg’s eyes were horrifyingly cold.

“I don’t even know how many of these slaps I’ve endured from you and your daughter over the years.

“Your family eats together, yet I have no right to eat at the table with you and can only eat in the kitchen with the maids. When you chat and laugh with each other, I also have no right to join in. All I can do is clean and do chores by the side.

“Even those maids get to clock out and rest, while I have to be ordered around for twenty-four hours a day!

“You hit and scold me regardless of the mood you’re in!

“I have endured all of this for years.

“But I am not going to anymore!”

Greg’s last sentence was essentially a roar.

One that stunned his mother-in-law.

As Greg had said, he had received all the mistreatment with quiet resignation. Even the Wellington family had gotten used to having someone they could order around endlessly.

However, Greg had argued with them today. He was fighting back.

This was something she could not accept.

Neither could Mary and the young man that entered the house.

“What the f*ck are you saying, Greg?! What’s with your attitude toward my mom?!”

Mary screamed at Greg.

The young man that entered the room with her also had a dark expression on his face. He glared coldly at Greg and said, “You have a death wish, don’t you Greg!”

“You two are finally here,” The woman shouted when she saw the duo, as if they were her saviors. “Come help me, Shaun. This b*stard almost hit me before you arrived!”

Shaun was enraged and he raised his hand to slap Greg.

“F*cking useless trash! How dare you hit my mom?!”

However, Greg grabbed Shaun’s wrist before the latter could slap him. He held the hand in the air and refused to let go of it.

“That slap your mom gave me is the last slap I’m ever going to endure. I will not let anyone slap me anymore!” Greg seethed.

Shaun struggled but realized that he could not pull his hand out of Greg’s grasp. Fear crept up within him and he spoke frantically, “Let go! Do you f*cking hear me?”

At that moment, Mary pounced over as well and began to grab and pull at Greg. “Let go of my brother! You’ve got no respect for any one of us now, do you?”

Greg scoffed and tossed Shaun’s hand aside before he turned to Mary coldly, “Keep pulling and I’ll hit you too!”

Mary stared at him in disbelief. “You wouldn’t dare! Go on, try it!”

Shaun roared fiercely, “Who the f*ck do you think you are? Go ahead and try it then!”

Slap!

A slap.

A loud resounding slap.

Sounds of slaps were common in this family.

Albeit all of them were given to Greg by the Wellington family.

This was the only slap Greg had given someone from the Wellington family.

Mary cupped her cheek and stared at Greg frightfully as if she did not recognize the man in front of her.

“You hit me! You actually hit me! How dare you hit me, you piece of trash?”

Mary shrieked crazily.

Both Shaun and his mother were stunned.

No one had expected Greg to hit her.

Greg stared at the family coldly and spoke, “I must’ve been crazy to endure this torture from your family for so long. I’ve decided that I’m not going to endure it anymore, so it’d be nice if you were more polite with me!

“Then again, I don’t care if you’re polite or not. It doesn’t matter to me anymore because I want a divorce, Mary! Right now!

“Like you guys said, everything here belongs to you. However, I don’t care about getting anything. All I’m bringing is my son Terrius!”

Mary looked at Greg in disbelief and shrieked, “You’ll be nothing but a lowly dog if you leave the Wellington family! You don’t even have a spot to beg at! You wouldn’t dare ask for a divorce!”

Mary was not reluctant about Greg leaving at all. She just felt embarrassed about the fact that Greg had suggested it first.

Her image would be ruined if word got out that Greg was the one who wanted to leave her.

Shaun looked at Greg coldly and sneered, “You really think you’re some sh*t, don’t you, Greg? The only divorce you’re getting is if Mary divorces you, not the

other way around. You can dream on if you think I'll let you bring the child with you!

"You know exactly what the Wellington family is capable of here in Brac County! I'll make sure you don't get to see the sunrise tomorrow if you p*ss me off!"

"You think the Wellington family is above the law?"

Jasper's voice sounded out from the corner of the room.

Jasper walked over to stand beside Greg. Peering casually at the three members of the Wellington family, Jasper spoke in a calm tone.

"If you ask me, Greg should've divorced you long ago. Even I think a divorce is long overdue. All you people do is call him trash and threaten his life, aren't you... thinking a little too highly of yourselves?"

Mary glared at Jasper and screamed, "It's you! You're the guy! I don't know what you did, but Greg's been acting completely different since you arrived!"

"I don't care who you are, but I'm warning you: You'll die a tragic death if you poke your nose into the Wellington family's business!"

Shaun glared at Jasper darkly and spoke.

"I'm not interested in the Wellington family's business. However, if it involves my friend, there's no way I'm going to stand by and watch you trample all over him."

Life at the Top Chapter 967

Shaun and his family chortled at Jasper's claim.

"Where'd you come from, you weirdo? Acting like you're some bigshot. Who do you think you are?"

Shaun sneered at Jasper from the corner of his eye, his expression mocking.

"I really don't understand how there'd be people stupid enough to talk big when they can't even read the room."

Shaun continued to speak proudly, "I suggest you look at who you're talking to before you start acting like you're the sh*t. No one dares to talk to the Wellington family like that in Brac County!"

At the same time, Mary glared at Greg and said, "You better think carefully, Greg. Walk out this door now and I'll never let you back in even if you kneel and beg me.

"How stupid can you be? He just said a few things and you're already getting ready to leave. Have you ever thought about what you'd have left without the Wellington family? You'll have nothing without us! They wouldn't even employ you for construction labor because you'll cost them more to feed than you can give back!

"What can you even do, huh? Nothing! I'm telling you, without me keeping you alive, you'd die of hunger on the streets in one day!"

Greg looked at Mary coldly and snapped back, "I rather starve and die then!"

Mary did not expect Greg to be so firm in his decision. Having gotten used to Greg bending to her whims all the time, his stubbornness now had her grinding her teeth.

“No! You can’t get divorced!”

Mary’s mom suddenly spoke up.

“The Wellington family is prominent here in Brac County. We’ve already suffered enough shame when Mary got married to you back then. You’re telling me you want a divorce now that people have finally stopped mocking us? The Wellington family will be a laughing stock for the rest of our lives if news of this gets out!”

“People will end up speculating that the Mary Wellington got dumped because you grew tired of her! The Wellington family cannot afford to lose our reputation!”

Greg laughed out loud, his expression filled with disdain. “What reputation does the Wellington family still have anyway?”

“Everyone in Brac County knows that the Wellington family sells their women for business. You think I don’t know how you and Mary are the same? Like mother like daughter.

“The two of you gave yourselves to the Zions, the father and son duo, when they were still here just so you could continue to do business. Everyone in Brac County knows about this.”

Mary and her mother’s expressions changed at Greg’s words.

“You b*stard! Who let you say such things?” Mary screamed.

Greg sneered. “You had no qualms doing it, so why have qualms with me pointing it out?”

“I don’t care what you think, but this divorce is non-negotiable.”

Greg then lifted his son and motioned to leave.

However, Shaun stepped in front of Greg and spoke coldly, “Where do you think you are? You think you can cause a ruckus and leave just like that?”

“What do you want?” Greg demanded coldly.

With a chuckle, Shaun looked at Jasper and narrowed his eyes. “Weren’t you talking big just now, you brat? If you dare walk out of this door today, I can promise you that there’ll be two bodies floating in Brac County’s seaside tomorrow morning.”

“You’d go so far as to murder people?” Jasper chuckled.

Shaun laughed out loud and replied wretchedly, “Of course not. Murder comes with consequences. How could I possibly murder anyone?”

“But accidents are really prevalent these years. Who’s to say that we’re all safe from tragic accidents, hmm?”

At that moment, Jasper’s phone rang.

Jasper glanced at Shaun and accepted the call.

“Mr. Laine, it’s me, Lucas. We found the mole!”

“I’m listening,” Jasper replied.

“It’s an old employee who’s been working for decades in the Zion family’s shipyard. He’s a local and has been working in the shipyard for years, so he knows the place like the back of his hand.

“According to him, a Wellington family from Brac County sent someone to look for him. They had him work together with a group of other people to smuggle inferior-grade steel plates into the shipyard. They told him that the Wellington family would kill him if he didn’t cooperate.

“I’ve also dug up some info on this Wellington family, Mr. Laine, and it seems like they have a shipyard in Brac County too. These two had completely monopolized the shipbuilding industry in Brac County when the Zion family was still there.

“When you got rid of the Zion family, there was a void in Brac County’s shipbuilding market, Mr. Laine. The Wellington family decided to take the opportunity to develop further, and their ambitions grew.

“The main thing is that their reputation in Brac County...”

“I already know about that,” Jasper looked at Shaun as he spoke to Lucas calmly, “I’m well aware of what kind of people the Wellington family is.

“I’m at Pioneer Era Garden, Block A, Apartment 403. Bring him over.”

With that, Jasper hung up the phone.

“What are you doing this time? Who are you bringing over?” Shaun glared at Jasper and demanded darkly.

“You’ll find out very soon.”

Jasper glanced at Shaun before he turned to talk to Greg.

“Don’t leave yet. We won’t solve any problems if we leave now. Since the opportunity arose today, we might as well settle everything all at once.”

Jasper did not wait for Greg to reply before he pulled his phone out and made another call.

A moment later, the call connected.

“Mr. Heath, it’s me, Jasper.

“Haha, hello to you too. How’re you doing, Mr. Heath? Still healthy and strong?

“Yes, yes. About what happened that time, there’s been a misunderstanding. I would never lie to a friend.

“I must say, Mr. Heath, the person you sent over to Brac County is quite the character.

“What did he do? He colluded with someone and plotted against me. He lied to me and you, Mr. Heath.

“Sure, I’m in Brac County now. I’ll wait for him—he’ll know where I am.”

Jasper then ended the call and looked at Shaun. The latter seemed uneasy as Jasper said calmly, “You wanted to know who I was, didn’t you?”

“I can tell you now if you want. I was the one who sent the Zions packing. The Zion family’s shipyard is something I gave my parents so they could kill time. The order for the shipyard was something I got after I put in my name in Harbor City.

“In other words, you plotted with someone to frame my parents, then worked together with Baxter to create the perfect reason to reject the contract with my shipyard. You went through all that so the Wellington family would get the contract instead.

“It’s a good move, I have to admit. But did you ask for my approval first?”

Life at the Top Chapter 968

Jasper's words struck Shuan like a bolt of lightning.

The man looked at Jasper with eyes widened in disbelief. There was too much information contained in those few sentences.

"You crushed the Zion family?!"

"The Zion family's shipyard is yours?!"

"Who are you?!"

Shaun roared in both fear and anger.

At this moment, Mary also realized that something was wrong.

Not that she was willing to believe her gut, though.

"Don't listen to him, Shaun, he's just Greg's friend. Think about it, what kind of outstanding friends can Greg have? We'd have heard of him if he's as powerful as he claims, but we didn't. Moreover, why didn't Greg say anything about it before?"

"You know what kind of person Greg is. He's willing and happy to be ordered around as long as it means he'll have a roof over his head and food to eat."

Jasper glanced at Mary indifferently. He did not even have the mood to explain anything when it comes to women like this.

Despite this, Shuan was evidently panicking.

Unlike Mary, Shaun was the person in charge of the Wellington family's business. He knew the inner workings of the industry like the back of his hand.

Take the large company in Harbor City, for example. While Shaun had yet reached the level of importance to directly contact the owner of the company, he at least knew that the owner's surname was Heath!

This was something only people familiar with the industry knew.

Shaun was certain that Jasper had spoken the truth.

When he thought of this, Shaun began to tremble.

He was not the only one, for even Greg looked at Jasper in disbelief.

Greg had always seen Jasper as a rather introverted child from a poor family who did not know how to talk to strangers.

Greg liked to consider himself someone who used to have dreams and ambitions. He wanted to be a multimillionaire at a young age, but he did not remember Jasper ever having such dreams or passion. If anything, Jasper seemed the kind to be content with a peaceful and simple life.

Greg thought that people like Jasper were most suited for set office hours with a fixed salary. It was not a luxurious lifestyle, but at least it was straightforward, and he would not die of hunger.

The sudden turn of events suddenly reestablished Greg's understanding of the man. Ever since they had reunited, he had realized that Jasper's behavior was drastically different from how it had been in the past.

This confident and energetic man was glowing brightly from the inside out.

This was no longer the same Jasper he recognized back then; no longer the introverted boy that could not hold a conversation with girls and was too broke to fit in.

Soon enough, Lucas arrived with a large group of people in tow as he escorted a man past his fifties into the room.

Realizing that Shaun's family was also in the house when he arrived, Lucas was shocked for a moment before he chuckled coldly. Then, he walked over to Jasper and greeted the man courteously, "I've brought him over, Mr. Laine."

Shaun's expression sank completely at the greeting.

As his biggest competitor in Brac County, Shaun and Lucas had met multiple times. He also knew that Lucas was the actual manager of what used to be the Zion family's shipyard.

The old couple overseeing it were outsiders who knew nothing.

Lucas's courteous behavior toward Jasper instantly confirmed all of Jasper claims from before.

Jasper glanced at the man Lucas had brought over.

Life at the Top Chapter 969

Old and slouching, the man's expression was filled with fear and unease. It was a rather pitiful sight.

"What's your name?"

The man shivered and replied with a sorrowful expression and a heavy Brac County accent, "Dwight Hewitt."

"I won't waste time on unnecessary nonsense, and I'm sure you are well aware of what you've done. Take a look around the room, is there anyone here you conspired with?"

Shaun's expression darkened immediately at Jasper's words.

He glared at Dwight fiercely.

Just as the man looked at Shaun with hesitation.

"What're you looking at me for, old man? Watch your words, no one in Brac City would dare to frame me for something I didn't do," Shaun stated biting.

"Did I ask you?" Jasper looked at Shaun.

"Or is this the guilty talking?"

Shaun was enraged. "Who do you think you are? What does me talking have to do with you?"

"You'll know who I am soon enough," Jasper replied indifferently.

With that, he turned to Dwight and spoke, “The situation’s still classified as the shipyard’s internal affairs. You’re growing old and I’d like to believe you were coerced and didn’t have any other option. So, I’ll make you two promises.

“Promise number one, no one will be able to threaten you or your family’s safety after this is over.

“Promise number two, as long as you’re honest and willing to point out who the person is, as well as tell me the details of your conspiracy, then I will not investigate further nor hold you accountable.”

Holding Dwight captive had never been part of Jasper’s plan.

People like Dwight were too much of a small fry to be Jasper’s pawn, so there was no point targeting the man.

All he needed was to use this mole as a turn state’s evidence and expose the true culprit behind it all.

As expected, Dwight clenched his jaw after he heard Jasper, then pointed at Shaun. “It’s him, the general manager of the Wellington family’s shipyard. He was the one who found me and told me to cooperate with him. He said he’d give me 50 thousand if I brought his men to place a batch of materials in the shipyard’s warehouse area.

“Either I cooperate and take the 50 thousand, or I decline and he hurts my children!

“Mr. Laine, Mr. Wadler, I really didn’t mean to cause harm to the shipyard! I’ve been working at the shipyard for decades, I love that place. I... I’m a horrible excuse for a human being!”

Dwight began to slap himself harshly as he spoke, like he had found an outlet to vent his terror.

Shaun was utterly frustrated when he heard Dwight's accusation. He roared with fear and anger, "What kind of nonsense is that, old man? Do you want to f*cking die? I'll f*cking kill you the moment you walk out these doors, I'm telling you!"

"Who can you kill?" Jasper spoke unaffectedly.

"His confession was very clear, Shaun. What more do you have to say for yourself?"

Shaun seethed in place. Fright filled his eyes but he did not dare to say anything, for he was busy thinking of a solution.

At that moment, Mary stepped forward and pointed at Jasper's nose as she screamed.

"Who do you think you are? So what if you're the owner of some stupid shipyard? What can you do to the Wellington family anyway? Scams and lies are prevalent in all businesses. You have no one to blame when it's your incompetence that led to us getting the order instead!"

Jasper smiled. "So, following this line of logic, as long as your capable enough, anything you do is right?"

"Very well, then. Remember your words and don't regret it.

"I love showing people like you how capable I can be."

Life at the Top Chapter 970

As they were talking, a rather chubby figure rushed into the room.

This person was Baxter, who had sped over from the hotel.

His expression changed drastically when he realized that Jasper was there as well.

Shaun and Mary's eyes shone when they saw him. They were about to approach Baxter, only for the man to ignore them and make a beeline for Jasper.

Bowing courteously to the point that his head might as well be between his legs, Baxter spoke with a tremble in his voice and cold sweat drenching his brow, "Mr. Laine, please have mercy."

God only knew what Baxter had experienced.

Baxter was already frantic when he found out that Jasper had come over personally to deal with the issue. However, Mary had threatened him and forced him to stay in Brac County. Thus, Baxter had planned to wrap this up as fast as possible so that he could return to Harbor City, resign, and flee.

Despite this, about ten minutes ago, he received a call from his superior.

His superior, a man who liked to throw people that offended him into the ocean to feed the sharks, only said one thing.

"You cannot afford to offend Jasper, nor do I want to piss him off. If there's some kind of conspiracy behind this, then you better smooth it out yourself. Don't even think about coming back if you can't smoothen it out. Save me the effort, jump into Brac County's waters and kill yourself."

Because of this, Baxter knew his superior was irked.

He did not overthink it as Mary's threat was no longer important. With that, Baxter dashed over just so he could beg for Jasper's forgiveness as fast as he could.

Baxter had no idea what psychological trauma his actions had caused Mary and her brother.

From Baxter's current attitude, even an idiot could tell that Jasper was a formidable figure and someone that even Baxter, a man from a big company in Harbor City, did not dare to offend.

Let alone the Wellington family... Shaun and Mary exchanged a frightened look.

Jasper looked at Baxter and asked calmly, "Forgiveness? What did you do wrong that would require my forgiveness?"

Baxter wiped the sweat from his forehead. Understanding the meaning behind Jasper's words, he spoke with a sorrowful expression, "I'll tell you, I'll tell you everything.

"My mission was simple when I first arrived from Harbor City. The partnership was something my superior had already confirmed, so all I had to do was sign the contract on behalf of the company. It was just a formality.

"But Mary and Shaun suddenly found me at that time and they told me that they were willing to secretly pay me twenty percent of the value of the deal if I gave up the partnership with your shipyard and partnered with them instead.

"Then Mary stayed with me that night and I couldn't resist the temptation."

Baxter did not even look at the Wellington sibling's pale complexions as he continued to speak.

“However, since Mr. Heath was the one who decided on the partnership, I was in no position to change anything. So they came up with a plan. They said that they’d send a batch of inferior-grade steel plates over, and all I need to do is check the shipyard and point it out at the agreed time.

“I did as they requested and found the inferior-grade steel plates as promised. After this, everything else just fell into place.

“I told my superior about the situation and he decided to give up on the partnership. After all, it’s three shipments of 5000 tonnes—a contract involving tens of millions. My superior would be put in a tough spot if anything happened to those ships.”

Baxter watched Jasper’s expression carefully, but he could not read him at all.

Jasper’s expression was exceptionally calm, devoid of anger, shock, or surprise. It was as if he already knew everything from the start.

Life at the Top Chapter 971

“You have to believe me, Mr. Laine! This only happened because I gave in to temptations once, that’s it. I’d never dare scheme against your shipyard if not for this, Mr. Laine. This was all the Wellington family’s plan. They were the ones who tempted me to join them. This was all their idea!”

Baxter had completely sold the Wellington family out.

“Bullsh*t!”

Shaun’s mother shrieked, her expression harsh and sinister. “The Wellington family is a prominent entity here in Brac County, we would never do something so shameful! And what do you mean Mary stayed the night with you? You’ll pay for defaming my daughter’s name with your nonsense!”

Baxter let go of his inhibitions as well and spared her a glance before sneering.

“Where’d you even come from, old woman? Your daughter knows very well whether she stayed the night with me or not. And your son, her brother Shaun, sent her to my room himself. Why would I lie about that?”

“How about this, then? Your daughter has a red birthmark on her left buttock, correct?”

Mary was mortified and Shaun’s complexion paled. Meanwhile, their mother’s eyes grew wide and the blood drained from her face.

“Looks like it’s very clear now, then,” Jasper’s calm words cut through the silence like a hot knife through butter.

“Lucas,” Jasper called out.

Lucas immediately stepped forward and replied courteously, “Yes, Mr. Laine.”

“Have the shipyard inform all of the Wellington family’s raw material suppliers that no matter what price the Wellington family are offering, our shipyard is willing to pay 20% more to buy their raw materials; machine tools, steel, and the like.

“The only condition is that they are not allowed to supply the Wellington family a single gram of material. Contact Eastwind Shipyard’s employees and offer to hire with higher salaries. If they’re willing to join us, we’ll pay them an extra 30%.

“I’ll talk to other companies like Open Sea Shipping. From today onwards, the Wellington family will not be able to buy any raw materials or receive any orders.”

Jasper looked at the three despondent Wellingtons and spoke calmly, “This is what I’m capable of.”

Shaun felt a full-body shiver course through him and he roared at Jasper with reddened eyes. “Why?! Why did you have to destroy us?”

“Because you need to be taught a lesson,” Jasper replied.

Mary blinked in realization, as if waking up from a dream, and she pounced on Greg who had remained silent the entire time. She wailed.

“Greg, Greg, he’s your childhood friend, isn’t he? Aren’t the two of you best friends? Please, help me beg him! The Wellington family cannot end like this! Please! Think about the years we’ve spent as husband and wife.

“I’m sorry, I should’ve been better ever since the beginning. Give me a chance to make it up to you. I’ll be good to you in the future, I’ll listen to whatever you say. I won’t go out and cause trouble anymore. Please help me just this once, help me beg your friend for mercy.”

Greg stared coldly at the wailing and sobbing woman with makeup running down her face. Even so, his heart remained unfazed.

He thought that he would be thrilled at the prospect of taking revenge.

Yet, here he was, completely unfazed.

If anything, he felt tired, exhausted.

“Your family did this to yourselves, Mary. This has nothing to do with me, nor can I help you with it. I’m sorry.”

Life at the Top Chapter 972

Mary was in despair when she heard Greg's words.

"Do you have to be so heartless, Greg?"

Mary pointed at Greg, the pleading look on her face had now turned into one of disgust and resentment.

"You really are an ungrateful b*stard. I've kept you alive and well in my house all these years, I gave you a roof over your head and clothes to wear. But now you're just going to leave with someone just because they're stronger and more powerful?"

"No wonder you're so determined to sever ties with my family. You're a horrible excuse for a human being!"

The more Mary spoke, the angrier she became. "You really are a dog! Calling whoever gives you better sh*t your master!"

Greg sneered at Mary and replied expressionlessly, "So you admit that you've been giving me sh*t, huh? How long have you forced me to smell it?"

Mary's expression froze and she shrieked, "What are you saying, Greg?!"

"Those were your words, not mine. All I did was agree. That's what you wanted all this while, no? So why? What's so different today?" Greg spoke icily.

"Forget it, what's the use of all this noise? The Wellington family has no one to blame but your own misconduct. You think that just because you're somewhat rich and powerful that you get to stand above everyone? There'll only be richer

and more powerful people in the outside world. A few calls were all it took for Jasper to crush you. What use is regretting it now?"

Mary's mom suddenly wailed, "God has forsaken us! What is this karma, why does something like this have to happen to us?"

Shaun asked sourly, "Is there no room for negotiation?"

"Did you give me room to negotiate back then?" Greg sneered.

Then, he turned to Jasper and said, "Let's go, Jasper.

"There's nothing worth staying for anymore."

Jasper nodded and prepared to leave.

Jasper's eyes fell on Mary and her despondent expression, and he suddenly halted.

"Do you agree to the divorce?"

Mary was stunned for a moment after hearing Jasper's question. She was about to say something instinctively but Shaun cut her off. "We agree!"

Shaun walked in front of Mary and spoke to Jasper politely and flatteringly, "They'll get divorced right now. No matter the conditions, as long as Greg asks for it, we'll agree to the terms."

"What if I want to change my son's surname to Costa?" Greg suddenly asked.

Shaun clenched his jaw and nodded. "Of course. You're his father, it's only right the child takes your surname."

“Are... are you crazy, Shaun? This ungrateful b*stard’s caused us so much grief and you’re still agreeing to his conditions?” Mary shouted.

Shaun glared at Mary and snapped frostily, “Shut up! Don’t talk if you don’t know what’s going on!”

“Disagree? What do you think is going to happen if we disagree? Did you forget what happened to the Zion family? They were much more powerful than our Wellington family when they were still in Brac County, but what about now? Do you see the Zions anywhere?”

Mary suddenly came to this realization, and she looked at Jasper in fear. She no longer dared to make a sound.

Looking at Greg, who was Jasper’s best friend, Mary felt true regret for the first time in her life.

Had she treated Greg better over the past few years, or at least treated him with basic respect, the sentimental man might never have suggested a divorce. With a best friend like Jasper, Mary would have been able to make a fortune as Greg’s wife.

The thought of this agonized Mary.

Jasper gave Lucas a look that signaled for the latter to wrap things up as he left the house alongside Greg.

Walking out of the estate, Greg suddenly stood in place blankly.

Jasper did not rush him either, as he waited silently by the side.

Life at the Top Chapter 973

Greg carried his son in one hand while he pulled out a box of cigarettes and passed a stick to Jasper.

With that, the two grown men smoked by the entrance of the estate while one of them carried a child in their arms. It was a weird sight.

“So, what’s next?” Jasper asked.

Greg smiled wryly and replied, “I haven’t thought about that much yet. All I want to do now is say goodbye to the past now that it’s finally over.

“As for what comes next... I’m not sure yet.”

Jasper glanced at the heavily asleep child in Greg’s arms and replied, “Pull yourself together, do it for you or the child in your arms.”

“Don’t worry, I won’t keep wallowing about,” Greg looked at the child in his arms adoringly. “He’s my source of hope now. For him, I’m going to work hard and live my best life.”

“That’s good.” Jasper nodded.

He could very well give Greg millions of Somer Dollars and promise the man a comfortable life until he died.

However, this was not how Jasper liked to do things.

More often than not, the path to self-destruction began when someone suddenly received a large sum of money.

Greg had just come out into the light after several years living in the shadows; Now, he needed some time to get used to it.

“You’re rich, aren’t you? Greg turned to look at Jasper.

Jasper smiled and replied, “I’m comfortable.”

“Now that I look at it, that’s your car, no?” Greg pointed at the Bentley Julian drove over that was now parked not too far away.

“I remember laughing at you for looking at luxury cars.”

Jasper smiled. “That is my car.”

Despite his prior suspicion, Greg still gasped when Jasper admitted it.

The Wellington family was considered the wealthiest family Greg knew. Yet, not even they could afford a Bentley.

Perhaps they could afford one, but they might have had to sell two houses to fund it, and their cash flow would be tight after the purchase.

Luxury cars that ordinary people dare not dream about and the Wellington family could not even afford seemed like nothing to Jasper.

“I want an opportunity, Jasper.”

Jasper replied when he caught sight of the burning passion in Greg’s eyes, “I’ve been waiting for that. So, how can I help you?”

“I don’t need cash, nor do I need any high-ranking position. Let me work my way up from the most basic ranks in your company.

“Be it door-to-door advertising or sales, I’ll do anything there is. All I want is a platform, an opportunity! You know how difficult it is for people with a high-school diploma like me to seek out work in big companies.”

Jasper frowned slightly and said, “It’s not easy in the sales industry, though. There’s a lot of pressure and it’s tough work.”

Greg chuckled and replied, “What I’ve been through over the past few years was tough. Everything else pales in comparison.”

Jasper nodded. He was pleased by Greg’s clear cognition of reality and himself.

“Alright, then. You can seek me out at anytime in Nauritus City, and I’ll find you a job. I’ll say it now, I can lend you money if you ask, but everyone is equal when it comes to work. I’m not going to treat you differently just because you’re my friend.”

Greg laughed out loud. “Don’t worry. I’m not going to tell other people that my boss is my best friend even if I end up working at your company. I’ll prove my own capabilities!”

Greg’s smile was lighthearted and refreshing, like a rainbow after the storm. It was a touching sight.

Life at the Top Chapter 974

Jasper pulled Greg, now free from his emotional turmoil, into the Bentley.

“I’ll be leaving for Nauritus tomorrow. Are you coming with me?” Jasper asked.

Greg gave it some thought and said, “I still have a few things to deal with, so you can go back first. I’m not planning to go straight to Nauritus either, but instead head back home for a bit. Thought I’d go pay my parent’s graves my respect, you know?”

“I’m ashamed now that I think about it. It’s only a few hundred kilometers away, but I’ve never gone back ever since I came to Brac County.

“I’ll start anew in Nauritus City once I’ve wrapped everything up here.”

“Alright. Contact me when you arrive, then.” Jasper pushed his name card into Greg’s hand.

“I will. Where are we going now?” Greg asked curiously.

“To visit my parents,” Jasper said with a smile.

Once they returned to the shipyard, Charlie and Sally chatted with Greg when they saw him.

The two were childhood friends, after all, and the Laines was close with the Costas. Not to mention that Charlie and Sally sympathized with Greg after he had lost his father at a young age.

Thus, it was only natural that they engaged in small talk when they met again. Sally soon asked Greg how he had been lately.

Greg did not say much, but he explained that he had gotten married and divorced when he realized that the relationship was not working out. Therefore, it was just him and his son now.

The topic once again evoked Sally's sympathy.

However, Jasper was acutely aware that his parents especially loved Greg's son.

"Oh, look at his little face. He looks just like Greg when he was a child. Look at his small hand and his soft cheeks. So adorable."

"He even smiled at me." A rare smile appeared on Charlie's face where he stood by the side.

Greg smiled. "Have Jasper give you a chubby little grandchild while it's still early, then."

"Exactly my thoughts. Wouldn't it be great if he let me take care of his children now while I can still move about? But you know what he told me? He told me he's still young and he doesn't want kids yet."

Sally must have been bottling this up for some time as she began to vent the instant Greg brought up the topic.

At that moment, Sally looked at Jasper, who had an awkward expression on his face. "You're not so young anymore, you can't possibly make Wendy follow you around aimlessly like this. Think of her, at least. I've talked to your dad about this, so if you two are ready, just confirm your relationship and get it over with.

"Wendy's dad's an understanding man so I'm sure he'll get it. You can have a child first if you don't plan to get married so soon. That's what's popular among you youths nowadays, is it not?"

Jasper felt extremely lightheaded.

He had not even thought about marriage yet, let alone having children.

Considering the current situation, Jasper was not planning to have children anytime soon.

His business was still fresh and there was no strict schedule for when he had to fly internationally. He would have to leave the country a lot in the future, and if he had a child, it would feel like he was torn between two worlds.

“How old do you think I am, Mom? Moreover, the two of you are still young, so it’s far too early to have those kinds of thoughts. Give it at least another two years,” Jasper said exasperatedly.

“What do you mean how old? You’re in your twenties! I won’t compare you to random strangers, but look at Greg! He’s the same age as you and his child is already this big! You’re telling me you’re not in a rush?” Sally said impatiently.

“Okay, okay, fine. But this isn’t just about me, I’ll talk to Wendy about it when I get back, okay?” Jasper decided to placate them for the time being.

Life at the Top Chapter 975

Sally's expression brightened at Jasper's reply. "That's more like it."

With that, Sally then looked down and continue to play with the child in Greg's arms. A smile immediately bloomed on her face. "Oh, the more I look at his small face the more I like him. Come on, smile for grandma."

"Stay for dinner, Greg. Sally and I are going out to get groceries later, and we three men can have a few drinks tonight," Charlie told Greg.

Greg replied happily, "Sure, sounds good."

As the older couple entertained the child, Greg walked over to speak to Jasper.

"When they said Wendy... it couldn't have been the Wendy Schuler, right?! The Queen Bee from high school, the prettiest student in our county's number one senior high?" Greg asked Jasper impatiently.

"Hehe," Was all Jasper replied with.

"That's so cool, dude!" Greg nudged Jasper. "You've succeeded in both love and business. Not bad to have succeeded in convincing Wendy to be your girlfriend. Our ex-classmates jaws would drop if they found out about this."

"We can all get together for a reunion after you arrive in Nauritus, then," Jasper said gleefully.

"Sure. I don't know her too well, but she's left quite a good impression on me.

“I was the only one in the entire school who talked to you back then, but she treated everyone the same. She didn’t look down on you because you were poor and that alone is enough for me to support your relationship,” Greg spoke.

“On the topic of Wendy, I think she’s told me once that she hates people like you the most,” Jasper taunted gleefully when he was reminded of the funny incident.

“Hate me? Why? I didn’t even talk to her throughout the three years in senior high. How can she hate me?” Greg was speechless.

“Probably because you’re handsome and there were tons of girls following you every day. She said playboys like you aren’t serious with anyone.” Jasper laughed out loud.

“She was right about the handsome part, though.” Greg touched his nose. Seeing Jasper laugh out loud, he suddenly joined in.

Having a handsome face paid off when they were young and dumb, but now that everyone had grown up and experienced the ruthlessness and tribulations of society, they understood that a man’s appearance did not matter.

Jasper was relatively handsome, with an introverted and gentlemanly character that gave him a unique charm.

Coupled with his successful career, he walked with the air of confidence and maturity that gorgeous but unsuccessful men could not hold a candle to.

If a woman had to choose between Greg and Jasper, they would most likely opt for the latter.

“There are wonderful girls all over the world. You can always slowly reenter the market once you’ve moved past this experience. Your son will need a motherly figure, and there’s no reason for you to spend the rest of your life alone,” Jasper spoke seriously.

“Maybe another time. I don’t think I can consider dating for the time being.” Having just walked out from Mary’s shadow, Greg did not want anything to do with relationships at that moment.

Charlie and his wife filled the table with food that night. Sally truly loved the child, so she only had a few bites of food before she went off to spend time and take care of him. This left Charlie, Jasper, and Greg to drink and chat about the past. It lasted late until around eleven o’clock.

After sending a tipsy Greg to the lobby of a nearby hotel, Jasper decided that he would return to spend the night with his parents and leave the day after. However, he received a call and was forced to return to Nauritus City overnight.

It was a call from Wendy.

She said that an average-looking man had come to the company for investment because he wanted to create the largest sourcing website in the world.

A website that would allow all the enterprises in the world to source goods directly through the website instead of commissioning salesmen. The website would also allow enterprises to contact their suppliers directly and thus completely change the way people did business.

Wendy first wondered if she was speaking to a madman, but then she realized the potential in the man’s plan. Not to mention, Jasper had once told her to contact him right away if a rather ugly man with such an idea and the surname Marlon ever came knocking at their doors.

That night, Jasper’s wait, both for this phone call and man in question, finally paid off.

Life at the Top Chapter 976

Twenty years into the future.

There would be three familiar Somer billionaires.

The country's grandfather, who started with the small goal of one hundred million.

Wayne Marlon, who was disinterested in money.

Hudson Moore, who preached that the way to grow stronger was by topping up money.

The latter two were known as the country's dads, and both their surnames started with the letter M.

Among the three, the country's grandpa was a truly grandiose man.

Hudson was the most low-profile and vigorous.

While Wayne was a true miracle.

Wayne was a mere teacher who graduated from the teaching academy, yet he had managed to persuade 18 others to found a company with him.

The company was first founded in an apartment in a normal suburban district.

No one had expected that this 19-employee company with no money would one day prove Wayne's predictions right, as it changed his countrymen's lives.

Now that one thought about it, perhaps not even Wayne believed his prediction would come true.

Among all the billionaires, Wayne was certainly not the most capable person nor was he exceptional when it came to doing business. Even so, this man had a mouth that could obtain the impossible and a top-notch strategic vision that ordinary people could never hope to possess.

While Jasper was still trading mung bean futures and gathering his first bucket of cash, he had come up with a structure for his future business.

Once he was certain that he would rely on investing and holding companies instead of day-to-day trading, he established Hudson and Wayne as his main pillars of business and wealth.

Hudson fell under his influence a long while back, but he had been waiting for Wayne all this while.

Wayne and Hudson were completely different people, so Jasper had to deal with them differently.

He could take the initiative with Hudson since the man was rather introverted and passive, but Wayne was completely different. Jasper could not make the first with Wayne, so the only option was to wait for Wayne's arrival.

Otherwise, Jasper would lose the initiative, which something extremely important in a business negotiation.

Thus, Jasper waited, like a patient hunter, up until that day.

Rushing back to Nauritus City under the glimmer of countless stars, Jasper arrived home at close to two a.m.

The two seemed to have a tacit understanding, for they knew they would meet the other tonight even without any prior contact.

With that, Jasper and Wayne met at the entrance to the pitch dark office.

“My apologies for making you wait, Mr. Marlon. I was still in Brac County when I was informed of your arrival. It took some time to rush over.”

Wayne was pleased with Jasper’s politeness.

“No, it’s my fault for coming unannounced. I’m sorry to bother you so late at night, Mr. Laine.”

The two shook hands. Jasper glanced at Wayne and suddenly laughed, realizing how the term ‘average-looking’ was a compliment to the man’s appearance.

For Jasper remembered how he used to be Wayne’s website’s diamond VIP his past life, and how he had spent a lot of money on it every year buying outfits for Penelope.

This was especially true during Valentine’s day, when he and the rest of the men around the country would curse Wayne out, only to weep silently as they checked out their wife’s shopping cart.

“Are you laughing at how ugly I am, Mr. Laine?”

Wayne was a man who knew how to read people, and the room. He could tell from Jasper’s age and attitude that Jasper was not one of those stern man that did not smile. Thus, Wayne immediately cracked a joke to get close to him.

Life at the Top Chapter 977

“You kid, Mr. Marlon. Who is this?” Jasper waved him off and turned to look at the young man standing silently beside Wayne.

“Jose Salazar, Abbylon Inc.’s current CFO,” Jose introduced himself to Jasper politely, oozing with an air of intellect and strength.

Jasper smiled and shook hands with the Abbylon Group’s greatest hero and said, “It’s nice to meet you.”

If one were to mention Abbylon Inc in the future, one would immediately think of two people. Wayne Marlon, and Myles Shon.

Wayne was the founder of Abbylon, while Myles was the President of Softwin Investments who invested the first large sum to kickstart Abbylon.

This was a relationship between an investor with a keen eye and a promising entrepreneur.

However, everyone seemed to have forgotten that Jose also played an important role in developing Abbylon. Hailing from a family of lawyers in Nawait, Jose graduated from one of the top ten universities in the world and obtained a bar license in New York.

It could be said that Abbylon had it only grown to be as successful as it was because of Wayne and Jose.

This was why Wayne entrusted Jose with the position of Abbylon’s first chief financial officer, CFO. JW Capital’s own CFO was Wendy, which was a testament to how important the financial officer was to a company.

Jose was also the reason behind Abbylon adopting the framework of a more modern enterprise at the very beginning.

“I’ve heard of you, Mr. Salazar. I heard how you gave up the annual pay of 700 thousand US Dollars for Abbylon’s monthly salary of 500 Somer Dollars,” Jasper said with a smile.

Jose and Wayne were shocked that Jasper knew of such a thing.

“I’m impressed by Mr. Marlon’s charisma,” Jose nodded with a small smile.

Jasper immediately gave up on the idea of pulling an outstanding man like Jose over to his company when he saw the latter’s expression.

Some people and things were meant to be. Jose and Wayne, for example, were fated to be partners which no one could pull apart.

Not that it mattered though. With Wayne under JW Capital, Jose would technically be working for Jasper too.

“It’s the middle of the night, so let’s not stand by the doors. Come on, we’ll talk inside,” Jasper invited the two into the office.

Instead of using the company lobby, Jasper made a beeline for his own office.

There was no way any employee was still working at this hour, so Jasper made the two tea himself.

After sitting down, Jasper did not waste any time as he began to read the investment report that Wayne had handed in in advance and which Wendy had placed right in the middle of his office desk.

“You require a financing of 500 million, right, Mr. Marlon?”

Jasper raised an eyebrow and glanced at Wayne when he read the financing request on the first page. He asked this with a subtle smile.

Wayne immediately replied with confidence, "Mr. Laine, you'll earn at least ten times this amount."

"Should we do a VAM then?" Jasper asked.

Wayne was instantly embarrassed.

He had persuaded countless people before, and even Softwin's Myles Shon had ended up investing 20 million US Dollars after his sales pitch. However, Wayne had never met someone like Jasper, who acted so unexpectedly.

Everyone could tell that he was bluffing, but there was no way a founder would first trash-talk his own company when he was asking for investments.

When Jasper suggested a VAM, Wayne realized that there was nothing he could respond with despite his arsenal of speeches that he had prepared beforehand.

"Mr. Laine, I believe you can take a look at our company's situation first before we discuss further," Jose chimed in understandingly.

"With Abbylon Inc.'s current situation, we fulfill the legal conditions for a VAM."

Jasper chuckled and said, "As expected, Mr. Salazar. Being brought up in a family of lawyers makes you rather different. Going straight to legal terms, I see. Alright then, let me take a closer look."

This was a small win for Jasper in his first clash with Wayne.

Life at the Top Chapter 978

A business negotiation, especially those involving equity, was a harsh battle between decision-makers of both parties from the moment they locked gazes.

After all, any change in percentages of shares held or investment quota during follow-up negotiations would involve astronomical prices. This was not a business transaction involving a few dozen or hundred bucks, but rather tens of millions.

Especially in large mergers and acquisitions cases, in which tens of billions of US Dollars were involved.

Such affairs could not be treated carelessly.

It was a good sign if Jasper had managed to suppress Wayne's overwhelming aura right at the start.

Upon reading the entire company evaluation report, Jasper also realized that history had not changed too much. Not when it came to Wayne or Abbylon, at least.

Wayne was still catering to small and mid-sized enterprises, trying to make his dreams of a global sourcing website a reality.

"The main idea of my 8861 website is to create a platform for wholesalers on the internet. Here, suppliers from all over the world can showcase their products, and other enterprises or customers can purchase straight from the source, or sell their own goods according to their needs!

“This project will solve the issue all SMEs have with sourcing and selling goods, and this function will have the platform widely welcomed by all enterprises of all sizes.

“To tell you the truth, we already have 800 thousand members on our website and I’m sure we’ll reach 1 million by the end of the year.”

Jasper nodded as Wayne spoke.

‘Indeed. According to history, 8861 will gain 1 million members a little later in the year.

‘But so what?’

‘History will also prove that 8861 is at an innate disadvantage.’

“So, you’re telling me that since large enterprises have their own branding and specific sales channels, they won’t share this issue that SMEs are actually suffering from. Therefore, you want to create an information platform whereby everyone can share their data and people can simply take what they need.”

Wayne replied excitedly, “Yes, exactly. You’re as smart as I thought, Mr. Laine. You immediately understood what I meant.”

Giving a short laugh, Jasper put down the document and sipped his tea before he spoke, “Let’s not talk about the problems your website has yet, Mr. Marlon. Let me ask you instead, do you know that I own the country’s largest internet companies, Sena and Terizone?”

Wayne nodded. “I do. You’re the most capable man when it comes to the country’s dot-com enterprise, Mr. Laine. That’s why we came to look for you.”

“You’re too kind, Mr. Marlon, but the country is filled with promising talents, and I wouldn’t dare call myself this so-called ‘most capable man’.”

Jasper smiled and continued, “What I’m trying to say, Mr. Marlon, is if I have either Sena or Terizone create a similar website tomorrow, how long do you think it’ll take before 8861 starts losing money?”

When they heard that, both Wayne and Jose’s expressions changed dramatically.

Sena had full market control of the country’s online games and web portal, while Terizone had millions of email subscribers and tens of millions of subscribers.

Even Wayne and Jose were subscribers to Terizone’s KK.

If those two companies were to replicate 8861’s business model, then 8861 would certainly fall in less than three months.

After all, there was just too big a difference between them. 8861 could not even hope to compete.

Life at the Top Chapter 979

“Mr. Laine, 8861 caters to SMEs. When it comes to Sena or Terizone, their users are ordinary netizens. They are simply not the same target audience,” Wayne spoke.

Jasper chuckled and targeted Wayne’s straw man without hesitation.

“If your members know of 8861 and have gone online to use your website for business, Mr. Wayne, then who’s to say that these enterprise owners or senior executives are not also Terizone’s email subscribers, KK users, or Sena’s gamers?”

Wayne’s expression turned stern and he gestured as he spoke, “8861 is advantageous because it is irreplaceable.

“That is merely the result of being early movers in a market in which you are still gathering users. In reality, these so-called advantages are merely a facade.”

Jasper leaned back against his chair and looked at Wayne. “I heard that you’re a fan of fairytales, and that you like referring to each other as sirs and knights within the company.”

“Therefore, I’m sure that you’re no stranger to the battles between knights and dragons. It’s only a battle of skills when its a fight between people of similar strengths. Am I wrong?”

“Mr. Laine,” Jose cut Wayne off and spoke, looking at Jasper seriously. “You also said that there’s problem with 8861. Could I ask what this might be, other than the fact that it’s easily replaceable?”

“Its business model,” Jasper replied straightforwardly.

“Enterprise to enterprise, or the b2b model in e-commerce terms. This model isn’t horrible, but there’s an innate problem with it. This model makes your website a platform instead of a channel, in which there’s no clear boundaries for the suppliers and their customers.

“Say, for example, that my enterprise is focused on selling lathes, and I paid your company’s membership fee so that I can partner with a machining company. Two years later, that company and I will already have experience partnering together, yes? So pray tell, why I would want to continue paying for my membership?

“At the moment, your only source of income comes for membership fees. But after paying you once, your members will be able to find their own groups of suppliers or customers. Your members won’t need your website anymore once they’ve used it to source their own channels.”

Wayne smiled wryly.

He did not expect a script that took him only 15 minutes to persuade Myles crumble completely in front of Jasper.

Wayne thought about how he had dragged Jose to wait with him at the entrance for five to six hours just for this opportunity. They had waited for Jasper until the early morning only to come out empty-handed. Because of this, Wayne suddenly felt the urge to leave.

“I take it that you’re not willing to invest then, Mr. Laine?” Wayne asked in disappointment.

“I’m willing.”

Jasper caught them off guard and reignited Wayne and Jose’s embers of hope.

Jasper smiled at how his words controlled the duo’s emotions. “Instead of investing in 8861, I’d like to invest in Abbylon Inc.”

Jose frowned at Jasper's request.

While Wayne stared intently at Jasper, as if he wanted to pierce through the latter and stare straight into his soul.

"I don't understand, Mr. Laine. 8861 website is the only business Abbylon Inc. has right now," Jose spoke curiously.

"Change your business model. Make it B2C instead of B2B so it's direct-to-consumers. This will significantly change the way people carry out lifestyle shopping in this country, and even the entire world." Jasper stood up and spoke excitedly.

Wayne looked at Jasper as if the latter was a ghost.

Life at the Top Chapter 980

Strictly speaking, Wayne's road to success was not a smooth-sailing one.

He had tried his hand at entrepreneurship thrice before Abbylon Inc., making the latest company his fourth try at being an entrepreneur.

While the previous three tries were not complete failures, he had not made much money either.

Even his fourth enterprise, Abbylon Inc, had first gone through a failed project—8861. Only after this did they dabble in online shopping for individuals.

From this came the renowned TH website.

In truth, Wayne had also spotted the problems Jasper had brought up beforehand thanks to his strategic vision.

However, 8861 was the only mature and operating platform Abbylon Inc had at that moment. If he wanted to get rid of that to focus on a shopping platform for individuals, the market might not be ready to accept his idea, and all the hard work and effort his company's employees had put in thus far would all be for naught.

Not to mention, this shopping platform for individuals was still a muddled concept in Wayne's head. He had yet to perfect its structure or refine the details.

Hence, when Jasper spoke about it, Wayne was overcome with excitement, as if he had met his other half.

'So I'm not crazy. He also thought of it.

‘At the very least, I’m not the only crazy person here.’

“You really think that’ll work?” Wayne asked excitedly.

Jasper nodded and replied with certainty, “It will!”

“I’ve thought of it before, but the costs to shift to this business model are too high,” Wayne frowned as he spoke.

“Mr. Marlon, success doesn’t come without good reason. You’re going to have to pay the price if you want to succeed in this world,” Jasper spoke calmly.

“Perhaps you’re right.” Wayne looked deep in thought.

Jose looked at the other two in disbelief and rasped out, “Have the both of you gone mad? We were just talking about investments. How’d we even get to the topic of changing the entire company’s operational strategy? Mr. Marlon, Softwin will never agree to this.”

Wayne immediately frowned.

Softwin currently held more than 40% of Abbylon Inc’s shares. Without their approval, Abbylon could not execute their ideas.

“On that topic, there’s something else I’d like to talk to the both of you about,” Jasper began with a subtle smile.

The main reason Abbylon would fall prey to criticism in the future was the fact that Softwin, a Sunriser investment bank, was a major stakeholder. This angered their countrymen, as they felt that a Sunriser’s involvement made Abbylon less of a Somer enterprise.

However, Jasper was well aware that this was normal financing In the business world. It was not as big a deal as certain people made it out to be.

Still, now that the opportunity had presented itself, Jasper refused to yield such a huge source of income to a Sunriser.

Abbylon would end up larger than Terizone in the future. More importantly, Abbylon's business would be directly linked to the daily lives of civilians and completely integrated with how society's day-to-day functioning.

Terizone was just a social networking and gaming company. It was incomparable to Abbylon in terms of their importance to society.

Softwin's investment in Abbylon was the primary reason why they had been able to survive the future financial crisis, which ended up making Abbylon Inc a company that investors all around the world desired.

Because of this, Jasper had to kick Softwin out of the picture no matter what.

"I can invest as much as you wish, without limit. But my only request is that you remove Softwin from your list of shareholders."

Jasper's words had Jose immediately wondering if the man was crazy.

Meanwhile, Wayne's brows were tightly knitted.

Life at the Top Chapter 981

Regardless of what the two wished, Jasper's request was extremely difficult to fulfill.

"Mr. Laine, we've accepted 20 million US Dollars worth of investment from Softwin. They've financed us three times in total, and they hold 41% of Abbylon's shares. I'm afraid that your request is unrealistic," Jose said.

"You'll only know if it's realistic once you try. Moreover, wouldn't it be more trustworthy to work with a fellow Somer descent as compared to a Sunriser?" Jasper asked.

Jose frowned and said briskly, "Mr. Laine, nationality doesn't matter in the business world, and capital is international."

"I understand where you're coming from, Mr. Salazar. After all, you were born in Nawait and you grew up overseas. It's only normal that you are more progressive."

"But you must understand that while capital is international, capitalists are not. Especially not with Somerland. There are some things we should not forget. If everyone was equal, then how do you explain the capital and technological blockade other countries have imposed on Somerland?"

Jose was about to argue when Wayne pulled him back.

"Jose, you might not know about the situation in the country since you grew up overseas, but Mr. Laine is right about this."

Jose shook his head after listening to Wayne and replied, "Alright. But even then, how are we supposed to remove Softwin as a shareholder? It's impossible."

Wayne looked at Jasper and said, "It's getting late, Mr. Laine, so we won't delay your rest any longer. We need to give this some thought and discuss it with everyone else as well. Perhaps we could talk another time."

Jasper got up and replied, "Then we'll stay in contact. I await your good news."

Wayne nodded. He shook Jasper's hand and left with Jose in tow.

Jasper stood by the office's entrance and watched as Wayne and Jose's figures vanished into the night. His brows remained furrowed the entire time.

"Should we return as well, Jasper?" Julian's voice broke Jasper out of his stupor.

Jasper glanced at the time in surprise, "It's four already? Let's go home, then. It's going to be daybreak soon."

Julian glanced at Jasper through the rearview mirror as he drove. Seeing how the latter remained deep in thought, he could not help but ask, "What did the two of them say, Jasper? You seem frustrated and you haven't smiled once the entire ride."

"I'm not frustrated."

Jasper smiled and replied, "It just hit me how talented some people can be."

He was referring to Wayne.

Jasper replayed the entire process in his mind after the negotiation ended and realized that the suggestion for TH's concept was the only time Wayne seemed stunned. Excluding this momentary lapse, the man had kept his true emotions concealed the entire time.

In comparison, Jose, who seemed more experienced, had lost his composure several times.

The ability to control one's emotions was a necessity every successful top-notch businessman needed to have. Sure, this could be learned, but the nature of this trait was more innate than learned.

As for the promises Wayne had made during the discussion...

There were none.

Which meant the three of them had spoken for hours only to come out empty-handed.

"Wayne Marlon will always be Wayne Marlon," Jasper murmured to himself.

The car whizzed down the roads and time ticked on as they headed home. Jasper suddenly smiled when he realized that the lights in Wendy's room upstairs were still switched on.

"Oh well. There's no use worrying about it. The smarter he is the better; Only smart men make the correct decisions."

As things took a turn for the better, the first ray of sunlight broke across the horizon.

Life at the Top Chapter 982

They alighted the car and Julian immediately returned to his room to rest after staying up the entire night with Jasper while the latter quietly climbed the stairs.

Jasper twisted open the handle of the door carefully. Thanks to the lit table lamp, Jasper was met with the sight of Wendy lying on the bed and staring at him with a bright pair of eyes.

“Did I wake you up?” Jasper chuckled, pushing the door open and walking in.

Wendy flipped on her side and said, “Mhmm. Why’re you back so late?”

“It was already past two when I arrived in Nauritus. Then I had to rush over to talk to Wayne and Jose. It was four, almost five, by the time we were done,” Jasper explained.

Glancing at the time, Jasper realized that it was precisely five-thirty-five in the morning.

Wendy groaned at Jasper, “What’s so important that you’ve got to rush over and meet them in the middle of the night. Couldn’t you do it tomorrow?”

Jasper chuckled. “This is my show of respect for them. Them willing to wait is a show of their sincerity. You have to give people like Wayne enough respect if you want to partner with them, or they won’t ever be sincere with you either.”

Wendy asked curiously, “I’ve never seen you so attentive even with Terizone back in the beginning. Is this Wayne from Abbylon Inc that powerful?”

“He’s more than just powerful.” Jasper pinched Wendy’s nose with a smile, feeling the soft and warm skin under his fingertips as he spoke, “If all goes to plan, he’ll surpass everyone’s imagination in the future.”

“Sure, keep bluffing then. You sound like a con artist.”

Wendy pushed Jasper away. “Go take a shower and get some sleep. It’s not good for your body if you stay up so late. You need to rest.”

“I already took a shower at my mom’s over in Brac County before I came back,” Jasper replied, shuffling into Wendy’s bed and lying down.

Wendy gasped softly, “What’re you doing? Go sleep in your own room!”

The two were very intimate, having done everything but the last step. Even so, they still slept in two separate rooms.

Although this was not the first time Jasper was pushing his luck.

“I’m exhausted and the bed there is cold. It’s warm here, so just let me lie down for a little bit.”

Jasper laid next to Wendy so she could half-hug him close to her. He closed his eyes and took in the warmth and homey scent that engulfed him as he murmured, “Just a little bit, a little bit and I’ll go back.”

Wendy was extremely embarrassed and she wanted to push Jasper away, but she felt her heart tighten as she took in the baby-like features on Jasper’s face when he closed his eyes.

Others might not know how busy Jasper was, but she certainly did.

Excluding the two days during Christmas where he was considerably freer, Jasper had spent every other day dealing with all sorts of issues. Not to mention, problems that required his personal attention kept arising.

Jasper had kick-started his business last year and developed it exponentially, but he had also spent that year extremely busy without having any chances to take a breather.

God was fair to everyone. Jasper, for example, had wealth ordinary people could never imagine obtaining throughout their entire lives, but he lost all his personal time in return.

Caressing Jasper's face gently, Wendy felt her heart melt.

"It's okay, go to sleep."

Wendy comforted an exhausted Jasper with gentleness and softness.

Encased in this heavenly embrace, Jasper's lips tugged slightly upward, and snores slowly began to fill the room.

A little more than two hours later, the sky was completely bright.

Wendy had laid down, holding Jasper in her arms for more than two hours such that it was now almost time to get to work. With no other choice, Wendy pushed her numb body out of bed and carefully walked out of the room.

She had just made it to the door when she saw her father walk down the stairs.

Life at the Top Chapter 983

“Jasper’s back?” Dawson asked as he watched his daughter snoop around.

Wendy immediately tried to act natural and nodded, “Yeah. It was dawn when he returned, though.”

“This little brat. I’ll talk to him later, it’s no good screwing your body over just for work,” Dawson said.

“Weren’t you the same when you were young?” Wendy shot back.

Long used to his daughter taking Jasper’s side, Dawson stretched his neck to look at the room door behind Wendy and asked, “Did Jasper sleep in your room last night?”

Wendy immediately flushed and said embarrassedly, “Stop. What’s with all these questions? I told you he only got back at daybreak. He fell asleep the moment he came back, so what was I supposed to do? Pull him to his room?”

“Fair point. You’d never have the heart to do that,” Dawson teased with a playful chuckle.

“You are so annoying—I’m going to work!” Wendy quickly fled with her purse swinging behind her.

“Hehe, this little brat. He’s finally stopped being so stubborn.”

Dawson was elated when he looked at the closed door.

“My chubby grandchild’s on the way.”

Just then, Tiffany's voice rang out from downstairs.

"Oh, Big Sis Schuler, you haven't had breakfast yet."

"I'm not eating! Oh, and could you please prepare a bowl of hot porridge? Jasp's back and he's still sleeping, but he likes to have a bowl of porridge when he awakes, and he only eats it with the Black River pickles; He'll throw a tantrum if it's anything else. We have it on the second shelf in the fridge. Bye!"

Dawson was speechless when he heard her.

"This girl, she's probably forgotten what her dad likes to eat at this point!"

While Jasper snored away in Wendy's room, Wayne and Jose stayed up.

Wayne laid on the bed in the hotel as he watched Jose pace frustratedly in front of him. Jose would reprimand him from time to time as he paced, and Wayne found himself both irked and humored by the situation.

"What are you laughing at, Mr. Marlon? I'm not kidding here. We're going to be in a lot of trouble if Softwin gets wind of what went on during tonight's meeting."

Jose pulled over a chair and sat by the bed before he said to Wayne sternly.

"And that B2C Jasper proposed. I admit that his understanding of e-commerce is beyond our imagination, but he's too naive. There's no way the plan can be that simple."

"C2C and B2C might both be e-commerce strategies, but they're extremely different. Even we ourselves are going in completely blind, so how can he be so confident that it'll work?"

Wayne's hands pillowed his head as he asked Jose, "So you don't support it?"

Jose was about to speak when he seemed to have realized something. He looked at Wayne in disbelief as he asked, "You can't possibly share Jasper's idea, can you?"

Wayne sighed and replied, "I used to think that out of everyone in the country, I knew the most about e-commerce. But now that I think about it, perhaps I was being too arrogant. There's still capable people in the country."

"Take Jasper for example. There's a reason he's managed to successfully invest in Sena and Terizone, and even got Sena listed on the Nasdaq."

"You're crazy. Both of you are crazy," Jose stated.

Wayne spoke seriously, "Think about it, Jose. The problems Jasper told us about 8861... Aren't they the exact same problems we've been worrying about all this while?"

"It's just the two of us here, so let's be honest and admit it. Yes, there are problems and they're unsolvable."

Life at the Top Chapter 984

“So what do you have in mind?”

Jose looked at Wayne and asked sternly, “Are you planning on partnering with Jasper and removing Softwin from the list of shareholders? Then working with Jasper to create an online shopping platform for individuals?”

“I’m going to be blunt with you, Mr. Marlon, if you want Abbylon to make it big, then you need to watch out for the enterprise’s reputation at the very beginning.

“We’ve just got Softwin’s investment and now we’re suddenly changing our mind and working with Jasper against Softwin. If news of this gets out, no one is going to want to partner with Abbylon anymore.”

Waynes smiled softly and said, “Both Softwin and Jasper’s JW are huge figures to Abbylon. We can’t afford to offend either of them, nor can we carelessly choose one party to side with.

“I’ve thought about it, and the best thing to do now is to let them fight amongst themselves.

“Abbylon being so weak puts us at a great disadvantage, such that we’re completely defenseless against titans like Softwin or JW.

“But our advantage lie in the fact that both of these companies want us. Look at Jasper, why do you think he wants to remove Softwin? Because Softwin’s a Sunriser investment bank?”

“Don’t be naive. I dare say that even if one of Somerland’s wealthiest investors had invested in us instead of them, Jasper would still have come up with a plan

to get rid of them because his interests require it. That's just the kind of person he is.

"Therefore, the situation here is that both Jasper and Softwin want to own Abbylon completely. This works for us, so we're going to secretly leak information to both parties. Let them fight amongst themselves, and we'll partner with whoever wins."

Jose looked contemplative after hearing Wayne speak.

After a long while, he slowly said, "You're treading a fine line here, Mr. Marlon. The slightest mistake and we'll end up offending both huge companies. By then, we'll truly be screwed."

"That won't happen," Wayne said confidently, "There are no personal feelings in business, only benefits. The same rule applies to Myles and Jasper."

"But what about you?" Jose asked.

"Me?"

Wayne rubbed his neck and replied slowly, "I only want Abbylon to grow, but before that, we've got to think about how to keep it afloat. Nothing else even crossed my mind."

Jose stared intently at an average-looking Wayne. Suddenly, it dawned on him that this person he admired and was willing to follow was not just a charismatic entrepreneur, but a crafty businessman as well.

Perhaps this characteristic was what kept him alive and kicking in this society where only the strong survive.

...

It was already afternoon when Jasper awoke.

It had been a long time since Jasper had slept so comfortably and soundlessly. Getting out of bed, Jasper took a bath and walked downstairs energetically.

“Mr. Laine,” Tiffany greeted Jasper obediently.

Jasper smiled when he saw Tiffany wearing an apron around her waist and gloves on her hands as she did the chores. “You don’t have to do this. All you need to do is cook. You don’t need to wash the dishes either, as we have specific people for that.”

Tiffany replied while blushing, “But I have nothing to do all day if I don’t do this, and I feel bad. It’s like I’m getting a place to live, food to eat, and paid for doing nothing. I’d feel better if I helped out like this.”

“Do you want to study something?” Jasper asked.

Tiffany was stunned and she tilted her head confusedly. “Study? Is there something I’m not doing right?”

“That’s not what I meant,” Jasper waved her off. “What I wanted to ask, is do you want to go back to school and study?”

Life at the Top Chapter 985

For a split second, Jasper saw a clear flash of excitement flash through Tiffany's eyes only for them to dim immediately after.

She tilted her head down slightly and shook it, but she did not say anything.

"Think about it. If you want to study, then I can send you to university. Your choice of national universities.

"I have methods to get you in, and I'll pay for your tuition and life there. Don't worry about your brother, I'll have someone pay for his education as well. I'll also send someone over to take care of him.

"Treat it as me lending you money. You can pay me back by working for me after graduation," Jasper spoke gently.

Tiffany replied softly, "Thank you, Mr. Laine."

"Call me Jasper," Jasper walked to the kitchen, "Is there anything to eat?"

"Right, Big Sis Schuler had me make a bowl of porridge for you. It's still hot, so let me take it out for you."

"Thank you, that's exactly what I wanted to eat. Yo, you've got my favorite brand of pickles too."

"Big Sis Schuler specified it. She said you'd throw a tantrum if it was any other brand."

"Don't listen to her, I'm not that particular."

...

In the Presidential Office of Softwin's Somerland Branch, while Jasper chatted with Tiffany over porridge.

Echo Welch was currently listening to his subordinate's report.

"Mr. Welch, this is what we know of the current situation. Our sources are extremely reliable, as I heard it directly from one of Abbylon's senior executives."

Echo sneered and replied, "Abbylon Inc is still a small company, but President Shon from the headquarters believes that they have a very promising future. He told me to build a good relationship with Wayne before I came to assume my position here in the Somerland branch.

"I haven't even been here for long and this Jasper Laine wants to become one of Abbylon's shareholders? Does he not know that Softwin is Abbylon's majority shareholder? He thinks he can steal our assets without our approval?"

The subordinate hesitated for a moment before he replied, "Mr. Welch, I've done some digging on this JW Capital and I don't think it's going to be easy dealing with them.

"Jasper the most capable person in Somerland's dot-com industry. Both Sena and Terizone belong to him.

"In addition to this, JW Capital has also invested in other industries. JW Electronics, for example, has partnered with Coreana's Sentel Corporation. The company purchased Sentel's MP3 patented technology and has succeeded in upgrading it, thus becoming the only MP4-producing company in the world.

"JW Capital's also involved in the real estate industry. Their strength in the Southeast province is immeasurable.

“According to the evaluation carried out by our professionals, JW Capital and its subsidiaries can unite to form a comprehensive and strong modernized group.

“I fear that rashly starting a conflict with them will threaten Softwin’s plans to find its footing here in Somerland.”

Echo grabbed a dart and suddenly threw it at the target hanging on the wall.

With a ‘woosh’, the dart accurately pierced through the heart of the target six-to-seven meters away.

Echo smiled confidently and spoke in a cold tone, “You think too much, Yona. You must understand that Somer descents are born cowards who only bully those weaker than them. They may fight vigorously among themselves, but they will never be an opponent to us great Sunrisers.

“Go give that Jasper a call. Have him come to Waterhoof City immediately. Tell him I wish to see him.”

Life at the Top Chapter 986

Jasper had just arrived at his office and sat down on his chair when Malcolm rushed in.

“Why’re you so nervous, Malcolm?” Jasper looked up at Malcolm curiously.

Malcolm sat down in front of Jasper and frowned. The man seemed rather tense.

“I received a call from Softwin ten minutes before you arrived,” Malcolm spoke.

“Softwin? Sunrise Land called?” Jasper chuckled.

Softwin’s reaction was far beyond what he had expected. He thought he would have to wait at least a few more days before they found out.

He had not expected Softwin to call this afternoon, right after his conversation with Wayne and Jose late the previous night.

Without having to even think about it, Jasper knew that Wayne had taken the initiative to inform Softwin.

This was a reasonable move.

If a businessman did not understand the concept of selling to the highest bidder, then they might as well give up on doing business.

Jasper wanted Softwin out of the equation, but there was no way Softwin would give up on Abbylon after their 20 million US Dollar investment. Their conflict was fate, and it was only a matter of time before he had to fight Softwin.

“No, it was a call from their Somerland branch’s presidential office. Their president’s name is Echo Welch, a capable young man that assumed the position in his thirties. He’s not going to be an easy opponent,” Malcolm spoke.

“What did he say?” Jasper asked.

“He wants you to make your way to Waterhoof City as fast as you can as he says he wants to meet you.”

Jasper looked up at Malcolm and pointed at his own nose as he spoke, “Who do I look like? Can any Tom, Dick, or Harry just order me around?”

Malcolm asked, “So you’re not going?”

Jasper chuckled and leaned back against his chair. “We can meet, but he’s going to have to come to Nauritus City. He can keep dreaming he if thinks I’ll run all over to meet him in Waterhoof City just because he called.”

Malcolm replied rather awkwardly, “I think we should avoid clashing with Softwin right now. Or at least, try to leave both of us room to retreat. It won’t be advantageous to us if our relationship with them becomes too strained.”

“Malcolm, you think that because we’re no match for Softwin now, we should opt to give in to their demands on many things, yes?” Jasper asked.

Malcolm nodded. “I stand by my decision.”

“You’re right. Technically speaking, your idea is completely sound. But you have to understand that when it comes to business, only the weak give in.

“The rules of business are like the laws of the jungle. When two leopards have their eyes on the same slab of meat, one of them will surrender because they’re weaker. In the end, that weak leopard ends up starving while the other gets to eat its fill and grow stronger.

“With that, the starving leopard will have no other choice but to surrender again the next time.

“The small difference in both parties’ strength will only continue to grow with each surrender until that strong leopard bites and kills the other once it runs out of compromises.”

Malcolm shrugged. “I suppose this is the difference between professional managers and entrepreneurs.

“I took into consideration JW Capita’s current palette of problems. The most obvious one is our tight cash flow. Sena’s contribution to this is only enough to relieve the company from a break in cash flow, and we’re very far from operating comfortably.

“But as Sunrise Land’s largest investment back, the last thing Softwin lacks is cash.”

“If we were to head into full-out war now, we’ll most likely be bitten to death just like you said.”

Jasper stood up and patted Malcolm’s shoulder as he smiled. “I know that you’re worried, Malcolm. I know it’s not easy being extremely frugal as an operations officer.

“A few more months. Hold on for a few more months and I’ll bring you a large influx of cash. Then we’ll completely solve the company’s tight cash flow.”

Malcolm’s eyes shone. “Really?”

“When have I ever lied to you?” Jasper laughed out loud.

“Alright, then. I’ll await your good news.”

As he watched Malcolm return to his own office happily, Jasper piped up again, “Oh, and if Softwin calls again, tell them what I said. If they don’t call, then just leave it.

“I’m not opposed to meeting them, but they’ll have to come to Nauritus City. This is a question of principle so it’s non-negotiable. I am not offering myself to them on a silver platter.”

“You’re the boss, whatever you say goes.”

...

When Jasper’s response reached Echo, this arrogant President of Softwin’s Somerland Branch was enraged as expected.

“Absolutely insolent! That’s what he said?! He wants me to meet him in Nauritus City?” Echo snarled out icily.

“Yes, Mr. Welch,” Yona replied courteously.

“Hmph. Fine, then. If he doesn’t want to come over, then we’ll go to him. Prepare for a trip, I’m going over to Nauritus City,” Echo stated coldly.

“Mr. Welch, won’t us complying only stroke his ego?” Yona asked curiously.

“Ego? He knows that we’re more impatient to meet him than the other way around. He has nothing to worry about because Wayne is right there in Nauritus City. Further contact between the two is hardly beneficial to us, so we need to join in their negotiations as quickly as possible.

“This Jasper is a crafty man. He knows that we can’t sit here and watch as he continues to negotiate terms with Wayne in Nauritus City, so we’ll have no other choice but to go to him.

“However, we’re going to bring a present with us as well.”

Echo spoke coldly, “That MP4 his electronics company manufactures, is it popular back in Sunrise Land?”

“It is. JW Electronic’s MP4 has already become the best-selling imported goods of its kind in Sunrise Land in just two months. It’s even causing Rony and Tochiba, the best Sunrise electronic production companies worldwide, a headache.

“Easy. Sunrise Land’s largest electronics import company is Kobe Trading Co., Ltd, right? And we just so happen to be their parent company.

“Inform the people back home that from today onward, no MP4s from JW Electronics are allowed to enter Sunrise Land’s market.

With that, Echo chuckled coldly. “Now, not only will we teach Jasper a lesson, but we’ve gotten the favors of our electronics companies back home. Two birds with one stone.

“I’m sure Jasper will love the present we bring him.”

Life at the Top Chapter 987

A modernized company did business and relayed information faster than outsiders could ever imagine.

One hour was all it took for any information or decision sent out from Softwin's Somerland branch to be implemented and executed in Softwin's headquarters back in Sunrise Land.

After all, this was good news to a majority of Sunrise electronics companies.

JW Electronics currently held full licensing to the patented MP4 technology. They had also implemented a technical blockade, so there was no way they would share this patent.

Even Rony, which had the most skilled technicians in the country, needed a long time and capital if they wanted to bypass JW's technical blockade and succeed.

As a result, Sunrise companies could only watch as JW Electronics slowly dominated Sunrise's music-player market.

As a country known for producing advanced technological goods, they had to watch as a company from an underdeveloped country slowly consumed their market share.

This was greatly humiliating for arrogant Sunrisers.

Thus, Softwin's decision garnered the majority of their countrymen's support.

That night, a cargo ship filled with JW Electronics' MP4s from Somerland was about to enter Sunrise Land's Customs as per normal sales distribution procedure when it was rejected.

The excuse was that Kobe Tradings Co., Ltd, who had been in an amicable partnership with JW Electronics all this while, had unilaterally ended the partnership and did not want the goods anymore.

Lance, who had already clocked off and was on the way home, immediately received the news.

Lance did not dare to wait until the next morning. Upon realizing that a huge problem had arisen, he followed protocol and immediately reported it to his superior, the President of JW Capital's electronic group, as well as JW Capital's Director of Human Resources, Chad Wright.

Chad was currently in a meeting with Jasper when he was notified of this. He immediately requested to interrupt the meeting so he could report the issue to Jasper.

The conference room was filled with JW Capital's senior executives in Nauritus City, and they were infuriated when they heard the news.

"Those Sunrisers. They're blatantly mocking the spirit of the contract!"

"The partnership was going great, but they didn't even inform us before they decided to end the contract! Who do they take us for?!"

"What is he doing? Does he not fear deterring others from further partnerships?"

Malcolm's furious tone echoed through the conference room.

Wendy frowned as well. She was displeased with the Sunrisers' inability to uphold their word, but she had never participated in the company's major external decisions, instead leaving the decision-making to Jasper. She also knew that considering her special status, there were many things she could not give her opinion on.

Her opinion would represent Jasper's opinion, and as the owner of the entire enterprise, Jasper could not make decisions lightly.

Jasper had a solemn expression on his face as he tapped his finger on the conference desk slowly. Then, he turned to Chad and asked, "How're the international sales of the MP4 doing?"

"Sales are going great. We sell up to 2 million devices each month to European countries and the United States, around 1 million devices to the Southeast Terra region, as well as another 300 thousand to Coreana.

"Among them, our biggest market in the entire Terra region, excluding the country, is Sunrise Land. Their citizens really adore the latest advanced gadgets, and they amount to more than 1.8 million sales a month.

"In other words, excluding our own country, Sunrise Land is our largest source of revenue in the entire Terra region."

Life at the Top Chapter 988

“This is to say, the Sunrise market make up to one-third of our global sales,” Jasper concluded with a slight frown.

Chad nodded and replied solemnly, “This will badly hurt us if it gets out of hand, Mr. Laine. We have to solve the issue seriously and quickly.”

“There’s nothing to solve.” Jasper shook his head and spoke decisively, “We’ll give up on the Sunrise market temporarily.”

Jasper’s words stunned everyone in the room.

“Mr. Laine, the Sunrise market’s sales and profits are very important to us. We’ll make a huge loss if we give it up now,” Chad spoke frantically.

Jasper replied, “This is a calculated business attack. Sunrise Land is the opponent’s territory, and their power can be seen everywhere. Without getting rid of this mastermind, JW alone isn’t strong enough to fight against them in Sunrise Land. It’s simply not realistic.

“Not to mention, Kobe Trading Co., Ltd was the one that breached the contract. They’ll have to pay compensation, and we’ll wring them of every cent we can according to the contract. That’s quite a sum of money in and of itself.”

A smart businessman should be able to discern what was worth fighting for and what was not.

Softwin was the only possible reason why JW Electronics would suddenly be rejected from the Sunrise market.

Jasper had been prepared to receive Softwin's retaliation when he rejected their arrogant 'order' this morning.

Jasper had merely given them a reason to act sooner.

Sooner or later, he would have to reject Softwin's request to give Abbylon up.

Victory would still depend on JW and Softwin's battle over Abbylon Inc. JW Electronics was merely a temporary sacrifice.

"So we're just going to accept it and move on?" Chad asked indignantly.

Jasper smiled and replied, "Of course, not. Since Sunrise Land's market has decided to reject us, then we'll find our own weapon and attack.

"Sunrise Land's Rony and Tochiba have their own enemies. The Lang family of Sentel Corporation still remembers how Sunrise Land had used their CD players to devour Conerana's CD records market."

Then Jasper turned to Chad and instructed, "Both you and Lance should start packing. You'll be going to Coreana in two days to sign a partnership with Sentel Corporation."

"We'll give Sentel Corporation exclusive the license to our patented MP4 technology, allowing them to use our technology to produce and sell the MP4 in Coreana and Sunrise Land. We'll share our research of the MP5 with them as well.

"I'll talk to Sentel and agree on the specifics of the partnership and the profit distribution. So just wait for my green light."

Chad's eyes shone and he replied, "Sentel Corporation's extremely strong, and they'll definitely be able to force their way into Sunrise Land's market. Mr. Laine, what a great plan to shoot them in the foot!"

“We’re still too weak.”

Jasper shook his head and sighed before he replied, “If JW was already strong enough on its own, we wouldn’t even need to benefit Sentel with our technology.”

“We can make money at any moment, but technology is how we monopolize the market. Without technology, any money we make will have to come as the result of physical labor.”

Chad nodded in agreement at Jasper’s words. He already had a taste of technical monopolization and no competitors on the market to worry about, so he understood this concept well.

Life at the Top Chapter 989

After the meeting, the senior executives began to file out.

Meanwhile, Jasper remained in the conference room, deep in thought.

“Are you leaving soon?” Wendy pushed open the conference room door and asked Jasper worriedly.

Jasper smiled. “You can go back first, I still need to contact Sentel Corporation’s higher ranks in Coreana.”

“Is this a difficult opponent?” Wendy sat beside Jasper and asked gently.

Jasper chuckled. “I’ve managed to deal with both easy and difficult opponents before, haven’t I? Don’t worry, they can’t stop me.”

Wendy shook her head and spoke attentively, “Still, don’t push yourself too hard and take care of your health. Even if we close the company down, we’ve still got more than enough money to splurge for ten lifetimes.”

Jasper pinched the tip of Wendy’s nose and said gently, “I know. Don’t worry about me.”

Only then did Wendy get up. She asked, “So should I wait for you for dinner tonight?”

“Just save me something for me. I don’t know when I’ll get home.”

After Wendy left, Jasper got up to wash his face. Then he returned to his office and dialed a number he had saved a long time ago.

“Hi, have you thought about how you can use me again?”

Sylphie’s new greeting had Jasper feeling slightly embarrassed.

“Is that all you see me as? Someone who only knows how to use you?” Jasper asked.

Sylphie chuckled and replied, “As far as my brief understanding of you goes, yes.”

“Alright, I might as well come clean, then. Your understanding isn’t as brief as you think.”

Jasper’s words had Sylphie laughing out loud.

“Talking to you is always more interesting.”

“Alright then, go ahead. What is it? Though I do hope it isn’t anything big, I’m a little busy as of late.”

Jasper could tell that Sylphie was trying to distance herself from him based on the way she spoke, and he replied, “Don’t worry. It’s mutually beneficial this time.

“Sentel’s Lang family used to control 80% of Coreana’s market share for CD record devices a few years ago. However, Rony and Toshiba stole your technical research and manufactured a completely new version of CD record players.

“This resulted in Sentel’s Lang family losing 60% of the market share overnight, and the Sentel Corporation still has yet to fully recover in Coreana’s music-player market.

“I think I’ve found the perfect chance for you to carry out your revenge for such humiliation.”

Sylphie answered carefreely after hearing Jasper, “Those are the facts of the matter, but it’s pretty useless to me. Perhaps my father would like to discuss this topic with you.”

“I don’t have that kind of time, so I’d like you to pass the word to your family.”

Jasper continued sternly, “I can share all technical research for the already manufactured MP4, as well as the MP5 that’s still under research with Sentel Corporation.

“I’ll also give you exclusive licensing that allows you to produce and sell them in Coreana and Sunrise Land. My only request is that JW Electronics takes seventy percent of the net profit.”

As he spoke, Jasper did not know that Sylphie had been in Sentel Corporation’s President Kit’s —Sylphie’s grandpa, the current head of the Lang family—study since the call connected.

Sylphie also had the call on speakerphone, so Kit heard everything Jasper had said, word for word.

Life at the Top Chapter 990

Sylphie glanced at her grandpa. She watched him nod and shake his head before she spoke, "You sure are a smart man."

"You have no opponents here in Coreana's market, nor has anyone here done anything to you. However, you added Sunrise Land into your negotiations, so I take it that you've encountered trouble over there?"

"That's my issue to deal with. All Sentel needs to consider is if this contract is beneficial enough to you," Jasper spoke indifferently.

Sylphie smiled and replied, "Thirty percent isn't enough, I want at least fifty."

"I thought that you were disinterested in the family business, Princess Sylphie. This does not look like disinterest to me," Jasper commented.

Chuckling, Sylphie explained, "I'm still a member of the family. It's only right I fight for the biggest benefits for my family."

"You and I are well aware of the situation here, so let's both take a step back," Jasper spoke.

Sylphie looked at Kit again.

Kit, with his head full of white neatly combed, slowly picked up *The Black Theory* and nodded seamlessly.

"Deal."

"Wonderful. My people will fly to Sela tomorrow."

Hanging up the phone, Sylphie rested her chin on her palm and turned to her grandpa. "I thought you'd say no, Grandpa."

"Why would I decline something that benefits the family?"

"Be it the MP4 or the MP5, both of these products exist in small markets. It does not matter if we win or not."

"But those Sunrisers are too insolent. It would be unwise to let go of the chance to take revenge for what they've done back then. What that Somer descent, Jasper, has in mind does not concern us."

Kit's gaze fell on the book as the old man suddenly smiled, "We can invite him over for a meal should the opportunity arise in the future. If anything, he has a ruthless insight regarding things. He started with a reason we cannot reject, and that alone is worth commending."

"Opportunity? What opportunity could possibly get a Somer descent to eat with us?" Sylphie asked casually.

"When he becomes the richest man in Somerland. Then he'll have both the opportunity and the qualifications."

...

The following day, Jasper sent Chad and Lance to sign the contract in Coreana, as well as welcomed Echo and Yona from Waterhoof City.

A black Benz arrived at the entrance of Southface River Tower and Echo alighted it with Yona in tow.

Echo's expression darkened when he realized that the person welcoming him was not Jasper, but a man from the United States that was past his fifties.

Realizing the shift in his superior's attitude, Yona stepped up to talk to Malcolm.
"Where's Jasper?"

Malcolm's smile immediately faded when he heard Yona refer to Jasper by name without attaching any respectful titles, and he replied indifferently, "He's a busy man. He's waiting for you two upstairs now."

"Is this how you treat your guests?" Yona scoffed and asked, "Is this how you welcome us noble Sunrisers?"

Malcolm glanced at Yona as if the latter was an idiot and replied, "Since when were Sunrisers interchangeable with nobility? And are you discriminating against Somer descents in Somerland?"

When he said this, Yona's off-handed comment suddenly became one of great importance.

This would be a big issue if word got out.

As expected, Yona's expression instantly changed.

Life at the Top Chapter 991

As an ex-senior executive of the world's largest consumer goods company, the P&G Group, Malcolm had more than one trick up his sleeves.

He continued to speak to Yona arrogantly, "Please watch your attitude. Since when were Sunrisers like you allowed to act superior in front of a man from the United States?"

This was something the whole world, including Sunrisers, had to admit; in front of the great United States, they were nothing more than inferior subjects.

Yona's expression soured further.

"Enough."

Echo glared at Yona's show of weakness and spoke to Malcolm calmly, "You're Malcolm Malibu, JW Capital's COO, right? Please lead the way; our time is very valuable."

"That's more like it," Malcolm replied, then turned sideways and lifted his hand. "This way. Mr. Laine's been waiting for a long time."

Jasper's office doors were opened, and under Malcolm's lead, Echo and Yona entered together.

Echo and Jasper's gazes met in the air.

"Welcome, distinguished guests."

As the host, Jasper stood up unprompted and made his way around the office desk to shake Echo's hand, greeting them with a smile.

Not going to Waterhoof City or greeting them downstairs was a show of his attitude, and also stressed that both parties were of equal standing.

However, Jasper would be a horrible host if he remained seated as he greeted them.

Jasper had a very good understanding of his limits.

Echo's dark expression that he had worn the when he first walked into the room immediately vanished to make way for a bright smile. The man spoke in fluent Somerish, "Hello, Mr. Laine. I've heard much about you, and it's nice to finally meet you."

Jasper sounded shocked when he spoke, "Your Somerish is really good, Mr. Welch."

Echo smiled reservedly and replied, "Well, I'm one-fourth of Somer descent and I've studied in Somerland for three years. To understand its market, one has to first understand the people and culture behind it."

"Haha, you're very right, Mr. Welch. Here, come and take a seat."

Jasper led the two into the reception room next to his office. Once everyone was seated, Jasper then smiled crescent-eyed as he spoke to Echo, "My apologies for not being able to meet you in Waterhoof City, Mr. Welch. I was preoccupied with work and I couldn't afford to leave."

Echo gave a small smile as he replied, "Mr. Laine, us Sunrisers come from a very polite country and we always treat people with respect.

“If you don’t have the time to come over, then we shall come to meet you. There are no worries. I also brought you a gift, Mr. Laine, and you should’ve received it already. Was it to your liking?”

When he said this, the atmosphere in the reception room made a sharp turn for the worse.

The seemingly somewhat harmonious atmosphere suddenly thickened and tensed.

Jasper smiled calmly and replied, “It’s not too bad. But if this small present is all you can gift, then I must admit that I’ve overestimated you.”

“Hmph. Stop pretending.” Yona sneered. The pair had already agreed on the way over that Yona would be in charge of acting sinister and fierce while facing Jasper.

“You’re frantic now, aren’t you, Mr. Laine? After all, we’ve done some digging, and know that a large portion of your JW Electronics’ revenue comes from the Sunrise market.”

Life at the Top Chapter 992

“Losing the Sunrise market means that you’ve lost almost one-third of your revenue.

“I’m impressed at how you can still act so calm, Mr. Laine.”

Yona’s words had Jasper moving his gaze to look at him. The latter asked calmly, “And you are?”

“Yona, The Presidential Assistant of Softwin Investments’ Somerland branch,” Yona introduced himself arrogantly.

“Oh, so you’re just an assistant,” Jasper shook his head. “Sorry, but subordinates aren’t normally allowed to pipe in when I’m talking to your superior. I do remember that Sunrise Land’s rather particular with regulations in the business setting. So I have to ask, is this how you educate your subordinates, Mr. Welch?”

“What are you implying?” Yona shouted, enraged.

Jasper replied casually, “As a Sunriser, not only have you been acting like you’re better than everyone while standing on Somer soil, you’ve also come to my company and caused a ruckus. Do you perhaps think that I’m too kind to kick you out?”

Yona clenched his jaw immediately. The urge to curse Jasper out was strong, but he did not dare act rashly in fear that it would disrupt Echo’s plan.

Echo frowned slightly and interrupted them, “Let’s cut the nonsense, Mr. Laine. I think I’ve shown you this time that we can make doing business in Sunrise Land difficult for you.

“Our request is simple: give up on Abbylon if you want to continue doing business in Sunrise Land.”

Echo had a small smile as he continued, “You must know by now how powerful Softwin is in Sunrise Land. If we’re able to return all of JW’s goods overnight, then we can also fill Sunrise Land’s department store shelves with JW’s goods if we so please.

“Of course, it wouldn’t be difficult at all if we also wanted to make JW disappear completely from the Sunrise market.”

“That sounds like a terrifying threat.” Jasper looked at Echo and answered, “So if I disagree, JW’s products will never get a chance to enter Sunrise again. Is that it?”

Echo clapped once, the clear sound cutting through the air, and he replied with a large smile, “Correct. I believe there’s this Somer saying, about how a smart man can read the situation and act accordingly. I’m sure you’re a smart man, right, Mr. Laine?”

“It seems like you’ve got a very in-depth understanding of Somer culture, Mr. Welch. But I wonder if you’ve heard this other saying: amicable until attacked and ruthless in our counters.”

Jasper looked at Echo calmly and asked, “Are you so confident that you’ll manage to crush me, Mr. Welch?”

Echo chuckled and replied, “I don’t need to be confident about crushing you when it’s already a given that I will. Or are you telling me that you still have a plan to counter Softwin in Sunrise Land? Are you daydreaming?”

At that moment, Jasper’s phone rang.

Jasper glanced at the number and chuckled. “This will be an interesting call. Perhaps you’d like to listen in, Mr. Welch? Something tells me that it’ll be of your interest.”

Echo frowned despite feeling proud of himself. He watched confusedly as Jasper accepted the call; He had no idea what the man was planning to do.

A moment later, the call connected.

Chad’s excited tone echoed through the speakers.

“Mr. Laine, we’ve successfully signed the contract.

“Sentel Corporation has agreed to partner with us. They’ll construct a new branch in Coreana and Sunrise Land, and use their channels to manufacture and sell our licensed MP4s and future MP5s. All that is left for us to do is to wait for our cut of the profits to roll in.”

Jasper chuckled at these words while Echo’s expression changed dramatically.

Life at the Top Chapter 993

“Good, you’ve done well,” Jasper praised Chad.

Chad laughed and replied, “All I did was sign the contract—you’re the one who negotiated the partnership, Mr. Laine. Sentel was really kind to us too.

“They’ve been treating us with the highest standard of respect ever since we got off the plane. There wasn’t any unnecessary talk during the finalizing process either. There’s no way we can take the credit when all we did was come over to sign the contract.”

Jasper replied with a smile, “Still, you’re the ones who went all the way there and did the job.

“Since you’ve already signed the contract on the first day, then stay and have fun in Coreana for the remaining two days. The company will cover your costs as a reward.”

Chad laughed out loud and replied, “We’ve already booked the earliest flight out tomorrow morning. We might’ve already signed the contract, but there’s still quite a bit we need to prepare. Like the sharing and transferring of technical research, as well as make the specific arrangements for manufacturing. Can we postpone our vacation until everything’s done?”

“Sure. We’ll talk more when you get back, then.”

Jasper ended the call with a smile.

Jasper then turned to look at Echo. As expected, the latter’s expression had darkened.

Echo stared intently at Jasper and said coldly, "What's with this act that you and your subordinate put on for us? Aren't you afraid that I'll mock you, Mr. Laine?"

Jasper replied calmly, "You think too highly of yourself, Mr. Welch. You're not important enough for me to put on an act. This is big news, isn't it? How about you go and ask for confirmation yourself?"

Echo narrowed his eyes and his gaze burned fiercely into Jasper.

As far as he was concerned, Jasper did not have the wit nor the capability to come up with a plan to counter him within just a day.

Not to mention, he had done so by partnering with Sentel Corporation.

Sentel Corporation.

The only large industrial conglomerate that controlled Coreana's economy.

Sentel's status in Coreana was equivalent to Trider and Triton Financial Group's status in Sunrise Land.

Not every group could be considered a financial group, and not every financial group could be considered a conglomerate.

Sentel was someone not even Trider or Triton dared to provoke lightly, let alone Softwin.

Rony and Toshiba had only tried to probe Sentel back then thanks to Trider and Triton's support. The probe had then resulted in Trider and Triton arriving at a secret agreement with Sentel, and its contents were something neither Rony nor Toshiba were qualified to know.

Therefore, Echo refused to believe that this Sentel would actually form a partnership with Jasper.

At that moment, Echo and Yona's phones vibrated at the same time.

The same message lit up both their phones.

Echo and Yona pulled their phones out at the same time and looked down at the screen. Both their complexions instantly paled.

There were countless eyes on a large industrial conglomerates like Sentel Corporation at all times.

No matter when, and who signed a partnership with, news of it would still immediately reach the ears of many powerful people.

Because of this, Echo and Yona had just received the latest news of Sentel Corporation partnering with JW Electronics Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

This piece of information was immediately sent to Sunrise industrial conglomerates by their network of spies. Softwin, of course, had their own information channels to find out about this.

Life at the Top Chapter 994

Yet, Jasper's heart sunk when he watched the duo's expression change upon reading the text on their phones.

It would be unwise for him to look down on these large investment banks. It had only been a few minutes since the contract was signed and they had already been informed of it.

New businesses like JW could not possibly compare to these large investment banks when it came to gathering information.

JW had almost no intel sources at all.

At this moment, Jasper officially placed the topic of gathering information as one of the most important agendas in his mind.

He had to establish an information network for JW as fast as possible.

Otherwise JW would not be able to take the initiative in conflicts as they would be dead before they knew it.

Reading the message, Echo was certain that Jasper had not put on an act just to frighten him. Echo looked up at Jasper seriously and suddenly smiled.

"I have to admit, Mr. Laine, I've underestimated you."

Jasper replied, "If that's a compliment, then thank you."

"But you don't understand. Even if you've partnered with Sentel, I've already achieved my goal."

“You’re forced to partner with Sentel just to continue holding a stake in Sunrise’s market.

“You’re still earning fewer profits when all I had to do was make a few phone calls and send a report to Headquarters.”

Echo looked at Jasper pridefully and said, “As I said, either give Abbylon up, or Softwin will continue to attack JW.

“This will continue until you give up the partnership with Abbylon, or... until JW dies.”

Echo stared at Jasper aggressively and with overwhelming pride.

“You might be furious now, Mr. Laine, but the weak have no right to feel angry. All you can do is accept reality, Mr. Laine, so please give me your answer.”

“You’re a great negotiator, Mr. Welch,” Jasper looked at Echo calmly. “I’ve already resolved your obstacles yet you’ve somehow managed to spin it into your victory. You make it sound like you’re in the right, Mr. Welch, but you seem to have forgotten something.

“This is Somerland and both JW and Abbylon are Somer companies. So what if Softwin’s powerful? What power do you think you have over JW or Abbylon?”

Echo immediately shot to his feet at Jasper’s words and said coldly, “Then there’s no point in further negotiations.”

Jasper did not even look up at him as he spoke, “You’re free to leave if you’re busy, Mr. Welch. The door’s that way.”

“Hmph!” Echo harrumphed and suppressed the fury within him as he spat icily, “I hope you don’t regret this. Once I leave this room, I won’t back down easily even if you beg me.”

“I’ve never begged anyone before,” Jasper replied calmly.

“Fine!” Echo huffed a sharp laugh and turned to walk to the door. “Until we meet again.”

Furious, Echo walked to the door and was about to raise his hand to push open the handle when someone opened the office door from the outside.

Wendy wanted to talk to Jasper about something when she was met with the two men standing at the door. She was about to speak when Echo suddenly cursed—the fact that a woman blocked his path had only infuriated Echo further. “You idiot! F*ck off, b*tch!”

Having remained silent throughout the entire interaction in the office, Malcolm’s features twitched when he heard Echo curse.

He did not even need to look at Jasper to know that Echo, this Sunriser, was screwed today.

Life at the Top Chapter 995

Forced to suppress his anger, Echo had not taken a good look at Wendy's appearance or figure at the very beginning. It was only after cursing her out that he realized how beautiful Wendy was.

The man chuckled evilly and said, "What a pretty Somer woman, not even women back in Sunrise Land are prettier than you. What a shame that you've joined a company that's about to close down.

"How about you come back with me, beautiful? I'm a Sunriser and you Somer women love foreigners the most, right? I can move you back to Sunrise Land and arrange a nice job for you in our biggest investment bank, Softwin."

Echo was evidently trying to humiliate Jasper.

He did not know who this woman was to Jasper, but at the very least, she was still the man's employee. Hunting for an owner's employees in front of them was the biggest form of humiliation.

However, it had not crossed Echo's mind that Wendy was Jasper's girlfriend.

Therefore, Echo's efforts were for naught.

He just had no idea of it yet.

Wendy was the first to fire back at him.

Wendy stared frostily at Echo and said, "I don't see what's so good about short Sunrisers like you, nor am I interested in talking to one of you anyway. Your appearance disgusts me, now please move out of my way!"

Echo's expression changed.

Having had enough from Jasper, Echo now had to endure a scolding from a Somer woman while she pointed her finger at him.

The glee from humiliating Jasper immediately vanished and Echo roared at Yona in mortification, "Yona, teach this Somer b*tch the strength of Sunrise men!"

Yona shouted his agreement and walked toward Wendy with a wretched snicker as he growled, "You Somer women were nothing more than venting tools for us Sunrise men decades ago. I'll have you learn today that the noble Sunrisers are not people you b*tches can insult!"

After he finished speaking, Yona reached out for Wendy only for a hand to clasp his shoulder.

Following that, a large burst of energy from that hand spread through his arm such that Yona lost his balance. The man's upper body twisted and before his frightened expression could even change, a fist smashed into his face.

The bone-chilling crack of a fractured nose bridge, followed by Yona's pitiful cry, cut through the room.

Blood splattered in all directions and Yona immediately cupped his face. Blood continued to drop from the gaps between his fingers, leaving spots of blood on the floor.

Jasper moved his hand and reached out to pull Wendy behind him. Then, he glanced frigidly at Yona and an utterly shocked Echo before he said, "Looks like you two don't want to leave my company in one piece."

Echo had not expected Jasper, a successful and wealthy business owner, to start physically attacking people.

He glared at Jasper and roared, "Do you know what you're doing?! How dare you hit my subordinate!"

"Hit? Killing him would already be a light punishment considering what he said and wanted to do," Jasper spoke coldly.

Echo felt his heart race and he pointed at Jasper and shouted, "So you're choosing to go into full-out war with Softwin? You'll pay an unimaginable price!"

"Fine, we'll go to war then! I've fought my way to where I stand today with my own two hands! You think I got here by begging people?"

Jasper fired back without hesitation, "Your pitiful arrogance means dog sh*t to me!"

Echo's complexion paled further, but he also recognized that he was in Jasper's territory. Thus, he reached out to grab Yona, who was still whimpering and bleeding, and spat wretchedly, "Fine, then. Just you wait! You'll come to me begging me for mercy very soon!"

Echo then turned to leave.

However, he was greeted by a strong and expressionless man standing in his way once he turned around.

The man was at least one-eighty centimeters tall, and while he was not exceptionally buff, the man's body was toned and every curve of his body was indicative of exceptional strength.

His presence was enough to overwhelm and suffocate Echo.

This was an aura Echo had only seen in true top-notch fighters back in Sunrise Land.

Echo's heart thumped erratically as he turned back to growl at Jasper, "What is the meaning of this? Have your dog move!"

Jasper replied calmly, "You're going to leave without apologizing?"

Echo snapped, "Apologize? You were the one who hit my subordinate! Why do I have to apologize?!"

"I want you to apologize to every Somer descent in the room, including my girlfriend!" Jasper looked at icily frostily as his powerful voice stated his demands.

"For the insults both of you Sunrisers fired at Somer descents in general, and my girlfriend in particular. I'm already being very merciful by merely asking for an apology, do not force me to do something no one here wants to see."

Echo grit his teeth while his gaze burned with rage as if he wanted to engulf Jasper in fire.

This was the first time in years since he had faced such humiliation.

As a noble Sunriser, he would rather die than apologize to the people of the poor, underdeveloped, and lowly Somerland.

However, considering the situation, Echo knew that he would not be allowed to leave today without apologizing.

Greatly conflicted, Echo softened his tone. "Look, Jasper, there's no need to strain our relationship like this. We can still smooth things out. We're all businessmen, after all, and it's not worth it to go on full-out war because we were both acting rashly.

"As for the matter of you becoming Abbylon's shareholder, we can always talk about that at a later date. If I persuade the headquarters, I'm sure Mr. Shon will be willing to let you invest in them as well. You'll get to take a portion of the shares as well, okay?"

Despite what he said, Echo was internally cursing Jasper out like mad. He was going to do everything he could to get rid of Jasper the moment he walked out of here.

Like hell was he going to persuade Myles for Jasper's sake.

Jasper smiled in reaction to Echo's softened tone.

The smile seemed to have soothed the atmosphere.

Echo let out the breath he was holding as well.

He was about to speak when Jasper's smile suddenly vanished and the man barked at Echo coldly.

"I said apologize!"

Life at the Top Chapter 996

Echo's breathing paused when he heard Jasper's demand.

He felt like Jasper had played him like a fool.

'Why the f*ck did you smile if you're not planning to compromise?!

The corner of Echo's eye twitched as he stared at Jasper intently.

He was extremely unwilling to do this.

Echo personally believed his status and power were beyond what Jasper could ever achieve. There was no way a slightly wealthy Somer businessman could compare to Softwin, an international investment bank.

Echo thought that he had the ability to crush Jasper at anytime.

Yet, here he was, still in Jasper's company as the man acted like a rascal and threatened his personal safety. Because of this, Echo felt the strength leave his body.

"You're testing my patience."

Jasper looked at Echo coldly. "If you're so reluctant, then you leave me no choice but to get justice in my own way."

"Jul, teach him how to be respectful. The ancestors of Sunrise Land learned how to self-sustain from their Somer ancestors, but it seems like they've forgotten the concept of humanity."

Julian acknowledged excitedly and moved to attack. He had been holding himself back for a very long time.

Echo reacted quickly. He knew that Jasper meant what he said, especially considering the man had already hurt Yona.

Seeing that there was no more room for negotiation, Echo clenched his jaw and squeezed his eyes shut as he shouted, "Okay! I'll apologize!"

"I'm sorry! I was disrespectful, I shouldn't have insulted or discriminated against Somerland. I'm sorry! I apologize for my behavior!"

The words seemed to have used up all of Echo's strength, for the man was panting and sweating once he finished speaking. He looked at Jasper cold and resentfully as he asked, "Are you happy now?"

Jasper glanced at Echo indifferently and turned his body sideways to reveal Wendy's figure.

"Now, apologize to my girlfriend."

Wendy was shocked as she looked at Jasper worriedly.

Wendy had come to know who these two Sunrisers in front of her were thanks to the conversation they had just shared. She did not know the full story, but at the very least, she knew that they were Softwin's senior executives.

Wendy was worried that the situation would be impossible to smooth over if Jasper offended these two too badly.

However, Jasper gave her a slight nod.

Thus, Wendy immediately stopped overthinking to support Jasper's decision.

Moreover... if anything, the lone fact that Jasper kept referring to Wendy as his girlfriend was enough to fill Wendy with elation amidst the current chaos.

Echo was going mad.

“Are you done, Jasper?! Do you find joy in humiliating me?”

Jasper spoke indifferently, “Intentionally humiliating you? You were the one who was impolite to my girlfriend first. How is me demanding that you apologize humiliating to you? What does that make your earlier actions, then?”

Echo clenched his jaw and he felt the suppressed infuriation about to explode within him.

Machismo culture was greatly prevalent in Sunrise Land, and men were generally regarded much higher than women there.

Hence, Echo could not accept the fact that he had to apologize to a woman, let alone one of Somer descent.

“You don’t want to? Julian!”

Jasper’s words had Echo pushing his bottom line even lower.

The truth remained that until people were forced to a specific point, they would never know where their limits lay.

Take for example Echo at that moment.

Before arriving in Nauritus City, Echo believed that speaking to a Somer descent harmoniously was already the best gift he could bestow them. Apologizing to them was absolutely out of the question.

Life at the Top Chapter 997

Yet, here he was, compromising.

“I’m sorry! It’s my fault! Please forgive me!”

Echo closed his eyes and bowed to Wendy with his head down. Jaw set, he forced out the apology.

Wendy and Jasper shared a look—the duo having already sharing perfectly synergized thoughts.

One glance was all it took and Wendy immediately understood what Jasper wanted to say.

Wendy replied curtly, “I don’t feel a shred of sincerity in your words.”

Gnarl gnarl...

This was the sound of Echo grounding his molars.

Wendy’s voice was melodious, but Echo thought it felt more like a steal scraper as it pierced into his ears.

“You might want to be quick before your colleague over there loses too much blood and goes into a coma,” Jasper spoke indifferently.

Echo clenched his jaw and further suppressed his fury. He had already been humiliated once before, so what was one more time?

Having decided on this, he bowed to Wendy again and spoke extremely sincerely, "I'm sorry. I made a mistake just now and I'd like to sincerely ask for your forgiveness."

With a soft harrumph, Wendy did not refute it and silently accepted the apology.

"Leave," Jasper spoke coldly.

Having been taught a lesson once before, Echo did not dare to leave any harsh comments in case Jasper sized the opportunity to continue humiliating him.

Ignoring the burning hatred within him, Echo did not look back as he left the office with Yano in tow, the latter's whimpers softening as they left the area.

With a murderous expression on his face, Echo dragged Yano to Southface River Tower's exit.

He looked up to the floor of Jasper's office.

Only to see what seemed to be Jasper's blurry figure looking back at him.

"Idiot! Just you wait! I swear I'll take revenge for this humiliation as long as I'm still alive! Damn you, f*cking Somer descents!"

Echo shouted at Jasper upstairs and finally vented some of the anger he had been bottling up.

However, Jasper was too high above to hear what he was saying.

Instead, this sentence reached Henry's ears, who was looking for Jasper to kill time.

Henry had just gotten out of the car and was looking around the Tower in search of any pretty ladies. With an amused chuckle, Henry strode over and slapped the back of Echo's head.

"Motherf*cker, what kind of sh*t are you spouting out here? What's wrong with Somer descents? Your dad's of Somer descent!"

Echo had not expected the sudden attack from behind and he almost staggered and fell forward.

He cupped the stinging back of his head and roared at Henry, "Do you know who I am? How dare you hit me?"

Rattled, Echo had spoken in Sunrish.

"A Sunriser?" Henry was stunned.

"Holy sh*t, no wonder you're so short. I have no f*cking idea what you're talking about but I'm pretty sure you're scolding me."

Young Master Law never needed a reason to hit people, all he had to do was convince himself. Therefore, when Henry felt that this Sunriser was insulting him, he followed up on his previous slap with three more to Echo's cheeks. The man's face was bloated and bruised by the time Henry was done.

Henry then spat on Echo's colorless face harshly before he pointed at him and spoke, "You better respect Somer descents when you're outside next time. You Sunrisers were still f*cking apes on your island when we were becoming kings and conquering lands."

With that, Young Master Law walked away casually.

He left Echo utterly vexed.

“All of you, just you wait!”

Life at the Top Chapter 998

Jasper and Wendy were locked in conversation when Henry arrived upstairs coolly.

“Were we too rash just now, Jasp?” Now that they were alone, Wendy could not help but voice her concerns.

“They are part of Softwin, after all.”

Jasper smiled. “It’s alright. Our true conflict with Softwin is over Abbylon’s shares. Either we give up, they relent, or we become enemies. Those two only got what they deserved, it’s the consequences of their actions.

“Not to mention that the fundamental conflict between us and Softwin wouldn’t have been solved even if we treated those two well and sent them off politely.”

Wendy sighed and replied, “Everyone’s just trying to do business. Why can’t we all get along?”

“Sure, small businesses can still be nice to each other, but it’s not the same when your business reaches a certain size. There are only so many resources and everyone wants a bigger piece of the pie for themselves. How are we supposed to get along?” Jasper consoled.

At that moment, Henry walked into the room proudly.

“F*cking Hell, I met a Sunriser on crack downstairs. He kept spouting sh*t, so I beat him up,” Henry immediately boasted once he walked through the door.

“I saw,” Jasper told him, “Quite the slaps you gave him.”

Henry's eyes widened and he asked, "Those two can't possibly have come from here, could they?"

"Relax, they're enemies, not friends."

Jasper recounted the situation briefly.

Henry's eyes shone as he looked at Jasper and said, "Not bad. Your opponents are getting more and more formidable. You're even involved with Softwin's higher ranks.

"That Echo Welch or something, I've never met the man but I've heard of him."

"How do you know him?" Jasper gasped.

"Hey, I just told you I've never met him. I've only heard of his name... Do you have anything to drink? I want something cold, I'm thirsty... Wait, what's with that shocked face! You don't think I'm qualified to know people like that, right?" Henry barked out in an upset tone..

Jasper laughed out loud as he pulled out a bottle of Coca-cola from the fridge in the office for Henry. "Tell me what you know about him."

"You already know his occupation, but he's also the heir of Trider Financial Group's extended family in Sunrise Land," Henry explained after twisting the Coca-cola bottle open and taking a large gulp.

"I thought his surname was Welch?" Jasper asked with a frown.

He had not expected Echo to be related to one of Sunrise Land's four major conglomerates, the Trider Financial Group. This was hardly good news.

"Okay, so the families of Sunrise Land's four major conglomerates, Trider, Triton, Sumotomo, and Mizuha, have been around for centuries. Their familial

relationships are weird and complicated, so there's nothing weird with the extended members of the family having different surnames.

"Kayden has more partnerships with Sunrise Land, so he knows them better than I do. However, I've heard him talk about how the Trider family's support played a part in Echo assuming Softwin Investment's Presidency at such a young age."

Henry held the bottle of Coca-cola in his hands and crossed his legs. Smiling crescent-eyed, he asked Jasper, who had a grim look on his face, "What happened? Worst come to worst, I can always have my dad come out and put in a word for you."

"Even if it's someone from Trider's extended family, so what if you hit him? They still respect my dad."

"Now that I think about it, Grandpa and Trider's Foster used to know each other. Then something happened and their relationship turned sour. But that was decades ago, so no one cares about it anymore."

Jasper glared at Henry and spoke, "Do I look like that kind of person? I'm just thinking about how Echo will be planning to take revenge later."

"Who cares? Didn't you say you two were fighting over some company? If that's the case, then anything they do will either be to attack you or to try to win that company over. Stop thinking so much and just act," Henry replied excitedly.

Jasper frowned slightly as he thought about it. While Henry was unreliable most of the time, Jasper realized that the man's suggestion was the best course of action right now.

No matter what Softwin or Echo did, it would not stray from the main goal attacking JW and trying to get Abbylon to choose them. If that was the case, then there was no point in overthinking.

“Help me contact Wayne and Jose. I’ll treat them to a meal in the afternoon,” Jasper turned to tell Wendy.

Wendy nodded and left the room.

“Why’d you come to see me today?” Jasper asked.

Henry sighed but remained silent.

“What’s up?” Jasper looked up in confusion. He was intrigued the moment he saw an embarrassed expression on Henry’s pinkish cheeks.

“I didn’t know there were things Young Master Law was shy about.”

Henry gasped back in horror when he heard Jasper tease him, “Can you be a bit more serious here? I’ve been thinking about it and you’re the only one who can help me.”

Jasper’s curiosity piqued as looked at Henry and asked, “Go on, then. What is it?”

Henry scratched his head. Then, as if he had suddenly decided on something, he told Jasper fiercely, “You have to promise me first that you won’t mock me for this. And you can’t hold this over me or tell anyone. Including my dad and Anna.”

Jasper replied lightheadedly, “Okay, okay, I got it. Now are you going to tell me or not?”

Jasper then twisted open a bottle of Coca-cola for himself and took a few gulps.

Henry scratched his cheek bashfully and explained, letting go of all his inhibitions, “It’s just, f*ck, if nothing goes wrong, I’m dating someone!”

Pfft!

Jasper sprayed Coca-cola all over Henry's face.

Life at the Top Chapter 999

Henry's wife would one day be the famous Queen of Diving.

This was something everyone in the country knew about.

However, Jasper was uncertain if this girl Henry seemed so reluctant and bashful to talk about now was the same Queen of Diving in his past life.

After all, even if Jasper was going off the memory from his past life, Jasper and Henry's statuses were miles apart, and he only knew what gossip articles wrote about. Jasper had no idea if Henry had any girlfriends before the Queen of Diving.

By 'girlfriends', Jasper was referring to serious relationships. As far as Jasper and Henry were concerned, women Henry had been with before this were nothing other than sex-buddies.

Still, from the way Henry was acting now, Jasper realized that Henry had truly fallen for this girl.

Jasper immediately felt a headache coming.

Zachary had made it clear that children from rich families like Henry were destined to inherit the family business, meaning the Law family would play a huge part in Henry's marriage. The man in question did not have any particular opinions of this back then.

However, this was mainly because he had not found anyone yet.

It was a different story now.

Jasper did not really know how Henry had ended up with the Queen of Diving his past life, but she was well known in the sports industry, which the Law family had coincidentally shifted their focus to and began investing more in. Therefore, their getting-together was not totally unprompted.

Even so, Jasper was intrigued by this girl that had captured Henry's heart.

"What's her name? Where is she? Do you have pictures?"

Jasper's three consecutive questions had Young Master Law feeling embarrassed.

"Can you not gossip as much as the paparazzi?" Henry asked irritably.

"Sure, I won't ask then. You deal with this yourself, I promise I won't ask at all," Jasper spoke uncaringly.

Henry suppressed his embarrassment and ignored the Coca-cola on his face when he heard Jasper. He quickly leaned over and said, "No, I can't decide on my own. I still need your help."

Jasper chuckled and replied, "Then why are you complaining about me asking these question? I've got to at least know the specifics of this girl if I'm to advise you, right? How else am I supposed to help you?"

"Help me plan. You know how difficult dating is for me, right? Considering my identity and status, I've got to at least confirm that she's not just with me because of my family," Henry stated genuinely.

"Not bad, you've actually thought this through," Jasper praised.

"Her name's Jill Cobb. She's on the National Diving Team."

Jasper's eyes widened when he heard Henry. He could not help but marvel at the habits of fate.

After everything that had happened, Henry still met the Queen of Diving in this lifetime.

This was a good thing. Their successful relationship in Jasper's past life meant that Henry was less likely have his heart broken now.

"What's with that expression? She's a first-grade diver, not some prostitute, okay?" Henry defended in displeasure.

Jasper smiled. "It's not that, I'm just very curious. How'd you even fall for someone in the Diving Team... I thought you've been Nauritus City all this while? The National Diving Team should be far away in Swallow Capital, no?"

"She just got back from a competition in Australia, and she happens to be instructing for Southeast Province Diving Team right now."

Henry looked rather embarrassed. "It was by pure chance that we met, and we've only seen each other a few times. I can't really tell why, but I like her a lot."

"Let's go look for her, then," Jasper urged.

"Should we? She might be busy..." Henry's desire to do this was written all over his face, but the man also looked hesitant.

Jasper felt emotional at Henry's behavior. 'Even the fearless Young Master Law can be sensitive.'

"Well, we won't know unless we look for her. Come on, let's go together. I'll help you take a look and see whether she's right for you or not."

Jasper got up and dragged Henry out of the office.

However, he went to look for Wendy before they left.

“I’m going out for a bit. Postpone the meeting with Wayne and Jose to later tonight—I’ll buy them dinner instead.”

Jasper then left a confused Wendy standing there while he dragged a blushing Henry out like an overgrown child.

“What the hell are those two doing?” Wendy was confused.

...

The Southeast Province Diving Team was training at the Provincial Sports Center. It was a short distance from Southface River, and took less than twenty minutes by car.

Henry was suddenly terrified when Jasper dragged him to the entrance of the Diving Center.

“F*ck maybe we shouldn’t just go in there. We’ve only just met, so this is really inappropriate,” Henry said as he fought back against Jasper and refused to let him go inside.

“Don’t tell me you haven’t confirmed your relationship with her,” Jasper gasped.

“Confirm what?” Henry tried to mask his guilt and embarrassment by acting tough. “We’ve only met twice and exchanged less than ten sentences. What the hell am I supposed to confirm?”

“Didn’t you tell me all you had to do was use money and luxury items to get women in bed?” Jasper joked.

“F*ck you, how’s that the same?” Henry glared at Jasper harshly and spoke, “You better not blow my cover. I told her I’m a high school teacher.”

“What bullsh*t teacher? With the way you act, she’s got to be crazy to believe that you’re a teacher,” Jasper was filled with joy.

“F*ck you. I’m not going to talk to you anymore if you keep laughing at me!” Henry growled angrily.

“Okay, okay, I’ll stop. Come on, we’re just going to look. It doesn’t have to mean anything,” Jasper replied, ignoring how Henry was still hesitant and unwilling as he pushed the doors open and entered the facility.

“Hi, could I ask where Jill is?” Jasper stopped a female diver who was about to go to practice and asked.

The female diver looked at Jasper weirdly before she pointed at another building and spoke, “Drinking coffee in the lounge with Mr. Kain.”

“Thank you.”

Jasper thank her and then dragged Henry over.

They arrived at the other building and realized that these secondary buildings were all offices. Most of them were occupied by proper businesses except for the ones occupied by the Sports Center and Sports Team, with just a few exceptions.

There was an office for the manager of a training team, which was an externally-sourced private company. The manager oversaw the sourcing investors to sponsor the sports team.

They arrived at the lounge and Jasper was about to knock on the door when he heard a man shouting inside.

“Jill Cobb! Don’t you dare think you’re some sh*t now just because you’ve gotten into the national team and you’ve won a few medals! Do not forget that I was the one who brought you to where you are today. So what if you’ve got a few good records? You’d still be nothing without me!

“All I did was request something small and you can’t even fulfill it. You’re getting brave now, are you? Think you can disrespect me now, huh?”

Life at the Top Chapter 1000

Henry's expression darkened when he heard the harsh scolding and he raised his arm to barge into the room.

"What are you doing?" Jasper immediately pulled Henry back.

"What else? I'm going in to punch the f*cker that scolded Jill," Henry replied.

"You won't be able to help her if you go in now. If anything, you'll end up causing her more trouble. You want her to like you, right? Then calm down so we can understand what's going on," Jasper told Henry.

Henry had no other choice but to push aside the distaste he felt as he stood by the door and listened with Jasper in silence.

Just then, a young woman's voice was heard from inside the lounge.

"Mr. Kain, you're asking too much of me. Where am I supposed to help you find a 2 million Somer Dollar sponsor?"

Jill sounded exasperated and indignant.

Mr. Kain harrumphed and said, "There are tons of methods, it just depends on whether you're sincerely willing to help me or not."

"Go on, then, Mr. Kain. How can we get our hands on a sponsor for 2 million Somer Dollars?" Jill asked.

"Haha. Oh, Jill," Mr. Kain's tone shifted into something more amorous and frivolous.

“When it comes to international diving, you’re the youngest athlete and the one with the best results. What’s even better, is that you’re also the prettiest one out of them all.

“There are many large enterprise owners who are interested in you. Say the owner of Nauritus City’s Byron Group, Byron Woolery, for example. He’s very interested in you.

“He promised that as long as you’re willing to eat dinner with him and spend the night, then he’d sponsor us for 500 thousand right away. Isn’t that simple?”

“With your fame, all we have to do is find three more owners like Byron and we’ll have 2 million. There can’t possibly be anything easier in the world.”

Henry was close to combusting from his anger outside the lounge after he heard Mr. Kain’s suggestion.

‘As if the woman I fell for is only worth 500 thousand!

‘And she has to sleep with four men for a sponsor of 2 million?!’

At that moment, Jill’s voice sounded from inside the room.

“Mr. Kain! I can’t believe how abominable you are!”

Jill’s tone was filled with shock, fury, and disappointment.

“Yes, you were the one who brought me to where I am today. But who are you to request such things from me just for sponsors? You know what kind of person I am. I might as well kill myself if I have to do these things!”

Jill’s words angered Mr. Kain, and the man fired back angrily, “So die, then!”

“Have you no understanding of the industry? There’s nothing uncommon about this—you’re the only one acting like a snowflake here! Who’re you acting so pure and innocent for? How am I supposed to take care of you athletes without sponsors, huh?”

On the other side of the door, Jasper saw how Henry was brimming with the urge to barge in and quickly held him back.

“F*cking hell, the woman I like is about to change occupations to work in public relations if I don’t go in!” Henry growled.

“You told her you’re a high school teacher. Say you go in now and beat her manager up, then what? You’re telling me a high school teacher has the guts to do that? Or are you going to tell her you lied and you’re actually the Law family’s only son?”

Jasper said to Henry sternly.

The agitated expression on Henry’s face froze, and a moment later, he asked, “So what do you have in mind?”

“Leave this to me, and try not to show yourself for now.”

Jasper continued sternly, “Since you created an alias at the very beginning, don’t expose yourself until the correct moment or you’ll end up making a stupid mistake. If that happens, then she’ll stop talking to you completely and you’ll lose everything.”

Life at the Top Chapter 1001

Henry clenched his jaw and spoke, "Fine, we'll follow your plan. But I want to give this f*cking manager a piece of my mind!"

"Don't worry."

Jasper patted Henry on the shoulder and raised his hand to push open the lounge's door.

His sudden entry interrupted Mr. Kain and Jill's argument.

The two of them looked at him at the same time.

Jasper met Jill's gaze.

Jasper was no stranger to Jill, of course.

However, this was the first time Jasper had seen her in person. In comparison to the mature and experienced Jill he had seen in media in his past life, the one before him looked rather refreshing and young.

Her features were average, but she exuded an aura not found in ordinary girls.

Perhaps Jill's unique confidence and calmness had something to do with her long-standing relationship with sports, as well as her ability to maintain her title as champion of women's diving for years.

This quality of hers might just be why Henry had fallen for her in the first place.

After all, most of Henry's sex buddies had appearances and figures much better than Jill's.

Even so, Henry married Jill, not those beautiful and alluring women.

"Who are you?"

Frowning, Mr. Kain interrupted Jasper's thoughts.

"I'm Jill's friend."

Jasper gave Jill a look to tell her not to expose him before he replied Mr. Kain calmly.

Mr. Kain frowned and looked at Jill suspiciously.

Jill had been in Swallow Capital with the National Diving Team the entire time. He did not know of any friends she had in Nauritus City.

Jill did not know what Jasper's intentions were, but his presence had at least soothed the tense atmosphere between her and Mr. Kain. Therefore, she told Mr. Kain, "He is my friend."

Mr. Kain harrumphed and replied, "Jill and I are talking about something important here. She doesn't have time for nonsense with random people like you."

Jasper smiled and replied, "But I'm not someone random. I heard you say you need a sponsor for 2 million Dollars, Mr. Kain."

Mr. Kain laughed and pointed at Jasper, "Look at the way you dress. I'm pretty sure your entire outfit costs less than 200 bucks. How am I supposed to believe that you can sponsor us that much?"

“I can.” Jasper gave Mr. Kain confirmation.

While Jasper’s wealth could not rival a country’s yet, it could certainly rival a city. The people in Jasper’s network were all extremely formidable, and he himself had grown much more sophisticated than before.

Mr. Kain muttered internally when he heard Jasper’s certain reply. ‘No way, unless I somehow met a low-profiled wealthy man with a penchant for acting weak to catch people off-guard...’

With that, Mr. Kain’s expression softened slightly. “Oh? If you’re able to sponsor that amount, then my doors will always be open to you.”

“Your doors will always be open to me? What for? Am I suppose to pick a few girls from your training team to eat and sleep with, Mr. Kain?”

“If that’s the case, then 2 million is way too much. I can have a few celebrities for that price,” Jasper spoke calmly.

Mr. Kain flushed when he heard this, and the man became enraged.

Life at the Top Chapter 1002

Mr. Kain looked at Jasper darkly and roared, "What are you implying here?!"

"I'm sure you understand what I'm implying, Mr. Kain. As a manager, you're supposed to be both the elder and shelter for your athletes.

"You should be doing everything you can to provide a safe training environment, but what are you doing now, procuring? Should I call you madam or a pimp?"

Jasper's words had Jill suppressing her laughter amidst her shock.

However, she immediately realized how inappropriate it was and covered her mouth.

Mr. Kain did not have the mind to care about Jill's reaction as he roared at Jasper in mortification.

"I don't care who you are! You're not welcome here, so get lost right now! Otherwise, I'll call security to chase you out!"

"Chase me out?" Jasper chuckled and spoke to Mr. Kain calmly, "I'm sure many people will be interested in what I heard just now. Say, Secretary Lee of the Nauritus City Government, for example?"

Mr. Kain laughed out loud and pointed at Jasper in disdain, "Who do you think you are? As if someone as important as Secretary Lee will spare you the time of day."

"Whether or not he spares me any time is for me to worry about. But are you willing to take that risk, Mr. Kain?"

Jasper's words caused Mr. Kain's expression to darken greatly.

His eyes flickered as he looked at Jasper. It seemed like he was weighing his options.

After all, Jasper's appearance had been too sudden and strange, while Mr. Kain had no leads as to who Jasper was at all.

Should the man genuinely be acquainted with Secretary Lee, then everything he had said and done earlier was enough to keep him behind bars for at least a decade.

Mr. Kain hesitated.

"What do you want?" Mr. Kain demanded in a low voice.

"I already told you. Jill is my friend, and she's also an athlete on the national team. Keep your disgusting hands to yourself," Jasper spoke calmly.

Mr. Kain scoffed and refuted, "And here I was wondering what you're going to do. In truth, you're just here to play the knight in shining armor.

"Take a look at yourself before you start trying to win girls over, brat. I might be wary of you if you're threatening me, but can you even protect Jill? You'll only get yourself killed!

"Jill's someone Mr. Byron Woolery from the Byron Group requested personally. Go fight him if you think you're so capable!"

Mr. Kain looked at Jasper with disdain and spat impolitely.

Jasper arched a brow.

He had heard of the Byron Group, which were a large company in Nauritus City.

To be considered a group during such times spoke volumes of how strong this company was.

Unlike 20 years in the future, where conglomerates and groups could be seen everywhere. By then, anybody could gather a few shell companies to form a hollow group.

Jasper had also heard of Byron Woolery. Byron was one of Dawson's main competitors for the title of richest man in the province before JW Capital was established.

However, Byron tended to be rather low-profile, and the man had a mysterious past. Not to mention that he was involved in the high-tech industry.

All this made him not an easy person to deal with.

Mr. Kain grew more prideful at Jasper's frown. "Are you afraid now? Do you even know who Mr. Woolery is? He doesn't even need to do anything to crush you! I'd get lost now if I were you!

"Or I'll call Mr. Woolery and tell him that you're standing between him and the woman he likes. By then, haha, you'll be dead before you even know it!"

Jill was terrified when she heard Mr. Kain.

She did not know who this Mr. Woolery of the Byron Group was, but Mr. Kain's prideful and fearless behavior told her that Mr. Woolery was someone she could not afford to offend.

She looked at Jasper pleadingly, "Please, bring me away. I'll go back to Swallow Capital right now."

Jasper had yet to say anything when Mr. Kain interrupted him. "As if he'd dare! He has nowhere to run to! Mr. Woolery will be able to dig his entire ancestry up

and kill his family the moment he dares bring you out the doors of the Provincial Team!”

Jill’s complexion paled further.

She and Jasper were strangers. While she had no idea why Jasper had come to help her, the man would surely give her up to save himself in the face of such a strong opponent.

‘So I really have to meet with that Mr. Woolery?’

Jill bit her lip. Despair washed over her face.

“So you’re going to bully someone because you have another party’s support?” Jasper looked at Mr. Kain and asked.

Mr. Kain was enraged. “What did you say? Do you want to f*cking die?”

Jasper chuckled and turned to Jill. “Come on, I’ll bring you away. I’d like to see if this Mr. Woolery is as powerful as Mr. Kain claims.”

Jill looked at Jasper in shock and said instinctively, “But what if they take revenge on you...”

“No ‘but’s,” Jasper smiled, “Someone asked me to help, so just follow me.”

Jill wracked her brain but could not come up with anyone she knew that could ask for Jasper’s help. Even so, she bit her lip and nodded.

Jasper’s presence was mysterious, but Jill would rather trust Jasper than stay and be forced to sleep with someone she did not even know.

Mr. Kain was furious when he saw how Jasper still dared to bring Jill away.

He was also terrified.

Mr. Woolery had asked for Jill, and he had sworn and promised to bring Jill over to Mr. Woolery tonight. He would be screwed if he went back on his words now.

“Don’t move!” Mr. Kain shouted.

Jasper ignored him and brought Jill downstairs.

Once they reached the lobby downstairs, Jasper realized that the lobby doors were closed and a few bodyguards were staring him down.

Jasper frowned slightly.

At that moment, they heard Mr. Kain’s quick footsteps behind them.

He waved his phone proudly and said, “You two are dead. Mr. Woolery already knows about this and he’s on the way over. Just wait until he comes—you’re as good as dead! Hahaha!”

Mr. Kain’s arrogance and glee were interrupted by a black figure that rushed over and kicked him in the small of his back. With a pitiful shout, Mr. Kain flew a few meters away.

“Stupid f*cker!”

Henry straightened his clothes and scolded harshly.

Life at the Top Chapter 1003

Henry had almost broken Mr. Kain's back with the kick.

Placing a hand over his lower back, Mr. Kain laid on the floor and moaned in agony.

The kick would have almost cost Mr. Kain his life had he not been an athlete in his younger years and trained his body.

After catching his breath, Mr. Kain was enraged and he shouted at Henry. "Who the f*ck do you think you are? How dare you hit me! Security! Where's the security?!"

A few security guards quickly ran over but they did not dare to move rashly when they saw the fierce look on Henry's face.

Who were they kidding? The guards here were just normal people earning a monthly salary of a few hundred bucks. They did not need to risk their lives with someone troublesome like Henry.

Not to mention, Mr. Kain's reputation in the Sports Center was horrible and many people had a bone to pick with him. Therefore, not every security guard felt the need to protect him.

"The f*ck are you screaming about?" Henry was enraged and about to kick him again when he suddenly remembered that Jill was present. As far as she was concerned, he was supposed to be a middle school teacher!

A high school teacher was supposed to be gentlemanly and soft-spoken. They did not hit others so brashly!

Henry wracked his brain trying to recall the aura and speech pattern his teachers used to have. Then, he turned his head to smile brightly and harmlessly at Jill, who was extremely shocked.

“Hi, hello. We meet again.”

Jasper was close to vomiting at Henry’s bashful and childlike behavior.

This man could get an Oscar with his performance.

“Why, why are you here?” Jill gasped.

“I was in the area, so I thought I’d come and look for you,” Henry scratched his head and spoke.

Jill smiled wryly and replied, “I’m in quite a bit of trouble now, you should leave—for your sake.”

Despite already knowing the answer, Henry feigned ignorance and asked, “What trouble?”

A second later, Henry immediately continued in a serious tone, “We’re friends, aren’t we? So how can I just leave when you’re in trouble? Don’t worry, I’ll definitely help you!”

“You can’t help me with this.”

Jill sighed and spoke. ‘There’s no way you can help me when you’re just a normal high school teacher.’

Henry was close to exposing himself and telling Jill that he was the young master of Harbor City’s most formidable family. His dad, her future father-in-law, was Zachary Law, and his grandfather was Tom Law. They did not fear any other family within Somerland.

Even so, those thoughts came out as, “But I’m still willing to weather it with you.”

“...” Jasper shook his head and sighed. He felt incredibly awkward standing there.

While Jill looked at Henry confusedly. At the very least, she did not chase him off anymore.

The current situation was extremely complicated.

Seeing how Henry and Jill were busy flirting in front of him, Mr. Kain roared once he managed to get to his feet with great difficulty after being helped up by two security guards.

“Just you wait! I’ll make sure both of you die a horrible death once Mr. Woolery gets here! You b*tch and b*stard!”

Kain then snickered at Henry and taunted, “You f*cking like Jill, don’t you?”

“I might as well tell you then that Mr. Woolery already has his eyes on Jill! You’ll be dead before you know it for trying to steal his woman!”

“You’re going to have to watch as Mr. Woolery brings Jill away. I’ll make you suffer slowly when that happens! You’ll pay for kicking me, just you f*cking wait!”

Henry Law.

There was hardly a day that went by in which he did not offend others.

Therefore, when Mr. Kain pointed at Henry and shouted, every word he uttered was a test of the latter’s patience.

With his back facing Jill, Henry’s expression was exceptionally sinister.

This was an aura he had accumulated from being the most formidable trust-fund child for the past twenty years. It was ruthless and overpowering, but also effective.

Mr. Kain's smile slowly faded. Henry might not have said anything because Jill was present, but his expression was enough to have Mr. Kain suck in a cold breath. Mr. Kain felt an inexplicable sense of danger and instantly stopped provoking Henry.

'Whatever. You trash are going to die once Mr. Woolery comes anyway!'

When he thought of this, Mr. Kain suddenly felt much happier and his hip stopped hurting so badly.

Jasper took in the scene before him and pulled out his phone to send Secretary Lee a message.

Regardless of who Byron was, this Mr. Kain had already broken the law. Dealing with these people personally would only dirty Jasper's hands. However, Secretary Lee was the perfect person for the job.

Secretary Lee was currently reporting his findings in the City Government's office.

"Chief, so these are our work arrangements for the time being. It's mainly thanks to the development of the Southface River which boosted Nauritus City's notability within the country.

"The bureau's been receiving countless calls from other sister cities to come and visit," Secretary Lee spoke with unconcealable glee.

The municipal official laughed out loud and spoke. He was in a great mood too. "Very good. Nauritus City has indeed produced a highly promising project. Even the higher-ups have praised it.

“They also brought it up during the meeting I attended with the provincial official in Swallow Capital. The provincial official and I were very proud when they called it a positive example worth learning from.”

Secretary Lee was about to reply when his phone vibrated.

He frowned slightly. As a secretary, he had his phone set to silent when he was reporting to the chief. Only special incoming phone calls and messages would get through.

This meant that any notification he received was of great importance.

Hence, he did not hesitate to pull his phone out in front of Nauritus City’s Municipal Official.

Reading the contents, Secretary Lee’s expression darkened.

“What is it?” Nauritus City’s Municipal Official asked.

“Look at this, Chief.” Secretary Lee handed his phone over.

The Nauritus City municipal official took a glance at the screen and his expression immediately hardened.

“This is nonsense!”

Nauritus City’s Municipal Official slammed his hand on his desk and roared, “How could such things happen in Nauritus City? Put everything else on hold first, Secretary Lee. See that this matter is resolved!”

“These people are getting bolder by the day! I want each and every one of them investigated! Strictly!”

“Yes, Chief. I’ll get to it right away,” Secretary Lee quickly acknowledged the order, sensing the chief’s anger.

At the same time, Byron was also extremely pissed as he sped toward the Provincial Sports Center.

“F*cking hell. I’m going to catch that troublesome b*stard and teach him a lesson! Jill’s supposed to be my gift to Mr. Welch! I’m going to kill everyone that gets in my way!”

Byron muttered to himself sinisterly in the back seat of the Benz.

Life at the Top Chapter 1004

Soon after, Byron arrived at the building beside the Provincial Team's training center. The two parties were still fighting when he arrived.

Byron's arrival was akin to the messiah's for Mr. Kain.

"You're finally here, Mr. Woolery!"

Mr. Kain quickly ran to greet him and pointed at Jasper. "This is the one. I was just discussing with Jill about joining you for dinner tonight when this b*stard interrupted us, Mr. Woolery. She was about to say yes too."

Jill immediately refuted him, "You're lying! I never agreed to your request at all!"

Mr. Kain's expression darkened and he chided, "Shut up. You are in no position to speak here!"

"Haha..."

Byron had an arrogant expression on his face. Without sparing Jill a look, he made a beeline to Jasper and spoke sinisterly, "My name's Byron Woolery. You don't look familiar, so do remind me how I've offended you to the point that you have to meddle in my affairs?"

"We've never met before. There's no offense to speak of," Jasper replied calmly.

"Ah, that's fair. Now that I think about it, we really haven't met before," Byron chuckled in enlightenment.

His expression was warm and there was no sign of anger or resentment.

Yet, the moment he finished speaking, Byron seemed to have changed into a completely different person. The smile on his face vanished, leaving only ruthlessness and a sinister frost. He roared at Jasper, "Then who gave you the right to interrupt my business?!"

The roar gave everyone present a shock.

Byron drilled his gaze into Jasper as if trying to pierce through the latter with his frigid and fierce eyes.

Mr. Kain was absolutely elated by the side. He peered at Jasper pridefully and felt the urge to stomp all over Jasper at that moment.

Despite this, Jasper remained unfazed as he looked at Byron indifferently, "This matter involves Jill. Naturally, I'll have to step in."

"Hahahaha!"

Byron laughed out loud and raised his hand to point at Jasper's nose. "Take a look at yourself first before you talk and act out, young man. There are things beyond your control.

"Be careful, or you'll end up getting yourself in trouble too instead of solving what you set out to do."

"How do you plan to get me in trouble, Mr. Woolery?" Jasper asked Byron with a smile.

"You really aren't afraid of dying, are you?" Byron narrowed his eyes and sneered at Jasper.

"Go ahead, then. Tell me your name and what your family does. I'd like to see what family brought up such an insolent child as you."

Jasper was a man in his early twenties. As far as Byron was concerned, this young man was only acting arrogant because his family had power.

Not that Byron cared though. Sure, there were certain people this man could not afford to offend in Nauritus City, but this young man could not be one of them.

“My family are all normal people. I have no need to hide my name either, I’m Jasper Laine,” He introduced himself.

“Jasper Laine?”

Byron chuckled. Only to suddenly remember something as his expression instantly froze.

He looked Jasper over again.

There was a Jasper Laine among the people he could not afford to offend in Nauritus City. That man was young, and also in his early twenties.

Jasper was a renowned figure, known for his entrepreneurship and countless companies that were all formidable competitors in their respective industries.

Ordinary people might not know of Jasper, but Byron was technically a wealthy businessman and part of Nauritus City’s upper-class. Byron might not have met Jasper before, but he had certainly heard of the young man’s name.

Life at the Top Chapter 1005

Dawson's future son-in-law, the owner of JW Company, and the majority shareholder of the Southface River project.

Any one of the three identities was enough to terrify Byron.

"You said your name was Jasper Laine?" Byron narrowed his eyes and asked.

He could not believe that this insolent brat he happened to meet was actually someone so formidable.

This was too coincidental.

"I'm honored to know that you've heard of me, Mr. Woolery," Jasper said calmly.

Jasper's words confirmed Byron's guess.

The man's expression turned conflicted.

The situation was more complicated now.

A flurry of emotions crossed Byron's mind as he began to come up with a counter-strategy.

At that moment, Mr. Kain spoke with little idea of what was going on.

"Who cares if your name is Jasper or Jabber? So what if you're Jasper Laine? I've never heard of your name in Nauritus City before!

“Don’t waste time talking nonsense to nobodies like him, Mr. Woolery. Just beat them up and throw them out the door.”

Mr. Kain pointed at Henry next and spoke resentfully, “And this f*cker too! He kicked me just now! Mr. Woolery, you’ve got to do me justice! This matter can’t just end so simply!”

Henry sneered at Mr. Kain. If Jill was not here, Henry would have already slapped Mr. Kain in retaliation considering his temper.

“And who are you?” Byron looked at Henry and asked solemnly.

“Me? I’m from a family of Laws,” Henry grinned and told Byron.

Byron’s expression soured further.

Law was an uncommon surname in Nauritus City. Even then, only one Law family had any relations to Jasper—the same Law family that no one in Somerland could afford to offend.

Everyone in Nauritus City knew that Jasper was close with the third heir of the Law family, Henry. The two were essentially joined at the hip.

Hence, Byron did not even have to ask Henry to confirm his identity.

He was truly screwed now.

The last thing he expected when he sought out a woman for Mr. Welch was to end up offending Nauritus City’s most talked-about and powerful Jasper Laine, as well as Henry Law, the notorious trust-fund child.

Cold sweat beaded over Byron’s forehead as he sucked in a cold breath. Then, he turned around suddenly to slap Mr. Kain while the man continued to shout.

“You stupid b*stard! Would it kill you to f*cking shut up?!”

Mr. Kain was stunned by Byron’s slap and the scoldings that followed.

He was still dreaming about Mr. Woolery supporting him as he harshly humiliated the two insolent young men mere moments ago. Yet, here he was getting slapped and scolded in the next second.

“Mr... Mr. Woolery?” Mr. Kain cupped his burning cheek and shouted in disbelief as his lips quivered.

Byron glared at Mr. Kain before he turned around. Mr. Kain then watched in utter disbelief as Byron walked to Jasper with a polite and pleasant smile.

“My apologies, Mr. Laine. It didn’t occur to me that I’d meet the president of JW Company here. I’m sorry for my prior offense, please forgive me.”

Life at the Top Chapter 1006

Glancing at Byron's outstretched hands, Jasper did not move.

"How could a nobody like me be qualified to shake the majestic Mr. Woolery's hand?"

Byron's smile froze but he forced himself to continue as he spoke, "Mr. Laine, I already told you that it was a misunderstanding earlier. I didn't know who you were then."

"Mr. Woolery, what do the vile things you've done have anything to do with who I am?"

"Or perhaps you're telling me, that you'd have someone beat me up and throw me outside if not for my current identity."

Jasper stated.

Byron's smile slowly faded and he looked at Jasper calmly. "We're all just trying to make money here in Nauritus City, Mr. Laine. A mere woman isn't worth straining our relationship over."

"People say that Mr. Laine is an understanding and attentive young talent. I'm sure he wouldn't make such a stupid mistake, right?"

Jasper chuckled and replied, "This is more like it, Mr. Woolery. I already told you that Jill is my friend. Therefore, I'll openly interfere in this matter."

"What are you going to do about it?"

Byron scoffed. If Jasper was unwilling to give in, then he would let go of his inhibitions as well.

“Don’t act so arrogant, Jasper. You think you’re the king here in Nauritus City? It’ll be ages until that happens. Do you even know what I’m using Jill for?”

“She’s my gift to Mr. Welch! Haha, I’m afraid you aren’t even qualified enough to know who Mr. Welch is, right?”

Byron’s expression turned haughty, “In that case, let me tell you: Mr. Welch is the President of Softwin’s Somerland branch!

“Do you even know what kind of company Softwin is? It’s the biggest investment back in Sunrise Land! The JW Company you’re so proud of means nothing to them! It’s no more than an above-average ant to them!

“Offend Mr. Welch and you’ll end up suffering the rest of your career! That’s why I told you that there are things beyond your control!”

Jasper frowned slightly at Byron’s words.

He had not expected Echo to be involved in this as well.

Byron took Jasper’s frown as a show of fear and immediately laughed out loud.

“Good, you’re afraid. Word of advice, young man, the world is bigger than you think. Your JW has no more than slight local influence. You’re nothing once you leave this place!

“Be smart and I’ll be willing to go easy on you. I can treat you to a meal another day and we can still be friends.

“Be stupid and, haha, Mr. Welch’s fury is not something you can afford receive.”

Byron looked at Jasper and said casually, "I've already given you an option to back away, Jasper, so you better take it. You're the one that's going to suffer if you blow this out of proportion and make a fool out of everyone here. Do I make myself clear?"

"I'm familiar with Echo, he just left my office this morning," Jasper replied calmly.

Jasper ignored the change in Byron's expression and narrowed his eyes. He continued to speak, "Let me guess, Mr. Woolery. As the owner of a high-end navigation equipment enterprise, you want to do business in the Sunrise market. Correct?"

"And Softwin just so happens to be able to help you with this. Hence, you're willing to do anything to beg them, even if it means being their pimp and serving girls to him on a silver platter, yes?" Jasper questioned calmly.

Byron looked ashamed by what Jasper said. However, the latter was an experienced man, so he managed to regain his composure quickly. "Let's not talk about how your guess is complete bullsh*t yet, Jasper. In the first place, does my private life have anything to do with you?"

"You're right, Mr. Woolery. Your private life is not of my concern at all. Even so, out of everyone you could have targeted, Jill is the last person you should've set your eyes!"

Jasper's voice echoed by the staircases.

"Do you know who Jill is? She's a member of the national team! An outstanding athlete in Somerland's Sports field, a national hero!"

"How dare you even think of giving her to a Sunriser? Did you forget the painful history our ancestors suffered decades ago?"

"I wonder if you can afford the public's anger if word of your actions got out, Mr. Woolery?"

Byron was stunned. He could not refute him as he realized that Jasper had perfectly captured the harm of Byron's actions.

"Hmph! Sharp-tongued b*stard. I'll make you pay for this!"

Byron snapped as he turned to leave the scene of the crime.

He had just turned around when he saw Secretary Lee's car pull up at the entrance.

As a large entrepreneur in Nauritus City, Byron knew who Secretary Lee was.

His expression changed slightly and he looked at Jasper instinctively. He knew that Jasper was the one who had called Secretary Lee over.

Jasper looked at him meaningfully, and Byron felt his heart race frantically at the intent gaze.

Secretary Lee walked out of the car and swept his eyes over everyone present. His gaze fell on Byron for a short second before the man walked over to shake Jasper's hand. "We meet again, Mr. Laine."

Jasper smiled. "My apologies for troubling you over such a small issue, Secretary Lee."

Secretary Lee did not smile as he responded, "It pains and embarrasses me to know that something like this is happening."

Jasper pointed at a pale Mr. Kain not too far away and said, "The person in question is over there. You can question him yourself, Secretary Lee."

Secretary Lee walked over to Mr. Kain darkly and spoke, "I'm going to ask you just one question. Did you or did you not force the athletes under your management to do things they didn't want to?!"

Mr. Kain felt his legs go weak as he looked at Byron and pleaded with a wail, “Mr. Woolery, I only did it for you! Please save me!”

Byron’s expression changed as his plan to remove himself from the situation was instantly foiled. He roared, “What nonsense are you spouting? I don’t even know you!”

Mr. Kain’s paled.

He was about to argue when Jill stepped out.

“I can testify. Mr. Kain had forced me to go drinking with Byron just now. He told me that if I went, Byron would then sponsor us 500 thousand US Dollars!”

Both Mr. Kain and Byron looked devastated.

Secretary Lee glared at the two harshly before he smiled and turned to Jill. “Are you someone from their company, Miss?”

“No, I’m from the national team. Mr. Kain and I knew each other in the past, so he invited me to instruct in his company.”

The national team!

The corner of Secretary Lee’s eye twitched. At that moment, he felt the urge to slap Mr. Kain across the face. This b*stard had no limits at all.

Life at the Top Chapter 1007

“I’m sorry, I’m sorry, Jill. It’s my fault, I didn’t mean it. I was forced too!”

There was no trace of his former fierceness as Mr. Kain fell to his knees and begged.

“I was tempted, Byron promised to sponsor the provincial team 500 thousand and pay me another 200 thousand if I did as he asked. I only did it because I was tempted by money.

“Jill, please help me! Seeing as how I brought you to where you are today, help me put in a word! I don’t want to go to prison!”

Mr. Kain wailed. He saw how Jill’s expression hardened and she did not say anything, so he kneeled in front of Jasper next.

“Mr. Laine, Sir, Daddy, please! Please, I’m begging you! Please! I was blind, I was insolent! I shouldn’t have targeted your friend, but I really didn’t know any better!

“Please, please, just forgive me this once! I really don’t want to go to prison! I still have a wife and kids; I still have my parents to take care of! I can’t go to prison!”

Mr. Kain sounded pitiful as he begged, but no one sympathized with the man.

Sympathizing meant condoning his crimes and God knows how many girls had fallen victim to Mr. Kain before.

If Jill was not the first victim, then who would take justice for those girls? He simply could not be forgiven.

“Enough!”

Secretary Lee shouted and pointed at Mr. Kain, “There’s no point in begging anyone right now. You’ll face legal consequences for your actions!”

Secretary Lee then turned to Byron and spoke unkindly, “You’re one of Nauritus City’s celebrity entrepreneurs, Mr. Woolery. How could you do such a thing? Explain yourself!”

Byron’s complexion paled and he finally clenched his jaw to speak, “This has nothing to do with me. Don’t listen to Kain lie and frame me, I didn’t promise him anything. Nor did I tell him to bring girls to me.”

“Hah.” Henry could not hold back any longer. “I thought that Kain was shameless, but it did not cross my mind that you’d be even worse. That’s alright, though, because I came prepared.”

Henry then pulled out his phone and replayed an audio recording.

The contents of the recording conveyed exactly what Bryon had said earlier when he threatened Jasper.

The recording clearly indicated Byron’s role in the incident.

It also shed light on Echo Welch’s involvement.

Byron’s expression changed drastically when he heard the contents of the recording.

Secretary’s Lee’s gaze instantly darkened as well.

“Thank you for your trouble, Mr. Laine,” Secretary Lee spoke grimly.

“Quite a few people are involved in this since our victim’s a female athlete that brings pride to our country. This is a matter involving the national team and the Sunrisers.

“I just can’t bear to see our country’s future at stake. Sorry to trouble you, Secretary Lee. There’s still something I have to do, so I’ll be leaving first.”

Jasper then made a move to leave. Byron took a step forward to stop Jasper but was held back by the two men Secretary Lee had brought with him.

“Perhaps you should come back with me first, Mr. Woolery. Please cooperate as we investigate your matter,” Secretary Lee spat distastefully.

Byron raged, “What do you mean, ‘my matter’? Just because of a recording? What are you doing? Let me go!”

Ignoring Byron’s wails of protest, Jasper looked toward the sky and realized that it was getting late. He still had dinner with Wayne and Jose, so Jasper turned to ask Henry, “Where are you two going next?”

“Jill’s got to be terrified. I was thinking I’d book her into a hotel so she can get some rest for now,” Henry immediately replied.

“No!”

Jill seemed wary of Henry, but she also realized how her rejection might hurt Henry’s self-esteem and she quickly explained, “I have an aunt here in Nauritus City, so I’ll stay with her instead. I’m leaving for Swallow Capital tomorrow anyway.”

Henry sounded disappointed as he asked, “Tomorrow? Why so soon?”

“I only came to Nauritus City to pay back the favor I owed Mr. Kain, but I didn’t expect him to be like this. I should be going back now as I still have training tomorrow. I’ve got to prepare for the next competition,” Jill explained.

Henry's reluctance to let Jill go was written all over his face, but he did not have a good reason to ask her to stay either.

"Miss Cobb is going back because she has things to do. Of course, that'll take precedence. I thought you have training in Swallow Capital next week too, Henry? You'll get to meet her then."

At this moment, Jasper chimed in and gave Henry the perfect reason to look for Jill in Swallow Capital.

Henry's eyes shone and he nodded vigorously. "Yes, yes, I almost forgot! Thanks for reminding me."

"You two know each other?!" Jill asked, looking at the two suspiciously.

Henry's smile froze and frantically started thinking about how he should reply when Jasper smiled and did it for him. "I told you a friend asked me to help, right? That was Henry."

Jill tilted her head suspiciously. She was not a gullible person.

"But how did you know I was in trouble?"

"We didn't. Henry said he wanted to introduce a new friend to me, so he brought me over to look for you. We thought we'd invite you for a meal or something, but we didn't expect something like this to happen.

"Thank goodness nothing horrible happened."

There were no loopholes in Jasper's smile, tone, or statement. So while Jill did feel something was off about the excuse he offered, she could not pinpoint exactly what was wrong with it.

"Okay..." Jill nodded hesitantly as she reluctantly accepted the explanation.

“I’ll be going, then. You two have fun.” It was getting late and Jasper did not plan to disturb the duo, so he quickly waved and left.

Jill watched Jasper leave and turned to ask Henry curiously, “Is this friend of yours really rich and powerful?”

“He’s not too bad,” Henry replied casually.

“Didn’t you see how cool he was just now? You’re just a high school teacher, so how can you just say he’s ‘not too bad’? Sure, we shouldn’t look down on ourselves, but we have to admit it when other people are outstanding too, okay?” Jill said seriously.

Henry was about to reply when he suddenly thought of something. He asked warily, “You didn’t fall for him, did you?”

Jill glared at Henry and refuted, “What kind of nonsense is that?”

...

Life at the Top Chapter 1008

Jasper agreed to meet Wayne in the Imperial Kitchen.

The three were now much closer than when they had met for the first time, but there was still an invisible barrier between Jasper and the other two.

Jasper still had a smile on his face when he shook Wayne's hand. Then, he pulled out a complete set of Grimms' Fairy Tales.

"Both Volume 1 and 2. I know that you're a fan of fairytales, and that you've love Grimms' work a lot, Mr. Marlon. So I had someone find a complete set in Harbor City. I hope it's to your liking."

Wayne was surprised to receive such a gift.

"Thank you, Mr. Laine. I'll treasure this gift," Wayne put away the books happily.

The three then slipped into their seats.

Both Jasper and Wayne were well aware that this present was merely a conversation starter. No matter how valuable this gift was, it would hold no sway in their negotiation later.

Dinner began and instead of jumping straight to business negotiations, Jasper chatted aimlessly with Wayne and Jose.

Having lived five to six decades his past life and been through quite a lot in this timeline, Jasper was able to add his own two cents to any given topic. Wayne was also a talkative person, so coupled with Jose occasional comments, the atmosphere was harmonious as the three chatted.

After dinner was over, Jasper placed his cutlery down lightly.

At that moment, the two men who would one day become Somerland's most formidable figures in the dot-com industry could not help but place their cutlery down as well.

No matter what their future held, Jasper's current wealth and status were not something Wayne and Jose could compare to. Thus, it would be inappropriate if they continued to eat once Jasper stopped.

"Oh, right. Something interesting happened today."

Jasper retold the incident from that afternoon regarding Mr. Kain and Jill. After all, Echo, who was involved in the incident, was closely related to Abbylon.

Wayne frowned. The Softwin representative he was in contact with the most was, without a doubt, the President of the Somerland branch, Echo Welch.

He understood this man's character—He was extremely lecherous and had a fetish for Somer beauties.

Perhaps it had to do with his stunted height, but Echo loved long-legged beauties the most.

Wayne had received countless unreasonable requests from Echo before, and it had given him quite the few headaches. He just did not expect the man to set his eyes on Jill too.

Jasper saw Wayne and Jose's expressions change for the worse and knew that his plan had worked. Still, this story was just a conversation starter.

At the same time, it was also a catalyst to have Wayne choose him over Echo.

"Having said that, let's get straight to the main topic!"

Jasper smiled and said directly.

“I want to be Abbylon’s majority shareholder!”

Jasper finally started talking about his true goal. While Wayne and Jose had expected it, they still found it quite unbelievable.

Jasper was asking a bit too much.

He was taking this opportunity to crush Softwin’s Somerland branch’s influence and power.

“Mr. Laine, you know that they hold 41% of Abbylon’s shares. I’m afraid this is going to be very, very difficult.” Wayne smiled wryly.

Life at the Top Chapter 1009

“But 59% is still in your hands, no?” Jasper replied, having already expected such a reaction from Wayne.

Wayne and Jose exchanged a look as the latter replied, “Mr. Laine, I’m afraid forcefully suppressing Softwin with our shares will only result in an unrepairable discord between both parties. The slightest mistake and Abbylon will be over.”

Jasper got up and walked over to stand behind Wayne and Jose. He placed his hands on each of their shoulders and leaned down such that his head was between the two men.

“As long as we have the eighteen founders, as long as we have you two, Mr. Marlon and Mr. Salazar, then who cares if Abbylon falls? There can always be another company—another Abbylon. It’s a simple concept and I’m sure the both of you understand this.”

Wayne stared deeply at Jasper and asked solemnly, “What do you want, Mr. Laine?”

“Me?” Jasper chuckled and straightened himself to reply, “Hudson Moore from Terizone asked me a similar question back then. I told him that I wanted to turn Terizone into a mega-enterprise worth trillions on the market.”

“But now.” Jasper looked at Wayne. The man’s eyes shone with certainty and exceptional confidence.

“I can tell you that I plan to make Abbylon into the greatest and most respected enterprise out there. Its market value isn’t important because it’s going to be responsible for society in its entirety. It’ll soon change how society lives!”

Wayne shot to his feet when he heard Jasper.

He felt blood run hotly through his veins as his heart thumped erratically in his chest. Gushes of warm blood rushed to his brain as sweat began to bead on his forehead.

No one knew, nor had Wayne ever told anyone, that he had never founded Abbylon for the money. He just wanted to start a great enterprise that would change everyone's lives.

Making money just so happened to be an unavoidable path toward that goal.

He knew no one would believe him if he told this. In fact, doing so would only result in them mocking him.

Yet, on this day, he had finally felt it with Jasper.

The feeling of finding his soulmate who truly understood what he wanted.

Jasper looked at Wayne and continued grimly, "Mr. Marlon. Be it Softwin or any other capitalist investor, they'll only invest in Abbylon because they see your potential to make great profits in the future.

"But I'm different from them. What I see is a whole new world, one that we can create together!"

Blood rushed to his head and Wayne had almost instantly agreed out of sheer excitement. At that crucial moment, Jose's words poured over him like a bucket of cold water.

"Mr. Laine, Softwin has already invested more than 25 million US Dollars in Abbylon. Moreover, Myles has told us that he's willing to invest more as long as Abbylon requires it.

“If we were to kick Softwin out now, it won’t matter how exciting this future you speak of is. You’re still going to have to face Softwin, a formidable opponent.”

Jose’s words reeled Wayne back from his wishful thoughts. The man’s mind immediately steadied and cleared up.

Meanwhile, Jasper frowned slightly.

In all honesty, Jasper really wanted to have Julian come in and seal Jose’s mouth shut if he could.

Jasper’s partnership with Wayne would already have succeeded if not for Jose.

However, the man’s behavior showed how uniquely pragmatic he was. It was pointless trying to build a vision with him, for he only believed what he saw.

“Is 25 million a lot?”

Jasper answered calmly.

Life at the Top Chapter 1010

Jasper raised a hand to stop Jose as the latter tried to say something, and continued grandly, "In terms of investment, I won't give you any less than Softwin!

"At the same time, all I need is full support from Abbylon's shareholders to fight against Softwin. I'll do everything else. I'll invest in you and I'll do the legwork, while all you need to do is vote for me when the time comes."

Wayne and Jose exchanged a look before the latter told Jasper, "Mr. Laine, I hope you can give us sufficient reason to trust you by then.

"Otherwise, forgive us for choosing Softwin, who helped us in our time of need, instead of you."

Jasper smiled. "It's good to repay kindness with kindness. But if you know that the other party harbored bad intentions, then why repay evil with kindness?"

Jose frowned slightly. He rather disliked Jasper's forcefulness and had no recollection of Softwin's so-called bad intentions.

"Mr. Laine, please allow us to discuss this for another two days."

Jose then pulled Wayne away.

Jasper narrowed his gaze as he watched the duo leave intently...

In a hotel in Nauritus City.

Echo was currently pacing about in frustration.

Beside him, Yona looked pitiful and quite funny with bandages covering his nose.

“Is there still no news?” Echo stopped walking about to ask Yona.

Yona replied with a heavy grunt, “Not yet.”

“B*stard!” Echo cursed and said darkly, “First it was Abbylon Inc, with that Jasper jumping out to cause trouble, now we can’t even contact Byron! What is this Somer dog doing?”

“Does he not know I like that woman a lot? How dare he vanish on me now?”

Just then, Echo’s laptop on the table lit up.

Yona immediately went to check it and he told Echo, “Mr. Welch, Mr. Shon’s requesting for a video call.”

“Connect it.” Echo sat before the laptop solemnly while straightening his clothes. After this, a skinny and short old man appeared on the laptop’s screen.

“Mr. Shon,” Echo greeted Myles courteously.

Myles looked at Echo calmly through the laptop and said, “Echo, I heard that something happened to Abbylon? Why didn’t you report it to me?”

Echo’s palm shook slightly from where it hid under the camera as he internally cursed this old man for not trusting him; There had to be countless spies hidden by Echo’s side. Even so, the man replied politely.

“Mr. Shon, something did happen. Someone wants to invest in Abbylon and they’re asking for a very high percentage of the shares. Their investment will threaten our position in Abbylon.”

“Have you dealt with it yet?” Myles asked expressionlessly.

“I’m dealing with it now,” Echo replied with his head down.

“Incompetent!” Myles shouted and scolded.

“Yes, Mr. Shon! I’m sorry! I’m incompetent!” Echo replied frantically, not daring to argue at all.

“You know that I have an extremely bullish view on Abbylon’s future. There is no room for mistakes on this. Put every other task aside and focus on dealing with Abbylon.”

“Otherwise I’ll transfer you back into the country even if the Trider family begs me not to. Understood?”

“I understand, Mr. Shon. I’ll definitely give you satisfactory news as soon as I can.” Echo responded loudly.

“Good.” Myles nodded as his expression softened.

Then, he spoke in a light tone, “Echo, I know that you have a liking for Somer women. But this is a forgivable issue, so I will not interfere in this.

“However, you must understand that Softwin has their own interests to protect. I’m sure you know what will happen if I hear that you’ve interfered with Softwin’s interests because of something like that.”

Echo’s pupils contracted slightly as he tilted his head down to reply, “I know my limits, Mr. Shon.”

Myles gave Echo one last look before ending the call.

Echo let out a deep sigh once the screen turned black. At that moment, he touched his back only to realize that it had become completely drenched without his knowledge.

“Idiot!” Echo ground his teeth and scolded, “Myles has to have spies in the company. He knows everything we’ve done.”

Yona leaned over to Echo and asked, “Should I investigate, Mr. Welch?”

“Yes, but not now.” Echo’s gaze was horrifyingly dark.

“First we need to find out what happened with Byron. Then, we need the company to do everything it can to attack Jasper’s businesses. We don’t have time for investigations now.

“We can investigate we’re done with those two. I just need to find out who sold me out—getting rid of him will only evoke Myles’ suspicion.”

“You’re wise, Mr. Welch,” Yona praised impressively.

With a harrumph, Echo walked to the window. Looking down from where he stood, Echo could see the bright and bustling Southface River.

“Jasper truly is a talented man. This Southface Project would be an outstanding and advanced city-modernizing project even if it was built in Sunrise Land!

“But who cares?”

“Immediately redirect all of the investment bank’s powers in Somerland to launch a comprehensive attack on Jasper’s properties. Focus on his real estate projects. I want him to learn that he’ll only get one thing out of angering me.

“Death!”

...

Echo’s order was immediately relayed to Softwin Investments’ Somerland branch headquarters in Waterhoof City.

Life at the Top Chapter 1011

Today was an ordinary day for most people.

However, to Southeast Province's real estate industry, today was extremely happening.

This was because three of Southeast province's top five real estate companies had suddenly released statements right after the workday began, stating that they had initiated a partnership with Softwin.

Softwin had invested a total of 6 billion Somer Dollars into those three enterprises so they could develop Southeast Province's real estate industry.

The officially number one ranked real estate company in the Southeast Province was JW Real Estates.

With the Southface River project as their golden brand image, and a total of forty-six profitable construction projects within the province, JW Real Estates had proven their strength and position as the number one enterprise despite being founded less than a year ago.

Even so, Softwin had suddenly invested in the number two, three, and four real estate enterprises, avoiding JW altogether.

Everyone could tell what Softwin's goal was.

It was trying to use the strength of the three subsequent real estate companies to overturn JW Real Estates.

The news had sent shockwaves through Southeast Province's real estate industry.

Now, everyone was looking at JW Real Estates, waiting for them to react.

In Southface River Tower's office sat Jasper, who had immediately rushed over to the company once he heard the news. The man took a sip of scalding hot tea and closed his eyes.

He had spent most of the night awake, so he took what little time he had now to rest his eyes.

Dawson was also in the office, smoking a cigarette with a dark look on his face.

He glanced at Jasper and said, "How about you take a break and rest for a few hours? You won't be able to work peacefully even if you push on after staying awake for so long."

Jasper smiled. "How can I sleep when the enemy's already at our door?"

Sean, the President of the real estate group, was also in the office. The man's brows were tightly knitted together and he looked very concerned.

"Mr. Schuler, Mr. Laine, what do we do now?"

"This news puts us at a great disadvantage. Not to mention that the people from the company are feeling uneasy as well. I've received multiple calls from senior executives asking if JW Capital has any countermeasures in place."

Dawson frowned slightly and replied, "The other three real estate enterprises are long-standing businesses here in the Southeast Province. They're very strong.

"Our Southface River project may have caught them off guard, but their business hasn't been too affected, nor have they suffered too much thanks to the hype in the real estate industry.

“Softwin’s huge investment will turn out to be horrible news for us if Softwin suddenly instructs them to attack JW in the Southeast Province.”

Sean sighed and seemed to age a few years as he exhaled.

“The sudden rise of JW has already changed the face of Southeast Province’s entire real estate industry. Most long-standing enterprises before us were enraged by us, but they just did not say anything. We rose too quickly, and before they realized it, we accumulated strength on par with them.

“All they needed was an opportunity to deal with us and they would seize the opportunity. So, now that this investment bank Softwin has passed them a knife, they’re coming for us with or without Softwin’s instructions.”

Jasper opened his eyes and smiled. “You’re already stunted by this? I dare say that there will be more news coming soon. Softwin won’t stop at this if they’re trying to make a move.”

Dawson and Sean exchanged a look before turning to Jasper.

They were about to ask what he meant when the office doors were flung open. Wendy entered the room as if to prove Jasper’s claim.

“Fortress Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. just released a statement. Due to the influence of international markets, they’re going to initiate restricted sales for construction steel to the Southeast Province. Unless your company is whitelisted, you’ll have to line up with the rest to buy their materials.

“Our JW isn’t in their company’s released whitelist, but the other three real estate companies are.”

Sean was furious when he heard this. “They’re attacking our roots! This Softwin is just too vile! What benefits did Fortress Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. and Stellar Company even get from Softwin to oppress us so blatantly?

“We won’t be able to get our hands on high-grade steel like this, and our cost will increase greatly if we ship them in from outside. They’re rubbing salt into our wounds.”

Jasper spoke calmly, “If I’m right, raw material suppliers of all cement, piping, construction, silt, and the like would have also received the same instructions from Softwin.

“Either take benefits from Softwin and stop all partnerships with JW, or become Softwin’s enemy and be besieged by the industry.”

Even Dawson’s expression changed slightly when he heard that.

Even someone outside the industry knew that a real estate company would be destroyed instantly if they were cut off from their raw construction materials while staring down competitors.

“What do we do, Jasp?” Wendy asked worriedly.

Jasper lifted his head to rub his face and the drowsiness away. Now slightly more awake, he turned to Sean and asked, “What did you say just now?”

Sean was stunned for a moment before he replied instinctively, “I said Softwin was just too vile.”

“No, you said they’re attacking our roots.”

Jasper got up to fill his half-empty cup of tea with hot water and chuckled. “What we’ll do next can truly be considered as attacking their roots!

“Take a trip to Waterhoof City immediately, Sean. You have my authorization as the company representative to negotiate with Stellar Company. If they’re willing to partner with us, we’re willing to buy their materials at the best price. We’ll also promise a 40% increase in yearly purchase volume.

“As for the other suppliers we partner with, send each of them a notice under JW’s name to sign a three-year supply contract.

“Using the original contract as a baseline, tell them that JW promises a 30% increase from the previous year in purchase volume throughout the length of the contract. If they disagree, look for another supplier immediately.

“Businessmen throughout the world all share a common love of money. It won’t matter how strong Softwin is, because there’s no way they can monopolize all the raw material suppliers out there. If they do, anti-trust laws will go straight after them instead of us.”

Sean was unsettled by what he heard and could not help but ask, “Mr. Laine, will we be able to use up the materials in time?”

“I have faith in the country’s real estate industry. If anything, I’m afraid that what we’re promising now won’t be enough,” Jasper replied calmly, “Go, I don’t have time to answer your questions now.”

Sean shivered and stood to attention. “Yes, Mr. Laine.”

Then, he immediately left the room.

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Jasper walked over to the floor-to-ceiling windows in the office after Sean left. Watching the calm flow of the Southface River, he fell silent.

Wendy was about to speak when she saw Dawson shake his head slightly at her.

“He’s thinking. Leave him alone for a moment.”

Wendy nodded and looked at Jasper worriedly.

She knew that Jasper was the person under the most pressure within the company.

Sean, herself, and even her father were used to relying on Jasper and placing their hope in him most of the time. It was as if every problem could be easily solved Jasper was around.

However, as someone who was always by Jasper’s side, Wendy knew better than anyone that it was because Jasper spent countless nights thinking, weighing the potential outcomes, and revising the entire situation, that everything was ‘easily’ solved.

No one succeeded without putting in any effort.

After more than ten minutes of thought, Jasper suddenly spoke, “I can’t keep waiting.”

Dawson shared a look with his daughter, Wendy. They did not know what Jasper meant by this.

A moment later, Jasper had dialed a number.

“Mr. Marlon, it’s me, Jasper.”

“Mr. Laine, we were waiting for your news,” Wayne’s voice sounded from the other end of the line.

“How are your discussions going?” Jasper asked.

Wayne replied, “I need a promise from you, Mr. Laine.”

“I’ll make the promises I should, but I don’t have the time to let you discuss endlessly. Time is of the essence, and I’m sure both Abbylon and I are racing against it.

“I suggest you hold a shareholder meeting immediately. If you agree to vote for me, Mr. Marlon, then I will do everything I can to support Abbylon’s rise. But if you don’t agree...”

Jasper stopped speaking there, but they both understood what the consequences would be.

Wayne knew that with Jasper’s current status in the dot-com industry, either Sena or Terizone could easily replicate Abbylon’s model and surpass the latter.

The most tragic part of such an outcome was that Abbylon would be too weak to defend itself against them.

This was essentially Jasper’s ultimatum to them.

Wayne frowned slightly, but not because he was displeased by Jasper’s oppression.

No businessman could be polite forever. When necessary, they had to be daring and resolute in their negotiations.

In the future, Abbylon's development would similarly prove that Wayne was not a pushover or a cowardly businessman either.

On the contrary, Wayne was conflicted as to why Jasper was in such a rush.

After a moment of silence, Wayne asked, "Mr. Laine, I've also received news of Softwin targeting you. Are these two matters related?"

"Yes," Jasper affirmed calmly.

They were all intelligent people and Jasper did not need to deny such a thing. Doing so would only be disrespectful to Wayne and himself.

It was possible that Jasper's frankness had moved Wayne, or perhaps Wayne had another idea in mind. In any case, Wayne did not hesitate this time.

"Alright, we'll hold a meeting."

Jasper let out a long sigh at Wayne's words as his mood brightened as well.

He was willing to greatly offend Softwin for Abbylon's sake, and now that he had paid the price, Jasper was facing the risk of losing everything if he did not force Wayne to declare his stance.

This did not tally up with Jasper's traditional way of doing business.

Wayne was well aware that Softwin and JW were already attacking each other head-on, and he could not afford to be an undecided fence-sitter anymore. Now, Wayne had to make a choice.

His final choice was to bend to Jasper's will.

After all, Abbylon was a Somer business and Softwin was a Sunrise investment bank. However, even he could tell that no one dared to offend Jasper in Somerland's dot-com industry.

"Two-thirty this afternoon, Shangri-La Hotel's Conference Hall. I'll send someone over to book the place, so just arrive by then, Mr. Marlon."

"Alright," Wayne replied.

"But according to the regulations, I have to notify and invite Softwin's representatives as well They're a major shareholder, after all."

"Of course."

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“See you in the afternoon, then.”

With that, Jasper stretched and smiled at Dawson. “I’m going to rest for a while, Uncle Schuler. I’m dead tired.”

Dawson frowned and asked, “This won’t be the end of Softwin’s attacks. Are we not going to make more preparations?”

Jasper laughed out loud and replied, “I don’t think they’ll have the chance or time for that.”

...

“Mr. Welch, it’s a call from Wayne,” Yona told Echo.

Echo frowned slightly, “Why’s he calling now? Give me the phone.”

Echo took the phone and accepted it, speaking solemnly, “Echo speaking.”

“This is Wayne, Mr. Welch. We’re planning to hold a shareholder meeting this afternoon to clarify the issue of share proportions within the company.”

Echo narrowed his eyes when he heard this. A cold look flared in his eyes and he raised his voice, “Mr. Marlon, Abbylon Inc’s current shareholder structure is already very clear. I don’t think there’s any need to hold a shareholder meeting.”

Wayne replied, “This is mainly due to JW Capital wanting to invest in Abbylon.

“Whether we accept the investment, how much capital we’re accepting, and how we’re distributing the diluted shares must all be clearly discussed in a shareholder meeting. This complies with our company’s articles of association.”

“But I don’t have that kind of time now,” Echo spoke with a frown.

Wayne smiled and replied, “If you aren’t free to attend, Mr. Welch, then according to our company’s articles of association, we’ll have to accept Softwin’s absence as a choice to abstain from the vote.”

Echo harrumphed and replied, “So this is you standing on Jasper’s side, then?”

Wayne answered calmly, “My apologies, Mr. Welch. I’m just a businessman and I only have one wish, to make Abbylon stronger and bigger.

“Whoever manages to make my wish come true will be my friend.”

Echo felt extremely displeased by this.

It seemed like anyone or anything became difficult to deal with once Jasper was involved.

“Two-thirty this afternoon, in Nauritus City’s Shangri-La Hotel’s Conference Hall.”

Wayne then hung up the phone once he relayed the time and place.

Yona took in Echo’s dark expression and could not help but ask, “Mr. Welch, did something happen with Abbylon?”

“Wayne called, inviting us to attend the shareholder meeting in the afternoon,” Echo explained grimly.

Yona frowned as well. “A shareholder meeting at such a time? Not to mention that it’s so rushed too. Something feels wrong about this.”

Echo clenched his jaw and said, “Still, we have to attend no matter what. If my guess is right, Jasper will definitely be there.

“If we do not attend, the 41% of shares Softwin owns will be considered forfeit—in that case, we might as well be giving Abbylon to Jasper on a silver platter. The headquarters will not forgive us for that.”

At two p.m., in Nauritus City’s Shangri-La Hotel’s conference hall.

The large conference hall was empty except for the three people sitting inside.

Wayne, Jose, and Jasper.

“I remember that the eighteen founders each hold a percentage of the shares, yes?” Jasper asked.

Wayne nodded and replied, “They already gave me the right to vote for them before the meeting began.”

“Alright.”

Jasper nodded, unsurprised.

All of Abbylon’s shares were split into two major portions.

The 41% in Softwin’s hands, and the remaining 59% split between Wayne, the eighteen founders, and Jose.

However, both the eighteen founders and Jose listened to Wayne’s opinions, and the man held the final say in the group. Therefore, at the end of the day, the true majority shareholder was still Wayne.

As they conversed, the clock struck two-thirty.

It seemed purposeful when the doors of the conference hall were pushed open at exactly two-thirty.

Echo walked into the conference hall expressionlessly with Yona in tow.

Echo met Jasper's gaze. The two did not talk, but the air immediately grew tense.

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“So it really is your fault, Jasper,” Echo spoke, looking at the man coldly.

Jasper sat on his seat and replied calmly, without even looking up at Echo. “I don’t think I understand what you mean, Mr. Welch.

“How am I at fault?”

Echo scoffed. He did not want to waste any more time arguing with Jasper, so he turned to Wayne with a dark look in his eyes.

“Mr. Marlon, you claimed that this is Abbylon Inc’s shareholder meeting. So what is this irrelevant person doing here?”

By irrelevant person, Echo was obviously referring to Jasper.

“Mr. Welch, the most important agenda of today’s shareholder meeting is to discuss whether we should allow JW Capital to invest in Abbylon. Therefore, it is only right that he is present,” Wayne replied unfazed.

Echo scoffed and said, “Very well. Then according to your company’s articles of association, you should’ve sent a letter of notice to your shareholders three days before the meeting. Yet, you’ve only told me today. Aren’t you being too clear with your intentions?”

Wayne found Echo’s aggressive questioning distasteful and replied indifferently, “Perhaps you did not take a proper look at our company’s articles then, Mr. Welch. Should there be any special and urgent agendas, I have the right to hold a meeting immediately.”

Echo’s eyes shone with a frigid glare.

The two previous questions might have seemed like Echo was intentionally antagonizing Jasper and Wayne, but it was actually a method he used to test Wayne's stance on the issue.

Now that he had finished asking this, he had gotten his answer.

The situation was not in his favor.

Wayne himself was completely leaning toward Jasper, which was horrible news to Echo.

"Mr. Marlon, it was Mr. Shon from Softwin than invested in Abbylon when you needed funds the most. We were the ones who helped you then.

"But this is how you repay Softwin and Mr. Shon?!"

Wayne looked up at Echo and replied, "First of all, our deal is purely professional. Be it Softwin or Mr. Shon, your relationship with me and Abbylon goes no further than business partners. It's a relationship built on mutually benefiting off each other, so there's no need to make it sound so ostentatious.

"Secondly, once again from a professional perspective, I only have one goal. I'll make whatever choice that benefits Abbylon the most, and I'm sure Mr. Shon will understand this."

Echo sneered and replied, "How professional of you!

"Why are we the only ones here for a shareholder meeting? Where are the other shareholders?" Echo asked expressionlessly.

"The other shareholders have authorized me to vote on their behalf," Wayne replied.

The corner of Echo's lips twitched and he spoke expressionlessly, "If you've already written your scripts, then what's the point of asking me to come and act it out with you?"

"Mr. Welch."

Jose had no choice but to step up and speak upon seeing the atmosphere in the room turn tense. "No matter what, Softwin is still Abbylon's majority shareholder, so we still need to follow procedures for formalities sake."

"Ridiculous!"

Echo slammed his hand on the table and pointed at Jasper while barking, "You think I don't know what you're thinking?"

"What did you agree with him? What did he promise you, huh? Did you forget how Softwin helped you during your most difficult times? If so, why are you working with him to target Softwin?"

After this, Echo's sinister gaze fell on Jasper, and he chuckled.

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“You can’t even fend for yourself now, Jasper. I’m sure you’ve already seen Softwin’s strength. It’ll only take the wag of a finger for a huge capital like us to crush you, I don’t know how you even have the mood to hop around happily in front of me.”

“Are you referring to the problems JW Real Estate faced?” Jasper looked at Echo calmly. “To be absolutely honest, if that’s all the trouble Softwin can create, you’ve disappointed me.

“Softwin’s got to be more capable, right? Or there’s no way you’ll be able to crush me.”

“Hahaha!”

Echo laughed out loud and said to Jasper, “Stop pretending. You’re actually terrified, frantic, and angry, aren’t you?”

“You’re terrified that your real estate company will die from my siege, frantic because you haven’t found a way to counter it, and angry because I’m oppressing you with my power. You must be so aggrieved.”

Echo sneered, speaking as if he had seen through Jasper, “I must’ve read your mind, hmm?”

“Or perhaps this huge shareholder meeting is nothing more than your final counter. Perhaps you’re hoping to threaten me as one of Abbylon’s shareholders so that I’ll give up on the siege against JW Real Estates.”

Echo’s tone grew colder as he chortled. “Too bad, because that’s not going to happen!”

He turned his head and spoke to Wayne and Jose, “Don’t fall for his lies, both of you. The real estate company under his name is under my attack and it’ll only be a few months before it completely collapses.

“Just ask around outside and you’ll discover the truth. He won’t be able to last for much longer.

His competitors are closing in, and he is without any construction materials. What can he do? Demolish his own house to use his cement and rebar for construction?

“The only reason he’s persuaded you to hold such a shareholder meeting is because he wants to use this as a condition for me to stop the siege on his real estate company.

“You two are nothing more than a bargaining chip. How is he going to invest in your Abbylon when he can’t even protect himself?”

Echo’s voice echoed through the conference hall, causing Wayne to frown slightly. His gaze dimmed such that no one knew what he was thinking about.

Meanwhile, Jose frowned heavily.

As expected, Echo’s words had affected them greatly.

Jose silently leaned over to Wayne and whispered, “We have to be wary, Mr. Marlon.”

Wayne nodded in acknowledgment and turned to Jasper, “Is there anything you’d like to say, Mr. Laine?”

Jasper shrugged and spoke calmly, “You’d believe a madman’s clamor?”

“This is Abbylon Inc’s shareholder meeting. There shouldn’t be a need to raise issues irrelevant to Abbylon Inc here.”

“Regardless of whether JW Real Estates goes bankrupt or not has nothing to do with the nature of my investment in Abbylon.

“Therefore, I suggest that we spend less time talking and get to it. A shareholder meeting is a serious matter. All promises and resolutions made bear legal validity.

“If I said I want to buy shares, then I will buy shares.”

Jasper’s words had Echo bursting out in laughter. “You really are a stubborn mule, Jasper. Are you really not going to give up?”

Letting out a soft exhale, Wayne seemed to have made a decision and he spoke grimly. “In any case, the shareholder meeting starts now!

“For the first agenda, Mr. Jasper Laine will be representing JW Capital and attempting to buy Abbylon Inc’s shares. Mr. Jasper Laine, please describe your investment, as well as the percentage of shares your funds accounts for. If you could make an official statement, Mr. Jasper Laine?”

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Echo sneered at Jasper after Wayne finished speaking as if waiting for Jasper to make a fool out of himself.

Jasper's gaze was calm as he spoke without a script in his hand. "JW Capital intends to invest 1 billion Somer Dollars into Abbylon Inc, in return for 51% of Abbylon Inc's shares.

"That collection of shares comes with ownership and legal personality, meaning that if JW Capital successfully invests, it will also become Abbylon Inc's majority shareholder.

"However, JW Capital promises that it will not interfere in Abbylon Inc's day-to-day operations. JW Capital will only employ two permanent directors within Abbylon Inc and will only be involved in huge decisions.

"Moreover, JW Capital also promises not to interfere with Abbylon Inc's independence over their personnel. Hence, any changes or transfers in Abbylon Inc's internal personnel will be decided by Abbylon Inc's operating team.

"JW Capital will also have a one-vote veto or a one-vote pass for major issues regarding Abbylon Inc. Should Abbylon Inc decide to change its board of directors in the future, JW Capital will appoint the chairman of the board of directors. Abbylon Inc will have the freedom to decide everything else."

Jasper's words were simple and as everyone present was an elite in the business world, they all understood immediately.

This meant that the moment Abbylon accepted Jasper's investments, Jasper would then become Abbylon Inc's majority shareholder.

However, since Jasper would not interfere with Abbylon Inc's day-to-day operations, it meant that Abbylon had free reign to do whatever they wanted unless it was a major decision, which Jasper still had the final say on.

Wayne frowned when he heard Jasper say this.

He knew that a 1 billion investment and such favorable promises were rare and highly desirable for start-up companies.

However, he was slightly uncomfortable about the fact that Jasper still held the most important power in his hands.

To Wayne, it felt like there was a chain around his neck and he was at risk of being suffocated at anytime.

Jasper noticed Wayne's frown.

Thus, Jasper continued calmly, "In comparison to Softwin, Mr. Marlon, my conditions are already much more generous. I'm sure that you've investigated the other companies I've invested in as well.

"Up until now, I still harbor the utmost respect for the operations teams and I've never vetoed anything before. Rest assured that I will not interfere or disrupt Abbylon Inc in any way."

"Bullsh*t!"

Echo interrupted Jasper.

"Who're you lying to whilst trying to sound so dignified and ostentatious? You're investing 1 billion and not interfering with the business at all, but you left the position of highest authority to yourself. So what if you promise them this now? Who's to say what'll happen in the future?"

Echo stared at Jasper and sneered.

Jasper looked at Echo and replied, “So you mean to say that should invest 1 billion and then give up on all shareholder rights? If Softwin is also willing to do that, then I won’t fight you for Abbylon.”

Echo’s expression changed.

There were many investments where investors did not interfere in the company’s operations, like angel investments or commercial financing.

However, that did not mean the investors were just putting in their money and not caring about what happens afterward.

To protect their interests, investors would normally add many conditions to the investment contract to ensure that they had the right to kick out the operations team from the company at any given moment. To protect their authority, they would have the operations team become their employees such that they would not dare to overthrow them.

Investors would still guarantee their own interests first when it came to future financing, shares dilution, or even when it was time to sell the company.

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They did not care about what happens to the operations team.

As an international investment bank, Softwin Investments imposed very similar conditions.

“Mr. Welch, now that I think about it, Softwin Investment’s conditions are much harsher than JW Capital’s,” Wayne spoke.

Wayne’s words caused Echo’s expression to darken further.

“He’s just lying to you guys now, stupid. The moment the contract is signed and the most important rights go to him, you founders and the operations team will be under his control!”

Echo sneered. “Moreover, 1 billion? According to my investigation of JW Capital, Jasper’s company doesn’t even have that much cash.

“Sena had indeed given him a inflow of cash when it went public, but it was only enough to slightly relieve the risk of a capital chain rupture, There’s no way he can take 1 billion out in one go now!

“He’s scamming you!

“As I said, his goal is to use Abbylon’s shares to bargain with me. Just wait, he’ll start negotiating with me the moment you agree.

“I already know what he’s going to say. You want me to stop the attacks on your real estate company, don’t you, Jasper? And you’re going breach the contract and give up on investing in Abbylon, right?

Wayne's expression turned stern at Echo's words and he looked to Jasper. "Mr. Laine, while I'm unwilling to believe him, I'd like to ask you to give me some confidence in this matter. Otherwise, I won't be able to explain it to the others."

Echo's words were accusatory in nature, and even Wayne had to admit that these risks were real.

Abbylon Inc was too small, they could not afford to suffer such an incident.

He did not dare to imagine how his eighteen friends would sever ties with him if Echo was right. Even if they did not, Wayne would be too ashamed to meet them.

If Echo was right, it would mean that Wayne had been played like a fool.

Being made a fool was still the least of his issues. If Jasper's promise to invest in them was a lie, then the most important issue would be that Abbylon would have horribly offended Softwin. In this situation, Abbylon would have nothing to defend itself against Softwin's anger.

Abbylon was nothing more than an ant in comparison to Softwin.

Echo looked at Jasper and barked, "What bullsh*t confidence can he give you? He can't even pull 100 million out, let alone 1 billion. He might even have to sell his house and businesses just to pay you!

"Hahaha. But let's be real, if you want, you could always mortgage your property and take a loan from Softwin. I'll be sure to give you a relatively favorable interest rate. Hahaha.

"Maybe I'll cut 1 million from your interest with every bark, hmm? I'm sure a huge bunch of Somer descents would fight for such an opportunity, no?

As he stood under Wayne and Jose's burning gazes as well as Echo's mocking clamor, Jasper did not speak as he reached into his breast pocket.

Slowly, Jasper pulled out a small white rectangular card made of unique material from the inner pocket of his jacket.

The thin card was placed on the conference table before Jasper lifted his hand to push it toward Wayne.

“A ICBS’ cashier’s check. There’s a verified asset mark on it and a sum of exactly 1 billion. It is effective for three months, meaning anyone can go to any bank to withdraw 1 billion dollars.

“With ICBS’ verification as my guarantor, it means that 1 billion dollars has been temporarily frozen in my account as pay margin. Therefore, there’s no need to worry about this becoming a dishonored check.

“Will this inspire enough confidence?”

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The words 'ICBS Somerland' were written clearly on this small card made of unique material that prevented it from being forged.

ICBS Somerland's Waterhoof City branch was clearly stated as the payment bank.

This meant that this check was verified and filled out by the Waterhoof City branch.

On the most important column specifying the value were the numbers 1000000000.00 in Somer Dollars.

With the words One Billion Only written clearly next to it.

Besides the written words and Arabic numerals, the piece of paper also had the Waterhoof City branch's verified electronic seal signifying the authenticity of this slip of paper.

This small white paper carried wealth that dazzled people's eyes and caused their breathing to quicken.

Ordinary people could never accumulate such wealth in ten lifetimes.

This was the year 2000. According to the domestic exchange rate for gold, where 1 gram cost around 100 Somer Dollars, 1 billion would be equal to 10 thousand kilograms of gold!

It would not be wrong to describe this sum as a mountain of gold.

Even Wayne and Jose, who had much more money than ordinary people, felt the corner of their eyes twitch.

This was 1 billion.

With this amount, Abbylon would never have to worry about funding again. At the same time, accepting these funds would immediately turn Abbylon into a large enterprise within the country without them doing anything.

There were few enterprises in the country with more than 1 billion in funds.

Despite Wayne's personality and Jose's wealthy familial background, the two still felt their heartrate quicken as they looked at Jasper whilst sharing the same thought. 'Having money sure is f*cking great!'

Producing a 1 billion Somer Dollar check as if it was nothing.

Not to mention that it was verified too.

There was no refuting it.

This meant that Jasper had already anticipated Echo's accusation, and thus made preparations to counter it.

'You claim that I can't even save myself because you're holding a siege against my real estate company? That my investment company is short on cash and can't afford to buy any shares? That I'm trying to scam them?'

'Sure.

'Then I'll pull out a 1 billion bank-certified check that can't possibly be dishonored.

'What can you say now?'

Wayne finally understood why Jasper could be so calm in the face of Echo's provocations and clamor. From Jasper's point of view, Echo must have looked like a clown performing by himself. He was not worth explaining to at all.

This reestablished Wayne's understanding of Jasper's tricks, the complexity of his thoughts, and how strong the man was.

Jasper had already predicted every last detail of Echo's plan since the conference began and had prepared accordingly. There was just no winning against Jasper.

Wayne could not help but glance at Echo when he thought of this.

As expected, he saw a horrifyingly dark expression and the corner of the man's eyes twitching crazily.

The man did not seem to believe what he saw.

"No way!"

Echo suddenly roared.

He glared at Jasper and shouted, "How can you still have 1 billion?"

"This money, this check! Something's wrong with it!"

Both Wayne and Jose shook their heads slightly at Echo's claim. The man had lost his mind.

Jasper would never forge a 1 billion Somer Dollar check with a verification seal even if he was crazy. Such forgery would be punished with a lifetime in prison.

“I could plop a mountain of gold in front of people like you and you’d still claim that I dyed brinks to look like the real thing.” Jasper looked at Echo with a glint in his eyes that the latter did not understand.

It looked like... pity. The kind of pity a hunter would look at his prey that was caught in his trap with.

Echo was going mad under that gaze.

“What kind of look is that?!”

“Who do you think you are? You lowly Somer hybrid! The lowest race of them all! How dare you look at me like that?!”

Wayne’s expression immediately changed at that. Even Jose looked at Echo in disbelief.

Jose was a Nawaiter. Even though he had grown up abroad, it could not change the fact that he was of Somer descent.

No Somer descent could let the matter go after hearing such a thing.

Jasper’s expression grew cold and he replied, “Did you just call Somer descents lowly?”

Echo also realized that he had said something inappropriate and immediately replied in a cold tone, “Don’t change the subject! Where’d you get the money from?!”

“I don’t need to explain the source of my money.” Jasper’s tone was frigidly cold.

“Mr. Laine, he’s not worth being calculative over,” Wayne replied.

“Since Mr. Laine’s already shown proof, then there’s no point in further hesitation. Let’s begin voting on the agenda of JW Capital investment of 1 billion Somer Dollars in Abbylon Inc in return for 51% of the shares.”

With a cold look on his face, Wayne raised his hand and continued, “I vote with 59% of the shares in agreement.”

Wayne then looked at Echo, who had an utterly dark expression on his face and said, “There’s already more than 51% support in favor of the motion, so your opinion isn’t needed anymore.

“But I’ll still ask anyway. Do you agree, disagree, or forfeit your vote?”

Echo slammed his palm on the table and roared, “You two vile and shameless Somer dogs! You did this on purpose!”

Echo then glared at Wayne and growled icily, “Did you forget what you promised Mr. Shon, Wayne? You kick us out right after we invested in you. Aren’t you afraid of Mr. Shon’s revenge?”

With that, Echo then turned to Jasper and warned, his words dripping with resentment, “So you’re really going to challenge Softwin to a full-on fight huh, Jasper?”

“Abbylon is the Somer enterprise Mr. Shon values most. Interfering with Abbylon means interfering with Mr. Shon and Softwin’s core interests here in Somerland! Trust me, you are not strong enough to bear Softwin’s true anger!

“It’s still not too late to turn back now!”

Jasper chuckled at Echo’s threat and got up from his seat.

Jasper’s actions had reminded Echo of particular unhappy memories, and the man took an instinctive step backward.

It immediately occurred to Echo how embarrassing this action was, so he took a step forward to return to his original position.

This back and front was quite a hilarious sight.

Jasper stood in front of Echo, and due to the difference in heights, the latter was forced to look up to meet Jasper's gaze.

“Go back and tell your master, Sunrizer. We've got time to slowly play this out ...”

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“You... idiot! Let’s go!”

Echo knew that staying would only lead to him humiliating himself further, and understood that the current situation had already gone beyond what he can solve. Thus, he had to return and report it straight away.

Jasper gave a small smile as he watched Echo leave. Then he extended a hand to Wayne, “I look forward to working with you, Mr. Marlon!”

“And I you...” Wayne spoke, shaking Jasper’s hand.

“Gentlemen, I have to say that we still have a huge problem in front of us,” Jose continued with a frown, “We’ve badly offended Softwin now, so we have to consider how Softwin will react to today’s shareholder meeting.

“Once we’ve accepted your investment, Mr. Laine, my, Mr. Marlon, and Softwin’s percentage of shares will all have diluted. Softwin currently holds 20.5% of Abbylon’s shares after financing. What are your plans for this, Mr. Laine?”

Jasper fell silent for a moment before he smiled and replied.

“I’ll talk to Softwin’s headquarters about this. I’ll contact you when it comes to the specifics. After all, I’ll still need your absolute support in the follow-up for this matter.

Wayne and Jose exchanged a look and nodded.

Regardless of whether they wanted to admit it or not, the two of them had to understand that they were already affiliated with Jasper.

Jasper investing in Abbylon would definitely evoke Myles' fury, and Softwin would certainly target more than just Jasper in their upcoming revenge. There was simply no way Wayne and Jose could ignore this.

This was especially true for Jose, who looked very conflicted.

"If that's the case, Mr. Laine, then I should return right away. There's much I need to discuss with the others in the company," Wayne told Jasper.

Jasper nodded. "Alright. I'll find time and take a trip there too so I can meet everyone formally. Still, as I said, Abbylon is your company and I will not interfere. As far as I'm concerned, your capabilities are worth more than Abbylon itself."

Jasper was not lying.

Rather than investing in Abbylon, it would be more accurate to say that Jasper had invested the 1 billion in Wayne.

The man was worth the price.

Wayne smiled and replied, "Then I shall await your arrival in Harvey City."

"Alright," Jasper replied with a chuckle.

The duo soon left, leaving Jasper to stand by the conference hall doors as he watched the scene downstairs quietly. Jose told Wayne something as they walked out of the hotel before the two got into the car and left.

Jasper then pondered over how he was to treat Abbylon in the future.

Abbylon was unlike the other subsidiaries under him. Naturally, this was because Wayne himself was different.

Both their surnames started with 'M', yet Wayne and Hudson were completely different people. Hence, Jasper had to treat them differently as well.

People like Wayne would never agree to be someone else's subordinate, so Jasper had to treat him like a partner right from the get-go. The same applied to Hudson.

However, Wayne needed more autonomy than Hudson did.

Abbylon was going to be a company that would cost more of Jasper's money and effort.

Softwin's Myles Shon alone was a tough nut to crack.

Jasper had made it sound easy in front of Wayne and Jose, but he knew that this would be an extremely difficult feat to perform.

"Slowly, then. At least I've already got a good start." Jasper let out a soft exhale.

He knew that the old man in Sunrise Land would be notified very soon. His fight with Jasper would also begin to surface.

JW and Softwin still had a long, bloody war to fight over Abbylon.

Everyone saw how he had acquired Abbylon, Terizone, and Sena. However, only Jasper himself knew that Google, all the way across the Pacific Ocean, was just as important.

Google's rise would be JW's main support as it expanded out of the country.

Just as Jasper was deep in thought, his phone rang.

"Where are you, Jasper? I've already arrived at Nauritus City."

Jasper's eyes lit up when he heard the voice come through the speakers and he smiled. "I've been waiting for you for ages. I'll come pick you up."

An hour later, in the office in Southface River Tower. Greg looked around the brightly lit office and the floor-to-ceiling windows that displayed the superb and astonishing river view. He exclaimed.

"I only knew that you were rich and had a huge business, but it never felt like anything to me. It's only today after I arrived at your company that I realized that you've already walked further than most people will throughout their entire life."

Greg stood beside him and the two watched the quiet flow of the Southface River below them. Jasper smiled and replied, "You're just seeing a small portion of this. The whole company's moving to Waterhoof City in two more years.

"That's when the letters JW will resound all over Somerland."

Jasper was, of course, referring to the first skyscraper to be built in Waterhoof City.

Greg did not know too much about this, and he gasped, "But this building is still new, isn't it? Are you going to give it up so soon?"

Jasper smiled. "I'm just moving the company. I can still lease this office to other companies, you know?"

Greg looked at Jasper and answered. "As we promised, I come here today in hopes to start my own business."

Jasper nodded and said, "I know what you're capable of and that you have extraordinary talent when it comes to the managerial ranks. Go ahead, tell me what kind of work you want to do."

While Jasper and Greg had initially agreed to have the latter start from a clerk-level position, Jasper had changed his mind over the past few days.

He believed that starting from the bottom was too much a waste of Greg's talents.

Jasper knew Greg too well, thanks to experiences from his past and present life with this man. It was this profound understanding Jasper had of Greg's personality that made the man so trustworthy to Jasper.

As Jasper's property grew, so did his employee-base. There were tons of capable people under him.

However, a person's capability was one thing. Their trustworthiness was another thing altogether.

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Winthin JW Capital and its subsidiaries, there were only a few people Jasper could trust. Wendy was one of them, of course; Malcolm and Jack too perhaps, but that was all.

Now that Greg was here, there was one more person that he could mostly trust.

Hence, Jasper decided to give Greg a special mission.

Greg replied determinedly, "I want to start from scratch. Regarding what kind of work, I'll accept whatever you assign me."

"But what if it's difficult and filled with obstacles?" Jasper's gaze burned into Greg as he asked.

"To be frank with you, I'm planning to assign you to somewhere completely new. It'll be a huge challenge for you once you go there.

"This is because it's going to be a completely new environment and industry. I can give you start-up capital, but you're going to have to start from the bottom for everything else.

"The chance of failure is extremely high and the road to success will be long and arduous. Therefore, I'll respect whatever decision you make.

"If you still wish to stay in the Southeast Province, then you can choose any position within the province and I will get you that job, no problem."

Greg was stunned for a moment. This was different from what they had discussed in the beginning.

Frowning slightly, he asked, "Can I ask what kind of work you're arranging for me?"

Jasper raised his hand and patted Greg's shoulder before pulling his phone out. He said, "Look at this, this is Nokia's newest mobile phone. Equipped with the Symbian operating system, this phone has many strong features and is really useful."

Greg nodded dumbly and asked, "I know, but what does this have to do with my job?"

Jasper placed the phone on the table and pointed at it as he explained to Greg, "If I told you, that this small gimmick will one day become an important tool that people cannot part with, and will also represent the prime application of future science and technology, would you believe me?"

Greg looked at the insignificant mobile phone on the table and answered instinctively, "Are you kidding me?"

"Someone said that computers would change the way people lived a decade ago. No one believed them, but look at the it now."

Jasper continued softly, "I dare say that mobile phones will change the way humans live in the next ten years."

"So you want me to manufacture phones?" Greg asked in shock.

"Bingo. Counterfeit mobile phones are everywhere within the country, but only a few are actually manufacturing their own brand. I want to enter this field, but I've got too much on my hands right now. I have too few capable people by my side, so you're the only one I can ask.

"I can give you a start-up capital of 200 million, but you'll have to find your own technicians, equipment, and employees. And I'll need results within the year."

Jasper reminded Greg, "Think about it carefully before you decide. Don't force yourself either, as there will be no hard feelings regardless of your decision."

Greg stared at Jasper and asked, "You're going to trust me with 200 million just like that?"

"You're worth the price," Jasper smiled.

"Then what more do I have to worry about?" Greg shrugged. "If you're not afraid that I'll lose this 200 million, then I have no reason to be afraid of trying. Still... Where do you want me to start?"

"Cavern City!"

"Cavern City? Seems like a good place to start, considering it's a Special Economic Zone," Greg spoke.

Jasper chuckled and said, "That's not the only thing. Being adjacent to Harbor City, Cavern City has the advantage of being by the harbor, which naturally makes transportation extremely convenient. In comparison to Waterhoof City, Cavern City also has a much thinner foundation, which means there's more room for development.

"Waterhoof City is a special zone too. In fact, it's even a municipality. But unfortunately, its foundations are too thick. Moreover, Waterhoof City's already registered as the country's financial center, so it wouldn't be suitable to set up factories there."

"Indeed," Greg nodded and agreed, "I also heard that an equivalent area of land in Waterhoof City is five times more expensive than in Cavern City. Not to mention that it's also more expensive to employ people there. I agree that it would be better to set up factories in Cavern City."

"Go," Jasper clapped Greg's shoulder and spoke, "Create a whole new world."

“Alright!” Greg nodded seriously, “I won’t let you down.”

Just like that, Greg took the 200 million Jasper gave him and made his way to Cavern City.

Neither of them knew when they would meet next and in what setting.

On the way back, Wendy was told about Jasper’s plans for Greg.

“Greg? He used to be our ex-classmate, right? We didn’t talk much before, but his story sure seems like a touching one from what you’ve told me.”

“It’s good to see him doing well now,” Jasper spoke.

Wendy looked at him and asked, “You trust him with the 200 million?”

“I wouldn’t ask him if I didn’t trust him. He knows what to do,” Jasper spoke calmly, “I wouldn’t just give him 200 million if I didn’t have my own contingency plans, though I do hope I’ll never have to resort to them.”

At this, Wendy changed the subject and asked, “Why the sudden desire to manufacture mobile phones, though?”

“Mobile phones are going to be an important electronic device in the future. The MP4s and MP5s we’re making now are nothing more than small fry to people in the electronics industry.

“The battlefield of mobile phones is going to be where the king of the industry is decided. Therefore, we have to enter the industry and start setting up in advance!” Jasper replied.

“If that’s the case, don’t we already have an electronics company? Why would you still ask Greg for help?” Wendy asked confusedly.

Jasper chuckled and replied, "Having both a well-known and a secret company is very befitting of our current situation.

"We might have to invest a little bit more in the beginning, but if it succeeds, 1+1 will equal more than just 2. We'd be reaping 3 or even 4."

Wendy shook her head and replied in exasperation, "Nevermind. I won't be able to understand your thoughts when it comes to business."

"Oh, right. Let's go to the county tomorrow," Wendy suggested.

"What for?" Jasper asked.

"Do you still remember Ms. Tiana?"

When she mentioned this name, Jasper's mind immediately filled with the mental image of an average-looking middle-aged woman with gentle features.

Ms. Tiana was Jasper and Wendy's homeroom teacher back in senior high school. She could be considered a truly nice teacher who had her students' best interests in mind.

"My familial conditions were horrible during senior high, and Ms. Tiana used to call me over to her office to eat lunch that she had brought from home. She even brought me straight to her house for dinner sometimes.

"But for the sake of my self-esteem, she did all that under the guise of tuition. How could I forget her?" Jasper answered softly.

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In truth, most of Jasper's memories during the three years of senior high were of mockery and rolled eyes. There were only three things that brought him warmth.

The random conversations with Wendy.

Playing with Greg.

As well as Ms. Tiana.

All the teachers in school had ignored Jasper and turned a blind eye to the boy. Yet, Ms. Tiana was the only one who could not bear to watch the prepubescent child eat white bread and vegetables every day. She would bring him home-packed lunches once or twice a week or even bring the boy home to eat with her.

Be it Jasper's daily life or his studies, Ms. Tiana had taken very good care of him.

Therefore, this teacher held a very important place in Jasper's heart, and he would always remember to call and check in with her during festivities.

"You're right, it's been a while since we went to visit her. It's teacher's day soon, right? We should visit Ms. Tiana."

Wendy sighed when she heard Jasper's words. "Ms. Tiana isn't doing so well lately. I heard something about her being very sick, so the other classmates have all decided to go and visit her."

Jasper was stunned. 'Ms. Tiana only passed from sickness two years later in my past life. Why so soon in this?'

“Is it severe?” Jasper asked.

“The hospital’s gave her a few medical reports for critical illness, and she’s essentially spending her final days at home now,” Wendy replied softly.

Jasper frowned.

Jasper was too weak to help in his past life, but it was different this time. He decided that no matter what illness Ms. Tiana was diagnosed with, he would spend all his money even if it only meant extending Ms. Tiana’s life for a few more years.

“We’ll rush over early tomorrow morning to check up on her,” Jasper decided.

Wendy nodded.

Ms. Tiana’s excellent teaching could be seen in more than how she nurtured Jasper. She treated all her students equally.

Ms. Tiana was surrounded by students she had once taught. After all these years, these students had all become contributing members of society, yet they still remembered how great Ms. Tiana was. Hence, now that she was ill, everyone was extremely concerned.

Jasper and Wendy were no different.

As a result, Jasper and Wendy then made their way to the county early the next morning.

Julian had brought Jasper’s Bentley in for service today, so the couple drove Wendy’s BMW instead.

“I’m not used to this,” Jasper said. Driving the BMW felt weird to him.

Wendy glared at Jasper from the passenger seat and shot back, "I don't see you getting me a better car."

"You're the one in charge of the company accounts, I even put the official seal with you. My personal account is also joint under your name, so you can literally take money out at anytime," Jasper answered.

Wendy harrumphed and refuted upsettingly, "Can you even compare me buying a new car with your money with you buying me a new car as a present?"

Jasper smiled and replied, "Okay, okay, I get it. The car's growing old, and it's time to change it to a new one. Is there a specific car you have in mind? We'll go get you a new one after we're done with Ms. Tiana's situation."

"I was thinking of something small and quaint. Like a beetle or a SMART. This car is too big and inconvenient for me," Wendy muttered.

Jasper replied with a crescent-eyed smile, "Alright. We don't need cars to prove our social status anymore anyway, so get what you like."

After a few months, Jasper and Wendy returned to Faith County again.

It had only been a few months so there had not been many changes in Faith County; The roads were still bustling with people.

The couple's car arrived at Faith country's number one senior high's staff building. Jasper had just found a parking spot and was about to back the car into it when a Benz stepped on its accelerator and took the parking first, scratching the BMW's bumper in the process.

A man and a woman stepped out of the Benz. The man was young, dressed in a suit and with an expensive golden watch around his wrist. He looked the epitome of a nouveau riche.

"Oh, Ro, what driving skills you have."

The woman got out of the passenger seat and slinked her arms into the young man's, speaking coquettishly.

With a snicker, Ronald slapped the woman's butt and replied, "You know that I've got better skills elsewhere."

The woman twisted her body and replied coquettishly, "Stop.

"Alright, let's get our work done first. Then we can go somewhere else and I'll give you a recap of how skilled I am."

Ronald spoke with his arm around the woman. Walking past the BMW, the man spat and scoffed, "Stupid f*cker. Who are you to steal my parking spot?"

Ronald was about to leave bossily with the woman in tow when Jasper's voice sounded out from behind them.

"So, you're just going to leave just like that?"

Ronald stopped in his tracks and turned around to see Jasper alighting the BMW. Ronald barked darkly, "What? Angry that I've stolen your parking spot? Who're you to complain when you're a bad driver? F*cking stupid."

Jasper rapped his knuckles on the BMW's bumper and pointed at the large scratch as he spoke, "I'll forgive you for the parking, but you're really just going to leave after scratching my car?"

Ronald was stunned and he followed Jasper's hand to see the ugly scratch on the BMW's bumper. He suddenly thought of something and rushed over to look at his Benz.

As expected, he saw a large scratch and an indent on both the front and rear doors of his car.

Ronald's heart ached at the sight of this and his expression changed. He pointed at Jasper and scolded, "F*cking Hell! Do you want to die?! How dare you scratch my car?!"

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Jasper narrowed his eyes and looked at Ronald. "I arrived at this parking spot first. You were the one who forced his way in when I was putting the car in reverse.

"I even stopped reversing when you rushed over, but you still had to force your way in and scratched my bumper. No matter how you look at this, you're the one at fault. Even so, you're claiming that I'm the one who scratched your car?"

Ronald replied harshly, "F*ck you. Stop giving me all these excuses! I wouldn't have scratched you if you didn't f*cking stop your car there, now would I, you stupid f*cker? How dare you continue to give excuses!"

"If that's the case, there's no point in wasting my saliva with you either. Let's hand this to the traffic police, then," Jasper spoke calmly.

Jasper then made a move to call them.

At this moment, Wendy got out of the passenger seat.

"What's wrong, Jasp?"

Wendy asked this without knowing what was going on.

Ronald was about to scold Jasper when he saw Wendy. His eyes immediately shone with lust.

The anger disappeared from his features, instantly replaced with a smile as he turned to Wendy. "Yo, don't you look familiar, beautiful? Have we met somewhere before?"

Wendy did not even spare Ronald and his flirtations another glance as she shot him down coldly, "Sorry, you've mistaken me for someone else."

Ronald snickered and smiled. "Instead of being with a man that drives an old BMW, how about you take a look at me, pretty? My car's the latest Benz, one of this is twice the value of that stupid BMW."

Wendy frowned and answered distastefully, "This stupid BMW is my car."

Ronald was stunned for a moment before he turned to Jasper and said, "I didn't take you to be a man that lives off his girlfriend, brat."

Jasper did not pay Ronald any mind. The point of this trip was to visit Ms. Tiana, so he did not want to waste time on insignificant problems.

He would have handed this matter over to Julian if the man was here.

Dialing for the traffic police, Jasper began to miss the days where he had Julian by his side.

"I was talking to you. Are you deaf?" Ronald shouted at Jasper.

At this moment, Ronald walked over with the woman in tow. She glanced at Wendy warily and defensively before she spoke, "There's no point talking to lowly trash, Ro. Let's just get rid of them. Don't we have more important things to do?"

Ronald harrumphed and realized that the woman was right.

"How about this, forget calling the traffic police. I won't need you to compensate me either. But this woman by your side, I want a meal with her," Ronald ordered Jasper arrogantly.

Jasper looked up and narrowed his eyes at Ronald.

He did not care about the scratch in the car.

After all, that would only cost a few thousand to repair.

However, if this douchebag had his eyes on Wendy, then the man had a death wish.

“You were the one who scratched our car. How can you be so shameless to claim that you don’t need us to compensate you? How unreasonable can you be?” Wendy asked Ronald.

Ronald smiled and replied arrogantly, “Only the strong are qualified to reason. What’s the point of reason when you’re weak and a nobody?”

“After all that nonsense, this is the only reasonable sentence that came out of your mouth,” Jasper looked at Ronald and said calmly, “So you think you’re strong?”

Ronald sneered and replied, “Everyone’s strong in comparison to stupid f*ckers like you. I’m someone you aren’t even qualified to admire, understood?”

Just then, a car drove over.

It was a slightly low-profile Audi.

The car stopped in front of them and the windows were rolled down to reveal a young man’s face. The man exclaimed when he saw Ronald, “Yo, well if it isn’t Ronald!”

Ronald frowned then smiled after a moment of thought and answered, “Mr. Nicholls.”

Mr. Nicholls alighted the car. He had just greeted Ronald when he spotted Jasper and Wendy.

After a long daze, he asked, “Jasper? Wendy?”

Jasper glanced at the man and it took him a while before he remembered the identity of the person. This was Archer, his and Wendy’s ex-classmate. Jasper did not expect the man to start driving an Audi and to be greeted with such respect.

Wendy greeted Archer as well, “Archer? Are you here to visit Ms. Tiana too?”

Archer laughed out loud and replied, “Yeah. Ms. Tiana isn’t doing so well, so it’s only right we students come and visit her.

“I’m doing well, working at a huge company in Nauritus City now. Let’s save each other’s numbers later so we can keep in contact.”

Archer’s words were evidently directed at Wendy, as he was not even interested in giving Jasper another glance.

Everyone in their class knew that Jasper was the poorest and most introverted person amongst them. No one expected someone like him to make too big a name for himself.

“You know each other?” Ronald asked calmly as his gaze flicked between Archer and the couple.

Archer pulled Ronald over and handed him a cigarette as he explained, “They’re my ex-classmates, Ronald. We came to see our teacher today, but did some misunderstanding happen? Maybe you could let it go. On my behalf.”

Ronald glanced at Archer and sneered. “You’re interested in her, aren’t you?”

Archer looked back at Wendy as passion flared in his eyes. He whispered to Ronald implicitly, with jargon that any man would understand, “She was essentially every man’s crush back in high school. Everyone was interested in her; I still dream about her today.”

“I can let them go on your behalf today so you get to look cool in front of your crush, but remember to share her amongst us once she’s yours.” Ronald smiled at Archer.

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The corner of Archer's lips curled up and he replied, "No problem. We're friends, aren't we? And this is just a woman."

"Alright, haha."

Ronald clasped Archer's shoulder and laughed loudly before he glared at Jasper harshly. "I still have important things to do, so I'll let you go because Mr. Nicholls asked. Be thankful, or you'd be suffering now."

Ronald then left casually with the woman in his arms.

Jasper's gaze dimmed and he was about to call out after Ronald when Wendy tugged at his clothes. "It's fine, let's visit Ms. Tiana first."

Archer had also walked over by then and he told Jasper arrogantly, "Ronald isn't someone you can afford to offend. He already decided to let it go thanks to me, so don't go causing trouble for yourself."

Archer paid Jasper's reaction no heed and he turned to smile at Wendy. "I don't think we've seen each other since graduation, Wendy. It's almost been seven years since then. How're you doing?"

Wendy frowned.

Archer's words might seem fine, but there was an amorous tone to it.

It was as if the two of them used to be close.

Not to mention that the choice of words was what couples who had broken up a long time ago normally used.

Wendy realized that Archer was trying to take advantage of her, so she glanced at him indifferently before replying, “Not bad. We were never close to begin with, so let’s not waste unnecessary time here. Let’s go visit Ms. Tiana.”

Wendy then naturally wrapped her arm around Jasper’s and looked up at him with a beautiful smile Archer had never seen before. “Let’s go, Jasp.”

Archer’s expression immediately darkened at the sight of this.

By now, Jasper and Wendy had already moved toward the stairs, leaving Archer to grind his molars and force himself to suppress his anger. He needed to understand what was going on between Jasper and Wendy before he did anything rash.

‘F*cking Hell, this stupid broke f*cker! He couldn’t even afford to buy food so how dare he steal my woman now? Just you wait—upper-class society is much crueler than people on campus!’

Archer harrumphed, glaring at Jasper’s back sinisterly, before following after them.

The old staff building was already two decades old and there was a vintage air to the tubed-shaped apartments.

Elevators could not possibly exist in such a building, while Ms. Tiana’s lived on the fifth floor.

Jasper and Wendy were fine as they climbed the dark and messy staircase upward, but Archer mumbled and complained while covering his nose distastefully the entire time.

“What kind of stupid place is this. It’s so disgusting, you might as well live in a landfill at this point.”

Meanwhile, Jasper took a trip down memory lane as he walked.

He remembered walking this dark and messy staircase countless times during the three years of senior high when Ms. Tiana would bring him to her house on the fifth floor to eat dinner with her.

Excluding his home in the village, this staircase had led him to the only place that promised him a full stomach during those three years.

His meals would consist purely of white bread and vegetables if not for her.

“No one’s forcing you to walk if you don’t want to,” Jasper replied calmly, snapped out of his memory by Archer’s words.

Archer was stunned for a moment before he raged. “What do you mean?! How dare you talk to me like that!”

Jasper ignored him though, for they had already arrived at Ms. Tiana’s home by then.

From the shoes by the door, they knew that there had to be other ex-classmates inside already.

Wendy knocked on the door and someone’s voice rang out in response. This was followed by footsteps as the old room door opened.

“Wendy? Archer?”

An ordinary face appeared behind the door and the woman exclaimed when she saw Wendy and Archer.

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She did not recognize Jasper anymore.

After all, the only impression Jasper left on anyone during senior high was that he was poor and introverted.

“Are you...Ramona?” Wendy asked after a pause.

The woman beamed and replied, “Yes. You still remember me.”

“Okay, okay, enough reuniting here. You saw me, didn’t you? So let me in already,” Archer spoke irritably.

Ramona opened the door frantically to let Archer in.

Ramona seemed terrified of Archer.

“I heard that you’re a manager for Southface River Properties, right?” Ramona asked carefully.

Archer smiled, pleased that Ramona had brought up his professional identity in front of Wendy. He replied calmly on purpose, “Yeah. It’s just a job, nothing much. I’m glad my superior likes me.”

Southface River Properties?

Jasper and Wendy exchanged a look.

Jasper owned the entirety of Southface River, so he certainly knew this property company.

The real estate company needed a property managing department since Southface River had many lots, and most of them were leased out. That was why a new property company was founded.

Its only job was to manage and serve the properties in Southface River.

Was this company a huge one?

Bullsh*t. Strictly speaking, this was just a department of a real estate company.

But was this property company small?

Not exactly either.

After all, the Southface River project was huge, and new tenants came to sign contracts and move in all the time. The property company was also in charge of the managing and maintenance of water, electricity, and security of the area.

Therefore, the company could be considered a nanny of sorts.

However, the property company did have some level of authority as they were involved in many things. People and companies who wanted to make friends with JW would naturally treat the property company with respect as well.

“I only earn ten thousand or so a month. It’s not much, but it’s certainly more than the average person. The main thing about this job is the workload and people I’m in charge of, as there are tons of people begging me for a chance to meet every day. I suppose I do meet a few bigshots here and there after working long enough. Sigh, but it’s quite a lot of work actually,” Archer replied pretentiously.

From the way he spoke, he might as well be begging everyone to fawn over him.

Ramona looked at him enviously and replied, “You’ve got to be the most outstanding one out of our class.”

Wendy's expression contorted into a weird expression.

'Archer's arrogance is because he's working under us?'

"Let's go in and visit Ms. Tiana," Jasper told Wendy.

This was the most important goal of Jasper's trip.

Archer scoffed when he heard that.

"Oh, why? Were you jealous that I'm living a better life than you? Where do you work now? How many hundreds do you earn a month?"

"I could spare you some work since we're classmates. Perhaps you could be a security guard for Southface River? People would fight for a monthly salary of at least 1200 bucks, but I suppose that's way beyond what you'd ever dare to even dream of."

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Archer's words were intended for Jasper, but he looked at Wendy as he spoke.

He mainly wanted to show off his capabilities in front of Wendy so as to attract her attention.

Therefore, he was disappointed when Wendy did not react in the way he wanted her to. In fact, Wendy looked at him with slight exasperation.

Wendy looked at him in a way that one would look at a clown.

Archer was enraged by her gaze.

Jasper was the poor person here. Archer believed that he was strong enough to crush Jasper with his mere finger, so who was Wendy to look at him like that?

"Thank you for the good intentions, but I won't be needing it," Jasper replied calmly before he pulled Wendy into the house.

"Hmph!" Archer harrumphed as he stared at Jasper's back darkly. "Who are you acting for? Seriously, the poorer and more useless someone is, the more they like to act like they're some sh*t."

At this moment, Ramona asked carefully, "Archer, did Jasper and Wendy get together?"

The question hit Archer where it hurt, and the man glared at Ramona before he spoke.

“What gave you the idea that idea? Don’t spout nonsense when you don’t know what you’re talking about. All of us know about Jasper’s limited capabilities anyway.

“He’s just a poor man without a buck to his name. All he can afford is white bread and vegetables, so who is he to be involved with Wendy? I’ll never agree to it!”

Jasper had already walked into the bedroom by then.

It was still decorated with vintage ornaments just as Jasper had remembered. The paint on the furniture had already cracked and begun to turn yellow, but the furnishing of the house was just as Jasper remembered seven to eight years ago.

One could easily come to the conclusion that Ms. Tiana had not changed nor added any new furniture to her house over these years.

On the bed laid a frail old woman, who peered at Jasper and Wendy as they walked in.

“Ms. Tiana.”

Jasper sped up and walked to the bed, lifting his hand to grab the sickly elder’s hand and whispered, “It’s me, Jasper. Do you still remember me?”

Ms. Tiana chuckled with difficulty and replied weakly, “Of course, I remember. You’re the introverted and shy boy who always failed his tests.”

“...” Jasper was speechless.

Wendy leaned down to speak to Ms. Tiana, “Ms. Tiana, it’s me, Wendy. Do you still remember me?”

Ms. Tiana nodded and replied, “Of course. You’re the smartest and prettiest student I’ve ever taught throughout all these years.”

“I’m very glad you came to visit me,” Ms. Tiana said, looking at Jasper and Wendy.

Jasper sat on the bed and replied, “Ms. Tiana, I still remember how you used to give me your lunchbox back in senior high and how you used to bring me over for dinner. Then, you’d supervise my homework or tutor me after dinner. I still remember everything you’ve done for me, Ms. Tiana.”

Ms. Tiana replied gently, “It’s my duty as a teacher. I can’t bear to see children suffering. How can you grow strong and well without proper nutrients during puberty?”

“I might never produce genius-like students, but I hope that every child I teach ends up kind, dutiful, and good.”

Jasper replied softly, “Still, how many teachers in the world would go as far as you did? Perhaps as a teacher, you think that you’ve only done your part. But to me, it was something that changed my life.”

It was said that a teacher’s job was to teach students principles of life, study curriculum, and explain difficulties. The study of curriculum and explanations came after, as the principles of life always came first.

Jasper’s personality in both his lifetimes as well as his ingrained kindness was due to two main reasons. Firstly, his parent’s teachings not to be malicious and mean, followed by Ms. Tiana’s kindness.

It was not wrong to say that during the critical period in which Jasper had cultivated his character, Ms. Tiana was the one who had influenced him most right after his parents.

“Why won’t you go to the hospital if you’re so unwell, Ms. Tiana?” Wendy asked gently.

“This is a psychological issue. The hospital can’t solve it and staying there will only be a waste of my money,” Ms. Tiana replied weakly.

‘Psychological issue?’

Jasper and Wendy exchanged a look and frowned.

It seemed like Ms. Tiana’s sickness was not as simple as it seemed.

Just then, Archer walked in from the outside.

He stopped in front of Ms. Tiana, and before he could speak, Ms. Tiana flew into distress.

“What are you doing here? I don’t have students like you, nor do I need you to visit me! Get out!”

Ms. Tiana was even about to sit up from the bed in agitation. However, Wendy quickly went to help Ms. Tian and asked, “Calm down, Ms. Tiana. What’s wrong?”

Archer sneered and replied calmly, “I’m still technically your student, Ms. Tiana. How could you treat me like an enemy?”

“Moreover, I’m the one that’s been helping you all this while. Your useless children can’t even pay your hospital bills. I was the one who paid them for you.

“Despite all that, instead of thanking me, you’re chasing me away. Ha, what kind of teacher are you?”

Ms. Tiana's complexion flushed red in anger as she pointed at Archer to speak, "You only did so in order to get me to sign the demolition agreement! I'm telling you, no way! I'll never sign it!"

"Why must you be so stubborn, Ms. Tiana?" Archer stared at her and spoke unkindly.

"Everyone in the staff building's already signed the papers. You're the only one between everyone and the demolition compensation. Who knows how many of your old colleagues are angry at you for being stubborn? Yet, you still won't give in?"

Ms. Tiana's emotions calmed down under Wendy's care and she spoke with a slight pant, "Your demolition paperwork isn't complete, and you're also paying half of what the official statement claimed. They only signed the papers because they had no other choice after your threats and bribery! But I will not compromise with you!"

Archer chuckled sinisterly and answered, "I already knew you were going to say that. But don't worry, I'm not the demolition company after all. Someone else will talk to you regarding this."

Archer then made a call and went to fetch someone at the door.

Jasper's gaze darkened as he watched Archer leave.

"The building's getting demolished, Ms. Tiana? And you disagree?" Jasper asked.

Ms. Tiana sighed and explained, "Their papers aren't complete and they're also paying half of the standard compensation fee. They're beating up whoever doesn't agree so no one truly agrees with him!"

“It’s just that everyone else has a family to protect, so they have no other choice but to leave. It’s different for me. However, my children are working outside and can’t be threatened. Additionally, I’m just an old woman, so what can they do?”

Life at the Top Chapter 1026

Jasper frowned slightly.

The staff building of Faith County's number one high school had only been demolished after 2010 in his past life because it was too old.

So why was it being demolished now?

Jasper could not help but feel that there was more to the situation.

Just then, two familiar voices sounded at the door.

Shockingly, it was Archer and Ronald.

"Mr. Nicholls, you swore that you were going to persuade the old woman. That's why I let you come here first.

"See, I even got the signatures of the last family on the sixth floor, and you're telling me you can't even handle one old woman?"

Ronald sounded displeased.

The important business he referred to moments ago was to sign contracts on behalf of the demolition company.

He thought that Archer would be able to handle this old Tiana woman, but he did not expect Archer to come back empty-handed.

Ronald began to feel impatient when he thought about the pressure the real estate company was giving him.

It was rare that such a profitable piece of business fell at his feet, and Ronald desperately wanted to show his capabilities to the client. That way, all new demolition businesses in Faith County would be given to him.

However, if he could not carry out the first bit of business well, then there was no future to speak of.

Ronald's expression darkened and he pushed open the room doors.

Ronald snickered when he entered and realized that both Jasper and Wendy were there. "F*cking Hell, why are you everywhere, you stupid f*cker?"

Ronald then turned to Ms. Tiana, who was sitting on the bed, and spat arrogantly, "My name is Ronald, Madam. I'm the person in charge of Robust Demolitions.

"I'm sure my subordinates and your student Archer already told you about the demolition. So, I won't waste my time. I've brought the contract, so sign it and the demolition compensation will be banked into your account in the afternoon."

"Get out! I will not sign your papers!" Ms. Tiana shouted with newfound strength.

Ronald sneered and spoke, "I already gave you respect, you old woman! I've seen old b*tches like you before, you just want to squeeze me of my money, don't you? Well, I'm telling you, there's no way in hell I'll let you scam me of my money!

"Everyone's already signed it and you're the only one left. You're going to sign this paper whether you want to or not. Either you sign it by yourself and I'll still pay you the demolition fee, or you watch yourself before I kill you!"

Jasper looked at Ronald indifferently as he spoke up, "So you're going to resort to violence, then?"

Ronald scoffed and replied, "Who are you to join the conversation, you stupid f*cker?"

“I’m only letting you be because you’re not worth my time, you brat. Don’t take it for granted. Or do you want to die too?”

“Go out and open your ears. Do you even know who I am in Faith County? Who do you think you are? What gave you the right to raise your voice at me? Had this been any other day, I’d have slapped you across the face long ago. F*cking idiot!”

Ronald then pulled out a contract from his briefcase and tossed it on the bed with a sneer. “Be a good student and persuade this old woman to stop being so stubborn.

“Otherwise, by the time the lights go off and she’s too old to run, an old woman might get buried here when my bulldozer comes to wreak the building.”

This was a blatant threat.

Even Ramona, who had been watching everything happen from the outside, was looking at Ronald furiously, much less Jasper and Wendy.

Archer was the only one with a matter-of-fact expression on his face.

“I suggest you sign the papers, Ms. Tiana. You’re already an old woman, what do you even need so much money for anyway?”

“It’s not like Ronald isn’t giving you money. Don’t think that just because you’re educated you can base everything on the official statement. Did the official statement consider Ronald’s situation?”

“Do you know how many people Ronald has in his demolition company? If he follows the official statements every day, then Ronald and his employees might as well not take home a salary at all!”

“So just sign the paper. This is for your sake. Didn’t you say you don’t care about money or fame and only had your students’ best interests in mind? In that case, why are you being so stubborn now? Just take the money for your retirement.”

Ms. Tiana paled in anger as she seethed, “Do you think I’m doing this for myself? I’m doing this for justice and equality! This house is mine! Do you think you can decide how much to pay me for demolition compensation?”

“I’m still sponsoring the tuition and living costs of more than ten children in poor families! I’m arguing for their sake!”

When she said this, everyone in the room was stunned.

“Ms. Tiana, you’re sponsoring more than ten students?” Wendy gasped.

Ms. Tiana sighed deeply and turned to Wendy, “In the second drawer by my bedside table is a canvas bag. Take it out.”

Wendy followed and pulled out an old canvas bag.

Ms. Tiana took the bag and pulled out a thick pile of envelopes. There were new and old ones, spanning over at least a decade.

Ms. Tiana took these envelopes and said, “You can read the letters if you don’t believe me. These are all written by children I’ve sponsored, and inside them are their pictures.”

After this, Ms. Tiana sighed deeply and continued, “As you said, I’m already old and I don’t even know how many more days alive I have left. I don’t need so much money, but any extra amount will go to another child in need. These children are too pitiful.

“I don’t even want more, just what the rules say. I just want what I am entitled to, is that too much to ask for?”

At that moment, even Ronald felt his cheeks burn in humiliation, let alone Archer.

Jasper glanced at the letters that were filled with innocent words of gratefulness directed at Ms. Tiana. These words and feelings could not be replicated.

Jasper took a deep breath and turned to Ms. Tiana. “Don’t worry, Ms. Tiana. I’m sure heaven sees everything that’s happening here. If you’re willing to demolish this place, then you will not get a Somer Dollar less than you deserve.

“If you don’t want to demolish the house, then God himself can come down here and he still wouldn’t be able to touch a single brick!”

Life at the Top Chapter 1027

Archer was the first to laugh when Jasper said this.

“Would you stop acting like you’re some bigshot, Jasper? Don’t you feel ashamed at all?”

“Seriously, I’m starting to think you’re living backward while all of us are moving on with the times. You were still smart back in school, not daring to interfere with anything or spout any nonsense. It’s only been a few years since we graduated, so why did you start acting pretentious all of a sudden, huh?”

“At least look around before you start acting. Does this look like something you can control?”

Ronald scoffed at Archer’s words and continued, “Who knows, maybe he’s outstanding now? Maybe he’s a boss of some company.”

“Hahaha, as if his company would be more formidable than yours, Ronald. Your demolition company makes at least a million each year.”

“Poor fellows like him only got to eat white bread and vegetables every day. His clothes were always torn and sewn back together, and even his shoes had holes in them. You think he’s ever seen so much money before in his life?”

Archer chortled loudly.

Ronald scoffed when he heard that.

“So, that’s the kind of person he is? And to think that he was so aggressive to me downstairs. If not for you, I’d have taught him a lesson long ago.”

Archer glared at Jasper before turning to Ronald and saying, “You let it go on my behalf, Ronald, I only asked because we used to be classmates.

“However, if he’s going to continue acting so stubborn, then there’s no need to leave him alone for my sake anymore. Hit, slap, do what you have to. Ignorant people like him won’t understand the concept of respect without a harsh beating from society.”

Archer then warned Jasper, “This is my last warning to you, Laine. Ronald isn’t someone you can afford to offend. His demolition company is the biggest in Faith County, and there are dozens of people under him.

“Most of them are ex-convicts, and Ronald’s bent so many of them to his will.

“Ronald’s also working with JW Real Estates. Have you even heard of JW Real Estates? It’s the biggest real estate company in Southeast Province! Do you know about the Southface River Project? Poor fellows like you will never get a chance to encounter such a thing, huh?

“But that’s okay, you can look for yourself. The south bank of Nauritus City’s southface river doesn’t charge admission fees. You’ll understand once you go there that there are tons more powerful people and companies in society. Who do you think you are?”

Jasper looked at Ronald and asked calmly, “JW Real Estates commissioned you to demolish this building?”

Ronald scoffed and replied, “Yeah, so what? Why do you sound like you don’t care about JW Real Estates, hmm?”

“You can’t blame an ignorant person for not understanding fear, Ronald. How can he be afraid when he doesn’t even know how big JW Real Estates is? Haha.”

Ronald laughed out loud at Archer’s words.

Just then, Ms. Tiana turned to Jasper and sighed. “Thank you for your kind intentions, Jasper, but there’s no need for you two to interfere with this. These people are all rascals and they’re willing to do anything to achieve their own goals. I refuse to believe that they would dare to bury an old woman like me here!”

Ronald’s expression grew cold and he shouted at Ms. Tiana, “Take the kindness I’m extending you now, old woman. I already gave offered you my respect when I first negotiated with you, but piss me off and I’ll immediately have my bulldozer come over and run this building to the ground!”

By now, Wendy was absolutely furious.

“You two are going too far!”

Instead of feeling uncomfortable, Wendy’s words only caused Ronald to laugh maddeningly. “A pretty lady is just different. You look so beautiful even when you’re angry and you scolding me only makes me feel better. Hahaha.

“So what if I’m going too far, pretty? After all, I have the qualifications for it.”

Archer piped up in agreement. “You’re too naive, Wendy. This society runs on strength, not reason.

“Ronald’s power is beyond your imagination. Attacking him is a suicide mission, so don’t do anything stupid. With your looks, Ronald and I can still help you enjoy a life in the upper-class.”

“Life in the upper-class?” Jasper asked meaningfully.

“You think that you’ve made it in life because you’re considered powerful in a small place like Faith County?”

Archer scoffed. “I really pity you, Jasper. What are you trying to say? That the world is huge?”

“Yeah, Faith County is small and the world is huge. There’s also a ton of much more powerful people outside, but are you one of them? No! You’re nothing more than a pitiful pest.

“It’ll take us no effort to crush you!”

“Mark your words.” Jasper gave Archer and Ronald one last glance before he turned to Wendy and asked, “Do you know who the person-in-charge of Faith County is?”

Wendy naturally knew who Jasper was referring to and nodded. “He’s in the company’s contacts list. We can reach him at anytime.”

“He has ten minutes to come over,” Jasper said coldly.

Wendy gave her acknowledgment and then made a call.

Archer and Ronald were confused by Jasper’s actions.

“Did you go crazy or what?” Ronald sneered at Jasper and scoffed.

“Person-in-charge? What person-in-charge? Considering that you know him, I’d say it’s got to be the person in charge of sweeping the streets, hmm? Oh, I’m so scared.”

Archer laughed loudly too. “Who knows, Ronald. Maybe he’ll call JW Real Estates’ person-in-charge over? After all, everything’s possible when you live in a dream.

“But why would you put on this act with him, Wendy? Aren’t you just lowering yourself by doing so?”

Archer snickered and continued speaking to Wendy, “People say you start imitating the people you spend time around, Wendy. I suggest you leave this poor and stupid f*cker Jasper lest your intelligence gets dragged down as well. Come follow me and Ronald. It’ll be much better for you.”

Jasper smiled faintly when he heard Archer. After Wendy made a call, so did he.

Jasper then called the general manager of Southface River Properties.

The general manager was many ranks below Jasper, so he immediately greeted the man frightfully when he picked up the phone.

Jasper only said one thing.

“What kind of people are you employing? What use is being a general manager if you can’t even employ the right people?”

“I want you to reflect on your issues, and I don’t want to see the name Archer Nicholls in the list of employees under my companies!”

“Understood?!”

Jasper hung up the phone right after saying this.

Archer was about to laugh and mock Jasper when his phone rang.

Seeing that it was a call from his general manager, Archer’s smile froze and an ominous feeling filled his chest.

Life at the Top Chapter 1028

No matter what, Archer did not dare to leave a call from his superior unanswered, so he accepted it hesitantly. Before Archer could speak, his general manager shouted through the phone.

“Archer, I don’t care how you want to f*ck yourself over, but don’t involve me in your mistakes! Listen to me closely, you’re fired!”

Archer’s heart raced and his expression paled.

He felt the urge to explain himself quickly, but he had only just opened his mouth when the general manager hung up the phone.

Archer gaped at Jasper with widened eyes and he felt his throat tighten as if clogged with cotton. Countless words formed at the tip of his tongue but he could not say a thing.

Conflicting emotions of agitation, shock, disbelief, and confusion swarmed Archer and engulfed him.

The entire house fell silent for a moment.

“What happened?” Ronald asked, seeing how the color had drained from Archer’s face.

Ronald was confused at the strange situation.

Before Archer could reply, hasty knocks were heard at the door.

It had only been eight to nine minutes since Wendy’s call.

“I’ll open the door!”

Ramona volunteered bravely.

It seemed like she was the only one suitable for the role.

She had watched everything transpire with her own eyes just now, including the phone call from which Archer was fired. The other party was too loud, so everyone in the room, including Ramona, had heard the contents of the call even without the speakers being turned on.

Ramona was not stupid, so she knew that Jasper currently had a magnificent status and identity.

Excited, Ramona opened the doors.

On the other side of the door stood a middle-aged man panting and sweating in place. The man was currently using an expensive suit jacket to wipe the sweat from his face.

Ramona could tell that this was a man who stayed in a luxurious environment most of the time. It must have been difficult for such a person to run up five floors of stairs in one go.

Nobody knew how this man had rushed over.

“You...”

The man interrupted Ramona before she finished speaking.

“Sorry. My name is Currey Abbott, I’m JW Real Estate’s Faith County branch’s person-in-charge. Is Mr. Laine here?”

Ramona sucked in a cold breath at how polite Currey was.

JW Real Estates was the number one real estate enterprise in the whole of Southeast Province. As the person in charge of the county, this man was someone a normal salaryperson like Ramona could never approach.

“Jasper Laine?” Ramona asked bravely.

“Yes.” Currey nodded vigorously.

“He’s inside, follow me.”

Ramona answered before bringing Currey inside.

“Yes, please. Thank you.”

Ramona marveled over how weird the world was when she heard Currey speak.

She could never meet people like Currey normally. Even if she did, Currey would certainly be very arrogant throughout the meeting and might not even spare her a word, let alone speak to her so politely now.

Upon entering the bedroom, the atmosphere in the room turned exceptionally strange.

Archer’s complexion was still devoid of color as his lips started to quiver.

Ronald had also realized what had happened. The man now looked at Jasper warily. He looked like there was a lot he wanted to say but decided to bite his tongue.

Life at the Top Chapter 1029

Jasper and Wendy were the only ones unaffected as they took care of the weak Ms. Tiana.

“I’m here, Mr. Laine,” Currey greeted courteously once he saw Jasper and rushed over.

Jasper hummed in acknowledgment as he held a cup of hot water in his hands. With Wendy’s help, he slowly fed Ms. Tiana the water.

Currey stood rigidly in place and did not dare say another word. He stood there like a guilty student awaiting his teacher’s punishment.

Ronald’s expression also changed when he saw Currey.

He knew who Currey was.

Ronald had put in a lot of effort to become Currey’s friend.

His relationship with Currey was finally going somewhere, but... Ronald’s expression soured greatly when he thought back to how Currey had addressed Jasper.

Mr. Laine!

Not anyone could be referred to so courteously.

Archer had only pretended to be the president of a company purely for the sake of fooling others and showing off.

However, when Currey referred to Jasper as Mr. Laine.

It meant that Ronald had completely screwed himself over.

Jasper only turned to meet Currey after Ms. Tiana had drank her water.

“Is this our first time meeting?” Jasper asked.

Currey quickly replied, “I’ve only been in Faith County for one and a half months. I was working in the headquarters in Nauritus City before, and I was fortunate enough to meet you during the Southface River topping-out ceremony, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper nodded. Be it the real estate company, his other subsidiaries, or even JW Capital the parent company itself, the number of employees under him was ever-growing as his enterprise continued to develop. Hence, he could no longer remember every single employee.

“Do you recognize this person? Is he a partner?” Jasper pointed at Ronald and asked.

Currey turned his head to look. The look in his eyes had terrified Ronald.

“No, that’s not the case, Jasper. Oh, wait, Mr. Laine. Mr. Laine, it’s a misunderstanding, Mr. Laine.”

Ronald no longer held the same air of arrogance about him now as he stumbled about to explain with a pale face, “This really is a misunderstanding. I didn’t know about your noble status before this, Mr. Laine.”

“Noble?” Jasper smiled and spoke calmly, “I don’t think there’s anything noble about my identity though. I’m just a normal man that’s doing business to make a living. How does having a larger business suddenly make me someone noble?”

Ronald looked like he had been made to swallow a fly. He nodded vigorously. “Yes, yes, of course, Mr. Laine. You’re right, you aren’t noble... no, that’s not what I meant.”

With a ‘pfft’, Ramona burst into laughter as she listened to Ronald stammering.

Ramona would never dare to laugh out loud if this was any other time, but she was elated right now.

Contrary to how arrogant Ronald and Archer were earlier, the two were now terrified and humiliated.

Ramona was extremely thrilled to see the large contrast in the two’s behaviors, especially when the two were acting so vile and abominable just moments ago.

Just then, Currey spoke.

“He’s Ronald Malone, Mr. Laine, the owner of Robust Demolitions. We do share a few business partnerships.

Jasper nodded and looked at Currey to ask, “Is the partnership process normal?”

Corruption was a potential risk to any company.

The larger JW got, the more likely problems of this kind were to arise in the lower ranks.

Currey from the county branch, for example, had full control over which demolition company he chose to partner with. There had to be a reason why he set out to partner with a specific company—be it Ronald, McDonald, or otherwise.

That was why Jasper had asked this.

Life at the Top Chapter 1030

The situation suddenly became more serious when Currey heard him ask this.

“I can guarantee this with my life, Mr. Laine. There’s no problem with the process at all.

“I chose Robust because I thought that it would be better to choose a local demolition company considering how demolition is extremely complicated and troublesome work. Robust happens to be the best demolition company in Faith County as well, so we decided to commission them.”

Jasper smiled when he heard Currey’s explanation and replied, “Don’t worry, I was just asking.

“But you have to remember that our partner’s strength shouldn’t be JW’s only metric when looking for a partner. The company owner’s personality is also very important.

“What kind of partnership benefits can we expect from a company that would hurt civilians for their personal interests? We should be satisfied as long as the partnership doesn’t come back to bite us in the bud.”

Jasper pointed at Ronald who was shivering and pale as he continued, “Take him, for example. He threatened a retired and severely ill teacher who was living alone. He claimed that he’d use a bulldozer and bury her under the building if she didn’t sign the demolition contract.

“Regardless of whether he was just threatening or if he actually planned to do so, JW should never partner with such people. Understood?”

Currey fully understood Jasper's lecture and immediately replied, "I understand, Mr. Laine. I'll go back and immediately announce the cancellation of all partnership with Robust Demolitions.

"We won't partner with them again in the future, and we'll also do some digging on this aspect when we choose our future partners."

"Very good." Jasper nodded.

Jasper then turned to Ronald who looked desperate and asked calmly, "Do you two remember what you said just now?"

"The world is huge and there's also a ton of much more powerful people outside. I might not be the most powerful person out there, but I am more powerful than you."

Jasper spoke slowly, and there was no hint of glee in his voice from oppressing them with his status and power. There was no sign of arrogance either—Jasper was calm, as if he had just done something insignificant.

"You had claimed that strength is more important than reason in this society, but what about now?"

"I fired Archer and ensured that your Robust Demolitions would never receive another deal from us. This is my strength. Even so, I believe that without enough reason, a little bit of strength will get you nowhere."

Ronald's entire body shivered as he looked at Jasper in despair. "Who, who are you?"

Jasper chuckled and replied, "Does it matter who I am?"

Thud.

It was the sound of Ronald falling to his knees.

He wailed as he begged Jasper, "Please, Mr. Laine, please. Forgive me, I'm sorry, I won't bully people like this anymore. Please, let me live, I don't want to go bankrupt!"

"Is it my fault whether you go bankrupt or not?" Jasper asked coldly.

Ronald frantically replied, "If you don't dissolve our partnership, then I'll spend the rest of my life as your lackey, Mr. Laine. I'll never be disloyal."

"Forget it, not with how you'd readily bury people with your bulldozers. I'm not brave enough to hire you."

Jasper averted his gaze from Ronald. It would only sully Jasper's business to have someone like Ronald work under him.

Jasper looked at Currey again and asked, "What's with the demolition of this staff building?"

Currey immediately replied, "We're planning to build a small district here and we've already demolished the surrounding area. All that's left is this building. The company's ready to start construction once that's done."

Life at the Top Chapter 1031

“Our proposal for this project has already been approved by the headquarters half a year ago.

“And the arrangement for the demolition compensation?” Jasper asked.

Currey was even more confused as he replied, “That is decided according to the documents the local officials gave us. As a real estate business, all we have to do is compensate the people affected in accordance with the statement provided by the officials. Is there something wrong?”

Jasper scoffed and replied, “This Robust Demolitions you partnered with is only paying half the standard demolition fee!”

Currey’s expression immediately changed and he hastily replied, “The real estate company knows nothing of this, Mr. Laine.

“I’ll have someone investigate your involvement in this. Bring them out of here now now, I don’t want to see them.

“And contact all households that signed the demolition contract. Find out how many families Ronald had forced to sign the release and ensure that you pay them the standard compensation package.

“We’re demolishing people’s homes, so it’s only right we pay them exactly how much we owe. JW Real Estates will not profit from immorally-made money.”

Currey quickly replied, “Yes, Mr. Laine. I’ll get to it right away.”

Jasper waved his hand and did not speak anymore.

Currey glared at Ronald and shouted, "What are you waiting for? Come with me! Or do you want to continue being Mr. Laine's eyesore?"

Ronald got up despondently and followed Currey out with a blank expression on his face. Archer left with them, his complexion pale and his head drooped down.

Archer was in despair now that he was fired; He knew that he was screwed.

Still, his situation was slightly better than Ronald's.

After all, all he lost was a job, and it would not be too difficult for Archer to find another job. Ronald had lost his entire company, so he was the one with nothing left.

Ronald grabbed Currey once they walked out the door.

As far as Currey was concerned, Ronald was like the plague, and he did not want to come in contact with the latter. Currey quickly shouted, "Let go! What're you holding on to me for?"

Ronald let go of him and pleaded sorrowfully, "I'm not even asking for your help, Mr. Abbott. But please, seeing as how we used to be partners, just tell me. Who is Jasper Laine?"

"What for? So you can take revenge?" Currey could tell what Ronald was thinking by the latter's expression.

"As you said, because we used to be partners, so I'll do you one better. I suggest you give up on the idea of taking revenge.

"Mr. Laine isn't like the people you used to deal with. You can't threaten or scare Mr. Laine off with a few thugs.

“This is JW we’re talking about. JW! Think about it properly, what do you think those two letters represent?”

Ronald looked deep in thought when he heard Currey say this.

Beside them, Archer reacted first and gasped, “JW, that’s Jasper’s and Wendy’s initials together isn’t it?”

Currey scoffed and answered, “So you’re not too stupid, brat. Now, do you know who Mr. Laine is?”

“He’s the owner of JW! And not just JW Real Estates. The real estate company is only one of Mr. Laine’s many subsidiaries. Each of them is just as powerful, if not more so than the real estate company. Who do you think you’re offending here?”

“No one in Southeast Province would dare to disrespect Mr. Laine, let alone the two of you.”

Life at the Top Chapter 1032

Both Ronald and Archer were in despair when they heard Currey.

It was only then that they finally understood who they had offended.

This was especially true for Archer.

He had bullied and looked down on Jasper because he believed that Jasper could not be someone outstanding, considering he was a poor fellow back when they were studying together. Had he not done so, Archer imagined that he would be living a life of riches now as Jasper's ex-classmate.

Therefore, Archer was immediately filled with regret.

He knew it was impossible, but Archer still felt the urge to rush back to kneel and beg for Jasper's forgiveness.

However, the tightly closed door had cut off any possibility of this.

"Oh my God." Ronald swayed before leaning against the wall limply. He wanted to cry but had no tears to shed.

"What now?"

Ronald suddenly turned to Archer, grabbed his hand, and shouted, "You two used to be classmates, right? Go beg for forgiveness! Maybe he'll give us another chance seeing as how you used to be classmates!"

Archer flung off Ronald's hand distastefully and replied, "I wouldn't have offended him if not for you! You want me to beg his forgiveness now? You think he'll give me the time of day?"

"I only lost my job now, but if I truly piss him off, who knows if I'll end up dead because of it!"

Ronald's expression soured. "You're blaming me?"

Archer harrumphed and answered aggrievedly, "Who else am I supposed to blame but you? You're the one that's been acting high and mighty because you're considered strong and have contacts here Faith County. This is karma! It's only a matter of time before something like this happens to people like you!"

Ronald was already greatly agitated to begin with, so when Archer began to look down on him as well, he grew enraged. "What the f*ck did you just say to me?!"

Ronald then swiftly punched Archer across the face.

Unfortunately, Archer was not someone to be offended either. Feeling both regret and the hasty urge to vent, Archer could no longer hold back when Ronald punched him, so he pounced on the man, causing the two to get into a fistfight.

Currey shook his head at the sight of the two intertwined and fighting figures.

No matter how he looked at it, the scene reminded him of a dogfight.

Not that it mattered to him anymore.

In the room, Ms. Tiana was also curious about who exactly Jasper was.

"Are you some owner of a big business now, Jasper?" Ms. Tiana asked.

Jasper sat by the bed and smiled “I wouldn’t call it a big business, but I do own something quaint.”

Despite this, Ms. Tiana shook her head. “Don’t lie to me. I can tell from how that old head of the real estate business treated you with respect that you’re his superior, aren’t you?”

Jasper nodded. “Yeah.”

Ms. Tiana sighed and spoke with relief, “Good, then. Very good. You’re the most successful one out of all my students.”

“Ms. Tiana, it’s still my fault for being too lax with my subordinates. If I wasn’t, this wouldn’t have happened. You heard him just now, so don’t worry. I’ll follow up on this and I’ll make sure the families who signed the demolition contract won’t be cheated of any money,” Jasper spoke gently.

Ms. Tiana replied contentedly, “I know. I have nothing to fear now that I have your promise. As for the demolition contract, I’ll sign it right away once you have your people come over.”

“There’s no rush for that, Ms. Tiana. I plan to bring you over to the hospital in the provincial capital for treatment. Your health is still the most important thing here. Just look, all these children are eagerly waiting for you to get better,” Jasper spoke.

However, Ms. Tiana seemed hesitant. “I didn’t go to the hospital before because I was worried that they’d demolish the building while I was away.

“Even now, when there’s no need to worry about that anymore, going to the hospital is still too expensive. I know my own body, so once the psychological illness is gone, I’ll be return to health in no time at all.”

Jasper glanced at Wendy to signal for her help in persuading Ms. Tiana when he realized that she was unwilling to go to Nauritus City with him.

Thus, Wendy spoke gently as well, “Ms. Tiana, it’s only right we go to the hospital when we’re not feeling well. Don’t worry about the expenses and all. Jasp is doing really well now and the money won’t be a problem.”

Despite this, Ms. Tiana still looked hesitant.

Jasper smiled. “Actually, Ms. Tiana, I was hoping to seek out a charity foundation when I got back. Mainly to sponsor children who are too poor to attend schools.

“But I’m too busy with work most of the time and I can’t do this all on my own. Therefore, I was hoping you could become the first chairwoman of this charity foundation, Ms. Tiana.”

Ms. Tiana flushed in excitement and gasped. “Really?”

Jasper nodded and smiled. “Of course. I’m planning to donate an initial amount of 10 million to the charity foundation. It’s not much, but it should help quite a few children. That’s why you have to take care of yourself, Ms. Tiana. Otherwise, how will you provide them a chance to go to school?”

With that, Ms. Tiana replied excitedly, “Yes, yes, you’re right. This is great, Jasper. You’ve never disappointed me. A successful person should always think of ways to benefit the rest of the world, and you’ve already begun to walk this path.”

“You’re too kind, Ms. Tiana. I’m still far from a successful person, I’m just doing what I can with the little that I have.”

“That’s precious enough as it is. In that case, I agree, I’ll go to Nauritus City immediately!

“However, there are still a few things I need to pack up, and the children don’t know that I’m going to Nauritus City. I’ve got to tell them first, so I can’t leave today,” Ms. Tiana continued ashamedly.

“Leave it to me.”

Ramona suddenly spoke up, “Jasper, Wendy, you two are busy people so you should go back first. I’ll send Ms. Tiana to Naurtitus City tomorrow or the day after once she’s totally prepared.”

Jasper nodded and replied, “Thank you for your trouble, then. This is my name card, so just contact me then.”

Ramona suppressed her excitement and took Jasper’s name card, then she beamed brightly at Jasper and asked, “If possible, can I help out in the charity foundation too?”

“Of course. The charity foundation’s still in the process of being founded, and it’s in dire need of recruits. I’d be grateful if you wanted to join it,” Jasper answered with a crescent-eyed smile.

Both Jasper and Wendy were in a great mood as they left Ms. Tiana’s house.

After all, they had successfully dealt with Ms. Tiana’s issue.

“Is this charity foundation real?” Wendy asked when she got in the car.

“Of course it is. It’s not like I can go back on my word now that I’ve said it,” Jasper replied while driving. “I’ve been poor before so I know how it feels when you can’t even afford a meal. How is anyone supposed to afford education under circumstances like that?”

“It’s within my capabilities, so I’ll help them as best as I can. It won’t cost us much, but it’ll be a life-changing opportunity for the kids.”

Life at the Top Chapter 1033

As Jasper drove away from Faith County, an Audi approached it from the opposite direction.

Excluding the driver, there was a man and a woman in the car.

“This is your hometown, Miss Hunt? What a great and scenic place. It’s just as I expected.”

The man in a smart outfit spoke with stilted Somerish as he looked out the window.

Beside him was a woman dressed in a feminine suit with light makeup on her face.

This woman was the ‘Miss Hunt’ he was referring to.

Jasper would be shocked if he saw this, for Miss Hunt was none other than Penelope.

With Jasper’s recommendation, Penelope had gotten a job in ICBS thanks to John. However, she resigned two months later and was now completely different.

Not even the people closest to Penelope would believe that the harsh and calculative girl would turn into someone that now oozed with confidence.

“Are you implying something else, Mr. Carr?” Penelope asked calmly.

Leroy smiled and replied, "I was just voicing my genuine thoughts. Oh, right, do you plan to stay for a few days now that you've returned to your hometown, Miss Hunt?"

Penelope replied, "I've only come this time to fetch my mother to Waterhoof City for treatment. It won't take long, so don't worry. I know what my mission is, and I won't add to Mr. Atticus' troubles. I'll return as fast as I can."

Leroy chuckled and said, "Don't worry about it. After all, we are partners. As long as you've done what Mr. Atticus wants of you, he'll give you what you want in return."

Penelope replied indifferently, "If we really are partners, then how would you explain Mr. Atticus having you stay by my side to monitor me?"

Leroy laughed out loud. "You're being too sensitive, Miss Hunt. Mr. Atticus already told me that I'm only by your side to help you deal with issues you cannot handle alone.

"After all, you're still new to the business world. If not for my help, your company would not have been able to develop so smoothly. What use is Mr. Atticus' taking care of you and giving you business orders when you can't even carry them out?"

Penelope's gaze sharpened and she spoke indifferently, "I know exactly what your plans are. Still, it's one thing to act when others are observing you, but aren't you tired of acting even in private?"

Leroy twisted his body and leaned toward Penelope to ask. "Tired? I'm full of energy and vigor."

As he said this, Leroy had already placed a hand on Penelope's thigh before she realized.

Penelope immediately struggled and pushed Leroy's body and hand away as if she were suddenly electrocuted. She spoke icily, "Did Mr. Atticus tell you to do this too, Leroy?"

Leroy's ego was bruised after being pushed away and he replied coldly, "I just wanted to learn more of you. Don't you want to gain more benefits through me?"

Penelope sneered. "You're just one of Mr. Atticus' dogs, so what benefits can you offer me? I suggest you show some respect!"

Leroy harrumphed and stared at Penelope. "Stupid b*tch! Don't take my kindness for granted. Who do you think you are? You're nothing more than a lowly b*tch in front of Mr. Atticus!"

"Had it not been for your relationship with Jasper and the fact that you're useful to us, Mr. Atticus would never spared a b*tch like you a glance!"

Penelope stared at Leroy frigidly and answered, "Even if I'm just a b*tch, you aren't any more dignified than I am! My deal with Mr. Atticus is between him and me. It has nothing to do with a servant like you merely stands by Mr. Atticus' side!"

Penelope ignored Leroy's wretched expression and continued to speak, "I already told you. Either show some respect, or I'll notify Mr. Atticus immediately!"

"It's just like you said. I'm still useful to Mr. Atticus, so do you think he'll get rid of me or you?"

When he heard this, Leroy's expression changed slightly.

Penelope was no more than a facet for him to vent out his sexual frustrations, but it was not worth it to anger Mr. Atticus over such a thing.

As Mr. Atticus's lackey, Leroy knew better than most that the last thing he should do was anger Mr. Atticus. If he did, he would face a fate more tragic than he could ever imagine.

Penelope harrumphed when she saw that she had deterred Leroy, and said, "I can pretend that nothing happened earlier, but I don't want it to happen again.

"Mr. Atticus had you monitor me, so do your job honestly. I'll also complete what I promised Mr. Atticus, but this process has nothing to do with a servant like you. Don't even think about touching me again or I'll make you pay for it!"

Leroy narrowed his eyes and bore his gaze into Penelope.

He had first seen this woman in Mr. Atticus's office. She was terrified, akin to a newborn chick, and she had an air of an insignificant townspeople. She was an extremely ordinary woman of the lowest rank.

However, this woman was easily adaptable and it had only taken a few months before she changed completely. Now, a couple of curt sentences from her had Leroy admitting defeat.

Leroy harrumphed after weighing his options. Then, he temporarily dismissed his lustful desires.

After all, this woman would become a stray dog after she stopped being of use to Mr. Atticus. 'When that happens, I'll get to do whatever I want to her.'

When he thought of this, Leroy felt his body heat up.

'Just you wait. You may be prideful now, but I'd like to see how you die once Mr. Atticus' plan succeeds!'

In the car, Leroy's expression jumped between prideful and wretched as his mind raced through these thoughts. Meanwhile, Penelope remained expressionless.

The hand hidden by her side curled into a fist as Penelope took a deep breath, her gaze sharpening.

She knew that both Leroy beside her and Mr. Atticus far away in Harbor City saw her as nothing more than a pawn to deal with Jasper. Not that she cared, for she was using them at the same time too.

“How have you been lately, Jasper?”

Penelope muttered internally as she stared at the familiar bustling street outside the window.

Life at the Top Chapter 1034

Jasper had no idea of the two special guests that arrived in Faith County after him.

At the same time, the man was currently discussing the charity foundation with Wendy.

“This charity foundation will aim to sponsor poor children so they can have a chance to pursue their education. This is also all it will do. From what I know, international charity foundations tend to invest donations in insured financial products and do charitable transactions with the returns as they’re non-profit organizations.

“Some larger charity foundation even have their own investment department.

“JW Company is this charity foundation’s only shareholder, so we won’t do public fundraising. It’s also not time for that yet.

“I’ll have Jake represent me to invest the 10 million from Harbor City when the time comes, and I intend to have an annualized rate of return for this. Say that we set a rate of return of 10%. If it exceeds, then all is well, but if it doesn’t, then I’ll top it up with my own money.”

Wendy frowned when she heard that, “Won’t you make a huge loss if you’re coming up with the principal and also covering the shortage?”

Jasper smiled and replied, “We’re doing charity. In comparison to the money we make, this isn’t much. But this seemingly small sum of money is enough to help a lot of children.

“Besides, it’s not like we’ll definitely making a loss. Charity foundations come with many tax incentives. The main reason why so many enterprises abroad are passionate about doing charity is that it helps reduce the amount of tax one has to pay. For every 1 million we donate, we pay 800 thousand less for tax, meaning we only pay a net amount of 200 thousand. At the same time, we win both the officials’ and society’s favor.

“Our country also has systems like this in place to encourage the development of the charity industry. A certain amount of donations from an enterprise can result in a 100% tax deduction. When this happens, we don’t have to pay a buck, since our tax money will be considered to have gone to charitable donations.

“The most important thing is that the charity foundation is an asset, which benefits us, the society, and the officials.”

Since she worked in finance, Wendy immediately understood what Jasper meant. Soon, her expression became one of keen interest.

“I’ll have someone follow up on this immediately once we get back, so we can go through the procedures as soon as possible.”

Jasper smiled. “Alright. But remember that the point of this is to do charity within our capabilities, so keep things low-profile. There’s no need to broadcast it to the world or it’ll lose its original meaning.

“Find professionals to manage it when the time comes, and we’ll try to distance it as far away from JW Capital and its subsidiaries as possible.”

“Okay,” Wendy replied.

Jasper had almost no time to rest once they returned to Nauritus City as he joined Wendy in submerging himself in work.

The larger JW Capital’s subsidiaries became, the more decisions the parent company had to make.

The team of decision-makers and senior executives grew as well, and while they did help share quite a bit of Jasper's and Wendy's burdens, Jasper still had to oversee and approve important decisions and proposals.

"The research and development of a stepper?"

Jasper looked up from the report in his hands to Lance and Chad, who sat in front of him, and asked with a smile, "You two have given me a very tricky question here."

Chad smiled wryly and replied, "I couldn't decide when Lance handed the report to me, so I thought that it'd be best if you made the decision, Mr. Laine. After all, a few hundred million a year for research is just too much.

"If I'm right, this research expense of a few hundred million has already gone through multiple rounds of restructuring, hasn't it?" Jasper asked Lance.

Lance nodded embarrassedly and replied, "That's true, Mr. Laine. But this was something Professor McGee had strongly requested.

"They said that our country's technical field is currently empty, and future electronics will all rely on technical development of the integrated circuit. Relying on imported goods will one day become a weakness others can exploit."

Jasper nodded but did not make a sound.

He was well aware of this.

In the year 2020 of his past life, Warwick was the leading figure in the private technology manufacturing industry within the country. Despite this, the company had been cornered and stunted by its competitors due to their inability to compete technically when it came to integrated circuits.

There were two main components in electronic equipment: the operating system software, and the integrated circuit hardware.

Huge western technology companies also had a tight grip of these two components.

For the operating system, Google was already one of Jasper's subsidiaries. One of the advantages of his reincarnation was that Jasper understood the importance of operating systems before everyone else did, as well as the fact that the creator of Android would also hail from Google.

When it came to hardware, however... the West had almost a century's worth of technological advancement over them, and it would not be so easy to surpass them.

"This few hundred million won't be enough," Jasper put his report down and answered.

Lance and Chad shared a look as they did not understand what Jasper meant.

"I know about steppers, and the integrated system is the most important component of it all. A research fund of a few hundred billion a year isn't enough to develop something like this and I don't remember Professor McGee being someone so unreliable."

Chad smiled wryly at Jasper's words and turned to Lance. "I told you, didn't I? Don't even think about trying to deceive Mr. Laine. Just tell him your requests as it is."

Lance then answered with an embarrassed expression, "There really isn't hiding anything from you, Mr. Laine. Indeed, a few hundred million is only enough for the initial stages of research and development.

"Once research actually begins, Professor McGee and his team estimate funding of at least 5 billion a year if he hopes to produce any results. After all, we're short of a decade's worth of technological prowess, and are lacking the research normally carried out by hundreds of national experts."

“So you two decided to come up with this plan to placate Elbert while deterring me at the same time?” Jasper asked.

Lance quickly replied, “We didn’t think too much about it. A research fund of a few hundred million is already a huge deal to any enterprise within the country.

“Therefore, you’d have realized that something was wrong after a detailed investigation of the market, Mr. Laine, and we suspected that you’d decline the proposal. I’m sure Professor McGee would also have been deterred by this.”

After saying this, Lance sighed. “All these technicians know is how to ask for money, but they don’t know how difficult it is to make money to begin with. Who can possibly support R&D that cost billions every year?”

Jasper fell silent for a long moment to think about it before he finally spoke up, “Still, not every expense can be cut down.”

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Jasper's words stunned both Chad and Lance.

"So you're actually going to invest the amount, Mr. Laine?" Lance asked in shock.

Chad was a higher-ranked employee, after all, so he had a more comprehensive view of issues. Chad frowned and replied, "Mr. Laine, I don't think such a large investment is a good idea."

"I'm sure you two are aware of the basics of the company's current financial situation." Jasper leaned back against his office chair and sipped his tea with a crescent-eyed smile.

"We aren't exactly at risk of a capital chain rupture, but that's only because all our companies are developing exponentially. The money we're making is almost completely rechanneled back into the company.

"Our electronics company produces the most profits out of all the subsidiaries, but it only gave the parent company 80 million worth of profit last month. Do you think the parent company can afford to allocate them billions to fund research?"

Lance replied in embarrassment. "It's mainly because construction of the new factory area has already wrapped up over in Reed City. Therefore, we invested a little more to add a few production lines over there."

Jasper waved him off and replied, "The company needs to develop, so it will need money. I'm not blaming you for the small profit, but telling you instead that the JW Capital's cash flow is tight, and it can't afford such expensive research."

"If that's the case, then what did you mean when you said that not every expense can be cut down, Mr. Laine?" Chad asked.

“Exactly what you think I mean.”

Jasper placed the report into his drawer and continued.

“For every enterprise that relies on advanced technology, research funding is an expense they cannot afford to reduce. Take a look at the top advanced technology companies around the world and observe how many of them have research funds that represent at least 50% of their operating costs.

“To a technology company, technology is their lifeforce. A monopoly on technology can lead to endless wealth and a worldwide market to reap from.

“All of JW Capital’s subsidiaries aim to reach the pinnacle of their respective industries. Not just within the province or country, but within Terra or even the entire world.

“Which is why we’re not aiming to be labor-intensive enterprises, but rather profitable technological giants with plenty of influence.”

Jasper smiled as he looked at Lance and Chad who were inexplicably excited. He continued.

“Go back and tell Professor McGee that I already know about his request. Tell him to give me a moment and I’ll talk to him personally soon. He has my vow that he’ll get to research this project.”

“Alright, Mr. Laine. I’ll make sure he is notified of this,” Lance replied.

Jasper waved his hand and spoke, “Leave everything else to me from here on. I’ll take a trip to Waterhoof City to negotiate this, then I’ll update you on the results afterward.”

‘Waterhoof City to negotiate?’

'There are stepper technicians or companies to negotiate with in Waterhoof City?'

Lance and Chad exchange a look, but were smart enough not to ask questions. Now that the matter was settled, the two of them left the room.

Jasper sat in the office for a moment as he thought about the stepper.

A few minutes later, he picked up his phone and called Zachary.

"Hi, Uncle Law. I remember that Old Master Law had donated a stepper to a few years ago, right?"

Jasper continued after hearing the response from the other end of the line.

"Haha, I know that it's an old device from decades ago. But the old master had the ability and contacts to get a stepper into the country. That's something that most people can only dream of.

"I know that the west has a technology blockade on the stepper, so I wasn't planning to look for a stepper manufacturer outside the country. Instead, I was thinking that perhaps Hoofmorn University might have some results after researching the stepper for so many years."

Life at the Top Chapter 1036

“Yes, I do have plans to bring over a team to conduct the research alongside them.

“I’m prepared to invest astronomical amounts into this. This is going to be a magnificent thing if we succeed. It’ll mean that JW Electronics broke through the technology blockade and will mark a turning point in which JW Electronics can finally make its way toward the international market.

“Alright. Thank’s for your trouble putting, Uncle Law. I’ll take a trip to Waterhoof City immediately to contact them.”

Hanging up the phone, Jasper had just stood to leave the room when his phone rang again.

This caught Jasper off guard as the phone call was from Gale, who Jasper had not talked to in a long time.

“Old Master Hurlbutt, is there a reason you’ve taken time out of your busy schedule to talk to me today?”

While Gale and Old Master Law were elders of the same generation, Jasper made sure to maintain enough distance with this crafty Haddock businessman that liked to look down on the younger generation for their lack of experience.

Crafty businessmen like him were ruthless, and they left no remains when they devoured others whole.

Take Conrad’s aluminum mine that Jasper had tried hard to seize before for example.

It was an aluminum mine without too much developmental value, yet Gale had spent quite a bit of money to get it through Jasper.

Jasper remembered being confused as to why the old man would spend so much when there was not much to profits to be made from it. Even if Gale had gained ownership of the aluminum mine, he would still have to deduct inflation and interest from the remaining extractable ores.

He did not know why Gale was so stubborn about the aluminum mine.

However, what the old man did with the mine afterward completely stunned Jasper.

It also taught Jasper the difference between himself and this crafty businessman.

The old man had no desire to continue developing the mine at all. Instead, he immediately split the mining company into seventeen or eighteen smaller companies, each holding few resources and property rights. Then he completely reorganized them and sought out a few listed mining companies to sell the assets to.

Those listed companies released statements claiming that they had purchased important mining resources, and their share prices immediately skyrocketed.

Gale had made 800 million with this split and reorganization.

It was a win-win situation.

The only people who made a loss were investors.

However, even for them, the prices of their shares had increased.

Through this incident, Jasper came to believe that Gale was undoubtedly Haddock Chamber of Commerce's most important figure. The old man had

managed to use ruthlessness and craftiness to maximize his profits in Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

“You are putting your guard up against dear old me, aren’t you, sly child?” Gale’s chuckle drifted over from the other end of the line.

Jasper decided he might as well sit down again for this phone call and replied with a bright smile, “Old Master Hurlbutt, you prefer working on yourself and sitting down to enjoy the world around you. But I’m still young and I like moving around and wreaking havoc. We’re different people, so there’s no trust between us, nor is there any need to keep up our guard.”

Gale chuckled and replied, “There is no need to plot, sly child. I came looking for you this time with a specific goal in mind. I suppose you have forgotten your position, haven’t you?”

Jasper asked confusedly, “What position, Old Master Hurlbutt?”

“Hmph. You are still the Vice President of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City Branch. You agreed to take this position back then, yet you have not walked through the Waterhoof City Branch doors even once. Does it not hurt your conscience to lie to an old man who is already living out his last years?”

Jasper pretended to be shocked as he replied, “I’m innocent, Old Master Hurlbutt. I’ve just been too busy lately...”

“Alright. I did not come to hear your excuses. Something has occurred at the Chamber of Commerce. We need you there.”

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Jasper immediately raised his guard when he heard Gale say this.

“Do tell, Old Master Hurlbutt. I’m listening,” Jasper spoke.

Glare harrumphed when he heard Jasper clench his jaw but not promise to deal with the matter.

Any of his countless students in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce at this moment would be promising and swearing on their lives to deal with the matter well if he gave them the chance to work for him.

Yet, Jasper always acted as if Gale was ready to hurt him at any given time.

“An asset forum conference will be held in two days and I need you to attend it as the Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s representative,” Gale went straight to the point.

“The Teo Chamber of Commerce is holding the conference. Though based over at Cavern City, they decided to hold the conference in Waterhoof City, in Haddock’s Chamber of Commerce’s territory. They even sent invitations with great fanfare.

“That is why the Waterhoof City Branch will have to send out someone powerful to represent us.”

“However, there is no one suitable for the role over at the branch. I have given it some thought and you are the only one who can do it.”

Jasper frowned slightly at Gale’s words.

“Old Master Hurlbutt, I made it clear when I agreed to take the role as Vice President of the Chamber. I’m just here in name and I won’t interfere or participate in any of the specific businesses of the Chamber. I’m not a businessperson from Haddock, after all. It wouldn’t be right of me to attend this conference.

“This asset forum conference is essentially a fight between the Teo and Haddock Chambers of Commerce, it wouldn’t be suitable for a youth like me to join in.”

Gale seemed to have anticipated Jasper’s rejection and answered calmly, “You also agreed that you would take on the responsibility and work of a Vice President of the Chamber. I would not have asked you to assume the position otherwise.

“The only reason why the Teo Chamber of Commerce would dare to hold an asset forum conference in Waterhoof City is because they realized that the Haddock Chamber of Commerce is currently left without a strong leader.

“I am already old and there is only a handful of successful ones in the next generation, none of which are in Waterhoof City. Meanwhile, the generation after that has yet to grow up and establish themselves.

“A fight between chambers of commerce is large and it involves the interests of countless people. This is why the Waterhoof City Branch must send someone to attend, and the representative must win as well. You are the only one suited for the job.”

Jasper did not want to charge into this battle as Gale’s pawn, so he wanted to reject him immediately.

However, Gale continued before Jasper could speak.

“I’ll owe you a favor after this.”

Jasper immediately changed his mind after this.

Gale was a crafty man, but he kept his promises. This was evident from the situation with the Hull family.

Gale had helped the man even though it risked others mocking him for shamelessly bullying someone weaker.

All because he owed that family a favor.

During crucial times, a favor from someone like Gale could result in unexpected outcomes.

“I can go and do my part, but I have a small request. The Waterhoof City branch is not to cause me any more problems in the future,” Jasper spoke.

Jasper did not forget that after getting rid of the Hull family, Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City Branch still had the Gardner family lying in wait.

Over there, Norman had assumed the position of president.

“Alright,” Gale understood what Jasper was implying and replied calmly, “Whoever causes trouble you from now on will also be causing trouble to me.”

“I’m relieved to hear that, Old Master Hurlbutt,” Jasper smiled.

“Hmph. It won’t be easy owning a favor from me, sly child. I’ll have the branch send you information about the asset forum conference later. Treat it seriously, or I won’t be the only one in despair. You’d be making a fool out of yourself too.”

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Gale was evidently not in a good mood, so he hung up the phone right after.

It was almost time to clock out once the two calls were done.

Jasper went to fetch Wendy and the two soon returned home together.

Dawson was also home when they arrived at the house.

“You’ve helped me a lot with that 1 billion worth of funds, Uncle Schuler. But I might still need a little longer before I can pay you back next month,” Jasper spoke as he walked into the house with Dawson.

In reality, Jasper had borrowed the 1 billion investment into Abbylon from his future father-in-law...

Dawson waved him off and replied, “Take your time. You know how it is with the supermarket industry. The last things we lack are stores and cash. Not to mention that this money is going to belong to you two one day. I’m just handing it to you early.”

Jasper chuckled and did not decline. “Alright, then I’ll take this as an investment. Give me another month and I’ll make some big money. I should be able to pay you back two-fold if nothing goes wrong.”

While Dawson did not mind giving Jasper 1 billion Somer Dollars, his eyebrows still arched when he heard the younger man’s claim.

Dawson knew how Jasper had made his first fortune, so he immediately understood what Jasper meant by making big money.

“Be careful. The financial capital industry is no different from a huge legal gambling table. No one can promise to win forever,” Dawson reminded.

Jasper smiled and said, “I know. I won’t act without absolute certainty.”

Dawson nodded when he heard this. “Good. I’ve never had to worry about this when it comes to you.”

The family of three and Tiffany soon had dinner together.

After dinner, Jasper then called Tiffany to the study.

“I still have to wash the cutlery, Jasper,” Tiffany spoke softly.

Jasper replied with a crescent-eyed smile, “That can wait. You seemed preoccupied over dinner, as though you had something on your mind. You can always talk to me about it if you want, or your big sis Schuler if you’re uncomfortable talking to me about it.

“Also, have you decided on the thing I suggested to you last time? About going to university?”

Tiffany’s finger gripped her clothes when she heard him and she replied softly, “This is actually what I’ve been thinking about... I want to go to university, Jasper.”

Tiffany mustered up the courage to say the last bit.

“But I feel like I’m owing you too much, Jasper. I, it makes me feel uneasy.”

Jasper sighed lightly at Tiffany’s words.

“I understand what you are feeling, but I told you before, I’m just lending the money to you, and you’re going to have to pay me back in the end. Therefore, you don’t have to feel like you owe me.”

Tiffany replied in a conflicted tone, “But why are you so good to me when you have no reason to, Jasper?”

“Would you believe me if I said you reminded me of someone from the past?” Jasper asked.

Tiffany was stunned and she blinked in slight confusion.

“Don’t overthink it. Since you’ve already decided, then I’ll arrange it for you. I’ll be taking a trip to Waterhoof City tomorrow anyway, and I’ll be in contact with Hoofmorn University. So, I’ll help you contact them for your enrolment,” Jasper smiled.

Tiffany gaped in shock. “Hoofmorn University? That’s the fifth-best university in the country, Jasper. Is that even possible?”

“Superpowers exist in this world, and one of them is called having money.” Jasper chuckled.

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“Thank you, Jasper.”

Tiffany suddenly got up and gave Jasper a deep bow.

Jasper instinctively went up to stop her, but he immediately backtracked after taking the first step. Standing in place, he accepted Tiffany’s bow.

He knew that not accepting would only make Tiffany feel more uneasy. Hence, he might as well accept it since it would make Tiffany feel better.

Indeed, the girl exhaled in relief after bowing as she beamed brightly at Jasper.

“Just tell me how much money I used when the time comes, Jasper. I’ll calculate a total and write an IOU. I’ll start working after graduation so that I can pay you back.”

“I won’t charge you interest, but you will need to pay the principal back,” Jasper replied with a crescent-eyed smile.

Tiffany nodded enthusiastically when she heard this.

Just then, the study room doors were opened.

“What are you two talking about? I heard something about an IOU?” Wendy asked, walking into the room.

“Jasper said he’ll help me enroll in a university, so I’ll write an IOU for Jasper and you, Big Sis Schuler,” Tiffany spoke softly.

Wendy glanced at Jasper intently and said, "It's great that you want to study. Is there a major you're interested in?"

Jasper facepalmed when she said this. Wendy was indeed more detailed than he was when it came to things like this. All he thought of was to enroll Tiffany in a university, but he totally forgot to ask her what she wanted to major in."

Considering Tiffany's personality, she would only force herself to study if it was a major she did not like. This would go against Jasper's original intention.

"Can I study law?" Tiffany asked.

Wendy's eye lit up and she spoke, "Law's a major overlooked by many people, so it's in dire need of great talents. Having a law degree would also help you greatly in your future career."

"I don't see why not. If you can pass the judicial examination when you graduate, it'd help you greatly whether you go on to assume a legal position in a company, becoming a lawyer in a law firm, or even being a government official.

"I have no desire to work for the government or to be a lawyer, but I will take the judicial and bar exam. I want to work in your company's legal team," Tiffany spoke bravely.

Jasper smiled. "You're ambitious, that's great. Not to mention that JW's current legal team is still very weak, so it'll definitely need strengthening in the future. Even so, it isn't easy taking the judicial examination. Are you confident about this?"

Tiffany replied embarrassedly, "I love law. I even have half the general rules of Civil Law memorized. I'm confident."

After talking for a little longer, Tiffany excused herself.

Tiffany had just left when Wendy narrowed her eyes and walked over to stand in front of Jasper.

Wendy and Jasper stood very close together, to the point that they could feel the other's breaths on their faces.

However, Wendy was not flirting with Jasper now as she had questions to ask.

Jasper could also feel that Wendy was slightly pissed, and he smiled drily, "Why are you looking at me like that?"

"Are you guilty?" Wendy asked.

Jasper replied solemnly, "Why would I feel guilty when I didn't do anything wrong?"

"You're guilty," Wendy narrowed her eyes and spoke with certainty.

"Or you wouldn't be acting like this.

"Tell me, what are your plans with Tiffany?"

Jasper replied exasperatedly when he heard this, "She's just a young lady who came out to work after high school. I sympathize with her family background so I want to help where I can. What other plans could I have?"

Wendy looked at Jasper suspiciously and said, "No, I can tell that your reaction was different the first time you met Tiffany. It's like you've known her long ago, but Tiffany doesn't seem to remember you at all.

"Jasper you flirt, this isn't one of those amnesiac female-lead Conreana dramas, is it?"

Jasper let out a sigh. "What a vivid imagination you have. Say there is a female lead, it'd still be you, no?"

"Hmph."

Wendy seemed to be satisfied with Jasper's reply for she answered, "Don't even think about Tiffany in that way. She's too young and clueless."

"I wouldn't think about her that way even if she wasn't clueless," Jasper shook his head, "Don't you what kind of person I am?"

"I do know, which is also why I'm giving you this talk to deter you," Wendy spoke firmly.

When he recalled Anna and Celine, Jasper immediately surrendered and could not refute.

"Moving on, help me pack two outfits, would you?" Mr. Laine immediately changed the subject.

As expected, Wendy was stunned for a moment before she snapped back to attention. "Where are you going?"

"I have to take a trip to Waterhoof City tomorrow. There are quite a few things I have to do so it might take a few days. I also have to go check on the skyscraper. The construction team there asked me to come up with a name for the building. Any suggestions?"

Jasper asked.

Wendy tilted her head and thought about it, "The tallest building in the world, huh. JW Tower? Wait, no, this building is supposed to be a landmark, it's best the building doesn't scream JW."

“Yeah,” Jasper agreed. “The skyscraper’s model is already beyond what can be considered as part of the company’s ancillary assets. It has to be treated as an independent asset.

“The most important aspect of this building is its overall influence, so it’ll need an independent name, one that best has nothing to do with JW if possible.

“Take a look at how the previous tallest buildings in the world were named. There’s a reason none of them are named with any reference to their parent enterprises.

“It’ll limit the building’s potential once it’s named according to the enterprise, and it’ll also influence the types of tenants willing to rent lots in it. No one wants their office address to be under another company’s name.”

“Then how about the World Financial Center?” Wendy suggested.

“I think there were similar buildings in global financial centers overseas.

“Moreover, I think it’ll do both JW and Waterhoof City good to give off the impression as though our building is the only financial center in the country. Since it implies that Waterhoof City is comparable to the long-standing large financial cities in the west.”

“Sounds good,” Jasper smiled, “Still, I worry that this name is a little too grand. I’ll discuss with the people in Waterhoof City later, but it should be fine. Who else is deserving of such a name if not the tallest building in the world, right?”

“I’ll go pack your outfits then. Are you leaving tomorrow?” Wendy asked as she stood up.

“Tomorrow morning,” Jasper nodded.

Life at the Top Chapter 1040

Jasper and Julian left early the next morning, taking the Bentley as they made their way to Waterhoof City.

“Jul, I heard from Wendy that your sister’s been trying to set you up for blind dates recently?”

Jasper suddenly thought of something as they entered the highway, so he asked Julian with a subtle smile on his face.

Julian was in a great mood this morning, but his expression immediately darkened at the mention of dating.

Jasper and Julian had known each other for quite some time and their relationship was more akin to friendship than that of an employer and employee. Hence, there were fewer inhibitions between the duo’s private conversations.

Julian immediately began to complain, “I already told my sister that I don’t want to start dating so soon, let alone get married. I don’t even know what she’s searching for.

“You’re the only son of the Lager family. Elder sisters tend to take up the role of the mother in the family too, so of course she’d worry for you,” Jasper answered.

Julian sighed and complained, “I’m busy with work and I don’t have the kind of time to deal with those girls. They can be so demanding sometimes I might as well train with what little remaining time I have.”

Jasper replied irritably, “Will training continue your family bloodline? Will training find you a doting wife?”

“Getting married and having children is something everyone has to experience. Sometimes people just need the company of their other half; it’s different from the company of friends and family.”

Julian grumbled at Jasper’s words, “I’ll just see where fate takes me. I’ve actually met a few girls but none of them felt right. These girls only came to me because I worked by your side, Jasper. They come with ulterior motives.”

“You’re making a few hundred thousand annually, so you should have quite a bit saved up, right?” Jasper smiled.

Julian chuckled innocently and replied, “My sister’s the one saving my money for me. I heard I’ve made over a million now.”

Julian could be regarded as a small wealthy local man with more than a million Somer Dollars in savings in the year 2000.

“That’s nice. Your sister’s got quite the talent in managing money. This will be your savings allocated to marriage and dating.

“But as you said, let fate decide. Who knows, maybe you’ll find someone you like just around the corner. Tell me if you need my help one day. I’ll be your wingman.” Jasper laughed out loud.

The two continued to talk, and in a few hours, they had exited the highway and entered the overpass leading to Waterhoof City.

“Jasper, are we going to the hotel or somewhere else first?” Julian asked.

“To the construction site of the skyscraper first. We can have lunch around the area before we get to work in the afternoon,” Jasper replied.

Julian then changed directions and made their way to Waterhoof City city center.

This construction of the skyscraper was no secret in Waterhoof City.

Relatively capable companies and individuals all knew about it, as well as anyone who simply asked around. They would immediately learn that some large company's owner wanted to build the tallest building in the world. As envious as these people often were, they were also fascinated to learn that Somerland had produced such hidden talents.

After all, not everyone could construct the tallest building in the world just because they wanted to.

Soon, even commonfolk had gotten wind of the construction, and Waterhoof City quickly became abuzz with news of the construction.

People who were more well-informed immediately took the opportunity to spread the little bits of gossip they knew.

Something about the construction party being a trust-fund child from a formidable family, or about a fight involving a huge amount of backing behind each party, and rumors about something some powerful person did amidst all of this.

Gossip rapidly spread through the city.

Despite all this, the undisputable fact was that the tallest building in the world being built in their city was something to be proud of.

Life at the Top Chapter 1041

On this ordinary morning, Jasper arrived at the construction site with Julian in tow.

He had not informed anyone of his arrival and came to look around by himself.

The skyscraper had already taken its initial shape and the concrete foundation of the main construction sight had been complete. With that, one-third of the 666-meter skyscraper was already constructed.

The scorching sun shone over the construction site and countless workers were busying themselves in all corners of the site. The quiet rumble of machinery could also be heard.

Construction materials laid about everywhere and there were six tower cranes as tall as buildings operating on the site.

“All of this is money,” Jasper sighed as he looked up at the tower cranes suspended in mid-air.

These tower cranes were rented on a weekly lease. Installation was 200 thousand each and rental was another 100 thousand regardless of whether it was put to use or not. Jasper also had to pay the operators of these tower cranes, and each skilled operator cost him at least 30 thousand a month.

It was currently the year 2000 too.

Jasper had spent 3 million per month on this expense alone.

The man found his heart aching at the thought of these expenses during such a time where money was tight.

However, the costs now were nothing in comparison to the profits he would earn once he succeeded.

“Hey, hey, hey! Who are you people? This is a construction site, all you unrelated people need to leave.”

Jasper heard a shout from behind as he observed the construction. He turned to see a worker in charge of overseeing the site walk over and speak unkindly.

However, Jasper was not angry even though he had been shooed away impolitely, especially considering the man was only doing his job. Instead, Jasper replied with a crescent-eyed smile, “I was just taking a look when I walked by. I’ll be going now.”

The worker waved him off and said, “Get to it then, we can’t take responsibility if anything happens to you. I don’t understand you people. What’s there to watch anyway? Even so, you guys just appear every other day to look around.”

Jasper’s heart skipped a beat when he heard this, and the man passed the worker a cigarette from his breast pocket with a smile, “Do a lot of people come to look around, Sir?”

Seeing that it was a CW cigarette, the worker’s attitude immediately brightened and he replied.

“Exactly! It was still fine in the beginning when it was just curious people coming in out of curiosity, but it changed as a group of people soon started sneaking in to take pictures. They don’t say or do anything but take pictures. Who knows what those people are doing?”

“Look at how dangerous the construction site is. Rebar, concrete, and structures are all being lifted by cranes. What if something happens and we accidentally hurt someone? Who’s going to take responsibility for that?”

“A lot of people are already saying that there’s something wrong with the vibes here and that something bad’s going to happen. We’d be screwed if something did actually happen.”

“A lot of people are already saying that there’s something wrong with the vibes here and that something bad’s going to happen?” Jasper narrowed his eyes and repeated the phrase.

At this moment, even Julian realized that someone was trying to secretly sabotage the skyscraper or attack Jasper himself.

When it came to construction within the country, be it for commercial or residential use, or even housing that farmers built for themselves, there was one thing that was universally feared.

A haunted location!

Countrymen would rather play it safe than be sorry later, so the moment any construction was suspected to be haunted, people would surely begin avoiding it. If such an issue were to arise, the best case scenario would just be that people would comment about and slander it while the worse case scenarios would spell an early end to the construction project.

The mastermind behind this was truly ruthless.

However, the worker seemed to have realized that he had misspoken. His expression changed slightly and he was about to clarify himself when they heard a sudden shout sounded from the other end of the construction site.

“Oh no! Someone’s falling from up there! I think he’s going to die!”

Life at the Top Chapter 1042

The shout had caused the entire site to go into an uproar.

Countless workers rushed toward the location and the orderly construction site immediately erupted into chaos.

Jasper and Julian rushed toward the scene the moment it happened, such that the worker from earlier could not even stop them in time. Not that he had the time to, for he immediately rushed to the office to search for the person in charge.

Julian was still a trained man, so he ran the quickest and arrived at the scene first.

He took a glance and immediately turned around to hold Jasper back.

“Don’t look, Jasper. It’s a bit unsettling.”

Jasper pushed Julian away and walked forward.

What he saw next was more terrifying than a scene from a horror movie.

Falling from a great height, the man would certainly have died if not for the guard rail and safety net around the construction.

Jasper saw a young man lying on the floor, his body contorted into a weird angle as weak whimpers escaped his mouth while he shivered in place.

The sight stunned many of the workers that rushed over. While it was not uncommon for accidents to happen in construction sites, it was a completely different feeling to see it with one's own eyes.

Jasper's complexion paled as well.

He did not expect something like this to happen at his own mega skyscraper. His expression immediately darkened.

It explained why Julian did not want him to see it.

Just then, the security officer and project manager in charge of the site rushed over as well.

Their expressions changed instantly at the tragic sight.

The security officer was a man with professional training, so he immediately shouted, "Stop looking! Everyone go back! Secure the area and stop all construction work temporarily! Dial 911!"

Under the efforts of the security officer and a group of officers in charge of site maintenance, order soon returned to the area.

Just as things were about to calm down, a couple ran over from afar. They wore construction jackets, so it indicated that they were workers here.

"Oh, my son!"

The woman looked at the young man lying on the ground and wailed. As a mother, one glance was all it took her to know that this was her son. She was about to pounce on his frail body, only to be held back by the security officer.

“Please calm down, Madam,” The security officer spoke.

“How am I supposed to calm down? That’s my son!” The woman wailed.

The man beside her paled and stuttered as he asked, “How, how did this happen? He was fine this morning. How’d he suddenly fall?”

“Some, some people have been saying that our construction site’s got bad vibes, that we’ve angered the gods. It can’t possibly be real, right?”

Someone suddenly asked from the amongst the crowd.

The words caused everyone’s expressions to immediately change.

It was daytime and the sun was blazing above, yet everyone seemed to feel a cold gust of wind rush from the bottom of their feet to their heads.

“What nonsense is that?”

The security officer shouted, “This is the twenty-first century. What kind of medieval superstition is that? No one is allowed to speak of this anymore, and I’ll come after whoever brings it up again! Understood?”

As the person in charge of the entire construction site’s safety, the man’s words held quite a bit of authority. Thus, everyone immediately shut their mouths.

At the very least, no one would speak of it in front of him.

What happened in private was beyond the security officer’s control.

Exchanging a look with the project manager, the security officer was about to speak when he saw Jasper and Julian standing by the side.

“Where did you two come from?” The security officer asked with a frown.

Jasper’s nerves had calmed down as well and he replied, “We were just walking by so we came here to take a look.”

The security officer's expression changed and he demanded angrily, "Who's in charge of watching the entrance today?"

The worker that Jasper was conversing with immediately raised his hand to admit, "It-it's me."

"Would it kill you to do your job properly?"

The security officer scolded, "How many times have I told you not to let outsiders come in? Now not only are they inside but they've also gotten involved in this mess too! Do you want to die?!"

The worker glanced at Jasper resentfully and was about to reply when Jasper beat him to it, "It's not his fault. He told me to leave, but I heard the commotion just as I was turning to leave. He didn't have time to chase me away, but he did his part."

The security officer harrumphed and glared at Jasper unkindly as he answered, "I don't care who you are and what you're here to do. Please just leave now!"

"Something's wrong, Jasper."

Julian suddenly looked up and said after he went to check on the victim and the safety measures at the site.

Jasper raised a defined brow and turned to Julian to ask, "What is it?"

"There's a high possibility that this is attempted murder, not an accident."

Julian's words immediately caused an uproar.

Attempted murder to look like an accident was a big deal since it would mean that this was a case of homicide!

Just then, the project manager who remained quiet all this while suddenly piped up. He pointed at Jasper and Julian and shouted, "Who the hell are you two? This is a matter concerning our construction site, so it's not up to you to interfere! Get lost, now!"

"Why are you acting like detectives? This is obviously an accident, not homicide! Who're you trying to scare?"

Everyone present looked confused when heard the project manager's statement.

They did not know who to believe.

Not to mention, the project manager's claim caused Jasper to narrow his eyes suspiciously.

Typically, construction site managers tended to blame any on-site incidences as intentional rather than pin them as accidents.

After all, the managers had to face responsibility for accidents, and serious cases were even filed under criminal law.

However, if the accident was criminal behavior, then the managers would not need to shoulder any responsibility for it.

Therefore, this project manager's attitude was extremely unnatural.

"A simple investigation will tell you whether this is a case of attempted murder or not. I wouldn't accuse anyone baselessly! I checked out your safety measures and there are no major issues with it. Hence, something seriously wrong had to occur for an accident like this to happen at the site," Julian replied calmly.

The project manager glared at Julian harshly and roared, "This has nothing to do with you. You'd get out now if you knew what was best for you! Otherwise, I'll have someone chase you away!"

Life at the Top Chapter 1043

"How imposing of you," Jasper spoke coldly, looking at the project manager.

The project manager scoffed and replied, "I'm the project manager so I hold the most say here at the site. Not to mention that the both of you are outsiders, so who knows what you two came in here to do. What's wrong with me asking you two to leave?"

“Someone’s fatally injured here at the construction site and instead of thinking about how to resolve the situation, you’re busy arguing with us. Are you afraid we’d find something?” Jasper asked.

The project manager’s expression immediately changed and he roared, “What the f*ck are you implying?!”

The tall and broad project manager then made his way over to push Jasper aggressively.

There was no way Julian would let that happen.

The man took a step forward to stand protectively in front of Jasper. He narrowed his eyes and stared at the project manager, warning him, “I’ll cut off whichever hand you use to touch my boss today.”

Julian’s aura was extremely oppressive.

The project manager was an ordinary man, and he immediately surrendered to Julian’s threatening aura. His expression paled and he took an instinctive step backward.

However, the project manager seemed to have realized how embarrassing his actions were, so he clenched his jaw and barked. “You’ve got absolutely no respect at all! I can’t believe you two outsiders are planning to attack me!”

“I’m not an outsider. You’ll understand very soon,” Jasper told the project manager indifferently.

The project manager scoffed and replied, “Oh? You think you can do what you want just because you’ve got some level of power? Open your eyes and look at where you are. You think that just because you’re somewhat powerful, that it gives you the right to make this place your playground? I’ll kill you before you even know it!”

Ever since the man started working as the project manager of the construction site for the tallest building in the world, he had been raised and mounted on a high horse by the people around him.

He had the most authority at the site, and construction workers, raw material suppliers, and even other real estate businesses in Waterhoof City often watched their behavior around him.

As time slowly passed, he began to think of himself as an important person; He feared no one now that he had JW supporting his actions.

He had just finished speaking when a large group of people suddenly rushed over.

They were all JW Real Estates Waterhoof City branch's senior executives.

With the exception of Sean, who was not present, everyone who had rushed over held the highest positions within the branch. All in all, two vice presidents and four department managers were here.

The two vice presidents leading the group felt their knees go weak when they saw Jasper. They did not dare to waste another second as they rushed over and pushed aside the project manager who was still clamoring away. They greeted Jasper courteously.

"We didn't know you were coming, Mr. Laine. Our apologies for not welcoming you upon your arrival."

'Mr. Laine?'

'What Mr. Laine?'

Everyone present was stunned.

The security officer looked at Jasper with eyes blown wide in disbelief.

Meanwhile, the project manager gaped in shock as if he had been struck over the head.

Jasper looked at the group of people and stated calmly, "What a group of talents Sean's found me, huh?"

Sean was the highest-ranked superior in the real estate company, while Jasper was Sean's highest-ranked superior.

The project manager had been too low-ranked to recognize Jasper, but he certainly knew who Sean was.

Sean was his superior's superior's superior. Yet, here Jasper was using Sean's name to scold them all. Because of this, he quickly understood that Jasper was someone he could not afford to offend at all.

Instantly, the project manager felt cold sweat bead all over his body despite the searing heat above.

Life at the Top Chapter 1044

The two vice presidents, who were sharing similar emotions, stood in front of Jasper with their heads looking downward. They did not dare to even breathe.

Jasper glanced at the two vice presidents sharp and icily.

"I remember sending Sean a document about how important the safety of the skyscraper's construction site is, and that a vice president of the branch is to be on duty at all times.

"So, would someone like to tell me why only the security officer and project manager are here when an incident like this occurred? Where is the vice president on duty?!"

"Did Sean lie only to placate me, or are you so brave as to disobey the orders sent from the parent company?!"

Jasper's voice boomed around them and everyone held their breaths in fear. No one dared to speak as they each stared at their own shoes with their heads down.

"Have all of you gone dumb?" Jasper roared.

Seeing that Jasper seemed intent to investigate the matter, a vice president mustered up the courage to speak despite the ominous feeling filling his chest. "Well, Mr. Laine, Vice President Rohin is the one on duty today. But we don't know where he is now."

"I do." The confession was sudden and instantly caught Jasper's attention.

Jasper looked over and saw that it was the security officer who had appropriately managed the scene earlier that was speaking up. Thus, he forced himself to calm down slightly before saying, "Go ahead then. Tell me where he is."

"He's sleeping in the duty room," The security officer forced himself to ignore the looks from everyone around and explained.

"Sleeping?!" Jasper was truly furious now.

"Wow. Bring me to the duty room, I'd like to see how he can keep sleeping when an accident's occurred at the site!"

Jasper had the security officer lead the way. Glancing at the project manager coldly, he instructed Julian.

"Watch him. There's something wrong with him. One of you two vice presidents stay back and deal with the situation and handle the injured's family. After this, come to the duty room."

Jasper then turned to leave.

The project manager's expression paled and he shouted, "I'm innocent, Mr. Laine! I did nothing wrong!"

However, Jasper and the group did not seem to have heard him as they continued walking away.

The project manager was about to continue proclaiming his innocence when Julian stood in front and cast a dark shadow over him.

“Save your strength to think of how you’re going to explain to Mr. Laine later,” Julian said calmly.

Just then, the project manager’s phone rang.

His expression changed greatly and he was about to turn his phone off when Julian grabbed it with his quick reflexes.

Julian answered the call without hesitation and began to record its content. He soon heard a frantic voice from the other end of the line.

“How’s it going, Mark?”

“This isn’t some trivial business, let me tell you. We’re both screwed if anyone finds out, and you’re going to be the first one they come after!”

“Anyway, about your request for more money... Fine, I’ll give you 300 thousand cash once you’re done, but you better do it well and completely crush the skyscraper project!”

“I want the entirety of Waterhoof City spreading the news of the horrible vibes at the site and how someone had died there tomorrow!”

Julian stared icily at the project manager when the clear voice echoed through the speakers.

The project manager’s body swayed, and he almost fainted on the spot.

Life at the Top Chapter 1045

At the construction site's duty room.

The doors were pushed open, and Jasper felt the thick smell of alcohol hit him in the face right as he walked through the door.

Cigarette buds and bottles of alcohol were littered all over the duty room. There was even some leftover food as well.

It was evident that some gathering was held here last night, and a rambunctious one at that.

This was proven by the fact that the smell of cigarettes and alcohol had yet to disperse even though it was almost noon.

Jasper's gaze soon fell on the bed in the duty room. On it was a young man in his thirties, sleeping away under his blanket.

"Go wake him up," Jasper instructed the vice president beside him.

Not daring to hesitate, the vice president jogged over to the bed and shook Rohin awake. Thankfully, this was rather easy.

"Tadhg?" Rohin blinked open his alcohol-muddled eyes. Seeing that it was his colleague, he waved his hand and said, "Leave me alone. Let me go back to sleep, I had too f*cking much to drink last night."

Rohin then turned around to see a group of people looking at him strangely at the duty room doors.

"What's with the people?" Rohin asked confusedly, having yet realized what was happening.

Tadhg, who had shaken him awake, whispered awkwardly, "Sober up already. Something huge happened and Mr. Laine's here."

“Mr. Laine? Which Mr. Laine?” Rohin had drunk himself stupid and he scoffed. “Since when did our company have another Mr. Laine? Stop being so noisy, Tadhg, and shoo everyone away. I’ll wake up after a bit more sleep, I won’t be delaying anything.”

“Seriously, Mr. Tucker must’ve been crazy to call all three of us vice presidents to take turns being on duty at the construction site. Like, what’s the point of s being on duty anyway? What a waste of time.”

Tadhg felt beads of cold sweat trickle over his forehead, and he quickly spoke, “Stop talking. It’s Mr. Laine from the parent company, open your eyes and take a good look!”

Rohin was stunned. Blinking as he looked to the door, he was instantly met with Jasper’s icy gaze.

Jasper’s eyes pierced deep into Rohin’s soul like two emotionless knives.

Rohin was shocked sober the instant their eyes met, and he shuddered suddenly. At the same time, he flipped over and fell off the bed.

Ignoring how embarrassed he looked and how painful the fall felt, Rohin frantically got up to explain himself only to find that Jasper had already turned and left.

“I want everyone present above the rank of deputy manager to come to the meeting next door. I have an important announcement to make.”

Rohin fell on his butt at that. He did not dare to say another word.

Tadhg sighed and spoke to Rohin before he left the room, “Good luck, man. Someone almost died over at the site while Mr. Laine came in secret. You essentially got caught red-handed.

“I told you before, Rohin. Something bad’s going to happen if you kept up your inattentive attitude. You’re basically screwed.”

“Tadhg!” Rohin grabbed Tadhg’s clothes and spoke frightfully, “Help me put in a good word! Or it’ll really be over for me this time!”

“What can I say?” Tadhg felt fear creep up within him at the memory of Jasper’s frosty expression.

“You should clean yourself and sober up before you go next door and ask for forgiveness. Maybe Mr. Laine will be kind and forgive you then. But no one can help you otherwise.”

Ten minutes later, around a dozen men sat down in the temporary meeting room next door.

They were all senior executives of JW Real Estates’ Waterhoof City branch.

Jasper swept his gaze expressionlessly over everyone in the room, including Rohin, who looked down silently. Then, Jasper began to speak.

“This is the first time all of you have met me, but I’m sure none of you are strangers to who I am.

“I won’t waste time with unnecessary things. A huge incident occurred at the construction site, and someone will have to take responsibility for it.

“I won’t repeat company rules and regulations because all of you are senior executives. I’m sure you’ve all had your fair share of chiding others about these exact same rules, so you should be well aware of the process.”

Jasper’s words silenced the entire meeting room. Everyone seemed to hold their breaths and no one dared to make a sound.

“Alright, let’s get straight to it, then.”

Jasper spoke calmly. “What I’m about to say next will be relayed to the head office after this meeting. Documents will be issued by the headquarters presidential office, and will then be executed by the president of the real estate company.

“Number one, this major safety incident has revealed poor site management in the construction site. As a result, JW Real Estates’ Waterhoof City branch will be comprehensively reviewed—members of the managerial rank bear inescapable responsibility.

“Everyone from the senior executives to the deputy managers will have their monthly performance bonuses deducted. The vice presidents their seasonal performance bonuses, and Sean his semiannual performance bonus because he has direct leadership responsibility.

“Number two, JW Real Estates’ Waterhoof City branch’s vice president Rohin Ruell will be relieved of all his professional duties effective immediately.

“Number three, JW Real Estates’ Waterhoof City branch will come up with a rectification plan and a situational report. This is to be handed up to the head office for review within the week.”

Then, Jasper glanced at everyone’s expressions before he continued coldly, “I want all of you to pay this incident your undivided attention. The head office will treat the rectification plan and the situational report solemnly.

“Your implementation of this rectification plan will be supervised. Whoever decides to continue being careless will end up just like Rohin.”

With that, Jasper waved his hand and ordered, “Dismissed!”

The entire meeting lasted no more than three minutes, yet it left everyone in the branch’s managerial ranks petrified.

Rohin could not accept this.

Seeing as how he had lost his job, Rohin stood up and let go of all inhibitions, “Mr. Laine, this isn’t fair!”

“It’s not fair?” Jasper asked coldly.

“All I did was invite a few friends over and drank too much. The nature of the safety incident has nothing to do with me at all,” Rohin forced out an excuse.

“Nothing to do with you?”

Jasper scoffed before slamming his palm on the table. He immediately started shouting at the man.

“I had you vice presidents remain on shift to monitor the site, not to have you sleep and invite friends over! I might as well get you a hotel or a restaurant if that’s the case. It’s more comfortable there than at a construction site too, no?”

“Why do you think I asked for you to be on duty here?!”

“I wanted everyone in the branch to understand the importance of this construction project!”

“Yet here you are, getting drunk and blacking out! Now, you have the audacity to tell me it’s not fair?”

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Rohin could not refute Jasper's words.

He was filled with regret now.

JW Real Estates was a company recognized in the industry for its great treatment of its employees.

As the vice president of the Waterhoof City branch, his salary was one-point-five times higher than others who held the same position in other companies.

Not to mention, the company also gave annual dividends, paid leave, free medical insurance for their employee's families, 2 overseas vacations, housing subsidy, and an educational support plan for employees' children to study in Waterhoof City. These were benefits that only top-notch international enterprises provided.

No company gave as great a treatment as JW within the country.

Despite this, he had lost it all.

"Mr. Laine, please give me one more chance," Rohin begged Jasper with a quiver in his voice.

"Does what I just said sound like a joke to you? A chance? Most things don't come with second chances or the chance to regret. This is an issue with your professional attitude. How am I supposed to give you another chance?"

"Let's take a step back and say that I hypothetically did give you chance, then am I also supposed to give chances to others who make the same mistake in the future? How's the company supposed to operate like that?"

Rohin's complexion paled further upon hearing Jasper's words.

“Mr. Laine, what if I atone for my sins? I have a report to make!” Rohin clenched his jaw and spoke suddenly.

Jasper arched his brow and looked at Rohin before asking, “Who are you reporting and about what?”

“This is very important matter, so I was hoping I’d get to talk to you alone about this, Mr. Laine,” Rohin spoke bravely.

Jasper glanced at everyone else in the room, especially the other two vice presidents. They seemed confused, and there was no trace of fear or panic on their faces.

“Everyone else is dismissed,” Jasper waved them out.

Excluding Jasper and Rohin, everyone else in the meeting room stood up and filed out.

While they had no idea what Rohin was going to report, they knew that it had to be something huge if the man felt it would save his life.

Therefore, everyone who left the temporary meeting room inexplicably felt a shiver run down their back. They immediately tried to recall if they had done anything incriminating before.

At the same time, Jasper turned to Rohin and said, “We’re the only ones left now, so go ahead and tell me what it is.”

Jasper continued when he saw Rohin hesitate in a seemingly self-conflicted state, “Don’t think about negotiating with me. There’s no way you can keep working for the company. But if your information is important and reliable enough, I’ll give you a sum of money at my discretion.”

Rohin grit his teeth.

He knew that Jasper’s stance on the matter was clear. There was no way he could go back to working in JW Real Estates, so he might as well settle for second best. It would be nice to leave with a sum of money in his pockets.

After all, he could always leave once the secret was out. There was an abundance of places for him to further develop, like Cavern City or Swallow Capital. There was no need to fear being the target of revenge.

Once Rohin had made up his mind, he immediately said, "A company in Waterhoof City actually came to me some time ago, almost right after I started working here.

"They wanted me to provide them with the all the data on the skyscraper's construction plan. Including labor, materials, and design."

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"That's not all. They were the ones who spread rumors about how our construction site has bad vibes. From what I can tells, it seemed like they wanted to attack the construction site and bring the construction of the entire building to a halt.

"I rejected them then, but I don't know who they contacted next. I am certain, though, that someone did get bribed into working for them.

"Because they contacted me the day before yesterday and said that they were going to cause an incident at the construction site. They told me I didn't have to do anything, but just turn a blind eye to what was happening since someone else would do the dirty work for them.

"Coupled with what happened at the site today, I suspect the project manager."

Jasper narrowed his eyes and asked Rohin, "So you decided to get drunk and have fun in the duty room yesterday?"

Rohin immediately replied, "I am grateful that Mr. Tucker appreciates my work. I may act high and mighty but I am still not fully aware of my strengths or shortcomings.

"It was by pure coincidence yesterday that a few old classmates of mine came to Waterhoof City. I hadn't seen them for years and I had to welcome them, but it

wouldn't be right for me to leave the duty room while I was on shift either. Thus, I ended up welcoming them in the duty room instead."

Jasper neither approved nor disapproved of Rohin's explanation before he asked another question.

"Why do you suspect the project manager? The project manager isn't the only one capable of plotting these things on the construction site. What about the security officer? Or even the construction foremen or the general contractor? There are plenty of people to suspect."

Rohin chuckled wryly and responded, "Mr. Laine, I dug around a little and I found out.

"While that project manager is pretty capable, he's a gambling man through and through. He has a huge debt to repay and debt collectors have actually come to the construction site to demand that he pay them back on more than one occasion.

"The company's high salary is the only thing supporting him and stopping his debt collectors from killing him.

"However, he suddenly managed to pay off all his debts some time ago. He even had the money to pay for his son's marital housing in full in Waterhoof City, as well as purchase a car worth more than 200 thousand. Unless he won the lottery, there should be no way he made so much money.

"I don't know for sure if anyone else has also been bribed, but this project manager has to be one of them. It's really obvious if you just scrutinize his financial situation.

"I have no reason to lie, Mr. Laine. Things have already reached this state and I just want to leave with a some money in my pockets."

Jasper's expression remained unchanged. "I'll investigate the matter further, but I'll make sure you receive a hefty sum if the matter is truly as you have said. Go back for now and try not to show yourself for the next few days. I'll have Sean contact you afterward."

Rohin sighed and stood up. He opened his mouth to say something but swallowed his words after thinking against it. He then bowed to Jasper and turned to leave the room.

Rohin had just left when Julian dragged the project manager in.

"You're right, Jasper. There's something wrong with this man."

Julian relayed the contents of the call the project manager received, and Jasper looked at the despondent man in question.

"Victory and loss are common when two parties are fighting each other. But do you know what the most tragic thing is?" Jasper asked the project manager.

The project manager was frantic and did not have the mind to ponder Jasper's question. Thus, he remained quiet.

"The people who betray their original superiors," Jasper answered icily.

The project manager shuddered and fell to his knees with a thud. He wailed, "Please forgive me, Mr. Laine. I gave into temptations. Besides, I'm not the only one involved in this."

"Who else is involved? Write down all their names, including the person giving orders to all of you. You will meet a fate worse than death if there is a single omission or lie in your confession."

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Half an hour later, Julian walked out of the room with a depressed project manager.

Ten minutes after that, Jasper exited the room too.

Once he walked out, the middle-aged couple immediately fell to their knees in front of Jasper.

Jasper recognized them to be the parents of the heavily injured young man that fell from the building.

“Please stand,” Jasper immediately helped the couple to their feet.

The middle-aged woman wiped her tears as she sobbed to Jasper. “Mr. Laine, you’re the biggest boss here. You have to save our son.”

“Don’t worry, the company will take full responsibility since your son was working and got injured on our construction site.”

“How’s he doing now?”

The security officer immediately ran over and replied courteously, “Mr. Laine, he’s already been sent to the emergency room and his condition is stable. He’s not in life-threatening danger but he might be plagued with lifelong disabilities after this. Worst case scenario, he might live the rest of his life in a vegetative state.”

Jasper frowned slightly and asked, “All workers on site are insured, right?”

“Yes.”

The security officer hastily replied, “This is something the head office and Mr. Tucker stressed. We could not afford to be frugal with the insurance, so every worker was given the best workmen compensation and medical insurance available.”

“Good, but insurance claims tend to be processed slowly. The company will prepay all medical expenses and send professionals to deal with the supplementary nutrition and escorting expenses. There’s no need to be frugal with this either, it’s important that we at least keep our workers stress-free if we can’t keep them safe.

“The company will also pay for everything the insurance claim cannot cover, and if the worker ends up with a life-long disability, the company will assign them with another post once they’re ready to work again. Don’t be stingy with the compensation package either, and make sure you follow the standards.”

The security officer was stunned. He wondered how much money the company was going to end up paying according to that.

Ordinary companies might only give a sum to help pay the medical expenses and ask for the money back once the insurance claim had been processed. This was also normally the full extent of their compensation as well.

Construction workers were at a disadvantage, and legal awareness was shallow among the people nowadays. Most workers did not know how to protect their own interests according to the law.

Those that did know their rights would most often end up getting scammed of their hard-earned money by illegal middlemen. They also could not fight against wealthy and powerful companies.

Despite this, Jasper’s attitude on the matter was completely different.

The security officer, who was technically just another worker on-site, was genuinely grateful and moved by this.

“Mr. Laine, on behalf of everyone working here, thank you,” The security officer spoke sincerely.

Jasper patted the security officer on the shoulder and replied, “You’ve done well handling the scene just now. You’ll be the project manager from now on.”

The security officer flushed excitedly and replied, “Thank you, Mr. Laine! I’ll do my best!”

Jasper chuckled and turned to the grateful couple. “The situation’s very complicated now, but I promise I’ll catch whoever’s pulling the strings behind this.

“Don’t worry about too much now, just go to the hospital and take care of your son. You’ll still be paid during this period. Your son’s health is the most important thing right now.”

“Thank you, Mr. Laine. You’re a saint,” The middle-aged couple declared as they wiped their tears.

Jasper shook his head and sighed. “This wouldn’t have happened at all if I was a saint. No matter how much money I give, it still won’t change the fact that your son might end up disabled. I only ask that you do not blame me too much.

“I still have things to settle, so come to the company directly for the follow-up process.”

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Then, Jasper turned and left quickly.

The middle-aged man supported his wife and spoke as he watched Jasper leave, “Mr. Laine sure is a great boss. Let’s go take a look at our boy first.”

“Yeah. I’d be willing to work for a boss like him even if he didn’t pay me,” The woman answered.

Their words echoed the thoughts of the majority of workers at the scene.

People were all the same, if you treated them sincerely, then they would be genuine to you too.

Being wealthy did not make someone superior, and being poor did not mean that person had to live a life inferior to everyone else.

Jasper's kindness had won him the hearts of these construction workers, and they were now whole-heartedly willing to work for him.

In the future, when the country's real estate industry would face a shortage of workers, JW Real Estates would be the only company not to face any trouble finding employees.

Not that Jasper thought that far into the future. All he knew now was that all the evidence on hand pointed to the president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, Norman Gardner, as the culprit!

Jasper immediately went to JW Real Estates' Waterhoof City branch's office after he left the construction site.

Sean rushed over to Waterhoof City that night.

After Sean arrived at Waterhoof City, the man had a closed-door meeting with Jasper that lasted for two hours. Then, as the president of JW Capital, Jasper sent a series of documents to the real estate company.

The business group responsible for JW Real Estates immediately held a high-priority video conference, hosted by Jasper himself.

The conference lasted until one a.m. the next morning.

JW Real Estates' Waterhoof City branch went through tremendous change after the conference was over. Two senior executives were immediately fired and up to 40% of the mid-level managers were moved about.

The construction of the skyscraper was the Waterhoof City branch's most important and core business. Excluding Zeph, who had been promoted from security officer, all managerial positions working on the project, from chief engineer to project manager, had been transferred away.

They were replaced with skilled members from JW Real Estates' other branches within Southeast Province.

In just one night, the entire Waterhoof City branch had completely changed. Almost all mid-level managers were transferred somewhere else, and a small portion were even fired.

Not to mention, the shifting of personnel within JW Real Estates had spread to other subsidiaries and businesses under JW Capital as well.

For the first time, Jasper, who had always opted for a gentle management strategy, was harsh and direct when dealing with JW's personnel.

All of JW's employees, no matter their ranks, now knew not to cross their ultimate superior.

Throughout the city, employees of JW Real Estates' Waterhoof City branch and another family in Waterhoof City were frantic.

The Gardner family!

In the study of Gardner's family villa. The ashtray was filled with cigarette butts and thick smoke filled the room, making it almost impossible to open one's eyes inside.

In this heavy environment, Norman held a cigarette between his fingers. The butt of the cigarette was lit, but the man did not seem to have the desire to smoke it.

A long trail of cigarette ash crept from the lit butt until it burned Norman's hand. Only then did the man extinguish the flames in the ashtray.

"Of all the times, why would Jasper come to Waterhoof City now?!" Norman murmured to himself. Great unease and panic could be heard in his voice.

Life at the Top Chapter 1050

Lisa pushed the door open, and before she could enter the room, she choked and sputtered due to the overwhelming cloud of smoke.

“Why’re you smoking so much, Dad?”

Lisa had changed greatly from how she used to be in the past.

Donning a long-sleeved top and long pants, her short ear-length hair made her look smart.

Coupled with the glint of resentment and hatred in her eyes, the woman sent shivers down people’s spines.

“Can you contact anyone from the construction site?” Norman asked instead of replying.

“No.”

Lisa shook her head and opened the study windows to let fresh air into the room. She sighed. “Dad, we should be thinking of how to deal with at this stage. There’s no point in locking yourself in the study to smoke.”

“What solution could there be?”

The corner of Norman’s lips twitched. “Jasper’s already arrived at Waterhoof City. He’s definitely found out what we’ve done, and considering his temper, there’s no way he’d let us go.”

“We did this with the idea to fight to the death, didn’t we?” Lisa spoke firmly.

“What was Old Master Hurlbutt’s game by assigning Jasper as the vice president? He’s obviously trying to take your power away!

“Old Master Hurlbutt was also really ambiguous when we and Uncle had a conflict with Jasper.

“Even though Jasper was the one who destroyed Uncle’s family, who knows if Old Master Hurlbutt had given him the green light to do so? Jasper wouldn’t be able to do anything if Old Master Hurlbutt was firm about protecting the Hull family.

“Now that uncle’s family is done for, Old Master Hurlbutt even had Jasper assume the position of Waterhoof City Branch’s Vice President.

“Instead of asking you, the president, to attend the asset forum, Old Master Hurlbutt even had Jasper go instead. He’s never even showed up once as vice president before. Old Master Hurlbutt’s obviously telling the rest of the Chamber that he doesn’t like us.

“We aren’t doing anything wrong, Dad. We’re taking revenge for Uncle Ian and protecting ourselves. Jasper would still attack us even if we didn’t do anything, so there’s no going back now. We just need to fight Jasper to the end.”

Norman’s expression was solemn as he heard Lisa speak.

“Did you tell Mr. Atticus about the situation?” Norman asked.

Lisa nodded and replied, “I did. Mr. Atticus told us not to worry and that he’ll act at the right time. He’s also prepared a lot of follow-up trouble for Jasper, so he won’t be able to save himself when the time comes.”

Norman nodded at the first bit of good news he had heard today, and a small smile graced his face. “Good, Mr. Atticus is reliable after all... I heard you went to Harbor City last week. Was it to be with Mr. Atticus?”

Lisa replied calmly, "Weren't you the one who taught me to grab ahold of an opportunity with two hands no matter what the costs, Dad?"

"Did that Mr. Atticus promise you anything?" Norman asked attentively.

Norman flushed in excitement at the thought of being Mr. Atticus' father-in-law. The Gardner family would soar if this happened.

Yet, Lisa immediately poured cold water on Norman's excitement.

"That's not going to happen, Dad. I did sleep with Mr. Atticus, but he's had more women on his bed than you have cigarette butts in your ashtray. Not even I would entertain the idea of marrying into his family."

Norman's expression darkened and he sighed. "I don't even know if I made the right decision sending you over to Mr. Atticus' side."

Lisa replied harshly, "I'd be willing to sleep with beggars and rascals if it means that Jasper will be crushed! Let alone Mr. Atticus."

"What do we do next, then? Jasper's definitely going to take revenge on us," Norman asked with a frown, reluctant to continue this topic.

"We wait..."

Lisa replied grimly, "Hold on a little longer. Mr. Atticus still needs to contact another important player first. If he manages to win them over, then this person will help greatly in our plans to target Jasper. Mr. Atticus also needs to arrange for backup, so he needs some time to prepare everything.

"Mr. Atticus wants us to hold him off a little longer. This is the mission he gave you, Dad."

Norman spoke solemnly, "We don't have any other option now. Let's just hold him off for as long as we can, then. I'd also like to see how Jasper plans to counter us."

"Mr. Atticus said that Jasper would most likely attack us through the Chamber of Commerce. Since he's going to attend the asset forum conference on behalf of the Chamber, this is a great chance he won't ignore."

"Mr. Atticus even predicted that? Alright, then. If he's planning to attack me through the Chamber, then I should still be able to deal with him," Norman spoke, energized.

...

Jasper walked out of the hotel room the next morning and was about to eat breakfast with Julian downstairs when he saw Sean exit the elevator exhaustedly.

"Did you just get back?" Jasper asked.

Sean had held a meeting with the Waterhoof City branch overnight after the real estate company's senior executive conference the night before. The meeting aimed to relay the spirit of the head office's conference, as well as carry out the details decided during the session.

"The meeting just ended, and all personnel transfer procedures have just gone through. They'll be carried out immediately," Sean replied.

Jasper nodded and replied, "Let's eat breakfast together first. Then you can come back and rest. Don't neglect your meals no matter how tired you feel. It's not worth harming your own health for work."

Sean kept the elevator doors open for them and chose the floor with the buffet restaurant after Jasper and Julian got in. Then, he turned to Jasper and spoke remorsefully.

“Mr. Laine, it’s my fault for not being negligent. I didn’t expect so many people within the Waterhoof City branch to have been corrupt.”

“Not to mention that the overall atmosphere at the branch is negligent and lazy. It’s only been a few days and there are already self-interest-serving groups and alliances forming within the company. I should’ve kept a tighter leash on them.”

Jasper waved him off. “I understand that you’re busy too. The real estate company’s growing larger and there are more things you have to overlook and head.

“Not to mention that the siege from the three other real estate companies with Softwin’s support in Southeast Province hasn’t ended yet. You can’t clone yourself, so I understand that you can’t deal with everything.

“I’ve already had human resource begin a search to get you some help. I’ll assign you two deputies to help shoulder your burden.”

Jasper’s words caused Sean’s expression to sour.

It was only natural the man did not want to share after discovering how good it felt to be in a position of power. Yet, from the way Jasper spoke, it looked like Sean did not have any choice but to accept it.

Not to mention, reality had all but proven his inability to handle everything on his own.

“I understand, Mr. Laine.”

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The trio talked as they walked toward the buffet.

Stared hotels' buffets were pretty consistent and Jasper had already gotten tired of the food they provided from business trips his past life, let alone this present one.

Jasper simply grabbed a plate of food and asked Sean as he ate, "Oh, right. How's the injured worker doing? Is everyone else on the construction site doing okay?"

Sean replied, "He woke up already. Fortunately, it was just a fracture of his spine. There's still hope for him and he should be alright after a year or so. But from how the doctor seemed, I don't think he'd be able to get back to construction work in the future.

"But their emotions are considerably steady, they're really grateful to you too, Mr. Laine. They've been asking to come and thank you themselves but I declined them.

"The workers on the site are doing well. We've calmed most of them, mainly because they know you're looking out for them, Mr. Laine. No one made a ruckus and they've all gotten back to catch up on lost work."

Jasper nodded and spoke, "Comprehensive compensations are a must when it comes to situations like this. It's too small a sum to matter to the company, but it's enough to save these workers. They're using their entire life's health in return for what's an insignificant amount of money to us. We cannot and will not deduct compensations, this is our bottom line.

"And ask him if he has any plans after he gets better. If he wants to continue working for us, then assign him a more leisurely position, but let him go if he doesn't want to stay."

"Alright, Mr. Laine, I understand," Sean replied.

After eating, Jasper got up and spoke, "Go get some rest later. I still need your help to keep an eye out for the real estate company. I won't have the time to check up on it for the coming two days."

“Are you going back, Mr. Laine?” Sean asked.

“No, I’ll be staying in Waterhoof City for the time being. There’s no way I’d just move on after getting plotted against,” Jasper replied calmly.

Under Norman’s efforts, the Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City Branch had moved to the business center in Peace CBD after Jasper had kicked them out from their original address.

The Haddock Chamber of Commerce had always been known for its abundance of wealth. They had leased three whole floors for their office, costing at least a million a year for rent.

This was the first time Jasper had come here to the Chamber since he had assumed the position of Waterhoof City branch’s Vice President half a year ago.

Pushing open the door, Jasper saw the word ‘Haddock’ written in huge cursive letters, representing the Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

“Hello, who are you looking for?” The receptionist was beautiful and dignified as she greeted Jasper politely.

“I’m looking for President Norman, is he here?” Jasper asked with a smile.

“Mr. Gardner? He’s not in. But his daughter Miss Lisa is... Miss Gardner, someone’s looking for Mr. Gardner.”

Jasper turned around and locked gazes with Lisa who happened to walk out.

“It’s you,” Lisa spoke expressionlessly.

“It’s me,” Jasper replied calmly, “You expected that I’d come here, didn’t you?”

Lisa sneered and replied, “Why would I be able to guess when and why you’d arrive, Mr. Vice President?”

“That’s alright, I’ll tell you then. The asset conference is about to begin, I’m here to get my materials,” Jasper spoke.

Lisa's eyes shone and she replied indifferently, "Is that so? That's all you came here for, Mr. Vice President?"

"What else? Or did you think that I was here for revenge, Miss Gardner?" Jasper chuckled.

Lisa replied coldly, "I don't know what you're talking about."

Jasper walked over to Lisa and spoke calmly, "This is business, it's only normal you attack others. After all, we're enemies, not friends.

"But if you're so willing to involve an innocent life just because of your conflict with me, do you not fear the haunting of ghosts when you sleep, Miss Gardner?"

Lisa took a step back in terror and gasped. "The construction worker died?!"

At that, Lisa immediately realized she had misspoken. Yet it was already too late to go back in time and change what she had already said. She immediately stared at Jasper darkly and accused him. "You set me up, Jasper!"

"I wouldn't be able to set anything up if you weren't feeling guilty, to begin with."

Jasper continued coldly, "He's still alive but that's because he was lucky. It doesn't make you any less guilty, Lisa, go back and tell your dad that it isn't over."

Lisa replied resentfully, "Stop acting so arrogant! I'd like to see how long more you can stay prideful!"

"Oh? So you're telling me that you've still got tricks up your sleeves, hmm?" Jasper narrowed his eyes and spoke.

Having learned her lesson of being set up, Lisa harrumphed and spoke, "You deserve any trick against you. Just you wait, you have too many enemies and you'll die a miserable death one day."

Just after Lisa spoke, a young man walked out of the same room Lisa did just now.

The man rolled his shoulders lazily as he approached Lisa. He reached out to wrap an arm around her shoulders and spoke affectionately, "Who's this f*cker, Lisa? Looks like there's a conflict between you two?"

Jasper raised his eyebrows slightly when he heard the accent businesspeople from Teo had.

The Teo Chamber of Commerce had already arrived at Haddock's Chamber's doors to attack them. So what was Lisa, the daughter of Haddock Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City Branch's President, doing by mingling with someone from Teo's Chamber of Commerce?

"This is our great Vice President, Jasper Laine. He's the one that's going to represent Haddock in attending the asset forum conference." Lisa stared at Jasper and smiled.

The young man chuckled and pointed at Jasper, speaking disdainfully, "This f*cker? Forget it, look at him. He looks like a child, go home and call your parents out instead."

"Or does Haddock's Chamber of Commerce not have anyone left? Instead of having someone able like Uncle Gardner, they had a stupid f*cker you like you come and make a fool out of yourself?"

Jasper looked at the young man and spoke, "This is Haddock's Chamber of Commerce's station. What is a Teo businessperson like you doing here?"

"Dudley is my friend! I invited him over!" Lisa claimed.

"You are the daughter of Haddock's Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City Branch's President. How do you have no shame to shout about inviting him into the station?" Jasper spoke calmly.

"Business is business, friends are friends. What's it to you?" Lisa sneered.

"Exactly, you dumb f*ck. You think you're some sh*t just because you're a Vice President here? I go wherever I want, who're you to control me, huh?"

Life at the Top Chapter 1052

Dudley raised his arm as he spoke to shove Jasper.

Dudley's movements were wide, perhaps because he wanted to show off in front of Lisa.

Instead of shoving Jasper, Julian ended up catching his hand and twisting it behind his back.

Dudley shouted in pain as his wrist was twisted to his back. Julian pressed the hand against Dudley's back, causing the man to bow forward and shout.

The action and posture Dudley was in caused a few pieces of paper to fall from his breast pocket.

Both Lisa and Dudley's expressions changed at the same time.

Lisa instinctively bent down to pick up the papers.

However, Julian was much faster than her.

Just as Lisa reached out, Julian had already picked the papers up with one hand while still holding Dudley's wrist with the other.

"Give my things back to me!" Lisa glared at Julian and spoke angrily.

Julian ignored her and passed the papers to Jasper instead.

Jasper took the papers and glanced at Lisa before he read their contents.

Jasper was elated by what he saw.

The paper was precisely the prepared schedule and explanations for the core topics of the asset forum conference prepared by the Haddock Chamber of Commerce for Jasper.

This so-called asset forum conference was essentially an event where a bunch of bigshots within the industry would sit together and give their own opinions on topics each other or the host had brought up. It could either be a debate or a speech.

As this was a provocation from the Teo to the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, they would certainly decide on a debate.

This meant that if the Teo Chamber of Commerce wanted to put businesspeople from Haddock in a difficult position, then they would surely attack Jasper who was their representative. Coincidentally, there were also people within Haddock's Chamber of Commerce who wanted to put Jasper in a difficult position, so the two parties had intriguingly ended up with the same 'enemy'.

Both Lisa and Dudley's expressions changed.

"Motherf*cker! Tell your dog to let go of me and give me back my things!" Dudley shouted fiercely.

Jasper looked at the duo and waved the documents in his hand before speaking calmly, "Who'd have thought that I'd get such a great surprise the first time I'm here. Should I understand this as a gift from both of you together?"

Lisa's face was taut and she did not speak, but her eyes kept flickering as she came up with a plan.

Dudley was more aggressive and simple. The man turned his head to sneer. "I don't know what you're talking about. Also, I said let go of me right now, you hear me? Or I'll kill you two!"

"F*cking h*ll, do you even know who I am? My dad's the President of the Teo Chamber of Commerce! How dare you hurt me, I'll have people kill you once you walk out the doors!"

"Jul, I think this child's gone mad. Give him a shock to wake him up," Jasper spoke calmly.

Julian did not hesitate before he slapped Dudley's mouth with the back of his hand.

Julian's hand was akin to a steel plate as he slapped on Dudley's clamoring mouth. The latter immediately let out a muffled scream and stopped speaking, replacing it with pitiful screams and shouts.

Dudley covered his own mouth and stared at Jasper with hatred and fear, all while blood seeped out from between his fingers.

Dudley was used to being arrogant thanks to his family background and identity, so he had not expected Jasper to attack him.

“You’ve gone crazy, Jasper!” Lisa screamed as she saw Dudley’s pitiful situation.

She immediately rushed over to help Dudley up and wiped the traces of blood from his face with a tissue. Then she turned to speak to Jasper icily.

“Do you even know who Dudley’s father is? Don’t think that just because you’ve got a small business now you’re suddenly a true wealthy businessman. You don’t even have the right to stand and speak in front of someone of Dudley’s father’s caliber!”

Jasper narrowed his eyes and looked at Lisa calmly.

There was something strange with Lisa’s expression right now.

It seemed like she was elated to see him and Dudley get into conflict. Yet for the sake of acting, she had no choice but to pretend to be furious.

That was not all. Lisa’s choice of words was very specific as well. Instead of explaining the cause of the conflict or trying to smooth things out, she had emphasized Dudley’s identity.

This was a sore spot for trust-fund children like Dudley.

She had also told Dudley that Jasper was just a normal businessman with a little bit of property and a normal family.

“Motherf*cker. How dare you hit me! Just you wait, my dad will never forgive you!”

As expected, Dudley had mustered the courage and he glared at Jasper, his gaze resentful and fiery.

“No one’s ever dared to hit me all these years, you’re the first. But that’s alright, just you wait. I’ll make you pay tenfold for this slap!”

“Looks like you’re not completely awake yet, hmm?” Jasper asked Dudley calmly.

Dudley was stunned and he looked like he was about to rage. He glanced at Julian instinctively and fear spiked within him to squash the anger down.

That slap had told him that Julian was not someone he could fight back against. There was no other option but to let the matter go for now.

Or he would get beaten up again.

Dudley stared at Jasper and spoke with his jaw tightly set, “Fine, you win this time!”

Dudley then made a move to leave.

He was evidently at a disadvantage now and he could not beat Jasper in a fistfight. So Dudley planned to go back and wait for a chance to take revenge.

However, he had only taken one step forward when Julian appeared in his path.

“What is the meaning of this?!” Dudley asked, terrified and angry.

“What’s the meaning?” Jasper chuckled and looked at Lisa. “I’m afraid you’re going to have to ask her that. I’m only doing what she wants me to do.”

Dudley turned to Lisa confusedly and saw a rather frantic expression on her face.

“You’re insane. I don’t even know what you’re trying to say,” Lisa spoke, forcing herself to calm down.

“You wanted Dudley and me to fight, best to the point that both of us are willing to risk our lives to get rid of each other. All while you watch by the sidelines and reap the rewards, no?” Jasper spoke calmly.

Lisa’s expression changed slightly at that.

“What are you talking about! Dudley and I are friends! I’d definitely stand on his side if you two fought, what do you mean reap rewards?”

Jasper smiled and spoke, "I don't care if you admit it or not, but there's something the both of you must explain to me today."

Jasper brandished the papers in his hands and his expression turned frosty. He shouted, "You two. What is the meaning of conspiring and stealing this document?!"

Life at the Top Chapter 1053

Lisa's expression darkened when she saw the papers in Jasper's hands.

She knew that Jasper had found a weakness and without a reasonable explanation, Jasper would surely blow the issue up. She would be put in a difficult position then.

"I don't know," Lisa turned her head away and replied unnaturally, "Why would I know what he has on him."

Dudley wiped the blood from the corner of his lips and scoffed. Yet he did not say a word.

It was evident that the two planned to leave the matter alone by denying and remaining silent.

Jasper looked at the two and spoke, "So you're not going to admit it? Alright, then."

Jasper then turned to look at the receptionist who was still dazed and frightened. He spoke, "Could you please call Mr. Gardner?"

"Huh?" The receptionist looked at Jasper blankly. Her brain had yet to catch up to what was happening.

“Tell him that if he doesn’t come over and deal with this as fast as he can, then I’ll sue his daughter on grounds of stealing trade secrets.”

Lisa jumped up like a cat who had her tail stepped on. “What nonsense is that, Jasper?!”

“You have to take responsibility for your words! You can’t just accuse me of stealing trade secrets without evidence! You really think you’re on top of the world?”

“We’ll know if we investigated,” Jasper spoke calmly.

With that, Jasper turned to look at the receptionist. The latter did not dare to anger Jasper so she immediately found Norman’s number and called him.

At the same time, Lisa was also cueing Dudley with her gaze, urging him to do something.

Dudley’s expression was sour.

Lisa was the one who handed him the documents. Dudley knew that his Teo Chamber of Commerce was planning to attack Haddock’s Chamber from its Waterhoof City branch and he wanted to make a huge contribution. He had not expected to be caught red-handed at the very last moment.

The matter could potentially be blown into something huge, depending on whether people wanted to investigate it or not.

With the way Jasper acted, it was unlikely he would let the matter go.

Dudley’s eyes darted around and his expression kept changing.

“The asset forum conference held by the Teo Chamber of Commerce to attack the Haddock Chamber is about to commence. Yet the daughter of Haddock’s

Chamber of Commerce's President brought a businessperson from Teo into the Waterhoof City branch station to steal all of Haddock's core future plans."

"What do you think will happen if word gets out? Do you think your father, as President of the Chamber, would praise you for being understanding or hang you up and scold you for being a failure?"

Dudley's expression darkened extremely at Jasper's words.

"What do you want?" Dudley asked, clenching his teeth and ignoring the pain on his lips.

"Simple. Tell me what transaction you two made and I'll let you go immediately. I also won't hold you accountable," Jasper replied calmly.

Dudley's eyes flickered and asked, "Really?"

"I have no reason to lie to you," Jasper replied.

Lisa immediately spoke, seeing how Dudley was persuaded to tell, "Mr. Ball! Don't fall for this crafty and vile man's lies! Who knows what bad intentions he's got in mind!"

Jasper replied calmly, "I'm sure you can tell who's more trustworthy. Me, or a woman who's willing to betray her Chamber of Commerce father just for her own interests."

That sentence worked better than any vow and Dudley immediately decided.

"Lisa and I are just acquainted, we aren't especially close. She contacted me a few days ago and told me she could hand me a document your Chamber of Commerce has prepared for the asset forum conference later."

“The only request she had was for me to humiliate you harshly at the conference.”

“I thought that since we’re going to have to deal with whoever Haddock’s Chamber sends over, I’d be gaining important internal intel without having to do more than I originally have to. So I agreed.”

Dudley completely sold Lisa out once he opened his mouth.

“Dudley! Are you even a f*cking man? Jasper just gave you a slight shock and you’re already admitting everything! You’ve got no balls, you coward!” Lisa shrieked in mortification.

Dudley glanced at Lisa icily. He clenched his jaw quietly and turned to ask Jasper, “Can I leave now?”

Jasper waved his hand and replied with a crescent-eyed smile, “If you wish.”

Despite getting Jasper’s approval, Dudley did not leave straight away. Instead, he looked at the document in Jasper’s hands hesitantly.

Jasper smiled before he ripped the papers in front of Dudley in half and spoke, “Does this soothe your worries?”

Dudley let out a long breath and wiped off the blood from the corner of his mouth. He spoke grimly, “At least you’re a man of your word. But this isn’t over, just you wait!”

There was no way people like Dudley would leave the matter alone after losing so horribly to Jasper once. The man had thought of countless ways to kill Jasper in his mind and he turned to leave after he said his piece.

Julian looked at Jasper as if to ask whether he should follow after the man.

Jasper shook his head and replied, "Let him go. This is just a small matter, there's nothing we can do even if we catch him red-handed. It's not something we can bring up, so it won't affect the outcome of the situation."

Jasper then turned to Lisa and asked calmly, "Is there anything you'd like to say?"

Lisa stared at Jasper icily and sneered. "Don't look so proud, Jasper. You're a dead man walking."

"Is that so? Then please wait with me for your dad to come and deal with this."

Jasper shrugged and turned to the receptionist. "Excuse me, but has the call connected?"

The receptionist stuttered in fear, "It-it's connected. Mr. Gardner said, said he'll be here shortly."

"Alright. Could you also help me contact the other council people? Tell them to arrive in half an hour, I'm holding a meeting."

"One last thing, could you bring me to your most commonly used meeting room please?"

The receptionist nodded vigorously and did not dare to say anything. She glanced at Jasper secretly through her peripheral vision and thought to herself. How this young, handsome, and wealthy man was not only respectful and dignified but also friendly.

Her cheeks flushed the more she thought about it.

"Hello? Could you lead the way, please?"

Jasper's voice had shocked her out of her delusions and she frantically replied in acknowledgment. She quickly led the way, sighing as she walked. 'What am I thinking? This isn't a man I can dream about...

'But he's so charming!'

Life at the Top Chapter 1054

In the meeting room, Lisa sat icily on one of the chairs by the side while Jasper took the head seat comfortably.

"The environment here's quite nice," Jasper commented.

"Haddock Chamber of Commerce's wealth isn't what a nouveau riche like you can imagine. This isn't even much, you should look at the Chamber's headquarters if you want something grand," Lisa spoke disdainfully as if to a country bumpkin.

"Oh? Is that so? I've seen Haddock's Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City branch's station before. I don't remember seeing the wealth you were referring to though. That three-story building was quite the pitiful sight."

"As for the headquarters. I haven't been there before but I've been to Old Master Hurlbutt's. It's luxurious, I have to say, but there weren't as many doors as you said," Jasper replied calmly.

Lisa clenched her jaw. She felt like she had been belittled by Jasper again.

Jasper had singlehandedly destroyed the previous Haddock Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City branch station.

So there was no right to brag about the new station to Jasper no matter how beautiful it looked.

Not to mention that Jasper was the Vice President of the branch.

Lisa felt extremely uncomfortable at that line of thought.

She wondered if the spiritual leader of Haddock's Chamber of Commerce, Old Master Gale Hurlbutt's eyes was worsening with age. How could he have Jasper, an enemy, be the Vice President?

As they spoke, the conference room doors opened to reveal Norman.

At the door, Norman glanced at Lisa darkly before he turned to Jasper.

Norman scoffed and spoke, "How arrogant of you, Mr. Laine. You haven't been here for the earlier half of the year, yet the moment you come you hold a meeting with all members of the council. What's this, are you trying to get rid of me?"

Jasper replied calmly, "You misunderstand, Mr. Gardner. I haven't been here for half a year because I have absolutely no interest in this title as the Vice President, let alone get rid of you. It would be inappropriate of me."

"I'm only here because Old Master Hurlbutt forced me and to attend the asset forum conference.

"I've resigned myself to it, but I also told Old Master Hurlbutt that my only request is that the branch does not cause me trouble.

"Who'd have thought that in the end, it'd be your darling daughter that's causing me a lot of trouble and I've only been here for one day. Thank goodness I found out in time, or I wouldn't be the only one humiliated, but so would the entire Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

“Initially, I thought that since it’s my own thing, I should deal with it by myself. But then again, I came here to help. And instead of thinking of a way to get rid of the Teo Chamber of Commerce, you’re teaming up to get rid of me.

“What do you think will happen if I were to call Old Master Hurlbutt, throw a tantrum and leave? I’m sure the old master is too kind to blame a youth like me, no?”

Norman’s expression darkened further at Jasper’s words.

He had no idea what Lisa had done, but regardless of what it was, the fact that Jasper caught her red-handed meant that this would be a horrible situation to resolve.

As expected, Norman’s brows scrunched up at Jasper’s suggestion to call Gale.

No matter what happened, it would be best resolved within the Waterhoof City branch. The moment Gale caught wind of it, then the situation would be beyond Norman’s control.

Norman could not afford to anger Gale.

“What happened?” Norman asked Lisa.

Lisa bit her lip and relayed what happened to Norman by her father’s ear.

“Useless brat!”

Life at the Top Chapter 1055

Norman immediately slapped Lisa across the face when he heard.

Norman had slapped her harshly, forsaking all public image.

Lisa shouted in pain and fell to the ground with a hand cupping her cheek. Her cheek immediately reddened and bumped up, and she looked rather pitiful.

“I already warned you a long time ago that no matter what conflicts there are, it’s still between ourselves. It cannot involve what’s important.”

“The Teo and Haddock Chamber of Commerce have had decades of history, ever since Old Master Hurlbutt. We’re mortal enemies! How dare you endanger something so important!”

Norman pointed at Lisa and scolded her angrily.

“Get lost, right now! This isn’t over, I’ll deal with you when I get back later!”

Norman then walked over to Jasper and bowed deeply after he was done scolding her. “This is my ignorant daughter’s fault, Jasper. Thank goodness you stopped her in time before she made a horrible mistake. I’m sorry, and thank you.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes and looked at Norman as if trying to see through the man with his calm and unfazed gaze.

Norman’s expression was calm as if he had spoken his genuine thoughts just now. There was no deception in the man’s face.

Jasper did not say anything and Norman did not move from his bow.

The conference room fell silent, less Lisa’s soft sobs.

Other than that, it was terrifyingly silent.

The silence was only broken when the conference room was opened again.

Filing in were three members of the Waterhoof City branch council.

The Chamber was a loose organization. It was made up of unofficial members and official members. Ranked above them were members of the council, the Vice President, then finally the President.

Members of the council were considered the managers of the Chamber even though there was nothing binding the members of the Chamber and thus nothing to manage. Still, the Haddock Chamber of Commerce was a huge chamber with members all over the country and not everyone could be a council member.

The three council members had decided to come in sternly to take a look first when they heard that Jasper had called for a meeting. After all, they were members of the Chamber's council and they knew who Jasper was.

They also knew that Jasper was the one who ended the Hull family before. No one knew if they would be next now that Jasper had assumed the position of Vice President.

The three were stunned when they entered the room.

They saw Jasper sitting on the chair rigidly while Norman, the President, was bowing to him. There was also Lisa by the side, sobbing as she cupped her cheek in pain.

'What are they doing this time?'

The three council members wondered if they had seen the scene wrongly.

"You're too kind, Mr. Gardner. It's common for youths to make ignorant mistakes, why would I hold a grudge?" Jasper suddenly smiled, reaching out to help Mr. Gardner up.

"As Vice President, I also wish that our Chamber of Commerce grows better every day. As President and Vice President, we have to work together with the same goals."

Norman remained unaffected by Jasper's words and the three council members looked terrified.

They wondered if, in addition to having poor eyesight, their ears had also begun to hear things as well.

Life at the Top Chapter 1056

The three members of the council looked at each other. No one knew what happened.

There were bucketloads of stories about Jasper and their chamber of commerce and there were only stories of grudge and no grace.

They thought this meeting would be a collision that was as huge as a meteor crash. However, they did not think that the president would get cold feet before the meeting even started.

Not only that, but Jasper also had a modest and amiable look on his face. It seemed that he wanted to dispel bygone enmity.

Everyone in the room was experienced in the business world and none of them exposed their thoughts easily. So, everyone planned to wait and see.

“Since everyone’s here, let’s start the meeting,” Norman said with a calm look on his face.

After he said that, Norman realized something awkward.

Jasper was sitting on the seat of honor and only the person with the highest position would be sitting in that seat during meetings.

Normally, Norman would be sitting there.

However, Jasper sat down directly and left him at one side.

This made Norman feel extremely awkward.

“Mr. Laine, you’re in the wrong seat.”

One of the members of the council was Norman’s die-hard supporter. After confirming that Jasper would be representing Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City Branch to attend the Asset Forum Conference, he communicated with Norman, so he said this bluntly.

“Oh? Where should I sit then?” Jasper asked.

“You’re just the vice president and you dare to sit in the seat of honor? Get down and sit in the seat below that,” this member of the council said boldly and confidently.

“You’re young so I remind you out of kindness. This is a very solemn and proper setting, not those unregistered companies that you’re operating illegally without following the rules.

“Maybe you can sit wherever you want over there but don’t be confused with your identity and position over here. You’ll suffer a disadvantage if you do.”

This member of the council was pleased with himself because he felt that he found a perfect excuse to embarrass Jasper.

After berating Jasper, he saw Jasper looking at him with a half-smile on his face. He could not contain this anymore.

“Why are you looking at me like that? Am I wrong?”

“You’re right.”

Jasper said insipidly, “You said you’ll make me clear of my identity and position, and I did. I am the vice president and you’re just a member of the council. So even if I get a group of people to lie down and go to sleep in this meeting room, aside from Mr. Gardner, do you think you have the qualification to question me?”

“So, am I the one who’s not clear of my identity and status, or are you the one who’s not clear of yours?”

That member of the council’s face flushed immediately after hearing what Jasper said. He looked at Jasper in anger and said sinisterly, “What do you mean by that?”

“Literally,” Jasper said unenthusiastically.

“Alright, that’s enough.” Norman waved his hand and had a good-natured look on his face.

“It’s just a seat, right? I’ll just sit here.”

After Norman said that, he found a seat beneath Jasper and sat down.

“Mr. Gardner, what are you doing?” When that member of the council saw Norman backing down after he charged and broke through enemy lines for him, he was slightly lost for words.

“Alright, Mr. Heron. It’s just a seat. It doesn’t mean anything.” It was clear that Norman did not want to say much when he waved his hand and said that.

Mr. Heron chuckled coldly and sat back down. He said, “Right, it’s just a seat. I’ll let you feel pleased with yourself for a while. You’re just like a dog I keep as a pet. It won’t become human even if I put a suit on him.

“A dog will always be a dog.”

After he said that, the people around the meeting table were smiling. They were starting to look at Jasper with sarcasm and ridicule in their eyes.

As the members of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, they would be siding with Norman naturally.

Plus, they even saw their president bowing to Jasper when they entered this room. Even though they did not know what happened, Jasper’s wild image was imprinted in their heads.

Life at the Top Chapter 1057

They were glad when they saw Jasper getting put in his place.

“Alright.”

Norman cleared his throat and came out to maintain the peace.

He looked at Jasper and said, “Mr. Laine proposed to host this meeting. So, Mr. Laine, what do you want to talk to us about?”

Jasper said calmly, "A few simple things."

After he said that, Jasper looked at Lisa and said, "I wonder what position Miss Lisa Gardner holds in this chamber of commerce."

After he said this, the three members of the council looked at Norman at the same time. Meanwhile, Norman looked as if he was caught unprepared. He did not expect Jasper to ask this question at all.

"What's wrong? Is it a very difficult question?" Jasper asked.

Norman frowned. Even though this was not a huge matter, he was genuinely scared that Jasper would cause trouble to him from some unexpected angles.

After pondering, Norman braced himself and said, "She's my secretary."

Norman was just saying this without thinking the matter through. However, it would not be a strange thing for a president like him to have a secretary. So he figured Jasper would not push this matter further.

After smiling at him, Jasper said, "So, Mr. Gardner, you like to ask the people you're close to work with you?"

"Mr. Laine, is this related to our meeting today?" Norman asked, feeling infuriated.

"Yeah, we're very busy. If there's nothing significant, we should end this meeting and not waste any time," Mr. Heron said with a dark face.

"If I mentioned it, it's relevant to the meeting naturally."

Jasper said calmly, "Firstly, I made myself clear at the start of this meeting. I asked people who have a position that's higher than the rank of councilmen to participate, and since Lisa is just a secretary to the president, why is she here?"

"So, Miss Gardner, please leave."

Jasper's words caused Lisa's face to be filled with shame.

She had never been kicked out like this in her whole life.

“Jasper, are you doing all of this to humiliate me?” Lisa shrieked.

Jasper said calmly, “I’m just doing things according to the rule. Is there anyone who opposes my decision? You can tell me.”

The three members of the council were silent.

On the surface, it was completely reasonable that Jasper wanted to kick Lisa out. Nothing could be said about this.

After taking a deep breath, Norman said in a deep voice, “Lisa, you should go out.”

Lisa bit her lips and looked at Jasper in rancor. She said frigidly, “I want to see how long you can stay so savage.”

After she said that, Lisa made to leave.

“Wait.”

Jasper stopped her at this moment.

Lisa stood on her ground and smirked at Jasper. “You’re the one who asked me to leave and you’re the one who asked me to wait. What do you want?”

“I asked you to leave because you’re not qualified to take part in this meeting and I asked you to stay because what I’m about to say is directly related to you.”

“In other words, you are now an interrogee who needs to answer my question, understand?”

After Jasper said that, he did not look at Lisa’s expression. He turned his head to look at Norman and the other members of the council. He said, “Everyone, you all know that I’m going to represent the chamber of commerce to attend the Asset Forum Conference. The businesspeople from Haddock and the businesspeople from Teo are completely incompatible. However, in order to embarrass me, someone joined forces with the people from the Teo Chamber of Commerce to steal our business secret.”

“If you guys don’t give me an explanation for this today, okay, Old Master Hurlbutt will have to find someone better qualified than.”

Life at the Top Chapter 1058

Jasper’s words flashed across the hearts of Norman and the three members of the council like a clap of thunder.

They looked at each other and saw that everyone had the same look of confusion on their faces. Then, they looked at Lisa at the same time spontaneously.

At this moment, Lisa’s face was as white as a piece of paper.

She finally understood what Jasper was planning.

Jasper wanted to cause trouble and conflict between Norman and Lisa inside the Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

The rivals were coming right into their faces and the upper management was colluding with the rivals. If word about this got out, how big of a commotion would be caused inside the Haddock Chamber of Commerce?

After realizing what was going on, Lisa looked at Jasper with extreme rancor and screamed, “Jasper, are you trying to eradicate me?”

When Jasper heard this, he did not have the slightest interest to answer her. He turned his head to look at Norman.

The expression on Norman’s face was also very interesting since he had already known about this.

He stared straight at Jasper and gritted his teeth. He was so mad that he was shaking.

Back then, he accepted a compromise to give Jasper the false illusion that he had admitted defeat.

Because Mr. Atticus said he would need more time to plan this.

Norman knew Jasper would come to him and cause trouble for him. He had already thought this through, so he would endure everything Jasper said or did.

That was why Norman gritted his teeth and endured Lisa's trick of injuring herself to gain the enemy's confidence and also the conflict that happened because of the seat.

He felt that his victory was going to come.

However, Jasper was turning the tables now.

He could not keep pretending anymore.

Because if word about this got into Gale's ears, he would be the first one to die.

When that happened, Norman would not have a place to hide in the world.

"Mr. Gardner, what's going on?"

"What's wrong? Are you not going to say anything, Mr. Gardner?" Jasper asked calmly.

After taking a deep breath and clenching his fists, Norman said in a deep voice, "I think there are some misunderstandings here."

"Misunderstandings?"

Jasper chuckled lightly and looked at Norman before saying, "If this is a misunderstanding, then are the rumors about my construction site ruining the vibe and almost costing someone their life misunderstandings as well?"

After Jasper said this, Norman's face became tense even though he was prepared for Jasper to bring this up.

Norman felt as if Jasper's gaze on him was piercing and it was preventing him from hiding from Jasper.

"I don't understand what you mean. What does your construction site have to do with me?" Norman asked while bracing himself.

Jasper chuckled lightly and stood up to walk in front of Norman. He bent down to look straight at Norman's face and said, "He's a young man in his twenties and his parents suffered harshly to raise him into the man he is now. When it's time for him to finally start making money to pay back his parents, you caused him to become disabled for life and lost his ability to work because of your grudges with me.

"Do you still have a conscience?"

The corners of Norman's eyes twitched and he lifted his head to look into Jasper's eyes. He said through gritted teeth, "I told you I don't know what you're talking about and this has nothing to do with the chamber of commerce. Hence, there's no need to talk about that right now."

"Jasper, don't go too far!"

Mr. Heron stood up and pointed at Jasper before saying angrily, "I think you've been domineering for way too long. Don't forget where you are. You're just a vice president so who are you to question the president?"

"Do you think you're qualified to speak now?" Jasper turned his head to look at Mr. Heron coldly as he said that.

Mr. Heron widened his eyes and said in anger, "I am a member of the council so how am I not qualified to speak?"

"A member of the council? What a huge boast." Jasper chuckled lightly and took out his phone to call Gale.

The call was answered immediately after.

Jasper said calmly after putting Gale on loudspeaker, "Old Master Hurlbutt, you said as long as I represent the Waterhoof City Branch to attend the Asset Forum Conference, then I will have absolute power in the branch, am I right?"

"Yes."

Gale answered without hesitation over the other end of the phone.

"What about firing one of the members of the council?" Jasper asked.

This time, Gale was silent for a while. "I told you you have enough power."

"Thank you, Old Master Hurlbutt," said Jasper.

"As long as you get things done."

After Gale finished saying that, he hung up the phone immediately.

The two of them were conversing through the wireless phone so Gale who was in Suesville would not be able to see the interesting expressions of Norman and the three members of the council in the meeting room.

Especially Mr. Heron. He went mad immediately.

Who was Gale Hurlbutt? He was the lifetime honorary president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce and he was the one who brought the Haddock Chamber of Commerce to a great height of development.

He was the spiritual leader of all businesspeople from Haddock all over the country.

As one of the normal members of the council in the Waterhoof City Branch, perhaps Mr. Heron did manage to interact with the current president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce in the country, however, he would never get the chance to interact with a top-notch big shot like Gale.

However, he knew that the voice from the phone was from the person he needed to look up to, Gale Hurlbutt.

Even if the old master had backed down from his position, no one would question his prestige in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce.

Since Gale supported Jasper, then he would be finished!

When he thought about this, Mr. Heron said to Norman with a pale face, "Mr. Gardner, y-you have to help me!"

The chamber of commerce was just an organization that was not consolidated, so any one of those members had their own property and business, and naturally, Mr. Heron was the same.

However, to a person like Mr. Heron, being a member of the council in the chamber of commerce, was very beneficial for his business.

At least, the Haddock Chamber of Commerce was in every industry, so if he mentioned his position in the chamber of commerce, it would help him greatly in all kinds of business deals.

However, if he was fired and his dismissal was approved by Old Master Hurlbutt, everyone in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce would avoid him like he was a venomous snake.

When Norman heard this, he felt his scalp getting numb.

He knew Gale supported Jasper but he did not think that he was so supportive.

No matter what, Mr. Heron was a member of the council in the Waterhoof City branch and he was serious about his job. However, Gale did not even ask for his consultation before agreeing to let Jasper fire Mr. Heron.

What did that mean?

It meant that if it was necessary, Jasper could just kick him out of the chamber of commerce.

Norman was already helpless so how would he have the mood to care about Mr. Heron's cries for help? He lifted his head to say to Jasper in a deep voice, "Jasper, don't push us so far! What on earth do you want?"

Life at the Top Chapter 1059

"I'm pushing you too far?"

Jasper looked at Norman and asked coldly, "Am I the one pushing you too far, or are you the one who's forcing me to do this?"

Norman gritted his teeth and said frigidly, "Don't you just want an explanation? Alright, I'll give you an explanation!"

As he said that, Norman announced loudly, "From now on, I'm going to take a long break because of personal reasons. During this period, I won't care about anything that's happening in the chamber of commerce. Mr. Laine will be responsible for everything from now on."

After he said this, Mr. Heron, who initially hoped that Norman could save him, collapsed on his seat. He wanted to cry but no tears were coming out.

Meanwhile, the other two members of the council had a change of expression on their faces.

"Mr. Gardner, you don't have to do this. Please reconsider!" One of the members of the council implored him.

Compared to the more assertive Jasper, it was evident that they were more willing to listen to Norman's orders.

Everything else aside, everyone knew that Jasper would not focus his attention on the chamber of commerce. Plus, if Jasper had the absolute authority of the chamber of commerce, they would suffer in the future.

"No need. I've decided," Norman took a deep breath and said in a deep voice.

After he said that, Norman stared at Jasper with rancor and asked, "Is this enough?"

"Jasper, I won't care about anything that's going to happen next. Our grudge ends here. I hope you can shape up."

After Norman said that, he left with Lisa.

Jasper never stopped them. He just watched the two of their figures disappear from the meeting room.

After the door was closed, Jasper looked at Mr. Heron and said insipidly, "Mr. Heron, this will be the last time I call your name. From now on, you're no longer a member of the Waterhoof City branch. Please leave."

Mr. Heron's expression changed. He gritted his teeth and stood up to look at Jasper with resentment. He said, "Alright, you're ballsy. Just wait. I want to see when you're going to die!"

After he said that, Mr. Heron turned his head and left.

After Mr. Heron left, the huge meeting room was left with the three of them.

Jasper looked at the two members of the council who looked apprehensive and said, "Do you think I want to replace Norman?"

Of course, no one would answer Jasper. The two of them pretended they did not hear him and did not make a sound.

"Actually, I am not the least bit interested in the Haddock Chamber of Commerce."

Jasper patted the back of the chair and said ruminatively.

"I don't care if you believe me or not, but that's what I'm going to say. You don't have to worry that I'll take action against you guys. The relationship I have with the Haddock Chamber of Commerce was just a promise I made with Old Master Hurlbutt. After I'm done, I'll leave."

"Since Norman doesn't want to bother anymore, you two should do as you see fit for the daily operations of the chamber of commerce. You don't have to care or worry about the Asset Forum Conference as well. I'll take care of it and you just have to send me the workflow and that's it."

"After that, we won't have any interactions anymore."

After Jasper said that, the two members of the council looked at each other and they were confused.

They thought this would be a vigorous battle for authority, yet they did not expect Jasper to act like this when he was in power and still be able to let this go easily. Was he really going to split the power of the president between the two of them so easily?

The two members of the commerce looked at Jasper in disbelief after they were given a free lunch.

One of the braver members mustered the courage and asked, "Mr. Laine, may I ask why you did so much but not want the power of the president?"

"Self-defense," Jasper said unenthusiastically.

The two members of the council did not believe what Jasper said at all.

After Jasper entered the door, he had been so assertive. He had Mr. Heron and Norman in the palm of his hands and now he said he was just doing that for self-defense?

The two of them just assumed that Jasper did not want to say much, so they did not ask.

...

"That sly animal!"

Lisa cursed with bitter resentment once she got into the car.

Norman closed his eyes and leaned against the seat of the car. He said softly, "I've been so careful and he still managed to get information that can be used against me. Jasper is so hard to deal with."

Lisa clenched her fists tightly and said with bitterness, "We can't just let this matter go."

"Lisa, what you did today was too impulsive," Norman said after he opened his eyes to look at his daughter.

Lisa lowered her head upon hearing that. She replied, "I know that, dad. I didn't think this through and I didn't expect to run into Jasper so coincidentally."

"This is not a matter of coincidence. You need to risk too much for this, but even if it's successful, the return is too little. So, you're still too impulsive no matter how you think about this. You shouldn't have done that," Norman said while shaking his head.

"I just don't want Jasper to be so comfortable," Lisa said with bitter resentment.

"Lisa, you still didn't realize one thing," Norman said.

When Lisa looked at him suspiciously, Norman continued with a slight bitterness, "This is not about our grudge with Jasper anymore the moment Mr. Atticus contacted us. Instead, it's a battle between Mr. Atticus and Jasper."

"The two of us are just Mr. Atticus' chess pieces at most, do you understand?"

Lisa answered nonchalantly after she heard that, "This is not important. I don't care if we're chess pieces or not, I just want Jasper dead."

"No, this is very important."

Norman emphasized his words. "We will only change how we think as long as we know our positions."

"To Mr. Atticus, we're chess pieces. So, we shall behave like good chess pieces. From now on, we won't do anything unless Mr. Atticus tells us to."

Lisa said angrily, “Dad, we don’t even know what Mr. Atticus is planning to do. Today, Jasper used this opportunity to kick you out of the chamber of commerce. What if he takes one step further in the future? Should we just watch him do that?”

“We’ll just cause a little trouble for him so that he won’t be able to take action against us in the time being,” Norman gritted his teeth and said.

“I’m sure that Dudley person will not let this go after suffering a disadvantage. You should go to him and fan the flames so that he’ll go find Jasper for trouble.”

“The Asset Forum Conference is starting as well and Dudley’s father is not a person that’s easy to deal with, plus he’s extremely protective of his family members so Jasper will be so troubled when that happens.”

Upon hearing that, Lisa’s eyes lit up and she said, “Dad, I’ll listen to what you say!”

“Remember, you can’t show up in the foreground anymore. Just let Dudley, that brainless son of a rich man, look for Jasper. You can just hide behind him and watch.”

“Okay!”

Life at the Top Chapter 1060

After dismissing the two members of the council, Jasper walked out of the meeting room.

Initially, he wanted to go back to the hotel but when he walked past the reception, someone called out to him.

“Um, M-Mr. Laine.”

Jasper turned his head to look at the receptionist with a smile. The receptionist's face was red and she looked nervous. Hence, Jasper said, "Hello, can I help you?"

When the receptionist saw how polite and conservative Jasper was, the woman was slightly disappointed. She reapplied her makeup lightly and delicately while Jasper was in the meeting.

After all, the politer he was with her, the more it showed that her beauty was nothing to Jasper.

She sighed in her heart and mustered up the courage to say, "Just now, I saw Mr. Heron barge out of the meeting room looking furious. He was also on the phone but I didn't hear much, I only heard him saying that he'll find someone to teach you a lesson, Mr. Laine."

Jasper was lost for words when he heard that. Then, he smiled at her and said, "Thank you for telling me."

The receptionist added, "Mr. Laine, you have to be careful. Among the three members of the council, Mr. Heron is a local in Waterhoof City. He's in the entertainment industry, as in bars and arcades."

"You should know that he has a lot of thugs under him since he's in this industry. That's why the other two members of the council won't provoke him usually."

When he saw the receptionist's nervous face, Jasper knew that she was very stressed and scared when she said this.

Jasper nodded and said warmly, "Alright, I understand. I'll look out for that."

The receptionist watched as Jasper left. In the end, she did not muster up the courage to ask him for his phone number. So, she could only sigh in misery and sat back down. She was wondering when Mr. Laine would come to the chamber of commerce next time.

After Jasper came out of the chamber of commerce, he went back to the hotel.

It was already afternoon when he got back to the hotel. So, he decided to have lunch with Julian in the hotel to get by. However, when he went back to his hotel room, he saw Sean coming over to find him coincidentally.

"Mr. Laine, I was looking for you," Sean said.

“What’s going on?”

Jasper opened the door of the room and asked Sean to sit anywhere he liked. When he saw that Sean was still a little dispirited, he opened the mini-fridge and took out a can of coffee to throw it to him. He laughed and said, “Sean, are you suffering because you’re old? You still haven’t recovered from that all-nighter?”

Sean chuckled bitterly and opened the can of coffee to take a sip. He said, “I’m already in my forties so of course, I can’t compare with a strong young man like you.”

“However, my foundation is still fine. Back when I was in the military, I was the parade guard of our company.”

Jasper sat opposite Sean and said, “You have to watch the real estate company, especially the branch in Waterhoof City. There’s been a major personnel transfer recently and there will be people who are unhappy with this. You should confront them as you see fit.”

“After all, we still need employees for the work. We can’t have all of them quit because something happened.”

“I got it. I will supervise and urge for the completion of this.” Sean nodded.

“Right, Mr. Laine, the reason I’m here is to talk to you about the naming.”

“The base of the skyscraper is already finished. According to the rules stated in the document, we have to report to the Waterhoof City’s government about our progress. Also, we have to start preparing for the name registration of our trademark.”

“Mr. Laine, do you need me to ask the planning department to provide you with a few names or...”

Jasper remembered the name Wendy proposed back then and said, “No need. I already have a name. Let’s call it World Financial Center.”

Life at the Top Chapter 1061

Sean's eyes lit up and he nodded. "Alright, it sounds grand and dignified. I like it."

"Oh, and there's one more thing I'd like you to help me do."

Jasper gave it some thought before he said, "Help me find a few formal gifts. Nothing too outlandish, so no need for jewelry. Something like tea, perhaps. I'm using them as gifts."

Sean nodded and replied, "Alright. I'll get to it immediately."

...

The following day, Hoofmorn University.

Jasper's Bentley came to a slow stop before the administrative building where a group of people was already waiting for him.

"That's Jasper?"

"I heard that he's the richest man in the Southeast Province. One of the wealthiest in the entire southern region too."

"That's not even the half of it. I think Waterhoof City's skyscraper belongs to him too. There's no youth richer than he is within the country."

"The most unbelievable thing is that he's only in his twenties. He's around the same age as our university's students, but there's no comparing against him. I heard he's an entrepreneur too. Such a capable man."

"Does anyone know what he's doing here in our school? I heard that a few important department chiefs, the university's president, and the dean's waiting for him upstairs."

“Wow. Considering the welcoming party, I almost thought that some important figure from Swallow Capital was coming over.”

“Of course. Universities around the country have to raise their own funds now. It’d be good for the school to make friends with wealthy people.”

“Stop talking, stop talking. He’s getting out of the car.”

“Holy sh*t, he’s so handsome!”

A man in his forties strode over to welcome Jasper once he saw the latter alight the car. The man extended his arm as he walked and smiled. “Welcome, Mr. Laine. Hoofmorn University is joyed to know of your arrival.”

Jasper shook the man’s hand and replied with a smile, “You are all seniors and pioneers of the education industry. I am but a mere businessman driven by benefits, there is no need for such a grand welcoming.”

The man smiled and said, “You’re too kind, Mr. Laine. Let me introduce myself, I’m Doiran Clem, the secretary of the presidential office. Mr. Marshman, the president, and a few important department chiefs are waiting for you upstairs.”

Jasper chuckled and spoke, “Then let us make our way upstairs quickly. There’s no need to make them wait any longer.”

Under the loud applause and Dorian’s lead, Jasper and Julian made their way into the administrative building.

When they arrived at the elevator, Dorian suddenly said rather embarrassedly, “Mr. Laine, the elevator’s getting old so it’s a little slow. Please forgive us for the long wait.”

Jasper asked curiously, “Hoofmorn University is the fifth-best university in the country but the administrative building looks simple and rather aged. There should be no reason for the school to struggle with funding, right?”

Dorian sighed and replied, “Swallow Capital sent a document last year, stating that all universities will have to raise and deal with their own funding. Our finances are only enough to cover staff wages and benefits, leaving us to struggle for campus construction.

“Not to mention that the university’s in dire need of funding for research projects as well. Any extra money we have is given to the professors and students for research.”

“As for our working environment, it’s as the dean said. It just has to be passable. There’s no need to furnish it too luxuriously, since this is a school and our focus should be on educating and learning.”

Jasper nodded in understanding. “Mr. Marshman is a great dean.”

Life at the Top Chapter 1062

In the dean’s office in Hoofmorn University’s administrative building, Jasper saw one of the most important figures of the country’s academic field, Patrick Marshmeet.

This old man looked lively and vigorous despite being in his late sixties.

This was the second time Jasper had seen such an energetic man of such age.

The first time was with Old Master Law.

“Hello, Mr. Marshman. I’m Jasper Laine, I hope you’re doing well.”

Jasper was extremely courteous and sincere upon entering the room.

This was not just because of Patrick’s identity and status, but also because the man was a true academic senior that devoted his life to the country and its people.

Patrick took a good look at Jasper before replying cheerfully, "Hello. To see you achieve such great success at such a young age, Mr. Laine, makes old men like us embarrassed. Seeing as how we've lived our whole lives for nothing."

Jasper replied, "You're too kind, Mr. Marshman. I just happened to be born in a better era. Youths like us would never have had such a great environment to flourish in without the countless effort and hard work seniors like you have put in for the country, Mr. Marshman."

"Very good," Patrick shook Jasper's hand and praised, "Here I was worried that I'd be meeting a money-minded businessman when Tom called me before this. Looks like I was worried for nothing."

Jasper smiled and turned around to take a long box from Julian's hands. Then, he turned back to tell Patrick, "I come bearing gifts this time, Mr. Marshman."

Patrick frowned at Jasper's actions and words. The man answered unhappily, "What for? I never accept gifts, so please put it away."

At this moment, Patrick's previously good impression of Jasper from earlier also turned sour.

Dorian began to feel nervous as he watched the scene play out by the side. He felt that Jasper was still rather young and untamed, as he incorporated the societal practice of gifting over here.

Mr. Marshman was one of the top leading figures in the academic field. He did not accept gifts.

Jasper smiled in the face of Mr. Marshman's displeasure and replied, "Don't be in such a rush to reject me, Mr. Marshman. I'm sure you'll like this gift."

"Not to mention that I'm not only gifting it to you, Mr. Marshman. This gift is for everyone in Hoofmorn University; staff, faculty, and student body."

“Oh?” Patrick was intrigued now. “Now I’ve got to see what grand gift you’ve gotten us.

“Let it be known that if this is any secular gift, I will still reject it. After all, this is a campus, and the harmony of the atmosphere is important.”

Jasper chuckled. He did not rush to explain as he opened the box instead.

Within the long box was a carefully packaged scroll. The scroll itself was around a meter and a half in length and seemed rather aged. There was a layer of wax over the exterior of the scroll to prevent it from oxidizing.”

“If you could lend me a hand, Mr. Clem.”

Dorian immediately agreed and walked over. Standing opposite Jasper, they carefully took out the scroll and unfurled it.

Mr. Marshman stared at the slowly unfurled scroll as he instinctively pulled out his reading glasses to put them on. He could tell that this scroll was a valuable antique.

At the same time, the other department chiefs and president that had come to accompany the dean also walked over. Everyone looked at the scroll with curiosity.

After the scroll was opened, a single sentence caused gasps of disbelief to ripple through the crowd.

“This... this is Mr. Hines’ calligraphed Exchange of Ancient Somer Scholars!”

With that, the crowd was immediately in an uproar.

Life at the Top Chapter 1063

Most people within the country did not know who Mr. Hines was.

However, it would be a crime for anyone within Hoofmorn University to not know the man.

Mr. Hines was Hoofmorn University's founder and its first dean. He was the most highly-ranked figure in Somerland's cultural field during his time.

All his students were people who were involved in, or even led, the massive spurt of development in Somerland's early modern history.

Everyone was excited once they heard this, especially Mr. Marshman.

Jasper looked up at the man who spoke and smiled. "You've got a great eye for things, Mr...?"

"Professor McDaniel is the department chief of Hoofmorn University's Early Modern History. He's one of the top three figures in the field of Early Modern History."

Patrick introduced the man before he looked at the open scroll again and asked, "Is this the real thing?"

Jasper smiled, "I wouldn't dare mess with you gentlemen by offering you a counterfeit. This is indeed the genuine article."

Jasper then praised Sean internally after replying.

Sean, who was thinking of how he could make up for his mistakes, had immediately found this treasure once he learned that Jasper was preparing gifts for Hoofmorn University.

Jasper could only get his hands on this item because Sean's family was friends with the scroll's previous owner. Even then, it had cost Jasper an eight-figure sum to buy Mr. Hines' calligraphed work.

It was an expensive piece, costing tens of millions.

Ten of millions was a suffocating sum in such a setting. However, as far as Jasper was concerned, this gift was a perfect one for Hoofmorn University.

“Mr. Hines is a publicly recognized scholar within the country. While he has already passed, his achievements continue to stand the test of time. Hoofmorn University remains to be a sacred academy that benefits thousands of people.

“It occurred to me how much of a shame it would be to Hoofmorn University if Mr. Hines’ calligraphed work were to disappear in the outside world, so I thought I’d take the responsibility to gift it to Hoofmorn University instead. I hope Hoofmorn University will honor Mr. Hines’ passing wish and continue to produce and nurture scholars and talents for the country and its people.”

If there was anyone good with his words.

It would be Jasper Laine.

Everyone in the room smiled joyfully at Jasper’s words as these titans of their respective academic fields looked at Jasper with great affection.

Even Mr. Marshman peered at Jasper with extreme gentleness.

“Jasper, allow me to refer you by your given name as your elder. On behalf of Hoofmorn University’s staff and student body, I thank you for your present.

“We know that this was an expensive gift, but Hoofmorn University values what the gift symbolizes even more. So, to be frank with you, we cannot nor are we willing to decline the gift. Thank you, we’ll treasure it.”

Patrick suddenly moved to give Jasper a grateful bow.

Jasper could not accept such an action, so he immediately reached out to stop Patrick. Jasper replied awkwardly, “Mr. Marshman, I’m going to have to shamefully leave if you keep being so overly courteous to me.”

Laughter filled the room after Jasper said this, and Patrick no longer insisted. The latter had someone put away the valuable calligraphed treasure before it got sent to Hoofmorn University's large hall and framed so staff and students could pay their respect.

Jasper smiled softly at the unexpected effect his gift had brought. He was thinking about how he could mention the reason for his visit before Mr. Marshman took the initiative to bring it up.

"Jasper, I know that you came to visit us for the stepper, yes? I've already called the relevant academic professors over. How else would you like Hoofmorn University to help you?"

Jasper exhaled softly. 'This is the difference between bearing and not bearing gifts!'

Life at the Top Chapter 1064

Ecen if Jasper had not gifted Hoofmorn University such an unrefusable present, Mr. Marshman would still have welcomed Jasper grandly on behalf of Old Master Law's introduction and Jasper's strengths.

However, such a grand greeting would only be out of common respect.

After all, Old Master Law had put in a word, and Jasper was no longer the nobody he once was.

As the owner of JW Capital and its subsidiaries, Jasper was quite a formidable man.

However, Jasper did not want a courteous greeting for the sake of respect.

Jasper hoped to establish an even deeper relationship with Hoofmorn University so that it could become a place that nurtured JW's future talents.

“Mr. Marshman, Department Chiefs, since we’ve already brought up the matter, then allow me to go straight to the point.”

In the small meeting room in Hoofmorn University’s administrative building, Jasper cleared his throat in front of a group of professors and cleared his thoughts before he started slowly.

“You are all experts in your academic fields, so I won’t make a fool out of myself by introducing what the stepper does and how important it is. I trust that all of you know it better than I do.

“Its importance is the reason why the West has imposed a major blockade on this technical project, preventing it from reaching our shores for the past few decades.

“But does this mean we’ll have to sit and wait for the West to overpower us just because they’ve sealed off the technology?

“No!

“Coincidentally, my JW company has business in just such a field.

“Therefore, my idea is to build my own team and try to achieve a breakthrough on the stepper’s manufacturing technology. This will need more than an astronomical amount of funds, but also the technical support from the best research team in the country.

“This is why I came to Hoofmorn University today.

“Hoofmorn University had received a stepper a few years ago, and had also published the most research findings on the stepper. This is why Hoofmorn University will be the best partner for me.”

While everyone in the room had already expected the contents of Jasper’s speech, they still found themselves excited by the man’s words.

“You’re right, Mr. Laine. If it’s possible, then we are very willing to provide you the support you need.

“But the issue is that such a large research project will require funding of at least tens of billions. Moreover, there’s no certainty that we will produce results either.

“All the time, money, and effort will be for naught if we fail. This isn’t something ordinary people can afford.”

The one who said this was a professor of Hoofmorn University’s digital information field. He had voiced out what almost everyone was thinking.

While it would be great news if someone was willing to fund their research, the issue was with just how large the research project would be. Not only was this a huge project that would cost a lot of money, but its chance of failure were extremely high too.

“I understand. Research isn’t easy and it’s filled with obstacles, after all. To be honest with you, I’ already prepared myself for failure before I made this decision.”

Jasper’s firm gaze swept over everyone in the meeting room before he continued decisively, “I’ll invest at least 20 billion within one year. In return, I want a team of the best technicians in the country who will research and domestically develop a stepper without fear of repercussions!”

20 billion!

The meeting room was in an uproar after they heard the figure.

While everyone seated in the room was an academic expert, they were still financially normal people who lived on a monthly salary. They might have made more money than other families, but their hearts still shook in excitement when faced with the prospect of 20 billion.

“20 billion. That’s enough to fill this meeting room, isn’t it?” Someone whispered.

While opinions flew about, Patrick turned to look at Jasper and asked, “Jasper, are you coming up with this funding yourself, or are there other financiers?”

Jasper replied, “JW will shoulder the full burden of the project. There will not be any other sources of funding, so I will be the only one in charge of the project.

“The research team will hold the highest priority within the entire company. All resources and funding will be prioritized for them and they are not to be interfered with by any administrative offices.”

Patrick arched his brow at what Jasper said. “Jasper, you have to think carefully. This is 20 billion. If the research fails...”

“If it fails, then JW will face the risk of going bankrupt,” Jasper finished Patrick’s sentence.

“Let me be frank with all of you. JW’s currently has a very tight cash flow, and while it won’t affect day-to-day operations of the business, suddenly taking up such an important research project will surely place the company in a severe financial crisis.”

Jasper pondered over his next words for a moment before he continued, “But as far as I’m concerned, companies are like men, and there are some things we should and should not do. No matter how difficult, if it’s something that should be done, then I’ll get it done as soon as possible. The current predicament JW is facing is an experience it has to undergo in order to grow.

“Mr. Laine, have you considered funding research after some time, perhaps once your company’s financial situation is stable and you have the funds comfortably available?” A macroeconomics professor asked

Jasper chuckled and replied, “Following the basic rules of economics, that would be the smart thing to do. But how long am I supposed to wait?”

“Time is of the essence, and we’ve already spent too long waiting about. There’s not much time left, so someone has to rush up there and seize the opportunity by the horns!

“If no one else is going to do it, then I will! JW will!”

There was still something Jasper had not said. If possible, he really did not want to tackle this project with the risk of JW going bankrupt and shutting down.

However, this was already the 2000s, and the age of smartphones was on the horizon. Apple’s first-generation smartphone was already in development.

If Jasper wanted a piece of the smartphone market pie in the future, then he had to hold on tight to its core technology and not let go.

More importantly, the stepper would lead to more than just the breakthrough of mobile phones. The stepper was a key component for cutting-edge production in the integrated circuit manufacturing field.

Any device relating to electronics, like computers, mobile phones, and high-end appliances, relied on the operation of an advanced integrated circuit. It would not be an exaggeration to claim that this circuit was of national importance.

This was also a major piece of technology in Jasper’s plan for his JW business empire. Hence, he could not afford to wait.

The longer he waited, the larger the gap between technology in and outside the country would grow. This would make it even more difficult to narrow the gap, much less surpass them.

However, these were not things he could say out loud.

Even so, Jasper was met with a thundering round of applause that resounded throughout the meeting room once he had finished speaking.

Regardless of his innermost thoughts, the experts and professors in the room had been impressed by Jasper's strong will and courage.

"Mr. Laine... you are indeed a promising man. Bold and patriotic!"

Life at the Top Chapter 1065

Jasper's negotiation before the forming of the partnership was a success.

The experts and professors then introduced themselves and exchanged name cards with him. Every single one of them, even those that had nothing to do with the project, was filled with confidence as they shook Jasper's hand.

After the meeting was over, Jasper returned to the dean's office alongside Patrick.

"Dorian, could you make us some tea?" Patrick was in a great mood. After instructing Dorian to make them tea, Patrick turned to tell Jasper kindly, "We'd be elated if there were more courageous and responsible youths like you in the country, Jasper."

Jasper waved his hand and smiled. "It's nothing much. I'm just doing what I think is right."

Patrick sighed and said, "These things that you consider as nothing much are almost impossible feats to many others."

"Please don't be too kind, Mr. Marshman, otherwise I won't know to bring up my small request." Jasper smiled.

Patrick had a great impression of Jasper by now, and he laughed and said, “Do tell. As long as it’s within my powers, then it won’t be an issue.”

Jasper replied, “What a coincidence, then. A word from you would actually solve this little issue of mine, Mr. Marshman.

“So basically, I have a distantly related sister. She...”

Jasper proceeded to tell him about Tiffany’s situation.

“She’s very hardworking and she loves to study. She’s talented as well, but her family conditions have been too harsh, and she has to take full responsibility for her brother’s expenses.

“What she lacks is an opportunity, which I was hoping Hoofmorn University could give to her.”

Patrick frowned slightly after he heard Jasper.

As a morally conscious individual, Patrick would never agree to anyone trying to enroll in his school through private connections. However, he could not help but consider this deeply since Jasper was the one who was requesting it.

“I don’t see why not. Compile her documents and send them to the admissions office. I still have two special offers on hand, and I can give one of them to her.”

After a short moment of thought, Patrick replied with a smile.

Jasper sighed in relief as well after he heard Patrick agree.

While Jasper did have other methods to achieve his goal, and he could always have just sent Tiffany to another university, resorting to those methods would only fracture his relationship with Patrick.

Patrick was a reasonable and suave man, so he did not put Jasper in an awkward position by declining.

After a dozen more minutes or so, Jasper received a phone call and got up to bid farewell.

Patrick shook Jasper's hand again after walking him to the office doors.

"Then I shall await your good news, Jasper," Patrick said seriously.

"Rest assured, Mr. Marshman. I'll send someone here tomorrow to sign the official framework agreement of our partnership.

"Of course, for confidentiality's sake, I do hope that Hoofmorn University will keep the specifics of our research project a secret from the outside world.

"Otherwise, the situation could potentially end badly. We might have to face a lot of unnecessary trouble if other countries got wind of this."

Patrick nodded and replied, "Don't worry. I'll make the necessary preparations on my end. That Tiffany girl you spoke of, perhaps you could bring her over in a few days. It would be difficult to arrange her for admission once the timeframe passes."

"Alright. Thank you for your trouble then, Mr. Marshman," Jasper thanked him sincerely.

With a chuckle, Patrick patted Jasper's shoulder affectionately and said, "Don't let me delay you from your work any longer, then. I'll see you off here."

After walking out of the administrative building, Jasper turned to tell Julian, "Jul, I'll have to trouble you to go back to Nauritus City and bring Tiffany over... She's never been out the city before, and I worry that she'll get lost the moment she leaves the house if I have her come on her own."

Julian replied with a smile, “Sure, Jasper. Then I’ll get going... Should I send you back to the hotel first?”

“No need. Go back immediately. The sooner you go, the sooner you get back. I can return to the hotel myself since it’s not too far—less than a twenty-minute ride if I hail a taxi.”

Jasper was in no rush to return after Julian left. Instead, he took the nearest subway to the beach.

Jasper strolled along the beach and stared out at the expansive view before him, filled with tourists.

Hiding in a sea of tourists, Jasper let himself be engulfed by all sorts of dialects as they expressed excitement and yearning for the bustling city life.

Jasper felt that it had been ages since he had lived the life of a normal person. He soon found a random stone platform and sat down on it before pulling his phone out to dial a number.

“I was dealing with something at Hoofmorn University just now, and so I couldn’t talk too much with you. Is something up?”

Henry’s voice then sounded from the other end of the line.

“You’re at Waterhoof City too?”

“What’s with this ‘too’ of yours? I thought you were pursuing love over at Swallow Capital?” Jasper joked.

“Don’t remind me. Jill’s not interested in me at all. I spent a few days there and watched her practice at her training center every day. Her coach and teammates don’t like me since I was there for so long, so I came back first.”

Henry replied despondently.

“You’ve got to take these things slow. Jill isn’t the kind of girl you can win over with money, and I doubt you’d cherish her if she was that easy,” Jasper consoled.

Henry snickered and replied, “You’re right about that. The more she ignores me, the more interested in her I become.”

“You know, there’s an adjective that describes you perfectly right now,” Jasper claimed.

“What is it?” Henry asked curiously, “Infatuation? Or maybe handsome? Something like a rare man?”

“Cheap.”

“...”

Half an hour later, Henry found Jasper on the beach drinking a cup of bubble tea.

“You drink things like this?” Henry exclaimed in shock, as if this was the first time he was meeting Jasper.

“This is called living life. It’s not something sordid trust-fund children like you can understand. Anyway, what was so important that you had to rush over and tell me in person?” Jasper asked lazily.

Henry snickered before he answered, “Nothing much. I was meeting an old friend here in Waterhoof City, so I thought I’d share some intel when I found out you were here too.”

“Fabian’s been going to lots of places to cause you trouble lately. The sinister little sh*t wouldn’t challenge you directly, so he’s been silently contacting your enemies. It seems like he’s already found quite a few.

“My sources are definitely reliable, and I had to use my dad’s channels to understand exactly what he’s doing. You’ve got to be careful, or he’ll find everyone you’ve offended in the past to seek revenge against you at the same time. After all, you aren’t an easy opponent.”

Jasper frowned slightly and narrowed his eyes. “I remember receiving news before that Conrad’s left the country to relax.”

“You think Conrad and Fabian are in contact?” Henry asked.

“It’s hard to say,” Jasper replied heavily.

Life at the Top Chapter 1066

At almost the same time, far away in Harbor City.

Conrad sat on a skerry at the Dammer Fishing Grounds with a fishing rod in his hands as he stared with focus at the fish maw that danced in the waves.

Waves smacked against the skerry and wet the leg of his pants, but the man remained frozen in place.

He had lived this lifestyle for around a week.

Behind him stood his confidant, Valentine.

“The tide us rising, Mr. Monty. We should return soon.”

Valentine told Conrad softly.

Conrad waved his off and replied, “I haven’t caught a single fish today, I can’t leave yet.”

Valentine sighed gently at how stubborn Conrad was.

“I don’t like seeing you like this, Mr. Monty, it feels wrong to me. I’d rather you vent about it,” Valentine said sincerely.

Conrad smiled and replied, “I know what you want to say, Valentine, but you worry too much. What is there for me to vent? Victories and losses are common in war, and it’s not the first time I’ve lost to Jasper anyway. After a few losses, you start to get used to it.

“Plus, I quite like the kind of life I’m living now. It doesn’t have any of that fighting and aggression, and a single fish brings me joy for a very long time.

“Father told me that I was being too hasty and that I should learn to calm down and have some patience. I didn’t understand him then, but now that I look at it, Father knew me too well. After these past few days of peace, I’ve finally realized where I went wrong.

“I was too impatient.”

Valentine opened his mouth to refute but did not make a sound.

He knew that there were some things someone of his status and identity could not say. He should never touch on the topic of the Monty’s father-son duo’s core interests.

“Mr. Monty, Mr. Atticus sent an invitation two days ago. Are we really not going to meet him?”

“After all, Mr. Atticus and we share a common enemy in Jasper, and we could potentially work together to defeat him. Not to mention that Mr. Atticus isn’t someone we can easily afford to offend,” Valentine brought up.

Conrad smiled and replied, “He’s in more of a rush than we are, so don’t worry. He’ll come and look for me. It’d be too cheap of me and unbecoming of my person to seek him out because of one single invitation.”

As if to prove Conrad right, a yacht sped toward them from not too far out in the sea soon after he finished talking.

The yacht’s destination was clear as it made a beeline for Conrad’s skerry. The yacht stopped around a few dozen meters away as a speedboat pulled out from behind the expensive-looking yacht.

The speedboat arrived before the skerry with a man standing atop it. He spoke to Conrad courteously, “Are you Mr. Conrad Monty?”

Conrad replied calmly, “I’m fishing.”

The man gave a small smile and said, “Mr. Atticus said that you’re welcome to go fishing on Mr. Atticus’ yacht if you wish, Mr. Monty. There are larger fish in deeper waters, and they’re easier to catch.”

Conrad arched a brow and answered, "Since Mr. Atticus is already here, then it would be disrespectful of me to not take his offer. Bring me over, then."

The speedboat pulled up to the skerry and Conrad got on. At the same time, Valentine made an instinctive move to follow.

Yet, the young man immediately raised his hand to halt him. His tone was polite but firm as he said, "My apologies, Mr. Atticus invited Mr. Monty alone."

Valentine looked at Conrad.

"Valentine, bring my fishing rod back first. It seems like today isn't a good day for fishing," Conrad told Valentine as he waved him off.

Then, he made way to the yacht alongside the young man on the speedboat.

...

On the third deck of the yacht that sat in international waters, Conrad found Fabian lying on a sofa.

The man wore nothing more than a pair of shorts, his top bare, oozing with an air of untamed fierceness. There was a woman in his arms and a few more surrounding him.

Fabian snapped his fingers when he saw Conrad walk up. "A handsome man from the Mainland is here, beautiful. Go give him a taste of our Miss Harbor Cities.

"I'll reward whoever works the hardest to earn a place in Mr. Monty's bed with 1 million Harbor Dollars."

At that, a few beauties immediately flocked to Conrad, surrounding him and using all their skills to seduce him.

"What if I carry all of them to bed, Mr. Atticus? Aren't you afraid I'll make you lose a large sum of money?" Conrad asked calmly.

Fabian laughed out loud and replied, "It's just money, and that's the last thing I lack. As long as we're happy, any amount of money is worth it."

Conrad soon went to sit on the sofa. He did not reject the ladies by his side, holding one in each arm while another peeled him fruits.

“You sure know how to enjoy life, Mr. Atticus,” Conrad said.

“I’ve had an endless supply of money ever since I was born. I didn’t even need to think of how to earn more, since the interest from putting just a small portion of it in the bank was enough to let me live comfortably for the rest of my life.

“For a person like me, what would differentiate me from a piece of trash if I didn’t know how to enjoy life?” Fabian laughed out loud as he kneaded the flesh of the girl in his arms.

Life at the Top Chapter 1067

Conrad chuckled and replied, “Of course. You’ve certainly got a better understanding of things than I do, Mr. Atticus.

“But what I hate most are eyesores that just keep blocking my view. The moment someone becomes an eyesore, I just feel the need to kill him.

“The more comfortable this person gets, the more uncomfortable I grow. Therefore, Mr. Monty, I’ll get straight to the point with you.”

Fabian then clapped his hands and the women around him, as well as the ones around Conrad, got up understandingly. They immediately left the third deck to play downstairs.

The third deck was instantly left vacant except for Conrad and Fabian.

Just then, Fabian plopped himself right next to Conrad and reached out to hook his arm around the other man's neck. He grinned as he said, "I want to get rid of Jasper and I know you do too. So, let's work together."

Conrad glanced at Fabian's arm around his shoulder and frowned slightly.

He was not used to having physical contact with others.

Fabian may seem brash, but he was actually a sensitive man. He immediately realized Conrad's discomfort.

However, he did not let go of Conrad. Instead, Fabian pulled him in tighter so that Conrad would have to lean into Fabian's chest unconsciously.

Fabian placed his mouth by Conrad's cheek and spoke casually, "Do you know what I love doing most?"

Conrad shook his head as a sign of him not knowing.

"I love doing what makes people unhappy."

Fabian laughed out loud. "I get a rush when you people look irked but can do nothing to stop me!"

Conrad commented expressionlessly, "You've got quite the unique tastes, Mr. Atticus."

Fabian's smile fell and he let go of Conrad's neck. He got up and spread his arms wide, facing the open sea as he said.

"Look at this yacht underneath my feet. How much do you think it costs?"

“50 million, whilst maintenance alone costs 4 million. There are tons of expenses similar to this, but don’t we live for the rush—the thrill—in life? If we didn’t, it’d be a waste of such a great life we’ve been blessed with.”

The corner of Conrad’s mouth twitched. While everything Fabian said was morally wrong, Conrad had to admit that the other made some sense.

“That’s why we have to have fun with life, and it’s also why anyone that stands in our path deserves to die,” Fabian said, his expression hardening.

Conrad looked up at Fabian and asked with a frown, “I’m curious, Mr. Atticus. Why do you feel the need to get rid of Jasper? From what I know, you two have never even met before.”

Fabian chuckled and replied, “I just don’t like the surname ‘Laine’. Is this reason enough for you?”

Conrad replied calmly, “It’s alright if you don’t want to tell me why, Mr. Atticus.”

“Conrad,” Fabian’s smile vanished as he said indifferently, “Of all of Jasper’s enemies that I’ve won over, you’re the one I admire the most. Because of this, I can tell you one of the reasons. Anna Law, understand?”

Conrad was stunned for a moment before he nodded. “Because of a woman, I understand.”

“There are countless beauties in Harbor City, all so pretty, so dignified, and with such great figures. They can all be yours as long as you’re rich, but there’s only one Anna, and I’ve loved her for a whole decade!” Fabian’s gaze turned sinister and cold.

“I spent all of last year overseas but when I came back, Jasper that little sh*t actually got into an amorous relationship with Anna. So tell me, does he deserve to die or not?”

Conrad replied calmly, "He deserves it."

A bright and warm smile instantly returned to Fabian's face. The stark contrast between the two expressions would have given people the impression that Fabian was crazy.

"Alright, that's enough nonsense with you. Have as much fun here in Harbor City as you want. Eat, drink and play. I'll show you a luxurious life of pleasure you can never experience in the Mainland."

Fabian patted Conrad's shoulder intimately and continued, "But you're going to have to start working for me once you get back. I'm a nice employer. Do your part well and I will reward you generously."

Conrad frowned slightly and replied, "You misunderstand, Mr. Atticus. I'm currently..."

"Misunderstand what?" Fabian interrupted Conrad coldly.

"Are you telling me that you've surrendered to Jasper or that I'm unreliable?"

Conrad swallowed his words of rejection. He knew that if he angered Fabian now, the man would have no qualms throwing him directly into the ocean.

Fabian would also not be held responsible for anything either.

"Most of the Teo Chamber of Commerce are my men, and they're about to deal with Jasper.

"How hilarious, that despite being thrown out as a forsaken pawn, Jasper still decided to jump back in because he thought he'd be owed a favor."

Fabian picked up a glass of red wine and swirled its contents slowly. Infinite confidence shone in his eyes.

“I’m sure Gale, that old sly man, would know who to choose between the Atticus family and Jasper.

“Hahaha. Jasper’s is said to never have lost a single time ever since he started his business, but this is a setup I planned myself, and I’d like to see first-hand how tragically he loses.”

Conrad frowned slightly at Fabian’s words.

“But doing so would only bruise his self-esteem at most. What else would it do?”

Fabian laughed out loud when he heard this and slowly answered, “Here’s what you don’t understand. When it comes to people like Jasper, you attack his confidence first. The moment he has a taste of failure, he’ll lose all the composure he’s accumulated through his many wins. That’s when we make our move.”

Life at the Top Chapter 1068

“Have you seen whalers at sea?”

Fabian patted Conrad’s shoulder and continued meaningfully, “Whalers first find the whale, then follow it until it grows tired. They attack the moment it gets distracted.

“Whalers only get one chance to attack, because the moment they fail, an irked whale will capsize the entire boat and flee into the deep waters.

“We’re like whalers. The moment we attack, we aim to kill.

“I know of the processes and plans that you’ve used against Jasper before. You made the mistake of being too careful with all sorts of buildup and traps, but they all proved to be useless. Rather, you’ve only caused him to be wary of you.

“Hence, there are only two steps to my attack. The first, I hit his confidence hard. Then, I’ll follow it with the ultimate move right after. After all that, it’ll be time for us to taste the fruits of victory.”

Conrad fell deep in thought when he heard Fabian.

After a long while, he nodded. “Perhaps you’re right.”

“Then I look forward to working with you, hahaha.”

...

Waterhoof City, at the beach.

Jasper frowned as he aimlessly walked along the landscape route with Henry following beside him blankly.

The latter would glance at Jasper from time to time, yet, Henry did not disturb him when he saw that the other was still thinking.

He was used to Jasper’s occasional strange expressions, since the man always managed to find a lead within a messy haystack of clues. This was something Henry could never come up with no matter how hard he wracked his brain.

“Henry, did Fabian leave Harbor City recently?” Jasper asked.

“I don’t think so.”

“This is the first time I’ve seen you so cautious about someone. Does he worry you?” Henry joked.

Henry had always thought that Jasper would be able to solve any complicated issue or person easily from how the latter always acted. However, this was the first time Henry had seen such a conflicted expression on Jasper’s face.

“Do I look like a god to you?”

Jasper glared at Henry. "The last thing this world lacks are capable people. If I can't understand that, then death is right around the corner.

"I may never have met Fabian, but do you know what he reminds me of?"

Henry shook his head. As a qualified supporter, he asked cooperatively, "What does he remind you of?"

"A venomous snake."

Jasper narrowed his eyes and stated heavily.

"Hidden in the dark and rarely attacking. However, the moment he does, it's done with tremendous power!

"If I don't make the proper preparations, I'll likely die from just one bite. To be frank with you, I really don't want to be targeted by someone like him if possible."

Henry was stunned for a moment. Even so, he must have thought of something as he suddenly laughed out loud. "You got that right. This man really is a venomous snake that will go to any lengths to get what he wants."

Jasper placed both his hands on the railing and stared at the steady flow of Harpoon River. "We already know that Fabian's contacting my past enemies and they're going to team up to attack me.

"But other than that, we have no idea when, in what way they plan to attack, or even who exactly Fabian has contacted. We have too little leads to derive any useful information.

"Hence, there's nothing we can do now but wait. We can't make our move until we've got more information."

"The worst-case scenario is that we are forced to take everything he prepared head-on unprepared."

Henry could also sense the severity of the situation and spoke up whilst standing beside Jasper, "Aren't we playing a very passive role, then?"

“There’s nothing we can do about that. After all, they know everything about us, but we know nothing of them. It’s not like we can run over to Harbor City to ask them what their plans are either.”

Henry was overjoyed when he heard Jasper’s suggestion. “I don’t see why not.”

Jasper waved him off and replied happily, “We’ll take this one step at a time. It’s unrealistic to overthink this.”

Seeing Henry’s blank and careless expression, Jasper suddenly said, “There’s going to be an asset forum conference in two days. Do you want to come with?”

“What’s the point of those conferences anyway? They’re so boring. Just a group of crafty old people trying to get rid of each other, while each smiling brighter than the last as they show off.” Henry pouted.

“Boring? Other conferences might be boring, but I promise that this one won’t be.

“Are you coming or not? I’ll give you the identity of a special guest if you are.”

Henry nodded and replied, “Sure. Not like there’s anything I need to do in two day’s time anyway. I sure hope some stupid f*cker appear so I can bully him.”

Jasper thought back to Dudley, whom he had met today, and chuckled. “There might just be one.”

Henry’s eyes lit up and he asked, “Can I f*ck with him if one appears?”

“Go wild.”

Jasper patted Henry on the shoulders. “This is one of the reasons why I invited you. You’re the best when it comes to being as cruel as possible, and I’ll also need you to test out their reactions to some things. If all goes according to plan, we might be able to prove quite a lot.”

“Alright. Don’t tell me all this as I won’t understand you anyway. But if I can screw with someone then that’s good enough. I’ve never stepped over any trust-fund children here in Waterhoof City before, so I wonder how it feels. Hahaha.”

“He’s from the Teo Chamber of Commerce, not Waterhoof City.”

“Doesn’t matter! They’re all the same to me.”

Life at the Top Chapter 1069

That midnight, Julian had quickly driven between Nauritus City and Waterhoof City twice.

It was in the early morning when Tiffany and Julian arrived at Waterhoof City.

The two did not disturb Jasper, who was already resting. Julian immediately checked Tiffany into a hotel room before he went to rest.

The next morning, Jasper saw Tiffany in the hotel.

“How are you feeling? Was it tiring traveling all day yesterday?” Jasper asked.

Tiffany shook her head and replied cautiously, “Not at all. It’s just that Waterhoof City is flourishing with life. I even saw a few foreigners when I arrived at the hotel yesterday.”

“Of course it’s flourishing—it’s the largest financial center in the country.

“This is a five-star hotel so it won’t be weird to see foreigners here. Foreigners are also people like us, and there are also scums and failures among them. Therefore, there’s no need to treat them with extra respect just because they’re foreigners, understand?” Jasper taught her.

Tiffany did come from a small village after all, and this was the first time she had been to such a large city like Waterhoof City. She was only doing fine now because she had Jasper watching out for her.

Unfortunately, Jasper could not stay in Waterhoof City forever while Tiffany had to spend four years of university here. Hence, Jasper had to shape her understanding of values and worldviews now in case this innocent lady ended up being scammed by someone in the future.

Tiffany nodded vigorously and replied, "Alright, I'll remember that!"

"Let's go eat breakfast, then I'll bring you to the department store for new clothes before I send you to school," Jasper said.

Tiffany quickly replied, "I brought clothes."

Then she asked embarrassedly, "Or are my clothes too reflective of my poverty?"

"Tiffany."

Jasper sighed slightly and sat by Tiffany's side. He spoke gently, "I think there's a huge problem with you right now, and that's your mindset of inferiority.

"You keep thinking of how poor and broke you are, and how you haven't seen the world. Because of this, you have no courage in anything you say and do, which isn't a good thing.

"You need to be more confident, you have to believe that your state of poverty is only temporary. I can't say that your poverty means nothing, but the truth with society is that the wealthier you are, the more respected you will become. Sayings about how poor and rich people are the same are lies people tell their children.

"But you have to remember that what differentiates a good person from another is their morals and their capabilities. Not their bank balance, the brand of clothes they wear, or the kind of car they drive."

Tiffany looked at Jasper intently after she heard him speak. A long while later, she nodded slowly and said, "I'll do my best to rectify that, Jasper."

"Good. Now let's go eat breakfast."

Jasper ruffled the top of Tiffany's head with a smile. After he did this, Jasper quickly realized how overly affectionate his actions were and that he might have crossed some boundaries.

After all, Tiffany was not Wendy nor was she a child. Such an act was inappropriate between adults unless they were a couple or biological siblings.

Tiffany seemed shy but her eyes shone with more elation than aversion.

After they ate at the buffet, Jasper then brought Tiffany to shop for clothes at a department store nearby.

Henry joined as well since he had nothing better to do, while Julian left to carry out the task Jasper had entrusted him with.

Jasper did not know much about female clothing brands, but this was the year 2000 and only high-end brands could secure a lot in Waterhoof City's large department stores.

Life at the Top Chapter 1070

Tiffany's figure and appearance had already surpassed most girls; she was just rather lacking in the confidence department. However, this did not stop her from bringing out the beauty of most clothes she tried out.

Thus came the scene every salesperson in the department store was envious of.

Tiffany kept taking clothes that the salesperson, Jasper, or even Henry picked out for her to try on. Jasper did not comment on whether the clothes looked nice or not when she tried them on, so she tried them one after another.

After some time, Jasper turned to the salesperson while Tiffany returned to the changing room and said, "I'll buy all the clothes she tried on just now."

The salesperson widened their eyes in shock. "These... sir, these clothes aren't cheap..."

There was no novel-like scene where the salesperson looked down on Jasper, while the man's attitude remained kind and warm toward the store staff as well. He said with a smile, "I know. Please package them up for me, I'll take all of them."

The salesperson's eyes grew starry and they quickly went to pack the clothes and print out an invoice.

Just then, Tiffany came out to see dozens of clothes on the counter and quickly pulled on Jasper's sleeve to stop him.

"Jasper, I saw the price tags on them and each of them costs a few thousand. Let's not."

Before Jasper could speak, Henry piped up first.

"A few thousand only? Seriously, silly lady, you have no idea how rich this man in front of you is, do you? If you're talking about making money, this man earned more than a million in interest alone during the time he spent shopping for clothes with you."

The salesperson's hand shook by the side as they typed out the invoice. Their hearts were about to jump out of their chest.

As a salesperson in a department store, they had seen all sorts of people. Among them were quite a few business owners who brought their lady friends out to shop. However, it was rare to see someone rich enough to buy tens of thousands worth of clothing while remaining so unfazed.

After all, the monthly income of people working in Waterhoof City was a little more than a thousand.

This purchase was enough to support an ordinary household of two for two years.

Jasper took the invoice and told Tiffany, "Wait for me here, I'll go get the bill."

"Okay," Tiffany replied softly.

She looked at the large pile of clothes beside her with a frown and began to think about the few ten thousand she 'owed' Jasper this time... She felt lost, seeing how she was beginning to owe him more and more money.

There was normally a specialized common counter for payment when buying things in a large department store. All bills from the department store tended to be paid there instead of at the individual shop.

Jasper took the invoice and walked out of the shop with Henry in tow so he could swipe his card and pay for the clothes at the counter not too far away.

“Hey, are you interested in that lady? She’s pretty pure, and cute too.” Henry nudged Jasper with his elbow and snickered.

“You’re not afraid that Anna’s going to fly over and cut the both of us down with an axe?” Jasper said without looking up at him.

Henry’s expression hardened. “This has nothing to do with me. My job is just to monitor and make sure you don’t flirt around and hurt my sister. She already said that an opponent like Wendy has caused her enough of a headache.”

Jasper’s hand paused while he looked down, about to sign the receipt. “What else did she say?”

“You wanna know? Bribe your future brother-in-law then,” Henry said gleefully.

He had just finished speaking when a sharp cry sounded from the clothing shop behind them, followed by the sound of a woman’s piercing scolding.

“Where did this country bumpkin come from? Are you blind or what? Do you even know how expensive my clothes are? Can you even compensate me after dirtying it? Cheap sh*t!”

Life at the Top Chapter 1071

“I’m, I’m sorry, I didn’t mean it. Sorry...”

“What’s the use apologizing? Just look at how poor you are, you village girl. Who gave you the right to come to high-end places like this? What’s with this department store anyway? How can you let cheap and inferior people in?”

“I’m sorry, I really didn’t mean it. I... I can have it cleaned if you want?”

“Have it cleaned? Seriously, you really are a village girl that knows nothing of the world! Do you know that expensive clothing these can’t be washed? It has to be sent to professional places for maintenance, with each round costing a few hundred bucks! Can you even afford that?”

A few salespeople stood awkwardly by the side.

The man and woman stood arrogantly in the middle of the shop. There was an obvious patch on the alluringly dressed woman’s cashmere top as well as a cup of spilled coffee by her leg.

Tiffany was flushed and her eyes filled with fear and tears as she stood in front of the woman and apologized profusely.

Just then, Jasper and Henry walked into the shop.

The moment Tiffany saw Jasper, it was like she spotted her hero. All the fright and unjust she had bottled up immediately flowed from her eyes.

Anger flared between Jasper’s furrowed brows when he saw the lady trembling as she hid by his side and cried unjustly. Jasper looked up at the couple.

“You?!”

The man beside the woman had spotted Jasper by now, and he shouted instinctively. His expression was sinister and cruel.

This man was none other than Dudley, whom Jasper had taught a lesson to the day before.

Dudley had not expected to meet a nemesis like Jasper when he had come to buy clothes with his new sex friend. Countless ruthless plans he had thought of the night before surfaced in his mind as he glared at Jasper, wanting nothing more than to rip the man's flesh from his bones.

Dudley was much more confident when he saw that beside Jasper stood an unfamiliar young man instead of Julian, who had previously left a terrifying impression on him.

"Son of a b*tch, I was just getting frustrated thinking about where to find you when you served yourself to me on a silver platter!" Dudley stared at Jasper resentfully.

Henry arched a brow when he heard him, smelling the familiar scent of an idiot with a death wish. His gaze slightly deadly dangerous as he looked at Dudley.

Young Master Law loved brainless trust-fund children like this the most.

This man seemed like a pure imbecile and the perfect person to step over.

"Looks like your mouths healed," Jasper said calmly, causing Dudley's expression to immediately sour.

Jasper then ignored Dudley and turned to Tiffany. "What happened?"

Tiffany replied softly, "I was standing there waiting for you when she knocked me from behind."

Tiffany pointed at the woman by Dudley's side and continued, "She had a cup of coffee in her hands so knocking into me caused the coffee to splash and dirty her clothes."

"I already apologized but she was very angry and didn't want to accept my apology."

"Since she's the one that knocked into you, then you don't have to apologize for anything," Jasper said.

Tiffany looked down and fumbled with her fingers. "But... but I don't want to cause trouble."

“It’s good that you don’t want to cause trouble, but if they’re bullying you, then there’s no need to keep giving in. Many people in the world will only take advantage of that.”

Jasper’s words completely irked the woman by Dudley’s side. She shrieked, “Stupid girl! You think you’re so powerful now because someone came to help you, huh?”

“You’re implying that I knocked into you?! Take a look at how poor you are, I’d feel tainted just touching you, so why would I knock into you, huh?!”

Jasper glanced at a salesperson and asked gently, “Excuse me, but who knocked into who just now?”

The salesperson looked conflicted, but she cautiously glanced at the infuriated woman.

While she had not answered outright, her actions had indicated enough.

The woman pointed at the salesperson angrily and said, “Do you want to get fired?! Why are you looking at me, huh?! Are you saying that I made a mistake?”

“Will you shut up?!” Jasper suddenly shouted.

The woman was shocked by Jasper’s roar, and she looked at Jasper dazedly, falling silent for a long while.

“Ignoring the fact that you were the one who knocked into her, even if she had knocked into you, she already apologized. I’ll compensate for how much your top cost but was there the need to embarrass a little lady?”

“All you know is to call her a stupid girl and a poor and cheap person, but how much do you think you’re worth?”

The woman paled at Jasper’s words and she turned to pull Dudley’s sleeve while wailing, “Look at him, Dudley, he’s bullying me. You’ve got to help me.”

“Don’t worry.”

Dudley patted the woman’s hand and stared at Jasper, scoffing. “I was going to get rid of him even if this didn’t happen today.”

Dudley then walked toward Jasper and sneered. "Enough with all these grandiose words, Laine. How do you want to deal with this matter today? Tell me."

"Easy, have that woman next to you apologize to her," Jasper replied coldly.

Dudley reacted as if he had heard a large joke and replied exaggeratingly, "Are you f*cking crazy? You want my woman to apologize to the b*tch next to you? I'll f*cking kill you two, b*tch and b*stard!"

"Pfft."

Henry could not help but laugh.

Henry turned to Jasper in excitement and asked, "Which huge businessman or high-ranking official is this stupid f*cker's dad? How can he be so f*cking dumb?"

When he heard this, Dudley was utterly infuriated.

"This has nothing to do with you, you little sh*t, so you best shut up. Don't you know that being careless with your words will get you trouble? Don't end up offending people you can't afford to, or it'll soon be too late to cry about it."

Henry was in awe. "Damn, you know how to use proverbial sayings?"

Henry still had a stunned expression on his face the second before his expression suddenly darkened. His expression was dark and devilish as the man raised his hand to slap Dudley across his left cheek.

The slap rang out clearly, stunning everyone present.

Dudley staggered from the force of the slap and almost fell onto the floor.

"Motherf*cker!"

"I'm always the one that threatens others, so who the f*ck do you think you are to talk to me like that?"

“Think well and give me the name of the most powerful elder in your family. If it’s not powerful enough, then you’re screwed, you moron!”

Life at the Top Chapter 1072

Every word and punctuation in his sentence was filled with presumptuous arrogance.

This was Henry’s true form.

As the most powerful trust-fund child in the country, Henry did not pay respect to anyone but the Law family and Jasper when he was angered.

The words and the slap stunned Dudley.

He cupped his face and paled in anger.

As a trust-fund child himself, he had never been trampled over. He immediately roared, “Who the f*ck are you?! Give me your name, I dare you! F*ck you!”

“F*ck me?”

Henry smiled wretchedly.

“The name’s Law, from Harbor City. How about you f*ck me yourself if you’re so powerful?”

Dudley spat out a mouthful of foam. “Law? Your motherf*cking bullsh*t, I’ve never heard that name before! So what if you’re from Harbor City? This is the f*cking Mainland, not Harbor City which so small that the entire City can hear you when you cough.

“Even a dragon listens to my call here!

“I’ll f*cking remember this slap and I’ll make you pay for it tenfold!”

Without another word, Henry raised his right fist and punched Dudley in the stomach.

This was not a light punch.

Henry won during in his amateur fights with three to five people, so an unfit trust-fund child like Dudley was no match for him.

Dudley did not even have the time to avoid the punch so he took the full brunt of it. He curled over like a cooked prawn and heaved as he laid on the floor, his eyes and mouth wide open.

That was not all, for Henry then lifted his leg to step on Dudley's head as he laid on the floor. Dudley almost ended up crawling on the ground.

"To be honest, I love people like you the most. All you spout is nonsense. You're stupid, and you know jack sh*t. All the other f*ckers who understand the natural order of things surrender the moment they hear that my family name's Law. It's not fun beating them up at all, but you, you're good. You can still spout sh*t."

"F*ck you!"

Dudley immediately erupted after all the humiliation he had been forced to endure. He flipped around to throw off Henry's foot before he got up to pounce on Henry.

Henry scoffed and slapped Dudley's right cheek with the back of his hand as the man pounced.

Dudley's face lost its shape from the force of the slap, and he spat out a small mouthful of bloodied foam. With a bloated face, he roared, "How f*cking dare you slap me again?!"

At that moment, the woman following Dudley was terrified and she shrieked. She ran out of the store and shouted, "Help! Someone come help! They're killing people in here!"

At that, half the department store was cast into motion.

The few bodyguards accompanying Dudley rushed over from their previous positions by the elevators.

Dudley let out a sigh of relief when he saw this. Thank goodness his sex friend was not completely useless.

After Jasper taught him a lesson yesterday, Dudley did not forget to have his bodyguards follow him whenever he walked out thereafter. He only had the bodyguards wait outside because he was buying clothes for the woman today.

Seeing his bodyguards run over, Dudley pointed at Jasper and Henry resentfully and roared, "Hit them! Beat them up! I don't care if you kill them, I'll take responsibility for that!"

At that, the few bodyguards looked at Jasper and Henry fiercely.

"Hide behind me," Jasper told Tiffany calmly.

Tiffany had never seen such a sight before, and in utter nervousness, she suddenly did something no one had expected.

She mustered up the courage to step in front of Jasper and spoke loudly, "I won't let you hit Jasper! If you want to hit, hit me!"

That sight had Henry, who was focused, solemn, and ready to fight, almost breaking out of character and laughing.

Life at the Top Chapter 1073

Jasper did not know whether to laugh or cry at the sight of this.

He was shocked but also touched.

Not every girl could be so brave.

This had at least proven that he had not treated Tiffany well for nothing. She was a good lady that knew how to repay someone's kindness.

“What use is there standing in front of me, silly girl? This is an issue between men.”

Jasper pulled Tiffany to stand behind him. Turning his head, he grabbed a shirt from a mannequin by the side and ripped it into two halves.

He passed Henry one half and wrapped his half around his right hand so that it functioned as a simple boxing glove.

“F*cking hell, what are you doing just standing there? Go on! I’ll give each of you 5000! Anyone who doesn’t hit hard gets fired immediately!” Dudley roared in anger.

The few bodyguards shared a look as they rushed toward Jasper and Henry without further thought.

The fight began immediately.

The four bodyguards were well-trained and professional. It was evident from the way they fought that they actually knew how to fight and were more than just men who looked like they fit the part.

They split work among themselves clearly, two of them against one of Jasper or Henry, separating the two immediately.

Henry was fine. He landed a few punches and immediately struck back when punches landed on him.

Jasper, however, was not a novel’s male protagonist who happened to be a great fighter, so he immediately began to wane against two professional bodyguards alone.

Tiffany felt her heart lurch when she saw a bodyguard push Jasper, causing the man to stagger two steps backward.

She turned her head and looked around until she saw a fire cabinet at the entrance of the store.

She summed up all the courage in her life and ran straight to the fire cabinet. She opened it and pulled out a fire axe with difficulty. Then, she turned and rushed to Dudley without another word.

Dudley was still laughing gleefully the second before.

“This is what you two get for being arrogant you f*ckers! F*cking hell, I’ll crush you two to dust or I’ll change my damn surname!”

Just then, he heard the terrified shout of the woman beside him. His eyes locked on what was Tiffany’s tiny figure less than five meters away, running toward him with a fire axe.

“I’ll kill you for asking someone to attack Jasper!”

This lady that could only apologize vigorously and endure mistreatment when she was getting bullied had completely let go of all inhibitions. She was currently running toward Dudley without hesitation and a fire axe in hand, ready to swing it at his head.

If she swung it, Dudley would surely lose his life today.

Dudley screamed in extreme fear and he took an instinctive step backward. Only to knock into the woman who had by now jumped behind his figure, using him as her shield.

Dudley did not have the time to scream profanities when he tripped and fell on the floor.

Still, Tiffany was just a puny lady. She only had the strength to raise the fire axe, but she could not control its trajectory. Dudley stepped backward, fell, and Tiffany closed her eyes as she swung the axe down.

It fell with a loud boom...

Dudley sat on the floor, his legs spread open and the fire axe lodged right between them. It landed a few inches away from his vitals.

Had Tiffany stretched out her arms, Dudley would have lost his chance for children forever.

Under immense terror, Dudley paled and shook uncontrollably.

Before relief could flood him, he felt his butt heat up and a warm gush of liquid leak out from under him.

Everyone was shocked when they saw the pungent yellow puddle.

Dudley had peed himself in fear.

Life at the Top Chapter 1074

The sudden turn of events immediately quieted the messy scene.

Forget everyone else, even Jasper's eyes were widened, and that terrified Tiffany.

Had it landed anywhere else, then today would become much more interesting.

Tiffany stood blankly as she stared at the axe in her hands as well as the disgusting liquid flowing around the axe head. The courage Tiffany had mustered up completely disappeared and she let go of the axe as if she was electrocuted. Then, she immediately dashed to hide behind Jasper.

“Good job!”

Henry was panting from laughter and he gave a flushed-red Tiffany a thumbs up. Young Master Law was extremely intrigued by the fierce side of this seemingly cowardly lady had.

Dudley, the victim, paled in shock and had yet to realize what had happened.

“F*ck. motherf*cker. F*cking hell!”

Dudley was both terrified and angry. He felt like he had been utterly humiliated and he did not have the will to meet anyone’s gaze anymore.

Just then, the woman who had hid behind him ran out and screamed, “Ah! Mr. Ball, you, you peed yourself?”

The woman, who had a knack for bringing up things she should not have, immediately fell silent when she saw Dudley’s dark expression.

“F*ck you, you stupid b*tch!”

Dudley slapped the woman, which had her immediately falling to the floor. He scolded, “I wouldn’t have fallen on the floor if you didn’t stand behind and block me, you stupid b*tch!”

“You hid quickly once things took a turn for the worse! How dare you take me for your shield?!”

In a fit of anger, Dudley vented everything he felt onto this woman. He even stepped on her a few times and as she shouted out in agony, Then, Dudley suddenly turned his head.

His dark and devouring gaze drilled into Tiffany as the latter stood beside Jasper.

Tiffany was terrified and she grabbed Jasper's clothes. She hid half her body behind the man, trembling slightly.

"It's okay."

Jasper comforted, meeting Dudley's gaze as he asked, "Do you want to continue?"

No matter how shameless Dudley was, there was no way he would continue to trouble Jasper with a wet patch between his legs.

Upset and furious, Dudley felt the weird gazes from the onlooking crowd pinned onto him. This made the man's pale-from-infuriation complexion turn fuchsia.

"Just you wait!"

Dudley roared pitifully as he glared at Jasper and the other two with utter hatred. Then, he ran out of the store whilst surrounded by his bodyguards.

Henry narrowed his eyes and made a move to follow.

Henry had never been a man deterred by threats.

However, Jasper immediately pulled him back after he took his first step.

"Let's stop here. He's going to fight with everything he has if you run after him," Jasper explained.

Henry pouted and said uncaringly, "So what? As if I'm afraid of him. At the end of the day, he's going to be the one that risked his life while I come out completely unscathed."

"I know you're strong, but we'll have more chances in the future. How're we supposed to play if we drive him insane now?" Jasper said intently.

Henry arched a brow and calmed down. He asked interestedly, “You mean the forum?”

“Yo, I see you’ve grown smarter, hmm?” Jasper stated in shock.

Henry immediately replied proudly, “Of course. People improve all the time. You invited me to go to some forum before and you promised me some fun. Now you’re telling me we’re going to play, so when else could you mean but then?”

Life at the Top Chapter 1075

“Not bad. But we’re going to deal with more than just Dudley by then. He’s still just a trust-fund child with no respect and won’t be shown off in public settings like this. It’s his elders that are difficult to deal with,” Jasper said.

“So what? If that old man knows what’s good for him, fine. If he doesn’t, then I’ll beat both father and son up!”

Jasper and Henry brought Tiffany away as they spoke, leaving the woman Dudley had aggressively beaten up to squat and wail on the floor. Even so, no one looked her in the eye.

At the same time, Dudley ran into the car surrounded by his four bodyguards. He had just sat down when he felt something cold under his butt.

The damp and chilly feeling was accompanied by something smelly, causing him to feel like he was about to go mad.

One of the bodyguards by his side had a frozen expression on his face as Dudley suddenly slapped the bodyguard in rage.

“Are you f*cking complaining that I’m smelly?”

“I would never, Mr. Ball.”

While the bodyguard was very much capable of ending Dudley’s life with one hand, he had no other choice but to lower his head and apologize. A clear handprint appeared on his cheek, but he still did not dare to fight back.

Dudley said icily, “I wouldn’t have to be so humiliated if you few trashbags were capable of protecting me!”

Dudley felt the urge to kill everyone who knew of the incident once he thought back to how he was almost forcibly castrated and had peed his pants in public.

“We’re going back!” Dudley growled, frustrated and furious.

The car quickly started moving as it left the department store.

Dudley pulled out his phone to make a call in the car. Once it connected, he began to wail, “Dad, someone almost killed me today!”

...

While an unexpected incident did occur, it did not affect Jasper’s schedule too badly.

After helping Tiffany get her clothes and a few other daily necessities, Jasper and Henry brought her to Hoofmorn University.

This was her first time arriving at one of the best academies in the country. Tiffany knew that she was going to have to spend the next few years here, so she looked around curiously.

Jasper was relieved to see that Tiffany was starting to grow more confident. She no longer looked fearful and inferior.

“Ah, university girls sure look pure and innocent.”

Henry suddenly spoke beside them, completely ruining the atmosphere.

“Thinking back to when I studied abroad, there was never anyone wherever I went. I don’t know why, but it’s like everyone was trying to run as fast as they can when they saw me coming, like I was a ghost or something,” Henry said unhappily.

“Because you’re annoying,” Jasper concluded with three words.

Henry rolled his eyes and said, “You guys do what you need, I’ll go flirt with university girls.”

“Don’t cause trouble,” Jasper said to Henry’s disappearing figure.

The latter waved Jasper off while turning around, vanishing a moment later.

“Who is he, Jasper?” Tiffany asked as she stared at Henry’s back.

“The most powerful trust-fund child in the country,” Jasper replied casually as he walked Tiffany to the administrative building.

“Trust-fund child? I thought that was a derogatory term?” Tiffany asked in shock.

“Depends on who you’re describing. For him, it’s a neutral adjective. He’s not bad.” Jasper smiled.

The two arrived at the administrative building as they spoke.

From afar, Jasper saw Dorian jog over with a familiar and polite smile. Jasper immediately shook Dorian’s hand and said, “Thank you for the trouble today, Mr. Clem.”

Life at the Top Chapter 1076

With Mr. Clem's help, and Mr. Marshman's promise as the Dean of Hoofmorn University, Tiffany's admission papers were quickly processed.

Almost no time was wasted as Mr. Clem took Tiffany's documents and went to the relevant departments to finalize her admission.

All while Jasper and Tiffany sat in the lounge. Half an hour later, Mr. Clem returned with a stack of materials in his hand.

"It's done. As a special recruit freshman in Civil and Commercial Law in our Law Department, you will study full-time for four years, Tiffany. Your diploma will be the same as the other students who enrolled via the traditional entrance exams.

"Should you wish, you can also take the postgraduate entrance exam for further studies."

Dorian smiled as he told Tiffany, "Welcome to Hoofmorn University, freshman."

Tiffany was respectful and understanding, so she immediately bowed to Dorian once she heard the man's words. "Thank you for your trouble, Mr. Clem."

Mr. Clem smiled widely. He could tell that Jasper cared for Tiffany after this series of events. He did not know what relationship the two shared, but that did not matter to him.

As long as Jasper was Hoofmorn University's partner, then there was nothing wrong with these 'privileges'.

“Not at all. This is my name card, you’re free to look for me if there’s anything you don’t understand in school.

“The lecturer arranged to head your tutorial class is in a lecture right now, so I’ll bring you to meet him after he’s done later. Most of your time here in school will be spent with these lecturer and other classmates,” Dorian said.

Tiffany took the name card with both hands and replied with pursed lips, “Okay, I understand. Thank you, Mr. Clem.”

Jasper got up and shook Dorian’s hand with a smile. “I’ll have to trouble you to help Tiffany from time to time, Mr. Clem.

“I’m not always free, nor will I always be in Waterhoof City. Tiffany’s studying all alone here in Waterhoof City, so I’ll have Tiffany see you as an older brother to turn to. I’ll put her in your care.”

Dorian quickly replied, “It’s no trouble at all. I’m very happy to help.”

Mr. Marshman was in a meeting, so Jasper did not go to visit the man. After processing Tiffany’s admission, Jasper and Tiffany followed Mr. Clem as they arrived at Tiffany’s assigned dorm.

“Tiffany, our school provides single dorms. Are you sure you don’t want them?” Dorian asked.

“No, thank you. Jasper told me that I should socialize more, and I like making friends too,” Tiffany replied softly.

Dorian nodded, feeling that Tiffany was indeed an understanding child.

After they settled Tiffany in, Jasper then pulled out a bank card and placed it into Tiffany’s hand.

“I’ve already pre-deposited your living expenses in this card, and there are many ATMs on campus. Use it when you have to—there’s no need to be frugal. This bit of money doesn’t matter much to me.

“I sent you to school so you can study, so don’t starve yourself of things and experiences just because you’re unwilling to spend the money.”

Jasper reminded, fully aware Tiffany's character.

Tiffany pursed her lips but did not reject it. She took the bank card and looked down as she said, "Thank you, Jasper."

"There's no need to thank me for this," Jasper huffed a laugh, "I'll be going, then. Look for Mr. Clem if you need anything. You can come talk to me too, as I'll come and visit you from time to time. If you're free, you can also go back to Nauritus City to visit your big sis Schuler."

Tiffany nodded heavily as she watched Jasper and Mr. Clem leave.

Life at the Top Chapter 1077

Tiffany sighed slightly as she watched Jasper leave with his head held high while Mr. Clem followed with the slight desire to please on his face. An indescribable feeling surfaced in her innocent and pure heart.

Jasper and Dorian spoke happily among themselves as they exited the dormitory. The two men ignored the woman running the female dorms as they walked out openly, garnering the attention of many female students.

Some of them had even recognized Mr. Clem and were immediately stunned. Why would the dean's secretary come all the way to visit the girl's dormitory?

Hoofmorn University had a huge campus with a great environment. A short distance away from the dorms, Jasper pulled out a pre-prepared check and handed it to Dorian.

Dorian was stunned by the act. 'What is Jasper doing?

'Bribery?

'Since when do people bribe in broad daylight so openly?

'In broad daylight, in school where teachers and students are everywhere?'

Dorian frowned and did not take the check. He turned to look at Jasper with a rather stern look in his eyes.

Jasper knew that Dorian had misunderstood, so he explained himself with a smile, "Mr. Clem, I realized that one of Hoofmorn University's libraries is long due for reparations.

"As a businessman with few achievements, I wish to contribute to the maintenance of Hoofmorn University's campus."

"This money is my donation to Hoofmorn University so it can build a new library."

Dorian's doubts vanished when he heard Jasper's explanations. He asked with elation, "Really, Mr. Laine?"

To repay Hoofmon University for their quick process of Tiffany's enrollment, coupled with the fact that they were also research partners, Jasper would not be stingy when it came to doing things that would both better his reputation and improve their relationship as partners.

"Why would I lie about this? It's just a library. I plan to donate even more in the future, mainly to beautify the campus and to improve the living and learning environments of the staff and students," Jasper said with a crescent-eyed smile.

Jasper sure knew how to talk to ensure his own benefits!

Dorian was well aware of what Jasper was trying to do and took the check. He looked at the sum that was more than enough to build a new library and was impressed. "This is a huge donation, Mr. Laine. A ceremony should be held for this."

"There's no need."

Jasper looked around at the youthful and romanticized students as he thought back to the low-ranked university he had graduated from in his past and present life. It could not compete with Hoofmorn University, but it was still his, so he felt that he should go back to visit from time to time.

Emotional, Jasper turned to Dorian and said, "I'm mostly busy with work, so there's no need for any unnecessary formal ceremonies. Just relay it to Mr. Marshman later, he'll understand."

"You're a noble man, Mr. Laine," Dorian said genuinely.

Any other person, wealthy businessman, or Hoofmorn University's successful alumnus would have liked telling the entire world that they had come to donate something.

While they called it donations, the ceremony and everything made it seem more like a chance to show off. Yet, Hoofmorn University had no other choice but to play along exasperatedly with them as they were one of the best academies in the country.

Even if they were a university where teaching and research took priority, people still had to make a living and there was no escaping worldly customs.

However, while Jasper's simple donation was of the largest amounts Hoofmorn University had seen in decades, the man had not said anything nor did he plan to broadcast his contribution.

'What else, if not noble?'

Life at the Top Chapter 1078

After bidding Mr. Clem goodbye, Jasper then called Henry only to find that the latter had turned his phone off.

Perhaps he had managed to find a female university student and was trying his luck with her.

Jasper was too lazy to care about what he was up to.

After all, there was no need to worry about Henry's safety when they were in a place like Waterhoof City.

Only madmen would seek out Henry to cause trouble. Not to mention that Henry was well-versed in the ways of trust-fund children and he would be the first to back out when he knew that he could not beat them in a fight. After this, he would either look for Jasper or his family to take revenge for him.

After leaving Hoofmorn University, Jasper and Julian went to pay a visit to the construction site.

Even though the matter was over, Sena's heart still hurt whenever he thought back about the incident. Therefore, he would take a trip to the site whenever he was free. The site also became much more orderly after what had happened.

However, Jasper was surprised to find that he was warmly welcomed by the workers.

"Are you here to see our progress, Mr. Laine? Don't worry, we're all doing our parts well and I'm sure we'll be able to finish construction before the targeted date!"

"That's right, Mr. Laine. I heard from everyone that you're a great employer, how you not only give us workers a good salary, but you always pay us on time too. The catering's fine and I heard that the site even gave Bo ten thousand bucks in advance when his dad got sick!"

"All of us remember the good that you've done for us!"

Jasper acknowledged each of the workers with a smile.

"I had no idea about Bo, nor was I referred to when it happened. But I did advocate for a more humanized management to look out and be considerate of each other since it's not easy working out here."

Sean sighed as he followed Jasper. "The country's real estate industry has been growing lately, Mr. Laine, and the worker's treatment has improved too. But with that also comes more messy situations.

“There are a lot of companies who owe wages to migrant workers and a lot of issues have arisen from this. There’s a lot of conflict and lack of trust between workers and us enterprises as well.

“But our JW is about to become a huge brand. While the other construction enterprises are looking for workers, our JW has workers taking the initiative to contact us for work whenever we put up notices about new projects.

“This happened back in Southeast Province and now in Waterhoof City. It fills me with joy to see such a thing.”

Jasper replied, “These are the benefits of an enterprise with more people-centric management. These are all pitiful people born from poverty-stricken families. There might be a few difficult ones among them, but most of them are honest folks trying to make a living.

“We can’t be too cold-blooded when doing business, and wages have to be distributed on time and according to the agreed upon standard. If there are any complications, then we should also look out and care for them.

“People have feelings, and this amount of money means almost nothing to JW, but it’s powerful enough to influence an enterprises’ public image.

“JW Real Estate’s image has to be shaped and established from the very beginning. Otherwise, it’ll be very difficult to change the horrible impression people have of us in the future.”

Sean nodded solemnly and replied, “I understand, Mr. Laine. I’ll make sure to carry out your instructions!”

Jasper laughed out loud and said, “You’re starting to sound more and more like you’re placating me just so I’d shut up, Sean.”

Sean replied aggrievedly, feeling misunderstood, “I meant what I said though.”

Jasper made his way around the construction site and found himself satisfied with the situation. He had preliminarily approved of this new construction team Sean had formed.

Jasper and Julian did not stay for long, opting to leave for the hotel once they ate something simple at the construction site.

The asset forum conference was to be held the next day, and Jasper had to make his preparations.

...

Some unknown time ago, a piece of news began to circulate and affect the hearts of many people in Waterhoof City.

Life at the Top Chapter 1079

The opening ceremony of an asset forum conference was about to begin.

This was the year 2001, and ridiculous high-end events had yet to become as common as they would be more than a decade later.

The asset forum, for example, was a concept they had taken from the West. Most people initially did not know what such an event entailed.

Basically, this was an event where a group of successful entrepreneurs would sit down with a few fake economic experts as they proceeded to predict and discuss their hopes for the country's financial situation or the industry's developments.

If the people attending were not powerful enough, then the forum became a joke.

However, this asset forum conference in Waterhoof City was held by Seatreasures International Group, and the person invited was a renowned financial expert in the country. Large companies in Waterhoof City's financial industry were also present.

The most well-known attendee would be the vice president of Haddock's Chamber.

Everyone knew that the symbol of Teo Chamber of Commerce was Seatreasures International Group, which was worth tens of billions on the market. The Teo and Haddock Chambers of Commerce also had many conflicts and they were at great odds with each other.

Therefore, this forum, with so many inter-connected figures, was already incendiary before it even began.

Especially when word got out that Haddock's Chamber of Commerce's vice president was Jasper. People were in an uproar when they did a background check on Jasper.

The majority shareholder of JW Company.

JW was no longer the small company that no one knew of in the past.

With its subsidiaries involved in the dot-com, electronics manufacturing, real estate, and entertainment industries, JW was starting to look more like an established group.

Especially to people in Waterhoof City, where Jasper was leading the construction of the future tallest building in the world.

The strangest part of all was that Jasper's birth and path to entrepreneurship had nothing to do with Haddock's Chamber of Commerce.

Some more knowledgeable people also knew that Jasper was in conflict with the previous president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce Waterhoof City branch. In fact, Jasper was also directly involved in the other's downfall.

So why did Jasper suddenly become the vice president of the Chamber's Waterhoof City branch?

Under countless curious and confused gazes, the asset forum proceeded anyway in Waterhoof City's W Hotel's main conference hall.

The car slowly drove toward W Hotel's lobby entrance, and from afar, Henry exclaimed as he sat beside Jasper whilst observing the frenzied atmosphere in front of them. "It actually looks legitimate."

The hotel's lobby entrance was already surrounded and packed with reporters while a large group of suited workers with identity cards draping from their necks tried to maintain order.

Under the continuous flashing of cameras, the event had the atmosphere befitting of an important conference.

"Seatresures International Group wants to use this forum to crush Haddock's power in Waterhoof City so that they can get a foothold in the Waterhoof City, the country's financial center's financial industry. It's only normal they would arrange such a grand event."

Jasper was unsurprised as he replied.

Henry's eyes suddenly lit up and he snickered, pointing at a young man who was speaking to someone darkly not too far away. "That's the stupid f*cker from that day, no?"

Jasper looked up at the young man and realized that it was Dudley.

"His father, Alban Ball, is the founder of Seatresures International. I guess you could consider Dudley as its heir, so it makes sense that he's here."

"This is going to be fun!"

Henry rubbed his hands together excitedly. "Let's make it clear now, don't pull me back if that stupid f*cker jumps up. I've been holding it in these past two days and I'm at my limit."

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“It’s JW’s Mr. Laine’s car!”

“Mr. Laine is here!”

One of the sharper reporters had spotted the vehicle and shouted. In a flash, almost all the reporters flooded to approach the car.

Their gazes were filled with excitement as they all wanted to interview Jasper to obtain first-hand information.

At the same time, reporters still engaged in interviews with other people grew awkward and unsettled.

One reporter from South Somer Commercial Post stared at the old man they were interviewing, who was still speaking endlessly. The excitement of getting a chance to interview this renowned financial expert in Waterhoof City disappeared, quickly replaced with impatience and anxiousness.

Seeing how the side of Jasper’s car was already flooded by his competitors, the reporter was beginning to feel hasty since there was almost no space left.

“Of course, an expert’s opinion would definitely be more significant...”

The reporter could not hold it back any longer when he saw how Professor Mack was not done speaking yet.

“Alright, Professor Mack. Thank you for your explanation today, I look forward to more financial knowledge from you in the future! Thank you!”

The reporter interrupted Professor Mack and made his way to Jasper’s car. They did not even notice Professor Mack’s constipated and sour expression.

The balding Professor Mack was dazed.

Reporters would normally be extremely grateful when they had a chance to interview him, treating him with the utmost respect. Yet, this reporter had just interrupted him and cast him aside!

The furious Professor Mack glanced over resentfully. He sneered when he saw Jasper getting out of his car.

“You’re just an immature youth. A child. What economic and financial knowledge can you possess when you’re so young? You just happened to be lucky and made a bit of money! Just you wait, I’m going to make you pay when the forum starts!”

Jasper had just gotten out of the car when he was flooded by reporters.

Jasper smiled wryly at the microphones that might as well be forced into his mouth as he listened to all sorts of questions directed at him.

“Everyone, please calm down. Your safety is the most important thing now. I’ll answer each and one of your questions in a bit. Please forgive me as time constraint forbids me from answering every single one of you.

“This reporter over here, you can ask first.”

The reporter from South Somer Commercial Post was elated when Jasper picked him. He thanked the heavens for throwing away the imbecilic Professor Mack, or he would have lost such a great opportunity now.

Under the envious gazes of their competitors, the reporter asked.

“Mr. Laine, is the skyscraper in construction right now in Waterhoof City one of JW Real Estate’s properties? Have you thought of a name yet? Is it really being construction with the intention of it being the tallest building in the world?”

The questions voiced out the majority of the reporters’ thoughts.

After all, all the news thus far had merely been rumors among civilians and there had never been any formal response to the skyscraper’s construction progress from JW Real Estates.

Jasper gave it some thought before he replied, “You’re right. JW Real Estates is indeed the sole proprietor of the skyscraper in construction.

“Since its initial design, its goal has been to become the tallest building in the world. What I can tell you is that it was designed to be 666 meters tall, and that preliminary construction of the building is estimated to finish within the year. Its name is also confirmed. It will be the World Financial Center.”

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“As for the details, I’ll have JW Real Estates hold a special briefing to reveal more later. This is good news, after all, so all of you are welcome to attend and join.”

Dudley’s gaze was dark and sinister as he stared at Jasper, who was surrounded by countless reporters desperate to talk to him.

“Should I get rid of those reporters, Mr. Ball? There’s no reason to let Jasper appear so magnificent,” A bodyguard leaned over to whisper in Dudley’s ear.

Dudley harrumphed before he smiled wretchedly. “We’ll let him feel gleeful for now. The more people seek him out now, the more people will laugh and trample over him after the forum is over and he’s lost everything. He’ll soon become the subject of public mockery.”

At that moment, Dudley’s phone rang.

He waved his bodyguards away and walked to a quieter area before picking up the phone.

“It’s me, Dudley.”

Lisa’s voice sounded from the other end of the line.

Dudley’s gaze flickered when he heard the voice, and he chuckled lowly, “Is something wrong, Lisa?”

Lisa replied softly, “The forum’s about to start, right? Will your plan work?”

Dudley chuckled arrogantly and replied, "Don't worry. My dad's the one attacking him this time, so it will definitely spell the end for Jasper. I can't promise anything, but he'll definitely be made a fool of, and the entirety of Waterhoof City will know that Jasper's a piece of trash with looks and no skills."

"Hmph. His JW was only founded a year ago, so how can it compare with my Seatreasures International? And to think that he's ignorant enough to join this forum. As if a fight between the Haddock and Teo Chambers of Commerce is something trash like him can interfere with."

"Don't worry, I'll make sure to give him a lesson he'll never forget."

Lisa's tone was filled with glee and admiration. "You're so cool, Dudley. I'm sure nothing will go wrong with you and Uncle Ball attacking him together, I have faith in you."

"However, Jasper's a very crafty and dangerous man. You have to be careful not to fall for his tricks. He's ruthless, so the slightest misstep will cause you to immediately fall into his trap."

Dudley sneered and replied, "Don't worry. With my dad here, there's no way he can do anything crazy."

"But Lisa, you promised me that you'd spend a few days with me after I helped you with this. Don't forget that."

"Oh my God, stop. We'll talk about this after you're done, okay? Why're you in such a rush? It's not like I'll run away or anything."

Dudley laughed out loud when he heard Lisa's coquettish voice. He was about to speak when a bodyguard came over to remind him of something.

"It's time, Mr. Ball. The interviews outside are over, and Jasper's entered the venue as well."

“Alright, Lisa, I’ve got to hang up and go. I’ll see you next time in the room I booked for us, hahaha,” Dudley laughed loudly and hung up the phone. Then, he turned to ask the bodyguard.

“Do the people from the other companies, and especially that professor, know our goal?”

The bodyguard snickered and replied, “Don’t worry Mr. Ball. These people took the money, so they’ll know what to do. The other companies won’t dare to fight against our Seatreasures International anyway. As for Professor Mack—he just came over and personally requested to target Jasper, haha.

“You’ll always be supported when you’re standing on the right side of history. Jasper’s just too arrogant, so there’ll always be people who won’t stand for it!”

Dudley laughed out loud and continued energetically, “Let’s go to the venue. I want Jasper to know what it feels like as he slowly walks toward his own death!”

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W Hotel’s main conference hall.

W Hotel was Waterhof City’s best and most luxurious international five-star hotel, so its layout and decorations were extremely luxurious. Its most important high-end conference room took up an entire floor.

At the reception, where attendees of the conference would arrive first, Jasper had just gotten his attendance card when he heard Henry’s voice from behind him.

“What do you mean I’m not on your name list? F*ck you! The fact that I’m coming to your conference is an honor for you! How dare you throw me out?!”

Jasper turned around and frowned at the middle-aged manager in charge of handling the attendance. He asked, "What's going on?"

"My apologies, but this man isn't on our list of invitees so he cannot join the forum."

The middle-aged man looked polite, but he was hiding a mocking sneer behind his expression. He looked at Jasper and Henry as if they were a joke as he spoke indifferently.

"I've already sent someone to pass you a list of people attending the event with me. There's my name and Henry Law, so how can he not be on your name list?" Jasper asked.

The middle-aged manager shrugged and replied uncaringly, "I have no idea about that. After all, this forum is held by us, Seatreasures International, and we get to decide who we want to invite. While you do have the right to invite others, Mr. Laine, the final say is ours, and we still have to review your request.

"After all..."

The middle-aged manager then glanced at a furious-looking Henry arrogantly before he said in a neutral tone, "We can't just let questionable people in."

"F*ck you!"

Henry's anger exploded and he almost flipped over the small receptionist counter.

"Did you just call me a questionable person?!" Henry narrowed his eyes and stared at the other person. His being exuded a dangerous aura.

The middle-aged manager had not expected Henry's huge temper and took a wary step backward. He shouted fiercely, "What are you doing! Are you trying to cause havoc? I'll call security on you right now!"

"Open your stupid eyes and take a look around. Does this look like a place where you can go around causing trouble willy nilly?!"

At that moment, everyone's attention was fixed on them. The crowd looked at Jasper and Henry with curiosity, but no one came forward to seek justice for them.

It was evident that these people, whom Jasper had stolen the spotlight from, now wanted to see Jasper made a fool of.

“Motherf*cker! You’re f*cking crazy!”

Henry was enraged and he raised his leg to kick the middle-aged manager in the stomach.

The scene shocked everyone.

Everyone present had established identities, and they all thought of themselves as upper-class. Hence, it was rare for them to be in situations where people started fighting physically from the very offset.

Despite this, Henry had shown physical aggression before their eyes.

The scene was a mess, and quite a few people were in an uproar.

Hotel security guards who were in charge of maintaining order were shocked as well and they immediately stepped forward pull the fight apart.

They did not dare to do anything against either party, so all they could do was pull away Henry, who was aggressively throwing punches, away from the middle-aged manager.

Henry kicked the middle-aged a few times amidst the chaos and pushed the security guard away once he had been pulled off. He glared at the middle-aged man darkly. From the way Henry was standing, he still appeared to be infuriated.

“Ow, it hurts so much. How dare you hit me? Fine, then. This isn’t over! I’ll make you pay for this!”

The middle-aged manager whimpered as he shouted painfully with a bruised face and body.

“Motherf*cker, this guy is really a moron,” Henry spat and said.

Just then, Jasper walked over as well.

He stood in front of the middle-aged manager with an indifferent look in his eyes.

The middle-aged manager must have been terrified that he would get beaten up again, so he looked at Jasper warily and threatened, “Are you going to hit me too, Mr. Laine?”

“You think you’re worth my energy?”

Jasper fired back calmly.

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Despite his mortification, the middle-aged manager did not dare to say anything to retort.

After all, Jasper was still the vice president of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City branch as well as the majority shareholder of JW.

Meanwhile, he was just a middle-ranked employee in Seatreasures Group.

Their statuses were miles apart.

He did not know who Henry was, and had merely thought that he was Jasper’s subordinate, so he thought he would use this chance to put Jasper in a horrible position while gaining the favor of the heir, Dudley, by humiliating Henry. He did not expect Henry to be such a difficult person.

Even so, this manager might have been petrified if he came to know Henry’s identity.

A name card was tossed onto the middle-aged manager’s body before Jasper’s voice piped up.

“Since you consider the people I bring in to be questionable, then perhaps you should question my status as well. Until you’ve straightened that out, I don’t believe there’s any need for me to attend this forum.”

Jasper then turned and walked toward the exit.

The scene stunned everyone in attendance, let alone the middle-aged manager.

They did not think that Jasper would take the issue sitting down, so they did not expect Jasper to suddenly throw aside his name card and leave.

This forum was held with the sole purpose of targeting Jasper, the vice president of Harddock's Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City branch. If he left, then was Seatresures International supposed to perform this play alone?

The middle-aged manager instantly paled in terror.

Similarly, Henry raised his hand to poke the middle-aged manager and sneered, his expression arrogant.

"Seatresures International, right? You think you're so capable, huh? Fine! Just you f*cking wait. I won't waste my time dealing with nobodies like you. I'll screw your employer over. Just you wait, your boss will be the one to deal with you!"

Henry then turned to leave furiously.

In the short moment it took Jasper to talk, Henry had already come up with tens of ways to blow the things Seatresures International did to him out of proportion while reporting it to his dad.

He already knew of this company, which a large local group from Mustiece Province. It was located by Cavern City, and it was also coincidentally listed on Harbor Stocks.

That place.

Was Young Master Law's territory!

Just as Jasper and Henry were about to take their leave together, a slightly chubby man appeared while being surrounded by a crowd of people.

He resembled Dudley, but this man had a long-lasting smile on his face. He looked kind and easy to talk to.

This man was Seatresures International's majority shareholder, and Dudley's father, Alban Ball.

Alban had a shocked expression on his face when he saw Jasper. “Mr. Laine, the forum’s already begun. Where are you going?”

Jasper looked at Alban calmly and said with a subtle smile, “You sure came at the right time, Mr. Ball.”

Alban pretended to not understand what Jasper was implying as he replied with a crescent-eyed smile, “I was held back by some things. I just got here a few moments ago.”

“Just your motherf*cking foot. You were watching everything gleefully just now, weren’t you? Henry scoffed and scolded as he stood beside Jasper.

His profanity caused everyone’s expressions to change drastically.

As the president of the Teo Chamber of Commerce and the chairman of Seatresures International, Alban was a formidable figure over at the borders of Mustiece Province. No one would dare to scold him so blatantly.

Alban was the only one whose smile did not falter. It was as if he was not the one getting scolded.

“You’re Mr. Law, right? Oh my, who angered you, Mr. Law? I’ll be sure to make it up to you on his behalf.”

“Make your f*cking foot up, stop acting so ambiguous in front of me! It’s disgusting!

“Alban, right? Seatresures International, hmm? You think you can step all over me like I’m your carpet?”

“Just you wait, I’m calling home right now! There’s no point in me continuing to exist if I don’t get your f*cking Seatresures International’s share prices to plummet!”

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This scene here.

Was an absolute classic!

Alban was a top-notch wealthy businessman who had a certain degree of influence in Mustiece Province and even most of the southeast region. Yet, here he was, being pointed at and scolded by Henry.

Henry even threatened Alban by saying that he would cause Seatreasures International's share price to plummet.

This scene reminded the crowd of something.

It was like their neighbor's child was pointing fingers at them and threatening to light their house on fire.

Everyone present felt their scalp grow numb.

Their gazes all instinctively shifted to Alban, wondering how this huge figure that dominated the southeast region was going to react.

Alban's smile slowly vanished as well.

He had to be crazy if he could still smile at such a time. After all, this had nothing to do with how complex the man's thoughts were.

"Mr. Law, there has been no history of resentment between us and the Law family. I was also polite to you, so why do you have to force my hand right from the start?" Alban suppressed his fury and asked.

Everyone else became even more confused when they heard Alban admit defeat so quickly.

They began to wonder who exactly Henry, and this Law family, was.

There was no powerful Law family in the Mainlands.

Therefore, why was Alban, such a powerful figure, terrified of a young man's threats?

Henry sneered and said, "Stop acting in front of me. As if your dog would dare to bear its fangs at me without your instructions!"

Alban looked back and saw the pale-faced middle-aged manager. He asked in a deep tone, "What the hell happened?!"

Someone immediately stepped up and relayed the whole incident to Alban.

Alban was infuriated when he heard the story and he looked at the middle-aged manager who was trembling on the ground. His eyes were cold as he shouted, 'Do you even know who Mr. Law is?!

"It's our honor to invite someone like him, yet you dare to shoo such an important VIP away! Are you f*cking stupid or what?!"

The middle-aged man fell backward with a thud when he was shouted at. He now understood that he had gotten himself in deep trouble.

"Mr. Ball, forgive me, please. I didn't know. All I knew is that Mr. Dudley doesn't like Mr. Laine so I purposefully tried to pick on them. I was only doing it for our group and the Teo Chamber of Commerce's sake, Mr. Ball. Please forgive me!"

"Yo, what a loyal dog you've got there."

Henry sneered. "For the sake of your Teo Chamber of Commerce and the group, huh? Is that why you thought you could trample all over me?"

Alban's expression was grim and he felt the urge to swallow this brainless middle-aged manager alive.

How could he say something like that in public?

As expected, the crowd all looked at Alban weirdly, as if he had just been made a fool of.

“Mr. Ball, since this has matter has already been clarified, then I believe it’s best Henry and I leave. It’s only natural we do so.”

Jasper suddenly said calmly.

“Since this forum is of such high standards, then it’s best if neither of us joins in case someone interrogates us for being questionable people again.”

Jasper’s words caused Alban’s expression to turn even darker.

He forced a laugh and said, “Gentlemen, this is indeed a huge misunderstanding. It’s completely my fault, so please forgive me.

“You two are extremely important guests in this forum conference, after all. The forum will be considered a failure if you two leave.”

Alban then turned to look at the middle-aged manager and snapped coldly, “You useless b*stard! Get lost! I never want to see you in front of me again! Leave!”

The middle-aged man quickly scrambled off while Alban turned back to look at Jasper and Henry. “Please follow me inside, gentlemen. I promise I’ll make this up to you in the future, is that alright?”

Henry lifted the corner of his lips insincerely and turned to look at Jasper.

He made his stance clear.

It meant that Jasper would decide whether Young Master Law stayed or left.

“Since this is just a misunderstanding, then it’s only right we be respectful to you too, Mr. Ball.”

Just as Alban thought that Jasper was going to exploit the issue and make things more difficult for him, Jasper caught him off guard by suddenly extending him a warm smile.

Alban narrowed his eyes as he gave Jasper a good look over. While Alban remained smiling, he internally raised the perceived danger level of this youth that was two years younger than his son by a few good notches.

They were all formidable members of society, and they understood that some things could only be resolved through formal means.

These small misunderstandings and mistakes, regardless of who committed them, did not influence the big picture too much. These were nothing more than appetizers before the main dish.

If Jasper thought that he had won from this alone and became prideful over the matter, then Alban would continue to see Jasper as an easy target.

However, Jasper's current reaction caused Alban to sigh internally. That old crafty man, Gale, had truly sent him a difficult opponent this time.

"That's wonderful, then. Thank you for your generosity, Mr. Laine, Mr. Law. Let's go inside, they've been waiting for a long time already," Alban beckoned them with a crescent-eyed smile.

They had just entered the main hall of the forum when Alban excused himself.

He walked into the room inside with a dark expression on his face. Dudley was already waiting for him inside.

"How was it, Dad? Jasper and that Henry's faces must've looked so sour, right?" Dudley rushed over to say pridefully when he saw Alban walk in.

Alban asked Dudley grimly, "You instructed that imbecile?"

Dudley replied pridefully, "I didn't actually tell him anything, I just gave him a hint. Hmph, take it as a show of our power to Jasper and Henry. Let them know who's territory they're in.

"What a shame that I didn't get to see how pitiful they looked. It must've been exciting, haha!"

Alban's expression darkened with every word he said. Dudley was about to ask what was wrong when Alban suddenly raised his hand as if to slap him.

Dudley was shocked and he raised his hand to defend himself instinctively. He shouted, "What're you hitting me for, Dad?!"

Even so, Alban's suspended hand did not connect with Dudley's cheek. The man simply replied harshly, "Keep these lowly tricks of yours to yourself. You'll only make a fool out of yourself!"

Dudley was stunned. "It failed? No way!"

"Do you even know who Mr. Law is? His status or identity? How dare you use your tricks on him!" Alban reprimanded disappointedly.

Dudley said indignantly, "I checked. It's nothing special, he's just the young master of the Law family. So what? I'm also the young master of the Ball family!"

"Young master my foot!"

Alban scolded, "You must be out of your mind. You think the bit of money our family made these years can compete with what the Law family has?"

"We're not even on equal footing!"

"I'm warning you. Picking on Jasper is one thing, but you do not attack Henry! Otherwise, the both of us are screwed!"

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Dudley was extremely pissed by Alban's warning, but he had no choice but to endure it.

"Alright."

Alban harrumphed upon seeing Dudley agree. "Good then. Alright, it's almost time to go out there. Don't forget what I told you!"

Alban then walked out of the room first.

Dudley followed after him, his expression so stormy that rain might as well have begun to fall in the hall. His fists were bunched up tightly and his gaze was frigid.

The forum conference began after the host gave a passionate opening speech.

As the core representative, Jasper was of course invited to sit at the platform on stage.

Alban quickly rushed over to sit beside Jasper. Just then, a knowledgeable expert who had been working in the financial industry for thirty years and had experience working abroad began to speak.

Alban took this time to shift his body toward Jasper with a smile as he commented, "You've founded such a large enterprise at such a young age, Mr. Laine. Perhaps there are some experiences you can share with all of us?"

Jasper replied with a smile, "There's no comparing my experience with seniors like you, Mr. Ball. Therefore, I think I'd rather just listen and learn instead of speaking."

"You're too kind, Mr. Laine. But I'm afraid a lot of people are eager to hear wise comments from your mouth, Mr. Laine," Alban said with a meaningful tone.

Alban had just finished speaking when the previous expert walked off the stage amidst a round of applause. The next person to speak was a balding Professor Mack.

As one of the renowned experts in Waterhoof City's financial field, Professor Mack was quite the formidable figure. Therefore, before he started speaking, applause rang out again below the stage.

Professor Mack was rather prideful. After basking in a round of applause, he began.

"Hello, I'm sure all of you know who I am. I'm Perry and I've been working in the financial industry for more than twenty years. I am part of the first batch of financial practitioners that grew up alongside our country's financial industry."

"I'm currently the chief professor employed by Waterhoof City's Financial Policy Office."

“I’m here today to discuss with everyone how future development of our economy will look like.”

After saying that, Professor Mack cleared his throat and his gaze turned stern as he continued.

“There’s been a new thriving and especially hyped-up industry as of late, and the public consensus seems to be that as long as a business is related to this industry, then it will instantly be viewed as a high-end and sophisticated company. However, not many people understand it at all. I’m referring to the dot-com industry.

“I believe that finance and economics should still lie on solid principles. What can the internet contribute to our society and lives?”

“I admit that it’s made many people’s lives easier, but that does not mean it’s important. It’s just an accessory to our economy. Yet, some people claim that it’s the direction of humanity’s future, and I find that ridiculous.

“Attending today’s forum, I know that Mr. Laine has the country’s huge dot-com enterprises in his hands. Both Sena and Terizone are his property.

“Everyone knows Sena, the company that started with web portals and is now shifting to develop games. This is an enterprise without a physical factory, yet it’s worth tens of billions on the market. It even experienced caused a wave of investments after listing on the Nasdaq.”

“This is evidently the second time the capitalist market is intentionally blowing the dot-com industry out of proportion. Despite this, some people seem to have lost their minds and think that they’re truly the owner of a capable business. If they just gave it some thought, they would know that an enterprise that does not benefit our country’s employment tax should have no right to such a high market value.

“All of this is fake! It’s a bubble that will pop at the slightest poke! What a shame that our Mr. Laine here is still drowning in his own delusions. He has no idea that he’s lying on a cliff, and that a large gust of wind will have him falling to his demise!”

Perry’s words instantly caused quite an uproar within the audience.

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The situation outside the country was the same as within it when it came to the dot-com industry, where people were split into two main groups.

One group believed that it was a fluke, that the industry was pretty much useless and a mere concept the capitalist market overhyped to get people to invest money.

Meanwhile, the other group of people believed that the industry would be the driving force behind the third industrialized revolution. Or at the very least, it would surely change the way people lived and worked.

Regardless of which group one belonged in, they were still rather conservative when it came to expressing their own opinions. This was still the year 2001, after all, and everything was still unclear.

However, Perry's words were heavily opinionated.

He was essentially pointing at Jasper's nose and accusing him of being a huge conman.

Perry then proceeded to raise examples that would further support his theory. Everything he said both blatantly and implicitly targetted Sena and Terizone.

However, everyone knew that Perry was truly targeting Jasper, the man who sat on the panel that day.

One had to admit that Perry's oratory skills were impressive. After his speech, people under the stage who did not understand the internet began to sway to his opinion.

Everyone now looked at Jasper strangely.

Even so, Jasper remained calm where he sat.

"Things sure took a quick turn for the worse, Mr. Laine," Alban smiled calmly at Jasper.

Jasper glanced at Alban and replied unaffectedly, "What a great play you've arranged, Mr. Ball."

Alban narrowed his eyes slightly and said, "You misunderstand, Mr. Laine. I have no control over what these experts and professors say. Why would I need to arrange anything?"

"Let me guess, there should be more after this Perry, correct?" Jasper asked.

Alban pursed his lips but did not speak anymore.

As Jasper expected, Perry turned to look at Jasper proudly after he was done, while the following few speakers all took Perry's side.

Each of them spoke harsher than the last. They started targeting the dot-com industry in the beginning, before they decided to stop beating around the bush and began slamming JW Company and Jasper directly.

"That's why I believe that a person without the basic ability to make decisions or have a good heart has no right to qualify as a businessman.

"He spends all day basking in the glory of being wealthy, but didn't he earn his first big money through pure luck? People like this might rise quickly, but they meet their ends even faster!

"This is precisely what people refer to as the heartless rich. His enterprises bring no positive value to society!

"He's just a village boy, a rough and bossy son of a farmer that's never received any high-end elite education! He has no right to sit with highly educated people who possess masters and degrees like us! He should be struggling for his life at the lowest class of society!"

All sorts of opinions flew about the room.

It was not until the last person had finished speaking and shot Jasper a taunting smirk that Alban finally turned to Jasper and said with a happy chuckle, "It's your turn to speak, Mr. Laine.

"Of course, the current atmosphere isn't quite in your favor, so I'd understand if you have reservations, Mr. Laine. You don't have to say anything if you don't want to. After all, you are our esteemed guest. Hahaha."

However, Jasper ignored Alban's mockery and walked toward the podium.

Life at the Top Chapter 1087

Most people present at the forum conference did not have the right to speak at the podium.

So when Jasper got up, everyone's gaze fell on the man.

They wanted to know how Jasper planned to deal with this situation when almost the entire conference seemed to have come to a tacit agreement to target him.

Perry, who had just gotten off the podium, was currently taking credit in front of Dudley.

"Mr. Ball, I did just as you asked, right?" Perry said with a wide smile.

Dudley nodded in satisfaction, his expression arrogant. "Not bad, you're not completely useless, old man."

Perry was not angry at all. Instead, the man lowered his voice and said with a chuckle, "Then about the things you promised me, the money and the women..."

Dudley glared at Perry and said in annoyance, "I already promised you, so I won't go back on my word. I'll have someone transfer 100 thousand to your bank account later.

"F*cking hell, what easy money this must be for you. You only earn 100 thousand a month, no? And that's already considered an above-average pay. Work under me in the future, I'll make sure you'll earn much more benefits.

"Women aren't a problem either. I'll have one join you in bed at anytime. But can you even play, old man? I won't be responsible if an old man like you dies in bed."

Perry snickered and replied, "Don't worry, Mr. Ball. I may be old but I'm still vigorous."

"Jesus Christ. I love insincere experts like you the most. All of you are monsters are driven by selfish desires—you're all fake!"

Not too far away was Henry, who watched Dudley and Perry conspire with a dark expression on his face. Had Jasper not reminded him to be patient, Young Master Law would already have gone after the pair to wreak some havoc.

Even so, did not mean that Henry would leave Dudley alone.

Henry got up from his chair and walked over in a gangster-like manner.

Dudley, who was talking to Perry, suddenly felt a tremendous force attack him from behind. Dudley staggered, caught off guard, and he turned angrily only to see Henry's evil face.

"You motherf..."

Dudley was about to burst into a rage, but was met with Henry's narrowed eyes, the latter just waiting for him to start cursing.

His father Alban's warning surfaced in Dudley's mind, and he forced himself to swallow his words that were already forming on the tip of his tongue.

"Why'd you stop?" Henry sneered.

Dudley clenched his jaw and asked icily, "What are you doing?!"

"I want to take a piss. What's it to you?" Henry pouted as he replied and pushed Dudley away harshly.

Henry was strong and Dudley had taken the full force of the shove. The latter staggered four to five steps backward before he knocked into the wall and dropped, falling to the floor embarrassedly.

“Are you picking on me, Henry?!” Dudley roared, infuriated.

“Yo, not bad. Can’t believe you could tell,” Henry chuckled happily and leaned over to Dudley. “So what if I’m picking on you? Don’t like it? Come at me then.”

Dudley drilled his bloodshot eyes into Henry. His anger was already at his limit and the only thing stopping him from exploding was his last thread of rationality.

“Coward.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1088

Henry was disinterested when he saw that Dudley had held himself back. He mocked the latter with a pout and then ignored him.

Henry turned around only to see Perry, who he proceeded to mock with a sinister tone, “How much money did this coward give you to turn you into his dog, old baldy?”

Perry was stunned for a moment before he replied, mortified, “What nonsense is that! I’m a truly knowledgeable intellectual! A real expert! How could I be bribed? Stop defaming me! ”

“Yo, what a knowledgeable man indeed. Such formal terms even when you’re scolding people, ” Henry chuckled. “If It’s not money, then maybe it’s women? or perhaps he promised both money and women?”

Perry’s pupils contracted and he silently wondered who this young man was. This was someone that Dudley did not dare to fight back against even though he had been pushed around. Someone who seemed to be very aware of his deal with Dudley.

“My dad got tired of such immature slander years ago. What’s the point in acting like you’re some sh*t in front of me?” Henry said disdainfully.

“You know, old baldy, sometimes it’s easy to say things, earn easy money, and sleep with easy women. But these things all come with a price.

“The more you benefit, the more you have to pay. Unless, of course, you were born in a f*cking awesome family like I was. But seeing how you’re already so old, I doubt that you’ve been blessed in that area.

“Since you didn’t get born in a great family, then you should think twice before you take or sleep with anything. Think first if you can afford to pay the price, because if you can’t, then all that’s left for you is a tragic end.”

Henry patted Perry’s chubby cheeks arrogantly and snickered happily before he turned to leave.

Perry was a man reaching his sixties and this was the first time he had been humiliated so thoroughly. Mortified, he turned to Henry and scolded, “ Uneducated! How did your parents raise you for you to end up so disrespectful and undignified! You’re an eyesore and shame on your family!”

He had set himself up for trouble.

Henry’s head snapped back as he stared darkly at Perry, a storm brewing in his eyes.

Perry was startled by the look in Henry's eyes, and he took an instinctive step backward while exclaiming, "What, what are you doing?!"

"What am I doing?"

Henry scoffed. "Didn't you say that I was uneducated and that my parents didn't teach me well?"

"Then let me show you how an uneducated and undignified person behaves when they're angry!"

Henry dragged Perry by his collar and pulled him into the toilet a short distance away like he was a little chick.

Perry struggled for his life and tried to pry Henry's hand off, but the difference in their age and strength was evident as Perry simply could not break free.

"Mr. Ball, save me!"

Dudley's expression paled when he heard Perry shout. The memory of Henry's dark gaze from earlier reminded him of the fear associated with Henry, such that the man did not dare to stand in latter's path. Thus, he could only pretend that he did not hear

anything.

Perry's tragic yelling slowly faded as Henry dragged the man further away. Dudley exhaled deeply. 'All that matters is that I'm fine. As for what happens to Perry... Well that has nothing to do with me!'

At the same time, Jasper had already reached the podium.

As he faced dozens of pairs of eyes and cameras, the corner of Jasper's lips curled slightly into a charming smile that brimmed with confidence. This alone was charming enough that all the women present, regardless of age and status, instantly took an innate

liking to Jasper.

It was the same feeling men got when they looked at women.

Jasper cleared his throat, his voice echoing throughout the entire conference room.

“My apologies, ladies and gentlemen, that you had to hear a bunch of insincere experts babble on about nonsense that they had no idea about. Now, let me tell you what the future actually is.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1089

Jasper’s first sentence had defined the future, and thus overturned everything the previous speakers had preached.

“The Internet is the future!”

No one could be certain of the Internet’s power in the future, so no one could step up and make the final call. All this required time and facts to prove.

Therefore, Jasper did not plan to persuade these people to believe him. He merely stated his line of logic.

“During the first industrial revolution, the steam engine’s appearance changed the world.”

“For the second industrial revolution, global capitalism erupted and humanity entered the era of electronics.”

“Now, the third industrial revolution will be a revolution of advanced technology, represented by computational atomic power and space biotechnology. This, is the era of information.”

“Every piece of technology I refer to today is closely related to our daily lives. It has the ability to change the way all of us live and even... Our understanding of the world.”

“The Internet can close the distance between people, making communication even easier and convenient.”

“With Sena, we can consume news and information from abroad much quicker, easier, and cheaper. If you click on Sena’s web portal, every important incident from around the world within the past 24hours will be clearly displayed before your eyes.”

“With Terizone, communication between you and your colleagues, family, and friends becomes much simpler. There’s no need to pay telephone bills at all, as you’ll be able to converse at a moments notice through texts or a network cable.”

“All of this will only become more convenient and quicker in the future. And before we’ve realized it, the new era will have already quietly arrived.”

“The people quickest to embrace the changing times will lead us down the path to the future, while those who choose not to improve will only be eliminated!”

Jasper’s words had put the entire room in an uproar. The topic of the Internet’s future was still a hot topic of discussion, but neither the people against it nor supporting it dared to come out and say anything with absolute certainty.

After all, everyone was terrified of being proven wrong, so they preferred to speak ambiguously, leaving them with room to backtrack.

Even so, Jasper’s words countered the mocking and disdainful speeches from the previous experts. No matter how you looked at it, Jasper’s speech was clearly a counterargument.

Alban’s expression was sour when he saw how easily Jasper had gained control of the situation.

Alban glanced at a few helpers he had employed advance to cue them in. Then, he scoffed and closed his eyes slightly, no longer reacting to the situation.

The few helpers shared a look after they received Alban’s cue. One of them suddenly stood up.

“Nonsense!”

The word was spoken loudly, instantly shaking the venue.

This middle-aged man pointed at Jasper and scolded, “Don’t think that you can say whatever you want just because you got lucky and managed to make a small business for yourself. How old are you, huh? You’re just in your twenties, so who gave you the right to point

fingers and comment on the world? Every entrepreneur here has managed their business since before you were even born! ”

“Exactly! A young man like you should be humbler instead of trying so hard to curry favors and rise in social status. Take a look at yourself first, at least.”

“Haha. I knew that the Internet was just a con industry. It’s not a serious industry at all! Look at him, this is supposed to be the so-called number one figure in the country’s Internet Industry. He’s just in his f*cking twenties-even my son is older than him. What does he know about commerce?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1090

“That’s right. Without physical businesses like us supporting it, the Internet is completely useless. Seriously, it’s almost like anyone can get on the stage and start talking. It’s like they’re not even afraid that their ridiculous claims will be made fun of! ”

“Haha. The older generation like us has seen enough of huge waves like this to understand. I’ve seen my fair share of people like this. They think they’re so successful in the beginning, but they’ll just vanish overnight.”

“Doing business requires true strength and capability. How stupid can they be if they think having the ability to talk and persuade people is all they need?”

People who had been stunned by Jasper’s opinions slowly began to look at him doubtfully as they were slowly influenced by the opinions of the people around them.

Many of them now expected Jasper make a fool out of himself.

After all, Jasper’s words were too sharp and definite, so it only made sense that he would anger the group of people who did not agree with the Internet industry. This was their so-called revenge.

Jasper stood behind the podium as the scathing remarks grew louder. Even so, the man pretended not to hear any of them.

If this was anyone else, they might have walked off the stage in embarrassment after being doubted by everyone.

However, Jasper was different.

As a reincarnated man, Jasper had knowledge of the next 19 years. He knew that what he said was reflective of the genuine future of the world.

Instead of doubting himself, these words of opposition or even direct humiliation only furthered his belief that this was a group of imbeciles. No wonder almost all of these businesses would disappear 19 years later.

Jasper did not feel the need to fight with people destined to be eliminated by the changing of times. Thus, before Jasper walked away from the podium, he said one last thing.

“The truth will not change just because it has little support, nor will it disappear because it’s greatly opposed. Our society isn’t something decided by one person or a group of people.

“I never planned to persuade anyone here today, and whether you choose to believe it or not matters little to me. You can’t affect me, let alone the development of the Internet or the world.

“So with that, I urge everyone present to take a look back to today in five, ten, or even twenty years time. I’m sure who’s right or wrong will be very clear then.”

Jasper then turned and left coolly, walking away from the podium whilst leaving a crowd of people questioning him behind.

Back at the panel, Alban turned to smile at Jasper while the people’s opinions stewed in the crowd. “You’re a promising young man, Mr. Laine, to fight such a large group on your own.”

“Isn’t this what you wanted to see, Mr. Ball? Me cooperating with this show you put on?” Jasper asked calmly.

Alban answered calmly, “Is that necessary, Mr. Laine? You’ve been stating that this is an act ever since we began.”

“The conflict between the Teo and the Haddock Chamber of Commerce has never been reconcilable. I’m sure everyone already knows the goal of this so-called asset forum conference. The fact that you continue to hide, Mr. Ball, makes me wonder if I’ve overestimated you.”

Alban raised his brows at Jasper’s words.

“Alright. If that’s the case, then I’ll get straight to the point” Alban sneered.

“I’m very interested in your electronics company’s MP5 patent rights, Mr. Laine. I wondering if you’re willing to give it up to me.”

Jasper’s gaze immediately fell on Alban when the man said this. Jasper’s ocean-deep gaze focused on the other’s face as if he was trying to see through what the other man’s thoughts.

Despite this, Alban maintained his kind smile, showing no indication of his true emotions.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1091

“So your target was me all along, Mr. Ball?” Jasper said calmly.

Alban smiled and replied, “I’m a businessman, and I make decisions that benefit me the most I’m sure you understand, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes and asked, “Then what role does Old Master Hulbutt play in all this?”

Alban had finally shown his true intentions. The man's goal was not the Haddock Chamber of Commerce but rather Jasper's MP5 patents.

Jasper refused to believe that Gale was uninvolved when the man had invited him to attend the forum as the vice president of Haddock's 5 Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City branch.

Right now, it seemed more like a sinister setup against him.

Jasper had no idea what dirty plan Alban and Gale had plotted out

However, the truth now was that Gale had come up with an excuse to cooperate with Alban and corner him. Meanwhile, Alban had finally shown his true intentions and was about to make a move.

Jasper had only come to this forum conference in return for an asset in the form of Gale's favor. However, only now did he realize that the old and sly man was backstabbing him.

"We're talking about a deal between us, Mr. Laine," Alban sneered and said, ignoring Jasper's 5 question.

“Deal between us? Is there even a deal to be made? The MP5 patent rights, was it? Sure, 1 billion US Dollars, and I’ll give it to you when you hand me the money. I can give you all my production lines and my factory area too if you want,” Jasper said calmly.

Alban’s smile slowly vanished and he replied forcefully, “It would do you no good to be so temperamental, young man. Being emotional will do you no good, Mr. Laine.”

“Being setup is only normal in the business world and there’s nothing wrong with getting caught. At the very least, it shows you that you’re worth being targeted. It’s truly tragic for people who aren’t even worth the effort for us to scheme against.”

“So I should thank you then, for deeming me valuable?” Jasper commented calmly.

Alban smiled and said, “I understand that you’re unhappy, but I have a way to calm you down.”

With that, Alban waved a hand to gesture to someone behind him. That person approached with a document in hand, which he handed to Jasper immediately.

Jasper calmed down and took the document to take a good look at it.

He knew that this was something important if Alban was so certain it would make him surrender.

As expected, Jasper frowned slightly at the contents of the first page.

“This is the risk evaluation I commissioned Harbor City’s most powerful architectural office to do on the World Financial Center’s main building. We realized that according to your design, the building has a huge construction risk.

“Then again, this is just an evaluation, and this is just some risk. Nothing is certain.”

“The building might collapse before you’re done with construction, perhaps after it is complete, or perhaps it’ll never collapse at all. ”

Alban’s soft voice sounded by Jasper’s ear.

“But who knows and who cares?”

“I’m sure you’re very well aware, Mr. Laine, that if I release this statement today, the Waterhoof City City Government will surely call for construction of the World Financial Center to stop. Be it out of precaution, or consideration of actual risk factors.

“After all, it would be great news if this huge construction was a success, but also a huge problem if anything goes wrong. Do you think they’ll let you risk it?”

Jasper looked up at Alban calmly and asked, “What can this document alone prove?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1092

“Nothing much, but it’s enough to stall your construction for at least half a year. You’ll have to pay for to undergo new evaluations every day and those expenses alone are enough to render any real estate comp any bankrupt.

“You have to know that this isn’t the only issue your real estate company is facing. I heard that an overseas investment bank is supporting many other competitors in Southeast Province to launch a comprehensive attack on JW Real Estates too.

“At such a time, the tallest building in the world, the World Financial Center is JW Real Estates’ most important project. Even if you manage to continue construction half a year later, times would’ve changed. Can JW Real Estate even survive that long?”

Alban had a confident smile on his face as he patted Jasper’s shoulder and said gently, “Rising up comes with a price, young man.

“While the country’s market is huge, there are only so many pieces of the pie. You and your JW are rising too fast and you’re interfering with too many people’s interests. People don’t want another greedy businessman on the already saturated market.

“This is only the first lesson I’m teaching you, so you understand the most important rule in the business world.

“Be humble and keep a low profile when it comes to business. Being too arrogant will only result in everyone working together to get rid of you.”

Jasper looked at Alban quietly and asked, “I’d like to know who this ‘everyone’ refers to, Mr. Ball.”

Alban laughed out loud and said, “Is that what’s important? No. What’s important now is whether you agree to this trade or not.”

Jasper’s expression was solemn.

This was the biggest trap he found himself in ever since he started his business, excluding the loss he made when Harbor City and Quantum Funds had a conflict. This was also the first time he had made an error in his calculations, which was mainly because Gale’s setup had caught him off guard.

Jasper was not a god, and there would always be situations when the unexpected arose.

Still, he had to make a decision now.

Alban would not give him the time and chance to think it through.

Ever since Jasper stepped foot into this asset forum conference, he walked himself into a huge net made just for him.

At the same time, Henry was currently smoking under the non-smoking sign and ignoring the exasperated gazes of the servers around him. He looked over at Jasper and frowned slightly.

'Did something go wrong for my infidel brother-in-law?'

'Did something happen that he can't quite handle?'

Henry pondered. This was the first time he was seeing such a dark expression on Jasper's face. In contrast, there was a silly smile on Alban's face as he sat next to Jasper and talked to the other. The more Henry looked at that smile, the angrier Young Master Law felt.

Just then, Jasper's gaze fell on him.

Henry did not know how, but something clicked in his mind when the two locked eyes. His mind suddenly cleared and he instantly understood.

It was as if a voice was telling him that his infidel brother-in-law needed him!

Young Master Law tossed his cigarette away and snuffed it out with his foot, ignoring the small black burnt hole on the expensive carpet underneath his feet. Then, Henry walked over to the panel on stage.

Young Master Law was in an extremely good mood as he ignored the hopeless look of the few servers behind him as they stared at the carpet.

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Life at The Top – Chapter 1093

“Excuse me, sir. This is the platform, you can't simply come up here.”

A bodyguard stood in front of Henry and said expressionlessly.

Henry grinned joyfully, “F*ck you. As if there's anywhere I can't go. Move out of my way!”

The bodyguard frowned slightly. Henry's arrogance told him that this was a man none of the bodyguards around the venue could afford to offend, so he replied patiently, “My apologies, sir. Please do not make it difficult for me.”

“Who the hell are you? You think you're worth my effort to trouble?”

Henry felt extremely irritated whenever he saw someone from Seatresures International, so he said this with a dark look on his face. When he realized that the bodyguard did not move, Henry was immediately pissed off.

Considering Henry's status, a mere bodyguard was not worth his anger.

Hence, Henry looked up at the platform and Alban staring back at him with a wary expression. He grinned as he said darkly, "Oi, Ball. Are you sure you want your dogs to hold me back?"

"Either let me come up or I'll turn and leave now."

Henry's words were simple and direct, but also very effective.

Alban's expression darkened and he waved his hand. "Let him up."

The bodyguard let out a sigh of relief. Despite how Henry talked to his boss, the man in question did not get angry. Because of this, this bodyguard knew that this young man was not someone he could afford to anger. It was great news that he could escape the scene now.

Henry walked up onto the stage as if he owned the place and chuckled at Alban. "Not bad, so you oldies do know your limits. Just think of how troublesome it'd be if I had to call my dad so late at night."

Alban's expression was extremely stormy.

He was a huge businessman who presided over many large provinces in the southeast region. People both his age and younger treated him with the utmost respect. Yet, before Henry, he had none of the dignity and power of a bigshot.

Was Henry dignified?

No!

Did he have a plan?

Also no. At least not right now.

Also no. At least not right now.

However, Henry's threat to call his dad was enough to keep Alban in his place and unable to make a move.

To be honest, all enterprises listed on Harbor Stocks survived by pleasing the four richest families. This was especially true for the Law family, the one with the deepest roots and the best relationship with the mainland.

Henry looked at Jasper and scratched his head.

He could tell that Jasper needed him to come over, but he had no idea what exactly he should do.

Even so, Henry was smart enough not to ask Jasper this in front of Alban.

“My dad’s looking for you!”

Hence, Henry had no other option but to use his dad, the man far away in Harbor City.

As far as Henry was concerned, the first thing he had to do was get rid of Alban. If he could not be gotten rid of, then Henry would create the opportunity to speak to Jasper alone.

His simple mindset was precisely what Jasper needed right now.

“Right now?” Jasper asked, intentionally sounding confused.

“Of course!” Henry felt prideful when he saw the praise in Jasper’s eyes.

Jasper sighed and stood up, turning to Alban. “Mr. Law’s looking for me, Mr. Ball, so could I leave and call him back? Perhaps give me some time to consider your proposal as well.”

Alban’s expression was icy and the corner of his lips twitched.

Even an idiot could tell that Jasper and Henry were acting, but there was nothing Alban could do about it.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1094

“What’s the point in delaying this by a few minutes, Jasper? I can tell you right now that if you disagree, I’ll release what I have on hand no matter who comes over!”

Jasper smiled at Alban’s words and said, “I’ll see you in a bit.”

Jasper then left the stage with Henry in tow. Henry glared at Alban from the corner of his eye before he left and said, “You think I lied when I told you that my dad’s looking for Jasper, don’t you, old man?”

“How dare you think that I’m lying. If he wants to, my dad can fly here overnight and beat the sh*t out of you! Look at your stupid f*cking face, thinking you’re so powerful.”

With that, Henry followed Jasper off the stage bossily Without sparing Alban, who was shaking in anger, another glance.

Alban ground his molars together, his gaze horrifyingly dark. The man slammed his fist on the table as his legs twitched in infuriation.

The plan was flawless, and Jasper was supposed to be defenseless.

Yet, no one had expected the most volatile variable, Henry, to suddenly appear.

In terms of tricks, Henry could hardly win against the group of crafty men in this scenario. However, Alban could do nothing since Henry had a powerful dad and an even more powerful grandfather supporting him. Hence, Alban had no other choice but to concede while facing him, albeit very angrily.

“I’d like to see what you can come up with in these few minutes, Jasper! You can’t run from this!” Alban growled wretchedly.

Henry followed Jasper into one of the conference hall's lounges. He had just entered when he saw Jasper's frigid expression.

"Holy sh*t, what's wrong? Something really happened, didn't it? You look like you want to kill someone." Henry said.

Jasper took a deep breath, and in one brief moment, he broke down everything that happened.

Gale had sold him out, which was something he definitely would take revenge on.

The most troublesome matter now was Alban and the document on hand.

Jasper was confident that there was nothing wrong with the World Financial Center's design since he had multiple specialized companies check it for him. This was an investment of tens of billions, after all, and Jasper was not such an idiot to act without making precautions.

He had already spent 100 million on design, and a few chief engineers from Waterhoof City Design Institute had spent more than a month reviewing it. Jasper even invited the top-notch design team in the industry from Swallow Capital to review it once more to ensure that no problems would arise.

The most difficult to deal with now was this document. It was an evaluation by the most powerful architectural office in Harbor City, so even if it was filled with nonsense, the power behind this office's statement was just as Alban had stated. Releasing it would surely invoke doubt.

Waterhoof City City Government would request JW Real Estates to pause construction just to be cautious.

Moreover, it would be difficult to pick up construction once again after it was halted.

Throughout this lengthy period, Jasper would have to invest maddening amounts of money every day.

This would easily and directly cause the downfall of an already pressured JW Real Estates.

"This is hard," Jasper said after a long period of silence.

Henry did not understand what was going on and he snickered, "I didn't know there were things you found hard. Don't worry

and just do it. If we can't handle it, then I'll go back and ask my dad for help."

Jasper paced around before he exhaled and said, “We might just have to ask your dad for help about this.”

Henry’s eyes widened in disbelief. “We’re really asking him? We haven’t even tried yet, so how’d you know we can’t do it?”

“You’re right.” Jasper nodded as if agreeing with Henry.

Henry looked joyful and he answered excitedly, “Then let’s go and screw them over. If we can’t, then we’ll call Dad.”

“No, we’ll call Old Master Law immediately.”

Jasper’s words were serious, and Henry gaped in shock.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1095

Henry already thought that it was shameless to ask his father for help.

Because of this, he did not expect Jasper to go straight for the ultimate move. However, having spent so long with Jasper, Henry knew that the man had his own reason behind everything he did.

Thus, Henry did not waste any time and immediately pulled out his phone. After dialing his grandfather's private number, he tossed his phone to Jasper.

It was late at night, but the phone was connected in no time.

"Is this Henry?" The old master's voice sounded from the other end of the line. Jasper replied softly, "It's me, Jasper, Old Master Law. I'm sorry for disrupting your rest so late at night."

Old Master Law's laughter echoed through the line and his tone turned even more gentle. "It's alright. Go ahead and tell me what's wrong."

Old Master Law knew that Jasper would not seek him out lightly without a good reason. Something troublesome must have arisen if Jasper was looking for him.

With that, Jasper recounted the essentials of the whole situation.

Old Master Law muttered softly after Jasper was done, "It's quite troublesome indeed. How do you want me to help?"

Jasper replied grimly, "I can't give in, Old Master Law. If I do, then I'll be placed in a completely passive stance after this."

The old master agreed with Jasper and he said, "You're right. Standing firm now means you'll still be able to turn this game around. If you give in, then they will have control over whether you live or die."

"The construction of the World Financial Center cannot be halted if this report gets released to the public, Old Master Law," Jasper said.

Old Master Law chuckled and replied, "Don't worry. Do as you wish."

Jasper let out a sigh of relief when he heard the old master's assurance. Jasper then said rather remorsefully, "I'm really sorry I have to trouble you for help all the time, Old Master Law."

"I'm growing old and I can't fight these battles anymore. The future will belong to you youths, so until you've fully grown up, isn't it our responsibility as your elders to watch out for and protect you while we're still alive?"

“There’s no need to worry about. Do as you wish, I’ll keep you safe.”

At that, Jasper glanced at Henry, who was yawning beside him.

In all honesty, Jasper did get envious of Henry sometimes. He wondered if Henry had saved the universe in his last life to be blessed with such a great life in this.

“I understand. I won’t disturb your rest any longer, Old Master Law. I’ll get to work now,” Jasper said.

Jasper hung up the phone and handed it back to Henry, his entire aura completely different now.

It was as if the confident Jasper had walked out of the difficult situation and finally returned.

“How’d it go? Do we have permission to show off?” Henry took the phone and asked excitedly.

The corner of Jasper’s lips lifted up as he said, “Let’s go!”

At the same time, Old Master Law had also put his phone down in his hilltop villa located in Harbor City.

After a moment of thought, Old Master Law lifted the phone and said unhappily, "Connect me to Swallow Capital's specialized line."

More than ten minutes later, Old Master Law made another call.

It took a long time before this call was connected.

On the other end was Gale's rather exhausted voice.

"It is late, Old Tom. Is something wrong?"

Old Master Law replied calmly, "Gale, Jasper's a youth I value deeply. If you're going to be so shameless so as to target my youngster personally, then I'll come down and play with you too, hmm?"

Gale was stunned for a moment before he quickly said, "Where is this coming from, Old Tom? Perhaps there has been a misunderstanding."

“You know better than I do whether there’s been a misunderstanding or not. You’re the one among our generation that likes to jump around and ignore the fact that you’re old. But since that’s your personal issue, I won’t interfere.

“But don’t you dare extend your slimy hands onto my people. I beat and left you crippled once back then, and I can beat and leave you crippled again. Don’t test me.

“I already put in a word with the people in Swallow Capital. If Waterhoof City truly has any apprehension about Jasper’s World Financial Center, then I’ll tell Jasper and he can move his tallest building in the world over to Harbor City! Waterhoof City can be a coward who is constantly afraid of the seizing once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, but Harbor City will not be the same!

“I won’t waste time asking you which questionable people you’ve been in contact with despite already being so old, but I stand by what I said. Know your limits, or I won’t be blamed for turning against you at such an old age.”

Gale’s snow-white brows twitched and he replied slowly, “Is it worth turning against me over a youngster’s small matters, Old Tom? There’s nothing wrong with putting a young man through more training and difficulty.”

“I will train my own youngsters. I don’t need old men with ulterior motives like you to point fingers.”

“Everyone in Harbor City knows that Jasper’s the man in his generation whom I value most. Those old men know better to make a move themselves, so they had their children and grandchildren look for you instead. Your eyesight must’ve gotten worse with age, since you’re being used and you still don’t know it.”

“As I said before, this issue ends here.” Gale replied grimly, “I’m afraid that Jasper of yours won’t back down without revenge. It wouldn’t be enough for him if I just stopped here, would it?”

“You’re the one who sold him out first and now you’re forbidding a young man from having a temper? So what if he comes for you if he’s angry? So, you’re angry? Come for me then! ”

With that, Old Master Law hung up the phone.

Gale heard the static of a disconnected line on the other end of the call and ground his molars as he roared, “None of you are sensible! Who are you to talk about me, old man? Why don’t you take a look at how biased you’re being!”

After the second call, Old Master Law then slowly pulled out a tobacco pipe and smoked for a long time.

The study doors were pushed open to reveal a personal care worker who said caringly, “Old Master Law, the doctor said you can’t smoke.”

“Okay, okay, I’ll stop,” Old Master Law laughed aloud like a child, but he was still reluctant to put the pipe down.

“Could you please leave for a moment? I still need to make a call,” Old Master Law said.

The personal care worker nodded and reminded, “I’ll be back in half an hour. Don’t let me catch you smoking then, okay?”

Old Master Law put the pipe down once the study doors closed, and he picked up the phone again.

This time Old Master Law only said one sentence to the person on the other end of the line.

“You’re going too far.”

The line was quiet for a moment before a voice rang out.

“I understand.”

Old Master Law hung up the phone afterward.

It was a conversation of no more than six words, but the fate of the situation was already decided.

Old Master Law smacked his lips as he smoked from his pipe. His gaze was deep as he stared out at the colorful mountain View outside.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1096

At the venue of the forum conference. Jasper and Henry walked out of the room to see Alban bringing Dudley around as he talked with a group of people.

The father-son duo was glowing and in a great mood.

Jasper's appearance immediately garnered the attention of a large crowd of people.

Dudley saw Jasper as well. He sneered and stepped up to say, "So, have you considered it yet, Jasper? My dad and I don't have that much patience for you to take your own sweet time and think. You better give me an answer now."

Dudley must have known all of Alban's plans.

The former felt extremely exhilarated now as he looked at Jasper.

"Haha, Jasper. You would never have predicted today, hmm? Let me tell you, this is only the beginning. There's only more fun in store for you from here on out!"

Dudley's expression grew even more wretched as he said sinisterly, "This is what you get for being prideful and showing off! I'd like to see how you're going to continue acting so prideful! I'll make you kneel in front of me once you've lost everything and have you lick my shoes!"

Jasper tilted his head at Dudley's arrogance and asked seriously, "Are you sick in the head?"

Dudley was taken aback when he heard Jasper say this.

"What did you say?!" Dudley growled in mortification.

"He asked if you're sick in the head, you stupid f*cker. Can you not understand human speech?" Henry raised his hand to push Dudley's head, an action akin to a dad lecturing his son. The push had Dudley staggering backward.

"All you do is yap all day. Ask adult as you a question and all you need to do is answer yes or no. But looking at your stupid face I'd say it's highly likely you're badly sick."

Dudley first took a verbal hit from Jasper before being pushed in the head by Henry; He had no idea what was going on. Dudley felt a rush of blood to his head as he shoved Henry's chest, roaring, "Motherf*cker!"

Henry's physique was sturdy and instead of making Henry move, Dudley's shove only caused himself to stagger a few steps backward.

"Hehe..."

Henry narrowed his eyes and sneered at Dudley.

He interlocked his fingers and stretched them, causing his knuckles to crack. With a wretched smile, Henry walked over to Dudley and said, "I was just frustrated about not having a reason to beat you up. What an attentive little sh*t you are, sending yourself over on a silver platter."

Dudley finally realized what he had done, and he watched Henry walk toward him with a twisted smile like the main Villain of a movie. He himself was akin to a weak and powerless Victim waiting to be destroyed by the villain.

Dudley did not have any desire to fight Henry when he recalled how terrifying the man was in a fight. Terrified, Dudley screamed, "What are you doing! Don't come closer!"

Dudley might have felt that his cries were useless, so he turned in Alban's general direction and shouted, "Dad! Save me!"

This shout attracted the attention of more than half the attendees present.

Henry almost chuckled joyfully out loud. “So f*cking useless. I haven’t even started and you’re already screaming for your dad?”

With that, Henry raised his hand and wrapped it around Dudley’s neck. He sneered. “But your dad isn’t powerful enough. You think I wouldn’t dare to hit you just because you called for him?”

With that, he slapped Dudley across the face.

The loud and crisp slap sounded through the room, which was promptly followed by numerous gasps.

Alban had let someone hit his son?

Everyone was intrigued, so they came over to get a closer look.

Under countless pairs of eyes, Dudley felt extremely humiliated.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1097

Dudley struggled like mad. “Henry! F*cking let go of me!”

Yet, no matter how he struggled, Dudley could not fight out of Henry’s grip. He was like a powerless chick.

Just then, Alban walked over with a dark look on his face.

He glared at his son first. Despite how Alban had reminded him not to offend Henry, his useless offspring had still angered the man anyway, which made him extremely upset.

This was the perfect time to force Jasper to surrender, yet here his son was, getting into trouble with Henry. He was causing unnecessary issues now.

“Mr. Law, this, isn’t very appropriate, is it?”

While he did want to beat Dudley up, the latter was still his son, and many people were currently looking at them. Thus, Alban had no other choice but to suppress his anger and get his son out first.

“Hey, old man. How about you ask your son what he did first before you ask me to let him go, hmm?”

Henry patted Dudley’s face as he said. “This little sh*t’s been going on motherf*cking this and motherf*cker that, he just kept bringing my mom into the conversation. You see, my mom passed early on and she’s a taboo topic between me and my dad. But who knows how many

times this son of yours has involved her? Is this how you educate your child?”

Alban’s eyelid twitched and he looked at Dudley extremely darkly.

Dudley was currently bent at his waist while Henry kept his arms around his neck. He seemed like a stray dog that had been tied and hoisted up, making him look extremely embarrassing.

Dudley wanted to cry, but could not do so. He shouted, “It’s a habit, I didn’t mean it.”

“So what if it’s a habit? Who taught you the habit of involving mothers into your curses, hmm?” Henry sneered.

Alban took a deep breath. He knew that there was no point being reasonable with trust-fund rascals like Henry, so he could only turn to Jasper.

“Mr. Laine, isn’t this trick of yours a little too lowly?” Alban asked grimly.

Jasper replied curiously, “Your son’s lack of respect is the issue here. He was the one who offended Henry first. I don’t see anything wrong with Henry teaching him a lesson in your place, so how am I the one acting lowly?”

Alban clenched his jaw in infuriation.

Now, it was not just Henry-Jasper was being unreasonable as well.

Despite this, there was nothing Alban could do.

After all, he son was exactly the kind of person to have insulted Henry.

If they were in any other setting, Alban might not have cared too much. However, to have Henry stubbornly exploit this issue in their important event would only leave to Alban and his son being embarrassed.

Hence, Alban could only grit his teeth and say, “Jasper, Mr. Law, let’s leave this matter for now. Let’s talk about this slowly, as we still have something to settle, don’t we?”

“There’s nothing to settle.”

Jasper chuckled and said calmly, “Publicize and release that report as you wish, Mr. Ball!”

“I wouldn’t dare to claim that all my properties are flawless, but I’m sure it can survive an investigation on the issue of its quality. If a mere evaluative report is enough to cause the downfall of my World Financial Center, then I might as well not construct it at all.”

Alban’s pupils contracted instantly at the words.

Jasper had actually spoken about this incident in front of so many pairs of eyes and ears.

It had been no more than twenty minutes and a phone call in the adjacent room between Jasper’s current stance and his sour expression from when he first received the report.

Just who had Jasper contacted, and what had been said, for this man to grow so fearless in the space of around a dozen minutes?

Alban suddenly felt lost.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1098

Suddenly, the crowd surrounding them in hopes of overhearing some gossip was in an uproar upon hearing Jasper's words.

It had long been public knowledge that the tallest building in the world would be constructed in Waterhoof City.

Many people also knew that the primary backer behind this tower was Jasper.

This was especially true for the people present at this forum conference. Most attendees were from the Teo Chamber of Commerce, excluding the few small fry from the Haddock Chamber of Commerce and the rest of the so-called experts like Perry.

Regardless of identity or stance, none of them were normal civilians.

So many things immediately came to their minds when they heard the news of Waterhoof City's World Financial Center.

"Mr. Laine, I believe I heard you say something about an issue with the World Financial Tower that's currently under construction? Would you mind elaborating on that?" A reporter mustered the courage to ask.

Jasper looked over to find that, coincidentally, it was again the reporter from South Somer Commercial Post.

"There's nothing wrong with the World Financial Center, of course. The construction of the building and its design was approved by the Waterhoof City Design Institute, and was also reviewed in-depth by a team of national experts from Swallow Capital!"

"This is a large project, after all, and while it does mean the world to me, it's also greatly valued by the government. There's no way anything could go wrong with it."

Jasper smiled and glanced at Alban, who had a dark look on his face. Then, Jasper continued, "But Mr. Ball had suddenly pulled out a so-called evaluative report just now and exaggeratedly claimed that there's an issue with the World Financial Center's design. This, I don't understand. So perhaps we should let Mr. Ablan explain it in detail."

After Jasper was done, everyone, regardless of background, turned to look at Alban intently.

Even a majority of businesspeople from Teo were not informed of this in advance, so they were greatly displeased to hear it from Jasper first.

Meanwhile, the reporters were in an uproar.

“Mr. Alban, could you respond to Mr. Lain’s claim?”

“Mr. Alban, all of the World Financial Center’s procedures are legal and rule-abiding. This is something recognized by the Waterhoof City City Government and Swallow Capital’s Design Institute. Could I ask why you would commission someone else to write up an evaluation on a Tower that has nothing to do with you?”

The question from the South Somer Commercial Post’s reporter caused Alban’s expression to sour immediately.

However, Alban was still a commercial hero who had experienced huge issues before, so after his initial shock, the man immediately recomposed himself.

After clearing his throat, Alban faced countless pairs of eyes and answered calmly.

“No matter what Mr. Laine claims, there is indeed a problem with the World Financial Center. To prove this, I have a professional evaluative report from Harbor City’s best GenAll Architectural Office on hand.”

“Just ask around and you will know of GenAll Architectural Office’s power. Harbor City’s Conference Center and the Amethyst Gold Square were both designed by their team. This office is ranked seven in the world’s top ten architectural and design offices.”

“A professional report from such an office surely has some value.”

“As for the question you asked about why I would commission an evaluation on the World Financial Center even though I’m an outsider... Simple, because it’s going to be one of the many faces of our country in the future!”

“This is the tallest building in the world. It’s going to be closely related to the glory and dignity of all us Somer descents. Mr. Laine won’t be the only one embarrassed if anything goes wrong with this construction, but rather all us Somer descents. We would be made into the laughing stock of the international audience.”

After saying that, Alban sneered and glanced at Jasper. “Mr. Laine, I wonder if you’re satisfied with this reply.”

“Whether it’s a satisfactory reply or not doesn’t matter to me. No matter how you want to explain yourself, the truth will always remain,” Jasper replied calmly.

Alban harrumphed and glared at Jasper sinisterly, “Mr. Laine, it looks like you’re planning to stay stubbornly wrong until the very end.”

“I don’t need others trying to direct my path, regardless of how right or wrong it is.”

At that, Alban laughed out loud and replied, “Good, you’re courageous. But when it comes to doing business, young man, there are times where you have to take a step back and give in. Stubbornly walking forward will only result in a greater loss.”

With that, Alban turned his head to announce to everyone, “As a man of Somer descent, I have a duty to hand my report over to the Waterhoof City City Government when I realize that something is wrong with our prospective tallest building in the world.

“I believe that the City Government will sincerely consider it and treat the matter seriously. Or at least, pause the construction of the World Financial Center before they reach a clear conclusion.”

“Whether this project can continue will be at the government’s discretion. However, if there’s something wrong with Mr. Laine’s design of JW Real Estates’ most important project, then it poses the question, could there be any other problems with products from his other companies?

“For example... the MP4 and MP5 product that’s currently a hot topic within the country as well as JW Real Estates other projects.”

When he mentioned this, everyone's expressions changed.

Alban seemed like he was launching a comprehensive attack on Jasper.

The man had managed to involve Jasper's companies involved in the real estate and electronics industries with just one sentence.

His intentions were malicious!

How was Jasper going to react to that?

Everyone looked at Jasper.

Under the immense pressure, Jasper was unaffected while his expression remained unfazed.

"All of JW's subsidiaries' businesses is conducted with a conscience."

“There will not be an issue with the World Financial Center, nor will its construction be halted. All work will follow its predetermined schedule.”

“As for the other products, everyone here is welcome to supervise. Should there be anything wrong with its quality, please do seek JW Company for compensation as per the relevant regulations. This is something JW promised and something that will certainly be adhered to!”

Jasper’s words were powerful and his voice resounded throughout the conference venue. He had not raised his voice, yet it seemed to have the strange ability to shake people’s hearts.

The people around could not help but feel that Jasper’s words were reliable. It was as if he would never lie about the quality of his products.

Just then, Alban laughed out loud.

“Hahaha. Jasper, you must’ve gone mad. Or perhaps you’re just so baselessly arrogant. “You must be delusional if you think your World Financial Center can continue its construction once I release this report! At the very least, you’ll need to reinvestigate the issue, which will take half or an entire year! Your real estate company will have gone bankrupt by then!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1099

With that, it became clear how this incident would play out.

None of the people present were stupid and they were well versed in such tricks.

Thus, they also knew that Alban was going to act on his words.

“Hey, Jasper. Perhaps you shouldn’t be so stubborn. It won’t benefit you in the long run.”

A man said, shaking his head slightly. His expression was filled with impartial rationality.

Another lightly chubby man chuckled with him and said,

“I told you long ago, Jasper. You’re still going to have to respect your seniors when it comes to doing business. Being so young and vigorous will only result in a huge loss! Our Mr. Ball’s known for being generous and forgiving, so be humble and apologize. Perhaps then

this tense situation might cool down.”

“That’s right. We’re all doing this for you. Or are you really trying to halt the construction process? You’re going to be the only loser here!”

At that, Henry who had been holding Dudley in a deadlock silently all this while was elated.

“Motherf*cker. Shut your stupid trap, I get it if everyone else is brainless, but I hate f*ckers who love to claim that everything they do is for the other’s sake.”

“F*ckers like you make me want to distance myself. What if I get affected by your bad luck when a god strikes you with lightning, hmm?”

Henry’s words caused the chubby man’s expression to change. He turned to Henry and said unkindly, “Who are you? Your vocabulary is full of profanities. How can uneducated people like you come in here?”

Henry snickered and tossed Dudley away. Then, he walked over to the chubby man bossily and asked in an arrogant tone, “Did you just call me uneducated?”

The chubby man was just one of Alban's lackeys. When he saw a tall and broad Henry walk over to interrogate him, the man suddenly felt a little guilty.

“Oi...”

“You motherf*cking trash, who're you calling 'Oi'?”

Henry then raised his hand to slap the man across his face.

No one had expected Henry to hit someone so casually in front of everyone else.

The slap rang out loud and clear, causing everyone else to shiver.

The chubby man who had been slapped roared in mortification, “Oi, motherf*cker...”

Slap!

He was slapped again.

“I said no ‘Oi’s. Didn’t you hear me? And you complained about my profanities? What’s with that last word you just said then, hmm?” Henry sneered.

The slightly chubby man was going crazy after he had been slapped twice. He looked over at Alban only to see the latter with a sinister expression, but showing no indication that he was about to step in.

Alban wanted to step in. After all, this was his lackey that was getting beat up so he was the one getting humiliated here.

However, he was powerless. He could not step in when Henry had beat his son up either.

“The f*ck are you looking at, huh? You want that old man to save you?” Henry said with a sneer.

Henry was the devil incarnate right now as he oozed with utter arrogance. People felt terrified when they looked at him.

Unfortunately, there was nothing anyone could do. Even Alban kept his mouth shut, so who else would dare to step up and put themselves in the line of fire?

Poking the chubby man's face, Henry said haughtily, "There's nothing wrong with being someone's lackey, but it is your fault for choosing the wrong owner to follow. All you know is to talk shit and claim that you're doing things for other people's sake. The f*ck do you think you are, huh? Who're you acting so derisive for?"

The venue fell silent after the two slaps and the harsh scolding. The chubby man's heavy panting was the only thing that could be heard.

Henry pouted when he saw the man look down silently and scolded, "Useless. You don't even know how to fight back. What use is a lackey like you?"

After this, Henry turned to look at Dudley.

Dudley shivered after he had been released from Henry's devilish hold and he instinctively went to hide behind Alban.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1100

Dudley, a serious young man in his twenties, was terrified.

Meanwhile, Alban's expression was extremely sour.

He felt even more ashamed when Henry gave him a meaningful chuckle.

“Why’re you hiding behind me? It’s not like he can eat you alive!” Alban scolded disappointedly.

He was afraid that news of Alban’s useless son would spread across the country after tonight.

Dudley shuddered but did not dare to talk back, though he did bottle some resentment within him.

After all, he did not see his dad stopping Henry when the other beat him up silly.

With a harrumph, Alban lost his patience. He knew that the situation would end up looking like a circus if Henry was allowed to continue wreaking havoc.

“I know that this is a play you and Henry came up with, Jasper. But for what? You think I’ll be afraid just because of such an insignificant trick? You think I won’t dare to hand this report in?”

“You’re too naive if that’s the case!”

Alban then pulled out his phone and sneered at Jasper as he said, "If you're going to remain stubborn until you die, then I'll send you to your grave myself!"

With that, he dialed a number.

Jasper looked at him calmly the entire time, but he did not make any move to stop the man. In fact, Jasper seemed to be looking forward to Alban making this call.

The call connected and Alban spoke solemnly, "Immediately hand the report to the Waterhoof City Government! Inform me once there's an update!"

With that, Alban hung up the phone.

He looked at Jasper with sinister glee and sneered. "You said that construction of the World Financial Center won't be halted, right, Jasper? Just you wait. In a short while, someone will contact you and Waterhoof City will put an emergency stop to your construction!"

After saying this, the people who were deterred and startled by Henry's anger were immediately energized again.

"Haha. I wonder how this stupid Laine f*cker will look later!"

“Yeah. This is what he gets for acting cool!”

“These tricks of him are nothing to Mr. Alban!”

Dudley had also gotten excited with them.

He glared at Jasper resentfully and opened his mouth to say something. The words stopped on the tip of his tongue when he sensed Henry’s dark gaze on him.

Dudley shivered and turned to Henry, saying aggrieved and angrily, “Why’re you always targeting me?”

Henry shrugged and replied, “Because you’re stupid.”

“You- ! ”

Dudley was enraged but the previous lesson Henry gave him made him too terrified to throw a tantrum now.

He knew that Henry had no qualms about rushing over and throwing him to the floor before beating him up. “Just you wait! You two won’t get to act so pridefully any longer!”

After a long moment of thought, Dudley finally managed to come up with a useless retort.

“Moron!”

Henry snorted.

After the conversation played out, Alban’s phone rang.

Everyone stopped mocking Jasper to look at Alban expectantly; Even the man himself was smiling widely.

Alban waved his phone display which showed the caller information in front of Jasper and laughed out loud. “It’s too late for you to regret it now! ”

With that, Alban accepted the call. To highlight his capabilities, Alban had also put the call on loudspeaker mode.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1101

Alban glanced at Jasper coldly when he put the call on loudspeaker. His gaze was filled with mockery.

Alban was not the only one. Excluding Jasper and Henry, it seemed like everyone else was siding against Jasper and waiting to see him be made a fool of.

It seemed as if this was a definite outcome.

Everyone held their breaths as they waited for the person on the other end of the call to speak.

A second later, a man's voice echoed from the speakers. However, instead of the excitement and glee people imagined, the man's voice was filled with fright and disbelief.

“Mr. Ball, we handed the report in, but it didn't go as we planned!”

Alban's heart skipped a beat, but before he could say anything, the man on call continued.

“The city government said that the World Financial Center’s entire design and construction process had strictly followed the proper procedures and was approved by both professional teams in Waterhoof City’s and the National Design Institue in Swallow Capital. He said that there was no way anything could go wrong with such a huge project...”

Alban’s heart began to beat erratically and he raged.

“No way! If nothing else but for prudence sake, a report from such an authoritative architectural and design office such as ours should still have caused

construction to be temporarily halted and fully investigated even if its initial process had been supervised!”

“That’s what I said too, but the city government, they said... they said...”

While the person talking was not physically present, everyone could tell from his tone that he was terrified. Alban was enraged when his subordinate started to stutter at such a crucial time. “What’re you stammering on about? Get straight to the point! What did the city government say?”

“The city government thanks you for your enthusiasm, Mr. Ball, and they will communicate with JW Real Estates to bring together a group of experts to review the building’s design and construction plan. However, the construction will continue during this review process.”

When he heard this, Alban was close to spitting blood out in infuriation-especially when he heard him say 'thanks you for your enthusiasm.'

He had been in the business world for more than forty years and he had partaken in commercial battles of all sizes. Alban, who had always come out victorious before this, now felt lightheaded.

He panted heavily and glared at Jasper. He did not know where went wrong for the entire situation to play out so differently.

Alban was not the only one. Everyone else was dumbfounded.

"How can this be? This makes no sense no matter how I think about it! " Said the man who was certain that Jasper's construction site would be put to stop with a stunned expression.

"Just what huge benefit did Jasper give the city government? To the point that they're willing to continue construction even in such a situation?"

"Watch your words! Don't simply say things like that. Jasper must've somehow lied to the city government!"

“Exactly! That’s the only explanation!”

“After all, it’ll be a huge mess if something was wrong with this building. This is also a report from a worldwide renowned architectural office! But instead of stopping construction, the city government even thanked Mr. Ball for his enthusiasm! This... it’s so infuriating!”

“What do you do now, Mr. Ball?” The man asked on the other end of the line, his tone sorrowful, exasperated, and indignant.

“Nothing! What else?”

Alban hung up the phone with a roar, feeling completely embarrassed now.

Henry could barely keep his glee under control and he told Alban, “You know, I think Waterhoof City City Government should really award you with an Enthusiastic Citizen award, old man.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1102

“All that effort monkeying and jumping around, yet they don’t even spare you the time of day. Hahaha. Absolutely hilarious.”

Alban's face twitched and he looked at Henry. He understood what was happening as he looked at Jasper coldly, "The Law family?!"

Jasper spoke calmly, "I wonder if you're still interested in my MP5 patented technology, Mr. Ball."

Alban clenched his jaw. He was infuriated and had the urge to rip Jasper to shreds.

"You think you're so powerful, Jasper? So what if you had the Law family's help to get through this, huh? I dare you to hide behind the Law family forever!"

Jasper chuckled, "Here's what I don't understand, Mr. Ball. If there are enemies in business, what's wrong with having friends? Even the Allied Powers in WW2 aimed to combine their strength. If you can team up with Gale to set me up, then what's wrong with me asking someone else for help?"

Alban chuckled icily and said, "Fine, then, you little brat. You win this time, but we've got plenty of time. I'd like to see if you're still so lucky next time."

"I don't think you understand, Mr. Ball." Jasper walked over to Alban lazily and leaned forward into his personal space.

Alban was currently expressionless and his face was ice cold.

“I, Jasper Laine, have never been someone who doesn’t fight back after getting hit. Perhaps you should think about how to defend yourself against my revenge, Mr. Ball.”

Alban’s expression twitched and he chuckled furiously at the taunt. “You think you’re capable just because the Law family’s saved you once? Are you even capable enough to take revenge on me?”

“I’m sure you’ll find the answer to that very soon, Mr. Ball.”

Jasper said calmly. He glanced at the report in Alban’s hand and smiled subtly, “Something’s got to be wrong for this office to suddenly come up with a nonsensical so-called evaluative report. Let’s start from there, then.”

With that, Jasper gave Grant a call.

“Oh, Laine! My old friend. It must be nighttime over at Somerland, is something the matter?” Grant’s joyful tone sounded over the phone.

Having earned 100 million US Dollars from Jasper, Grant’s influence in his team had also increased exponentially.

Grant's fame would also be known all over the world once the World Financial Center was built in the future, so he treated Jasper with the utmost respect.

"I come with a business proposal. Are you interested in Harbor City's architectural and design market?" Jasper asked calmly.

"Very much so! But this industry of ours is very territorial. If I'm right, Harbor City falls under GenAll Office's territory and they're a group of very sinister people. They're willing to do anything for the sake of money, so I can't be the first to break the rules," Grant replied.

"That's fine. From what I know, the biggest type of scandal in this architectural and design industry of yours is slandering others' designs for money, right?"

"Waterhoof City Coty Government has just received a report from GenAll Office claiming that there's a huge fault in the World Financial Center's design which might cause the main building to collapse. Here, I just gave you a reason." Jasper said calmly.

Grant was stunned, then he fumed, "Is that how arrogant the people at GenAll are getting now? They're just ranked seven in the world! I want evidence, Laine!"

"I'll email evidence to you as quick as I can, and I'll have people at Harbor City cooperate with you as well," Jasper said calmly as he watched Alban's extremely sour expression.

“Haha, Laine. I’ll send you a great gift if this is a success!”

Jasper raised the corner of his lips after he hung up the phone and asked Alban, “Do you know how I made my first sum of cash?”

Alban remained sinisterly silent.

Jasper replied slowly, as if he had asked a rhetoric question, “The stock market.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1103

“Are you threatening me-the Seatresures Group, Jasper?!” Alban scoffed and said.

“You’re absolutely ignorant! The Seatresures Group had just been listed on Harbor Stocks two years ago and its share price was twice its issuance price by the end of the first day. It’s always been the most powerful comprehensive, mainland, publicly-listed group on Harbor Stocks.

“You think you’re powerful enough to affect Seatresures?! ”

Jasper's words from earlier had more or less seized control of the situation.

Since no one had imagined him to be able to avoid the trap Alban had carefully laid out for him so easily. However, when Jasper revealed that he intended to target Seatreasures Group, everyone began to look at Jasper in slight disappointment.

"He is too young, after all. The Seatreasures Group is more than he can handle. "

"Exactly. Seatreasures Group had more than 40 billion in turnover last year and it's one of the most profitable privately-owned mainland enterprises on Harbor Stocks. Jasper must be crazy if he thinks he can attack Seatreasures Group."

"Haha, didn't he say he first made his money through the stock market? Of course, he'd take revenge through the stock market as well. Unfortunately, all his effort will be futile."

Jasper did not seem to hear any of the comments around him.

Henry was irked, though, and he glared at the people who gave out the harshest comments. Henry said icily, "Are you busybodies done blabbering? Everyone here has a mouth, but do you see them going on and on noisily?"

"Keep yapping and I will smack that month off your face!"

Those people felt furious from this humiliation after they got brutally scolded, but the previous cases deterred them from acting out no matter how angry they were.

Hence, all of them consoled themselves by repeating internally that they were a dignified person in the upper-class society and that they did not need to be calculative with insolent living- incarnations of devils.

Meanwhile, Alban continued staring at Jasper.

“Did you hear them, Jasper? What they said was only because of Seatreasures Group’s full strength. You wouldn’t dare attack Seatreasures Group!”

“Haha. You can try, but if you end up screwing yourself over, then don’t blame a senior like me for not warning you beforehand.”

In all honesty, the Seatreasures Group was very strong at the time.

Their market value might not be the highest, but their roots were thick and expansive.

As a comprehensive group that dealt with physical businesses, the Seatreasures Group was extremely capable business-wise, while their progress in other relevant industries

was nothing to scoff at either. Shares of such a business were what investors called blue-chip stocks, and were worth holding on to.

Since the company had a substantial performance history, the share price of such a company would not usually drop. Even if it did, any oscillations would follow the larger market trend, and it would not lose enough money to require them to pull out of the market. It was extremely difficult destroying a company like that.

Yet, Jasper was confident that he could do it.

This was thanks to his unique advantage of having memories of his past life.

Jasper could clearly remember that in the year 2001, the country government finally had enough of all the shady business that went on in the pharmaceutical industry. These pharmaceutical sales representatives would hide amongst the hospital's medical staff, causing medicine

bought in hospitals to be at least twice as expensive as the same medication in normal pharmacies outside. Some doctors without professional ethics would even prescribe patients with high commission rebate medication, completely disregarding their treatment effect.

Thus, a policy had been issued, hitting the medical system in the country like a windstorm. This windstorm eventually swept away 80% of the country's pharmaceutical enterprises.

Seatreasures Group had started their business through pharmaceuticals, and up until now, this industry remained their main source of income.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1104

The pharmaceutical sector of the class A shares had plummeted by 50% back then!

While Seatreaures Group was badly hit on Harbor Stocks, business took a turn for the worse for them afterward as they stayed rather dormant even up until Jasper's reincarnation.

Now that the timing was right and Jasper had happened to be in this bad situation, he was determined to use this chance to get rid of Seatreaures Group.

"If you're so confident, Mr. Ball, then I guess we'll just have to see the full extent of my abilities," Jasper said coldly.

Alban snorted and raised his hand to poke Jasper. "Don't think that you're above the law just because you've got someone supporting you, young man."

"How about we make a bet? If you manage to make my Seatreaures drop by 20%, on your own and without the Law family's support, then you win."

“As a wager, I’ll give you something you can hold over Gale’s head if you win. How’s that sound?”

Jasper raised his brows and said calmly, “How curt of you to sell your teammate out even in public, Mr. Ball.”

“Teammate my foot.”

Alban scoffed. “I’m from the Teo Chamber of Commerce while Gale’s from Haddock’s. We’ve always been enemies on opposing ends. We only worked together for a common goal.

“To get rid of you, for example. He benefits, while my life becomes easier. That’s it. More to the point, it’s not like I think you’ll be able to get your hands on this intel either.

“However, the same rule goes for you. If you lose, you’ll transfer the technical research of the MP5 to me for free!”

Now, Alban finally showed his greed.

He had never given up on his desire for the MP5 patented technology.

“Deal.” Jasper nodded calmly.

“I’ll be waiting,” Alban sneered.

Jasper did not respond. He gave Henry a look and the two turned to leave.

Everyone in the room was looking at Alban now.

The man was exceptionally prideful.

As far as he was concerned, there was no way Jasper would be able to lower Seatreasures Group’s share price by 20%.

Even if he could, it would be with the Law family’s help.

Alban had no idea how much the Law family valued Jasper. However, them stepping in to prevent the delay in construction was already a very dangerous warning sign.

Hence, Alban planned to provoke Jasper as the man could not seek the Law family for help. As far as Alban was concerned, if he did this, then Jasper was dead meat and the man's future would be wrapped around his pinky.

"Haha, Jasper. There's no escaping this now!" Alban muttered to himself.

At the same time, Jasper and Henry arrived downstairs.

"Are you really just going to..." Henry was about to say something when he turned to see that Jasper was calling someone. Thus, he quickly closed his mouth.

The call connected in no time.

Jasper greeted the person on the other end of the call with a smile, "Old Master Hurlbutt, I hope I didn't disturb your rest by calling so late at night."

Henry's eyes widened when he heard Jasper. This old Hurlbutt person had just set Jasper up, yet here he was greeting him with a smile and respect.

If Henry was in his shoes, going over to this old man's house and punching his dentures out was already the kindest act Henry could do.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1105

Far away in the study of a huge manor in Suesville, Gale was brooding silently with a telephone handset in his hands. The man had lost all trace of drowsiness since he received the call from Harbor City.

“No, no, not at all. The older people get, the less they sleep. I already had a nap in the evening so I am not sleepy at all now.”

Gale replied with a crescent eyed-smile.

“You should really take good care of your health, Old Master Hurlbutt. Who knows how many people are relying on you to make a living. Not to mention that old seniors of the business are truly valuable treasures to us youths. You must take good care to ensure that nothing goes wrong with your health.”

Jasper’s calm tone sounded over the landline.

Gale furrowed his snow-white brows but his tone was still joyful and relieved when he said, “You’re still the most understanding person out there. Unlike other people who only know to anger me every day. Wouldn’t it have been great if I met you earlier?”

Jasper replied with a smile, “You’re too kind, Old Master Hurlbutt. I can’t even defend myself with the little business I have now. Had I met you earlier, Old Master Hurlbutt, I’m sure I would’ve been devoured whole and alive.”

Gale calmly commented, “Are you angry at me, sly child?”

“I had just gotten out of the forum conference and it’s only right I report to you regardless of how good or bad the outcome is. It would be a lie if I told you that I wasn’t angry. I’m still young after all, so I’m not as well-rounded and generous when it comes to many things.”

Gale suddenly chuckled.

“Haha, well then, sly child. You said that you’re here to report, so how did it go?”

Jasper replied calmly, “To you, Old Master Hurlbutt, it’s bad of course. But to me personally, it’s neither. Still, I’ve got to thank you, Old Master Hurlbutt “You’ve taught me a very valuable lesson, one that I will remember so that I don’t make the same mistakes again.”

Gale’s tone was calm and relaxed. “It’s great that you think that way. Nothing’s completely smooth-sailing in society, so it’s not necessarily a bad thing to make mistakes and lose a few times while you’re still young.”

“You’re right, Old Master Hurlbutt. I’m still young and I can afford to make mistakes. But I don’t think it’s the same for you, Old Master Hurlbutt,” Jasper said calmly.

Gale replied with a subtle smile, “So you’re planning to do something against me, then?”

“Not exactly. And even if I did have something in mind, it wouldn’t make sense for me to tell you in advance so you could prepare yourself, right?”

“Not to mention that the situation within the Haddock Chamber of Commerce is rather complex. No matter how insolent I am, I doubt I’d be arrogant enough to think that I can fight against the whole of Haddock Chamber of Commerce alone right now.”

Gale replied grimly when he heard Jasper’s claim, “So you’ll still remember what happened tonight even after you’ve grown up? Do you not think that I’ll pluck out a potential weed like you from my garden before you manage to overgrow?”

“You keep calling me a sly child, Old Master Hurlbutt, but if you allow me a moment of disrespect, you’re also a sly old man to me. Since we’re both sly, then there’s no need to keep pretending like our intentions are sincere.”

“You wouldn’t believe me if I told you I’d leave the matter be, would you? Nor would I believe you if you told me that you wouldn’t be wary of me.”

“Since neither of us believes the other, then there’s no need for lies and fake pleasantries either.”

“I called tonight for a very simple reason. Firstly, to report that the forum conference has come to an end with an outcome that is unfavorable to you but impartial to me.”

“Secondly to inform you that Alban and I have made a bet. He claimed that he has a weakness of yours I can exploit, which I am very interested in.”

Gale did not react for a long time after Jasper was done. While the latter could not see Gale’s expression from where he was, Jasper could almost guess that the old man was rather pissed now.

“It’s as he said. The Haddock and Teo Chambers of Commerce are opposing parties, and each side hopes for the downfall of the other.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1106

“You used him while he simultaneously used you, and both of you teamed up to get rid of me. Now that I’ve joined this game as well, I suppose the three of us will just be plotting against each other. Perhaps we’ll find out where our real friends and enemies lie.”

Gale was silent until he heard Jasper’s words and replied solemnly, “How about we work together?”

Jasper chuckled and said, “You really are a sly old man, Old Master Hurlbutt. It’s a shame that I’ve already paid my price and I not the kind of person to fall for the same mistake twice.”

“And you’re not afraid that I’ll work together with Alban again?” Gale asked meaningfully.

“I am, that’s why I called in advance. Be it you or anyone else behind you, Old Master Hurlbutt, I suggest you get rid of me right off the bat with the first attack. Don’t give me a chance to turn the tables and take revenge.”

“Unfortunately for you people, I’m no longer the same small wooden raft that capsizes at the slightest wave and has to be careful not to offend anyone anymore.”

Jasper hung up the phone immediately after he finished speaking.

Gale's expression darkened when he heard the static on the other end of the line.

His fury this time might surpass his rage when Old Master Law had first warned him.

He genuinely felt deeply threatened by Jasper's seemingly calm tone.

Unlike other people, Gale had long known Jasper, and the two had even partnered on many occasions before. Gale knew how dangerous Jasper could be.

Once Jasper had deemed you an enemy, he was a man of his word. Jasper always made sure to completely crush his rivals and left no room for people to reappear and cause him trouble in the future.

At this moment, Gale felt slightly remorseful.

He should not have offended Jasper over such a small issue.

“A small wooden raft, huh. I really regret not capsizing you back then. You... really have grown from that small wooden raft,” Gale murmured to himself.

...

“Overpowering.”

Henry immediately gave Jasper a thumbs up after he heard the man speak on the phone and watched him hang up. His expression was one of approval.

“There we go. We’re powerful figures, okay? There’s no need to be careful not to offend people no matter what we do. Look at you, you still get targeted no matter how cautious you are, no? So f*ck who the other person is, we’ll screw them over if we don’t like them! That’s how we live life to the fullest!”

Henry took the chance to preach his values to Jasper. Jasper stretched and said, “This incident really pissed me off. Instead of being angry at Gale backstabbing me, I’d say I’m more disappointed in myself for being too careless.”

“My path’s been too smooth thus far and I lost myself in my victories. Gale happened to teach me a lesson this time by showing me that none of the wealthy families that’s been in the country for so many generations are easy to deal with.”

“What about Alban? What do you have in store for him?” Henry asked.

“I already threatened him, so I’ll start on Seatreasures Group’s shares tomorrow! ”

“This incident blew up quite a bit and a lot of people have their eyes on me. I have to fight back and I have to hit hard, or everyone will think that my JW’s an easy target and come have their shot at attacking me.”

“I don’t have the time and patience to deal with them one by one, so what I can do is hit back so hard I deter everyone else!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1107

“Is it profitable?” Henry’s eyes sparkled as he asked.

Since Sena was listed on Nasdaq and Henry had earned a large sum of money with Jasper. This young master seemed to have gotten addicted to the idea of earning money.

He was now extremely intrigued by any situation that would potentially earn him money.

He had been nagging Jasper lately and asking him when he would fulfill his promise of bringing him along to earn another large sum.

However, it was not yet the right time for that, so Jasper did not disclose anything more to him.

After all, that was going to be a huge incident that would involve the entire world, and even change the way the world would continue to develop. Hence, Jasper was definitely not going to tell anyone about the incident until it truly happened.

“It is, but not by much. Still better than nothing, I guess. I’ll give you an account once it starts being profitable so you can transfer your funds to it. It’ll more or less pay off your airplane fuel costs.”

“I heard that your plane’s been docked at the airport ever since you bought it, right?”

Henry replied resentfully after he heard Jasper’s question, “I wish I could fly it too but it’s too f*cking expensive. Every flight costs at least a few hundred thousand Harbor Dollars and I even want to sell that f*cking thing now. It’s really not something I can afford to keep.”

“That’s why I told you to start your own business. I’m pretty sure your dad would give you money if you had your own start-up company. Then, I’ll help you plan it out. I can’t promise anything for the first year or so, but it shouldn’t be any problem to earn ten million or so. Furthermore, it’s a more long-term solution,” Jasper persuaded.

Henry yawned and replied lazily, “Another time, maybe. Let me play around and be free for another two years, I’m don’t have that kind of mindset now to think about entrepreneurship. You know how my temper is-no one can deal with me. Nor do I like that kind of angry aura businessmen have.”

With the end of the day came the circulation of what happened during the forum conference.

Of course, all normal civilians saw was what the newspapers reported, that some asset forum conference was held where entrepreneurs discussed the future development of some industries. The exciting debate over the dot-com industry’s future was also reported, ending harmoniously between hosts and guests.

This was obviously meant to deceive the common folk, and anyone even slightly more knowledgeable knew that something big had happened at the forum conference.

Jasper and Alban’s conflict as well as their subsequent bet had also become a public secret.

Countless eyes were focused on Alban’s Seatresures Group and Jasper’s JW. They knew that a thrilling fight was about to occur between these two companies in Harbor Stocks over these next three days.

However, most people believed that Jasper had no chance of winning this fight.

Seatreasures Group was a physical and comprehensive group with a long-standing history in the mainlands. Its roots ran deep, and its main company was in the pharmaceutical industry that was difficult to enter and thus had few competitors.

It was almost impossible for outsiders to enter this greatly desirable industry since the costs for research and technical barriers were too high.

Not to mention that Seatreasures Group was a long-standing privately-owned pharmaceutical enterprise in the country, which made it very, very wealthy company.

Otherwise, it would not have had the strength to expand into other fields and industries.

Jasper, on the other hand...

Many people believed that he was just an ambitious but overzealous young wealthy businessman.

While he was much more impressive than ordinary folks, no one believed he would win against Alban.

Amidst the swirl of rumors, the sun rose as per usual. Jasper had been talking to Jake ever since he woke up.

“Do it like we used to before. Open a position at the bottom first. Don’t buy too much, and don’t act rashly. We don’t want to make any large movements.”

Jake hesitated when he heard Jasper’s instruction. “But Mr. Laine, it’s different this time. There’s just too many people who have their eyes on us!

“Seatresures Group themselves will surely watch their own shares. There’s a limit to how many shares we can absorb if we don’t make a big move.”

Jasper smiled. “That’s exactly what I’m going for. I can only transfer you 1.2 billion this time, and most of this is from the profit we made in Harbor Stocks before. I don’t have any more for you.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1108

“There’s no way this small amount of money can change anything in Seatresures International’s market. It has a market cap of 17 billion-there’s just no way.”

“I just need to show the signal. Trust me and do as I say.”

While Jake was confused, he had long gotten used to playing the role of an executioner ever since he started working with Jasper. Hence, he understood that he should not press for more details when Jasper refused to elaborate.

All he had to do now was agree.

“Alright, Mr. Laine. I understand.”

Jasper hung up the phone and bid Henry goodbye, the latter lying on the sofa in his room lazily and eating an apple.

“Where’re you going?” Henry asked.

“Hoofmorn University. I won’t have time to visit and look out for her for a long while after this.”

“She’s got very high self-esteem and she’s too ashamed to take the initiative and ask for help. I’ll go take a look at how she’s doing in school and see if there’s anything she lacks,” Jasper explained.

Henry got up and followed Jasper out of the hotel. He asked loudly, then sighed.

“Jesus Christ. Do you know how many people are out there waiting to watch you fight Seatresures Group? This is a fight involving a company easily worth billions of Harbor Dollars and here you are, free enough to go check up on girls. Wow, good job.”

Jasper laughed out loud. "There's nothing I can do now anyway. But it should start soon. Very soon, Seatreasures Group will be facing a huge problem themselves."

Henry looked at Jasper suspiciously and asked, "Why do you sometimes give me the feeling that you're a shaman? How do you always predict things correctly?"

...

As Jasper sped over to Hoofmorn University, within the third female dorm building there.

Crash.

A washing basin fell onto the floor, causing the clothes and water inside to spill out everywhere.

Tiffany stood by the side with reddened eyes and pursed lips, letting the water splash and wet her pant legs.

"Tiffany York! Don't think that just because our instructor told us to take care of you that it means that you're on top of the world! Who do you think you are? You're just a little thief! How dare you steal our make-up product? Shameless!"

A freckled girl pointed at Tiffany and scolded.

“I didn’t.”

Tiffany quickly shook her head and explained, “I didn’t even touch your makeup, let alone steal and use them.”

Another girl sneered and said, “What, so you’re telling us we’re framing you, then? Mia’s bottle of Estee Lauder Essence costs more than 500 bucks. As if poor people like you have seen something like that before! You must’ve wanted to use it, huh? I’ve seen more than enough people like you!”

“That’s right You’re just a poor village girl, yet all your clothes in your luggage are branded! I can already tell that you’re not an honest person! You must’ve stolen them, or you’ve got a sugar daddy outside providing for you.”

“Yeah! Shameless b*tch! ”

The freckled girl, Mia, and the other overweight girl attacked Tiffany together. In the corner of the dorm stood another average-looking girl, who piped up softly, “Perhaps there’s been a misunderstanding.”

Mia turned her head to glare at that girl and sneered. “This has nothing to do with you, Erin. Are you sure you want to get involved?”

Erin immediately kept quiet, not daring to say another word. All she could do now was look at Tiffany sympathetically.

Mia and Monica, who shared a dorm with them, were known for being ferocious. No other female student on this floor dared to anger them. They decided to pick on Tiffany since they were envious of her branded clothes, and this was just the start.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1109

“You, you’re lying!”

Tiffany, who had never argued with anyone since she was a child, was no match for these two sharp-tongued and ruthless girls.

After taking an extremely cruel and humiliating scolding, Tiffany could only try to defend herself with reddened cheeks and eyes.

“My, my brother bought them for me. I didn’t steal, nor did I find anyone to provide for me.”

Mia sneered at Tiffany's claim.

"Stop giving excuses. Your brother bought them for you? Is he your biological brother?"

Another girl covered her mouth and laughed. "I think it's her lover. Maybe they like to act like siblings?"

Mia pretended to vomit and said, "Disgusting!"

"I'm telling you, Tiffany. This is campus."

"While I don't know how you managed to join a month after school starts, but don't bring the tricks you use outside in here. We don't like people like you."

Tiffany's cheeks flushed and she said with teary eyes, "Why do you keep picking on me?!"

"Picking on you?" Mia sneered. "It's not our fault you're so high-profile. You've only been here for a few days and you've already received a lot of love letters, haven't you?"

“I heard boys from the building next to us sent you gifts. Something about you being the most beautiful girl in the major, hmm? Absolutely disgusting and shameless! B*tch! ”

Another girl spoke sinisterly, “Mia, your boyfriend’s uncle is the deputy chief of the Academic Affairs office, right?”

“Have Cassian go tell his uncle that questionable and indecent girls should never be students of our Hoofmorn University. They’ll only lower the class of our school if word got out that they’re a student.”

Mia replied arrogantly, “Yeah, I’ll go talk to him later. I’ll have him check carefully if you’ve fooled around in school but with how flirty you look, I’m pretty sure you’ve fooled around with quite a few boys, huh?”

“You’re going too far!” Tiffany covered her mouth and she could no longer hold back the tears in her eyes. She turned and ran out of the dorm.

Mia and the other girl had expressions of disdain on her face, “What a great actress. So disgusting.”

“It’s fine, forget about her. It’d like to see how much longer she can take this, we’ll force her to drop out sooner or later,” The girl said before she gave Mia a pleasing smile. “Your boyfriend’s waiting for you downstairs to eat, right? Let’s go.”

Mia replied pridefully, “Him? He’s just a rich target I caught. But from the look on your face you like his friend from the basketball team, don’t you?”

“He looks pretty rich to me.”

“Horny b*tch, I can already tell what you’re thinking. I told my boyfriend already to bring his friend over to eat tonight. I’ve even thought of the place, a five-star hotel. We’ll land a huge hit on their wallets today.”

The duo chuckled and left as they spoke. The dorm was immediately quieted, leaving Erin alone inside.

She sighed and got up to rearrange the flipped-over basin and clothes. Her ability to read the situation was why she managed to stay in this dorm room.

Or she would have long changed dorms and dropped out like the other students under the duo’s torments.

Under the female dorm room stood Henry, staring down at the dorm auntie.

“Seriously, Auntie, just look at how handsome I am. There’s no way I’m some pervert that’s going in to take advantage of girls. I’m really just looking for someone,” Henry said irritably.

“I don’t care. Everyone in the dorm is a girl and it’s not right for a man like you to walk inside. Not even if you’re looking for someone. Call her to come down if you need her for something.”

The dorm auntie refused to back down as she rejected Henry.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1110

Similar sentences had flown back and forth between the two.

Henry was filled with displeasure, but he was not enough of a prick to bully the dorm auntie who was just doing her job with his status. So he turned to Jasper.

“Can’t we have that secretary bring us up again? He was the one who led the way last time.”

“Let’s not bother him over a private matter. I’ll just call Tiff to come down,” Jasper said, waving him off.

Just then, a few male students had also walked over and stood by the side of the dorm building with practiced ease. They were evidently waiting for their girlfriend and the like, and they looked at Jasper with curiosity.

Jasper was about to call Tiffany's phone when a series of footsteps sounded from inside the dorm building. Then Jasper saw Tiffany rush over.

She was going too fast and her hair was a mess, so she certainly did not see Jasper in front of her.

The man was in her path and about to say something when Tiffany knocked straight into him.

"Ah!"

Tiffany shouted in shock. She looked up to see Jasper and her welling tears immediately began to fall. She called out for Jasper with a sob and hugged the man, crying into his arms.

Jasper did not know what had happened but instead of asking now, he patted her back and consoled, "It's okay, it's okay. I'm here, don't cry anymore. I'll keep you safe, don't worry."

Henry had also walked over with a skip in his steps. He was immediately filled with glee when he saw that Tiffany had been mistreated. "Hey, what's wrong, Tiff? Did someone bully you? Tell your big brother Henry, I'll make sure to I beat them up."

Tiffany sobbed but clenched her lips and shook her head no matter what Jasper and Henry asked. She did not want to trouble the two.

Just as Henry felt out of his depth, Mia and another student walked out of the dorm building.

They were met with the sight of Tiffany wiping her tears in Jasper's chest.

"Yo, and here I wondered why she acted so pitiful. Who'd have thought that she had someone waiting for her? She must've been acting for him, then? What did I tell you? A b*tch will always be a b*tch, she's just got to bury her head in a man's chest even when she's crying. So shameless!"

Mia sneered.

"Mia!"

Just then, two tall and broad men walked over. They were the two that looked Jasper and Henry over just now.

“Cassian, Stan, take a look. That’s the b*tch I was talking about. She’s obviously a poor village b*tch that came from the mountain valleys yet her luggage is filled with branded clothing. Who’s she showing off for, huh? She even stole my bottle of essence. Absolutely shameless!”

Mia told the two men.

“That’s right. I saw it with my own eyes how this shameless sl*t already hooked up with a lot of men even though she’s only been here for a few days,” The girl beside Mia fanned the flames and added.

Cassian and Stan’s gazes immediately turned ambiguous when they looked at Jasper and Tiffany.

“There are all sorts of trash in society but I can’t believe these people are actually on our campus. Looks like I’ve got to tell my uncle,” Cassian said calmly with an arrogant look on his face.

Jasper’s expression darkened when he heard the other students speak.

If these things could happen even before his eyes, then he could only imagine how difficult Tiffany's days had been on campus as of late.

Yet this silly girl did not tell him anything.

"What the f*ck, are Hoofmorn University's students so uneducated? All their vocabulary's just made up of sl*ts and trash?"

When it came to such a mocking statement, one did not need to look to know that Henry was the owner of those words.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1106

“You used him while he simultaneously used you, and both of you teamed up to get rid of me. Now that I’ve joined this game as well, I suppose the three of us will just be plotting against each other. Perhaps we’ll find out where our real friends and enemies lie.”

Gale was silent until he heard Jasper’s words and replied solemnly, “How about we work together?”

Jasper chuckled and said, “You really are a sly old man, Old Master Hurlbutt. It’s a shame that I’ve already paid my price and I not the kind of person to fall for the same mistake twice.”

“And you’re not afraid that I’ll work together with Alban again?” Gale asked meaningfully.

“I am, that’s why I called in advance. Be it you or anyone else behind you, Old Master Hurlbutt, I suggest you get rid of me right off the bat with the first attack. Don’t give me a chance to turn the tables and take revenge.”

“Unfortunately for you people, I’m no longer the same small wooden raft that capsizes at the slightest wave and has to be careful not to offend anyone anymore.”

Jasper hung up the phone immediately after he finished speaking.

Gale's expression darkened when he heard the static on the other end of the line.

His fury this time might surpass his rage when Old Master Law had first warned him.

He genuinely felt deeply threatened by Jasper's seemingly calm tone.

Unlike other people, Gale had long known Jasper, and the two had even partnered on many occasions before. Gale knew how dangerous Jasper could be.

Once Jasper had deemed you an enemy, he was a man of his word. Jasper always made sure to completely crush his rivals and left no room for people to reappear and cause him trouble in the future.

At this moment, Gale felt slightly remorseful.

He should not have offended Jasper over such a small issue.

“A small wooden raft, huh. I really regret not capsizing you back then. You... really have grown from that small wooden raft,” Gale murmured to himself.

...

“Overpowering.”

Henry immediately gave Jasper a thumbs up after he heard the man speak on the phone and watched him hang up. His expression was one of approval.

“There we go. We’re powerful figures, okay? There’s no need to be careful not to offend people no matter what we do. Look at you, you still get targeted no matter how cautious you are, no? So f*ck who the other person is, we’ll screw them over if we don’t like them! That’s how we live life to the fullest!”

Henry took the chance to preach his values to Jasper. Jasper stretched and said, “This incident really pissed me off. Instead of being angry at Gale backstabbing me, I’d say I’m more disappointed in myself for being too careless.”

“My path’s been too smooth thus far and I lost myself in my victories. Gale happened to teach me a lesson this time by showing me that none of the wealthy families that’s been in the country for so many generations are easy to deal with.”

“What about Alban? What do you have in store for him?” Henry asked.

“I already threatened him, so I’ll start on Seatreasures Group’s shares tomorrow! ”

“This incident blew up quite a bit and a lot of people have their eyes on me. I have to fight back and I have to hit hard, or everyone will think that my JW’s an easy target and come have their shot at attacking me.”

“I don’t have the time and patience to deal with them one by one, so what I can do is hit back so hard I deter everyone else!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1107

“Is it profitable?” Henry’s eyes sparkled as he asked.

Since Sena was listed on Nasdaq and Henry had earned a large sum of money with Jasper. This young master seemed to have gotten addicted to the idea of earning money.

He was now extremely intrigued by any situation that would potentially earn him money.

He had been nagging Jasper lately and asking him when he would fulfill his promise of bringing him along to earn another large sum.

However, it was not yet the right time for that, so Jasper did not disclose anything more to him.

After all, that was going to be a huge incident that would involve the entire world, and even change the way the world would continue to develop. Hence, Jasper was definitely not going to tell anyone about the incident until it truly happened.

“It is, but not by much. Still better than nothing, I guess. I’ll give you an account once it starts being profitable so you can transfer your funds to it. It’ll more or less pay off your airplane fuel costs.”

“I heard that your plane’s been docked at the airport ever since you bought it, right?”

Henry replied resentfully after he heard Jasper’s question, “I wish I could fly it too but it’s too f*cking expensive. Every flight costs at least a few hundred thousand Harbor Dollars and I even want to sell that f*cking thing now. It’s really not something I can afford to keep.”

“That’s why I told you to start your own business. I’m pretty sure your dad would give you money if you had your own start-up company. Then, I’ll help you plan it out. I can’t promise anything for the first year or so, but it shouldn’t be any problem to earn ten million or so. Furthermore, it’s a more long-term solution,” Jasper persuaded.

Henry yawned and replied lazily, "Another time, maybe. Let me play around and be free for another two years, I'm don't have that kind of mindset now to think about entrepreneurship. You know how my temper is-no one can deal with me. Nor do I like that kind of angry aura businessmen have."

With the end of the day came the circulation of what happened during the forum conference.

Of course, all normal civilians saw was what the newspapers reported, that some asset forum conference was held where entrepreneurs discussed the future development of some industries. The exciting debate over the dot-com industry's future was also reported, ending harmoniously between hosts and guests.

This was obviously meant to deceive the common folk, and anyone even slightly more knowledgeable knew that something big had happened at the forum conference.

Jasper and Alban's conflict as well as their subsequent bet had also become a public secret.

Countless eyes were focused on Alban's Seatresures Group and Jasper's JW. They knew that a thrilling fight was about to occur between these two companies in Harbor Stocks over these next three days.

However, most people believed that Jasper had no chance of winning this fight.

Seatreasures Group was a physical and comprehensive group with a long-standing history in the mainlands. Its roots ran deep, and its main company was in the pharmaceutical industry that was difficult to enter and thus had few competitors.

It was almost impossible for outsiders to enter this greatly desirable industry since the costs for research and technical barriers were too high.

Not to mention that Seatreasures Group was a long-standing privately-owned pharmaceutical enterprise in the country, which made it very, very wealthy company.

Otherwise, it would not have had the strength to expand into other fields and industries.

Jasper, on the other hand...

Many people believed that he was just an ambitious but overzealous young wealthy businessman.

While he was much more impressive than ordinary folks, no one believed he would win against Alban.

Amidst the swirl of rumors, the sun rose as per usual. Jasper had been talking to Jake ever since he woke up.

“Do it like we used to before. Open a position at the bottom first. Don’t buy too much, and don’t act rashly. We don’t want to make any large movements.”

Jake hesitated when he heard Jasper’s instruction. “But Mr. Laine, it’s different this time. There’s just too many people who have their eyes on us!

“Seatresures Group themselves will surely watch their own shares. There’s a limit to how many shares we can absorb if we don’t make a big move.”

Jasper smiled. “That’s exactly what I’m going for. I can only transfer you 1.2 billion this time, and most of this is from the profit we made in Harbor Stocks before. I don’t have any more for you.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1108

“There’s no way this small amount of money can change anything in Seatresures International’s market. It has a market cap of 17 billion-there’s just no way.”

“I just need to show the signal. Trust me and do as I say.”

While Jake was confused, he had long gotten used to playing the role of an executioner ever since he started working with Jasper. Hence, he understood that he should not press for more details when Jasper refused to elaborate.

All he had to do now was agree.

“Alright, Mr. Laine. I understand.”

Jasper hung up the phone and bid Henry goodbye, the latter lying on the sofa in his room lazily and eating an apple.

“Where’re you going?” Henry asked.

“Hoofmorn University. I won’t have time to visit and look out for her for a long while after this.”

“She’s got very high self-esteem and she’s too ashamed to take the initiative and ask for help. I’ll go take a look at how she’s doing in school and see if there’s anything she lacks,” Jasper explained.

Henry got up and followed Jasper out of the hotel. He asked loudly, then sighed.

“Jesus Christ. Do you know how many people are out there waiting to watch you fight Seatresures Group? This is a fight involving a company easily worth billions of Harbor Dollars and here you are, free enough to go check up on girls. Wow, good job.”

Jasper laughed out loud. "There's nothing I can do now anyway. But it should start soon. Very soon, Seatreasures Group will be facing a huge problem themselves."

Henry looked at Jasper suspiciously and asked, "Why do you sometimes give me the feeling that you're a shaman? How do you always predict things correctly?"

...

As Jasper sped over to Hoofmorn University, within the third female dorm building there.

Crash.

A washing basin fell onto the floor, causing the clothes and water inside to spill out everywhere.

Tiffany stood by the side with reddened eyes and pursed lips, letting the water splash and wet her pant legs.

"Tiffany York! Don't think that just because our instructor told us to take care of you that it means that you're on top of the world! Who do you think you are? You're just a little thief! How dare you steal our make-up product? Shameless!"

A freckled girl pointed at Tiffany and scolded.

“I didn’t.”

Tiffany quickly shook her head and explained, “I didn’t even touch your makeup, let alone steal and use them.”

Another girl sneered and said, “What, so you’re telling us we’re framing you, then? Mia’s bottle of Estee Lauder Essence costs more than 500 bucks. As if poor people like you have seen something like that before! You must’ve wanted to use it, huh? I’ve seen more than enough people like you!”

“That’s right You’re just a poor village girl, yet all your clothes in your luggage are branded! I can already tell that you’re not an honest person! You must’ve stolen them, or you’ve got a sugar daddy outside providing for you.”

“Yeah! Shameless b*tch! ”

The freckled girl, Mia, and the other overweight girl attacked Tiffany together. In the corner of the dorm stood another average-looking girl, who piped up softly, “Perhaps there’s been a misunderstanding.”

Mia turned her head to glare at that girl and sneered. “This has nothing to do with you, Erin. Are you sure you want to get involved?”

Erin immediately kept quiet, not daring to say another word. All she could do now was look at Tiffany sympathetically.

Mia and Monica, who shared a dorm with them, were known for being ferocious. No other female student on this floor dared to anger them. They decided to pick on Tiffany since they were envious of her branded clothes, and this was just the start.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1109

“You, you’re lying!”

Tiffany, who had never argued with anyone since she was a child, was no match for these two sharp-tongued and ruthless girls.

After taking an extremely cruel and humiliating scolding, Tiffany could only try to defend herself with reddened cheeks and eyes.

“My, my brother bought them for me. I didn’t steal, nor did I find anyone to provide for me.”

Mia sneered at Tiffany's claim.

"Stop giving excuses. Your brother bought them for you? Is he your biological brother?"

Another girl covered her mouth and laughed. "I think it's her lover. Maybe they like to act like siblings?"

Mia pretended to vomit and said, "Disgusting!"

"I'm telling you, Tiffany. This is campus."

"While I don't know how you managed to join a month after school starts, but don't bring the tricks you use outside in here. We don't like people like you."

Tiffany's cheeks flushed and she said with teary eyes, "Why do you keep picking on me?!"

"Picking on you?" Mia sneered. "It's not our fault you're so high-profile. You've only been here for a few days and you've already received a lot of love letters, haven't you?"

“I heard boys from the building next to us sent you gifts. Something about you being the most beautiful girl in the major, hmm? Absolutely disgusting and shameless! B*tch! ”

Another girl spoke sinisterly, “Mia, your boyfriend’s uncle is the deputy chief of the Academic Affairs office, right?”

“Have Cassian go tell his uncle that questionable and indecent girls should never be students of our Hoofmorn University. They’ll only lower the class of our school if word got out that they’re a student.”

Mia replied arrogantly, “Yeah, I’ll go talk to him later. I’ll have him check carefully if you’ve fooled around in school but with how flirty you look, I’m pretty sure you’ve fooled around with quite a few boys, huh?”

“You’re going too far!” Tiffany covered her mouth and she could no longer hold back the tears in her eyes. She turned and ran out of the dorm.

Mia and the other girl had expressions of disdain on her face, “What a great actress. So disgusting.”

“It’s fine, forget about her. It’d like to see how much longer she can take this, we’ll force her to drop out sooner or later,” The girl said before she gave Mia a pleasing smile. “Your boyfriend’s waiting for you downstairs to eat, right? Let’s go.”

Mia replied pridefully, “Him? He’s just a rich target I caught. But from the look on your face you like his friend from the basketball team, don’t you?”

“He looks pretty rich to me.”

“Horny b*tch, I can already tell what you’re thinking. I told my boyfriend already to bring his friend over to eat tonight. I’ve even thought of the place, a five-star hotel. We’ll land a huge hit on their wallets today.”

The duo chuckled and left as they spoke. The dorm was immediately quieted, leaving Erin alone inside.

She sighed and got up to rearrange the flipped-over basin and clothes. Her ability to read the situation was why she managed to stay in this dorm room.

Or she would have long changed dorms and dropped out like the other students under the duo’s torments.

Under the female dorm room stood Henry, staring down at the dorm auntie.

“Seriously, Auntie, just look at how handsome I am. There’s no way I’m some pervert that’s going in to take advantage of girls. I’m really just looking for someone,” Henry said irritably.

“I don’t care. Everyone in the dorm is a girl and it’s not right for a man like you to walk inside. Not even if you’re looking for someone. Call her to come down if you need her for something.”

The dorm auntie refused to back down as she rejected Henry.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1110

Similar sentences had flown back and forth between the two.

Henry was filled with displeasure, but he was not enough of a prick to bully the dorm auntie who was just doing her job with his status. So he turned to Jasper.

“Can’t we have that secretary bring us up again? He was the one who led the way last time.”

“Let’s not bother him over a private matter. I’ll just call Tiff to come down,” Jasper said, waving him off.

Just then, a few male students had also walked over and stood by the side of the dorm building with practiced ease. They were evidently waiting for their girlfriend and the like, and they looked at Jasper with curiosity.

Jasper was about to call Tiffany's phone when a series of footsteps sounded from inside the dorm building. Then Jasper saw Tiffany rush over.

She was going too fast and her hair was a mess, so she certainly did not see Jasper in front of her.

The man was in her path and about to say something when Tiffany knocked straight into him.

"Ah!"

Tiffany shouted in shock. She looked up to see Jasper and her welling tears immediately began to fall. She called out for Jasper with a sob and hugged the man, crying into his arms.

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Tiffany sobbed but clenched her lips and shook her head no matter what Jasper and Henry asked. She did not want to trouble the two.

Just as Henry felt out of his depth, Mia and another student walked out of the dorm building.

They were met with the sight of Tiffany wiping her tears in Jasper's chest.

"Yo, and here I wondered why she acted so pitiful. Who'd have thought that she had someone waiting for her? She must've been acting for him, then? What did I tell you? A b*tch will always be a b*tch, she's just got to bury her head in a man's chest even when she's crying. So shameless!"

Mia sneered.

"Mia!"

Just then, two tall and broad men walked over. They were the two that looked Jasper and Henry over just now.

“Cassian, Stan, take a look. That’s the b*tch I was talking about. She’s obviously a poor village b*tch that came from the mountain valleys yet her luggage is filled with branded clothing. Who’s she showing off for, huh? She even stole my bottle of essence. Absolutely shameless!”

Mia told the two men.

“That’s right. I saw it with my own eyes how this shameless sl*t already hooked up with a lot of men even though she’s only been here for a few days,” The girl beside Mia fanned the flames and added.

Cassian and Stan’s gazes immediately turned ambiguous when they looked at Jasper and Tiffany.

“There are all sorts of trash in society but I can’t believe these people are actually on our campus. Looks like I’ve got to tell my uncle,” Cassian said calmly with an arrogant look on his face.

Jasper’s expression darkened when he heard the other students speak.

If these things could happen even before his eyes, then he could only imagine how difficult Tiffany's days had been on campus as of late.

Yet this silly girl did not tell him anything.

"What the f*ck, are Hoofmorn University's students so uneducated? All their vocabulary's just made up of sl*ts and trash?"

When it came to such a mocking statement, one did not need to look to know that Henry was the owner of those words.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1111

“Who did you call uneducated?!”

Before Cassian could speak, Stan shouted angrily.

He had been interested in the female student beside Mia to begin with, and there was no way he would let go of such a great opportunity to show off.

“You.”

Henry replied, unfazed.

Stan was stunned.

He had never met someone like this before.

A normal person would have retaliated with even harsher words, which would then lead to Stan, the basketball team’s ace player, teaching him a lesson with his fist.

Hence, this single word and seemingly perfect reply had Stan immediately choking and lost for words.

“Why? Does it ruffle your feathers?”

Henry said casually as he glanced at the young student. His smile slowly turned into something more sinister.

Hundreds, even thousands, of men had been screwed over by the hands of Young Master Law-these weak students were hardly a match against him.

“How about I say it differently, then? F*ck you. You think ganging up to bully one girl makes you cool? You guys like bullying people, hmm? Then how about Daddy bully you today? I wonder what you can do about it, then.”

“Where did this madman come from? How dare you cause a scene here at Hoofmorn University?” Mia stared at Henry and said disdainfully.

Henry chuckled joyfully and tilted his head. He narrowed his eyes and told Mia slovenly, “I have nothing against hitting women, b*tch.”

At that moment, Mia's boyfriend Cassian frowned. He was initially unwilling to involve himself, but he would be made a laughing stock if he remained silent while the person in front of him insulted his girlfriend.

"From the way you talk, you aren't one of our school's students, are you?" Cassian asked calmly.

"If you aren't, that means you're just loiterers. Who let you in here? Leave my campus now!"

Cassian shouted, his tone filled with authority. Mia's eyes shone as she watched him defend her.

This was her man. At that moment, she felt the urge to truly date Cassian.

"Well, don't you sound cool," Henry exclaimed in surprise. "Why, is the school yours?"

"My uncle's the head of the Academic Affairs office. I'm telling you, one call from me and security will immediately chase you away!" Cassian sneered.

"F*ck, the head of the Academic Affairs office. Wow, what a powerful position. So scary." Henry had a terrified look on his face.

However, it disappeared immediately, only to be replaced with an expression as cruel as ones the villains in novels and television dramas often wore. Henry stared at Cassian and said, "That's a post so insignificant he's not even worth my time. Yet, you're using him to show off?"

Cassian's expression immediately paled in anger.

His uncle's identity had been his biggest source of support in Hoofmorn University.

It was his relationship with this uncle that allowed him to act arrogant and bossy all this while. Not even the teachers were willing to offend him because of this, let alone the students.

Hence, he was instantly enraged when Henry rendered the relationship insignificant.

"Do you want to die?" Cassian's gaze was icy as he pointed at Henry and said, "Just you wait!"

Then, he pulled out his phone and dialed a number.

Meanwhile, Henry mocked him with a casual but extremely overbearing tone the entire time.

“Daddy’s waiting. Make it quick, Daddy doesn’t have much patience.”

Cassian was pale from anger. He glared at Henry frostily as the call connected.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1112

“It’s me, Uncle Denton. I’m at the third female dorm building where two loiterers managed to get in. They’re harassing us. Please bring a few security guards over to help us chase them away.”

Cassian then put down the phone to smile wretchedly at Henry. “Just you wait. You’re going to be thrown off the campus like a stray dog in no time at all.”

When faced with Cassian’s threat, Henry only said one thing.

“Moron.”

At the same time, Jasper had already calmed Tiffany down.

“Jasper, I really didn’t steal anything. I also didn’t hook up with other people,” Tiffany explained to the man.

Jasper smiled gently and replied, “I know. They’re the ones framing you.”

Tiffany was about to speak when Jasper gestured for her to stop. Cassian was already done with his call by now, so Jasper gave it some thought before deciding it would be better to call Dorian as well.

After all, Henry was a truly extreme person, and those two students would most likely not have a future if they genuinely angered him.

At the end of the day, Jasper should still leave Hoofmorn University with some shred of dignity.

“Is this Mr. Clem? It’s me, Jasper.”

“I know, Mr. Laine. How can I help you?”

Dorian’s tone on the other end of the call was so polite it was borderline flirtatious.

Jasper chuckled and replied, "I remember troubling you to take care of my sister, Mr. Clem, but it seems like you're quite the busy man."

While Jasper had spoken with a smile, Dorian immediately shot up from his chair once he heard this.

"I made sure to put in a word with all the relevant departments, Mr. Laine. There shouldn't be any problem at all. Did something happen to Miss York? Please tell, I'll solve it right away."

Dorian was drenched in sweat. Ignoring the fact that Jasper was in a research partnership with Hoofmorn University over the stepper and was thus a huge sponsor of theirs, the amount Jasper donated for a new library alone was enough for the university to praise his name.

He was truly screwed if anything happened to Tiffany in Hoofmorn University.

"Come take a look for yourself. I'm at the third female dorm building."

Jasper hung up the phone after that.

Dorian had no idea how badly Tiffany had been mistreated on campus. He may have been the dean's secretary, but he was a busy man who could not always watch out for Tiffany. Not that Jasper was obligated to consider Dorian's difficulties though.

If what Jasper entrusted him to do was not done well, then it was only right that he showed his displeasure.

He had to show ferocity, or they would take his kindness for granted.

By the time Jasper put his phone down, Henry's confrontation with Cassian and Stan had already reached its finale.

Due to Mia and her friend egging them on by the side as if they were eager to see chaos, the situation was fast spiraling out of control.

Stan and Cassian were vigorous youths, after all, and the fact that they were on the basketball team meant that these two were athletic and strong. After realizing that even the two of them together were no match for Henry in a verbal argument, they became enraged and were about to get physical.

Henry was waiting for them to make the first move. Stan was about to step up and throw a punch when a loud shout was suddenly heard.

“Stop! Don’t any of you have any sense of order? How dare you cause a ruckus on campus?”

A slightly chubby man walked over with large strides, followed by quite a few security guards.

“Uncle Denton! ” Cassian exclaimed happily when he saw the man, and quickly went to greet him.

“It’s these two. They’re outsiders and it’s obvious that they’re up to no good. That girl over there is our student. She’s Mia’s roommate but she stole Mia’s things and even brought these two outsiders in. She should be strictly punished.”

The middle-aged man nodded calmly and walked over to stand in front of Jasper and Henry. With a harrumph, he said, “You two get out of my school right now!”

Then, he pointed a Tiffany and said coldly, “Hoofmorn University doesn’t need thieves like you as our students. Give me your name and come to the Academic Affairs office with me at once. I will deal with you properly.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1113

Henry did not like the air of arrogance this man carried. “Wow, how impressive of you.”

Henry said ambiguously before he mocked, “You must think you’re so powerful since you’re this university’s bullsh*t Academic Affairs office’s chief, huh?”

The Academic Affairs office was indeed an authoritative department, one that held the fate of all the students with the university.

As the department head, Denton was used to people being respectful toward him, and he had never been scolded like this before.

He was enraged by Henry’s words, and he stared at the man while saying, “I am this university’s Academic Affairs office’s chief. I have the right to deal with problem students as I see fit.”

“So, will you outsiders get out? Either get out yourself, or I’ll have security throw you out. Guards!”

The few security guards did not dare go against Denton’s instruction, so they immediately surrounded the three from all angles.

Henry narrowed his eyes. He was already very irritated and he badly wanted to beat someone up to vent his frustration.

Tiffany was nervous as well, and she tugged Jasper's sleeve while whispering, 'It's okay, Jasper. I don't want to cause you two any more trouble. I... I'll just admit it and apologize.'

"What's there to admit and apologize for if you didn't do anything wrong?" Jasper asked calmly.

Then, he turned to look at Denton.

"Mr. May, as chief of the Academic Affairs office, I have to ask is this how you carry out your job? Instead of trying to investigate what really happened, your first course of action is to chase people away."

Denton's expression darkened slightly at Jasper's words.

He did not care about unreasonable people like Henry, since all he had to do was have security throw him out and end the matter at that.

However, Jasper's words put him in a tight spot.

If he did not deal with the issue well, then his reputation on campus would be greatly affected.

After all, this was a student dorm building, and many people were watching the scene.

“Of course I’ll dig deeper into this. That’s why I’m having that female student follow me to the Academic Affairs office. As for you outsiders, there’s no need to understand anything. The university doesn’t welcome you!” Denton said coldly.

“My friend is right. Indeed, how impressive of you,” Jasper commented calmly.

Denton harrumphed and his expression turned more irritable.

“Enough. I don’t have time to waste with you vile people. Get lost, right now! Otherwise I’ll have security guards throw you out. Hoofmorn University won’t be blamed for being too harsh on you when that happens!”

“That’s right. We told you to get lost but you just won’t leave. How are you so shameless to keep bothering us?” Mia mocked with a sinister tone.

“From what I see, these two people are definitely trash that’s never been to university before. They’ve come to experience the view here at Hoofmorn University, but it’s such

a shame. Unfortunately for them, trash will always be trash. They'll always smell bad even if an easy woman brought them in."

Stan chuckled. He had the urge to show off in front of Denton, so he walked over to stand in front of Jasper. He raised his fists and said, "We told you to leave, so why are you still here? Do you want me to get physical?"

Henry narrowed his eyes and stared at Stan. "It's bad enough that those two b*tches kept yapping over there, you dumb f*ck. Raise your f*cking fists again and Daddy will make you regret it."

Denton immediately fumed, "You still want to fight?!"

"Are you blind? Did you not see that this f*cking idiot raised his fists first?" Henry turned to shout angrily.

Denton was paling with anger and he roared, "Fine, then. You two have no sense of order anymore. Don' t wait any longer, guards. Throw them out right now! "

The bodyguards exchanged a look and stepped up to drag Jasper and Henry out.

Just then, a man rushed over to the dorm building.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1114

It was Dorian who rushed over.

“What are you doing here, Mr. Clem?” Denton had a pleasing and fawning smile on his face as he jogged over to Dorian and greeted courteously when he saw the other.

Dorian glared at Denton harshly and ignored him, waving his hands to shout at the security guards to back off.

“Move, all of you! What do you think you’re doing?!”

The security guards were confused. They were just trying to throw someone out on Denton’s orders, so they had no idea how they had angered Mr. Clem.

Denton was also stunned. He did not know how he had offended the dean’s secretary either.

At that moment, Dorian had already made his way to Jasper and said remorsefully, “I’m really sorry, Mr. Laine. It seems like I made a fool out of myself.”

Jasper replied calmly, "Fool or not, I am very disappointed in some members of Hoofmorn University's managerial staff. The quality of the

students here is also very unimpressive.

Dorian felt his cheeks burn in shame.

"Tell Mr. Clem what actually happened, Tiff," Jasper called Tiffany over and said.

With Jasper here, Tiffany felt much braver as she recounted everything that had happened since she arrived to Dorian, paying particular attention to the incident that morning.

Following Tiffany's explanation, even Denton's expression morphed dramatically, much less Dorian's.

Frankly, anyone who heard the things Mia and her friend had done would feel exceptionally furious.

Dorian looked at Mia and the rest sinisterly. He clenched his jaw and said, "This is the first time I've learned that Hoofmorn University has failures like this!"

Mia was panicking.

She did not know who Dorian was, but she was well aware that Denton was the most powerful person she could come into contact with. If Denton acted extremely carefully in front of Dorian, without even daring to breath recklessly, then it did not take a genius to understand that she was screwed.

Frantic, she tried to defend herself, "That's not right. You can't just listen to her words alone.

"Someone did use my makeup this morning, and she was very suspicious. She's just exaggerating everything! I was just afraid that a bad person ended up as a student of the university, so I did it with the university's best interests..."

"I can testify!"

A clear female voice rang out before Mia could finish speaking.

No one knew when Erin had appeared. The girl squeezed through the onlooking crowd and told Dorian.

“I’m Mia, Monica, and Tiff’s roommate. My name is Erin and I can testify on Tiffany’s behalf. Everything she said was the truth.”

“Mia and her friend have been causing trouble all this time, especially because her boyfriend Cassian is Mr. May’s nephew. They’ve never respected anyone.”

“As for the things they’ve done, you can ask anyone in our class and they’ll say the same thing.”

‘Erin, do you want to die?’ Mia shrieked.

Erin replied calmly, “I stayed quiet for so long just to wait for an opening.”

Mia wanted to say more but Dorian cut in sharply. “Enough!”

Dorian took a deep breath and bowed to Jasper deeply. He then said remorsefully, “I’m really sorry, Mr. Laine. It looks like I’ve got to straighten out the habits of some students in our university.”

“It’s more than just students, though. Isn’t it?” Jasper said calmly.

Dorian turned to look at Denton when he heard these words.

The latter instantly paled.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1115

Denton could be considered an experienced man, seeing as how he had been working for more than half his life. He could tell that Mr. Clem was not the most important character here. At most, the man had arrived to deal with the issue.

The true main character was Jasper.

Denton's lips quivered when he looked at Jasper.

Mr. Clem was the dean of Hoofmorn University's secretary. While he did not hold a high administrative position, half a rank higher than Denton at most, the man's identity was special.

Dorian would not be the dean's secretary if he was not also the dean's confidant.

If Jasper refused to let today's incident go, then Dorian would surely report the matter to the dean.

If that were to happen, a mere chief of the Academic Affairs office would surely be crushed.

Denton felt lightheaded at the thought.

"You... you must be Mr. Laine, right? Mr. Laine, there's got to be a misunderstanding here."

Sorrowful, Denton begged Jasper for mercy, "I admit that my attitude was bad just now, but I just wanted to deal with the issue as quickly as possible."

"How about this, Mr. Laine. I'm sorry, I really am. Please forgive me as I'll make sure to look back on my actions and learn from my mistake.

"I'll also deal with the issue regarding Miss Mia and Mr. Cassian strictly!"

In the face of grave danger, Denton did not think too much as he sold his nephew and the boy's girlfriend out in hopes of placating Jasper's anger.

“What’s the meaning of this, Uncle Denton?!” Cassian shouted, his complexion pale.

“Shut up!”

Denton glared at Cassian harshly and roared, “I wouldn’t have been dragged into this if you didn’t act so bossy because of your relationship with me. No more calling me your uncle, you little brat! I don’t have a nephew like you!”

Cassian’s pupils contracted in disbelief at what his uncle said.

At that moment, all he could do was his anger and resentment on Mia.

“You b*tch! This is all your fault! I wouldn’t have gotten involved in this if not for you!”

Mia paled when Cassian roared at her.

Despite her ability to scheme and be a snob, she was just an ordinary university student and she had never experienced such an aggressive scolding before.

She did not dare to say anything after Cassian shouted a that, and all she could do was tremble in place.

“That is enough.”

Jasper said calmly. He turned to Dorian and continued, “Mr. Clem, whether today’s incident is due to the university’s lack of regulations or because someone is trying to slander the school is the university’s internal affairs.

“I’m sure that the university has an extensive set of rules to deal with these issues, so an outsider like me will refrain from interfering too much.”

Dorian let out a deep exhale when he heard Jasper’s words.

It seemed that at the moment, Jasper had no desire to further press the issue.

Dorian would be put in a difficult place if Jasper did. “Alright, then, Mr. Laine. I’ll make sure to give you a satisfactory reply,” Dorian replied seriously.

“Whether I’m satisfied or not doesn’t matter. The students’ satisfaction comes first.”

Jasper replied meaningfully.

Dorian's gaze sharpened on Denton and he said grimly, "Mr. Denton May, I suggest you make preparations to explain yourself to the university board!"

After that, he turned to Mia, Stan, and the rest and said fiercely, "The university is a sacred place for learning. It is not a place for you people to conspire and be immoral!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1116

“While Hoofmorn University doesn’t require every single one of its students to be geniuses or to become formidable figures in society, we require that our graduates be upright members of society at the very least!”

“The four of you will be monitored, and this incident will appear in your report cards as a demerit. Stan and Cassian, this is your senior year, yes? If you still want your graduation certificates, then I suggest both of you self-reflect and think about what you did wrong!” Dorian’s words had Mia and the other three completely shocked.

Especially Stan and Cassian, who had never expected this incident to affect their graduation.

In the current era, a university graduate, especially one from Hoofmorn University, was a huge boost to someone’s identity.

It could be said that if one was a graduate of Hoofmorn University, then getting an office job was already a given. People around them would also look at them with envy and admiration.

Demerits like these would follow them their entire lives and could never be erased.

Mia's complexion paled and she turned to look at Dorian frantically. Then, she turned to Jasper, and finally rushed toward Tiffany before falling to her knees with a thud.

"I'm sorry, Tiff. It's all my fault, I'm a sorry excuse for a human being. I shouldn't have bullied you!"

Mia wept and slapped herself as she spoke.

"I admit that I was envious of your branded clothing. I just wanted to pick on you-you didn't do anything wrong at all. I was just blowing up every minor issue. "You didn't steal my makeup, I intentionally framed you."

"I'm sorry! I'm a horrible person!"

"I can't have a demerit on my record or be monitored. My life will be over! My family will treat me like a disgrace if they found out, so please! Help me beg for mercy! Forgive me just this once!"

"I won't do it ever again. So please!"

Mia's begging was heartbreaking and Tiffany looked conflicted.

Mia looked pitiful as she continued to beg. Tiffany glanced at Jasper, but she did not know how to start.

“What’re you thinking about, silly girl? Now’s not the time for such nonsense.” Henry glanced at Tiffany. He had a feeling that if he didn’t nudge her in the right direction now, then this silly girl would become soft-hearted and excuse her. Hence, Henry spoke up before things got ugly.

Tiffany was stunned for a bit before she looked at Jasper. Seeing the crescent-eyed smile on the latter’s face, she immediately understood.

Tiffany was a smart girl, she just lacked the experience when it came to dealing with various situations. She was at lost on what to do, but she certainly was not stupid.

For example, now that Henry had reminded her, she immediately understood the situation. As Jasper had said, this was an issue classified under the university’s internal affairs and he was in no place to interfere.

Meaning that this incident would be handed over to Dorian, who would deal with the issues as per the university’s regulations. If she conceded and asked Jasper to spare them, she would be casting Jasper under the spotlight and into a difficult position.

‘Then what is he supposed to do?’

‘Jasper will be taking back his words if he agreed, thus completely going against his principles.’

‘But if he does not agree, me asking on Mia’s behalf would put him in a dilemma.’

After arriving at this thought, Tiffany immediately stepped back and distanced herself from Mia.

Mia was in despair when it happened.

“Alright. It’s time for us to leave, now,” Jasper said calmly.

“I’ll make a formal statement later,” Dorian said.

Jasper nodded, then he pulled up Tiffany and told Henry that they were leaving.

“Jasper, Erin’s my only friend here. Can I bring her with me?” Tiffany asked softly.

Jasper paused for a moment before he glanced at a shocked Erin a short distance away. Jasper immediately smiled and replied, “Of course. Bring your friend along then.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1117

Hoofmorn University canteen.

In the humongous university, there was a smaller area in the canteen with private rooms that allowed people to order food to dine-in; It was rather similar to restaurants and hotels in that regard.

It was currently lunchtime, so Jasper and the others then went to eat lunch at the canteen.

“I told you before, didn’t I? I told you to look for me if you have any troubles, so why’d you endure all this mistreatment alone over the past few days?”

Jasper finally brought it up while they ate.

Tiffany replied softly, “I didn’t want to be a bother.”

“There are many things that you may consider a bother for you, but require no more than a phone call from me to resolve. You have to contact me if similar situations arise again, alright?” Jasper said gently.

Tiffany nodded vigorously and replied, “Alright. Thank you, Jasper.”

“There’s no need to thank me.” Jasper smiled.

“Oh, would you prefer to live off-campus? I’ll just tell the university later,” Jasper asked.

Tiffany immediately shook her head. “No need. I’m fine living in the dorms.”

“But there’s no guarantee that another person like Mia won’t appear in the future if you continue to live in the dorms. The university’s huge, and there are all kinds of people out there.” Jasper felt doubtful.

“About that, the universities actually have high-end apartments for students from special or wealthy families,” Erin suddenly mustered the courage to speak, having been eating silently the entire time before this.

Jasper glanced at Erin and replied with a crescent-eyed smile, "That's great. I'll have Mr. Clem arrange for your stay at the high-end apartment then, Tiff. The environment there's better and it's still on campus, so it won't affect your studies."

"You seem to be quite close with Erin too, so the two of you can live together. But I think a dorm for two is enough, as you'll still be able to look out for each other then. I'll have someone talk to Mr. Clem about the fees and procedures."

Erin was ecstatic when she heard Jasper say this.

While the university did not function with the main goal of making a profit in mind, some wealthier students were still given special treatment.

This meal they were having now cost half of what normal students paid for meals throughout the entire month. Normal dorms cost only a few hundred a year, but these high-end apartments cost one to two thousand a month.

Erin was just a child from a normal family, and she had never thought about living in a high-end apartment before this.

Hence, she had not expected to one day get to live in one thanks to Tiffany.

Jasper took in Erin's secret rejoice and turned to ask Tiffany with a smile, "What do you think of this arrangement?"

Tiffany nodded and replied, "It's good. I'll go with your plan, Jasper."

"Alright, then. Now that that's over, let's eat," Jasper picked up his cutlery and said.

Jasper and Henry then walked around campus alongside Tiffany and Erin after lunch. Then, Jasper contacted Mr. Clem about changing the accommodation before the two ladies went back to pack up and move away.

After all that was done, Jasper and Henry returned to the hotel.

Once they walked out the campus doors, Henry turned to grin at Jasper and say, "That Erin girl. No matter how I look at it, she's definitely the scheming kind. Are you sure Tiffany can handle her?"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1118

Jasper replied calmly, "I have no qualms with her being a little smart, but the last thing I want is someone too stupid. What I need is someone who can be Tiff's friend for the four years she'll be spending in university. Her being benefited doesn't matter much to me. I'll only be concerned if she meets some idiot like that Mia again."

“Moreover, scheming or not, it’s still Tiff’s life. I can’t do everything for her, so she’s going to have to deal with it herself.”

As Jasper and Henry returned to the hotel to rest, someone else was in a horrible mood.

“Mr. Ball, that’s the situation now. The entire stock market is very calm and we’ve already identified some entities that bought shares secretly. It’s not a large amount, but we’ve got our eyes on them in case they make a move.”

Alban waved off the subordinate who was reporting the situation as the furrow in his brows deepened.

“Three days. Every hour is important, but Jasper’s not doing anything at all. What’s he trying to do?”

Alban had always prided himself on having mental prowess just as impressive, or even more impressive than anyone else. Yet, here he was, confused by Jasper’s lack of action.

Like everyone else, Alban thought that Jasper would make a huge move this morning when the market opened.

The man would either buy Seatreasures Group's shares like crazy and find an opportunity to sell it short, or he would try and affect Seatreasures Group's share price with pieces of negative news.

Despite this, the morning trading hours had now ended and the market was currently closed for lunch, yet there was still no sign of Jasper.

This was an illogical move, which had caused Alban to not stop frowning since this morning.

"It can't be that simple."

Dudley snorted beside him and grabbed a piece of watermelon to pop inside his mouth. The man said proudly, "He must've given up. His claim wasn't realistic, to begin with, and it's bad enough that he decided to make a bluff. Why would he jump into the fire and screw himself over after that?"

Alban harrumphed. He glared at Dudley's uncaring behavior and said disappointedly, "When will you stop being so stupid?"

"Who do you think Jasper is? If he dared to say something like that last night, then it means that he'll make a move. Otherwise, Jasper can forget about ever doing business in the country again. You think Jasper can't decide on the right course of action in this situation?"

“Don’t use your stupid brain to try and predict what other people are thinking. Especially when it’s Jasper we’re talking about His behavior is something your dumb brain will never be able to understand.”

Dudley felt embarrassed after Alban reprimanded him without restraint. With a dark expression, he said, “Dad, do you have to go so far when you boast about an outsider’s intellect that you need to talk down on your own son?”

“It’s obvious now that Jasper gave up. He knows that throwing his funds into the market won’t cause a dip in Seatreasures share price and he’ll only end up losing what he puts in. There’s no way he’d do something so stupid.”

Alban harrumphed and said irritably, not in the mood to further explain to Dudley, “Shut up, will you? You useless excuse of a son. Jasper’s two years younger than you and look at the difference between you two!”

Dudley got up furiously, and said, “Then have fun looking at the stock market on your own. I’m going out.”

“You’re spending time with that Lisa again? I’m warning you, that woman isn’t as plain as you think. She’s been using you all this while, so keep your distance.”

Dudley was about to say something when the office doors were suddenly pushed open.

A subordinate entered the room hastily and almost knocked Dudley onto the floor.

Dudley was about to scold the man when the subordinate in question reported with an utterly terrified tone. “Mr. Ball, something bad is happened! Swallow Capital released a statement to that they’re attempting to rectify the pharmaceutical industry!”

“They’re putting a stop to all rebates pharmaceutical companies offer doctors, with the goal of specifically targeting the collusions these doctors have with hospitals to squeeze customers of their money!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1119

“Mr. Ball, three investigative teams have already arrived at the group and they’re currently combing through our accounts. Everyone in the group is terrified, Mr. Ball. What do we do now?”

The subordinate asked Alban.

Alban was stunned by the sudden news.

He had been doing business for decades and he believed that he had experienced his fair share of ups and downs. Yet, he still felt frantic when he heard this news. It had been years since he last felt like this.

Alban's expression was very dark.

As the chairman, he had single-handedly and slowly brought the Seatresures Group up from a small pharmaceutical factory about to go bankrupt, to the magnificent business it was today. He was well aware of how many unclean trades his group had done over the years.

The money he gave those doctors and hospitals as rebates alone amounted to more than one billion!

Should this be discovered, Alban would be the first one to be crushed and destroyed.

"Calm down!" Alban slammed his palm on the table and said.

No one knew if this roar was directed at himself or his subordinate.

Alban then paced around the study irritable before he replied darkly, "Tell all senior executives in the group, the vice-chairman and the general managers of all departments that they are to remain calm!"

"If those investigative groups want to investigate, then cooperate, but make sure that things they should not see remain a secret."

“Go!”

After he shouted at the frantic subordinate to leave, Alban frowned deeply as his gaze flickered.

Dudley also realized the severity of the situation and he asked, “Dad, could this be one of Jasper’s tricks?”

“Bullsh*t! ”

Alban scolded, “What do you think is happening now? Swallow Capital has directly given the order for officials to enter the group and start investigating.”

“You think Jasper is some crown prince? The government would not let anyone interfere with something like this. They’ve already been preparing it for a long time.

“Half a year ago, I caught wind that the government was going to investigate the medical treatment and pharmaceutical industries. I just didn’t expect it to come so quickly and at such a coincidental time!”

Alban took a deep breath to suppress the unease within him. He picked up his phone and made a few subsequent calls.

Despite this, it seemed like the formidable figures he was close friends with all seemed to be outstation or in a meeting now. None of them were reachable.

After hanging up the last call, Alban threw the telephone on the floor.

“These b*stards! All of you fawn over me when I’m handing out benefits, but now you’re all choosing to go missing!”

Dudley piped up cautiously, “What now, Dad?”

“I have to go back to the group immediately, or they’ll be in chaos without someone to lead them.” Then Alban grabbed his clothes and immediately had someone prepare a car and a plane.

“You stay here in Waterhoof City. Do not cause me more problems. I don’t have the time and effort to deal with you now.”

Alban warned Dudley sternly before he left.

Dudley nodded and replied, “Don’t worry, Dad. Rest assured, I have a sense of propriety.”

“I sure hope so.”

...

This notice from the country’s government had come extremely suddenly.

Not even people in the medical industry had gotten wind of it before this, let alone outsiders.

All inspections of pharmaceutical enterprises and medical treatment facilities around the country were set off almost simultaneously after the statement was released.

The industry was instantly in complete chaos.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1120

Countless people were taken in straight from their homes and workplaces to aid in the investigations.

The people getting brought away were mostly heinous individuals with a mountain of evidence proving their dirty work. These were people that would certainly be thrown in jail after they had gone through the formal procedures.

This storm wreaked through the entire country and it almost flipped the medical treatment industry and pharmaceutical enterprises on its head.

As one of the first five largest privately-owned pharmaceutical industries, the Seatresures Group was pretty much in the eye of this storm.

At the same time, countless people slammed their palms on the table and exclaimed that even the heavens were helping Jasper when they saw the news.

The stock market, known to be the most sensitive measure when it came to news regarding the world's industries, had already begun to react.

The moment the statement was released, the pharmaceutical sector's index began to plummet. All share prices of listed enterprises relating to medicine began to crash.

Shares of the largest privately-owned pharmaceutical enterprises in the country began to tank, spearheaded by Seatresures Group. Not even investors or organizations could hold on to their stocks once news of officials investigations of those enterprises broke.

Sell!

Sell!

Sell!

Everyone immediately sold their shares of the relevant enterprises.

At this moment, shares of pharmaceutical enterprises were like hot potatoes that nobody wanted to hold.

The share prices were dyed a tragic red, and the blood-like color representing the disintegration of an astronomical amount of funds that had been invested in the pharmaceutical enterprises.

The harsh drop in the pharmaceutical sector caused an overall drop in the larger market as well.

Everyone was instantly terrified.

While Harbor Stock's situation was not as tragic as the domestic class A securities market, Seatreasures Group's share price was still drowning in a sea of red.

Investors were not idiots, and countless people immediately began to sell their own shares once news got out. No one dared to fight the market at such a time.

The mystical sight of only sales and not buy-ins subsequently appeared.

Seatreasures Group's market price dropped by 3 billion in half an hour!

At that moment, Jasper had already returned to the hotel and was in a video call with Jake.

"Mr. Laine, it's just too startling. Other than the financial tsunami stock crisis and the bursting of the dot-com bubble, I've never seen shares prices drop so fast before. We've already achieved the 10% drop that you aimed for today!"

Jake's voice was laced with shock and respect.

He finally understood why Jasper asked him not to make too big a movement. He had bought shares back then, and without doing anything at all, the funds had already dropped by 10%.

Moreover, this drop in share price seemed to be just a small part of an ongoing trend. No one knew how much money would be left in the end.

Jasper's laptop screen displayed the trendline of Seatresures Group's share price on Harbor Stocks.

As of this moment, Seatresures Group's share price had already hit the limit down. Millions of sell-out orders had resulted in Seatresures Group's share prices lying unmovingly at the limit down.

Jasper smiled softly and asked, "What do you think we should do next?"

Jake was stunned by Jasper's sudden question.

'Next?

'There's still more to come?

'Wasn't the deal just to cause a 20% drop in Seatresures Group's share prices within three days?'

'From the way things look, Seatreausers Group's share prices will definitely hit limit down tomorrow no matter what. By the end of tomorrow, the 20% goal will be easily achieved without us needing to do anything.

'What more do we need to do?'

"There's no way Alban will go down so easily. After all, Seatreausers Group is listed on Harbor Stocks and he is in a much better position than the other pharmaceutical enterprises listed as domestic class A shares," Jasper said calmly.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1121

Jake immediately understood after Jasper explained. At the same time, he felt a little sad.

He realized that the distance between him and Jasper was just too large.

He had not thought of such an important point at all, and had only realized it after Jasper had reminded him. “Don’t think too much about it. We’re looking at the issue from two different angles, so it’s only natural we understand the issue differently.”

“From a financial trader’s point of View, there’s nothing wrong with your opinion. But Alban and I are both entrepreneurs, so we’ll look at the issue from more than just the financial perspective.”

Jasper seemed to have seen through Jake’s thoughts. His calm words comforted Jake greatly.

“Still, Mr. Laine, my vision is was too narrow. I’ll make sure to do better next time,” Jake replied genuinely.

Jasper smiled. He was satisfied with Jake’s attitude.

As his businesses continues to grow, Jasper would start to demand more of the people around him. If these people could not grow with JW, then they would have to be eliminated eventually.

Jake seemed to understand this concept from the way he behaved.

“Seatresures Group is Alban’s life blood; his life and wealth all depend on that business. So there’s no way he’ll just stand by and watch as Seatresures Group crumbles to ruin.”

“The most important thing now is to understand what the government is thinking.”

“The economy of privately-owned enterprises is controlled mainly by the market, this is an absolute law. The government’s goal is just to rectify the shady business practices in the medical treatment industry so that citizens can purchase medication in a relatively fair environment. They’re setting up the framework for future health insurance reformation.”

“Thus, we can see that the government’s goal has never been to destroy privately-owned pharmaceutical enterprises.”

“This is a concept both Alban and I understand.”

“Because of this, the government will allow a large privately-owned enterprise like Seatresures Group some room to save themselves. They might even give the group some time to deal with their issues.”

Jake frowned when he heard Jasper’s analysis. “Mr. Laine, you mean that the Seatresures Group won’t fall?”

“Definitely not.” Jasper shook his head.

The truth from his past life was that even though Seatresures Group had made a huge loss in this incident, they did not close down, nor did they even exit the market. Their market price had only dropped badly.

In this life, Jasper’s vision and knowledge surpassed that of his past life, when he was a mere employee in the financial industry. He had a more unique and deeper understanding of problems now.

Hence, he was certain that the Seatresures Group would come out of this incident heavily wounded but still alive.

“I’m sure Alban and the government will arrive at some level of understanding shortly. That’ll be the time Alban cleans up this mess and starts to stop his share price from collapsing further. This will happen any moment now.”

“Both Alban and the government know very well that the capitalist market can change drastically within a split second. It’s already been affected badly and there’s no saying how Seatreasures Group’s future is going to end up if they didn’t attempt to save it as fast as possible.”

“No one can guarantee the future of a listed enterprise because no one can be certain of investors’ thoughts.”

Jake’s eyes shone as he exclaimed, “If that’s the case, then now’s the perfect time to open a long account!”

Jasper laughed out loud and replied, “Now you understand. The Seatreasures Group will go to great lengths just to save their market cap. So instead of thinking that I want to win the bet between Alban and me, how about I say that I want some of the money that Seatreasures Group has been accumulating over all these years.”

“I know what to do now, Mr. Laine,” Jake replied firmly.

Jasper nodded and said, “Then let’s get to work.”

Henry who had been in the room, lying on the couch the entire time, glanced at Jasper and said, “What the f*ck. I did not understand a single word.”

“You can transfer your money over now,” Jasper said with a smile.

“No, but how did you know about something big like this in advance?” Henry asked curiously.

Jasper simply replied, “That’s why I told you to read the news more. There’s nothing wrong with being more attuned to current affairs. Important information is always hidden among these seemingly unimportant pieces of news.”

“The country’s been heavy on health insurance lately, which is a matter of citizen’s livelihoods. It’s great that the country wants to make its people’s lives better, but in order to do that, they’d have to put an end to all the shady businesses in the industry. This is the very foundation of their plan.”

“If you link all these details together, the conclusion is pretty clear to see. I just happened to be pretty lucky that such a thing was occurring now.”

No one would know about Jasper’s reincarnation anyway, so the man had no qualms about lying to Henry so blatantly.

Henry felt lightheaded when he heard the man, then quickly transferred the 3.7 million he had saved until now into the account Jasper had opened.

All he knew was the number of the account he needed to transfer his money to. Everything else flew completely over his head.

“What’s with such a complicated number?” Jasper looked at the account and asked confusedly.

Henry’s cheeks flushed. “F*ck you. I only left 20 thousand for myself, I transferred you everything else.”

“I have never seen such an extreme young master like you,” Jasper shook his head and transferred the sum to Jake. He told the other to do additional calculations based on a 5 million principal, then distribute the profits to Henry based proportionately.”

“How much can we earn this time?” Henry asked excitedly.

“I’ve been frustrated, thinking about where I’m supposed to get the money to pay for that stupid plane’s parking and maintenance fee next month.”

Jasper gave it some thoughts and smiled. “Counting your percentage on the principal sum of 5 million, and considering the fact that Seatreasures Group had earned a lot of dirty money over the past few years, I predict that they’ll have to take out at least eighty percent of their capital for this. If we’re lucky, your 5 million will turn into 10 million in two day’s time.”

“F*ck! Seatresures Group is with 40 billion on the market. What do we have to do to make twice the initial amount?” Henry asked irritably.

“Be grateful we even have this opportunity. Those organizations and hot money traders haven’t realized anything yet, but once Alban makes a move and news of this get out, they’ll all rush over for the grab a piece of Seatresures Group.”

“We’ll still earn something because we came in early, but soon there’ll be nothing left for the other small investors,” Jasper replied calmly.

People did not compete over who was more stupid in the capitalist market, only who was craftier.

In the blink of an eye, Seatresures Group had become a slab of meat worth 40 billion that everyone wanted a taste of.

Jasper got up and stretched. Then, he walked to the hotel’s broad floor-to-ceiling windows. He looked out at the luxurious city view of Waterhoof City and murmured to himself, “This is the appeal of possessing capital.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1122

Seatreasures Group.

Alban had rushed over from Waterhoof City as quickly as possible to deal with the unease within the group.

Still, as Jasper had predicted, Alban knew that his Seatreasures Group was big enough that the government would not completely crush him, be it for the sake of tax or thousands of employees' livelihoods.

While his Seatreasures Group was no more than an insignificant ant to the government, the government still had to act in a way that benefited everybody.

Hence, despite his Seatreasures Group appearing to be in a perilous position, it was actually pretty stable.

After understanding this, Alban immediately tried to contact the government through the investigative groups.

He finally managed to get rid of two out of the three investigative groups. Meanwhile, Seatreasures Group also lost one vice president, two senior-level managers, and six middle-level employees. These people were found guilty of corruption.

These people were scapegoats that Seatreasures Group had thrown out.

Even so, they were not completely innocent, since they had indeed bribed hospitals and doctors on behalf of the company.

“I hope that you don’t blame me for this. Even if you’d done it with the group’s interest in mind, you’ve also reaped your share of the benefits.”

Alban stood in his office in the group building and looked down at his subordinates that were being escorted into the cars. His expression was neither sad nor elated.

Just then, the office doors were opened, and a shrewd and capable middle-aged man walked in.

“Mr. Ball, I’ve already drafted the statement that is to be released by the Harbor Stocks Securities Regulatory Commission. Please have a look. ”

Alban took the statement and gave it a closer look. He corrected the statement word-by-word and changed some terms that he found unsuitable. It was obvious how important this statement was to them.

“This statement will directly affect the trust Harbor Stock’s investors have in our group. We have to make sure we don’t slip up.

“I want the investors to know that even though something had happened with the Seatreasures Group, there’s nothing wrong with its core decision-making team. The group’s businesses will not be affected, and we are still a reliable and safe option for investment.”

The middle-aged man smiled wryly when he heard Alban’s words and replied, “But the market has already lost their trust in us. Our Seatreasure Group’s share price is currently locked on the limit down.”

Alban’s brows twitched. “The group will invest more and we’ll begin recycling our shares.”

The middle-aged man was stunned, and he replied, “Mr. Ball. While recycling our shares now will reignite trust in the investors, there are just too many of them throwing away Seatreasures Group’s shares. We might have to invest billions to do so.”

“Then so be it!”

Alban clenched his jaw and said grimly, “The government has decided to rectify the medical treatment system. From here on out, working in the pharmaceutical industry won’t be as smooth-sailing as before.”

“Medicine is still Seatreasure’s core business, but after what happened this time, I’ve also decided to shift the group vision to walk a more diverse path.”

“The moment the government begins their rectification of the medical treatment system, the coming health insurance reform will make it such that most normal medication will fall under the cover of health insurance. This means they will be bought by the government. Profits of our pharmaceutical enterprise will become very transparent while competition within the industry will only grow tougher.”

“A harsh will sweep over the entire pharmaceutical industry, such that everyone will have to be more frugal. We’ll be walking a path with little profits but high turnover.”

Alban sighed deeply. “The time of greedy development in this industry is over. The government wants to make its people’s lives easier, so there’s no going against that!”

“The entire pharmaceutical industry can’t fight against the government even if we teamed up, let alone Seatreasures Group itself. Whoever tries to do something so foolish will meet an early end so we have no other option but to go along.”

“I predict that the electronics market is going to be huge in the future. Technology is improving rapidly, and people’s lives seem to be becoming increasingly intertwined with these electronics. That’s why we have to take JW’s MP5 patented technology!”

“Because of this, Seatreasures Group’s market prices cannot continue to drop tomorrow. We have to rescue the market no matter what!”

One had to admit that Alban had his own set of unique capabilities as well. After all, the man had managed to turn Seatreasures from a small pharmaceutical factory into one of the top five largest private-owned enterprises in the country's pharmaceutical industry.

Be it his deduction of the pharmaceutical industry's future, or with electronics and data, he had managed to develop perfect foresight.

This proved that Alban's success was not without reason.

"How much liquid funds are there in the group?"

The shrewd and capable man replied, "We have around 2.2-2.5 billion liquid funds right now. If we need more, then we'll have to consider taking a bank loan or asking our debtors to pay up early."

"According to the current situation, I personally suggest investing around 2 billion into the market. If things go well and we manage to raise the share prices to the initial value before the incident, then our group's daily operations won't be affected."

"But the moment we use more than 2.5 billion funds, the company will face the issue of a capital chain rupture."

Alban's expression darkened.

This 2 billion was profit the group had set aside after the past two years of expansion. The principal capital was included in this amount.

While Seatresures Group was worth 40 billion on the market, this market value was purely from an accounting perspective. The 40 billion included fixed assets like inventory, factories and machinery, office buildings, patented technology, and so on.

The larger the company was, the more the expenses it accrues. After all, shipment of raw materials, company operation, and wages were all expenses that needed to be paid. Seatresures Group, for example, had about 60 million in monthly expenses.

Moreover, there was nothing strange about monthly expenses reaching the hundred of millions if a manufacturing line needed to be renewed.

Because of all this, it was by sheer coincidence that Seatresures Group could spare 2 billion right now.

"Has Jasper made any moves?" Alban asked.

The middle-aged man shook his head and replied. "He's remained dormant and there haven't been any movements from his side."

"Maybe he's already waiting for Seatreasure's share prices to continue dropping to the limit down tomorrow. That way he'd get to win the bet with you without doing a thing, Mr. Ball."

Alban sneered. "He is still a young man, after all. He hasn't gotten enough experience. He thinks that just because he's lucky that he gets to rest easily. Sure, luck matters in society, but the thing that truly decides the winner will always be a person's capabilities."

"Since he's decided to do nothing but wait, then there's no need for us to worry too much either. I've already amended the statement, so release it tomorrow morning the moment Harbor Stocks' market opens!"

"We'll release the statement at the same time the group begins to recycle its shares. I'll make sure Jasper fails horribly this time!"

The middle-aged man was energized, and he replied loudly, "Yes, sir! I'll get to it right away!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1123

No matter how many people had their eyes glued to the situation, father time did not wait.

The following morning, when the sun rose, countless professionals were already sitting in front of their computers half an hour early as they waited for the market to open.

They knew that one day was not enough to show the full severity of this storm involving both the medical system and pharmaceutical enterprises.

All these listed pharmaceutical companies were huge businesses, and there was no way they would be willing to watch their share price fall without intervening.

If two opposing parties were respectively trying to raise and drop share prices, then the situation would develop into a cash grab for capitalists. A bloody battle was about to commence!

Countless people were anticipating today's market; they knew that havoc would wreak through the stock market today.

Due to its huge market cap as well as the bet with Jasper, Seatreasures Group's market was the most attractive target.

Seatreasures Group on Harbor Stocks even vaguely seemed to have the air of a leading enterprise in the pharmaceutical industry.

Thus, both investors and organizations had all tacitly begun to pay attention to Seatreasures Group's trendline half an hour before the market even opened.

It was 10 a.m., and Harbor Stocks officially began trading for the day.

The moment the clock struck 10 a.m., the computing center immediately gathered all auction stage data and the trendline for the share price began to move.

"Seatreasures Group dropped by 1 index point since the market opened."

Jake's report sounded by Jasper's ears. Seatreasures Group's share price continued to drop!

Jasper and Henry were in the hotel study. They placed a projector in the study so they could project and look at Seatreasures Group's trendline on the wall.

Another large screen showed Jake and his team of traders bustling about.

“Enter the market,” Jasper instructed.

Henry was stunned for a moment. While he had no understanding of finance at all, he had learned quite a bit from Jasper just from being by his side. Hence,

Henry could at least understand the data on the market.

“There’s still a lot of sell orders. Everyone’s trying to sell out the shares they have on hand, so the share prices will definitely keep dropping. Won’t we make a loss if we enter now?”

Henry piped up since he functioned on the principle of asking when he did not understand something.

Jasper wanted Henry to become familiar with these simple tricks in the securities market, so he replied. “Making a loss is guaranteed the moment we enter the market, but it won’t be a huge loss. Alban’s in more of a rush than we are. Besides, if we wait until we no longer

will make a loss before we enter the market, that would mean that Seatresures Group’s share prices have already begun to rise. We won’t be left with much if we wait until then to enter.”

Henry only seemed to vaguely understand Jasper's explanation.

At that moment, Jake had already begun to carry out Jasper's instruction.

A huge buy order entered the market

Amidst the countless sell orders, this buy order seemed especially eye-catching.

The numbers continued to move and the funds on Jasper's accounts began to drop horrifyingly fast.

Replacing them were a mountain of Seatreasures International Group shares.

Under the scrutiny of countless pairs of eyes, Jasper's action had stirred all sorts of reactions.

Jasper's and Alban's bet was no longer a secret, and Jasper's account was well-known in the industry.

Thus, some organizations and investors were stunned when they saw Jasper buy in with such a large number of shares.

“What the f*ck. I thought Jasper wanted Seatresures Group’s share prices to drop? Instead of shorting his account, why is he buying more? Is Jasper crazy?!”

“Seatresures Group’s share prices had been plummeting since the market opened. Rather than Alban himself, the first order to rescue the market actually came from his enemy, Jasper?! What’s he trying to do?”

“Maybe Jasper made the wrong trade? Maybe he ended up buying when he was trying to sell?”

This was not the first time someone acted against the market trend. In fact, the largest fat-finger transaction had involved more than one billion funds, happening abroad.

While countless people wondered if Jasper had gone mad, a large professional organization seemed to have understood what Jasper was trying to do.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1124

“You used to be really low-profile and careful with every other listed company you tried to screw over before. So, why’re you making such large movements this time?”

Henry seemed to have transformed into a curious child as he repeatedly asked Jasper questions.

“The Seatresures Group is too huge, and we alone cannot devour all of it. If anything, it’s highly likely that we’re going to get screwed over instead if we try.

Thus, I have to put myself out in the open in hopes of attracting more capital to the pool.

“The last thing the capitalist market lacks is smart people. Everyone will come to a tacit understanding in the blink of an eye. After all, chances like this to earn such huge sums of money are rare.”

Jasper explained with a smile.

Just as Jasper finished speaking, Jake’s voice rang out as well.

“Mr. Laine, there are other large buy orders. I suspect that an organization has entered the market.”

“I’ve traced the source of the funds. It’s one of the country’s large organizations.”

“Good.”

Jasper nodded in satisfaction. Then, he turned to Henry, who was in awe, and said.

“See, the smart people have already entered the market. We were the first and our initial investment was sizeable. Because of this, these organizations will surround us to form a temporary group. This group will soon suck Seatresures of every penny it is worth.”

“Wow! ” Henry exclaimed genuinely.

He had a sudden epiphany about how weak his previous methods of asserting dominance were as he resorted to disrespecting and beating people up.

Meanwhile, Jasper had managed to take control over the financial market during their joyful conversation, or at the very least, seized control of the 40 billion Somer Dollar

market of a huge group like Seatresures. This was a transaction worth billions of dollars. This was

true power.

His methods on the other hand...

They were nothing more than child's play.

At that moment, Harbor City Securities Regulatory Commission released a statement.

There were three main points in the statement.

Firstly, it revealed that Seatresures Group was currently under government investigation.

Secondly, it promised and guaranteed that Seatresures Group's day-to-day operations would not be affected. It stated that the core management team had already passed the investigation and there would not be any huge personnel changes.

Thirdly, it stated that Seatresures Group would recycle their 2 billion worth of shares.

With this statement, Seatresures Group's share prices were instantly thrown into chaos.

The moment 2 billion of Seatresures Group's own funds entered the market, the share prices were instantly stabilized. This was thanks to Jasper and the other organizations that had entered the market beforehand.

The tragic red of Seatresures Group's share prices suddenly reverted into a green trend again.

It had only been three minutes since the statement was released and Seatresures Group before had recovered and turned the tables.

From a low opening price, the shares began to rise, with the trend predicting further increases that were soon to come.

Far away in Seatresure Group's headquarters in Teo City, Alban was enraged when he saw this.

“Dammit! These greedy b*stards! Jasper you b*stard, so you were waiting for this all along!”

Seatreasures Group’s share price had indeed stopped dropping. Alban had achieved his goal, but all of this had happened too quickly and easily.

While he had managed to avert the crisis, the current situation was not something Alban wanted to see.

What he needed was for Seatreasures Group’s share prices to start rising again thanks to the group’s own funds.

However, the rise right now was thanks to Jasper and that group of opportunistic organizations, with the former leading the latter.

In other words, Jasper and those large capitalist organizations were like eager jackals, ready to devour the entire 2 billion that Alban had invested at a moment’s notice!

Life at The Top – Chapter 1125

“Mr. Ball, what do we do now?”

The shrewd and capable man felt lost as he stared at the situation before him. Even if Alban was currently enraged, he had no other option but to muster the courage and ask.

Alban panted heavily and replied harshly, “This was Jasper’s objective all along. He predicted that this would happen, and we’ve been forced into a dead-end. There’s no way to turn this around, so we can only march forward even if it spells our end.”

“Which means...”

The middle-aged man had a sour look on his face.

“Even if we know that Jasper and the rest are going to devour our money, we can’t do anything to stop them?”

Alban closed his eyes. His chest felt tight, and he replied painfully, “Jasper, oh, Jasper. I’ve really underestimated this little brat. Is he really just in his twenties?”

“I suppose it’s only right, he did make his first profit through the stock market.”

Alban thought back to the night a few days ago. He remembered how Jasper had told him with vigor, confidence, and decisiveness that he had made his first big money through the stock market.

Everyone there thought that Jasper was a moron, including himself.

Yet, now Alban finally understood. Jasper was truly skilled.

Forced into a corner, Alban clenched his jaw and pulled out his phone to make a call.

The phone ring for a long time before it connected. Alban began with a grim tone, “Gale, something went wrong with our partnership and now Jasper’s coming for my head. You can’t just let me die like this.”

Gale chuckled and replied, “We had agreed before that the partnership was a one-off thing, regardless of whether it succeeded or failed. Whether or not he is coming after you has nothing to do with me.”

Alban was enraged. “Are you really not going to help me, Old Master Hurlbutt? Aren’t you afraid that the person in Harbor City will cause your trouble?”

Gale replied calmly, "My relationship with them goes no further than a mere partnership. One that has nothing to do with you."

"Moreover, you think he would trouble me because of you? You really think that because I have retired and decided not to involve myself in business matters that you bullsh*t businesspeople from Teo have the power to compete with the Haddock Chamber of Commerce?"

"Alban, as an old man, let me tell you something. Just stop here. You might not believe what I am about to tell you.

"After the forum that night, Jasper had already predicted the events that would unfold today, as well as your attempts at contacting me to further our partnership. Even so, he gave me a little piece of information."

"You have something to hold over me, yes?"

Alban was horrified by what he heard. Mouth and eyes agape, he stood blankly in place.

"He called me that night. I know that he was trying to pit us against each other and end all possibilities of us cooperating again. But even if he did not do that, there is no way I would work together with you again. This is because you are just a discarded pawn to me."

After Gale finished speaking, Alban heard the beeping of a disconnected line.

Crash.

Alban's phone fell to the floor. He was completely stunned.

At that moment, the shrewd and capable man suddenly shouted in a panic, "Mr. Ball! Jasper and the others have made their move!"

Alban's head snapped over to the market index.

He instantly saw that the column for sell orders was instantly filled, even though it was almost empty mere moments ago. Transactions now filled the column like a swarm of bees.

Seatreasures Group's share prices had begun to give again, less than an hour after it showed a bullish trend from a low opening price.

Instead of a dive, it would be more accurate to call this a plummet.

The share prices resembled a crashing plane as it plummeted from the heavens.

Without needing to think, Alban knew that Jasper had made his move.

After Jasper had made the first move, the other organizations followed suit.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1126

Seatresures Group's share price plummeted.

"What do we do now, Mr. Ball?"

Alban felt lightheaded and his lips dried up.

"Save it! Quick!" Alban shouted heart-wrenchingly.

Seatresures Group's share price could not fall at that moment. The statement about the group entering the market with their funds was just released to the public, so if the share prices continued to fall, it meant their self-rescue plan was a failure.

Seatresures Group would end up being abandoned by the market and completely lose the trust of their investors.

If that were to happen, Seatresures Group's shares would become trash that no one wanted.

If Seatresures Group was unable to gain income through the share market, then it would face the horrible fate of a capital chain rupture.

“Seatresures Group is still holding on, Mr. Laine.” Jake’s excited tone resonated through the study.

On the large projected screen, Seatresures Group’s market index looked very strange.

With Jasper leading the charge, the other large capitalist organizations soon began to sell their Seatresures Group’s shares crazily.

After this, many frantic retail investors followed suit and also exited the market.

The only people buying shares were the Seatresures Group themselves.

From the way the situation looked, it seemed like Seatresures Group was trying to fight against the capitalist market all by themselves.

Jasper and the organizations around him did not care about what would happen to Alban, nor did they care that the money they were earning were all the fruits of Seatresures Group’s hard work and business operations.

Jasper and the organizations were like bloodthirsty sharks as they circled the huge Seatreasures Group. They were ready to open their large mouths to bite and tear away at every inch of Seatreasures' flesh.

"The Seatreasures Group right now is like a juicy lamb standing on the edge of the cliff while being surrounded by wolves. The moment it steps backward, it'll fall to its death.

"But if it remains on the edge of the cliff, us wolves will continue to tear away at its flesh. It will hurt, but the lamb might not die. Hence, all it can do is stand in place and watch as the wolves bite away at him."

Jasper looked back at Henry, the latter's eyes shining brightly while his cheeks were slightly flushed. Jasper chuckled and said, "This is the capitalist market. What do you think?"

"So f*cking exciting!" Henry shouted, thrilled.

Jasper laughed out loud. He turned to Jake and said, "Increase the intensity. Have Seatreasures hit and stay at the limit down before the market closes for the morning session. He'll definitely come lip with a plan to save themselves during the lunch break. The victor will be decided this afternoon."

"Yes, Mr. Laine," Jake shouted excitedly. Then, he began to lead his team to short Seatreasures Group crazily.

Under Jasper's instruction, the capital frenzy reached its climax.

Thanks to Jasper, the organizations, and frantic retail investors, and the overall downward trend of Seatresures Group's share price were already set. No matter how desperately Alban strived to rescue the group, there was a limit to the funds under his control.

In just one morning, 15 minutes before the market closed for lunch, the 2 billion Seatresures Group had prepared completely vanished.

This meant that Jasper and the organizations had already won the round, and had managed to consume the 2 billion invested by Seatresures Group!

After devouring everything, this group of 'jackals' refused to stop as they continued to attack Seatresures Group's pitiful share price.

Over the next 15 minutes, Seatresures Group seemed to be unable to do anything as they hopelessly watched the share price continue to drop.

Without fresh funds entering the market, the group's share price hit the limit down three minutes before the market closed, where it remained unmoving.

The 1.5 million sell orders morphed into a metaphorical steel coffin, preventing Seatreasures Group's share price from moving anywhere.

By 12:30 in the afternoon, Harbor Stocks went on break, and the exchange center no longer accepted transactional requests.

The market was temporarily closed.

In one morning, Seatreasures Group's share prices had dropped another 10% from the day before. Including the 2 billion Seatreasures had invested today, Alban had lost more than 5 billion over the course of just one morning.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1127

“Holy f*cking sh*t! In just one morning, I turned 5 million into 8 million?!”

Henry was extremely excited.

This sudden wealth was too surprising and timely for Young Master Law, who was terrified of being broke.

“We should be able to earn even more in the afternoon; 10 million won’t be a problem at all. In fact, I think we can earn more than that.” Jasper laughed out loud.

Henry’s funds had nearly doubled, and the 1 billion Jasper invested had earned him around 800 million.

The incident had come right in the nick of time for Jasper, who was also going crazy from how broke he was.

“Let’s rest for now. We’ll continue when the market reopens later. After this is over, Jake, you’ll get half a year’s salary worth of bonus while everyone else will get three months’ worth.”

Jasper would not forget to help the others when he was earning money. Thus, he informed Jake and the team, who were busy analyzing data and information on the other end of the call, of this.

Jake was instantly elated. Jake did not care much about money and bonuses since he was already pretty well off. After all, as a financial investing genius, Jake had managed to become financially independent a long time ago.

Still, everyone loved earning more money.

Not to mention, members of his team still had to make a living and had families to feed.

Cheers immediately rang out and Jake replied with a smile, "Thank you, Mr. Laine."

Jasper waved him off and said, "Go eat lunch first. There'll be another battle in the afternoon."

Jake nodded and replied, "Alright, Mr. Laine. We're just going to analyze a bit more information so we'll have a better grasp of the battlefield in the afternoon later."

Jasper was very pleased with Jake's dedication, so he gave encouraged the man a little more before ending the video call.

"We should eat lunch downstairs as well," Jasper told Henry.

Meanwhile, Henry was still drowning in the excitement of making money.

"Seriously, Jasper. How about I pass you most of my money after this? You just need to give me a bit for allowance while you are holding it. A form of long-term financial management, if you will. What do you say?"

Henry was pleased at himself for thinking of such a comprehensive plan.

However, he did not expect Jasper to reject him right away.

Jasper brought Henry to the restaurant downstairs and replied unkindly, "Why do you think your dad's so strict with your allowance? He wants you to learn that money doesn't come easy, and he wants you to try and earn every buck by yourself."

"Just think about it. With your family's wealth, it's no issue for them to provide for a hundred of you, let alone just you alone. However, someone has to continue the family business one day."

"This is a form of training for you. If you park money with me for long-term financial management, then what? Am I supposed to give you allowance after that? I can spare you money for an emergency, but there's no way I'll be able to provide for you forever. Furthermore, I'm also scared that your dad will call to scold me."

Henry's expression darkened when he heard Jasper.

"Just marry my sister, then. All of the Law family's assets will go to you. There's no way we'd make a loss by doing so. Just remember to distribute dividends to me every year. I'm really not interested in doing business at all," Henry said bitterly.

“Look at my dad. He works all year long and only spends a few days a year at home. He’s busy every single second of the day, and so are you. Look at how boring your lives are.”

Jasper smiled but did not continue the conversation.

When it came to the Law family’s most important and sensitive interests, there was a limit to how much Jasper could say, regardless of how close his relationship with them was. He would be in trouble if he overstepped his boundaries.

Jasper had nothing but respect for Old Master Law and Mr. Law.

He had no desire to be involved in family businesses at all. If possible, Jasper was still willing to help Henry so that the other could continue the Law family business.

After all, Henry was a promising man, and if taught well, could accomplish great things.

The two, as well as Julian, did not go far, opting to order some food at the hotel restaurant instead.

They had just sat down, and some dishes had not even been served yet, when an uninvited guest arrived.

Dudley.

Like a rapid dog, Dudley seemed to have been waiting here for a long time. When he saw Jasper, the man immediately rushed over with reddened eyes.

Reacting instinctively, Julian grabbed Dudley's collar so that he could not approach Jasper.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1128

Dudley began to struggle maddeningly as he shouted at Jasper, “Jasper Laine, I hope you f*cking die!”

Dudley might just be a trust-fund child, but had long been aware that what happened this morning was inevitable. He also knew that his family business was in grave danger, and that all of this was Jasper's fault.

“You f*cking set me and my dad up. Are you even human?! I'm telling you, karma will get back at you for how cruel you are!”

Jasper looked at Dudley and slightly frowned.

He did not expect Dudley to still be in Waterhoof City, let alone to come look for him at the hotel.

Not that it mattered.

“Cruel? Even if I was cruel, I’m still miles away from people like you. Besides, didn’t your dad say it himself? It’s a privilege to lose in business. If you think of it that way, I come bearing gifts for you and your father. You’re welcome.”

Jasper’s words caused Dudley, who was already furious, to nearly lose his mind.

“Don’t act so proud, Jasper. People like you will be crushed one day! I’d like to see how pitiful you’d look then!” Dudley cursed him resentfully.

“Where’d this stupid f*cker come from?”

Henry was in a great mood before Dudley popped up and harassed him. Pissed, Henry swept his gaze over the man coldly and said, “Keep yapping and I will punch your teeth out. ”

Dudley’s eyes reddened with anger while the man panted so hard he seemed like he was going crazy.

He stared at Jasper and Henry, then roared, "Come on, then! If you think you're so powerful, hit me!"

"Oh, much braver this time, hmm?" Henry chuckled joyfully. He loved stubborn idiots like this the most because they were the most enjoyable to beat up.

He rolled up his sleeves to make a move, but Jasper quickly frowned at him.

Jasper looked at Dudley and asked calmly, "Where's Lisa? Call her out."

Dudley was stunned, and he replied instinctively, "What the f*ck are you talking about?"

"You wouldn't know about me staying here without her help," Jasper explained calmly.

"Lisa been using you to get rid of me the entire time. Don't you understand?"

Dudley had heard this line before.

His father Alban had told him the same thing before he left the day before.

He had ignored it then, but Dudley could not help but look back on the entire process again now.

He soon realized that Jasper was right, and that Lisa was just using him.

Lisa had been urging him to take revenge on Jasper the entire way over.

Once he realized this, Dudley clenched his jaw and growled, "That b*tch... but you aren't any better, Jasper!"

Jasper smiled calmly. "I didn't tell you this to let bygones be bygones and move on, since there's no point in doing so. I'm still waiting to destroy Seatreasures Group this afternoon, so why would I care about what you think of me?"

"Let's be honest, you can't do anything but shout at me uselessly here. You can do nothing to me at all."

Jasper's words cut deeply into Dudley's heart like a knife.

For the first time, Dudley regretted not building himself up more and waste away all his time on having fun.

At that moment, as he stood in front of Jasper, Dudley felt the full extent of his own powerlessness.

Jasper was powerful; the fate of Seatresures Group was now in his hands.

Despite this, Dudley could do nothing.

All he had done in this situation was mock Jasper before it happened and shout powerlessly at him after. Nothing more.

As Dudley was in despair, Jasper's voice sounded again. "Do you want to save Seatresures Group? This is your family business, and contains the fruits of your dad's entire life. It's all up to you now."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1129

Jasper's words brightened Dudley's infinitely dark world like a lightbulb.

He stopped shouting and struggling, opting to instead look at Jasper with eyes widened in disbelief.

Jasper was unsurprised by Dudley's reaction. He had Julian let go of the man as Jasper pointed at the empty chair before him and said, "If you're interested, how about we sit down and talk?"

Dudley could instinctively feel that Jasper had an ulterior motive. The man could not be so kind.

Yet, Jasper's offer was too tempting...

After some thought, Dudley walked over to Jasper and sat down.

"Very good. See? Now that we're off to a good start, we're already halfway there. I'm sure we'll have a very happy partnership." Jasper chuckled.

Dudley took a deep breath and asked, "Are you really willing to stop the attack, and rescue Seatreasures Group?"

Jasper waved him off and replied, "I don't mind stopping my attacks, but I don't have any say in letting Seatreasures Group off the hook."

Dudley was enraged and he accused, "So you really are lying to me! In that case, what partnership can there be?"

“The capitalist market has already started to encircle Seatresures Group. You wouldn’t believe me even if I told you that I could leave the market right now and have these predatory organizations finish the group off, would you?”

“It’d be a lie if I told you that I can save Seatresures Group.”

Dudley’s expression flickered drastically.

He might have been a useless trust-fund child, but he still had common knowledge of finance.

He also knew that Seatresures Group was currently being surrounded by hungry wolves, and that Jasper did not have the power to determine what would happen at such a time.

“But, if I leave the market, then you will have sliver of hope. All those other organizations want is to earn money. Seatresures Group just needs to take out a sum of money to feed them and they will stop their attack.”

“It would be a harsh blow to the group, but you will survive this incident.”

Jasper continued after he saw how Dudley had calmed down again.

Henry had a weird expression on his face when he heard Jasper's claim.

Jasper was absolutely horrible.

Henry remembered from Jasper's analysis that no matter what they did today, they would only be able to severely injure Seatreasures Group. After all, this was a comprehensive group worth 40 billion on the market; Completely destroying it was unrealistic.

Not to mention that they were a comprehensive group, meaning that they could always just halt trading at any moment and leave the market. Other than a heavy blow to their commercial reputation, they would not suffer too much.

Seatreasures Group would not die, not while their pharmaceutical factories, sales channels, and patented medical technology were still around.

Hence, Jasper had only ever planned to earn a sum of money and leave.

Yet, here the man was, using the difference in available information to make a trade. Jasper was using his initial plan as a bargaining chip to force Dudley to strike a deal to maximize his benefits.

What else, if not being absolutely horrible?

At the same time, Henry was also curious. He wanted to know what trash like Dudley could possibly offer Jasper.

What piqued Henry's curiosity also happened to be the same thing Dudley was confused about

"What do you want me to do?" Dudley asked.

Jasper rapped his finger against the table and went straight to the point. He did not hold anything back. "Don't you think that it's an eyesore to have a branch of Haddock's Chamber of Commerce in a place like Waterhoof City?"

Both Dudley and Henry sucked in a cold breath.

No one expected Jasper's secondary plan.

Dudley's stared at Jasper, his emotions unstable.

Jasper took a sip of tea casually and continued, "To put it plainly, I want you businesspeople from Teo to use your contacts and powers to completely get rid of Haddock Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City branch."

Dudley's eyes flickered in consideration.

"Businesspeople from Teo and Haddock have always been at each other's necks. Seatresures Group is set to receive heavy injuries this time around, and if you're not going to use this opportunity to weaken the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, then how are you going to fight them again in the future?"

Jasper's words had Dudley clenching his jaw as the latter replied, "I can't decide something so important myself. I have to discuss this with my dad."

"Go ahead," Jasper shrugged.

Dudley turned and left after hearing the reply. It seemed like he had walked off to contact Alban.

Alban's tone was harsh.

Jasper had never expected the same words he used to trick Dudley to also work on Alban. Despite this, Jasper smiled and replied, "You're too serious, Mr. Ball. They may be my enemy, but they are your enemy as well. Even more so than mine."

"You're right, Seatresures Group will still be Seatresures Group whether I pull out of the market or not. The question is, how much of Seatresures Group will be left?"

Alban answered darkly, "Stop trying to lie to me, Jasper. You must've earned quite a bit this afternoon, huh? How many of Seatreasures Group's shares do you still have in your account now?"

"If you're going to keep attacking this afternoon, then you're going to have to buy Seatreasures Group's shares first. You're going to end up throwing away all the profit you made if you attack the company again!"

"At the end of the day, it is all still is your money, Mr. Ball. The amount I earn doesn't really matter to me," Jasper replied.

Alban's breathing grew heavier on the other end of the line. The man was far from calm.

Jasper's words hit Alban where it hurt most.

"So, Mr. Ball. Will you chose to lose everything or will you opt for a win-win situation?" Jasper asked.

Alban sneered. "Win-win? More like you winning again."

Jasper chuckled but did not say any more.

He knew that Alban had already made his choice.

As expected, Alban replied grimly after a short moment of silence, "I hope you don't go back on your word."

"Don't worry. It's only an hour or so until the afternoon market reopens. I'll make sure to completely exit the market once it reopens," Jasper replied.

"Alright. I'll put pressure on the Haddock Chamber of Commerce once you pull out.

"But let me make it clear now. You explain this to Gale yourself."

Jasper replied calmly, "There's nothing to explain. This is the price he has to pay."

"Ha, what a cruel young man you are."

"You're making them fight each other. What a sinister play."

Henry told Jasper after Dudley left.

“Be it Teo Chamber of Commerce’s Sea treasures Group of Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s Gale. It’s going to be very difficult for us to deal with either of them alone, so we can only borrow external powers.”

Jasper shook his head calmly.

“Besides, this is a mutually beneficial relationship and they have no reason to decline.”

After a moment, Dudley returned and handed his phone to Jasper unkindly.

Alban wanted to speak to Jasper directly.

Jasper did not hesitate as he took the phone and placed it by his ear.

“Jasper. Dudley may be an idiot but do I look stupid to you too?”

“Seatreasures Group will still be Seatreasures Group whether you pull out of the market or not. You think that this is a good enough reason to let you use the Teo Chamber of Commerce to get rid of your enemy? Who do you take me for?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1130

Harbor Stock's lunch break was over and the greatly anticipated afternoon market officially opened at 2:30 p.m.

However, a strange movement on Seatresures Group's share prices appeared once the afternoon market opened.

The share price that had been locked on the limit down this morning had begun to shift again.

Then, Seatresures Group released an official statement.

The group, alongside several financial organizations, announced that they had signed a term sheet where Seatresures Group's chairman Mr. Alban Ball would pledge 24.13% of his shares in return for a total investment of 5 billion Somer Dollars from the financial organizations.

Seatreasures Group had a current market value of 40 billion. Ignoring the situation with premium shares, 24.13% was worth at least 9.7 billion. Yet, he had sold his shares for 5 billion dollars.

It was not a profitable trade no matter how one looked at it.

Despite this, there was no other option. At such a time, Seatreaures Group had no other choice but to accept reality.

After this statement was released, Seatreaures Group made another official announcement stating that these 5 billion Somer Dollars will all be used to recycle their company's shares on Harbor Stocks.

With that, the humongous purchase order had managed to completely devour the millions of orders at the limit down.

At that moment, both organizations and retail investors sought out Jasper with widened eyes.

Despite this, Jasper, the first to attack this morning, had completely vanished.

The organizations that followed Jasper into the market were angry and exasperated once they realized that Jasper had left.

Jasper had either gotten wind of what was going to happen beforehand, or he had arrived at a deal with Alban. Otherwise, there was no way Jasper would leave in the afternoon after earning such a huge amount that morning.

Not that it mattered, since everyone still made money in the end.

Among them, Jasper had managed to earn a whopping 900 million profit from Seatreasures Group. He had made a huge profit.

In any case, this incident had ended with Jasper exiting the market.

Alban had lost almost 7 billion today, and he was mocked as the wealthy businessman that lost the most money around the world today.

“Mr. Ball, the share price has stabilized for now. Or at least, it’s not touching the limit down anymore,” The shrewd and capable man reported to Alban, the latter looking haggard as he sat in his office.

“How much did we lose this time?” Alban asked darkly.

The other man hesitated before he replied softly, "Including the shares you pledged at half-price today, we've lost around 7 billion as of now."

"Bang!"

Alban slammed his palm on the table and roared indignantly, "It's also that b*stard's fault! Jasper took at least six to seven hundred million from me!"

The other man replied despondently, "The government's statement had come too coincidentally and out of the blue. We did not have any time to prepare at all. There's nothing we could do but endure it when Jasper and the other organizations took this opportunity to take a huge sum of money from us."

"But Mr. Ball, do we continue with the plan involving Haddock's Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City branch?"

Alban harrumphed and replied, "Of course. Why should we stop?"

"We've already lost so much, so how can we let Gale that old man continue living comfortably? Get to it right now. I'd like to see the look on that old man's face once I get rid of Haddock Chamber of Commerce's power in Waterhoof City."

At the same time, Jasper had already split the profits with Henry.

“It’s such a great feeling.”

Henry grinned so wide that his lips reached the back of his head as he looked at the money in his account.

Jasper had immediately liquidated all his positions once the afternoon market opened. Thanks to the last burst of funds, the 5 million Henry had invested, which was more like a little more than 4 million, had returned to his bank account as 10 million.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1131

There was no money easier made in the world.

“Save up more. The huge opportunity I told you about is coming. That won’t be any small issues like what had happened today.”

Jasper turned to tell Henry this in a great mood after having made 900 million.

Henry chuckled and replied, “Don’t worry. I’ll sell everything I have just to gather the funds.”

“Hold that thought. I may be confident, but this is still an investment and there’s no hundred percent guarantee of a return. We’re both going to have to start begging on the streets if we lose the money.” Jasper shook his head and smiled.

Henry hit his chest and said, “I trust you. You’ve never lost once up until now.”

Jasper’s phone suddenly rang while the two conversed. Seeing that the message was from Dudley, Jasper got up before turning to Henry. “Come on. Now that Seatreasures Group is done for, it’s time for us to get rid of the remaining tumor in Waterhoof City.”

Young Master Law was interested in two things, making money and stepping over people. Hence, the man jumped to his feet energetically once he heard Jasper say this.

“Come on, come on, let’s go. I’ve been waiting so long for this.”

Julian already had the car waiting downstairs.

The two men got into the Bentley as they sped their way to their destination.

In Haddock’s Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City branch’s office, Norman and Lisa could be seen chatting happily with Dudley.

Lisa was even sitting beside Dudley. She seemed to ignore the fact that Norman was present as she leaned her body against Dudley. She might as well have been sitting in his arms at that rate.

“Your father sure is powerful, Mr. Ball. He’s managed to increase the share price straight away. I told you that Jasper’s nothing special. He was just lucky that the government happened to be rectifying the medical treatment system at such a time.”

“He must be crazy if he thinks he can get rid of Seatresures Group!”

Lisa told Dudley in a feminine tone.

Dudley looked at Lisa and smiled. He suppressed the disgust and anger within him and said meaningfully.

“You’re right. Some people think that because they’re smart it means they can use everyone for their own benefits. It’s like they think the entire world is filled with idiots, and that they’re the smartest.”

“Wouldn’t you say so, Lisa, Uncle Gardner?”

Norman frowned slightly when he heard Dudley speak.

While there was nothing wrong with the sentence, Norman could not help but feel that Dudley was talking about someone else instead of Jasper.

However, once Norman thought about how Dudley was just a handsome but useless nobody, he immediately pushed aside those thoughts and chuckled.

“Your father is a smart man. There’s no way he’d be able to attain financing so easily if he didn’t have the necessary contacts. Now that the situation at Harbor Stocks has stabilized, I’d like to meet him if given the chance.”

Lisa agreed coquettishly, "That's right. Mr. Ball, perhaps we could find a time for your dad and mine to talk?"

Dudley sneered and replied, "Meeting the parents already? Sure. A chance will surely present itself one day."

Lisa and Norman exchanged a look and smiled.

"But Mr. Ball, you said that there was something important that you had to announce when you asked for my dad to hold this branch meeting? What was it?" Lisa asked.

Dudley gave a crescent-eyed smile and replied, "What's the rush? The most important person isn't here yet. Everything will be clear once he arrives."

At the same time, Jasper was alighting the car.

He was about to walk into the building when an ambiguous tone mocked him from behind.

"Well, if it isn't Mr. Vice President?"

“What’s this? After making a big fool out of yourself with Seatreasures Group’s share prices, you’ve still got the arrogance to disgrace us here instead of seeking out a place to hide?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1132

Everyone in Waterhoof City knew about the bet between Alban and Jasper.

The entire financial industry in the country was also well aware of the incident involving Seatreasures Group in Harbor Stocks.

Hence, these two things incidences were widely discussed.

Now, Seatreasures Group’s share price had stabilized. Only a small group of large and important organizations in the financial industry, and the two parties involved – Jasper and Alban – knew about what had transpired behind the scenes. Everyone else was unaware of the truth.

Thus, they instinctively thought that Jasper had failed in attacking Seatreasures Group.

Mr. Heron, who had disliked Jasper since a while back, thought so as well.

Mr. Heron thought that Mr. Gardner was going to attack Jasper. Since Jasper had gotten into trouble after losing heavily against Seatresures Group, and the president had suddenly announced a meeting.

He had happily come to attend the meeting today while wondering how he was going to humiliate Jasper. Hence, after Mr. Heron spotted him downstairs, there was no way he could hold back from mocking the man.

Jasper glanced at Mr. Heron. He was unsurprised by the man's reaction. After all, Jasper was the true host of this meeting and everyone else just didn't know it yet.

"You seem to care a lot about my situation, Mr. Heron."

Mr. Heron thought that Jasper was mortified when the latter spoke, so he laughed out loud and said, "See, that's why I told you that young people like you shouldn't be too arrogant just because you seized a bit of power. Society is still in the hands of your elders."

"Perhaps there'll be hope for you after a decade or two of training, young man. But right now? I told you you'd get in trouble, didn't I?"

"And you're so sure that I'm in trouble, Mr. Heron?" Jasper asked.

Mr. Heron laughed out loud and said, “Stop acting, Jasper. Everyone knows about your bet with Seatresures Group’s Alban Ball.

“You might’ve been lucky, with the government rectifying the medical treatment system at the same time, but Seatresures Group is much larger than anything you can compare with. You put in so much effort and hard work, but look at Seatresures Group’s share prices. It still came back up, didn’t it?”

“You must’ve lost quite a bit from that, hmm?”

“Do tell me if you go bankrupt, hahaha. You are the vice president, after all, and there’s no way a councilman like me can watch as you beg on the streets. I’m sure I can spare you a meal or two.”

“Where the f*ck did this stupid f*cker come from?”

Henry had been ticked off since this old man first opened his mouth. Thus, he finally piped up as he stood beside Jasper.

He looked at Mr. Heron as if the other was an idiot and said irritably, “We only just stepped foot on the venue and you start yapping on and on by yourself. Do you even know whether he made a loss or not? Yet, you try to make yourself look like you’re some sh*t when you’re

just a f*cking idiot.”

Mr. Heron’s main business in Waterhoof City was in entertainment properties. He owned many karaoke rooms and bars, as well as some less legal establishments.

Having made his profit through these properties, Mr. Heron was not an easy man to talk to.

His expression darkened immediately when he heard Henry. As he stared at Henry, Mr. Heron replied harshly, “What did you say, brat? Do you even know who I am? How dare you talk sh*t about me! I can have people kill you for this!”

“Oh?!”

Henry was delighted.

He had always been the one threatening to kill others. After all, no one was qualified to threaten him in such a way.

“I’m standing right here today. Let’s see whether you manage to kill me or if I end up killing you instead, hmm?”

Mr. Heron chuckled wretchedly and waved his hand. At that moment, three bodyguard-like men began to surround them.

“You should really go and ask around how I, Gerry Heron, make my money, little sh*t. You’re just a little brat, you don’t even have the right to be my lackey. Who are you to act arrogant in front of me?”

“You were still swimming in your mother’s womb when I started sowing my seeds in the business world.” Mr. Heron glanced at Jasper when he said that.

He had come today to screw Jasper over, but he did not mind getting rid of Henry along the way.

By doing so, he would be able to vent all the humiliation he felt while still presenting Norman with a huge gift.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1133

‘When that happens, all I’ll need to do is make a few big movements and the position of vice president will be mine.’

Gerry felt heat thrum through his body at that thought. Yet, he had no idea what kind of utter devil he had offended.

Henry narrowed his eyes and stared at Gerry while the smile on his face began to fall.

“You’re gonna keep acting in front of your daddy, old man?”

Despite the three bodyguards circling them, Henry was unafraid.

The fact that Julian was standing beside him was the biggest source of courage.

“I’ll make sure to kill you just because of what you said just now! Just you wait! I’ll make sure to pay you back by ripping out the hairs of everyone in your family!”

Gerry’s expression turned sour as he shouted, “You want to die, don’t you! You little sh*t!”

Then, he immediately ordered his three bodyguards to make a move.

The three bodyguards had just taken the first step forward when Julian raised his brow and strode over. He raised his hands and grabbed two of the bodyguards’ hair, then he knocked their heads together in the middle.

With two tragic cries of pain, the two bodyguards immediately began to bleed. They squatted on the floor while cupping their swelling head in agony.

Nothing major would happen to them, but it was unrealistic for them to keep fighting.

The remaining bodyguard did not have the time to feel scared before Julian grabbed his throat.

Everything happened in a split second.

These so-called bodyguards were pathetic. They were just slightly stronger ordinary people, and completely defenseless in front of Julian.

This scene shocked Gerry.

However, before he could say anything, Henry had already slapped the man harshly across his face.

“Think you’re so great, huh, old man? Go ahead then, put on your air of greatness again!”

Henry slapped Gerry as he spoke.

Gerry may have been a fierce man, but he was already in his forties. He was no match for Henry's strength or energy.

Thus, all he could do was retreat and escape while he continued getting slapped.

Gerry was infuriated.

"You motherf*cker... little sh*t... mother... f*cking... stop... stop hitting me!"

There were five pauses in his sentence, each attributed to a slap from Henry.

By the time he finished speaking, both the man's cheeks were red and bloated, and there was a trail of blood running down the corner of his mouth. It was a horrifying and pitiful sight.

Just as Gerry was about to get half beaten to death by Henry, Norman and the rest ended up being attracted downstairs by the commotion.

“Enough!”

Norman walked over darkly and shouted.

Beside him were Lisa and Dudley, as well as two other councilmen that had just arrived.

Norman took a look at Gerry’s pitiful expression and turned to glare at Jasper furiously. He scolded, “Have you any sense of respect. Jasper?! How dare you hear people up in broad daylight?”

“You really think you’re more powerful than anyone, huh?!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1134

Lisa and the others turned to look at Jasper coldly just as Norman began scolding him. Dudley was the only one who looked calm.

Jasper looked at Norman and replied calmly, “When did you see me beating people up, Mr. Gardner? I suggest you seek treatment at a hospital if there’s something wrong with your eyes.”

Norman was enraged by Jasper's words.

He had clearly seen Henry beating Gerry up.

However, unlike that moron Gerry, Norman was well aware of Henry's identity.

In truth, he felt his heart lurch when he saw Henry. After all, Young Master Law's identity was too terrifying, and he could not afford to offend the man.

Thus, he could only blame Jasper.

Norman sneered and said, "Everyone knows that Henry's with you. The things he does are always by your command, aren't they?"

"Ha!" Henry scoffed and looked at Jasper.

His gaze was as though he was asking permission to beat this old man up as well.

Gerry was fine, but Norman could not be attacked so aggressively for now.

Jasper had come today to handle certain matters.

Jasper had Henry calm down first as he replied calmly, "Henry is his own man and so am I. I have no power to decide what he does."

Lisa sneered and said as she stood by the side, "Enough, Jasper. Stop acting. What are you doing here? Everyone knows that you lost to Seatresures Group, so are you coming here just to make a bigger fool out of yourself?"

Dudley's expression turned extremely strange when he heard her say this.

He fully knew that Jasper had not lost in this fight. Seatresures Group did, and very badly at that.

"I'm the one who asked to hold a meeting. What do you think I'm doing here?" Jasper said calmly.

"You asked for this?" Lisa laughed out loud. "You must be crazy. My dad was the one who convened this meeting."

"You must've gone crazy after losing to Seatresures Group. Your thoughts don't seem to be coherent."

Jasper responded calmly, "If I remember correctly, you said that you're taking a long break in the last meeting, right, Mr. Gardner? You said that you'll let go of all authority as the president. If that's the case, then who are you to hold a meeting right now?"

Norman's expression changed and he sneered. "Both of us know what happened back then, Jasper. So there's no need to beat around the bush anymore.

"I only did that because the situation called for it then. If I can apply for leave, then I can also end the leave early. I'm the president, and what I say goes. Who are you to stand in my way?"

"So basically, you're telling me that you chose to accept defeat because you couldn't win against me at that time. But now that the storm has passed, suddenly you think you will stand a chance, huh?" Jasper asked with a subtle smile.

Norman's expression changed and he said darkly, "Stop acting dumb, Jasper. Who do you think you're fooling here? You must've made a huge loss over at Seatreasures Group, so what right do you have to point fingers at us right now?"

"I'm sure you'll know soon enough whether I'm acting or not. In any case, since this is a meeting, let's move to the meeting room," Jasper said calmly.

Lisa sneered and said, "You weren't invited to the meeting. Why are you attending?"

“Oh? Did Mr. Gardner relieve me of vice president?” Jasper looked at Norman and asked calmly.

Norman’s expression changed slightly.

He had realized that there was something amiss.

Jasper’s tone was rather different from usual. He was being too confrontational.

However, even if both sides felt the urge to get rid of each other, Jasper was officially still the branch’s vice president.

Even if Norman was the president, he could not just relieve Jasper of his position as he wished.

After some thought, Norman sneered and said, “If you want to join then go ahead. There’s nothing I can do if you want to be made fun of. These council people are on my side and there’s nothing you can change even if you do decide to join the meeting.”

“You’re only going to be shamed even more!”

When he heard that, Gerry was the first to react impatiently.

“So I took a beating for nothing, Mr. Gardner?” Mr. Heron asked hastily.

Norman glared at Gerry. Without making another sound, he turned and left.

Gerry’s gaze flickered as he glared at Henry. Yet, he did not dare to make any claims.

He was not a complete idiot to have worked and survived in Waterhoof City for so many years,

Even Norman did not dare to offend Henry, so this brat had to come from some formidable family.

Thus, Gerry decided that he would head back and search up Henry’s familial background before he took revenge.

Henry scoffed and turned to Gerry. “What’re you looking at me for? Look again and I’ll gouge your eyes out to soak my feet!”

Gerry paled in anger and turned to leave.

His hatred for the man had reached new heights and he wanted nothing more than to kill Henry immediately.

“Good job, ” Jasper told Henry quietly.

Henry grinned in joy. It was always fun hanging out with Jasper.

He would even get praised for disrespecting people.

The group of people soon made their way to the meeting room upstairs, each thinking about different things. Once they sat down, Norman asked Jasper indifferently, “Go ahead, then, Jasper. Tell us the reason why you’re so adamant about joining this meeting.”

“Two things.”

Jasper did not waste time and raised two fingers.

“The first, I’m resigning from my position as vice president.”

Everyone else’s, including Norman’s, expressions changed when they heard him.

‘Is Jasper crazy?’

‘Resigning?’

Norman had a honeyed smile on his face after the shock passed.

‘Jasper has admitted defeat.’

‘He must’ve lost heavily in his fight against Seatreasures Group, otherwise he wouldn’t resign.’

‘He knows that he can’t fight against me in the branch anymore.’

Norman felt pleased.

“Haha, you finally made a smart decision,” Norman sneered, “Your life here in the branch would have been horrible if you didn’t resign.”

Lisa was even more thrilled. She felt like she was on cloud nine.

‘Do you see this, Ben? Jasper’s admitting defeat.

‘This is only the beginning. I’ll help you kill him slowly. I’ll make him regret it!’

Meanwhile, Jasper acted as if he was oblivious to everyone else’s reactions as well as Norman’s words.

“Secondly, I’m dissolving Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City branch. From today onwards, Haddock’s Chamber of Commerce will no longer exist in Waterhoof City!”

If Jasper’s first announcement was an unexpected firecracker, then his second statement was the big bang itself.

Everyone was stunned.

Gerry widened his eyes in disbelief, even though his mind had previously been occupied with thoughts of how he was going to take revenge on Jasper and Henry.

Norman slammed his palm against the table and stood up in anger. He roared at Jasper, "What f*cking bullsh*t is that, Jasper?!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1135

"What the f*ck are you yelling for?!"

While the sound of Norman's palm slamming against the table and his shout were still echoing throughout the room, Henry raised his voice and overpowered him.

His voice was even louder than Norman's.

Everyone in the room felt their ears ring. They were startled by Henry's shout.

"You trying to scare me or what?" Henry glared at Norman, the latter's face pale and panting. Henry grinned, showing his arrogant and devilish smile.

“Talk normally and stop f*cking shouting. You think just because you’re loud that you’re somehow more powerful? If that’s the case then instead of f*cking shouting why don’t all of you bring a f*cking microphone?”

Norman felt rage boil within him. In that instant, he truly wanted to let go of all inhibitions and tear Jasper and Henry to shreds.

Still, it was this was nothing more than an urge.

Norman did not have the courage to do such a thing. Even if he did, he lacked the ability to act on his desires. Norman glared at Jasper icily.

“You must’ve gone completely mad, Jasper! Who the f*ck are you to dissolve the branch, huh?”

Jasper’s expression was calm as he looked at Norman with what seemed like a hint of pity.

Norman was stunned by Jasper’s gaze and he immediately raged. “Why are you looking at me like that?!”

Jasper smiled and replied, "I just find your hysteria interesting, Mr. Gardner. But I do wonder, how long will you be able to hold your title of president?"

"This will be the last time you get to be hysterical, so I've decided that I'll let you vent. You won't have another chance to do so in the future."

Jasper's words cut into Norman's heart like a knife.

Despite this, extreme anger had actually managed to calm Norman down slightly.

He stared at Jasper and suddenly began to laugh.

"I used to think that you were just arrogant, Jasper. But it looks like now that you're also crazy!"

"You say you want to dissolve the branch? Then pray tell how you're going to do such a thing. Who do you think you are? You think a word from you is all it takes to dissolve the branch?"

Just then, Gerry also interrupted with some degree of difficulty. The man held a towel over the wounds on his face as he chimed in, "Exactly! Who do you think you are? God? What makes you think we'll dissolve the branch just because you asked us to?"

Jasper replied calmly, “Of course, the Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City Branch won’t just dissolve because I call for it. But what if the Teo Chamber of Commerce is on my side too?”

Everyone was stunned when they heard him.

They turned to look at Dudley instinctively, who had yet to say anything all this while.

Dudley was currently expressionless, but the twitch in the corner of his mouth revealed how unsettled he was. Dudley did not refute Jasper’s claim.

This was in stark contrast to their other encounters.

It was widely known that Dudley and Jasper were mortal enemies.

Norman felt his heart skip a beat. He instantly brightened up.

Norman finally understood the bad premonition he had been feeling today. The whole time he had felt like there was an impending danger just around the corner.

However, he did not understand why the Ball family and Jasper would team-up.

Lisa was the first to react.

“Jasper’s bullsh*tting, right, Mr. Ball? He said that your Teo Chamber of Commerce will help him dissolve Haddock’s Chamber’s Waterhoof City branch. Is that true? Say something, Mr. Ball!”

Sitting by Dudley’s side, Lisa reached out to pull at his sleeve and ask hastily.

Dudley glanced at Lisa.

His gaze was absolutely devoid of warmth. Rather, it was filled with a kind of venomous disgust.

Lisa was stunned.

This was not how Dudley looked at her before. His gaze used to be filled with greed and desire, like he wanted to strip her naked on the spot.

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This was the first time Lisa had seen the man with such a fierce look in his eyes.

It was as if Dudley was looking at a slab of rotten meat instead of a desired beauty.

“Enough.”

Dudley threw Lisa’s hand off and said coldly, “You and your father treat me like I’m stupid. Like I’m a tool to get rid of Jasper. Do I look like an idiot to you?”

“You seduce me time and time again, yet you keep holding back from sleeping with me. Now I’m really pissed.”

Dudley ignored Lisa’s tragically pale face and turned to Norman to continue calmly.

“Mr. Gardner, Jasper and my father have already decided to work together. Should the Waterhoof City branch choose not to disband, then the Teo Chamber of Commerce will do everything we can to restrain Haddock’s Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City branch’s powers.”

“As long as you are a member of the Waterhoof City branch or a member of a chamber with property in Waterhoof City, then you will become the common enemy of both JW and the Teo Chamber of Commerce.”

Jasper looked at Norman and the three other terrified council people as he spoke.

“Under such blockade and attacks, I wonder how long the Waterhoof City branch can survive.”

Norman felt like he was going to fall when he heard the man.

He felt lightheaded.

Ashe looked at Jasper’s calm expression, for the first time in his life, Norman felt suffocated.

“No way! Do you not fear Old Master Hurlbutt’s revenge? Or the fury of Haddock businesspeople from all around the country?!”

“I can give you some time to contact Gale if you want.” Jasper had a playful smile on his face.

“Ask him what he thinks.”

Norman shivered.

Jasper’s confidence brought a terrifying possibility to his mind.

He suddenly realized that he himself, and even the entire Waterhoof City branch, might have already become a discarded pawn!

‘But there’s no way!’

‘Haddock’s Chamber of Commerce was huge! Old Master Hurlbutt was extremely powerful!’

‘How could he surrender to Jasper?’

With an expression of absolute disbelief, Norman did not hesitate and immediately contacted Gale.

Considering Norman's current identity, he did not have Gale's direct contact and could only call the man's assistant.

However, the person on the other end of the line only told him, in a cold tone, that the old master had gone to rest and recuperate, and that he would not accept calls from anyone for the time being. Norman felt his entire body grow cold when he heard this.

Norman, who was moments away from fainting, flopped onto his chair with a loud "thud". Face ashen, he did not say anything. Yet, his expression already told everyone that it was truly over for the Waterhoof City

branch.

"What? No way!"

Gerry's expression was wretched.

"All because of this little brat?!"

Gerry roared, pointing at Jasper, "He's just a little sh*t. How powerful can he be? Our Waterhoof City branch has been here for more than a decade. Literally any one of our businesses can crush him! Who is he to disband us?!"

At that moment, Jasper had already pulled out a document and slid it over to Norman over the meeting table.

“Please sign this Voluntary Dissolution Description for Non-Government Organizations, Mr. Gardner,” Jasper said calmly.

“We can’t sign that, Mr. Gardner!” Gerry shouted, feeling frantic.

The other two council people were shocked, but they were more rational than Gerry.

If even Gale had abandoned them, then Norman would not be able to fend off the attacks from both Jasper and the Teo Chamber of Commerce for long.

Most importantly, not many people within the branch were willing to stand alongside Norman and fight against Jasper and the Teo Chamber of Commerce.

At this moment, Norman’s hand trembled as the man seemed to have snapped back to reality. He glared at Jasper and Dudley with bloodshot eyes.

“I just want to know one thing. How did the two of you end up working together?!”

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Norman wracked his brain for clues but came up empty-handed. He did not understand how the Jasper and the Ball duo decided to work together-not when they should have been fighting to the death.

Everyone in the Waterhoof City branch believed that Jasper had lost a huge sum of money from Seatresures Group's share prices earlier that day, himself included. They thought that Jasper should have been trying to make up for his losses and targeting Seatresures

Group instead.

That was why Norman and Gerry were so carefree before this.

Despite this, Jasper and Dudley were suddenly standing together at this moment, causing Norman to be extremely aggrieved.

"In order to survive, Seatresures Group made the most beneficial choice."

Jasper's reply caused Norman's eyes to widen instantly.

“What do you mean?!” Norman shouted raspily.

Jasper smiled but did not have any intention of explaining too much to Norman.

“Won’t you sign, Mr. Gardner? I don’t have much time.”

Norman clenched his jaw after he heard Jasper say this. He glanced at the Voluntary Dissolution Description before him as his body shook.

Even though the Chamber of Commerce was just a loose organization that did not have much power, it was symbolic to its members.

To Norman and the others, it symbolized that they were representatives from Haddock.

To the Haddock Chamber of Commerce, it symbolized their status and influence in Waterhoof City.

They would lose everything once this branch dissolved.

Norman did not know what would happen after he signed the statement, but he was well aware that if he did not sign...

Jasper and the Tea Chamber of Commerce would attack his properties first.

Taking a deep breath, Norman shakily picked up the pen to sign the papers.

"Dad!" Lisa shouted frantically.

"We can't sign it! What will be left of us if we do? The Haddock Chamber of Commerce will never recognize us again and we'll end up like stray dogs!" Lisa wailed.

Norman felt himself age a decade as he replied calmly, "But if we don't sign, we'd be too dead to even be called a dog."

Norman looked up at Jasper icily and asked, "Right, Mr. Laine?"

Jasper's expression was calm. He neither agreed nor disagreed.

In the end, Norman took a deep breath and grabbed the pen. Then, he signed the dissolution papers in with one stroke.

The man shot up from his seat and threw the paper onto the table in front of Jasper. He shouted coldly, "Fine, you win! "

The sight before them had the three council people, including Gerry, in despair. They stared at the dissolution papers in front of Jasper.

Jasper took the documents and smiled. "President Gardner... Oh wait, you're not president anymore. Mr. Gardner, then. I see that you made a smart decision, Mr. Gardner. Well then, Mr. Ball, is there anything else you'd like to say?"

The corner of Norman's lips twitched when he heard this. He turned to look at Dudley.

Lisa looked over as well with utter resentment in her eyes as she seethed, "What other agreement do you and Jasper have, Dudley? You might as well say it all right now!"

Dudley replied coldly, "From this moment onward, Seatresures Group and all businesspeople from Teo will not form any partnerships with the Gardner family. All prior working agreements will be nullified immediately."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1138

Norman could not take it anymore after he heard Dudley say this. He clutched his while shouting at Jasper, “How cruel of you, Jasper! You never intended to let me go!”

“Letting an enemy go is the cruelest thing you can do to yourself.” Jasper’s gaze was calm as he continued faintly, “You understand, don’t you, Mr. Gardner? That leaving weeds unplucked will only cause more to grow.”

Norman felt the flames of fury burn in his chest while his vision went dark. He opened his mouth to spit out a mouthful of blood. At the same time, his expression paled. Wobbling, he soon fainted.

Lisa shrieked and went up to support Norman. Then, she turned her head to look at Jasper and screamed hatefully, “I wish you would die tragically, Jasper!”

By then, Jasper had already stood up. He glanced at the other three terrified council people before his gaze fell on Lisa.

“You should’ve expected this outcome after you decided to become someone else’s pawn.”

Jasper then called out to Henry and walked out of the meeting room with Julian in tow.

They left Lisa to shriek and cuss in the room behind them.

Jasper walked out of the building and looked up to see the Haddock Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City Branch's business plaque hanging on the door. He turned to Julian and said, "Remove that plate, Jul."

Julian nodded and walked over. He removed the business plaque and threw it into the trash can by the side.

"From today onwards, Haddock Chamber of Commerce no longer has a branch in Waterhoof City," Jasper stated softly.

At that moment, a figure ran out of the building hastily. It was Gerry, whose face was still bruised.

"Mr. Laine, Mr. Laine, please wait."

Gerry shouted as he ran over to stand in front of Jasper. Before he could steady his breathing, a pleasing and flattering smile graced his features as he said over-courteously.

“I’m sorry about what happened before, Mr. Laine. Please forgive me. How about this, I’ll book a table tonight at Waterhoof Upstairs as a show of my sincere apology. Please do come, Mr. Laine.”

Gerry had cast aside any dignity he had left.

The man had still been thinking about how to take revenge on Jasper and Henry just moment’s ago. However, he saw with his own eyes how this young man had played Norman like a fool, and how Gale did not prevent any of this from happening.

With that, Gerry finally realized that he could not afford to offend Jasper.

Gerry who was a smart man. Now that businesspeople from Haddock were done for in Waterhoof City, and Norman was also screwed, he knew that he needed to find someone strong to hang on to.

Thus, Gerry did not mind embarrassing himself if it meant being supported by Jasper. If he had to lie face-down on the floor and bark for Jasper, then so be it.

Jasper looked at Gerry playfully.

In all honestly, compared to arrogant and stubborn people, people like Gerry were more suited to survive in society.

“There’s no need for dinner.”

Gerry’s smile froze when he heard Jasper. He was about to speak when Jasper continued.

“But I do like making friends, so if you want to be my friend, there’s something that I’d like to ask you to help me with.”

Having gone through an emotional rollercoaster, Gerry patted his chest and said, “Just say the word, Mr. Laine. I’d risk my life for you without any hesitation.”

Jasper clasped Gerry’s shoulder and said, “It’s not that serious. Moreover, how could I ask my friends to risk their lives for me?”

“It’s really simple. The Gardner family’s been in Waterhoof City for years now, and they’ve got to have countless contacts and strong relationships with people everywhere. Get rid of them for me. Can you do that?”

Gerry's smile froze. The last thing he expected was that Jasper would assign him to attack Norman as his pilot task.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1139

Who was Gerry Heron?

There were all sorts of hidden talents here in Waterhoof City.

If you looked up, you would see top-notch aristocrats, and the Royal family, in the mainlands.

Looking down would find you countless bigshots with a long-standing line of ancestors. Some older and larger families even had a history in Waterhoof City dating back to the Republic.

Gerry was well aware of where he stood.

He had started up his business in the entertainment industry in the early days with violence, so his business was very much in the gray area. Despite this, he was pretty much set for life.

However, he did not have much of a family to support him in Waterhoof City.

Any business working in the main buildings of Waterhoof City's three CBDs could easily destroy him.

Thus, he would need to find support from someone else.

"Mr., Mr. Laine. The Gardner family may not seem much to you, nor are they some formidable family here in Waterhoof City, but they are much stronger than me. I'm not strong enough to deal with them," Gerry said sorrowfully.

Jasper gave the man a small smile and replied, "Don't worry. I wouldn't ask you to do it if I knew it was a suicide mission."

"Now that the Waterhoof City branch has been dissolved, there are still many business people from Haddock here in Waterhoof City. Who do you think they'll look for first?"

"Same goes for the other people in Haddock's Chamber of Commerce. Who do you think they'll look for now that they've been made a fool of and Norman's signed the papers?"

Gerry's gaze flickered about when he heard Jasper speak. The man's words made sense.

Jasper chuckled and continued gently, "So, Norman's going to be in a lot of trouble for the time being, and what I need you to do is rock the boat for me."

"Don't worry about anything else I'll be keeping an eye on the situation. I'll make a move when the time comes."

Gerry hesitated for a moment before he clenched his jaw and agreed, "Alright, Mr. Laine. I'll trust your words and get right to it. Don't worry."

Jasper nodded in satisfaction and handed his name card to Gerry. "Then I shall await your good news."

"Don't worry, Mr. Laine!" Gerry quickly replied.

Jasper gave Gerry an encouraging look before he got into the car with Henry.

Gerry's mind went through a rollercoaster of emotions as he stared at the Bentley driving away.

“F*ck it, I’ve got to pay the price for what I want anyway. Causing trouble, right? That’s right up my alley. Worse comes to worst and Jasper leaves me to fend for myself, then I’ll just run away and start over.”

In the car, Henry voiced out his confusion to Jasper after the latter had asked for Gerry’s help.

“There are tons of people like him in the world. Did you have to waste your time on him?”

Jasper smiled and replied, “The more insignificant the person, the more useless they generally are. Gerry might not be important enough to be brought up in public, but this also means he’s least likely to attract others’ attentions.”

“What happened today will reach everyone’s ears in no time, and when that happens, there’ll be much more people with their eyes on me, the Gardner family, and businesspeople from Haddock. There will be many things that I will not be able to do.”

“But if Gerry is willing, then he’ll bring an unexpected result to the situation.”

“Are you so certain that Gerry will be loyal to you?” Henry asked.

Jasper shook his head and replied, “People like him are only loyal to themselves. Not that it matters, since I just need to be kept in the loop while monitoring Norman’s movements.”

“This is an investment that doesn’t require a single cent, nor does it come with any risks. I’m just planting a potential pawn. Whether or not I can, or will, use him matters little to me.”

“F’tck. Is it not tired living like this?” Henry spat.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1140

Once they returned to the Hotel, Henry made his way to his room mysteriously while Jasper stayed in his study to think a little longer.

He thought back to everything that had happened lately before he finally decided on his next few steps. By then, the sky had gotten dark

Jasper felt his stomach rumble in hunger, and he got up to make way to Henry’s room so he could invite that man out for dinner.

The door finally opened after many knocks.

“Is there a woman inside?” Jasper looked at Henry suspiciously and asked, the man flushing in excitement.

“Bullsh*t. All I see and desire is my Jill Cobb. No one else! ” Henry complained.

Jasper recalled how Henry truly did not seek out any other woman ever since he had met Jill. He could not help but feel that the world was getting weirder.

Just then, a strange man’s voice’s sounded from inside the room.

“Mr. Law, the loot! We did it!”

Henry looked surprised and he turned around to shout. “What did it drop? Wait, I’m coming over! ”

He left Jasper at the door as he rushed back into the hotel room.

Jasper was confused and he followed Henry inside. The sight that he was met with stunned him.

Henry was a young master who had always lived a life of luxury, so there was no way he would check into a normal hotel room. Like Jasper's, his was also the presidential suite.

The room spanned over four hundred square meters and contained two study rooms. The moment Jasper walked in, he was shocked to find that Henry had turned the living room into an... internet café.

Jasper was stunned when he saw the four computers arranged in a line in front of him, each with a young man sitting behind it. They were enraptured while playing... United Legends.

Henry was currently sitting behind a computer as he stared at the screen excitedly.

Jasper leaned over his shoulder and was shocked to find Henry playing the Warrior class.

It looked like they had just defeated the boss as there was lots of equipment and items sprawled all over the floor.

"Holy sh*t, it's the Judgement Mace!" Henry cackled. Before Henry could appreciate his new weapon, a large group of players suddenly appeared on the map.

“Mr. Law, they’re people from an enemy guild. They’ re trying to steal our items!” A young man from the computer next to theirs shouted.

“Motherf*cker! Gather some people and f*ck them over!” Henry waved his hand with a dominant air around him.

Henry’s avatar was drenched in blood after he had maneuvered it to kill quite a few enemies. Henry won even though he was fighting a group of seven to eight people.

Henry was elated as he used a prop to type for the entire server to see.

“Don’t try to challenge my allowance with your annual salaries!”

Henry then brought his avatar back to the city proudly. He clicked on the interface and stood up to let the young man behind him take the reins.

“Click on level-up. I want it to reach max level tonight.”

The young man gulped and moved the mouse to click on the button. 128 Somer Dollars were spent with each click. Considering the current state of Henry’s account, he would have to click non-stop for at least four to five hours before it reached max level.”

Despite knowing that this mysterious Mr. Law, who checking into a hotel to play computer games, was rich, the young man could not help but wonder how rich someone had to be in order to throw their money away like this.

Henry got up and walked over to Jasper before he said disapprovingly, "Quickly tell the people under you that the max level is too low. It's time to raise it."

"Since when did you start playing?" Jasper asked, looking at Henry's god-level account with the ID 'LLLLLLLLL' curiously.

"Half a month ago, I think. I employed them just to play with me, and to help me level up my account when I'm not free."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1141

Jasper loved gaming in his past life too.

Because of this, he did hear of some god-level players in a few different games.

WindChaser from Journey to the War, for example, was the trust-fund child of one of Waterhoof City's richest families. The man's family was in the banking business and he had an endless stream of money to use.

Or even Rich All The Way from West Fantasyland.

No one dared to call themselves wealthy in the game without spending at least tens of millions on it.

The most powerful as well as the earliest God-level account was the legendary 8Ls.

The account had spent twenty to thirty million on the game and won in a one against the entire area fight.

The last thing Jasper expected was this legendary 8L player to be Henry.

While Jasper did bring United Legends to the world sooner in this lifetime, fate had still run its course and Henry had still gotten into the game.

While ordinary people might think that spending tens of millions on games was something unimaginable, it was considered a small expense to Henry.

“I have to say, this game of yours is actually pretty fun to play; There are even invitations to fight or defeating bosses. Still, there’s something I don’t like about it.”

Jasper was intrigued when he heard Henry say this.

“What is it? Tell me, and if it makes sense then I’ll go and put in a word with Sena to have them improve it.”

The few young men behind the computers were stunned when they heard Jasper say this.

Holy f*ck. They thought that Mr. Law was already an extremely powerful man.

They did not expect to meet another even more powerful figure who could control Sena.

If this was any other time, these youths might have mocked Jasper for being crazy. However, they watched with their own eyes how uncaring Mr. Law had been as he poured money into the game without batting an eyelid.

There was no way Mr. Law would chat with a madman so joyfully.

“The max level is too low and the map updates are too slow. Everything I have is already maxed out and I only get invites to fight other people,” Henry complained to Jasper, ignoring the shock that all the other youths were experiencing.

“I have no control over specific updates, nor do the reports pass by my hand. But I can help you ask later if there are any arrangements to improve this coming soon,” Jasper suggested with a crescent-eyed smile.

Jasper thought back to how he had pulled Wendy over to open an account when United Legends had just opened a server. He had planned to get married in-game.

In the end, they had not managed to fight the boss with the wedding ring item and had instead been tortured by a guild many times. Holding a grudge, Wendy requested Jasper to ban their accounts and she had only relented after quite a bit of consolation.

Now that he thought of this, Jasper found himself missing Wendy.

The two had audio or video calls every night, but it was different from speaking in person.

“Great, then I’ll await your good news... Oh, right. I just received news from Harbor City. I think you’d be very interested.”

Henry lowered his voice and leaned in to chuckle by Jasper’s ear. He continued, “One of my lackeys in Harbor city said he saw Lisa appear in Harbor City some time ago.”

“What’s she doing in Harbor City?” Jasper frowned slightly.

“Hehe. My boy said that he saw her shopping in a mall. She was alone, but she arrived and left in Fabian’s car!”

Jasper’s eyes lit up when he heard him.

“When was this?”

“A month ago.”

Jasper replied calmly, “That explains a lot, then.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1142

Henry still wanted to ask more questions when Jasper waved his hand and said, “Come on, let’s go eat. What about your team of players, should we get them something?”

Henry replied nonchalantly, “No need. I already told the hotel staff to send three meals a day to the room. Their diets are even more balanced than ours.”

Jasper chuckled and replied, “Alright, then. Let’s go.”

...

At the same time, in the Gardner family’s villa.

An old doctor walked out of the room with his assistant in tow. He sighed and turned to Lisa, who looked worried, “Miss Gardner, Mr. Gardner’s condition isn’t looking very good...”

“Our initial diagnosis of Mr. Gardner’s stroke today pins the cause as large emotional fluctuations as well as a long period of irregular diet and rest.”

Lisa’s heart sank when she heard him. She clenched her fists and asked, “Will my dad recover from this, Dr. Tingey?”

The doctor shook his head and replied, “There’s no cure for stroke as of now.”

“Especially when it comes to elders. After having a stroke once, there will likely be multiple relapses and the situation will only become more severe. Please be prepared for the worst, Miss Gardner.”

Lisa’s expression paled as she asked, “What’s the worst possible outcome?”

The doctor sighed again and replied, “Severe and later stage strokes can lead to Parkinson’s disease. This is also known as dementia.”

“Another possibility would be for the stroke to worsen whereby the patient will no longer becomes able to take care of themselves...”

Lisa’s expression darkened and the doctor did not dare to say more. All he could do was comfort her softly, “These things have already happened, and we cannot go back in time to change it. Please don’t think plague your mind with negative thoughts, Miss Gardner.”

“With appropriate treatment and rehabilitation, there should be no major issue. He’s not in any life-threatening danger, so we just have to prevent the situation from getting worse.”

“It would be best to bring him to the hospital for a systematic full-body check-up. I’ll contact the best team and have them come up with a treatment plan for Mr. Gardner.”

Lisa smiled wryly. “Alright. Thank you, Dr. Tingey.”

The doctor left with his assistant as Lisa opened the room door and entered the ward.

Norman was currently lying in bed. His complexion was horrible, like he was half-dead.

Lisa felt her heart clench at the sight. She walked over to the bed to take Norman's hand as she greeted him, "Dad."

"Did the doctor leave?" Norman asked weakly.

"Yeah," Lisa nodded.

"Has there been contact with Harbor City?" Norman asked again.

Lisa's gaze darkened and she replied softly, "Don't worry about that now, Dad. What you need to do most is rest."

Norman opened his eyes to look at Lisa and said slowly, "Did Mr. Atticus... ignore you?"

Lisa knew she could not hide the truth from Norman, and she bit her lip. "I haven't contacted them yet. Maybe Mr. Atticus is busy, I'll call again later..."

Before Lisa could finish speaking, Norman waved her off. "There's no need. Gale's already thrown us aside, so why wouldn't Mr. Atticus? To them, we're already discarded pawns."

Lisa replied hatefully, “Dad! I won’t just give up so easily!”

“I’m already useless, and all I can do is lie in bed. What can you do to Jasper?” Norman asked.

“We couldn’t even win against Jasper when I could still move around. He still managed to force the Waterhoof City branch to dissolve, and we’ve already lost our biggest form of support.”

“Instead of thinking about how we should take revenge on Jasper, we need to think about how to stay alive now.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1143

Lisa felt both terrified and in despair when she heard this.

“Are you giving up too, Dad?”

Norman shook his head and replied, “I’m not giving up. I’m just stating the reality of the situation.

“When we first met Jasper in Swallow Capital for the first time... To be honest, did we actually hate him that much?”

Lisa bit her lip and stayed silent.

“But it’s too late for all of this now.”

Norman sighed deeply.

“Gale and Mr. Atticus certainly won’t help us now, so we’ve got to think of a way to help ourselves.”

Lisa looked at Norman and asked, “Do you have a plan, Dad?”

Norman looked down lightly. An unstable light flickered in his weak gaze as he replied, “There’s only one thing to do now.”

“There are still people Jasper can’t afford to offend in Waterhoof City. We just have to pay a higher price for their protection. I’d bet more than half my family’s wealth if it means Jasper loses big this time!”

...

The following day, news of the dissolution of the Haddock's Chamber of Commerce's Waterhoof City Branch had spread throughout the city.

This meant nothing to the majority of civilians. However, people higher up in the social ranks knew how perilous the situation actually was.

The dissolution of the Waterhoof City branch meant that Haddock's Chamber of Commerce's influence had completely exited Waterhoof City.

Everyone thought that this was Teo Chamber of Commerce's work. After all, the two chambers were mortal enemies, and traces of work of businesspeople from Teo could be seen in the dissolution of Haddock's Chamber's branch.

However, what was even weirder was that there were no signs of Teo Chamber in Commerce in Waterhoof City either.

Instead of taking this chance to enter Waterhoof City's market, they had completely vanished.

Overnight, Waterhoof City seemed to have turned into a vacuum where there were no signs of life from either organizations.

While countless rumors filled the air, Jasper met Gerry in the hotel.

Gerry sat partially on the sofa, his expression frantic like he had lost his home.

The weather was getting cold and the air conditioning in the room was set to Jasper's favored 24 degrees Celsius. Despite this, Gerry's forehead was beaded with sweat.

This was due to shock.

"Mr. Laine, no matter what, we can't do this anymore!" Gerry pleaded with a slight wail in his tone as he looked at Jasper.

Jasper frowned.

Gerry had been wearing this expression on his face ever since he walked through the hotel room doors. Jasper initially thought that Gerry was acting, but he had a feeling that things were not that straightforward now.

“What happened?” Jasper asked with a frown.

Gerry wiped the sweat off his forehead and gulped before replying, “I was warned that someone’s already stepped up to protect the Gardner family. I really can’t offend this person.”

Jasper was no stranger to Gerry’s arrogance. The man’s business had never been completely legal, and he was not someone to be offended lightly.

‘But both Gale and Alban had completely left Waterhoof City now, so who could terrify Gerry so much?’

“They’re the Royals,” Gerry continued, without waiting for Jasper to ask.

“Royals?” Jasper arched his brow.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1144

“Don’t you know, Mr. Laine? There’s a saying, the North has the Browns and the South has the little prince. These two are extremely formidable leaders of the younger generation.”

“This Waterhoof City little prince is the heir to the Royal family. They’re an extremely powerful presence here in Waterhoof City. They’ve been here since the Republic and their roots run deep. They’re not people small fries like us can compare to.”

“We all call him Little Prince in private. The old master to his family is officially recognized as the supreme emperor.”

Jasper’s gaze changed as he listened to Gerry.

‘A prince and a supreme emperor. What kind of feudal game is this?’

Despite how unbelievable it all sounded, Jasper could tell that Gerry was speaking the truth from his mannerism.

Even if Gerry wanted to lie to him, he would not be stupid enough to make up a whole family on the spot.

“Go ahead and tell me what happened,” Jasper said.

Gerry began, “This morning, I decided to gather a few people to cause trouble at Norman’s company. I also contacted a few of Norman’s old clients to ask them to kick up a fuss.”

“But my men had just gone out when they immediately came back completely injured.”

“Then someone called me and warned me not to interfere with the Gardner family. They told me that the little prince had already intervened.”

“I made my way over immediately after this.”

“Mr. Laine, ninety-five percent of the people in Waterhoof of City don’t know who the little prince is. But the remaining five percent that do definitely don’t have the guts to try to falsify his identity. Hence, the person on the phone mostly likely spoke the truth.”

“Mr. Laine, you can put a knife to my neck and I still won’t do it. I suggest you let it go as well. The Gardner family doesn’t mean anything to you anymore, and they’re not worth offending the little prince over.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes after listening to Gerry, then waved his hand. “Alright, I’ve got it. Go back”

After Gerry left, Jasper pulled Henry over while the man was having fun playing games.

“Since when did Waterhoof City have a supreme emperor and little prince? Do you know anything about them?” Jasper asked straightforwardly.

Henry was stunned for a moment before he spoke, “Yeah, the Royal family. They were the richest family in Waterhoof City before the Republic, but no one knows how powerful they are now.”

“Let me put it this way. The Royal family is the majority shareholder of Peace Bank. Eqven Pansky Industrial, probably the most powerful privately-owned group in the country, belongs to them.”

“I met that little prince or something seven or eight years ago. He was a smiley man like you. He definitely wasn’t up to any good...”

“Not to mention that he was still young then. He was gentle and frail, and looked like bullying material, but my dad warned me not to offend him before we met. Therefore, you can imagine that their status in Waterhoof City is equivalent to my family’s among Harbor City’s four richest families.”

Henry then nudged Jasper after he finished explaining this and asked, “Why, are they coming after you? Don’t worry, there’s nothing really special about them anyway. The little prince’s dad, the head of the Royal family, has got quite the relationship with my dad.”

“My dad stole my mom from his hands. Hahaha.”

Jasper’s expression shifted.

'From the old master to Zachary... does the Law family also have the habit of stealing other people's wives?'

Jasper moved on from that thought and sighed lightly. "Norman asked the Royal family for help."

Henry frowned as well.

"The situation's a little trickier now.

"To be honest, in this flourishing and desirable land of Waterhoof City, the Royal family isn't one to be taken lightly."

"Rather than me seeking to offend him, I'm more worried that he'd come after me himself," Jasper replied calmly.

"I don't think he would," Henry shook his head, "Who the Hell is Norman? The Royal family helping him is already a surprise in and of itself.

"I don't know how Norman is qualified to ask them for help, but the Royal family are unlikely to take Norman seriously. Who knows, maybe Norman's overestimating the Royal family's involvement."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1145

Henry's analysis made sense.

Yet, Jasper could not help but feel like there was more to this incident.

In all honesty, from what he came to understand, the Royal family was an extremely powerful presence in Waterhoof City, or even the entire mainland.

If people like Norman could gain the Royal family's support, then he would have made a huge name for himself long ago.

However, he had only come to seek the Royal family for help once he was on the edge of life and death.

Either Norman and the Royal family had history and this was a favor the latter owed the man, or there was a more to this situation that outsiders did not know about

Still, Jasper could not help but feel like he would meet the Royal family sooner or later.

“The most important thing is that I’ve never planned to let Norman and Lisa go,” Jasper said calmly.

Royal family or not, Jasper would weed out and completely destroy the father-daughter duo.

He could not opt to give up and run just because some so-called Royal family appeared out of nowhere.

Jasper might as well sell his company and go back to farming if that was the case.

“If you really need it, I could help you get you a meeting with someone from the Royal family.” Henry suggested.

Jasper shook his head and rejected him.

“No. You can’t be involved in this, because that means the Law family will be dragged into it. The situation will only become difficult to control if that were to happen.”

“Let’s wait and see. If this Royal family wants to protect Norman, then they’re going to have to contact me.”

Henry shrugged and replied, "You decide then. I'm going back to play my game, but remember to ask if you need my help."

"The Royal family might be powerful, but that doesn't mean they can do whatever they want. Keep yapping bullsh*t and I will still slap them across the face."

Jasper's premonition was right, as a middle-aged man came looking for Jasper at noon.

"Hi, is this Mr. Laine from JW?" The middle-aged man was extremely courteous as he greeted Jasper by the door with a small respectful smile.

Jasper glanced at the man. He could tell from one look that this middle-aged man was not the host, but someone like a messenger.

"I am. And you are?" Jasper asked.

The middle-aged man smiled and replied, "I'm Coffey Copeland. My apologies for disturbing you so suddenly, Mr. Laine."

"Coffey Copeland... What a unique name." Jasper smiled.

Coffey was unfazed, as if he was used to people making fun of his name. The man bowed slightly and said, “Mr. Laine, I’ve been ordered to invite you to a meeting.”

“With who?” Jasper asked.

“Dominique Royal, the little prince,” Coffey raised his voice slightly when he said the name. He seemed to hold endless admiration and respect for the man.

Indeed.

Jasper’s heart chilled.

“The little prince wants to see me, but he won’t come and invite me himself?” Jasper asked calmly, narrowing his eyes.

Coffey frowned slightly, as if displeased by Jasper’s ‘arrogance’. Yet, he replied gently, “The little prince values this meeting with Mr. Laine very much. Thus, he’s decided to wait at the venue in advance.”

There was no fault in both the tone and content of the man’s words.

Even so, Jasper still felt the forcefulness of the little prince in it.

Instead of appearing himself, the man had booked a place and sent someone to invite him.

This meant that the little prince was certain that he would attend.

“The car’s already waiting downstairs, so would you please follow me to the meeting, Mr. Laine?” Coffey piped up again, upon seeing how Jasper remained silent.

“Give me a moment, I need to change,” Jasper replied calmly.

The entire time, Jasper had never once planned to invite Coffey into the room.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1146

Not that Coffey planned to enter the room anyway. Thus, the man replied courteously, “Alright. Then I shall wait here at the door.”

Jasper closed the door and called Julian over. After changing into another jacket, he opened the room door again.

“Let’s go,” Jasper said calmly.

Coffey glanced at Julian and said, “Mr. Laine, the little prince only invited you.”

Under normal situations, Julian would not speak unless prompted.

Yet, here he was, speaking up before Jasper could reply. “Jasper isn’t going anywhere without me.”

Jasper’s expression turned solemn when he heard the other.

He knew that Julian’s words were not without reason.

Coffey narrowed his eyes slightly and stared at Julian intently.

The two locked eyes and the atmosphere around them turned heavy.

Julian's body was kept taut, and his aura was kept internally. He was ready to strike at any time.

Jasper had never seen Julian like this before.

"I'm not too used to sitting in other people's cars. It's alright if it's not convenient, I guess the little prince will have to come to the hotel to look for me instead," Jasper suddenly said.

Coffey frowned slightly. After a moment of thought, the aura around him disappeared and he returned to being a harmless middle-aged man. He gave a small smile and replied, "That's alright. Please follow me, gentlemen."

Jasper did not call Henry this time. With Julian in tow, he followed Coffey downstairs.

Once they arrived downstairs, they saw a low-profile commercial vehicle waiting for them.

Jasper did not get in. Instead, he had Julian drive his Bentley over and got into the passenger seat of his own car.

Coffey did not make a big deal about this as he got into his own vehicle and had it lead the way.

As he drove, Julian suddenly told Jasper, "Jasper, that man is a skilled fighter."

This was the first time Jasper saw Julian so wary of someone else. He asked, "Is he stronger than you?"

Julian shook his head and replied, "I won't know until we fight for real. But he's older than me and my body's in peak condition. If I don't lose in thirty hits, then he's no match for me."

Jasper nodded and smiled. "But I thought the older the sorcerer, the stronger they are?"

"That's just fiction. There's no such thing as magic in this world. There are such things as stronger genes, but it's not as prominent as it is in fiction. How strong you are still goes back to your physical capabilities," Julian explained with a smile.

They followed Coffey's car and took some winding roads. After more than an hour of navigating a labyrinth of roads, the car finally pulled to a stop next to a clean pavement.

Both walkways of the small street were filled with parasol trees, and there were vintage western houses all around. One glance was all it took to know that this was a very historical place.

Within the concrete forest that was Waterhoof City, such a quiet and exquisite place was prime property for the bourgeoisie.

Jasper inexplicably thought of the small courtyard Steven Monty had gifted him back in Nauritus City. "Please follow me, gentlemen."

Coffey led Jasper and Julian into what looked like a normal western estate.

Walking through the courtyard, they took the creaking wooden stairs upstairs and arrived at the second floor of the western building. Jasper then walked through the doors of a small private room.

After walking through the doors, he saw that the interior of the building was a completely different world.

The second floor of the western building had been renovated into a small stage, where two girls were currently performing ballet. The sound of a piano drifted through the air as this vintage room showcased the scene of a high-standard musical.

In front of the stage, right in the middle of the second floor, was a dining table. A young man was sitting at the table, facing away from Jasper as he watched the ballet performance.

“You’re stepping on land the consuls used during the French Concession a century ago.”

“Every single item here is an extremely valuable antique. I love them, for these inanimate objects come with the breath of time and age.”

“Every time I sit in this room, I can’t help but think about how those people have become nothing but artifacts of history after a century of hardship. I wonder if we would be remembered the same way by people in the future one day.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1147

This was his first time meeting the little prince Dominique Royal, but Jasper almost choked on the other's air of pretentiousness.

Jasper looked at Dominique, who remained seated on his chair, showing no intention of turning to acknowledge him. Jasper gave it some thought before he smiled.

When it came to acting pretentious, Jasper liked to think that he was just as good as anyone else.

“I cannot hold onto the people who turn away from me. After all, the past will only add on to my troubles.”

“On the contrary, I much prefer the future. A time where everything is uncertain and up to us to decide.”

Jasper strode into the room with his head held high as he talked.

Julian took in the situation and followed instinctively.

Only for Coffey to tilt his body slightly and stood in his path.

“My apologies. Like me, you can only wait outside the doors.”

Coffey gave Julian a small smile and said gently.

The man’s tone was calm, but his gaze was firm and held no room for argument.

Julian’s pupils contracted and his chilling aura exploded. He replied indifferently, “And if I must enter?”

Coffey replied with a small smile, “No one can cause trouble in front of the little prince.”

Julian narrowed his eyes and stepped forward.

With that, the two men who were already standing close to one another physically clashed.

Julian's left shoulder knocked against Coffey's right, the former trying to enter the room while the other standing in his path.

Their flesh had obviously collided, yet, it made a dull thud as if a sack had fallen from the sky.

One man stood at the door while the other stood outside. One was trying to enter while the other was trying to stop him. The two men's strengths collided through their shoulders, but neither Julian nor Coffey moved.

Unimaginably powerful strengths clashed, and Julian's eyes shone brightly with wonder. With a slight harrumph, his body shifted and Coffey leaned back slightly.

The two looked at each other as they both shared the same thought.

They recognized each other's strengths from the brief conflict.

Julian's gaze was filled with the excitement and the urge to fight. It had been a long time since he had met an opponent that filled him with excitement and nervousness.

However, this was not a place for him to do as he wished upon finding a worthy opponent. Hence, Julian quickly looked at Jasper.

If Jasper nodded, then Julian would have no qualms about inviting Coffey outside to fight.

“Wait for me at the door, Jul.”

Jasper’s words completely dispelled Julian’s desire to fight and he took a silent half-step backward. His gaze was still trained on Coffey.

He heard a creak, followed by the sound of the latch being locked, and the door was closed.

“It must be great being young.”

Coffey said with a smile, seeing how Julian was still staring at him.

“I’d be no match for you if you were ten years younger.” Julian’s words were direct but confidence shone through his eyes after he said that.

“But right now, you’re no match for me.”

Coffey chuckled. He did not refute Julian's claim. The man merely closed his eyes to rest them and repeated what he said softly, "It must be great being young."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1148

In the room, the little prince Dominique Royal finally turned to look at Jasper.

Dominique's appearance was pleasing to the eye. His facial features leaned more to the feminine side, and despite being a man, he gave off a distinct charm.

This was especially true for the delicate shape of his eyes under his defined brows. The man's gaze lit up with an unforgettable shine.

While Jasper looked Dominique over, Dominique did the same to him.

The two equally young men observed each other quietly for two whole minutes without saying anything.

The ballet performance did not stop and the sounds of the piano flowed slowly like trickling water in the room.

Dominique eventually smiled.

“Have a seat.”

Dominique gestured to the seat opposite him with his palm.

Jasper walked up to take a seat.

Dominique’s gaze flickered back to the ballet performance on stage and said, “It’s a refreshing idea to hear an argument in favor of the future, Jasper.”

Jasper replied, “Your vision is unique as well, little prince. Not many so young prefer antiques and history.”

Dominique chuckled and replied slowly, “I had cooked up many ways of talking to you before we met, Jasper. But after seeing you, I realize that all those methods and tactics are useless.”

“So, I’ll be frank. I want to protect the Gardner family!”

Jasper nodded and replied, "Indeed. I do like it when things are more straightforward. In that case, I'll be frank too and tell you and I want to get rid of the Gardner family."

Dominique was neither angry nor frustrated when he heard Jasper say this, as if he had already anticipated this.

The man's gaze was deep and he showed no sign of the terror rumored outside. It was almost as if he was just a normal gentle scholar.

"I've researched you before this, Jasper. And all this while your performance has been exceptional. To be frank, I don't think anyone can do any better than you did. Especially as an entrepreneur from a normal, or even poor, family."

"From what I understand, I believe that you are a businessman through and through, Jasper. As a businessman, what matters most to you are your interests. You know that I wish to protect the Gardner family, yet you seem adamant about getting involved in this. This doesn't seem to follow your motto of what benefits you most."

Jasper's gaze also fell on the graceful ballerinas before him. The two men resembled good friends that were currently enjoying art together.

"There are short-term and long-term interests. In the long-term, maintaining a good relationship with you is indeed beneficial, Little Prince. But in terms of immediate interests, the Gardner family's existence is an obstacle to my plan."

“More importantly, I don’t know what relationship you and Norman share, Little Prince. But if Norman’s able to ask you to step up and protect him, then it must mean that he must serve some unique purpose to you. I also can’t guarantee that Norman won’t request you to target me, Little Prince.”

“So even if I give up on my plan of getting rid of the Gardner family, there’s still the risk of me butting heads with you in the future, Little Prince.”

“But if I continue on my quest of eradicating them, at least I’ll be able to guarantee my current interests.”

Dominique nodded after hearing Jasper’s calm statement and said, “Very well. Not bad, Jasper. There are no flaws in your judgment.”

Dominique reached out and took out a bottle of red wine as he spoke, pouring Jasper a glass.

Then, he swirled the glass of red wine with a playful smile and toasted Jasper. “This bottle of wine is part of my family collection.

“It was processed during Princess Diana’s fiftieth birthday by the British royal family sixty years ago. Excluding the one in the Royal Treasury Museum, this is the only bottle in the entire world. Let’s celebrate our acquaintance with this bottle today.”

Jasper raised his glass and the two transparent glasses clinked against each other with a clear sound.

Jasper tilted his head back to drink the wine. It was slightly bitter with a sweet aftertaste while its aroma was full-bodied and mellow. It was a high-grade red wine.

“It’s good,” Jasper praised.

Dominique chuckled and clapped his hands.

The music stopped, and the ballet dancers and the pianist got up to leave the stage. At the same time, from the dark area from which they exited the area walked out a shaky father and daughter.

These two were precisely Norman and Lisa.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1149

Jasper frowned slightly when he saw the father-daughter duo.

Norman and Lisa had not expected to see Jasper here either. Already afraid, the two of them were terrified now.

Dominique continued to swirl the glass of wine in his hands and said lazily, “Norman’s father used to be my grandfather’s driver. So, I suppose there is some semblance of a relationship between us.”

“But. A favor my grandfather owes has nothing to do with me. And I don’t see why a grandson must repay his grandfather’s debts.”

Dominique then turned to smile at Jasper as he said, “Don’t you think so, Jasper?”

Jasper did not react at all.

Norman and Lisa were stricken when they heard the little prince.

To them, the Royal family was supposed to be a definite source of protection. No matter how powerful Jasper was, there was no way he could do anything if the Royal family wished to protect them.

Yet, after they had just found shelter in the Royal family, the little prince decided to change his tune and send them straight into Jasper's jaws. 'What is the meaning of this?!

"Little prince! This, this, this isn't what we agreed upon!" Norman stuttered, his tone confused and pleading.

Dominique chuckled and swirled the glass of red wine, admiring the fine red liquid that had fermented for the past sixty years. It seemed like the glass of red wine was more important than Norman to him.

"This was supposed to be an easy job, but I changed my mind after I found out that it's Jasper you wish to trouble."

"What more important is that I've already asked Jasper about this, and he doesn't seem to have any desire to give up. Thus, I suppose I'll have to sacrifice you two instead."

Norman was confused when he heard Dominique's statement. Even Jasper was shocked.

He was even fully prepared to go against the Royal family before he arrived.

'But from the way Dominique acted, it seems like he's unwilling to become my enemy simply because of Norman.'

Jasper narrowed his eyes and quickly ran through everything that had happened during his brief interaction with Dominique. However, there were too few leads, and he could not deduce what was going on in Dominique's mind at all.

"You have to save us, Little Prince. We can't be given to Jasper! Please, on behalf of our history and what insignificant relationship we shared, please help us," Norman began to sob and beg.

At that moment, he felt terrified, as though the world was ending.

Norman had always been fearless while he still had the Royal family as his trump card.

This was because Norman believed that neither Jasper nor anyone else would dare to hurt him as long as the Royal family was involved.

However, this trump card was too valuable, and he would not use it unless it was a life-and-death situation. He was so adamant on this that he could not afford to help even when the Hull father-son duo was cornered and desperate.

Despite this, now that it was his turn, he suddenly realized that this trump card was nothing but poison to him.

Lisa was frantic right now and she mustered the courage to approach Dominique. She knelt and looked up at Dominique, trying her best to show the fair white flesh of her chest to him.

“You’re a generous and kind man, Little Prince. I’m sure you won’t just let us die, right? Just one word from you and I’ll do whatever you say.”

At this moment, the only bargaining chip Lisa had left was her own body.

Hence, Lisa had resigned herself to be treated as a business product and tried to Show off the ‘best’ part of herself in front of Dominique in hopes that he would change his mind.

Dominique chuckled.

He tilted Lisa's chin up with one hand gently and swept a playful gaze over every inch of her body wantonly.

Instead of feeling humiliated, Lisa took his gaze like it was some glory and pushed her chest out further. She thought that every man in the world was the same, and as a woman, her body was the most tempting weapon.

Just as Lisa began to build up some level of hope, Dominique said something that made her pale.

"You might not know this, but I'm a clean freak."

This sentence was a huge form of humiliation to any woman. Even for Lisa, who had long since discarded her dignity.

At this moment, she felt Dominique crush her dignity, throw it on the floor, and step on it harshly.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1150

“Things Fabian’s had his fun with, I find disgusting.”

Dominique then pulled his hand back after that and pulled out a clean white handkerchief to wipe the fingers that touched Lisa’s chin.

This action had Lisa, her face colorless, feeling further humiliated.

“If you want to live, I’m not the person you should be turning to. Ask him instead.”

Dominique pointed at Jasper.

Lisa and Norman looked over.

Jasper’s expression remained calm.

From the short conversation between Dominique and Lisa, Jasper had acutely caught on to something

important.

Dominique knew about Fabian, and he also knew of the relationship Lisa had with him.

This was worth pondering on.

“Ja-Jasper.”

Norman looked at Jasper. His gaze was conflicted as he called the man’s name with great difficulty.

Jasper’s gaze fell on Norman calmly.

There was no mockery nor any hint of boastfulness in his tone as Jasper’s gaze remained calm and unaffected.

Norman took a deep breath and suddenly fell to his knees in front of Jasper.

Bending his knees and leaning forward, Norman knelt curtly in front of Jasper.

“Dad! ” Lisa screamed and rushed to Norman’s side. She tried her best to pull him back onto his feet.

“What are you doing, Dad? Why are you kneeling for Jasper? You’ve gone mad!”

However, Norman pushed Lisa away and stared intently at Jasper. He looked extremely exhausted and aged.

“I’ll kneel for you, Jasper. I don’t ask that you let me go, but please let Lisa leave.”

“I’ll take responsibility for everything. I know that I’m in no position to talk about conditions. But as a father, this is the last thing I can do.”

Norman then bent over until his forehead hit the floor harshly.

He had prostrated in front of Jasper.

“Dad!”

Lisa shrieked, her tone tragic and utterly heartbreaking.

Despite this, Norman did not change his posture. He did not move, nor did he say anything. It was as if he were waiting for Jasper's reply.

Jasper had yet to say anything since they appeared.

Dominique looked at Jasper playfully. He seemed to be admiring this play; It was an act much more interesting than the ballet performance from earlier.

The atmosphere immediately grew heavy.

He could not tell if it was due to his weak body or psychological fear, but Norman's body began to tremble as he awaited Jasper's reply.

Norman was moments away from collapsing when a hand grabbed onto his arm and helped him to his feet.

"I help you up in admiration for your fatherly love. This alone makes you stronger than I am."

Ecstasy graced Norman's pale face.

'Was Jasper agreeing to let them go?'

Life at The Top – Chapter 1151

Jasper had never planned to kill Norman or Lisa, to begin with.

Jasper was confused as to why all these people think he was truly coming for their lives.

Ever since he had started his business, he had fought with quite a few people. While some lives have been lost, it was always through suicide because his opponents could not accept the fact they lost.

Jasper had never killed anyone before.

Not now, not ever.

So when Jasper saw the ecstatic expression on Norman's face, he said, "Just go. Leave Waterhoof City and never return."

Jasper's words had Norman immediately feeling despondent.

He knew that with Jasper's words, he would lose the business he had built up with difficulty.

Jasper then glanced at Lisa, her face was pale and her lip bleeding after all the gnawing. He said calmly, "There's never been any huge feud between us. All the resentment was one-sided from you."

"Of course, there's no point in saying all this now."

"After leaving Waterhoof City with your dad, find him a place where he can retire and rest. Ignoring everything else's he's done, he was a good father to you. You'd be a horrible excuse of a human being if you can't be filial to him."

"No one will force you to sell your property lower than market value. Sell accordingly and take every Somer Dollar. It should be enough to guarantee a comfortable life from here on."

"Then... find someone nice and get married. Start over and live peacefully, say goodbye to the past."

Jasper waved them off afterward and did not say anything more.

Lisa's complexion was ashen and she looked moments away from fainting.

She still wanted to say more but Norman held her back.

"Let's go," Norman said hoarsely.

Lisa did not say more and followed Norman out with her head down.

Jasper's expression was calm as he watched the two leave.

He did not feel the elation of winning against his enemies, nor the despondence of a loss.

His enemies were still there, after all. Norman and Lisa were just insignificant pawns on the chessboard at most.

It was a blessing for pawns like them to walk out unscathed.

Jasper turned to look at Dominique and asked, "So, what do you want from me?"

Dominique looked at Jasper playfully and asked, "What do you mean?"

"The little prince can't possibly have handed me the Gardners because he's afraid of me, right?" Jasper stated calmly.

Dominique laughed out loud and said, "You can take it as an act of kindness from me."

"As to what I want from you, I don't know yet. I'll contact you when I think of something. Take this as a favor you owe me now I guess."

Jasper looked at Dominique and replied, "Yet you've sold out the Gardners who sought your help on a favor, little prince. Aren't you lacking a bit of credibility to talk about favors with me?"

Dominique stood from the chair and replied lazily, "Favor or not is just a hoax. What matters is still how useful you are."

"They've lost their usefulness, so they can only hope that other people will be merciful to them. If they're useful, then they don't need to say anything and people would still seek them out."

“I’m sure you understand this concept, right, Jasper?” With that being said, Dominique then walked toward the doors.

Dominique was just about to open the door when he suddenly turned to say to Jasper intently, “I admire you, Jasper. But many people share a different sentiment. They hate you, so much they wish you would drop dead right now.”

Jasper arched his brow and asked, “Like Fabian?”

Dominique smiled. He did not answer the question, opting to say meaningfully instead, “Contact me anytime should you require. I look forward to working with you, Jasper.”

Then Dominique opened the room doors.

Outside stood Julian and Coffey, one on each side of the door like sentinels guarding the room.

“Little Prince.”

Coffey greeted courteously.

Dominique was looking Julian up and down. Chuckling, he commented, "Not bad at all."

Then he left.

Coffey glanced at Julian thoughtfully before he turned and followed.

At that moment, Jasper had walked out as well.

"Did anything happen, Jasper?" Julian asked.

Jasper waved him off and replied, "People like him won't do anything to me. And if he did, you alone won't be able to stop him at all."

Julian seemed indignant and replied, "If I try my best, we never know."

"Haha," Jasper laughed out loud. "Sure. Come on, let's go back too."

This meeting with the little prince had surprised Jasper. The man was completely different from what he expected.

Still, no matter what, this meeting was an overall positive one. The little prince had not shown any signs of hostility. If anything, he had even shown subtle acts of friendliness.

Norman and his daughter were one of them, the partnership at the end was another.

Albeit potentially and not explicitly stated.

Still, people like Dominique did not say anything without reason, nor would he speak unreliably.

“I’ve got to go back and ask Henry that little brat I wonder if Dominique’s got history with Fabian,” Jasper murmured to himself.

At the same time in the commercial vehicle, Dominique was tinkering with an exquisite vintage pocket watch. He had a playful expression on his face.

“Gather a copy of Jasper’s information and give it to me later, Coffey, a detailed one.”

Coffey replied after hearing Dominique, “I understand. This is the first time I’ve seen you so interested in someone, Little Prince.”

“Because I’ve found my kin.” Dominique smiled mysteriously and looked at the street view through the window. He narrowed his eyes and continued, “He’s much like me. I can even say that we’re the same kind of people, it’s just... his ranks aren’t high enough yet.”

“Why do you say that?” Coffey asked curiously.

This question showed how special Coffey’s status was to Dominique. He would not have dared to ask such a question if he was a normal subordinate.

Dominique stroked the pocket watch in his palm and replied calmly, “He’s a conqueror, yet he’s filled with benevolence. He opted to be a saint and show mercy when he should have chosen to kill. This is also why I lost the initial desire to partner with him.”

“Had he decisively chosen to drive Norman and Lisa to death, then I would perhaps be willing to give him a chance at a partnership. But now that I look at it... perhaps further observation should be made before I decide again.”

Coffey shrugged and replied, “In comparison to the little prince, he will never be as outstanding as you.”

“You overestimate me, Coffey. And you’re looking down on the world,” Dominique murmured to himself.

Then he thought about Jasper and chuckled suddenly. “But Jasper Laine. From his behavior today, he’s missing something indeed.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1152

“Little Prince, Fabian has asked multiple times if you’re willing to join their Empire Meet. How would you like to respond?”

Dominique’s smile grew slightly cold when he heard him.

“They’re just a circle made up of over-hyped and ignorant trust-fund children. What else to respond but to tell him to get lost as far away as possible! Tell him I’m not interested!”

...

“The little prince and Fabian? They have no reason to be acquainted.”

In the hotel, Henry was filled with confusion.

“One of them is from Waterhoof City while the other’s in Harbor City.”

“Waterhoof City’s Royal family doesn’t have any

means to join the Harbor City market.”

“Nor did Harbor City’s Atticus family show any desire to make money in Waterhoof City.”

“The Royal family is a local and long-standing wealthy family here in Waterhoof City. The family’s started their business here even before the Republic. The Royal family controlled the Waterhoof City before the Republic and they’ve been developing further all this while no one knows how terrifyingly powerful they are now.”

“But about the Royal family. They have businesses everywhere but their family’s powers don’t reach beyond Waterhoof City. I suppose it’s a smart move to protect themselves. But there’s almost no contact with rich families from Harbor City.”

“As for Fabian, the Atticus family’s businesses are mainly local in Harbor City or somewhere in the southeast region. There’s almost no business with the mainlands but I did hear something about searching for things to invest in the mainlands these years.”

“Still, there’s not much chance for contact.”

Henry said everything in one breath and his mouth was left dry after he was done. He took the cup of water and drank it in large gulps before he placed it down and asking Jasper, "Did you meet the little prince?"

"That neither dark nor bright expression of his makes your hand itch to slap him, doesn't it?"

Jasper was still trying to process Henry's prior information when he heard the man again. He replied exasperatedly, "His expression just leans toward something more sinister but gentle. It wasn't even as exaggerated as you claimed."

Henry snorted and replied, "When it comes to acting pretentious, he's the best of all I've met. It's like he doesn't care about anything at all like he's got no doubt in everything. You know what I'm talking about, right? That disgusting high and mighty attitude of his."

Jasper thought back to the course of meeting Dominique and rubbed his chin. "You got that right about loving to act pretentious."

"Haha," Henry cackled. Then he looked at Jasper mysteriously and said, "I just received news of something you'd definitely be interested in."

"Fabian that d*ck got a bunch of people together to make some organization called the Empire Meet. He's currently inviting all sorts of people in."

Jasper frowned at what he heard. "Empire Meet?"

"It's a club, filled with rich children from powerful families like Fabian. The only difference is that people invited are rich children that have already begun to take up the family business. So they're not all trust-fund children."

Jasper frowned and replied, "He's got to be planning something big with something like this Empire Meet."

"Heh. It's not as easy as you think. Fabian's reputation among the circle is horrible so excluding the few that are close with the Atticus family, there aren't many people willing to join him."

"Not to mention that everyone knows how strained Fabian's relationship with Kayden is. The larger the business Kayden and his dad, Half-the-Harbor Langdon, are doing, the fewer people are willing to risk offending Kayden to join Fabian."

"There's quite a lot of people waiting to watch him make a fool out of himself now."

Yet Jasper shook his head and said, "He wouldn't do this out of the blue unless he's certain. Who knows, maybe he has a secret trump card?"

“Well, it’s got f*ck all to do with me anyway nor would he invite me. But I’ll help you keep an eye out on who joins this Empire Meet. These people will be your enemies.”

“I’m starting to realize that you’re very suited for intel gathering,” Jasper said genuinely.

“You wish. I’m going to Swallow Capital tomorrow,” Henry suddenly told him.

“For Jill?” Jasper asked.

Henry snickered. “She’s going abroad for a competition next week and she’ll be leaving for a week. So I thought I’m going to go visit her.”

“Find a chance and tell her about your identity if you’re serious about her, lest the situation gets out of hand one day. And try to hint at it with your dad too. You know how important marriage is for families like yours.

“Elope behind your dad’s back and it’ll get really messy when he finds out,” Jasper reminded.

Henry rubbed his face and said grimly, “We’ll deal with that later. I still haven’t thought that far yet. I’m pretty sure my dad will say no to this.”

“But I will find a chance to tell Jill the truth, then try and meet her family. I’ll do a check on what kind of family she has and see if her relatives have any ulterior motives about my identity.”

“If they do, then that’s that. If they don’t, then I’ll bring it up with my dad.”

Jasper was relieved when he heard Henry’s plan.

The romantic story of Prince Charming and Cinderella in dramas and novels are all fake, after all.

Take Henry before him for example, no matter how much he liked Jill, he still had to give up on her if his family was against it.

Henry was not stupid either. If Jill and her family have the intention to further their relationship with Henry because of his familial background, then he would most likely sever ties and turn against them ruthlessly as well.

All in all, a young master like Henry might be arrogant and a trust-fund child, but he wasn’t a brainless idiot. If anything, this man was much smarter than ordinary people.

While Jasper and Henry chatted, someone knocked on the hotel room door.

Seeing Lisa stand outside nervous and anxiously, Jasper's gaze turned pensive.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1153

Jasper was not harsh to Lisa at all in the hotel room. Instead, the man was very respectful.

“Tea or soft drinks?”

Lisa was shocked by Jasper's respect.

“Do you have alcohol?”

Lisa must have felt that Jasper's kindness was genuine from the man's expression as she asked bravely.

With a smile, Jasper had the hotel staff bring up a bottle of red wine.

He drank tea while he watched Lisa tilt her head back and down two glasses of wine. Only then did Jasper ask, “Is there a reason you're here?”

After two glasses, Lisa was evidently much more relaxed. Holding the glass, she nodded and said, "My dad told me to come here. We've already contacted a few sellers willing to take over after us and we're in the middle of negotiating the specific costs. We'll leave the country and go overseas after the trade is done."

"Have you decided on a place?" Jasper asked.

"Australia, perhaps. I like it there." Lisa smiled, her eyes filled with hope for the future.

"Good choice. There are quite a few people of Somer decent there, so it won't be too lonely at least." Jasper agreed with a nod.

The two chatted a little about everyday life like friends. This short conversation had caused a great change in Lisa's emotions.

"To be honest, I came here prepared to be humiliated. I thought you'd scold or embarrass me, maybe even think of ways to torture me. I've prepared myself for all that," Lisa looked at Jasper and spoke seriously.

Jasper took a sip of his concentrated tea and replied calmly, "I can do that, but I find no need to."

Lisa nodded. Jasper's words were much more genuine than any self-righteous thing he could say.

No matter how nice Jasper's words sound at such a time, there would always be the suspicion that the man was faking kindness. However, the man had not honeyed his words at all nor did he flaunt himself. All he did was state his true thoughts.

"Since we're at the stage of negotiating prices, it'll still take some time to bargain for the best price even though the buyers are very willing. So we might have to stay for a few more days." Lisa brought up the topic again.

"That's alright. If they're intentionally lowering your selling price because they think that you're in a rush to sell your family business, you're free to take the time and contact a few other buyers," Jasper told her.

Lisa smiled wryly and asked, "Would you believe me if I told you now that I really regret offending you?"

"Does it matter if I believe you or not?" Jasper asked.

Stunned, Lisa nodded and replied, "You're right, it doesn't matter anymore."

“I came here to tell you two things, actually. The first, to inform you that we need to stay for a few more days.”

Jasper nodded and said, “As you told me. The second thing is what’s truly important, isn’t it?”

Lisa stared at Jasper intently and continued, “Fabian’s the person behind me that’s been targeting you.”

Jasper raised an eyebrow slightly.

He was unsurprised by Lisa’s statement.

In truth, Jasper knew why Lisa had come since he saw her at the doors to his hotel.

Jasper did not care whether her reason was to sell Fabian out, in revenge for not reaching out to save her and her father when they needed it. Or if Lisa told him because she wanted Jasper to feel uncomfortable.

Jasper did not care about why Lisa was telling him anything. He was more interested in what information Lisa came with.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1154

Jasper knew that Fabian was targeting him. He also knew that Fabian had contacted his enemies. However, Jasper had no idea what exactly Fabian was planning or had already done.

Perhaps Lisa would be his breakthrough.

Lisa seemed to have decided on leaving, so she was frank and showed no desire to hide any information from Jasper. She continued to say, “Fabian took the initiative to contact me first, he wanted me to do something for him.”

“Since these were also setups that targeted you, I agreed under protest.”

“Because of this, I even went to Harbor city to spend a few days with him. That’s when I learned about the trap he had long set for you.”

“He didn’t let me know the specifics, so I have no idea either. All I can tell you is that everything that happened in Waterhoof City was directed by Fabian.”

“Including the accident on your construction site, and being targeted by the Teo Chamber of Commerce. Alban and his son are also following his instructions, and he even contacted Gale for this as well.”

“Instead of claiming that the incident with Seatresures was a set up by Alban and Gale together, it’d be more accurate to say that this was all Fabian’s plan.”

Lisa’s words had confirmed Jasper’s previous deductions.

His expression remained calm and unfazed.

Lisa looked at Jasper and continued, “You’re wrong if you think that this is all Fabian has in store for you.”

“From what I know, he did all this just to cause you some trouble. He didn’t expect to beat you with this alone, and he hasn’t shown his true scheme yet.”

“You can call this incident a warm-up.”

Jasper smiled. “Looks like he values me a lot, to employ both Gale and Alban just for a warm-up.”

Lisa said indifferently, “You haven’t met Fabian, so you don’t know how terrifying and cruel this man is.”

“To be honest, every second I spent by his side was in terror. He’s too frightening. It’s like he can see through what everyone’s thinking. Up until now, I still don’t think you can win against him.”

“Then why did you come to tell me this today?” Jasper asked.

Lisa smiled sadly and said, “You would believe if I said it’s to take revenge?”

“I would. But the question is, are you taking revenge against me or Fabian?”

Lisa did not expect Jasper to be so direct. Her expression turned slightly forced but she answered anyway, “Both. But more against him.”

“Even if I know that your fight with Fabian will continue whether I come and tell you these things or not. But at the very least, I want you to know more and hurt Fabian a little.”

“What a cruel woman you are,” Jasper exclaimed.

Lisa got up expressionlessly and stated, “One last thing. He’s sought out more than just your enemies...”

Lisa paused for a moment before she continued, “He looked for the people around you too. People you used to be close with. He’s already used his methods to find them, so be more careful.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes and stroked the hot teacup gently. His mind instantly combed through people close to him but Jasper’s expression remained unaffected.

Inexplicably, Lisa thought of something when she took in the sight of Jasper now.

‘A truly powerful man looks calm despite the emotional rollercoaster he experiences.’

‘Wouldn’t it have been great now if I didn’t make Jasper an enemy?’

With a light sigh, Lisa got up and said, “I’ve said my piece. I should get going now.”

“Goodbye.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1155

Jasper did not step foot out of the hotel room after Lisa left.

Even dinner was sent to his room by the hotel staff on Julian's instructions.

Jasper locked himself in the hotel room's study as he began to write and draw. He reviewed the current situation and wrote it all on around a dozen A4-sized papers. Right in the center was Fabian.

Beside Fabian was Dominique, the little prince.

Instinct told Jasper that there was definitely a link between those two. He just had no idea whether they were enemies or friends.

"Even with all of this, I don't know enough yet."

Jasper frowned.

Henry might have given him information, but what he told Jasper was no more than what everyone in that Harbor City circle already knew about.

If Henry was not involved in it, he would not know of the many secrets that went on.

For example, there was no way Henry would be told if there was a link between Fabian and Dominique.

Jasper exhaled softly. It was at midnight when Jasper put his pen down. He realized that he greatly lacked contacts for intel and information gathering.

After all, he had only started his business for more than one but less than two years. The memory of his past life before he reincarnated could only bring him an astronomical amount of wealth in a short period of time. Things like information networks and roots that huge families had could only be accumulated with time.

He could not rush it right now. These were things that had to be done slowly.

...

The following day, at the hotel entrance.

“I’ll be going, then.” Henry waved Jasper goodbye.

“Go. I won’t be sending you to the airport. There’s one more thing I have to do here in Waterhoof City before I return to Nauritus.” Jasper smiled.

Henry replied, with his head in the clouds, “I’ll be back in three to five days. I’ll wait for you to bring me along and earn more money when I get back.”

Jasper chuckled and waved his hand. He watched Henry’s car leave the hotel.

After Henry left, Jasper then called for Julian.

“Let’s go. To the ICBS branch’s headquarters.”

Jasper was no stranger to ICBS’ Waterhoof City Branch’s office tower.

In this dignified and stem ICBS’ Waterhoof City Branch’s deputy chief office, Jasper sat on the guest sofa and looked at Vita sign a document sternly for a careful, humble, and courteous middle-ranked employer.

A few minutes later, the office was left with Jasper and Vita alone.

“Is there something I can help with, Mr. Laine?” Vita’s expression immediately turned courteous as he asked, placing a cup of brewed tea in front of Jasper.

Jasper nodded and replied, “Indeed. The market reaction to the online payment partnership. So I’ve decided to develop this business further and I need the ICBS’s support.”

Vita’s expression froze,

In all honesty, Jasper’s suggestion about online payment had caused an uproar all the way to ICBS headquarters in Swallow Capital. Even top officials from the government’s financial bureau were aware of this.

After all, Jasper had suggested a completely new concept and no one knew how big of an effect it could cause.

Now that Jasper wanted to completely develop the online payment business, Vita had a feeling this would result in another huge commotion.

“I acquired an online shopping platform and I plan to build a comprehensive shopping website within the country.”

“But this requires the support of online payment or everything planned would be for naught. If all goes well, this website will become the equivalent of Amazon in the country. Perhaps even stronger.”

Vita concealed his unease when he heard Jasper speak. He realized that the more he got to know Jasper, the less he understood about the man.

To be frank, it would be enough for a majority of people to achieve the business success Jasper did.

Looking at the property under Jasper’s name, one would see that the man’s career was beyond what ordinary people could imagine.

His business was considered large even if you compared him with the entire country or even the entire business world.

Yet Vita was still shocked by Jasper’s ambition.

Vita who had worked his entire life in the banking industry was more sensitive to this than others in the financial industry were. He also knew better how powerful Jasper would be if he managed to control online payment.

“I’m afraid this won’t be easy,” Vita frowned and replied.

Jasper arched his brow and asked, “Why’s that?”

Vita smiled wryly and replied, “Do you know how many applications for online payment like yours I’ve pushed down recently?”

“It’s normal for people to jump the bandwagon because they see others doing it. The last thing this world lacks is people with a good eye for things,” Jasper said.

“I may be able to hold them off for now, but I can’t hold them off forever. You have to know that there are tons of powerful people among them. If you didn’t look for me today, I might have gone to look for you.”

“The higher-ups have been fighting over this online payment recently.”

Jasper’s expression turned solemn when he heard Vita.

“The most troublesome one here is Soha. Soha has the support of family capital and people are moving about right now to get a comprehensive online payment partnership signed with Soha.”

“Their framework might be even larger than yours and if they succeed, then they’ll end up crushing everyone behind them. Including you.”

“Who’s this other party?” Jasper asked.

“Formally, they’re Soha’s majority shareholder. But from what I know, they’re also the heir to Clear Seas Industrial Group.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1156

Vita leaned over closer to Jasper and whispered, “This Clear Seas Industrial is actually the holding company of Clear Seas.” He smiled wryly.

“As someone in the financial circle, you should know that Clear Seas status within the country’s capital circle is on par with Vast Mountain Capital and other large funding groups.”

“Among the country’s privately-owned capitals, Clear Seas’ comprehensive strength easily puts them among the top ten.

Jasper held the cup of burning tea and fell deep in thought.

He was no stranger to Clear Seas at all.

In his past life, his superior was one of the small bosses in a company under Clear Seas. The man had a net worth of eighty to ninety million just thanks to his relationship with this group.

Not many people might know of Clear Seas now, as its name would only be spread with the BN Group after a fight of capital with the country’s largest real estate business, Somer Vanke.

Still, there was no denying Clear Seas' strength.

“His name is Prince Chavez, also known as the Crown Prince.”

‘Crown Prince?’

‘If he was nicknamed the Crown Prince, then he must be someone more high-standing than the little prince.’

Jasper made a mental note of the man's name and looked up to ask Vita, “What are the higher-up's thoughts on his idea?”

“The officials are discussing it together. Some people support it and some do not, but a majority of them have decided to remain silent and watch. Though from the information I got, they'll likely adjust the proposal and then pass it.”

Jasper sighed when he heard Vita.

“You told me this too late...”

Vita proceeded to tell Jasper the frame proposed by the Crown Prince.

Jasper fell silent for a moment after he thought about it.

“If that’s the case, then open the entire market! Agree to the government supervision he proposed and apply for a regulation on payment license.”

Jasper’s first sentence stunned Vita completely.

“Have you gone crazy? That way you won’t have any advantages at all!”

Yet Jasper smiled at Vita’s franticness. He knew that Vita only reacted like this because the man truly held his best interests in mind.

“A normalized market is beneficial to all the enterprises within that market. The government will still announce the policy even if we disagree. There’s no preventing it, so we might as well go with the flow and gain their favor.”

“But we will add one condition, and that’s to forbid exclusive partnerships with banks.”

“As long as the governments reviewed and passed it, and the company should be allowed to partner with any commercial bank in the country once it gets an online payment license and fulfills the 1 billion Somer Dollar deposit requirement.”

“If the Crown Prince wants to blockade this industry, then I’ll open it. When trouble comes, I have the capital to take everything, but I can’t say the same for the crown prince.”

With the memory of his past life, Jasper knew that the government will fully open for applications of a payment license that only capable and qualified enterprises could get.

The Crown Prince’s desire to blockade this industry was already against the government’s initial desire to open the market, so there was no way it would be approved.

Therefore, Jasper decided that he would gain the government’s favor first and let them see who was truly trying to benefit the industry.

Being in the government’s favor was more important than one would think. It might seem useless as balls most of the time, but it could affect the government’s stance during crucial moments. When it came to deciding important policies, the government would likely take into consideration enterprises with ‘a sense of societal responsibility.’

Within the country, whoever captured the government’s heart was the true winner.

Future history would prove that even with the payment license open for application, the market would still be split fully by Terizone and Abbylon. There was no third place in this field, only the first and second.

Vita considered Jasper's opinion and said, "To be frank, there's a high chance that your suggestion will be approved since you're considering from the government's point of View. But aren't you afraid that this ruckus will hinder your own development too?"

Jasper smiled. "Everyone thinks that online payment is doomed for failure. But this is a huge market and it'll only be a matter of time before people turn around and realize."

"What I need to do is get the sweetest bite of this figuratively huge cake as fast as possible. I'm not trying to control the entire market, nothing good comes out of monopolizing it."

Vita exhaled in awe as he looked at Jasper. He commented genuinely, "A huge majority of the businessmen I meet are so greedy they almost wish they could own the entire market. But you're the only one I've met that's willing to let go."

"You have to let go of what you have on hand if you want to take more. With this temperament and character of yours, it makes sense how you've made it so far and will only continue to go further."

"Wish me luck, then. Haha."

Walking out of Vita's office, Jasper was just about to have Julian gather information on Soha and the Crown Prince when he received a call.

"Jasper."

Tiffany's voice was shy and nervous when she called.

"What is it?" Jasper asked with a smile.

Tiffany felt inexplicably calm when she heard Jasper's gentle tone and asked, "Are you free tonight! I want to treat you to dinner!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1157

"I'm free, but why invite me for dinner so suddenly?" Jasper asked with a crescent-eyed smile.

"I got my first part-time paycheck," Tiffany replied.

Jasper was stunned. He had made sure to give Tiffany enough money for her living costs, but this strong and independent girl had still decided to earn money by doing part-time jobs.

Jasper was not against this, in fact, he supported it.

“Congratulations! This is indeed worth celebrating, where do you want to eat?”

Tiffany seemed prepared as she immediately replied, “I heard that there’s a really tasty seafood restaurant that opened recently at Gold Pedestrian Street Is that okay?”

‘Gold Pedestrian Street?’

‘Isn’t that my property?’

Following the full completion and publicity of the Gold Pedestrian Street as well as the support from the Waterhoof City City Government, the street had developed very quickly.

As of today, it had already shown signs of being one of the future three large pedestrian streets in the country. All foreign tourists would surely visit the Gold Pedestrian Street first, then make their way to the beach.

As a result, business at the Gold Pedestrian Street was only improving and the most evident change with it was its rental costs.

There was no way Jasper would sell any property located here, nor would any stores be sold on the market. Yet its rental prices were increasing every day. It had currently risen to the rental cost of 5000 Somer Dollars per square meter.

This was an unimaginable cost in the year 2001, yet countless people were fighting for a lease contract.

Naturally, Jasper made a lot of money from this.

Jasper had first bought these property lots from the City Government with the agreement to pay them in installments. The rent Jasper earned now has reached the point where it could easily pay off the installments to the government with profit left to spare.

In no time, more than half of Gold Pedestrian Street's properties would become cash cows that countless people desired, and they would supply Jasper with an endless flow of cash.

"Sure. But it isn't cheap eating over at Gold Pedestrian Street," Jasper told Tiffany mirthfully through the phone after recollecting his thoughts.

“Mr. Clem takes quite good care of me and he gave me the best job there is. So don’t worry, Jasper!”

Hanging up the phone, Jasper had Julian turn the car around and make their way to Gold Pedestrian Street.

This was Tiffany’s first part-time paycheck, and she wanted to repay Jasper with it. So there was no way Jasper would decline this lady’s kind wish.

This was a pedestrian street, after all, so cars were not allowed to drive in. The car pulled up at the recognizable structure of Peace Restaurant and Jasper alighted first. He had Julian park the car at that restaurant first while he walked over to the seafood restaurant Tiffany talked about.

At the same time, Tiffany who had already arrived at the pedestrian street when she called Jasper was currently talking to a server at the entrance of the seafood restaurant.

“There’s a student card discount, right?”

Hearing Tiffany ask that, the server that was already busy from the huge influx of customers since it had just opened frowned. She looked Tiffany over and while she found her pretty, all the servers here were trained to have sharp eyes.

They could tell with one look which customers were rich and which were tourists coming to try things.

“We do, but there’s no space for discounted customers now. Wait first if you want,” the female server replied unkindly with a taut expression.

“Seriously, what’s a broke student doing here?”

Tiffany bit her lip when she heard the server mutter and asked, “How long do I have to wait?”

The female server replied irritably, “Can’t you tell that the restaurant’s busy? Go wait outside if you want a discounted seat, or come back when the restaurant’s empty.”

Tiffany tugged on her own fingers. While she was angry at the server’s attitude, she was used to resigning herself nor did she want to cause more trouble, so she said, “Then I don’t need the student discount, then. I’ll pay normally.”

The female server snorted and said, “Are you here to cause trouble? First, you ask for a discount and now you say you don’t want it. Does this place look like somewhere broke students can afford to eat?”

“Do you know where this is? A simple dish here is enough to cost you your entire week’s living expenses. Can you even afford this?”

Tiffany replied angrily, “What’s it to you if I can afford it or not?”

The female server slammed her pen on her notebook and said, “Who do you think you’re talking to? What’s with your attitude?”

“I’m telling you, our seafood restaurant doesn’t serve customers like you! You want to eat here? Sure. We charge at least 1500 bucks a meal. If you can afford that then I’ll let you in!”

Tiffany pinched the 800 Somer Dollars in her pocket and flushed, too embarrassed to say anything.

The female server scoffed when she saw Tiffany’s reaction and said, “You can’t afford it, can you? Open your eyes and take a good look. Our restaurant is full all the time and every single table spends more money than you will. How do we have to spend time on you?”

“Leave. Don’t come to places like this if you can’t afford it. Just go and buy snacks outside, okay?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1158

“Your attitude’s horrible!” Tiffany told the female server angrily.

The female server was infuriated and she pointed at Tiffany’s nose to say, “My attitude’s bad? What kind of attitude do you expect from me when you can’t pay for anything? Sure, I can be nice, but can you afford it?”

“I shoo away dozens of broke people like you a day. Who are you to claim that my attitude’s bad?”

The loud server attracted the attention of many customers and other servers. Under public scrutiny, Tiffany felt her cheeks burn in shame and she bit her lip, unable to say another word.

Just then, a man in a suit walked over.

“She’s right, Lara. Your attitude’s not very nice!”

The man in a suit chided the server.

The server, Lara, looked at the man and smiled courteously. She said, "I'm sorry, Mr. Pearce. But I'm already too busy and I still have to deal with broke students."

"Being busy isn't an excuse for a bad attitude. After all, we're in the service industry and the customer is always right," The man said with a crescent-eyed smile.

Despite his words, he showed no sign of truly reprimanding Lara.

The man walked over to Tiffany. Seeing such a pretty and refreshing girl in front of him, his eyes lit up brightly.

"I'm the manager here, Miss, as well as half an owner since I have shares in the restaurant. You're very much welcome to eat here, I can arrange the best private room for you," Mr. Pearce snickered and said.

Tiffany may be innocent but she was not stupid. From Mr. Pearce's gaze, she could tell that this man had ulterior motives.

Tiffany took an instinctive step back and shook her head. "It's alright. Your restaurant's too expensive, I can't afford it."

Tiffany then turned to leave.

Yet Mr. Pearce stood in front of Tiffany, blocking her path. His expression was stern as he said, “No way. Our server’s attitude was horrible just now, so as an apology, let me treat you to a meal.”

Mr. Pearce then reached out to take Tiffany’s hand as he spoke.

Tiffany took another wary step backward. Staring at Mr. Pearce, she said, “What are you doing? Don’t touch me!”

A mortified expression flickered through Mr. Pearce’s face but it vanished right away.

The man smiled and straightened his suit before he said arrogantly, “Look, miss. I’m considered half an owner of this restaurant and I am worth a few million in assets. Don’t you want to get to know me more?”

“If I’m in a good mood, I might even give you a chance to experience the world of wealth.”

Disgust filled Tiffany’s eyes when she looked at Mr. Pearce.

She did not understand why some people could be so full of themselves.

They were both men, but he seemed like a completely different species from Jasper. There was just no comparing the two.

“I’m not interested in your world of wealth. No thank you!”

Mr. Pearce chuckled and said, “I understand where you’re coming from since you’ve never got to experience the world of wealth anyway. So it makes sense that you don’t know how magical it is. But you won’t be able to leave that world once you’ve had a taste.”

“Say, for example, you want to eat here today. You won’t have to worry about a discount, nor would anyone humiliate you over it. No matter how busy the restaurant is, no one would make you wait and they’d arrange the best private room for you to eat in.”

Mr. Pearce looked at Tiffany with arrogance and haughtiness hanging off the corner of his lips.

“Let’s not talk about that anymore. You wanted a table within the seafood restaurant, right? I’ll have someone prepare a room for you right away. How does that sound?”

Tiffany wanted to reject him, but she thought about how she had come to treat Jasper to dinner. This was something important to her so Tiffany’s expression turned conflicted and hesitant.

She did not know if she should agree to it or not.

Mr. Pearce's expression grew even more joyful when he saw hesitance on Tiffany's face.

He approached Tiffany before she knew it and said, "And all of this is just the basics. If you had a boyfriend like me, you'll get even more."

As he spoke, Mr. Pearce's hand had already moved and hovered above Tiffany's shoulder.

However, before he could touch Tiffany, a hand had grabbed his wrist tightly.

Mr. Pearce was enraged. He turned his head to see an expressionless face.

"You should be glad that your dirty hands haven't touched her yet," Jasper's voice rang out slowly.

Tiffany's eyes lit up when she saw Jasper. Exclaiming in surprise, she quickly ran over to stand beside him.

At this moment, Tiffany felt engulfed by absolute security and she felt extremely safe.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1159

“Motherf*cker! Who are you?!”

Mr. Pearce was enraged when he realized that his plans have been foiled.

“Her friend,” Jasper replied calmly.

Mr. Pearce took a look at Jasper’s outfit. The man was dressed simply at there was no sign of how outstanding he was from his clothes.

Mr. Pearce scoffed and said, “Let go of my hand. Or I’ll make your life not worth living!”

“How will you make it?” Jasper asked.

Mr. Pearce’s gaze chilled and he said icily, “Are you here to cause trouble?”

“My friend came here to eat. It’s enough that you’re not willing to serve her, but what are you trying to get by making her uncomfortable? Have you no sense of shame?”

“F*ck you!”

Mr. Pearce flung Jasper’s hand off and pointed at the latter’s nose to say, “Since when do loafers like you have the right to control what I do? Take a look at where you are, at least! Do you want to die?!”

Jasper glanced at the rambunctious interior of the seafood restaurant and said, “Where I’m at? Isn’t this just a restaurant? Why, or perhaps I’m looking at a forbidden area in a palace?”

“To people who can afford to pay, yes, this is a restaurant. For broke losers like you, then this is a forbidden palace!” Mr. Pearce said harshly. Greed and envy flared in his eyes as he glanced at Tiffany who stood beside Jasper like a kitten.

If he wanted this beautiful girl, then he had to get rid of this annoying man first.

By humiliating him in front of her, he would let her know that women had to look for powerful men in society. Trash like this could not protect her.

Most importantly, Mr. Pearce had an extremely dignified guest to receive and he did not have time to waste with Jasper.

Mr. Pearce was enraged when he thought of that and his gaze turned unkind as he looked at Jasper.

“Where’s security? Get over here!”

With Mr. Pearce’s shout, three to five security guards surrounded them.

“Beat this troublemaker up and throw him out!” Mr. Pearce said gleefully.

Hearing him, the security guards immediately made their way to Jasper.

From how practiced their actions were, it seemed like this was not the first time such a thing happened.

Just then, a figure approached from the entrance and stood in front of Jasper. It was Julian who had just arrived.

Julian's gaze was icy as he stared at the few security guards. If any dumb guards took another step, then he would attack them.

The security guards were just ordinary people who could read the situation. They could tell that Julian, radiating with an icy aura, was not someone they could win against. The guards immediately shared a look and no one dared to make the first move. They had all frozen.

"What are you doing just standing here?" Mr. Pearce was frantic and he shouted, "Go attack him right now! Whoever runs away can get lost! Get rid of them and I'll reward you with bonuses!"

Under the temptation of reward, the security guards saw that they had numbers and mustered the courage, and pounced on Julian.

Julian's gaze was indifferent. Dealing with security guards that were essentially normal people was a waste of his talent.

With a few attacks, the few security guards yelled in pain and knocked against each other before falling down.

Still prideful a moment ago, Mr. Pearce was now stunned when he saw the sight.

This was real life, after all, not an action movie. Normal people have hardly seen cases where one man won against three to four others.

“How, how dare you attack people here?!” Mr. Pearce screamed.

Jasper replied calmly, “You were the one who ordered to hit people first. How is this my fault now?”

Mr. Pearce’s expression was wretched yet he feared Julian’s horrifying skill. Just as he was conflicted about what to say next, a sound rang out by the seafood restaurant entrance.

“What’s going on here? What’s with all this commotion?”

Mr. Pearce’s expression lit up when he heard the voice.

As if meeting his savior, Mr. Pearce ran out and greeted the person respectfully. “My apologies, Mr. Heron, I’ve been dealing with a mess. There were two f*cking idiots that came to cause trouble so I was dealing with them.”

Then Mr. Heron frowned and said coldly, “I invested in this seafood restaurant, Roy. I had you manage it because I didn’t want people to cause trouble. Why, has the name Gerry Heron lost its effect in Waterhoof City?!”

“You’re right, Mr. Heron. But there are always reckless people who just want to die. Here, it’s these two f*ckers. I’d say, just waste them and get it over with, Mr. Heron.” Roy reached out to point at Jasper and Gerry’s fierce gaze followed.

Gerry was stunned when he saw Jasper.

Mr. Heron, who was still extremely powerful the previous second, was stunned in place the next. As if he had been stricken by lightning, the man could be seen trembling where he stood.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1160

Jasper met Gerry’s gaze and said with a smile, “It’s been a few days since we last met Mr. Heron. Looks like you became even more successful.”

Gerry stuttered and did not know how to reply, while Roy had fired back beside him.

From what he saw, Jasper was obviously trying to win Gerry over.

So he scoffed and pointed at Jasper's nose to say, "Shut your stinky trap!"

"Who do you think Mr. Heron is? Who knows what situation you've seen Mr. Heron in from afar, but you're just a piece of low-level trash! Aren't you afraid that Mr. Heron would rip you to shreds for what you just said?"

"Hah! You don't know how powerful Mr. Heron is in Waterhoof City, do you, young man?"

Slap!

Roy had just finished speaking when he was slapped across his face.

Naturally, Gerry was the one who did it

It was an angry slap too, one forceful and strong. All that could be heard was the clear sound of a slap, followed by Roy cupping his face and shouting tragically. Then the man fell backward onto the floor and a few of his teeth have flown out in the process.

Roy was utterly confused.

He had no idea why he had gotten slapped. Cupping his face, Roy looked at Gerry in disbelief. Yet all he saw was a furious expression with the desire to devour him.

Gerry was already terrified of Jasper and he was just thinking about how he should calm the situation and calm the atmosphere when Roy stepped up and spewed a bunch of offensive words. Gerry then wanted nothing more than to beat Roy to death now.

“You shut your f*cking stinky trap!”

Gerry pointed at Roy, his eyes bloodshot as if wanted to eat him alive.

Gerry took a deep breath to suppress the unease and franticness within him. Then turned to give Jasper an exceptionally wry smile.

“Mr. Laine. This, it’s a misunderstanding. All a misunderstanding.”

Jasper looked at Gerry and asked meaningfully, “You’re the owner here, Mr. Heron?”

Gerry quickly explained. “There’s no such thing as owner or not. A few friends and I got together to open a restaurant, I just have a few shares here.”

“What a huge business you’re doing, Mr. Heron. It seems like your properties are everywhere. But you have to make sure that management can keep up with the size of your business, or you’ll only be implicated in the end. Don’t you think so?”

Gerry felt cold sweat bead when he heard Jasper. He quickly replied, “Yes, yes, of course. You’re right, Mr. Laine.”

Gerry then turned to kick Roy. “What the f*ck are you waiting for? Apologize to Mr. Laine now!”

At this moment, Roy was completely dumbfounded. He did not expect Jasper to be someone even Gerry could not afford to offend.

From the way Gerry acted, he more than just feared Jasper. Gerry seemed moments away from getting down on the floor and cleaning Jasper’s shoes with his tongue. While Roy still had no idea who Jasper was specifically up until now, he was sure of one thing... He was in great trouble.

Gerry’s kick snapped him back to reality. Ignoring everything else, he crawled his way to Jasper and wailed, “Mr... Mr. Laine, I’m sorry. I, I was blind, I’m sorry for offending you! Please give me another chance...”

“Chance?” Jasper smiled subtly at Roy.

Frankly speaking, someone like Roy was not worth Jasper's anger. However, since the incident involved Tiffany, Jasper had no intention to let him go easily.

"Yes, yes, please. You're a kind man, Mr. Laine. Please give me another chance, I'll change and be better..."

Before Roy could finish begging, he heard Jasper say, "Chances are things your parents give you. I only care about the results."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1161

Roy's expression paled when he heard this.

Standing beside him, Gerry immediately understood that Jasper's words were actually directed at himself. After all, he had been in working in the industry for a long time.

His expression changed and Gerry smiled wryly at Jasper. "Mr. Laine, this restaurant has quite a few shareholders and Roy is one of them. I may hold more shares than him, but it wouldn't be right to just fire him."

"Hmm. You're right. There's no such thing as firing a shareholder." Jasper nodded understandingly.

Roy let out an internal sigh of relief when he heard Jasper's reply. At the same time, he also lost a bit of respect for the man. 'Looks like Mr. Laine isn't all that great. His identity's just slightly more formidable, but not unimaginably so.'

'See? Isn't Jasper also admitting that there's nothing he can do?'

'I'll just need to treat him to a meal after this to apologize. Then, we can all move on from this.'

With that thought, Roy could not help but feel gleeful again.

He looked at Tiffany secretly and his chest burned with desire.

'Turns out, this Mr. Laine isn't even that powerful. I'll give him room to back off then I'll secretly make this woman mine. There's nothing he can possibly do anyway once I've had a taste of her.'

Roy felt extremely excited when he thought of that, and he felt the urge to pull Tiffany into his arms.

Yet, he did not know that Jasper was aware of every minute change in his expression and gaze.

Scoffing, Jasper said, "Since you can't fire a shareholder, then you'll just have to close the restaurant down."

Roy was stunned when he heard Jasper as he looked at the man confusedly. He wondered if he had imagined the man's words.

Gerry's expression turned disgruntled, but he could not refute Jasper.

“Aren’t you going too far, Mr. Laine?” Roy grit his teeth and asked.

“A good number of shareholders invested a total of tens of millions to open this restaurant. What right do you have to close it down just like that?”

“The fact that I own the lot your restaurant currently rents,” Jasper replied calmly.

“No way!” Roy was in disbelief.

“F*cking dumb *ss!” Gerry glared at Roy and scolded, “Forget this shop lot, more than half of Gold Pedestrian Street is Mr. Laine’s property. Who the f*ck do you think you are? Do you know what trouble you’re getting yourself into?”

Jasper ignored the scolding Gerry was giving Roy and continued, “I’ll pass along my instructions later, after which, the JW Real Estate staff in charge of Gold Pedestrian Street’s property will come and terminate the contract with you.”

“We’re not leasing this lot to you anymore, so please close your doors and move out within three days.”

Roy was stricken and he stood dumbly in place. He shouted raspily, “No, no way! We signed a contract!”

Jasper looked at Roy's desperate expression and answered calmly, "Everything will be in accordance with the contract. I'll just pay you the compensation for breaching it."

"No, no. Don't!" Gerry was terrified. He did not dare to take this money from Jasper. "We'll close the restaurant immediately. There's no need to bring up the compensation fee at all, Mr. Laine. I'll talk to the other shareholders, we can't possibly take that compensation from you."

"We're at fault for this, and I promise that we'll give you a satisfactory response."

Gerry glared darkly at Roy as he said this. It was evident that Roy would have to come up with compensation for the shareholder's losses.

Roy understood what Gerry had in mind and he shuddered. Fear engulfed him.

He was just a businessman with a bit of extra money. There was no comparing him with Gerry and the others. He would go bankrupt in the blink of an eye if he had to compensate them for their losses!

At that thought, Roy exclaimed in terror, "Mr. Laine! Please forgive me, I'm really sorry!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1162

Roy's tragic pleading did not evoke Jasper's compassion.

If it were any other person, Roy might bully them badly such that no one would pity them. At the end of the day, people like Roy would only take advantage of others' kindness.

Hence, it would benefit society to get rid of these people early.

"Enough! Stop shouting!"

Seeing that Jasper remained unaffected by Roy's pleas, Gerry did not dare to let the man continue. He glared and shouted at Roy, "What're you still here for? Get lost! There's no place for you to talk here!"

Roy did not dare to leave. Staying meant he still had a shred of hope, but his life would be over if he left.

Gerry saw through Roy's intentions and said coldly, "I'll give you a chance to leave, which you'll take if you're smart. Mr. Laine isn't the kind to kill you off."

“But if you choose to continue and anger Mr. Laine, then don’t blame me for turning against you, Pearce!” Gerry was truly frantic.

Only he knew the fear he felt toward Jasper.

Getting rid of the Haddock’s Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City branch was one thing, but what terrified Gerry the most was the news he had received.

Norman and his daughter had sold all their property this morning and had taken the earliest flight out of the country.

Others might now know about this, but Gerry was well aware of this piece of information.

He also knew that Norman had contacted the little prince, and the Royal family, to protect his property.

The little prince had stood up for Norman as well. Despite this, Norman had been forced to leave

overnight.

The implications behind this terrified Gerry.

It meant that Jasper had met the little prince and the two had come to a compromise.

There was no way Gerry would know of the exact contents of the meeting, but he could clearly see that Norman did not get the protection he wanted.

Norman and his daughter might not have died, but Jasper had never intended to take their lives in the first place.

Therefore, from what Gerry could see, he believed that Jasper had forcibly made the little prince give in to him.

The terror Gerry felt when he found out that the little prince had stepped aside to give Jasper access to Norman was no less than the respect he had for Jasper.

If Roy continued to yap on and cause Jasper to divert his anger to himself, then Gerry would truly take Roy's life.

Roy shuddered when he saw the furious glare Gerry gave him. He clenched his jaw and remained quiet. Roy knew that he would not be allowed to live if he completely angered Gerry.

Utter regret filled Roy for being driven by sexual desires, as it had gotten him into real trouble now.

After the emotional rollercoaster he had gone through, Roy looked devastated as he kept his head down as he left.

Gerry turned to Jasper politely after Roy left and said, “This is all a misunderstanding, Mr. Laine. Really. How about this, since we’ve coincidentally met, how about I treat you to a meal, Mr. Laine?”

Jasper glanced at Tiffany and waved him off. “No need. I came here today to have dinner with my sister.”

Gerry was a smart man and he immediately substituted ‘sister’ with ‘lover’. He chuckled and turned to Tiffany, “What a pretty sister you have, Mr. Laine. I didn’t prepare any meeting gift, but here, for you. I hope you like it.”

With that, Gerry pulled out a diamond necklace from his breast pocket

From the exquisite packaging, one could tell that this might have been a gift Gerry had bought to win over a woman.

Tiffany had been in such a situation before, and shook her head with flushed cheeks. Then, she hid behind Jasper.

Jasper replied calmly, "You're too kind, Mr. Heron. Thank you for the thought, but there's no need for gifts."

Gerry let out a sigh of relief when he heard Jasper speak.

He was truly afraid that Jasper would hold today's events over his head. He would be in great trouble if that were the case.

He might have lost a bustling seafood restaurant today, but the restaurant was not completely his own. He had only invested a little bit of money in it, so he did not care much about the loss.

However, if Jasper made him an enemy, Gerry did not believe he would end up any better than Norman.

It was great that Jasper declined dinner since Gerry had come today to meet another distinguished guest. He would be troubled if Jasper decided to stay.

Gerry was about to say something when a group of people arrived.

These people were currently chatting happily among themselves.

In the middle of the crowd was a handsome man in his twenties, donning a sharp red jacket and wearing a silver shiny earring on his ear.

The group walked over, and Gerry's expression changed when he saw the young man. He quickly went over to greet him, "Mr. Chavez, you're here early."

'Mr. Chavez?'

Jasper was intrigued when he heard the rare surname, and turned to look at the group of people.

The young man by the title Mr. Chavez replied calmly, "Why? Do I have to tell you what time I arrive too?"

Gerry bowed slightly and quickly smiled. He replied, "Of course not. What I meant was that I could have met you downstairs if I knew the time of your grand arrival, Mr. Chavez."

At that moment, Mr. Chavez also spotted Jasper.

Despite being the first time the duo met, this Mr. Chavez seemed to recognize Jasper.

“Jasper Laine?” Mr. Chavez arched his brow and asked casually.

From Mr. Chavez’s reaction, Jasper knew that he had guessed the identity of this man correctly.

Prince Chavez, also known as the crown prince.

He was the heir, as well as the most important member, of Clear Seas, an extremely strong company among the country’s capitalist circle.

“Prince Chavez,” Jasper greeted calmly.

Prince chuckled and raised his hand to touch the earring on his left ear as he replied, “I much prefer being referred to as the crown prince.”

“Might as well use Your Highness, then,” Jasper commented.

“Haha,” Prince laughed out loud and said, “I have no qualms with that either.”

Prince’s arrogance could be seen in how he referred to himself.

“The last imperial dynasty ended long ago. There are no crown princes in the country anymore.”

Prince’s gaze turned sinisterly cold upon hearing Jasper’s remark.

“That depends on where we are. As long as I’m around, then there will be a crown prince!”

Jasper shrugged and replied, “This is a modern society where everyone has freedom of speech. You can call yourself a king if you want.

“Of course, but remember not to take it too seriously. It wouldn’t be worth it to get charged with the crime of dividing the country. You’re a law student, Tiff. What is the punishment for such a crime?”

Tiffany was familiar with her curriculum, and she immediately replied, “At least three years jail-time. If the circumstances are severe, the first offense can even be charged with life imprisonment.”

Prince's smile began to fade upon witnessing Jasper and Tiffany's coordination. His expression turned sinister as well.

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Prince stared at Jasper expressionlessly and said coldly, "Looks like rumors were right, Jasper. You are indeed very arrogant."

"There are many rumors about me but I always thought of myself as humble and cautious. I don't know when the word 'arrogant' began to be associated with me, but perhaps it's because people don't know me very well. I'm sure that once they get to know me, they'd find that I'm a really easy person to get along with."

Prince harrumphed at Jasper's claim and said, "Cut the nonsense with me. It's useless."

"Since you know who I am, Jasper, then I'm sure you know about the situation there too. So, stop playing dumb."

"I'll tell you straight up. I have my eyes on the online payment industry."

Then, Prince smiled and stepped out of his small crowd toward Jasper. Once he got close, Prince grinned wretchedly and said slowly, "You, get lost!"

Beside them, Julian narrowed his eyes at Prince's taunting words.

All he needed was a glance from Jasper, and Julian would crush Prince's head without hesitation, crown prince or king.

As far as Julian was concerned, no one was allowed to provoke Jasper.

Yet, Jasper only looked at Prince calmly.

Ever since he started his business, Jasper had been faced with countless enemies.

As he began to climb the ranks, the enemies he had to fight against also gradually grew stronger.

His enemy Fabian had already caused him a multitude of problems even though they had yet to meet.

His so-called ally, the little prince, posed a danger that surpassed anyone he met.

Prince, who stood before him now, was not an easy opponent to deal with either.

Jasper could tell there was a scheming man beneath all his arrogance.

Not that it mattered.

“We shall see, then,” Was all Jasper calmly replied.

Prince laughed out loud, yet his gaze was exceptionally dark.

“No one’s ever dared to steal what I wanted ever since I was a child. I’ve already got my eyes on the online payment industry, so there’s no way I’d let anyone else touch it. There are plenty of people vying to go against you, Jasper, but I’m not going to sink to their level just to get rid of you together.”

“Still, be smart and back out of the online payment industry. I have nothing against doing something many other people would like to see.”

Prince stared and sneered at Jasper after he finished speaking, then he turned his head away. "Let's go. It's dinner time."

With that, he left arrogantly.

Jasper narrowed his eyes as he watched Prince leave. A spark flickered in his eyes.

"Mr... Mr. Laine?"

Gerry's cautious tone caused Jasper to look over.

"Not going to serve Prince?" Jasper asked.

Gerry's expression was dark.

He had used all kinds of contacts and methods to finally seem of slight importance in front of Prince. The man was the distinguished guest he was supposed to be treating to a meal today.

However, after what had just happened, even an idiot could tell that Jasper and Prince were at each other's throats.

Gerry immediately felt as if he was being grilled over high heat. He did not know which side to join.

He was afraid that Jasper would direct his anger onto him, and terrified that Prince would be able to tell that he and Jasper were acquainted. The latter would get him into grave trouble.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1164

PART PROGRESS

0% Complete

“Go ahead. What you choose to invest in is your own business.”

Jasper said calmly, then he ignored Gerry and left with Tiffany and Julian in tow.

Gerry stomped his foot as he watched Jasper leave. He felt the urge to slap himself.

Of all the times, it had to happen now. What a coincidence.

Prince and Jasper just had to become enemies, and the day he decided to treat Prince to dinner, Jasper just had to be there to find out.

Jasper who had no idea of Gerry's internal turmoil as he soon arrived downstairs.

"Jasper, did I end up causing you trouble again?" Tiffany saw Jasper's stern expression and asked softly.

Jasper snapped back to reality and smiled. "Not at all. There was some other issue, but it wasn't your fault... Are you hungry? What do you want to eat?"

"But we agreed that I would treat you," Tiffany whispered, "But we can do it next time if you're busy, Jasper."

"There's no rush. Work can wait, but we can't drag on the celebration for your first part-time paycheck. How about this, let's eat somewhere else." Jasper smiled.

Tiffany felt conflicted when she saw a gentle smile grace Jasper's features again.

"Alright."

All the words she wanted to say were condensed into one.

She was not an idiot. She could tell that the man from just now would pose great trouble for Jasper.

Still, Jasper had chosen to eat with her.

Tiffany told herself internally that this would be the first and last time she acted on a whim.

Julian followed the duo as they shopped around Gold Pedestrian Street, then went to a restaurant on the beach with a nice view and atmosphere.

It was not a cheap place to dine in. The three were frugal, yet they had ended up spending more than 400 Somer Dollars altogether.

Jasper had a small smile on his face as he watched Tiffany pull out money for the bill excitedly. Being considerate of the girl's self-esteem, Jasper did not try to help her pay for it.

The dinner came as a product of her desire to thank him, and it meant more than 400 Somer Dollars to her. Hence, Jasper did not do anything to kill the mood.

After dinner, Jasper had Julian drive Tiffany back to school. Jasper sent her to the entrance of her dorm before he walked out of Hoofmorn University.

Once he got into the car, Jasper's smile instantly vanished and he immediately called Hudson and Wayne.

Jasper did not say much and only told them one thing over the phone.

He had to pack their luggage and make their way to the airport immediately, where his private plane would bring them over to Waterhoof City overnight.

After that, the first private Gulfstream airplane parked in Nauritus City International Airport immediately departed upon receiving Jasper's instruction.

Its first stop was to pick Hudson up from the further distanced Cavern City, then it went to Hervey City to pick Wayne up. It was already two-thirty in the morning by the time the airplane arrived at Waterhoof City International Airport.

After that, Hudson and Wayne rushed over to the hotel from the airport, looking exhausted from the flight. It was three-fifty in the morning when they arrived.

On the other hand, Jasper was still wide awake.

In the study of Jasper's hotel room, he shook Wayne and Hudson's hands before everyone took their seats.

Jasper smiled and said, "Sorry for troubling you two into coming overnight."

Hudson had known Jasper longer, and he replied with a smile, "It wasn't much trouble, Mr. Laine. But I have to say, that airplane of yours is quite the vehicle. It wasn't too tiring coming all the way here."

Wayne, who was currently in his start-up stage, was more realistic and he went asked straightforwardly, "Is something wrong, Mr. Laine? Why did you call us over so suddenly?"

Jasper knocked on the table with his finger and replied, "Since you asked, then I might as well get straight to the point. This is a matter of life and death for Terizone and Abbylon."

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Both Hudson's and Wayne's expressions changed slightly upon hearing this.

Both of them knew that, considering his character, Jasper would not make a joke about something like this. Not to mention that he had flown both of them over from different cities with his private plane. It would be ridiculous for him to go so far just to make a joke.

Hence, Jasper's words had to hold significant meaning. Jasper exhaled softly and continued, "It's to do with payment."

Payment!

Wayne and Hudson frowned at the mention of this.

Payment methods were the most important aspect of online shopping platforms, so Wayne was no stranger to online payments. He also knew that he could not make his platform into something big no matter how good it was if they did not find a good solution for this problem.

"As things stand, the government has plans to standardize online payment; it will be implemented through policies soon. They'll most likely try to increase accessibility and standardize market behavior."

"This implies that the government is aware of the huge effect that online payment may bring, which is why they're setting a standard in advance."

“This involves many parties, and we’ve already got competition. If we’re not careful, our opponent will completely seize control of the online payment market. We’ll be in trouble if that happens.”

Hudson seemed fine when he heard Jasper explain this, but Wayne’s expression changed completely.

The main point of an online shopping platform was to have a huge number of products and a quick and convenient shopping method. From signing up on the website to choosing goods to communicating with suppliers, everything came down to paying for the goods.

If someone else were to dominate online payment, then he might as well close his online shopping platform.

“Don’t worry. Since we have the first-mover advantage, it won’t be that easy for competition to get rid of us,” Jasper consoled Wayne.

“But we don’t have much time now, so we have to take control of the online payment industry before the direction of the future has been decided.”

“I’ve thought about this before. We’ll take the online payment technology platform that Terizone Inc and Sena partnered to create, then integrate it with Abbylon’s shopping platform.”

“Then I’ll separate this segment and establish a whole new subsidiary for it. This subsidiary company will only take care of online payments, and it will be the most important company that will connect all of JW’s dot-com enterprises.”

Jasper’s words were not complicated, and since both Wayne and Hudson were experienced businessmen, they immediately understood what he meant.

This meant that all Internet companies under JW in the future would have business with this online payment company.

This company’s importance had instantly outshone any other.

It immediately became JW’s new core.

“JW Capital will own 70% of the new payment company’s shares. For the remaining 30%, I’m planning to split it between Terizone and Abbylon equally. JW Capital will maintain ownership and be the majority shareholder, but I plan to hand management rights over to both of you.”

Wayne and Hudson’s eyes lit up brightly when they heard this.

“I’ve thought about the specifics of management too, and I’ve decided to go with a co-CEO model.”

This co-CEO model meant that two presidents would hold the same level of authority in the company. Both presidents would be in charge of operating and managing the entire company together.

“For this co-CEO model, I’ve taken into account both your own positions and work. Unfortunately, it’s against my principles to allow you two to assume the role of CEO of this new company yourselves. However, the two of you can hand me your recommendations and I’ll personally assign them to the role.”

Jasper glanced at the two men and continued immediately, almost as if he knew what they were thinking.

If Terizone and Abbylon wanted to compete, it had to be through positive and friendly competition. Fighting internally would only result in friction and a waste of JW’s resources. There was no way Jasper would allow both conquerors like Hudson and Wayne to share the same chair.

That was a recipe for trouble.

Things would be much easier to deal with if the duo recommended their own men.

“I... don't see why not.”

Wayne and Hudson shared a look before nodding and saying. They saw the effort Jasper had put into solving this issue.

This was indeed the best way to avoid conflict

There would of course still be arguments over authority within the new company for a co-CEO model, but that did not matter anymore.

The company's ultimate authority still laid in Jasper's hand, while the duo were not unreasonable rookies but rather people who knew their priorities. Conflicts over authority would still exist in the new company, but Jasper's plan ensured that it would be limited to an acceptable level.

“As I said before, Abbylon and Terizone may both be subsidiaries of JW as its still the majority shareholder, but they are completely different companies. Needless to say, the two of you have completely different interests and demands. You can put your own interests first, but do not strain your relationship too much.”

Jasper was essentially setting a limit to the scale of conflict Abbylon and Terizone's could have more than a decade into the future when two of them would be giants of the industry.

They could fight, only so long as it was within his pre-determined limits.

“Next, let’s talk about the specific technology bylaws and modus operandi. We have to come up with a realistic and implementable proposal tonight. We never know, I might have to hand this proposal up to the government for reference very soon.”

...

Jasper knew that if the government wanted to devise a better access policy for online payment, that they would definitely ask for his opinion.

After all, he was the only person in the country who was operating an online payment company.

However, he did not expect everything to happen so soon.

The following day, Jasper had not managed to sleep for long after pulling an all-nighter when Vita’s phone call woke him up.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1166

Half an hour later, after a simple breakfast Jasper had Julian drive him to ICBS' Waterhoof City branch's conference room.

Vita met Jasper outside the conference room.

“How is it? Did I miss anything?” Jasper asked.

Vita quickly replied, “You're just in time. The conference starts in five minutes.”

“The higher-ups sent a survey team to attend this conference. The main objective of today is to confirm the access policy. I've already sorted your ideas and handed them over, so they might ask you a few more questions about it.”

Jasper nodded. He was about to push open the door and enter when Vita lowered his voice and said, “Prince is inside too.”

Jasper arched his brow slightly. “He doesn't have an online payment company not any relevant experience. What's he doing inside?”

Vita smiled wryly and replied, “We can’t decline him because of his status. Soha’s vice president’s also inside with him.”

Jasper nodded. He pushed open the conference room door and walked in.

There were not too many people in the conference room, just five to six, but everyone looked stern.

Jasper immediately attracted everyone’s gaze once he entered the room.

Sitting on the left of the conference table was Prince. The man tinkered with the earring on his earlobe and

looked at Jasper neither dark nor brightly. Then, he sneered.

The middle-aged man sitting at the head of the table was very polite as he took the initiative to walk up and shake Jasper’s hand.

“Hello, Mr. Laine. I’m the leader of the survey team, Barnaby Wilcher. You can call me Mr. Wilcher.”

Jasper smiled and shook Mr. Wilcher's hand. "Mr. Wilcher, please survey to your heart's content."

Barnaby laughed out loud and replied, "It's our job. Well then, let's begin the conference."

Under Barnaby's lead, Jasper sat on his right, coincidentally right opposite Prince.

The conference was about to begin when Prince suddenly said casually, "Wait. Before the conference starts, I have something to say.

"Since there's no set policy for online payment yet, I think all running businesses should temporarily be put on hold. Only after the policy's issued should the company be re-reviewed, after which qualifications and licenses can be distributed."

Everyone looked at Jasper after hearing this.

Even an idiot could tell that Prince was targeting Jasper alone with his words.

This was because Jasper was the only person in the country officially operating an online payment system. Jasper would be forced to suffer a huge loss by putting his

online payment system on hold until the policy was enforced, his company's qualifications were re-reviewed, and a license was distributed to him.

Jasper was expressionless when he replied calmly, "Well then, Mr. Chavez, I wonder if you eat by injecting food into your stomach and waiting for it to digest before you take it out to chew?"

Muffled snorts were heard from the other attendees. They could not help but laugh at the response.

Even Mr. Wilcher, who was hosting the meeting, showed a tint of mirth on the corner of his lips.

Prince was the only one with a pitch-black expression. He stared at Jasper and asked, "What did you say, Jasper?"

"Don't you know understand what I said?" Jasper asked back.

This conference had been a fight between him and Prince to begin with, and Jasper would not lose.

Admitting defeat meant that there would be a slight change to the policy in the future. One that might result in a huge attack against his properties.

Because of this, Jasper was fully prepared to face off against Prince, both from a logical and emotional perspective.

“Online payment is a concept I first proposed, and with the central bank and the government’s support, it’s proven to be a viable option to adopt. I have no qualms about sharing the fruit of my hard work with you since I had never decided to act illegally and monopolize the country’s market.”

“But this is still a survey conference, after all, one that will decide the policy framework of the online payment industry in the future. So what are you trying to do by requesting that I close my operating platform right off the bat?”

“My partnership is recognized by ICBS, the central bank, and the government. I will change according to the official policy when it’s issued in the future, but I will not put a halt to my business until then.”

Jasper’s words were well-founded and reasonable.

Even Mr. Wilcher nodded slightly in approval.

However, there was no way Prince would give up so easily when he had the intention to cause trouble for Jasper.

“You make it sound so nice, but I heard rumors long ago that your online payment has a turnover of tens of millions everyday. Who knows if you’ve done anything illegal? Would you dare to pull out all your data for us to audit?”

The atmosphere in the conference room changed at that.

Prince did not stop there.

“Do you know how much wealth is involved in a turnover of tens of millions? Do you know how much dirty money you can earn with even a slightly underhanded trick?”

“You think that just because you claim that there’s nothing’s wrong that there won’t be a problem at all?”

“You want to prove your innocence? Sure. The best way to do so would be to share your data with the public and let us investigate it thoroughly.”

Jasper glanced at Prince’s prideful expression and replied calmly, “So you want to investigate me. What happens if there’s nothing wrong, then?”

Prince snorted. “Shouldn’t that be the given? You’d be in grave trouble if there was something wrong. What do you mean, ‘what then’?”

“So you mean I have to immediately reveal all my data to the public and let you flip through all my important trade secrets as you wish. However, if there’s no problem, you’ll just up and leave matter-of-factly, correct?”

Prince grinned. “Exactly. That’s correct. Why, do you not dare to do so?”

“It’s not that I don’t dare.”

Jasper shook his head.

“I’m just really curious how you can be so arrogant.”

“Following your logic, it means that I can enter your house and start digging around. If I find nothing I want, then I’ll just walk out self-righteously. If I find something, then I’ll confiscate it and your entire house. What difference is that from a common bandit?”

“Not to mention that neither of us have any say in whether there’s anything wrong with it or not. All my companies have performed their tax duties and cooperated with tax

auditing businesses. There's never been any problem when it comes to us and paying taxes."

"But according to what you said, are you telling me that your authority is above the tax department? Or perhaps you think that everyone in the tax department is useless and are not as skilled as you."

"You want to investigate? Sure. I can open all my data to the public. But what about Clear Seas Industrial's data? Can I investigate that as well?"

Prince's expression darkened with every word. Once he heard the last part about investigating Clear Seas' data, Prince exploded in fury like a cat whose tail had been stepped on.

"Who the f*ck do you think you are? How dare you propose investigating Clear Seas Industrial's accounts? Who gave you the right to say something so treacherous?!"

In comparison to Prince's fury, Jasper looked much more laid-back. He nodded calmly and said, "Exactly. You just voiced out exactly what I wanted to say."

Prince narrowed his eyes and glared at Jasper. The conflict between the two seemed even more incendiary than ever before.

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Prince suddenly smiled and slowly sat back down. He raised his hand to play with his earring and said, “Wow. You’re not a weak opponent at all, Mr. Laine. Very well, then. Let’s start the conference.”

Everyone felt uneasy at the drastic difference in Prince’s attitudes. It was as if he had turned into a completely different person.

Jasper was the only one who frowned slightly as he internally raised Prince’s level of danger toward him.

The impression Prince gave Jasper right now was of an arrogant and insolent man. However, beneath all these emotions hid an even stronger capability to control them.

People like him were very difficult to deal with.

Mr. Wilcher finally found the opportunity to speak. He cleared his throat and said, “Let’s move on from the previous topic. There are two agendas for this conference today.”

“Firstly, about the access review policy plan Mr. Prince Chavez proposed for the online payment industry. It’s a great plan, and after further research, we’ve found that we can use this suggestion as a sort of the blueprint while designing the future policy.”

Prince finally smiled after he heard Mr. Wilcher's words.

The entire proposal was designed with a professional AI policy research team under Mr. Wilcher.

The proposal ensured that the government's goals were met while his own interests were kept. As far as Prince was concerned, there was no reason for this proposal to be rejected.

Prince chuckled and said, "I just want to standardize the industry even more. Otherwise, other people might start thinking that just because they came first, that the entire industry now belongs to him. They should at least take a look at themselves first. Wouldn't you say so, Mr. Laine?"

Prince's attention was fixed on Jasper the entire time, so he did not realize the awkward smile on Mr. Wilcher's face.

"Uh, I'm not done yet," Mr. Wilcher interrupted.

Prince leaned back against the chair and said casually, "It's alright. There's no need to praise, to thank, or to give me recognition. I'm just doing my part. Only by brainstorming and working together can we make the best out of the industry."

Mr. Wilcher's expression turned even more awkward.

"After a research meeting and taking all aspects into consideration, we've decided to use Mr. Jasper Laine's proposal as the final executed standard that will decide the future direction of the industry's policies."

With Mr. Wilcher's words, the conference room fell pin-drop silent.

Prince's smile froze on his face and his expression became as dark as a moonless night.

Mr. Wilcher had been speaking about how Prince's proposal could be used as a blueprint mere moments ago, only to state that they would use Jasper's suggestion as the final executed standard in the next. The stark contrast in both sentences had the other employees in the room feeling agitated, let alone Prince himself.

Prince's explosive temper could not be contained anymore, and he turned to glare at Mr. Wilcher. "What did you say?!"

Mr. Wilcher felt awkward, but his identity and status were still somewhat powerful. Hence, he felt displeased when he heard Prince's interrogative tone.

“Mr. Chavez, I understand where you’re coming from but please correct your attitude. All decisions were made during the research meeting and was not decided by any one person.”

Prince felt like he had been made fun of as he suppressed his fury that was moments away from exploding again. He answered, “Didn’t you say that my proposal would be taken as a blueprint? What the f*ck is Jasper’s proposal?”

Mr. Wilcher sighed and said, “The overall decision of the higher-ups is to carry out the license issuance system. The government will do a comprehensive qualification review before a company can apply, and they will only be issued a license should they pass it. Your idea of a 1 billion Somer Dollar security deposit has also been retained.”

“Mr. Chavez, the biggest difference between Mr. Laine’s and your suggestion is that he proposed that the bank can partner with multiple companies possessing an online payment license, meaning that the industry is open to the public. Mr. Chavez, the scope of your proposal was too narrow.”

“Online payment is new, but it will become a huge industry. No one is allowed to monopolize it.”

Prince’s expression darkened with every word.

When Mr. Wilcher told him unkindly that his scope was too narrow, Prince slammed the table and pointed at Jasper's nose while scolding, "How dare you f*cking steal my profits, Laine?!"

Jasper looked up and glanced at Prince before he replied calmly, "Didn't you say it yourself? I'm just doing my part. Only by brainstorming and working together can we make the best out of the industry, no?"

The last thing Prince expected was for Jasper to revoke the most important part of his proposal.

"Are you f*cking crazy?! What good does opening this industry to the public do for you? You're willing to screw everyone over just to stop me from profiting, huh?"

Prince was infuriated.

"The license qualification review and the 1 billion security deposit means nothing. But you allowing the bank to partner with multiple companies means that you're completely opening the industry to the public! How f*cking cruel of you, Jasper!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1168

Prince's anger was only natural.

The man was in a rush to prove himself to his family. He was optimistic about the online payment industry, and he had invested a lot of time and effort to make it come true.

To Prince, this incident was like a trial for him. If he passed, then he would be given more say in the family enterprise. If he failed, then he was to do his part and be an obedient son of his wealthy family.

Prince was indignant.

After paying the price in an immeasurable amount of effort, Prince's most basic goal was to monopolize and enforce a blockade on the market so that only he alone was allowed to operate it.

The situation had been going great until Jasper suddenly appeared. After Jasper figuratively flipped the dinner table so that no one could eat anything, Prince now hated the man to his very core.

However, it had never occurred to him that Jasper had already stepped foot in this industry before he could. If he wanted to control the entire market, he had to throw Jasper out.

Jasper ignored all of Prince's scolding and complaints. After all, he had more important things to do than deal with Prince's disgruntlement.

"Mr. Wilcher. I also brought something this time."

Jasper then pulled out a stack of papers. Mr. Wilcher looked at it then waved his hand, and someone immediately distributed the papers to everyone.

Prince received a copy as well.

"I'd like to see what tricks he has up his sleeve!"

Prince scoffed and flipped open the document.

He had only taken one look when his pupils constricted.

As the sound of flipping pages sounded filled the conference room, Jasper began to elaborate on his plan.

“I’ll announce the establishment of a whole new company very soon that will continue development of the online payment platform initially run by Terizone Inc. The company will also arrive at an in-depth strategic cooperation agreement with the three companies Terizone, Sena, and Abbylon.”

“This new company will only be in charge of one business, online payment.”

“For this, in addition to the 1 billion Somer Dollar security deposit with the central bank, I will also put in an extra 1 billion specifically for compensation purposes. This way, anyone who uses my online payment business will not have to worry, as any loss of funds will be compensated for in full without failure.”

Prince’s hand shook when he took in the contents of the document.

He knew that this would be the nail in the coffin.

Should Jasper begin to execute this, no one in the country’s online payment industry would be able to defeat Jasper.

Prince passed the document to his team of research consultants that had followed him here, then turned to glare at Jasper with extreme hatred and iciness.

He realized that he had to do everything possible to stop Jasper.

Otherwise, it would be over to him.

In stark contrast to Prince, Mr. Wilcher and the rest became more terrified and satisfied as they read on.

“Mr. Laine, if you don’t mind me asking, is this entire operating concept and framework, as well as what you said just now, true?” Mr. Wilcher asked.

Jasper chuckled. The contents of the document were something he had come up with Hudson and Wayne overnight.

The concept was something he had introduced from the future, it was something that was proven to be feasible as history had proven. Hence, Jasper had no fear that it would fail.

“I wouldn’t make a joke in such a situation. I’ll make my words come true.”

Mr. Wilcher shouted after hearing Jasper's reply, "Good!"

"We were still worried before about this completely new industry. The government might have come up with a policy and standard, but we've never encountered something like this before. There is no relative experience for this overseas either, so we were worried that a problem would arise somewhere along the process."

"But with you leading the way, Mr. Laine, I'm confident that there won't be any problem at all."

"Wait!"

Prince's voice interrupted Mr. Wilcher's joyful conversation with Jasper.

Mr. Wilcher frowned irritably as he looked at Prince. He said patiently, "Is there anything you'd like to add, Mr. Chavez?"

Prince sneered and stared at Jasper before saying, "You're about to establish a new subsidiary, right, Jasper? Great Then I'll use this setting and opportunity to announce something as well."

"Soha's about to launch its own online payment platform too, very soon!"

Prince then stared daggers at Jasper and spat icily, “Since we’ve come to an agreement on the policy, Jasper, let’s decide the true victor on the market. Whoever dies will be forced to pull out from the market. Do you dare to accept my challenge?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1169

Before Jasper could react to Prince’s words, the vice president of Soha sitting beside the latter paled in shock.

‘Since when was Soha about to launch an online payment platform?’

‘As vice president, how do I not know about this?’

‘We have nothing. What are we launching?’

‘We have no product to sell, so there’s no reason for any customer to use a barebones online payment platform! What are we launching it for, then?’

Sitting on his chair, the vice president felt sweat bead and trickle down his forehead. He was frantic.

Yet, Prince showed no signs of interest in this as he glared at Jasper.

“So? Do you dare to take up my challenge or not?”

Jasper merely chuckled in the face of Prince’s aggressive and forceful shouting. The former replied, “I don’t care what you or Soha are going to do. If you think you have the capability then fight for what you want. What’s the point of blowing this into something bigger than it actually is?”

“Good!”

Prince smiled wretchedly and stood up to point at Jasper. He continued, “I’ll commend you for your bravery. But as someone who’s never experienced it for themselves, you’ll never know how terrifying it is to offend me.”

“I don’t need too much effort to get rid of you considering how small your capital is in comparison to mine. If you have a death wish, then I won’t be blamed for being cruel either.”

Mr. Wilcher shook his head at both Prince’s aggression and Jasper’s indifference.

If possible, he truly hoped that these two companies could collaborate and work together to develop this newly emerged industry.

However, from the way things looked now, it seemed like this was a pipe dream.

Not to mention that his identity at this conference was a sensitive one. He represented the government, so no matter how distasteful he found Prince's arrogance, or how much he appreciated Jasper, he had to remain impartial.

"Alright. Now, let's move on to the next item on the agenda. Before I do that, let me remind everyone once more that the point of this research conference is to plan for the online payment industry's future. Please refrain from bringing up topics unrelated to this matter."

"I would like everyone to try and refrain from adding your own emotions into this conference too, as it will only waste everyone's time."

The following discussion was spent with Mr. Wilcher's research team asking Jasper about how online payments operated, what problems he's faced or would face in the future, and how to resolve these problems. Overall, this could be considered a scenario where the government was asking for all of Jasper's opinions in one go.

After all, Jasper was the only person in the entire country and world that was officially running an online payment system. There were similar businesses abroad, but those

were of a completely different kind, and there was no way they could invite someone foreign over to conduct an interview.

It was evident that the government had decided to build this online payment industry well. Thus, they decided to resolve all potential problems that could possibly arise.

Naturally, Jasper was glad to help.

Be it within or outside the country, all companies required their respective government's support if they wanted to grow.

The government planned for the benefit of its people while enterprises only had to worry about profiting, paying taxes, and internal personnel.

The government and enterprises were not enemies. In fact, they were co-dependent and could develop a mutually beneficial relationship.

However, while Jasper and Mr. Wilcher began to benefit from each other, Prince no longer had anything to do with the conference.

Prince might have wanted to enter the industry, but he had no experience in the online payment industry at all before this.

Soha's vice president was useless in the scenario too, since Soha did not understand the industry either.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1170

All they could do was watch as Jasper and Mr. Wilcher grew even closer.

Many people believed that with Prince's temper, there was no way he would accept being discarded like this.

Surprisingly, Prince did not cause trouble throughout the rest of the conference. It was almost as if he had accepted the role as a bystander.

It was only his sinister gaze sweeping over Jasper from time to time that gave him away. After all, nobody would believe that this quiet man sitting at the conference desk could look as arrogant as he did at the beginning of the conference.

An hour later, the meeting ended.

Outside the conference room, Mr. Wilcher shook Jasper's hand and said, "Thank you for so many of your suggestions, Mr. Laine. I'll compile and hand this up as soon as possible. I'm sure that the official document will be issued in no time."

Jasper smiled and replied, "I'm just doing my part."

After their chat, Prince also walked out of the conference hall bossily.

He made a beeline for Jasper and snickered.

"I really want to rip your face off so I can send it to you and let you admire it, Jasper. Because it won't be long before you'll never get to smile again!"

Prince's eyes shone with a venomous glint.

"I used to think that you were a prideful ant, but I realized that I was wrong. Rather than prideful, you're just a scheming ant who has a bit of luck."

"Not that it matters, since you're just an ant at the end of the day. It'd take no effort for me to crush you."

Prince sneered and lowered his voice to continue, "You've never faced Clear Seas Industrial, so you'll never know how powerful I am. I am the crown prince of Clear Seas Industrial! Just you wait, Jasper. I'll make sure to kill you!"

Staring at Prince, who was mere inches away from him, Jasper replied calmly, “Let the results do the talking. What use is being ruthless with your words? Do you see me getting affected by them?”

Prince glared at Jasper and replied icily, “You sure have a way with words!”

“But I do hope that you can still joyfully rebut others in the future. Not that you’ll have the chance, though.”

Prince gave Jasper one last sinister look after he finished speaking, as if trying to memorize Jasper’s current expression before he turned his head and left.

Jasper watched Prince’s figure leave calmly.

However, no one seemed to realize that most of Jasper’s attention was not on Prince. Instead, it was focused on Soha’s vice president who stood beside Prince and whom had held an insignificant presence throughout the conference.

Jasper could clearly remember that when Prince first said that Soha was about to launch an online payment platform in the conference room, the vice president looked shocked and helpless. It was almost as if he had been told that aliens had invaded earth.

So why did he look overjoyed and confident now?

Excluding the few minutes Jasper and Mr. Wilcher had spent conversing outside after the conference was over, Jasper and Prince had been in the same venue the entire time.

'Prince and that vice president were alone in the conference room only for those few minutes.

'What did they talk about?

'What was it that turned the vice president from a desperate mess mere moments ago, to an extremely confident man in the next?'

Jasper refused to believe that Prince had simply given the vice president an empty promise to console him.

The man had managed to become Soha's vice president. Without seeing some tangible benefits, there was no way he would buy into a rich kid's baseless plan.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1171

Jasper's worries were not unwarranted.

The day after the conference, before Jasper could officially announce the establishment of his new company, Soha made their move.

Soha made an official announcement to establish Soha Payments, which had arrived at a strategic cooperation agreement with the three gaming companies Netsy, Ideal World, and Senator.

At the same time, the three gaming companies also released public statements.

They announced that the online games under their respective companies would integrate an online payment system, and all players would be able to utilize the bank system and buy points cards online.

As far as the outside world was concerned, these three gaming companies appeared as though they had taken note of how Sena managed to earn huge profits through selling points cards online for United Legends and decided to replicate their success and enter the market as well.

On the other hand, an extremely small group of people could see the true danger lying underneath this sliver of information.

This was a two-pronged attack across two industries.

The first attack was Soha Payment's open challenge toward Jasper's existing payment platform. The second was that this represented a revolt from other online gaming companies in the country against Sena after United Legends had blown up.

Due to the butterfly effect, Senator had actually gotten the agency rights for another exciting online game that had been developed in Coreana.

Miracles.

This was another online game that had once blown up within the country. This was an online game Coreana had developed to counter United Legends once they saw its hype.

In the present timeline, due to United Legends' popularity being moved forward, Miracles also fell under the public spotlight earlier. The game was also greatly sought out by a large group of players.

Miracles was not the only game that had appeared earlier.

So did Ideal World Co., Ltd's representative game, Ideal World.

Even West Fantasyland had hit the markets earlier, a long-standing online game also known as a miracle on par with World of Warcraft.

Jasper's appearance resulted in many future well-known and outstanding online games appearing sooner than they had in his original life. However, these premature games were no match for United Legends, the best online game in the country which was currently at its peak.

"Mr. Laine, even though United Legends' current player base and revenue are decreasing, we still control at least 60% of the country's online market share."

Jack, who was fully presiding over Sena's business, reported to Jasper through a video call.

Jasper nodded. He was unsurprised by the data.

One of the reasons behind United Legends' eventual weakening in his past life was Senator's heartless cash-grab tactics. This resulted in explosive growth on their side.

A simple monster and player fighting game had been forcefully turned into a game of token exchange. This money-minded operation had also sped up the game's demise.

However, Senator did not have much of a choice at the time. They were facing the issue of overly high protection costs, as there had been a leak in server source codes overseas, which spread to private domestic servers.

At the same time, other online games also began to arise. Coupled with the fact that United Legends had reached the end of its version's lifespan, Senator had no other option but to quickly wring United Legends dry of every dollar it was worth.

Jasper had taken precautions against this and bought ownership over United Legends. All follow-up development and agency rights were decided by Sena themselves in order to make sure the possibility of a leaked source code would not occur.

"We have to speed up the content creation of the version. Among Miracles, Ideal World, and West Fantasyland, the last one will be our biggest competition.

"But that is still a 2D turn-based game and it's unimportant to our target audience. You still have to watch out for the other two games, especially Miracles."

"And I heard that cheat codes have appeared as well?"

Cheat codes were essentially coding software that skilled programmers wrote to hack into the players' accounts. When it came to online games, the most important things to look out for after private servers were cheat codes.

When it came to danger levels, cheat codes were even more dangerous than private servers.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1172

After all, not everyone was brave enough to risk being sued by the gaming company and potentially face life imprisonment just to steal a source code.

However, anyone who was even slightly familiar with technology could code.

Jack looked embarrassed when he heard Jasper's question and replied, "We've already gathered the relevant reports and handed it over to the technical department for urgent repairs.

"Being constantly on guard is a waste of resources and has no guarantee. Just contact the legal department and suspend all accounts that used the cheat code once they've been detected. We'll sue everyone that wrote the code. Do I need to explain something so simple to you?" Jasper asked distastefully.

Jack smiled wryly and replied, “Mr. Laine, I don’t know if you know this, but it costs almost nothing to write a cheat code. However, it costs a lot for us to protect our rights.”

“We can only use technical methods to suspend accounts that are using cheat codes, but we have no right to trace the physical addresses of the players who used the codes. We’ll have to contact the police for this and have them investigate the matter. You know how difficult this is, Mr. Laine.”

“I am confident that I can do this.”

Another voice suddenly rang out on Jack’s side of the video call.

The camera turned and Jasper saw a familiar person appear on the screen.

Dane Warren.

Sena’s previous chairman and its true founder.

After completely losing against Jasper in a fight for shareholder rights, Dane opted to stay in Sena’s internal ranks when the former gave him the choice to.

It was an act that required a lot of courage, but Dane continued bravely despite the weird looks the other employees gave him.

Jasper initially worried if the man had ulterior motives, He even asked Jack to keep a close eye on him.

Yet, the truth remained that Dane truly wished to make Sena into something great. Even if this Sena was not the same one he had founded.

Dane had worked diligently all this while and he did not contact any of his previous confidants. He carried out his own role clearly and well.

Dane must have possessed his own strengths and capabilities to create Sena by himself and turn it into the best web portal in the country.

He might not have been an outstanding chairman, but he was an exceptional senior executive.

Dane looked nervous in the video call as he looked at Jasper intently. There was an almost pleading look in his gaze.

“Uh...”

Jasper did not know how he should refer to Dane.

It had been a long time since he paid Dane any attention. After all, the difference in status between the two was just too large.

“I’m currently the manager in charge of maintaining the web portal’s forum,” Dane said calmly with a wry smile.

“Mr. Warren,” Jasper nodded. Pondering for a bit, he asked, “This is a difficult and ungratifying job, something that you could put tons of hard work and effort into only to come up empty-handed. Are you sure you’re willing to do it?”

Dane replied sternly, “I am. Please give me a chance, Mr. Laine.”

After a moment’s silence, Jasper answered, “You still have a small portion of the initial shares when it was previously diluted. I can give special approval for you to cash all of it out at Sena’s current market rate.”

Jasper’s words implied that Dane could become a multimillionaire at any given moment.

Dane replied calmly, “Money isn’t the most important thing to me anymore.”

Jasper nodded and said, “Alright. Then I’ll pass this responsibility over to you. I view all capable people the same. so as long as you do well, I won’t be stingy with your dividends and bonuses.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1173

Ex-enemies could one day become intimate partners. Dane’s wish was for Sena to grow strong, and so was Jasper’s.

People who had the same goal could fully move on from the past with a smile on their face.

Only children talked about who was good or bad. Adults focused on gains and losses.

This gain or loss could be about their interests or their dream.

Dane felt his chest lighten when he heard Jasper’s reply. Frankly speaking, it took a lot of courage for him to volunteer for this, and he felt immense pressure to say what he did today.

Dane had stayed even after he lost his identity as the company’s founder and chairman, and ended up as a maintenance manager for a small forum. He had no reason not to fight one last battle for himself.

Even so, he could bet that Jasper was not a narrow-minded person.

Thankfully for him, he had made the correct bet.

This incident would spell a huge change in Dane's career and life, but it was just a small act of leniency on Jasper's side.

After deciding this, Jasper immediately moved on.

“Jack, have everyone in the company be taught on the importance of anti-cheating. Give Mr. Warren the appropriate resources as well...”

“I understand, Mr. Laine.”

“Alright. Now moving on...”

The entire video conference lasted almost two hours. Jasper had to be more cautious with this.

The current situation was clear. Prince had used the power of Clear Seas' capital and managed to bring Netsy, Perfect World, and Senator together. This was all for the purpose of obtaining United Legends' market share in the country. However, Prince's primary goal was still the online payment industry.

United Legends might be able to hold its ground now, but these three gaming companies were not easy to deal with either. Jasper was not arrogant enough to believe that the world lacked talents that could defeat him.

Not to mention that history told a clear truth. After United Legends met its end in his past life, these three games then started to grow, eventually absorbing a large number of United Legends' previous players.

This time, with Prince supporting them, the three companies that had been oppressed by Sena thus far were instantly rejuvenated. It would not be wise for Jasper to look down on their combined strength.

Looking down on one's enemies was the first step to self-destruction. This was a rule Jasper had always been very well aware of.

After ending the call with Sena, Jasper went to look for Wayne, who was still in Waterhoof City.

Payments for gaming points cards were only a small portion of the online payment feature. It was something Jasper used to accumulate experience whilst simultaneously testing out the technology behind it.

With the advantage of memories of his pre-reincarnation life, he knew that online shopping was the immense energy that would truly open up this space.

Online shopping itself was a hundred-million Somer Dollar market. It was a huge industry that would put Abbylon and Wayne onto the pedestal.

However, Wayne was currently in a meeting with the eighteen founders far in Harvey City. After Jasper instructed them to launch their shopping platform online as soon as possible, Wayne became busier than anyone else.

Hudson, strangely, had returned first.

There were not many follow-up procedures he had to handle. Terizone Inc had thousands of employees, but it was currently going through the golden age of company development. Thus, as a leader, Hudson could not be absent for too long during this period.

“Alright, then. Come over after you’re done with your meeting. I just got off communications with Sena, and there are a few details I need to confirm with you.”

Jasper was about to get up after he hung up the call with Wayne when someone knocked on his hotel room door.

Gerry had come to look for Jasper.

“Take a seat.”

Jasper was unfazed by Gerry’s cautiousness.

Since the beginning, Jasper had planned to use Gerry to monitor the Gardner family and cause them trouble.

However, after the unexpected negotiations with the little prince, the Gardner father-daughter duo ended up leaving the country. It was likely that they would not return after leaving this time, so Jasper moved on from the issue as well.

Hence, Jasper did not really care about Gerry’s relationship with other people, including Prince.

It was only natural that people went to places where they would benefit most. Not to mention that Jasper had never seen Gerry as one of his own, so there was never any resentment over a possible betrayal.

Instead of feeling happy, Jasper's attitude and kindness terrified Gerry further.

As far as the man was concerned, Jasper's kindness could be a prelude to his downfall.

At that thought, Gerry truly believed that he had made the correct decision to seek Jasper out before the man personally started hunting him. His life would truly be over when Jasper started his attack.

"Mr. Laine, I actually came here today bearing news," Gerry did not dare to withhold information. Hence, he immediately stated his intentions upon sitting down.

"Oh?" Jasper looked at Gerry with a crescent-eyed smile, waiting for the other to continue.

Jasper's reaction further solidified Gerry's belief. 'Indeed, Mr. Laine is going to end me!'

Jasper had the same crescent-eyed smile when he faced Norman and Dudley before the branch dissolved.

Then... Norman was completely defeated while Dudley ended up fleeing. Gerry heard that Seatresures Group had also taken a huge blow and it take at least four to five years for it to recover.

Gerry thought back to himself and his small business. Forget Dudley, even Norman used to be one of his pillar's of support before Jasper appeared. Thus, there was no way Gerry could remain unaffected when he saw Jasper's smile.

"Basically, Mr. Laine, when I had dinner with the crown no, with Prince, it was through the connections of a friend. I had no idea that you had conflicts with him, Mr. Laine, otherwise I'd never..."

"It's alright. That's a small issue. Did you come to tell in e this, Mr. Heron?" Jasper interrupted him, not in the mood to listen to Gerry's apology.

Gerry smiled awkwardly and replied, "Sorry, that was too much nonsense. Basically, I've been in contact with Prince twice, and he seems to want me to use my contacts in Waterhoof City to help him do something.

"He gave me a few missions, one of which was to spread rumors on the market about how unsafe your payment platform was, Mr. Laine."

"And there's also something especially important. Prince seems to have dirt on Vita Layne, the ICBS' Waterhoof City branch's vice president!"

Jasper remained calm and unfazed when he heard the first piece of information.

There was nothing new about spreading rumors since it was just a dirty trick that held no value in official settings.

The rumors could be extremely exaggerated and widespread, but as long as there was nothing wrong with the payment platform itself, then there would be no cause for alarm.

However, Jasper immediately frowned when he heard the second bit of news.

'This won't be easy to deal with!'

Life at The Top – Chapter 1174

Dirt on Vita!

Were Jasper and Vita close?

Not really.

Jasper had only met Vita through John.

At the beginning, Jasper had only wished to acquaint himself with one of ICBS' Waterhoof City branch's internal personnel. This would help him with his purchase of the plot of land for the World Financial Center.

What happened after proved that Vita was a good and capable man.

Because of this, Jasper decided to help the man move up the ranks of the system.

The higher Vita's ranks, the more power he held, and the more conveniences Jasper enjoyed.

Of course, he would not exploit Vita's position to do something illegal. Jasper had no need to pursue such a thing, nor did Vita have the courage for it.

Their partnerships henceforth had been joyful all this while.

Take the online payment incident, for example. Vita played a crucial role in its development as the man had used his contacts to aid Jasper.

After partnering for a long time, Jasper had begun to consider Vita his friend.

Only when their relationship was mutually beneficial and their interests intact could their friendship last.

Most importantly, once the online payment policy was issued and carried out, Jasper's partnership with the bank would only grow more intimate. Vita played an important role in this future.

Now that John had changed jobs to work for the Agricultural Bank, Vita was the only person within ICBS who could deliver crucial information to Jasper.

Be it out of logic or personal relationship, Vita had to be protected.

"What dirt?" Jasper asked solemnly.

Gerry smiled wryly and replied, "This I have no idea of. I only found out about this from eavesdropping on Prince's call with someone else."

"If I have to guess, Prince's people should have contacted Vita about this already. But I don't know what the two talked about specifically."

Jasper frowned sternly.

Jasper would be affected negatively if something happened to Vita right as the online payment industry was about to open to the public.

Prince seemed to have realized this too, which was why he did not attack Jasper directly. Instead, he chose to attack someone as vital as Vita. Absolutely ruthless.

If Vita was removed from the equation, then all Prince had to do was use Clear Seas' contacts and strength to block Jasper from forming a partnership with the ICBS.

Everything Jasper had planned for the online payment industry would be over then.

Jasper immediately thought of this severe repercussion and said sternly, "This is a very important piece of information to me."

Gerry let out a long sigh and quickly replied in a pleased tone, "I'm glad that it helped you, Mr. Laine. I'm glad."

Jasper looked at Gerry intently and asked, "To tell me something so important... Aren't you afraid that Prince will cause you trouble?"

Gerry chuckled wryly and replied, "To be honest, Mr. Laine, I've thought about this deeply before."

“Prince is powerful, but his power isn’t based in Waterhoof City. It’d take him quite a bit of effort if he wanted to get rid of me. In comparison to him, it’s more important that I don’t offend you, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper asked with a crescent-eyed smile, “My power isn’t based in Waterhoof City either, though. My properties are gathered in the Southeast Province.”

Gerry laughed dryly. “After being shown the Gardner family’s tragic end, I would never dare to offend you, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper suddenly understood. Gerry was not terrified of Jasper, he was terrified of the little prince.

The man also seemed to have misunderstood his relationship with the little prince.

However, Jasper was happy to let this misunderstanding continue. After all, Gerry’s information this time turned out to be priceless.

“Alright. Don’t worry, since you gave me such an important piece of information, then there’s no reason for me to cause you any trouble. I’ll keep the secret for you.”

“I also remembered that the Gardner family had a restaurant on Southwest Veil Road. The seafood restaurant you invested in closed down, right? I can give this one to you if you’re interested.”

All of Norman’s property had been auctioned to other people. However, considering who Jasper was, it was not difficult to get what he wanted. After all, everybody made seemingly profitable decisions.

Jasper was uninterested in Norman’s company, but he did use certain methods to procure a few properties, restaurants, and hotels that would appreciate in value in the future.

The aforementioned restaurant was one of them.

Gerry’s eyes lit up when he heard Jasper. Southwest Veil Road was an important piece of Waterloo City’s future development, and even an idiot knew that the land there would appreciate. Not to mention that the restaurant had good business too. It would be a huge source of profit if he got ahold of it.

Seeing this only furthered Gerry’s belief that he had made the right decision in coming here. He quickly smiled and replied, “That would be nice, very nice. Thank you, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper patted Gerry’s shoulder as he replied with a crescent-eyed smile, “I’m always generous when it comes to my friends.”

Gerry got up and said, "Since you're busy, Mr. Laine, then I will get going so as to not disturb you. There's no need to send me off."

Jasper walked Gerry to the door and said, "Then about Prince..."

Gerry was an experienced man in the industry, and he immediately understood what Jasper was implying. Before Jasper could finish speaking, he patted his chest and said, "Don't worry, Mr. Laine. I'll make sure to tell you right away if I obtain more news."

Gerry had originally come to notify Jasper for the sake of repenting. He did not expect Jasper to give him such a huge reward.

Not even Norman or Prince rewarded him so well before, so Gerry would naturally swear his loyalty to Jasper.

Jasper nodded with a crescent-eyed smile and watched Gerry leave.

He knew that while individuals like Gerry were fickle people driven solely by benefits and interest, they were also much more reliable than a majority of ingenuine people who made empty promises.

They were cowards who were easily motivated by benefits. This made them much more useful.

People like them could be immensely useful once you instilled fear or rewarded them.

After Gerry left, Jasper returned to the study in the hotel room. He paced deep in thought for a long while before he picked up his phone to call Vita.

“This is a sudden call, Mr. Laine. Is there anything I can do for you?”

Vita’s tone on the phone was casual and relaxed.

Jasper smiled and replied, “I was thinking of treating you to dinner tonight. Are you free?”

Vita hesitated and said, “It might have another meeting tonight.”

“Is it important?” Jasper asked.

Vita clenched his jaw slightly and replied, “Perhaps I could treat you tomorrow instead?”

“Don’t worry about it,” Jasper beamed and replied understandingly, “Tomorrow’s fine too.”

“Alright then.”

After a few seconds of silence, Jasper ended the call.

His smile instantly disappeared and his expression turned calm.

Jasper had obtained an important piece of information from the call.

‘Something is indeed wrong with Vita!’

Life at The Top – Chapter 1175

Business-wise, Jasper was currently Waterhoof City branch’s top-notch VIP. JW Real Estates’ Waterhoof City branch’s account alone brought them a cash flow of billions a month due to the World Financial Center’s construction funds.

As the vice president, Vita had to win over this important client.

Personally speaking, Jasper and Vita had known each other for almost a year and their friendship had always been great. The fact that Vita could be promoted from a small asset management office manager to the most authoritative vice president in a year was also thanks to Jasper's support.

There was no way Vita could reject Jasper's invitation for a meal.

That was how their relationship always worked. Despite this, today, Vita's hesitation and struggle had Jasper's heart sinking slightly.

He was unsure if Vita had betrayed him yet or not. This was something he had to verify himself.

With that thought, Jasper called Julian over.

They arrived at a normal apartment building in Waterhoof City's Golden Garden, Open Seas Road, Peace District. As a middle-income area that could be seen from any vantage point in Waterhoof City, it was not an extravagant place. This fit Vita's current salary as vice president of an ICBS branch.

The house door opened with a creak as a rather attractive middle-aged woman opened the door. She looked at Jasper who held a gift in his hands confusedly.

“You’re... Jasper... Jasper Laine?”

Daphne was Vita’s wife and she had met Jasper during a gathering with John. Thus, she could recognize this dignified guest her husband spoke of.

Jasper smiled and said, “I was in the area so I thought I’d come and visit, Mrs. Layne. I’m not disturbing you, am I?”

“No, no, not at all. Please come in.” Daphne may have been confused but she did not dare to make Jasper wait.

She had heard from her husband how Jasper was more than an extremely wealthy man. He was also someone important who helped her husband get promoted, so she did not dare to inconvenience him..

Jasper looked at the ordinary decorations in Vita’s house after walking in and said with a smile. “I don’t remember there being so many rewards on the wall the last time I was here. Did Valerie get first place again?”

The last time they met was during a family gathering. Jasper brought Wendy with him, and John and Vita each brought their own families.

The gathering was held in Vita's house.

That was when Jasper met Daphne and Vita's daughter, Valerie. She was a smart girl.

Daphne beamed at Jasper's words and replied, "Yeah. Valerie doesn't disappoint. But she's playing at her friend's house tonight so she's not home. Vita should be off work soon, I'll call him and tell him to come home quickly."

"No need, Mrs. Layne. He should be on the way home already so it wouldn't be wise to urge him while he's driving. He'll be back soon anyway, I'll just wait for him here," Jasper said with a crescent-eyed smile.

Daphne felt that something was off with his behavior, but she did not go against Jasper's wishes. Instead, she quickly poured Jasper a cup of tea and sat by his side carefully, chatting with him.

She kept trying to probe Jasper about why he had come to visit so suddenly. She wondered about why he was here, especially while her husband was not home. However, considering who Jasper was, the man kept the conversation about domestic trivia. His mouth was tightly shut when it came to the specifics of his visit.

...

As of this moment, Vita was not in a meeting nor was he on the way home.

He had actually arrived home long ago and his car was parked in the underground car park. The man smoked furiously in his car.

Beside the car were more than ten discarded cigarette butts. The already horribly ventilated basement was now filled with a mist of smoke, yet Vita and his deeply knit brows seemed unaware of it all.

Just then, a car drove into the car park and stooped beside Vita's.

An average-looking man stepped out of the car and walked behind Vita's car over to the passenger side. Opening the car door, he then got in.

"Heh. Even though you're a vice president of the ICBS, you're quite down to earth to live in such an old district while driving such a cheap car," The man said as he pulled down the visor and played with it casually.

Vita tossed away the cigarette that almost burned to its butt and asked grimly, "What do you people want?"

The man smiled and replied, "Simple. Just push for the termination on your branch's partnership with Jasper."

"Impossible!"

Vita's first reaction was to reject the man.

Disregarding the fact that Jasper was a huge client of his, the man's help before this was enough to deter Vita from doing such a thing.

"Impossible? Nothing's impossible in the world. Just like how a dignified vice president of a bank branch like you, a person of the upper class with quite a bit of power at hand and a beautiful family, can also have another child outside."

"I suppose others wouldn't believe me either if I told them about this. But it's the truth, isn't it?"

Vita's expression paled at the man's casual voice. He replied painfully, "It was a careless mistake I made back then."

"Careless?" The man scoffed, "I don't think you were careless when you had fun lying on top of that female student's stomach, though."

“Mr. Layne, as vice president of your branch, I’m sure you’re very aware that this is an issue of conduct. If no one pays attention to it, then no one cares. But if someone refuses to let it go, then this beautiful family of yours and your position as vice president will come to a premature end.”

“What would your superiors think of you? What about your colleagues? Your wife, your kids? What would they think?”

“Would you still be the greatly envied vice president by then?”

The man’s words were like a curse as they drilled into Vita’s brain. He replied painfully, “Could you change your request? Anything else is fine. But I, Vita Layne, refuse to be a treacherous b*stard!”

The man scoffed and replied, “You’ll never know how powerful my boss is. A small vice president of a bank branch like you doesn’t even have the right to talk to my boss.”

“You think he can’t do other things himself? We just need a bit of effort from your side on this.”

“You don’t even need to suggest a termination. Other people in the branch will. All you need to do is shut your mouth and make the correct choice during the final vote.”

“Oh, right. And we’ll also need all the details of Jasper’s online payment businesses. Their online payment business is conducted with your branch, so it shouldn’t be difficult for a vice president like you to get your hands on it, right?”

Vita’s head shot up as he stared at the man. “Online payment? You’re Prince Chavez’s men!”

Vita was slapped across the face.

“Who are you to call out the crown prince’s name? Do it again and I’ll cut your tongue off!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1176

This slap was both without warning and extremely forceful.

Vita had spent his life climbing up the social ladder and he had never experienced such humiliation.

Caught off guard, this slap almost had him dazed.

Vita glared at the man with extreme levels of anger. Ignoring the burning pain on his cheek, the anger was more driven by the unjust and indignance he felt.

“What are you looking at me like that for? Be grateful that you’re still useful, otherwise beating you to death would be too light a punishment!”

The man looked at Vita and scoffed, “You think you’re some powerful person just because you’re some bullsh*t vice president of a bank? People like you aren’t even qualified to hold the crown prince’s shoes!”

“Think carefully and don’t be stupid. Make the correct decision, or even death might end up being a luxury for you.”

“The crown prince doesn’t have much patience. He’s already being exceptionally lenient with you. You better give us a reply tomorrow. Don’t forget.”

The man then patted Vita’s reddened cheek and laughed arrogantly before he opened the car door and left.

Vita clenched his jaw as he stared at the extremely insolent man’s back. The man got out of his car bossily and left in the car he first arrived in. From start to finish, all of Vita’s anger and indignance could only be vented through his balled fists.

He punched the steering wheel and roared. Both his hands grabbed his hair and he moaned painfully with his head kept down.

“It’s all destined to happen...”

More than ten minutes later, Vita left the car park like a zombie and returned home upstairs.

Upon opening his house doors, he heard the sound of happy chatter and looked up in confusion. He quickly saw Jasper sitting on his sofa and looking at himself with a small smile.

Vita was stunned and was rooted in place the moment he saw Jasper.

The last thing he expected was for Jasper to appear at his house.

“Jasper had just arrived too, Vita. He’s been waiting for you to come home here, Why’d you come back so late?”

Vita’s wife Daphne approached to greet him and squatted down to put slippers in front of Vita for him to change into. Then, she took his briefcase with practiced ease whilst simultaneously explaining.

Vita looked at Jasper and was rendered speechless. “Why, am I not welcome, Mr. Layne?”

Jasper asked with a crescent-eyed smile.

Daphne also realized her husband’s abnormal behavior today and glared at him, facing away from Jasper. She lowered her voice and said, “He’s greeting you. Why’re you acting like you’re dumb?”

Vita suddenly snapped back to reality.

“Oh, you’re here, Jasper. Why didn’t you tell me you were coming in advance?” Vita smiled forcibly.

“You said you had a meeting today and I just happened to be in the area. So I thought I’d come by and visit,” Jasper replied with a grin.

Jasper looked at the clock on the wall as he spoke and continued meaningfully, “Doesn’t seem like a long meeting at all.”

Vita felt extremely embarrassed.

The meeting was just an excuse, but he did not expect Jasper to wait for him at home.

His lie exposed, Vita did not know what to say.

Daphne must have realized the unusual atmosphere between the other two and said, “You two sit here first. There aren’t many groceries at home, so I’ll go buy something from downstairs. Do stay for dinner, Mr. Laine. I’ll go make the preparations now.”

Jasper did not reject her and smiled. “Thank you for the trouble, Mrs. Layne.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1177

“Hey, there’s no need to be so polite. You two talk first, I’ll go buy groceries downstairs.”

Daphne said while nudging an abnormal Vita. Then, she took her wallet and keys and went downstairs.

After Daphne left, Jasper’s smile vanished as he looked at Vita calmly.

Vita was not an idiot. With the situation progressing to this point, he knew that he could not hide it from Jasper anymore.

Sighing deeply, Vita turned to the other man. “Will you come to the study?”

Jasper got up and followed Vita there.

After closing the door, Vita patted his pockets for a smoke, only to pull out an empty box of cigarettes. Jasper then pulled out a pack of his own and tossed it to Vita.

Vita smiled wryly when he looked at the exquisitely packed 1916. “What a nice brand of cigarettes.”

Jasper sat on the chair and said calmly, “Look, Vita. I came here today to do one thing only, to hear the truth from you. If you’re facing difficulties or you need help, then tell me. We’ll deal with it and come up with a solution together.”

“But, if you say there’s nothing wrong at all, then I’ll get up and leave.”

“I see you as a friend but if it’s not mutual, then I’ll take it as me being over passionate. I don’t have many friends but you are one of them. Still, the basis of friendship comes down to being genuine and sincere. There’s no reason for me to continue to act dumb when you’re evidently setting me up, correct?”

Vita smiled wryly when Jasper showed his hand. The former replied, “I already made my decision when I saw you sitting in my home.”

“Whether you choose to believe me or not, I’ll come clean, Jasper. I’ll tell you everything as it is since I’m older than you and I see you as my friend too. I’ve never done anything that could cause you harm.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly and looked at Vita. He realized that the other’s cheek was slightly bruised and Jasper replied calmly, “Go ahead then. Tell me everything you want to say.”

Vita clenched his jaw and spoke slowly, as if letting go of all his inhibitions, “Three years ago, I found out that my girlfriend from university died of cancer.”

“I also found out that she had a child, and that it was mine!”

“But I’d already gotten into a shotgun marriage with my wife by then. She’s never told me about this before, and she’s been taking care of the child until she died.

“After her passing, her brother and his wife took custody of the child.”

“I felt like I owe it to her, but I can’t lose my own family in the process.”

“So all I could do was help the kid out financially. I helped her brother’s family set up an account in Waterhoof City and I got them a home to live in. I’ve also been visiting the child over the past three years...”

Jasper nodded after hearing the story and said, “That’s a very dramatic plot.”

Vita smiled wryly. “You don’t believe me?”

“I do.”

Jasper replied without hesitation.

“Considering your character, I believe that you would do such a thing.”

Vita did not care whether Jasper was mocking him or if he meant it in another way. He simply sighed deeply and continued, “I thought that I’d be able to keep doing this peacefully...”

“But someone suddenly found me two days ago and wanted to report me for extramarital affairs. You know how sensitive the nature of my position is, I don’t want to lose my business and my family.”

“It’s Prince, isn’t it?” Jasper said calmly.

Vita nodded and replied, “One of his men came to look for me downstairs. They ordered me to help them terminate the branch’s partnership with you, and give them all of your online payments’ important information and account data.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes as they filled with a certain fire.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1178

The truth began to surface as Vita recounted the details of the incident.

The truth would always come out in the end.

Vita thought that he had been stealthy enough, yet Prince's ministrations had easily detected his little secret. It was like a fly over white snow.

Jasper was relieved to hear Vita's words.

He was grateful for Gerry's information before this. Even now Jasper could not be completely certain that Vita would never betray him. This was not a risk Jasper could afford to take.

He could not risk the entire future of online payment and even the whole business of Abbylon's online shopping platform on Vita's conscience.

Even if Vita showed no signs of betraying him up until now.

“I don’t have any other choice, Jasper. I never expected Prince to find out and hold this over my head.”

Vita said, pulling at his hair painfully.

“I’ve never planned to do anything against you or your interests!”

“I already rejected his men when they told me what they wanted me to do just now. But they want me to give a final reply tomorrow.”

“I don’t know what to do. I’m well aware that once I listen to them, I’ll become their puppet completely and they’ll never let me go!”

Jasper got up and patted Vita’s shoulder. “It’s actually not as severe as you think.”

Vita looked up at Jasper with a sliver of hope and asked, “You’re willing to help me?”

“Helping you is helping myself too,” Jasper replied.

After some thought, Jasper said, “Can you still contact your ex-girlfriend’s brother’s family?”

Vita nodded. “I can!”

Vita then pulled out his phone without further prompting and asked, “Should I contact them now?”

However, Jasper put his hand over Vita’s and replied, “Not yet. You can’t take the initiative to contact them. Give me their address and contact details.”

Vita had no other plan in mind, meaning Jasper was his only source of hope. Thus, he immediately gave the younger man the contact details.

After jotting down the number and address, Jasper then asked Julian to come up.

Jasper handed the woman’s contact details and address he had written down to Julian and said sternly, “Bring them to a hotel tonight and check them into a room. Make sure that they are safe for the next two days.”

Julian nodded and replied, “If they’re still at the address after this period, then I’ll bring them back safely.”

Jasper smiled. "I've never doubted your capabilities. But things won't be so easy this time."

"Prince's men will definitely have a close eye on them. So, in addition to bringing the people over, Jul, you'll need to find two similarly aged people to impersonate them and have them act as though they've never left home."

Julian frowned slightly. "It won't be easy looking for doubles."

"It is."

Jasper chuckled and handed Julian Gerry's number. "Tell him what kind of people you need."

Julian understood.

It would be extremely easy for a local power like Gerry to find two qualified actors.

"The only problem is if Prince's men are living with them. Things will be difficult if that's the case," Jasper said.

Vita quickly replied, “They’re not. I went over this afternoon and Prince’s men were only watching them from downstairs in the district. They made sure that I didn’t bring anyone away.”

“That makes things easier then.”

Julian immediately spoke up, “I have a way of bringing the impersonators up whilst simultaneously bringing the targets down.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1179

“Alright then. Go quickly, this is very important,” Jasper told him sternly.

Julian nodded and left immediately.

After Julian left, Vita then looked at Jasper hopefully and said, “So the issue is resolved, then?”

“It won’t be that simple,” Jasper shook his head.

“Your franticness blinds you. Prince definitely has direct evidence of you and that child’s contact, meaning he has information that proves that the two of you are related.”

“All I can do now is guarantee her brother’s family and the child’s safety. You’re still at risk.”

Vita suddenly understood what was going on. “Then what should I do?”

Jasper paced in the study for a moment before he replied, “There’s only one way to handle this situation now, and that’s to drag it on.”

“Prince’s final target is me, after all, not you. So just agree to everything he asks.”

Vita was stunned by Jasper’s words and asked, “But what about you?”

“All I said was agree to his requests. The point of all of this is to buy time, I never said anything about carrying out what he asked.”

“He wants to bring up the termination of my partnership with the branch, but you need time to talk to people and convince them, right?”

“If you’re going to follow his requests and give him my account data, that’s also going to take time, no?”

“If we have time, then I’ll be able to create a new copy of data for you to hand over to him. The moment he brings up termination of my contract with the bank is when I will truly face off against him.”

“By then, all that will matter is who wins between him and me. What happens to you won’t matter anymore.”

“If I win, then all is well. If he wins, then we’re both in trouble.”

Vita nodded bitterly when he heard Jasper and replied, “Indeed.”

Jasper sighed again and patted Vita’s shoulder before saying, “Don’t blame yourself too much, Vita. Many things are beyond our control.”

“It’s my fault... I planted the seed for today’s trouble. I had this coming,” Vita said with a sorry smile.

“Think about your wife. Even if I win against Prince this round, you’re still going to have to resolve the issue with that child. Are you planning to hide it from your family for the rest of your life? Is it fair to them?”

Vita looked down silently upon hearing Jasper’s words. At that moment, the house door opened from outside and Daphne returned from doing the groceries.

“There weren’t many groceries left at the market, so I got a few dishes to cook some food. I had the restaurant prepare a few dishes too which they’ll deliver in no time. Do you two want to come out and eat something first?”

Daphne’s voice drifted over from outside.

Jasper glanced at Vita and said, “Mrs. Layne is a great wife. Don’t hurt her.”

Jasper then responded to Daphne, who was outside the study, and opened the doors to leave.

Vita let out a deep sigh.

He was still frantic and at loss, but his chest felt significantly lighter now that he had told Jasper everything.

“Thank you, Jasper.”

At the dinner table, Vita raised a glass of white wine as he thanked Jasper, then he tilted his head back and downed the glass.

“Hey, why are you drinking it like that?”

Daphne quickly shouted, not knowing what had happened.

Jasper smiled. “Let him drink, Mrs. Layne. He and I are happy tonight.”

Jasper also grabbed his wine glass and toasted Vita, “Cheers. We’ll drink until we drop.”

“Yes! Drink until we drop!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1180

It was already midnight when he left Vita’s home. Jasper did not ask Julian to fetch him, opting to hail a taxi back instead.

He knew that no matter how heartless and crazy Prince was, he knew better than to pay gangsters to cause bodily harm.

This was an unspoken rule in formal business fights.

People could fight for their own interests and benefits. However, everyone was also part of the upper-class society. It would be against this unspoken rule to physically harm someone under the table.

Jasper had people supporting him too, so Prince had to first think of the Law family's stance on the matter before he could do anything. Not to mention that even without the Law family, Jasper was no longer the nobody he used to be.

Many people depended on him to make a living, and his properties were responsible for a lot of economic development. Besides this, a majority of his subsidiaries were also leading enterprises in their respective industries.

If anything happened to Jasper, many companies and industries would erupt into chaos.

These factors ensured Jasper's personal safety and made sure nothing would happen to him under normal circumstances.

Jasper smiled once he returned to the hotel, as he saw Julian waiting for him at the door.

There was no way this man would relax unless he saw Jasper return safely in one piece.

Julian smiled as well when he saw Jasper.

“Did you fetch them back too?” Jasper asked.

Julian nodded and replied, “Everything went well. They’re currently staying in a room next to mine. Nothing will happen to them.”

“Good. ”

Jasper nodded. “This façade won’t last for long and Prince isn’t an idiot that would easily fall for this lie. But we won’t have to keep lying to him either. The results of our little ploy will be out in another two days, and the victor will be determined by then.”

The following day, the release of a few announcements silently triggered many hidden movements.

Abbylon Inc's new c2c shopping platform, Treasurehunter, was officially launched.

There was nothing new about this piece of news though, as huge Internet companies in the country like Sena and Terizone had already advertised this a few days ago.

It was worth noting that with Jasper's all-around support, Treasurehunter had attracted much attention right after it launched.

This completely new method of purchasing and selling of goods had attracted the attention of many people.

Coupled with the support of Terizone and Sena, the platform's business volume skyrocketed moments after its announcement

This completely new shopping method made it extremely convenient for both buyers and sellers. The trading volume had exceeded 100 thousand Somer Dollars on the day of its launch.

In comparison to the future trading volume that would amount to hundreds of billions, this 100 thousand was very insignificant. Still, it was a perfect first step.

Meanwhile, another announcement was made by JW Capital about the establishment of a new subsidiary.

JW Payment Co., Ltd.

This company only had one business, and that was the JW Online Payment System.

As things stood, JW Payment's platform only supported payment of bank cards from ICBS. The platform was launched at the same time as Treasurehunter, and it supported all payment businesses within the three companies Treasurehunter, Sena, and Terizone.

These three companies also simultaneously announced that JW Payment would be the only online payment channel they officially recognized.

Ordinary citizens would focus more on Treasurehunter, while people within the industry knew that JW Platform was Jasper's true primary attack.

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Life at The Top – Chapter 1181

“Motherf*cker!”

The sound of things breaking were heard from inside the study. The interval between each smash was filled with Prince’s indignant shouts.

“Who the f*ck does Jasper think he is? The bullsh*t JW Payment has only been launched for a day and it’s completely stolen Soha Payments’ glory!”

Prince stood in a messy study with reddened eyes. His aura spoke volumes of how pissed and murderous he felt.

Also in the study were Soha’s vice president and Gerry. They both shuddered and dared not breathe too loud in fear of attracting Prince’s attention and have his anger redirected at them.

Still, Prince vented his anger at the two.

Prince slapped Gerry across the face harshly.

“Didn’t I tell you to spread negative rumors about JW Payment? How did that go? Is this how you do things?!”

Gerry forced himself to ignore the pain on his cheek and the resentment in his heart. With a terrified expression, he replied, “You really can’t blame me for this, Crown Prince. You need time for rumors to spread and take effect, but Jasper moved too fast and acted before the rumors could do their part.”

Prince glared at Gerry and said icily, “Get lost! I am the crown prince and I don’t need useless trash like you!”

Gerry’s complexion was ashen but he did not dare to refute the man. Cupping his cheek, he turned and left.

However, no one saw the elation and glee in his eyes the moment he turned around.

He had decided to take Jasper’s side to begin with. Thus, seeing Prince being screwed over brought him glee!

After Gerry left, Prince directed his harsh gaze at Soha’s vice president.

Soha's vice president shivered. Unlike Gerry, who would still have his own businesses to attend to after being told to get lost, the Vice president's career would instantly be over.

"Crown Prince, Jasper's actions were just too quick and decisive. Our plan was hasty, so it's only normal that we were caught off guard. Please give me some time, Crown Prince, I promise business-wise we won't lose to Jasper."

Prince narrowed his eyes. No one knew what he was thinking.

This silence of more than ten seconds was extremely torturous to Soha's vice president.

Thank goodness Prince seemed to have vented all of his anger, as he did not make things difficult for the vice president anymore.

"I suppose your words make sense to some extent. I'll give you one last chance."

Soha's vice president sighed deeply when he heard the man. Relief flooded through him.

"We can't wait any longer. Immediately start the plan! Before Jasper completely crushes everything we've prepared!" Prince suddenly said.

Soha's vice president was stunned. As someone who's been by Prince's side all this while, he naturally understood what plan Prince was referring to.

"But Crown Prince, Vita still hasn't replied yet..."

Prince sneered and waved to interrupt Soha's vice president. "He's a smart man. He'll know what decision to make."

"Al.. Alright then," Soha's vice president sighed and replied.

"Immediately contact our people in ICBS. Have them bring it up during the agenda for tomorrow's conference and invite Jasper. I'll be there too!"

"Tomorrow. Tomorrow I'll make Jasper regret and lose everything!" Prince growled wretchedly.

Time ticked by and the following day arrived with the sun shining brightly above.

Jasper walked out of the hotel room only to see Henry walk out of the elevator casually.

Henry grinned mirthfully when he saw Jasper. “It’s been a few days since we saw each other. Did you miss me?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1182

Jasper was indeed surprised to see Henry.

“Didn’t you say it’d be a few more days before you got back? Why so soon?”

Jasper asked, ushering Henry into his room.

Henry’s expression immediately darkened and he said irritably, “All these women are crazy. I haven’t even started complaining about how dry and boring it is going all the way to Swallow Capital just to watch her train before she started complaining about me first.

“She just got angry at me for no reason yesterday and she’s not even willing to talk to me. I went to ask last night but she said she’s focusing on training and refusing to see anyone. Fine. I’m not going to stay there and let her take it out on me, I’ll think about it again in a few days.”

Jasper replied playfully, “You haven’t even gotten together yet and you’re already fighting. What happens when you do get together then?”

As if finding his soulmate, Henry nodded vigorously. "I know right? You think so too, huh. F*cking Hell, you just can't be too good to women. I can have any woman in the world I want, it's a blessing for her that I chose her out of all of them. And yet, here she is with this temper. As if I'd stay and let her take it out on me!"

Jasper was unsurprised by Henry's thoughts.

Henry was a son from one of the richest families, the man was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He had always been surrounded by women who tried to gain his attention, so the man had never had the need to coax someone else.

Jasper patted Henry on the shoulder and said solemnly, "Jill's different from those girls. Those girls are just bedwarmers and outlets for your sexual frustrations. Let's be honest, have you dated anyone seriously?"

Women need to be coaxed.

"Take it slow."

Henry was evidently annoyed and he did not want to bring up this topic again.

"Do you have anything fun? I'm very pissed and I need a stupid f*cker to bully."

Jasper was about to say something when his phone rang.

Seeing that it was from Vita, Jasper accepted the call.

After a moment, Jasper hung up the phone and smiled at Henry. "You're just in time. The stupid f*cker you're looking for just sent himself over on a silver platter."

...

At a small meeting room in ICBS' Waterhoof City branch.

Every senior executive was present; They sat up straight and solemnly.

Excluding employees of ICBS, Prince and Soha's vice president were also present.

The atmosphere in the quaint meeting room was dense and heavy.

No one said a word.

Prince looked up to glance at Vita not too far away. The former sneered; the sinister look in his eyes was blatant. Vita quickly averted his gaze when it met Prince's. He seemed rather guilty.

Prince turned his body slightly to ask Soha's vice president, "How's the monitoring operation of that woman and the child? Is everything normal?"

Soha's vice president quickly whispered a reply, "Nothing special's happened. They've been obediently staying at home and didn't go anywhere."

Prince nodded in reassurance and his smile brightened further.

At that moment, the meeting room doors were pushed open.

Jasper strolled into the room with Henry in tow.

Jasper had just walked inside when Prince immediately mocked him impatiently, "You really dared to come, huh? And here I thought you'd hide away like a coward."

Jasper replied calmly, "Why do I have to hide?"

As he asked this, Jasper and Henry also took their seats. Henry sat on the chair and looked at Prince.

He did not recognize the man, but years of experience stepping over morons told Henry that Prince was the prime target to vent the frustrations he had accumulated from Jill.

Henry was blatantly looking Prince up and down. Rather than looking at another person, it was as if Henry was looking at a prop-a sandbag to vent on.

Prince was extremely displeased with his behavior.

He narrowed his eyes on Henry and sneered. "This is the ICBS' meeting room, Jasper. We're holding a very important meeting here. You can't just bring intellectually stunted people into the room."

Henry's smile instantly turned cold and he stared at Prince icily before he replied, "This alone is enough to make me beat the sh*t out of you, you f*cking idiot."

Prince might be just as arrogant, or even more so, than anyone he had met before.

Therefore, Henry's statement had his expression immediately darkening.

“Haha. Wow. Very well, then.”

Prince raised his voice. “It’s been ages since anyone dared to speak to the crown prince like you did.”

“This crown prince?”

Henry was stunned. Then, he pointed at Prince and turned to ask Jasper, “Is there something wrong with his head? Who even calls themselves this crown prince in this time and age? He’s not right in the head, is he?”

Prince stood up to point at Henry as flames of fury filled his chest. “I dare you to f*cking repeat yourself.”

“I said something’s wrong with your brain, Your Highness.” Henry laughed out loud gleefully and casually crossed his legs.

He was not done mocking Prince. Hooking his finger at the man, he continued, “Why? Are you angry? Come on and hit me, then. Crown prince your foot, f*cking idiot. You give me goosebumps of disgust.”

“Everyone here should be careful. Who knows if idiocy can be transmitted? This man might even be crazy for all we know.”

“Motherf*cker!”

“I’m going to kill you! I’ll kill you!”

Prince was utterly enraged.

The truth remained that in order to deal with an arrogant trust-fund child like Prince, the best solution was always to look for an even more arrogant and powerful trust-fund child.

Henry was the best way of dealing with all this indignance.

Seeing how the situation was about to get out of hand, the branch president mustered up the bravery to say, “Please calm down, gentlemen. We came here today for a meeting, so perhaps we should start on that. If possible, please do resolve your personal conflicts afterward and in private.”

The president was exasperated too. He could not afford to offend either Jasper or Prince.

If possible, he truly wanted to just turn away and leave. He did not want to be involved in this at all.

The president's words were not completely useless.

Prince glared at Henry icily, causing the latter to snort.

Prince suppressed the fury that threatened to surface again and slammed the table to say, "Fine, let's start the meeting! There's no need for any nonsense, just straight-up start voting. I request for termination of all partnerships with Jasper! That is the purpose of today's meeting!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1183

The president of the branch frowned slightly when he heard Prince.

They were in ICBS and he was the president here. He was the host of this meeting.

No matter how powerful Prince was and how influential his family was, he should still show common respect for the president of this branch instead of making the situation awkward for him.

Despite being furious, the president thought about Prince's character and ended up Sighing instead.

"Mr. Laine, I'm sure Vice President Vita already told you that today's meeting was suggested by the other two vice presidents. They've requested that we temporarily end our cooperation with you before the online payment policy is issued by the higher-ups."

"I am well aware."

Jasper looked meaningfully at the two other vice presidents who dared not meet his gaze and said calmly.

As a first-grade branch, the ICBS Waterhoof City branch operated with one president and three vice-presidents.

Unsurprisingly, Prince had long won over the two other vice presidents. Otherwise, they would never dare to make a suggestion that would offend Jasper.

The president of the branch knew about the shady business underneath, and he also knew that this was Prince's way of attacking Jasper. He sighed and continued, "Our job isn't easy either, Mr. Laine, and I hope you can understand where we're coming from."

“Of course. You have protocols to follow, after all. It’s only normal that you decide to hold a meeting when two vice presidents have suggested the same thing at the same time,” Jasper said with a crescent-eyed smile.

Before this he had to deal with Prince’s arrogance and domineering attitude, now he was faced with Jasper’s understanding and generosity.

Comparing the two, the president’s favor toward Jasper increased exponentially.

‘See, this is how successful people should act. It makes sense that he’s achieved so much despite being so young. Unlike some trust-fund children who only know how to be arrogant.’

Despite what he sincerely thought, the president did not dare show any of it on his expression.

“Haha. I don’t know whether to call you brave or stupid, Jasper. You know that you’re going to lose, but you’ve still come here to let yourself be humiliated.”

Prince glared at Jasper and laughed out loud.

“I’d hide at home and never come out if I were you. At least use your brain and think. The fact that I can sit here today means I’m one hundred percent certain that I’d get your partnership terminated. When that happens, your bullsh*t JW Payment will be nothing more than a huge joke!”

“JW Payment that had only been officially launched for a day immediately loses its partnership with ICBS the next. How are you going to keep your head held up after this, Jasper? Hahahaha!”

“You’re so certain that you’ll win?” Jasper asked.

Prince glanced at Vita’s expressionless face meaningfully and laughed out loud. “You’re still too young, Jasper. So what if you were lucky and you made a bit of money? The most complex thing in society is still the human psyche. Who do you think you are to play mind games?”

“Don’t understand what I mean? That’s alright, I’m sure you’ll understand soon enough. I can’t wait to see the interesting look on your face then.”

“You’ll find out very soon that I’ve already got you right in the palm of my hand without your knowledge. You think you can escape my control? You must be naive to think so!”

Prince then turned to the president and said indifferently, “What are you waiting for? Get to it already!”

This chiding tone instantly caused the president's anger to spike to its limits. He pushed his distaste down and said solemnly, "If that's the case, then let's not waste any time. Let's get to voting then."

"Please raise your hand if you agree to terminate the partnership with JW Payment."

After the president spoke, the two vice presidents bribed by Prince raised their hands.

However, despite having their hands in the air, the two did not dare to look at Jasper at all. Instead, their eyes were trained on the table in front of them as if it was some sort of treasure.

According to the branch's rules, more than half the votes were necessary if the bank wanted to terminate a contract that was operating normally and did not cause any losses.

Each vice president was one vote, while the president held two.

According to Prince's plan, he just needed to bribe the three vice presidents, and the president's stance could be disregarded.

After all, the president was much more difficult to bribe than his vice presidents.

Most importantly, Prince also knew that the Waterhoof City branch was unlike the other branches. The president of the Waterhoof City branch was also of a higher status than the presidents of other provincial branches. It would not be easy to bribe such a person.

Thus, he never planned to corrupt the president in the first place.

However, this was also why his eyes were blown wide when he only saw two raised hands.

Prince glared at Vita an extreme unease grew in his chest.

“Vice President Vita, it’s time for you to raise your hand!”

Prince clenched his jaw and spat out.

Each word he spoke was laced heavily with venom. Sitting silently all this while, Vita’s eyelid twitched, and he finally thought it through.

He had planned to side with Jasper, meaning he had already offended Prince no matter what the outcome of this meeting was. There was nothing to fear now.

After understanding this, Vita replied icily, “Why do I have to raise my hand when I don’t agree to the termination?”

Prince slammed his hand on the table and shot to his feet. He glared at Vita and roared, “Do you really want to die, Vita Layne?!”

“Prince Chavez!”

Vita’s head shot up to look at the man icily.

His anger that had accumulated over the past few days instantly exploded and he shouted as if letting go of all his inhibitions, “This is the ICBS meeting room! It’s already against the rules to let you attend this meeting. Are you actually trying to interfere with ICBS’ internal voting decision too?!”

Prince did not expect Vita to go against him. Both angry and frustrated, he was just about to start scolding people when he heard Henry say ambiguously, “Exactly. You really think you’re the crown prince? “F*cking idiot.”

“Vita Layne, was it? Good job. I like the words you just said. Scold him, yes. If this f*cking dumb*ss dares to stamp his foot and throw a tantrum here then I’ll break his f*cking foot.”

Prince did not even pay Henry's words any attention now. He glared at Vita and grit his teeth, "Have you no fear that I'll completely destroy you for life with what I have on hand, Vita?"

Vita was expressionless as he replied coldly, "I have no idea what you're talking about."

At that moment, Prince would truly be a moron if he still had not realized that Jasper had played him like a fool.

He turned his head abruptly and stared at Jasper. Prince shouted, "You're the one who ruined my plans, Jasper! You knew all along, didn't you?"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1184

"What exactly am I supposed to know?"

Jasper looked at Prince and said calmly.

Panting heavily, Prince was barely holding back the fright and fury within him.

He had that victory in his grasp, yet Jasper had managed to break out of his trap, leaving no trace behind.

It was ridiculous how Prince thought victory was his just a second ago.

The stark contrast between his perceived victory just moments ago versus the situation now infuriated Prince to no end.

“Stop f*cking acting!”

Prince did not care too much now, and he exploded.

“I don’t know how you managed to get that dog Vita to risk his life and stand on your side, but since he wants to die, then I’ll fulfill his wish!”

With that, Prince stared at Vita and sneered. “Vita Layne, you’ll never f*cking see those two for the rest of your life again! And just you wait, I’ll spread the news of what you did such that everyone will know of it!”

“You had this coming for yourself. Don’t blame me, blame yourself and Jasper.”

“I already brought them away last night.”

Jasper interrupted Prince casually. Tilting his head slightly, he looked at the man, who was clearly stunned by the news, with a crescent-eyed smile. “You could go check if you don’t believe me.”

Prince was shocked.

After what had just happened, Prince no longer felt confident in his own plan.

He quickly turned to stare at Soha’s vice president. Cold sweat began to bead all over the latter and he did not dare to waste time. Hence, he immediately called his subordinates.

A quick moment later, Soha’s vice president sat limply on the chair and looked at Prince sorrowfully.

After seeing Soha’s vice president’s reaction, Prince did not even need to ask to know that Jasper had indeed brought the people away.

At that moment, Prince truly felt lightheaded.

He stared at Jasper and clenched his teeth. Utterly furious, he smiled and said, “Wow, wow, wow. How capable of you, Jasper!”

“I’ll just ask you one thing. How did you find out?!”

Prince kept recalling the past few days but could find no loopholes throughout the entire execution of his entire plan.

Most importantly, every aspect of the plan was extremely covert so Jasper should not have had time to react at all.

Yet, the truth remained that Jasper had managed to learn of his plan, and even found an opportunity to turn the tables despite the tight timing!

His prideful *ss was the actually pitiful one who had been kept in the dark.

Prince flushed date-red when he thought of this. He was moments away from spitting out a mouthful of blood.

“You’re the one who said it just now, Your Highness. The most complex thing in society is still the human psyche,” Jasper said softly.

This 'Your Highness' cut through the room and slapped Prince across his face.

Prince felt exceptionally humiliated.

The comment about how the human psyche was the most complex thing made him feel extremely furious. He thought back to how prideful he had been when he said those words before. Comparing it with the current situation, Prince felt like he had been stripped naked and made a fool in front of everyone.

Fury.

Mortification.

Aggrievance.

Prince's whole body trembled as his complex emotions ran amok.

He trembled and roared, "I hope you f*cking die, Jasper!"

At that moment, a 'pfft' sounded beside Jasper.

Henry was extremely gleeful and excited.

"You're really one of the stupidest f*ckers I've ever seen. You were still referring to yourself as crown prince a moment ago and here you are moving about like a f*cking dumb monkey. It's so ridiculous. Hahaha."

Already extremely infuriated, Prince felt like his head was about to explode when he heard Henry mock him. He pointed at Henry and screeched, "Who the f*ck are you? Laugh again and I'll kill your whole family!"

At this moment, before Prince himself had even consciously admitted it to himself, he already knew that he could not refer to himself as crown prince anymore.

Perhaps it was due to the change in the situation, or perhaps Henry's words made him feel truly embarrassed. Only he would know the true reason behind it.

Henry snickered and while the smile on his face did not change, his gaze turned downright sinister.

When it came to being a trust-fund child, Young Master Law was just as strong, if not stronger, than anyone else.

“I’ve always been the one to threaten to kill someone’s entire family. Which insignificant hole did a dumb f*cker like you crawl out from? How dare you act high and mighty in front of me?!”

Henry did not even bend to Jill, the woman he loved most, so there was no way he would give in to Prince.

Henry grabbed the cup he had been drinking from as he talked and threw it fiercely at Prince from across the conference table, coaster and all.

Considering Prince’s identity, he had always been the one to attack others in anger while the other party would never dare to fight back Nobody had ever thrown anything at him before.

Not even in his wildest dreams.

This white ceramic cup crashed right against his head.

There was a bang, followed by the sound of the ceramic cup shattering.

Burning hot tea splashed over his face and there was a small wound on his forehead. It burned and Prince shouted in horror while cupping a hand over his forehead.

The sight shocked everyone.

No matter how annoyed they were at Prince's arrogance, they had never entertained the idea of attacking him.

Doing so would put them in grave danger. Coincidentally, Henry was not afraid of trouble.

While Prince screamed and everyone remained stunned in their seats, Henry got up and strolled around the conference desk to stand in front of Prince. Henry then raised his hand to grab the other by his collar.

Prince looked embarrassing and pitiful with tea and tea leaves all over him while blood trickled down his face.

Henry lifted him from his chair like he was a small helpless chick

Henry smiled wretchedly as he stared at Prince's pained expression. "Crown Prince, was it? Go ahead, then. How about you crown yourself again?"

Henry raised his hand to slap Prince across the face twice as he spoke.

Prince had yet to snap back to reality from the pain of his cup-cut forehead. After taking these two slaps head-on, Prince was dazed.

“Motherf*cking hell. Kill my whole family? At least try to take a look at your stupid f*cking behavior.”

Henry scolded before pushing Prince back onto his chair.

Henry looked down at Prince from above and said arrogantly, “Who the f*ck are you to compete with me in terms of arrogance, huh?”

Prince had lived a life of arrogance for over twenty years. Even so, this was the first time he had been completely overshadowed by someone else in this aspect.

There was only hatred and fear in Prince’s eyes as he stared at Henry.

Under extreme anger and terror, Prince’s voice changed.

“Who the f*ck are you? Tell me! I’ll kill you! I will!”

Henry raised his hand and slapped Prince heavily again. Then he sneered and replied, “Who am I? Go to Harbor City and ask around for who the most powerful young master is. That’s who I am! Don’t forget it, dumbf*ck!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1185

All of this had actually happened really quickly.

Only one minute had passed since Henry threw the cup at him to Prince getting slapped multiple times.

Everyone in the meeting room was stunned.

Especially the president.

He greatly disliked Prince and wanted nothing more than to throw the man out of the room.

Yet, considering Prince's status, the president knew that he would be in great trouble if anything happened to Prince today because of Henry. On the other hand, he had no idea would happen to Henry.

He did not recognize Henry, nor did he know what family Henry came from. All he knew was that Jasper was the only person who could hold Henry back.

"Mr. Laine, I don't think it would be good for anyone if this situation gets out of hand."

Jasper looked at the president's terrified expression and replied calmly, "Prince pissed my friend off so it's only normal he pays the price. Why, Mr. President, do you think we're going too far?"

The president smiled dryly and replied, "It's just that I don't think anyone here would like to see something actually bad happen over such a conflict, right?"

At that moment, Henry scoffed and told the president unkindly, "What're you scared of? I'm the one who beat him up, this has nothing to do with you. It's not like I need you to take responsibility for this."

Jasper saw the president's expression turn awkward and said calmly, "Mr. President, what of this meeting's notion, then?"

The president seemed to wake up from his stupor and immediately replied, "It's denied, of course. Our partnership with you will continue, as usual, Mr. Laine."

Jasper nodded and said, "Mr. President, our partnership has always been a fulfilling one on both sides, and there's never been an issue throughout its lifetime. Since everyone's interests are met and have benefitted by the partnership, I would prefer if similar situations did not happen again. After all, you're a busy man and I don't have the time to wait for you to hold a meeting over this every other day."

"Should you consider terminating our partnership over some small and insignificant matter again, then I see no point in further partnership with you either. Do you see where I'm coming from?"

The president smiled wryly and nodded. "I'll make sure to take note of that, Mr. Laine. I promise that similar situations will not arise again."

Any intelligent person could tell that Jasper was extremely displeased by today's 'meeting agenda'. That was why he criticized the president, or rather, criticized the entire ICBS branch.

To this end, the president who was in the wrong could not say anything but endure it and admit his faults.

After all, from a business partner's point of view, this meeting they held was indeed too unstandardized. Even if it was due to oppression from Prince's methods.

“A smart choice.”

“We’re leaving, Henry.”

Jasper called out to Henry.

Henry made a sound of acknowledgment and scoffed as he stared at Prince.
“Remember to come and look for me, moron.”

With that, Henry followed Jasper out of the room casually.

Prince remained quiet the entire time, but no one knew if it was out of anger or fear.

It was only after Jasper and Henry had completely left the meeting room that he let out an extremely furious and heartbreaking shout.

Henry’s mood was much lighter once he walked out of ICBS.

“I’d almost gone crazy from how I kept in all this frustration over the past few days. It feels so good to vent all my displeasure this time!” Henry laughed out loud.

Jasper opened the car door and got inside. Then, he pinched the bridge of his nose and said, “Prince won’t let this go so easily. Be more careful over the next few days and stay by my side.”

Henry replied uncaringly, “As if he’d dare to cause me trouble.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1186

“It’s always better to be more careful. Prince is a little different from the other people we met. He could very well do something rash,” Jasper said seriously.

Henry waved him off in a half-hearted acknowledgment. He did not take the man seriously.

Jasper could only leave the situation alone when he saw the man’s reaction. All he could do was ask Julian to keep a closer eye on Henry when they returned.

...

This well-prepared ICBS conference that Prince had been confident about had ended in Jasper’s overwhelming victory.

This was something no one had expected.

His victory in this meeting meant that JW Payment would not have to face any follow-up trouble for a short period of time.

Therefore, what Jasper, JW Capital, and its subsidiaries needed to do was try their best to occupy the entire market.

Before the document for the online payment policy had been issued and the market fully opened to the public, Jasper had to take the advantage of his majority control over the market.

He had to do so whilst simultaneously getting rid of Soha Payments.

This was easier said than done.

After all, both Netsy, Senator, and Perfect World were capable companies. Especially Netsy, which was one of the country's top four web portals. They had chosen to partner with Soha Payments, meaning they would not be gotten rid of so quickly.

Jasper was not in a rush when it came to this either.

Food had to be eaten mouthful by mouthful, and the market could only be obtained step by step.

The official launch of Treasurehunter, coupled with the continued hype over United Legends, meant that people would soon become familiar with JW Payment. It would be almost impossible for other companies to steal customers away from JW Payment.

Jasper spent the following two days in close contact with Wayne to check on Treasurehunter's situation whilst waiting for Prince to strike back.

However, the strange thing was that up until the third day when Swallow City released the access policy regarding online payment and everything was beginning to take place, Prince still had not made his move.

It was as if the man had disappeared.

Jasper felt slightly lost.

Jasper had not expected Henry to be the reason behind Prince's lack of revenge.

In a secluded private tea house in Waterhoof City. Prince sat in the grandest private room and touched the earring on his ear. His expression was extremely sinister.

Sitting opposite him with a small smile was no other than the man who had remained hidden for a long while Conrad Monty!

“Crown Prince, anger and fury are useless in many situations.”

Conrad got up and bent over to pour Prince a cup of tea as she said this.

Prince glanced at the steaming amber-colored tea before he looked at Conrad darkly. Then, he sneered, “Don’t think that just because you’re Fabian’s dog it means you have the right to teach me anything. You’re nothing without Fabian.”

Conrad was not angry by what he heard. Instead, he replied with a crescent-eyed smile, “You’re right. I’m nothing without Mr. Atticus. Being Conrad Monty alone doesn’t make me important enough for the prince to know my name, let alone teach him a lesson.”

Prince touched his earring and replied, “So you’re not stupid.”

Conrad gave a small smile. There were no signs of displeasure or fury on his face as he leaned in to ask, “Then, Your Highness. What is your decision on Mr. Atticus’ suggestion to work together?”

“Work together? Sure! As long as Fabian gets rid of that f*cker Henry, Jasper is nothing at all!” Prince clamored arrogantly.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1187

After getting badly humiliated by Henry in ICBS' meeting room, the first thing Prince did when he returned was to search up the man's identity and familial background.

Prince felt even more despondent once he found what he was looking for.

Henry's identity and status were no weaker than his. Prince did temporarily entertain the thought of getting rid of Henry through darker and illegal means.

Prince might be impulsive and arrogant, but he was not stupid. After weighing the consequences, the man finally decided to give up on that option.

Prince's plan would end up affecting too many

powerful people. To the point where Prince was unwilling to bear the responsibilities of angering them.

At this moment, Conrad sought him out.

Prince did not know who Conrad was in the beginning. It had taken a call from Fabian for this meeting between Prince and Conrad to occur.

Conrad gave a small smile when he heard Prince and replied, "How difficult can it be to get rid of Henry?"

Prince arched a brow and asked, "You have a plan?"

Conrad smiled and replied, "You must know, Crown Prince, that Henry is much easier to deal with than Jasper. If you were to compare Jasper to a crafty jackal, then Henry is just a stray dog at most. When it comes to stray dogs, all you need to do is slightly irk it and it'll fall into the trap you set."

Prince narrowed his eyes and said nothing.

Conrad raised his cup to take a sip before he continued by himself, "Mr. Atticus has already contacted a large number of Jasper's enemies. The setup is almost complete, and Jasper will die when we eventually harvest."

Prince scoffed and said, "They say that Fabian's the one with the best schemes among Harbor City's youths. But now that I look at it, he's not anything extraordinary, after all. Is it necessary for all of you to prepare so much just to get rid of Jasper?"

“Necessary or not, I’m sure you’ve learned your lesson. Right, Your Highness?”

Prince’s expression darkened at Conrad’s words.

“Since you’ve already come up with a complete plan, then what are you seeking me out for?” Prince changed the topic and asked tensely.

“An enemy of my enemy is my friend, Crown Prince. Since we’re all friends, I’m sure we can share many other partnerships while we get rid of the same enemy, no?” Conrad said mysteriously.

“Say, for example, Mr. Atticus’ Empire Meet. If you’re willing to join, then you’d surely become one of the top five high-level members. This is quite the pool of contacts.”

“Empire Meet?” Prince snorted, “There’s also an Empire Meet in Swallow Capital. What’s the difference between Fabian’s organization and the one in Swallow Capital?”

“There’s a huge difference. Swallow Capital’s Empire Meet’s no longer as sophisticated as it used to be. Anyone with a few million in assets can join it. A clubhouse like that isn’t worthy of your status, Crown Prince,” Conrad said.

Prince waved him off and replied, "I'm from the Mainlands. How do you expect me to keep my head held high once word gets out that I've joined Fabian's Empire Meet in Harbor City? The Harbor faction and the Mainland faction have deep conflicts over many things."

Prince was not an idiot. As the owner of Clear Seas, Prince's father was an important figure in the Mainland faction. Prince's identity was too sensitive for him to join Fabian's Empire Meet. That was why he never agreed to this in the first place.

Prince harrumphed coldly when he saw that Conrad wanted to continue talking. He said darkly, "Don't give me this useless bullsh*t. I just want Henry and Jasper to die."

"We still need some time before dealing with Jasper, but to get rid of Henry... easy peasy!"

Conrad smartly moved on from the topic of Empire Meet when he saw how uninterested Prince was in it. Instead, he engaged Prince's new topic.

Prince's eyes lit up once he heard Conrad and he slapped the table as he said, "Alright then. What do you have in mind? I'll agree to work together if you succeed!"

At this moment, Jasper had no idea that Conrad had already arrived in Waterhoof City and was conspiring with Prince to attack him and Henry.

Currently, the man had Julian follow Henry out.

Henry had friends in Waterhoof City too. Frustrated, the man had been going to various places in search of fun. All with his questionable friends in tow, of course. To ensure Henry's safety, Jasper had Julian follow the other just in case.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1188

Despite how displeased Henry was with the arrangement, he ended up giving in to Jasper.

Excluding the two men in the Law family and Anna, the only person in the entire world Henry would bend to was Jasper.

Jasper left as well after he sent Henry away.

Jasper had been extremely busy the past few days so now that he was slightly free, he decided to go somewhere.

With JW Capital's business model growing larger, Jasper was also badly lacking talents.

The only difference from before was that JW now had a comprehensive enough human resources reserves, so Jasper did not need to seek people out anymore. However, Jasper still decided to look for this man himself.

This man's identity was too unique.

It was Baz Willis, Jasper's superior in his past life. Sharing the same first and last name as a historical general, this Baz Willis was an absolute master in the financial circle.

Baz, this ex-superior of Jasper's, was someone with quite the legendary history.

The man had been living on the streets from the time he was twelve, and he had endured many hardships before he returned to Somerland at the age of twenty. After working in the kitchens and manning street stalls, the man finally entered the financial industry.

Quoting what the man told Jasper in his past life, all thirty-five years' worth of talent had fully taken flight when he finally encountered the financial industry.

It had only taken the man a few years since he began his entrepreneurship journey for him to achieve a net worth of hundreds of millions.

Jasper knew in his past life that his superior could have achieved much more if not for the huge change in his family.

Jasper had been the man's subordinate for more than a decade in his past life, so he knew very well that JW Capital needed a hands on talent like Baz.

Naturally, Mr. Laine would like to clarify that he was not purposefully employing his ex-superior to work for himself out of some distasteful fun.

Though, he had to admit, it was an interesting concept.

According to Jasper's memory of idle chats with Baz in his past life, the man should be working in a relative's shop in Legends District.

26th Golden State Street.

Alighting the taxi, Jasper looked up to see a video product store. Jasper's expression changed instantly.

He did not remember Baz saying anything about a relative that sold CDs.

Eighties children were no strangers to CD and cassette tape rental shops. In fact, this used to be an extremely lucrative business more than a decade ago.

However, with the passage of time, it was only a matter of time before these shops would be eliminated.

However, since he was here anyway, he felt that he might as well go in to look around.

Jasper pushed through the door and looked up, only to see three to five men getting physical and being noisy in the shop.

Surrounded by them whilst being scolded and pushed around was Jasper's superior in his past life, Baz. Albeit more than a decade younger.

Jasper felt moved by the huge change in the man's features.

"Tell your uncle he'll regret owing our Easy Media's money, little brat You better pay up tomorrow, or hehe, I'll wreck your shop!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1189

Jasper arched a brow when he heard the chubby man speak.

'Easy Media?'

'Isn't that my company?'

As the largest entertainment company in the mainlands, Jasper had no idea that his company's business scope had spread to involve partnerships with a small CD rental shop.

At that moment, Bax replied furiously, "There's no way I'd give you the money!"

"We want official cassette tapes, but instead you're giving us pirated ones. Most of the tapes can't even be played. Forget the tapes being completely returned by In y customers, I even lost a few long-time customers because of this. I lost money and reputation, so be grateful that I didn't seek you out for compensation!"

The few men were infuriated when they heard Baz.

The burly man who spoke just now suddenly pushed Baz, causing the latter to stagger backward. If not for the wall-mounted shelf that was filled with CD and cassette tapes, the man would have fallen straight to the ground.

“What the f*ck did you just say?”

“We’re from Easy Media! Why would we sell pirated cassette tapes, huh? Keep spouting nonsense and I’ll kill you!”

Baz flushed in anger and roared, “You still have the shame to say that? Everyone in Legends that works in this industry knows that you took our order and secretly bought pirated cassette tapes to placate us, Ulric. We know you’re abusing your power as Easy Media’s small agent in charge of the Legends District. I’d rather not do business at all than pay you any money!”

Baz revealed the group’s mental scars.

Ulric, the leader of the group, glared fiercely. In utter fury, the man scolded, “F*ck you, brat! Shut up!” Then, he raised his hand to slap Baz across the face.

The hand was raised, but it never came down.

Ulric struggled and turned to glare at Jasper. He shouted, "This has nothing to do with you, young man! Get lost or I'll beat you up too!"

"How can someone like you really be Easy Media's employee?"

Jasper ignored Ulric's threats and asked.

As far as he was concerned, this matter was more important than anything else.

Ulric sneered and pulled out an employee badge. Shoving it in Jasper's face, he said, "Open your eyes and take a good look, brat. I'm Easy Media's Legends District agent. I distribute all supplies of Easy Media's videotapes and cassette tapes in Legends, understand?"

Just then, one of Ulric's lackeys even boasted proudly, "Not only that, but Mr. Sandoval's cousin is also Easy Media's Waterhoof City branch's vice president. Civilians like you will never have the chance to meet someone so formidable."

Jasper narrowed his eyes and scoffed when he heard the man.

With the maturing of the MP4 and MP5 technology, the market had slowly begun to eliminate cassette tapes.

However, that did not mean an industry that had more than a decade's worth of history would change overnight.

Still, anyone with common sense would be able to tell that electronics like MP4 and MP5 would be the future.

Easy Media's current focus was on electronic music. Following the market trend of online advertising, management over physical shops that sold cassette tapes started to become messy.

Because this was an industry that would be completely eliminated in a few years time, there was no way anyone would put much effort and time into managing it well.

This was why a small group of people found the opportunity to exploit it.

Ulric was one of these people.

Thanks to his contacts in the company's middle-ranks, Ulric had gotten himself a position as an agent.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1190

This so-called agent simply oversaw the orders of cassette tapes and CDs of audiovisual product shops in a specific area.

Ulric took the orders of these shops, and instead of handing them over to his superior, the man went and bought pirated cassette tapes from the black market to deliver to his customers.

More than scamming these audiovisual product shops, the man was also tarnishing Easy Media's reputation.

“And you're not afraid of getting reported for doing so?” Jasper asked.

Ulric and the rest were stunned for a moment before they erupted into laughter.

Ulric pointed at Jasper's nose and laughed out loud. “Is your brain working? Report? My cousin's the vice president and I'm the agent of this area. Who are you going to report me to?”

Ulric's expression then turned even more sinister as he said, “I'm warning you one last time, brat. Get lost right now if you know what's good for you. This has nothing to do

with you. But if you have a death wish, then I'll break one of your legs today before you will even be able to cry for mercy!"

"Get lost now!"

As he shouted this, the chubby Ulric did indeed look rather forceful.

At that moment, Baz also told Jasper, "Thanks for helping out, man, but this issue has nothing to do with you. Instead of calling them Easy Media's employees, these people are actually just a bunch of rascals. There's no point fighting with them, so go. Don't get yourself into unnecessary trouble."

Baz was a good man.

Baz had come up with his own money to help Jasper through difficulties when he was dirt-poor in his past life. Being seven to eight years older than Jasper, Baz took great care and watched out for the younger as if he were an older brother.

If not for him, there was no way Jasper, a non-financial major graduate from a normal and insignificant university, would outshine his competitors.

It was thanks to Baz's care and protection that Jasper managed to persevere.

This was also why Jasper came all the way here to look for Baz.

“No, I really do have to take this matter into my own hands,” Jasper shook his head and rejected Baz’s kindness.

“I refuse to believe that Easy Media’s managerial ranks have rotted to such a level in Waterhoof City. To the point that people like this can become an agent. Are the employees in Easy Media’s Waterhoof City branch blind?”

Jasper’s words had ticked off Ulric.

“Don’t blame me when you’re the one with a death wish, f*cking idiot!”

Ulric shouted and waved his hand. Then, three to five men immediately surrounded Jasper.

“You want to hit me? You better think it through first.

Hit me and you’ll have to take full responsibility for your actions.” Jasper stood in the middle and looked down on the men around him. The man showed no signs of fear.

“Mr. Sandoval, what if someone is supporting this brat?”

A man asked Ulric when he saw how fearless Jasper was. Ulric frowned and narrowed his eyes as he glared at Jasper.

People like Ulric were not afraid of trouble, they were only afraid of offending someone more formidable than them.

It was thanks to connections with his relative that Ulric could show off here in Legends District and bully these small owners of audiovisual product shops. However, he had to think twice before he ended up offending someone he could not afford to.

“Don’t say I didn’t give you a chance, brat. Go ahead and call someone, I’d like to see who you can call,” Ulric shouted at Jasper. He decided to play it safe first.

“As if people like you are worth my phone call. Your cousin’s the vice president of the Waterhoof City branch, right? Invite him over. He’ll know who I am,” Jasper replied coldly.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1191

If Ulric was only slightly doubtful before, but Jasper's words had him dazed now.

There were only two possibilities here.

The first being that Jasper, the f*cker, was crazy.

The second being that Jasper was an extremely powerful person. Someone who could potentially be a senior executive in Easy Media.

However, Ulric did not think this was very likely.

The young man before him was in his twenties. There was no way this man could be a senior executive of the company.

Yet, Jasper's calm and majestic aura could not be faked either.

At that moment, Ulric was at loss about what to do. Ulric felt that calling his cousin would be too embarrassing an act.

It implied that he was scared of Jasper.

“Mr. Sandoval, I think it would be safer to make the call,” A subordinate gave him the chance to extricate himself from the awkward situation.

Ulric harrumphed and glared at Jasper. Then, he pulled out his phone and made a call beside them.

At the same time, Baz walked over.

The man looked Jasper up and down before he frowned and asked, “Do we know each other?”

Baz thought that this might be some friend of his, but no matter how he looked at the man, he was certain he had never seen the younger before. Hence, he had to ask this.

“This is the first time we’re meeting.” Jasper smiled at Baz.

Baz was stunned and asked, “Then why are you helping me?”

“I came here to look for you,” Jasper explained.

Baz was even more confused.

At the same time, Ulric’s call with his cousin connected. Horace, the Vice president of Easy Media’s Waterhoof City branch picked up the call.

“What is it?”

Ulric heard the indifferent voice on the other end of the call and said carefully, “I’m here at Golden State Street collecting payment, but there’s a really arrogant brat here, Horace. I was afraid that he’d be someone from the company so I wanted to check with you first.”

Horace was stunned for a moment. He glanced at the employees from the headquarters that were sitting in his office and asked, “Someone from the company? What’s his name?”

Ulric blanked.

He had no idea what Jasper’s name was.

Ulric turned to glance at Jasper before replying, "I don't know. But he's a young man in his twenties and he doesn't seem like a local from Waterhoof City."

Horace gave it some thought before he replied grimly, "The branch doesn't have a senior executive in his twenties. He's probably just an entry-level employee."

Ulric was immediately relieved and replied, "Good, then. I'll get rid of him right away. F*cking brat, I can't believe I actually got scared when he acted like he's someone powerful!"

However, Horace was smarter than Ulric, and he frowned in thought before saying, "Don't be so rash. The situation's a little tense over at the headquarters, and a few people from Waterfall South seems to have found out about your business. The headquarters' senior executives are angry and an investigative team have come over to our Waterhoof City branch office.

The general manager from headquarters is sitting in my office with their team right now."

"You never know. The investigative team could be sitting here while they send someone to dig around in secret. I have to go over and check out the situation first."

Ulric replied uncaringly, "But Horace, you've been contributing to Easy Media for years already. What can they do if they catch you? We've already used most of the profits we've earned in bribes."

“Nonsense!”

Horace scolded, “Will you only stop after you’ve caused a huge ruckus? Don’t act rashly for now. Wait for me to get there. You can do whatever you want if it’s a false alarm.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1192

Horace then hung up the phone and looked up at Truman, the general manager of the headquarters’ Inspection Department, and smiled. “Mr. Geis, did you send anyone from your investigative team directly to the audiovisual product shops?”

Truman was stunned when he heard Horace and shook his head. “There hasn’t been any arrangements of that manner as far as I’m aware, Horace. We’re old colleagues, aren’t we? I’d tell you in advance if I’d made such an arrangement.”

Horace’s expression darkened and he told Truman, “Then, I suspect that someone’s impersonating your people, Mr. Geis. The agency caught them red-handed, so perhaps we could go and take a look.”

Truman was enraged. “How could such a thing happen? Let’s go right away. We have to deal with these people harshly.”

At the same time in the shop, Ulric was overcome with joy to learn that Jasper was most likely pretending to be someone formidable.

“Just you wait, you little brat! You like to act, don’t you? I’d like to see how you f*cking keep this act up once they arrive!”

Ulric pointed at Jasper and scolded him loudly.

Despite this, Jasper remained calm.

In all honesty, considering Jasper’s current identity and status, he would truly be lowering himself if he were to engage Ulric in a verbal fight.

On the other hand, Ulric took Jasper’s silence as guilt. Ulric scoffed and looked at two of his lackeys as he cued them to block the door so that Jasper could not run.

Then, he said with a sneer, “Do you know how much trouble you’re in today, brat? I’ll beat you up and make you call me daddy later while you lie limply on the ground.”

“You’re going too far!”

Baz could not endure Ulric's attitude any longer and said.

Horace had told Ulric not to act rashly with Jasper, but the man was not in the mood to be soft with Baz.

Slapping Baz with the back of his hand, Ulric scolded, "Who the f*ck do you think you are? Who are you to shout at me? Give me the money you owe me, or I'll get rid of your shop!"

After taking the slap head on, Baz was utterly mortified as he glared at Ulric with reddened eyes.

He wanted nothing more than to charge head on and fight Ulric.

However, this was his relative's shop and not his. Not to mention that Ulric's people outnumbered him. Baz knew that rushing into a fight would only get himself beaten up.

Hence, All Baz could do was suppress the fury he felt and swear that he would one day make a name for himself and never be taken advantage of like this again.

"Touch him again and you will regret it." Jasper's icy tone drifted over.

Ulric stared at Jasper and smiled wretchedly, “You can’t even protect yourself, brat Stop acting like a here.”

As they talked, a commercial vehicle came to a stop outside the car. The car doors opened, and a good number of people got out.

Horace led the group, with Easy Media’s Inspection Department’s general manager Truman trailing after him. The other employees of the Inspection Department walked behind Truman.

Ulric saw Horace and went to greet the man happily. “Horace, the stupid f*cker I was talking about is right inside.”

Horace frowned slightly since Truman was also present, and he scolded Ulric, “Watch your choice of words. This is Truman Geis, the general manager of the headquarters’ Inspection Department. He’s an old colleague of mine. What are you waiting for? Greet him!”

Ulric was not a blind man, and he immediately bowed to greet Truman, “Hello, Mr. Geis.”

Ulric chuckled and continued pleasingly, “Mr. Geis. I should make preparations to celebrate your arrival. Perhaps we could do dinner?”

This was the general manager from the headquarters' Inspection Department!

This man was considered a formidable figure beyond Ulric's usual network.

It made sense that he wanted to be acquainted with the man.

Truman gave a small smile and was about to reply when he looked up and saw an extremely familiar young man looking back at him expressionlessly in the shop.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1193

As an entry level agent, there was no way Ulric would recognize Jasper.

As the vice president of the Waterhoof City branch, Horace should have been able to recognize Jasper.

However, since Jasper did not involve himself in most of the company's daily operations after he acquired Easy Media, Jasper only knew what Ted reported to him. High-level employees consisting of general managers of the headquarters' many huge departments only occasionally saw Jasper during video conferences.

A vice president of a branch like Horace was not high-ranking enough to know who Jasper was.

Truman was the only one here who was different.

As the general manager of the Inspection Department, Truman was not qualified to be a part of the core decision making team. However, the man had seen Jasper before during a few huge video conferences. Truman felt an impending headache when he saw Jasper.

He did not expect to meet his superior for first time under such circumstances.

Before Truman had the chance to think further, he pushed away all nonsensical thoughts in his mind and leaned forward. With a flattering smile, he jogged into the shop and straight to Jasper.

Ulric's hand froze mid air as he had pulled out a packet of CW, initially having planned to acquaint himself with Truman through a smoke.

Even Horace was stunned.

The two cousins exchanged a look in utter confusion.

By then, Truman had already reached Jasper.

“Mr. Laine. Why are you here, Mr. Laine? Why didn’t you tell us you were visiting in advance?”

Ulric felt extremely familiar with the act of absolute humility Truman had shown Jasper, as if it he himself had experienced it just moments ago.

However, Ulric’s object of flattery was Truman, while Truman was trying to win over that little brat!

Before he could fully process the shock, he heard Jasper say.

“Tell you in advance? If I didn’t happen to come across this then I would never have known how powerful Easy Media’s personnel all are now, would I? As an Easy Media employee, you’re even stealing from your own company now. You take orders for your company, but you turn around to sell pirated goods!”

“I’d be watching a peaceful play if I called in advance, wouldn’t I? Huh?!”

Jasper’s shout had Truman’s complexion paling immediately.

Sweat began to form on Truman's forehead and he was about to respond in anguish.

"You're Waterhoof City branch's vice president? Ulric's cousin?"

Jasper did not recognize Truman at all.

Seeing how Jasper had mistaken him for someone else, Truman quickly explained, "I'm Truman Geis, Mr. Laine, the general manager of the headquarters' Inspection Department. I've met you before in a few video conferences. He's Waterhoof City branch's vice president, Horace Sandoval."

In the matter of life and death, Truman sold Horace out without hesitation.

Rather than 'selling out', Truman would argue that he was merely stating the truth.

Jasper looked up at Ulric and Horace, who were frozen in place and said, "I remember now. I've seen you before, you were the second in command while hosting the conference, right?"

Truman smiled wryly, "I was. Thanks to your and Mr. Swanson's trust, I officially assumed the position of general manager half a month ago."

“Ted must’ve been blind,” Jasper replied calmly.

Truman turned cold at that statement.

He felt aggrieved. After all, this matter had nothing to do with him at all.

In fact, he did not even know what had happened.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1194

Just then, Ulric and Horace shivered. They realized that they were in big trouble.

Ulric was confused and he pointed at Jasper to ask, “Who, who are you?”

“This is Mr. Laine! The owner of Easy Media!”

Truman looked at Ulric like the latter was an idiot. To think that the man would still dare to point at Jasper now... Truman scolded him frantic and impatiently.

In all honesty, Truman did not care about what would happen to Ulric or even Horace. He just did not want these idiots to get him involved too.

At that moment, Horace snapped back to reality and he slapped Ulric across his face. Then, he dragged Ulric who was wailing pitifully over to Jasper and said sorrowfully, "I'm really sorry, Mr. Laine. I never knew that there'd be such a failure by my side!"

Jasper looked at Horace and smiled. "Officially speaking, he's the agent for Legends district and is directly supervised by the Waterhoof City branch. Privately, he's your cousin. Are you telling me that you have no idea what he's been doing?"

Horace's complexion paled and he looked at Ulric darkly like he wanted to eat the other man alive.

"If you knew, then there's a huge problem with you as a person. If you didn't know, then it's still your fault for being negligent."

Jasper's words put a stop to any of Horace's excuses.

As he was at his wit's end thinking about what to do, Ulric suddenly fell to the floor with a thud and kneeled in front of Jasper.

“Mr. Laine, please forgive me. It’s my fault for being a snob, for being blind to the reality of the situation, for offending who I should not have.”

Ulric slapped himself as he apologized.

The clear slaps accompanied by Ulric’s tragic pleas turned the scene into something extremely strange.

“Not bad. All you knew were expletives moments ago, but I see you’ve changed,” Jasper stated calmly.

Ulric sobbed and continued, “I’m really sorry, Mr. Laine. Please forgive me this time. I’ll never do it again.”

Jasper did not look at Ulric, instead turning to Truman coldly, “You’re the person in charge of the Inspection Department. You should know what to do in this scenario.”

Truman clenched his jaw and replied, “I do. Firstly, Ulric is undoubtedly in the wrong. After requesting payment from the company, he then bought cheap pirated CDs to resell them at a high price. We’ll sue them accordingly and call the police if we see fit. In addition, the Waterhoof City branch will have to face severe consequences for leadership negligence. Horace is a major suspect and we’ll launch an investigation on him according to the company’s bylaws.”

Horace's expression paled and he turned to beg Jasper frantically. "Mr. Laine, Ulric was the person who did everything. I knew nothing at all!"

"We'll know of your involvement once we investigate everything and the truth comes to light."

Jasper waved his hand and told Truman, "Bring them away. I don't want to see them again."

Truman immediately had the other officers bring the two away.

Truman looked at Jasper hesitantly, but seeing how the man showed no signs of talking to him, he quickly left uneasily.

Ulric and Horace were definitely screwed, but he did not know if he would be affected too.

As he processed this train of thought, Truman felt utter hatred for the devastated Horace and Ulric. Truman felt like he had been implicated by them for no reason.

"Damn you two!" Truman cursed resentfully.

Jasper shook his head as he watched the commercial vehicle drive away.

Jasper had understood everything since the moment the group had alighted the car. Truman's relationship with Horace and the words he told Ulric was enough for Jasper to fire the man.

Everything happened so fast but ended even quicker.

Ulric and Horace were screwed. Seeing how the situation was against them, Ulric's lackeys fled as well. In the blink of an eye, only Jasper and Baz were left in the shop.

Jasper smiled and walked over to a stunned Baz as he extended his hand. "Nice to meet you, my name's Jasper Laine. Laine with an I."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1195

Baz looked at a beaming Jasper dumbly.

His mind had yet to register what had just happened. He could not understand how Jasper, who was still silent a moment ago, had suddenly become a formidable person.

Meanwhile, Ulric, who was flaunting his power arrogantly, had suddenly become a pitiful mess and was brought away.

Taking in the situation before him, Baz recognized that Jasper was someone none of the people just now could afford to offend.

Baz had also acutely caught on to something Truman said.

The owner of Easy Media!

For Baz to meet someone of this caliber was like a civilian meeting the richest man alive.

It felt unreal.

“Why, why... do I feel like I’m watching Records of the King’s Travel Incognito?”

Jasper laughed out loud at Baz’s statement.

Baz made this point as that television series was what had kickstarted the country's trend of acting weak to lower your opponent's defenses before finally revealing how formidable you were in order to win.

Despite being a king, the man loved traveling incognito and only revealed his identity after meeting various oppressive or corrupted officials.

Jasper felt the analogy rather apt.

After calming down, Baz immediately realized

something.

In comparison to a formidable man like Jasper, he was nothing more than a pond loach in the mud.

'Why is he looking for me?'

With this question in mind, Baz wiped both his hands on his clothes embarrassedly before he shook Jasper's hand. Then, he asked, "We don't know each other. Why did you look for me?"

Even though Baz did not believe that someone as formidable as Jasper could seek him out for anything, he did not know what else to say.

Jasper smiled and was about to reply when the back door of the video product shop opened.

A stealthy middle aged man walked in.

“Did they leave already Baz?”

Baz frowned when he saw the middle aged man.

He replied indifferently, “They’re gone. You can come out relax.”

“Mr. Laine, this is my uncle Ross.”

Under Baz’s introduction, Jasper came to know that Ross was the shop’s true owner.

Still, this uncle and boss had hidden when Ulric and the rest came to ask for money, leaving Baz to bear the humiliation and the attacks.

From this, one could tell that Ross was not a good man.

“Mr. Laine?”

Ross was shocked by the way Baz referred to Jasper. Due to his fear that Ulric would be adamant about looking for him, Ross had hidden next door. Therefore, he had no idea what happened within the shop.

As a result, he did not know who Jasper was either.

Ross looked Jasper up and down a few times before he grinned. “You’re so young, what’s with the ‘Mister’ title.”

From Ross’ casual and arrogant tone, the man did not seem to believe that Jasper was a powerful figure. Naturally, Jasper did not care about how Ross viewed him either.

However, Jasper recalled the huge problem Baz had faced at home in his past life, and how it was directly related to this Uncle Ross here. Thus, he promptly told Baz, “I came to look for you. There’s something I’d like to talk to you about in private.”

Logically or emotionally speaking, Baz had no reason to reject Jasper after the man had just saved him.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1196

Just as he was about to nod, Ross suddenly jumped out and interrupted them.

“Wait. I’m the owner here as well as Baz’s uncle. You can tell me whatever you want to say directly!”

Jasper frowned slightly and said, “You can’t decide this for him.”

“How do you know this if you don’t tell me what it is first?” Ross’ eyes flickered as he insisted.

Jasper replied calmly, “I came today in hopes of inviting Baz to work at my company. Can you decide that for him?”

Baz was stunned by what he heard.

The last thing he expected was for Jasper, a man he did not recognize, to come and give him a job.

Ross voiced his objections immediately.

“No way! Who knows if you’re a scammer or something of that nature? The world’s a messy place, young man. Baz might not know anything and might for your lies easily because he doesn’t have much experience in society, but I’m not an idiot.”

Jasper replied calmly, “Baz is already an adult. He knows how to make his own choices. Moreover, any job outside would promise him more of a future than being exploited and used as a shield by you here.”

“Not to mention, it’s not like Baz is some unmarried virgin maiden either. Even if I was a human trafficker, I wouldn’t try to scam a strong burly man.”

Ross was infuriated when he heard Jasper.

Like an old rascal that had been stripped naked, Ross flushed red and pointed at Jas while scolding, “What evidence do you have to claim that I’m using Baz as a shield? How dare you claim that I exploited him? You’re just an outsider! You know nothing at all!”

Jasper looked at Baz and replied calmly, “Since I’m an outsider, then I’m sure Baz would know best since he’s an involved party.”

“Baz, I’d like to talk to you about this. There’s an opportunity right in front of you, but whether you take it or not is up to you. Think carefully before you decide.”

Baz’s expression turned solemn.

If not for what had just happened, it would surely have taken Jasper more than a few sentences to persuade him. In fact, Baz might even have thought that Jasper was a scammer.

However, after he came to know of Jasper’s true identity, he knew that such an important person would not pull this kind of joke for no reason.

Thus, Baz immediately replied, “Let’s talk outside!”

Baz was about to walk out the door with Jasper when he heard Ross say angrily, “Baz, I am your uncle! Instead of listening to me, you’re really going to leave with an outsider?”

Baz sighed and replied, “Can’t you just let me make my own decisions, Uncle Ross?”

Ross’s expression darkened.

He would not be able to find an employee during such difficult times who was also willing to work hard, take his grumblings and complaints, not require a salary, and most importantly, take responsibility when something bad happens.

From this perspective, Ross was reluctant to let Baz leave.

However, Baz's firm expression told Ross that he could not stop the youngster, even as his uncle.

He had no one to blame but how himself for being too harsh on Baz before this. Forget the care an uncle should give his nephew, Ross did not even do his part as Baz's superior.

Thinking of this, Ross' eyes flickered, and he looked up at Jasper to say, "You can bring Baz away if you want. He's a grown man, and if you really can give him an opportunity to change his life for the better, then I won't stop you."

Baz was stunned by what he heard.

Yet, before he could feel moved, Ross continued to speak.

“But I paid for his living costs all these years, I gave him food and a house to live in. It’s only right you compensate me for that, right?”

Baz looked at Ross in disbelief. He never imagined the man to be so shameless.

Before any touching emotions could arise, his heart was instead filled with disgust and disdain.

Jasper was unsurprised by what he saw.

This was who Ross was in his past life as well.

The man had done even more shameful things in Jasper’s past life, things that caused Baz to lose many chances of launching his career and strengthening his business.

Therefore Jasper was unsurprised to see this man reaching his hand out and demanding payment to ‘buy’ Baz.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1197

“Un-Uncle Ross... That, that’s so heartless of you! ”

Baz trembled in infuriation.

“I might have been eating and living under your roof all these years, but it wasn’t for naught. I worked in your shop even when you didn’t pay me any wage. How can you ask me for money now?”

“Do you have no shame?”

Embarrassment flickered across Ross’ expression when he heard Baz, but it vanished right after.

“Hmph. I told you, you didn’t know anything, Baz. Do you even know how expensive things are outside?”

“Go ask around how much it costs to rent a house in Legends District. Go ask how much people spend on daily living expenses.”

“Even if I counted the hours you worked for me, the salary that I’m supposed to pay you would never amount to what you owe me.”

“So, you can leave if you want. But I want at least 10 thousand, no, 20 thousand Somer Dollars!”

Ross had completely discarded the last bit of shame he had.

He refused to back down before squeezing Baz dry of every penny he was worth.

Baz trembled in anger and replied, “Uncle Ross, you didn’t even pay me all these years and you know how much money I have. How am I supposed to get you 20 thousand when all I have are the few dozen bucks you give me for living expenses every week?”

“I’m your nephew! Does it not hurt your conscience to treat me like this?”

Ross scoffed. The man spoke even more matter-of-factly now that there was no saving his relationship with Baz.

He pursed his lips in Jasper’s direction and said, “You might now have money, but what about Mr. Laine? He must be rich if he can offer you a job.”

Jasper looked at Ross coldly. Under normal circumstances, Jasper would not spare Ross even a cent. Jasper would rather throw money on the ground than give it to Ross freely.

However, Jasper turned to look at Baz before deciding. If Ross refused to respect Baz, then Jasper would.

“You decide.”

Jasper’s words caused an indescribable rise of passion and emotion to fill Baz’s heart.

He would follow Jasper even if the man was blatantly scamming him to work in the mines.

Most importantly, he knew who Jasper was. He was the owner of Easy Media. There was no way such a formidable man would waste his time on scamming him.

As he thought of this, Baz did not waste any more time wondering about into why Jasper was giving him such a chance. He clenched his jaw and said, “Please lend me 20 thousand, Mr. Laine. I’ll give it to him, and from today onwards, we won’t be uncle and nephew anymore! He and I will be strangers!”

“Alright”

Jasper nodded and agreed without hesitation.

‘Was 20 thousand a lot of money?’

To ordinary people, 20 thousand was the net income they made in a year, but this was only because Waterhoof City paid a higher salary. Still, it was quite the fortune.

However, this sum was insignificant to Jasper.

Jasper had earned more than 20 thousand during the time wasted here.

“I don’t have that much cash on me right now, so come to the bank with me,” Jasper said.

This was a logical request since no one would carry ten thousand worth of cash on them for no reason.

Ross, however, felt secretly regretful when he saw how readily Jasper replied. He wondered if he had asked for too little money.

He should have asked for 30 thousand instead.

What Ross thought did not matter though, as the three soon arrived at a nearby bank. Jasper walked straight to the counter and passed the employee his card. "Withdraw 20 thousand."

The employee was taken aback when they saw Jasper's ICBS VIP Black card.

The ICBS would not issue this card unless the owner had more than a hundred million worth of assets.

The employee smiled enthusiastically and quickly put the card in its reader. A ten-figure account balance appeared on the screen as the employee lost their breath.

'Holy sh*t, 2.1 billion...'

This man's personal account balance was equal to the cumulative deposits of three of their outlets.

Ross, who followed Jasper's side closely, saw the figure as well.

He was dazed.

When Ross first saw the number, he thought he had mistaken someone's phone number for it.

However, he immediately realized that a Somer phone number could not start with 21, nor could it be 10 figures long.

Ross gulped and looked at Jasper, paling with fear.

If Jasper was just slightly rich, Ross would be thinking of how he could squeeze him of another paycheck. However, seeing how wealthy the man was now, Ross' greed turned into terror.

Any idiot would be able to tell that a certain degree of wealth was synonymous with power.

Jasper handed Ross the 20 thousand Somer Dollars and said calmly, "Why, wasn't this what you wanted?"

Ross gulped loudly and he replied with a shiver, "It's just... I... Mr. Laine, I actually..."

"Forget it." Jasper had no desire to listen to what Ross wanted to say.

Jasper was unwilling to listen to what a man who was willing to corner his own nephew to the point of desperation wanted to say.

"This is the money I lent Baz. What he wants to do with it has nothing to do with me. All I hope is that you uphold your end of the bargain."

"From now on, do not disturb or harass Baz ever again for any reason. The two of you are no longer uncle and nephew. You two are mere strangers, understood?"

Jasper's words were to prevent the tragic event in his past life from happening to Baz again.

"Yes, alright."

Ross took the money and turned to flee without giving Jasper another glance.

After Ross left, Jasper clasped a despairing Baz on the shoulder and said, "Relatives might not treat you the best sometimes, while strangers could potentially become a confidant. It just depends on the person."

Baz nodded, understanding Jasper's intention of consoling him. He grinned to reveal a sour smile. "Come on, let's go talk somewhere in private."

Jasper and Baz arrived at a quiet and elegant restaurant and sat opposite each other, ordering a few dishes in the process.

"Mr. Laine, could I ask how you came to know of me?"

After mulling it over for a long while, Baz could not help but voice out his biggest concern.

"We didn't know each other before this but you came straight for me. You even gave me the chance to work for you and lent me 20 thousand Somer Dollars..."

"I know that 20 thousand doesn't mean much to you, but it's a huge sum for me."

Jasper chuckled and replied meaningfully, "This 20 thousand really isn't anything compared to the help I got before this."

Jasper thought back to how his phone had been blown up with calls demanding him to repay his debts to online loan sharks, and how he could not even return home because of that. It had been Baz, the same man that was sitting cautious and respectfully in front of him now, that helped him every single time. Jasper felt emotional now that he thought about it.

He admitted that he was not a saint, but the most important thing people needed was a conscience.

Considering Jasper's situation in his past life, Baz was already considered a great man for not avoiding Jasper. However, this superior had even forked out his own money to help repay his debts time and time again.

Instead of alleviating Baz's concerns, Jasper's words only caused him to become even more confused.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1198

“Don’t think too much about it. ”

Jasper restated his answer. There was no way he could tell Baz the truth, because even if he did, what would he say? That he reincarnated from the future and now wanted to employ Baz because of the man’s capabilities and repay the kindness he was once shown?

Baz would only think that he was crazy if he said that.

“You want to change your life, and the opportunity I’m providing you now is your best bet. All you need to do is take the opportunity and do your best.”

Hearing how unclear Jasper’s explanation was, Baz nodded and did not think too deeply into it anymore.

Not when there was nothing to scam him of.

He did not have money and his appearance was average. Baz was an ordinary person, and he could not think of any thing he had that would cause Jasper to go through so much trouble to employ him.

“Other than Easy Media, I also have an investment company under my name. This company is actually my most important property and I’m planning to have you work there.”

Baz was stunned when he heard Jasper, and replied confusedly, “Investment? But I know nothing about investing.”

“No one is born with knowledge, everyone slowly learns what they know. I believe that you’re talented in this field, but most importantly, that you’d appreciate this opportunity more than any university student I can employ.”

Jasper chuckled before poking into the food and taking a bite.

“Eat. We’ll talk as we eat.”

Baz picked up his cutlery as well and spoke softly as he ate, “It’s just, Mr. Laine, could you give me a more ordinary position? Like working odd jobs or something. Investments are too specialized, and I don’t think I can do it well.”

“There’s no way I’d let you work odd jobs,” Jasper chuckled, “After spending so much effort just to find you and deal with that incident just now, there’s no way I’d employ you just so you could be a janitor. Why would I waste my effort and your potential on such a thing?”

“There’s nothing wrong with not knowing, nor will I personally put you in charge of a project right off the bat. I’ll have someone guide you when you start so you can accumulate experience. Once you’re experienced enough, then you’ll have your own team to lead.

“Investment is just a game of making more money with money. Once you’ve understood the rules, it’s actually much easier than you think.”

Baz was stunned when he heard Jasper.

He would never know that this was the same thing he told Jasper when the man first starting working for him.

Jasper was just returning the same piece of advice to him.

“Trust yourself a little more, being ordinary doesn’t mean you’re any worse than others. I must have my reasons for telling you to give it a try. Just believe yourself and believe in me. Then everything will be much easier.”

Baz did not reject Jasper any further upon seeing the lengths the man had gone to persuade him.

“Alright. Then, I’ll do my best.”

Jasper laughed out loud in response and raised his cup. “Then, let’s toast with tea to celebrate a new beginning in your life. I wish you all the best.”

“Thank you!”

Baz raised the teacup grandly and clinked it softly against Jasper’s before downing its contents. Baz felt his life suddenly brighten.

After lunch, Jasper gave Baz the address of his investment company in Nauritus City and 1000 Somer Dollars for transport.

“Wrap up your matters here and make your way over. I’ll have human resources arrange your job. Just ask for Chad Wright when you arrive and listen to his arrangements. He’s the Director of Human Resources at the investment company.”

“There’s nothing much to wrap up, actually. I don’t have many friends here, just one relative. Now that the relative’s no more, I can leave at anytime,” Baz replied softly.

Jasper nodded and patted Baz’s shoulder.

“Everyone will have to live their own lives. The people you meet are no more than passing guests.”

“Yeah.”

Baz nodded sincerely. Suddenly, he took a step back and bowed deeply to Jasper.

“Mr. Laine, while I still don’t know why you had looked for me and offered me such an opportunity, it won’t change the fact that I’m immensely grateful to you. Thank you.”

Jasper watched as Baz’s taxi made its way toward the train station. Now that this matter had been dealt with, Jasper let out a sigh of relief as well.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1199

Jasper hailed a taxi and was about to return to the hotel when he received a call from Henry.

“You should be partying at this time, Young Master Law. Why’d you think to call me? I’ll make it clear first that I’m not interested in the kind of venues you go to.”

Jasper said with a smile when he picked up the call.

However, instead of Henry's teasing or refuting remarks, Jasper heard a furious shout instead.

"I've been f*cking set up! Come to the Heavenly Palace and save me!"

Jasper's expression instantly turned serious. He was well aware of Henry's temper.

The man was nothing if not two things. Aggressively domineering and arrogant.

There was no need to explain his dominance, while the man's arrogance was also thanks to his familial background.

Henry refused to surrender lightly, nor would he ask for help unless absolutely necessary.

Let alone use the word 'save' as he did this time.

It spoke volumes about the severity of the situation.

Without wasting much time, Jasper asked grimly, "I'll be right there. Is Julian by your side?"

"He is," Henry replied.

Jasper felt slightly reassured by that.

As long as Henry was fine, then everything could be easily solved.

"Alright. Wait for me at the Heavenly Palace. Remember, no matter what happens, do not get into any conflict or fight with anyone. Do not leave Julian's side either. As long as you're safe, everything else can be solved."

Jasper immediately hung up the phone afterward.

"To the Heavenly Palace, please."

The taxi driver proceeded to activate his career's foundational skill speaking long windedly.

“The Heavenly Palace? That’s one of Waterhoof City’s best clubhouses but it’s a little too far from where we’re at. There’s also heavy traffic so I don’t think we’d be able to get there in time if you’re in a rush.”

He had just finished speaking when a stack of hundred Somer Dollar bills was tossed at him.

“Arrive in 15 minutes, I don’t care what method you use. This money should be enough for you to pay the traffic fines.”

The taxi driver’s eyes widened. He had an internal dialogue about how this man perfectly fit the description of a wealthy businessman who could afford to spend money in the Heavenly Palace. Forget paying fines, the money Jasper gave him was as much as he earned in a month.

Without another word, the taxi driver stepped on the pedal and sped over.

At the same time, the atmosphere was tense in Sky High Court private room of Waterhoof City’s Heavenly Court, a club that celebrities and trust-fund children frequented.

Henry sat on the sofa in the middle of the room, his expression murderous and sinister.

Julian stood diagonally in front of Henry, staring at the group of people in front of him.

Surrounded by that group of people was... Prince!

The man sat on the coffee table while his shiny leather shoe continued to shake in front of Henry. Prince could not hide the arrogance on his face.

He leaned toward Henry slightly and raised his hand to wave the stack of pictures in it with a wretched smile. "There really isn't anyone more powerful than you, Young Master Law. Was it fun beating up the f*cker that knocked into you this afternoon?"

"That man's currently lying in the morgue now. You killed someone, you're in big trouble now! Hahahaha!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1200

Henry's head snapped up and he stared at Prince icily.

After experiencing the tragic lesson of being beaten up by Henry in the meeting room, Prince did feel slightly afraid. He instinctively leaned backward to escape Henry's gaze, but the man immediately realized what he was doing.

Henry was the one who would be charged for murder, not him!

"What the f*ck are you looking at?!"

Prince scolded and pointed at Henry's nose while continuing, "You think that just because you're f*cking from Harbor City, that you're more powerful than anyone? You had fun beating people up randomly, didn't you?"

"Well, I'm telling you today that only low-level trash raise their fist. You're nothing when it comes to a proper scheme."

"No matter how cruel you are, you'd never be able to get away from this murder charge! You hear me?"

“The man you killed came from a somewhat powerful family too. Even if there’s no comparing them to the Law family, they’re not completely defenseless either. You killed their son and even if you were God, there’s no way you’d come out of this unscathed!”

Henry spoke icily in response to Prince’s arrogance, “Point your slimy hands at me one more f*cking time and I’ll make you regret it.”

“You!”

Prince was enraged. He did not think Henry could still be so domineering at such a stage.

Prince did feel the desire to back down when he saw Henry’s furious expression. As if to recover from the shame he felt, Prince sneered. “Being calculative with a mad dog that’s going to get screwed over is an insult to my status.”

“Don’t think that I have no idea that you’re framing in e, you little f*cker. This was a setup since the beginning, wasn’t it?”

Henry was not an idiot. After the incident happened, he thought back about it and immediately understood what happened.

“That idiot wouldn’t even dare to fart in front of me before this, but he suddenly gained the courage to call me a Harbie at noon today? All I did was slap the man and you tell me he died this afternoon? If you’re going to set me up at least make it inconspicuous, Chavez.”

Prince heard Henry’s words and sneered, “You still don’t get it, do you, Henry? So what if it’s a setup?”

“It’s the truth is that you hit him today and he’s dead now. The autopsy stated very clearly that he died from physical assault. What makes you think you can escape conviction?”

“This is what you get for being arrogant and always itching to fight. Now do you know how dangerous society is?”

Henry suddenly got up and grabbed Prince’s collar. He spat icily, “F*ck you, you f*cking dumb*ss. You think two slaps can kill a person? After I slapped you so many times that day, you’re still f*cking alive now, aren’t you?”

“This just happened and you’re already jumping out to blame me. Do you really take me for a moron?”

Caught off guard, Prince was lifted off his feet by Henry as fear flashed through the man’s eyes. He roared, “You wouldn’t dare to hurt me, Henry!”

“Hurt you?”

Utterly furious, Henry did not care too much as he raised his foot and kicked Prince right in the man’s stomach. Prince flew across the room and knocked into various fruits and wine before falling backward onto the ground. It was an embarrassing sight.

“So what if I hurt you today? What’re you gonna do about it, huh?”

Henry looked down at Prince and said.

Humiliated again, Prince ignored the pain in his stomach and pointed at Henry while shouting, “Just you wait, Henry! You’re going to die very soon! I’ll make sure to kill you this time or so help me God, my name won’t be Prince Chavez!”

Prince’s men reacted as well and instinctively began to surround Henry.

Henry stood fearlessly in place as he swept his icy gaze over the people around him. “Come at me if you don’t value your life!”

At the same time, Julian took a silent step forward as well. He did not say anything, but the implications of his actions were clear.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1201

Julian would not go easy on whoever decided to step up now.

Prince crawled up from the floor and wiped off the alcohol on his face. He roared, “You killed someone in Waterhoof City, Henry. Forget your Dad, even if your grandfather came he’d still need to make up for your actions.”

“I won’t back down on this at all, Henry. I won’t let this go until I watch you get sent to jail! ”

“Then get to it, would you?” Henry stared at Prince. “You taking all this time to talk instead of acting is making me look down on you.”

Prince had initially believed that Henry would surrender to him in utter fear. The stark difference of reality had Prince feeling like a stranger in this world.

Henry was the one who got into big trouble, yet the man was acting more arrogant than Prince was.

Prince wondered if Henry was an idiot or if he was truly fearless.

Prince thought back to how this was Conrad 's idea but his own plan. While simple, this plan was effective and without any loopholes. So Prince believed that Henry was being too arrogant and confident.

“Fine. You can't blame me if you've got a death wish. I'll immediately contact the authorities to have you thrown in jail tonight!”

“You think that just because you're from the Law family it means you can be as arrogant as you want?”

“You'll always have to pay for taking others' lives no matter where you go. Not to mention that I'm here making sure it happens! If you have to blame someone then blame your own arrogance for all of this!”

“Who's arrogant?”

A voice interrupted the scene.

Henry's expression turned joyful and Julian sighed in relief when they heard the voice.

Prince was the only one whose expression darkened. The man tensed as if faced with a powerful enemy, as if there was some mythical monster that had rushed into the room.

The private room door was pushed open and in strolled Jasper.

Jasper swept his gaze over the scene and pushed through the crowd to stand next to Henry. Then he turned to look at Prince and said calmly, "How free of you to join Henry for wine, crown prince."

Prince chuckled wretchedly and replied, "Free your f*cking foot. I'm here to kill Henry!"

"Okay."

Jasper nodded calmly and moved so that Henry was exposed to Prince.

"Come on, then. He's right here, kill him."

Prince was stunned by Jasper's words.

How was he supposed to continue this conversation?

“What are you doing just standing there? Go on, then. Kill him. Isn’t that what you wanted to do?” Jasper urged.

Prince took in a deep breath, he felt like his chest was about to explode from infuriation. He glared at Jasper and said icily, “Don’t give me this sh*t, Jasper. Henry’s in for murder this time and you won’t be able to save him even if you’re extremely powerful!”

Jasper turned his head to look at Henry. “Did you kill someone?”

“No. This stupid f*cker set me up and framed me!” Henry replied.

Jasper nodded and looked back at Prince. “Did you hear him?”

Stunned, Prince nodded instinctively. “I did.”

“So if he didn’t kill anyone, then what are you still standing here for?” Jasper asked calmly.

Prince seemed to have woken up from his stupor with Jasper’s question and the man was furious.

“Stop f*cking acting, Laine. Henry beat my friend up earlier today and he’s lying in the morgue right now. The autopsy states that the man was beaten to death. You can dream on if you think Henry can walk out of this unscathed!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1202

It would be wrong to assume that trust-fund children could do whatever they wished without fear.

In truth, trust-fund children are actually under more limitations than ordinary people in various aspects. Especially renowned families like the Law family.

Of course, nouveau riche families were another story altogether.

Truly renowned and wealthy families actually set extremely high standards for their children. People like Kayden were more different than the norm.

However, be it the Langdon, the Law, or any other family, as long as there was one reasonable elder within it, there was no way they would let their descendants get involved in some things.

Murder, for example.

The children could plot and scheme, but they could not get blood on their hands.

Even if they had to get rid of a person, it must be done through hiring gangsters or ordering their lackeys to carry it out. No matter what, their descendants themselves could not get their own hands dirty.

This was the reason why Prince's exploitation posed quite some trouble to Henry.

Murder was very much illegal in the country, and not even God could save you if you got involved.

It was the same for the Law family.

"Go on, then. Keep acting arrogant, why don't you? Huh?"

Prince thought that he had caught onto Henry's weakness and he was extremely arrogant.

"You were the one who hit him, surveillance cameras clearly caught you. There's no arguing out of this. And the autopsy too! Hahaha! You'll lose to me this time, Young Master Law!"

Prince felt extremely gleeful as he looked at Henry whose expression was dark as the void.

Taking revenge was surely among the proudest things he had done in life.

He thought back to Henry's arrogance just now and how forceful the b*stard still was just now.

However, now that Prince had truly turned against Henry, he refused to believe that the latter could remain fearless.

Framing Henry for murder was a huge bombshell that could completely screw Henry over.

"All I did was slap him a few times. You're telling me that's howl killed a man?"

"How do you even have the gall to pull out that bullsh*t autopsy too? You think some random child's play framing can get rid of me?" Henry looked at Prince and said icily.

Despite what Henry said, it did not change the fact that the situation was not in Henry's favor. This was something anyone with eyes could tell.

No matter who you were or how deep your family's roots went, it would be extremely difficult to extract oneself once one was involved in something like this.

Prince must have been fully prepared to rush over so openly.

Henry might be arrogant but the man was not stupid. So he immediately called Jasper over once he realized that this was not a situation he could deal with by himself.

Prince chortled when he heard Henry and said, "Frame? Everything you say has to have evidence, Young Master Law. Did you see me frame you? What evidence do you have?"

"But I have a whole load of evidence against you! The surveillance footage alone is conclusive evidence. How can you explain yourself?"

With that, Prince smiled wretchedly and made a slicing gesture with his hand over his neck.

"You're dead!"

Jasper narrowed his eyes and his brain quickly analyzed the situation before him.

Concluding the information he knew with the analysis of the current situation, Jasper made an assessment of the incident, unresolvable.

Yes, it was unresolvable.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1203

There was no question that this was a setup by Prince.

Jasper knew Henry very well and while the latter was arrogant and paid no one any respect, he was not a bad person at heart. More importantly, Henry was smart enough not to kill someone.

The most Henry would do was beat the person up. If the person was powerful, then Henry would just use his family's power to end his opponent's family, but he would never kill a man.

Prince's setup was hasty and the methods used were rough, but the man had fulfilled the aspects required to form a chain of evidence. His argument was solidly backed.

It would be very difficult for Henry to walk out from this unscathed.

Jasper immediately felt that Prince was not the person who came up with this plan.

Having dealt with Prince before, Jasper knew that the other had the ability to scheme and plot. However, this setup was too formal and presumptuous, and too unrefined enough for Prince to come up with right now.

The scheme seemed brash but it was filled with danger. A few moves and Henry ended up extremely cornered.

“Turn yourself in, Henry,” Jasper suddenly said.

The four words had Henry stunned. Even Prince looked at Jasper with eyes widened in disbelief as if an alien had descended on Earth.

Even Julian looked at Jasper with utter confusion and shock.

Meeting Henry’s stunned gaze, Jasper said calmly, “Turning yourself in is a mitigating factor and they’ll be lenient with their murder charges. I’m doing this for your own good.”

Henry barely held back the urge to throttle Jasper.

After his stupor, Prince let out a loud laugh. “Hahahaha. This is hilarious. Do you see this, Henry? Even Jasper’s given up on you! How’re you going to keep fighting?”

Prince turned to Jasper after laughing out loud and said, “Haha! I have to say, Jasper. Even if you’re very annoying, at least you can read the room. You know that there’s no way to fight back, so why not just surrender, right?”

Prideful, Prince felt extremely elated.

As if he could already see the scene of Henry lying face down on the ground and calling him Daddy.

At this moment, Prince could not help but think of the man who always wore a faint smile on his face.

‘Tsk. This Conrad’s status might be a little low, but the man’s got a good plan. He’s even managed to hold Jasper back. Not bad. Not bad at all!’

However, Prince had no idea how many times Conrad had lost horribly to Jasper. Prince would not think this way if he knew.

Just then, Henry glared at Jasper and seemed to have understood the intention behind the latter's gaze and expression.

"Follow my lead!"

While confused and suspicious, Henry decided to follow Jasper's lead out of his trust for the latter.

"Fine, then I'll tum myself in." Henry pouted.

"It's just a small issue. It's not like they can execute me by shooting over this."

"They won't. It's stated in our national law that turning yourself in is a mitigating factor. Suspects will be charged leniently," Jasper replied calmly.

Prince's smile slowly fell at the duo's cooperative performance.

He narrowed his eyes and Jasper and Henry, suddenly feeling that his plan was not going as smoothly as planned.

Jasper's next words then had Prince's heart skipping a beat

"But this is a huge problem and there's no way we'd be able to hide it. How about this, Henry, do you want to call your dad or should I? We should at least tell the elders about the situation."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1204

If anyone was curious about what risking everything for victory entailed. Then this was it.

Once Jasper realized that the current situation was difficult to solve, he made the riskiest as well as the most correct choice...

"You want to blow this situation out of proportion, right?"

"Then I'll blow it up with you. We'll make as big a deal as possible out of this situation."

"I'd like to see who gets pushed past their limits first."

Jasper planned to escalate the importance of this situation beyond a point Prince was willing to accept.

“A murder charge, right?”

“Sure.”

‘Then I’ll have Henry turn himself in. ‘And pull the entire Law family into play.’

‘I’d like to see how long you can hold on, Prince Chavez.’

Jasper’s biggest support in all this was his belief that Henry had nothing to do with this murder. By then, as long as the entire Law family was involved, the truth would naturally be revealed as well.

No matter how arrogant Prince was, the man would not be able to endure the pressure of the entire Law family. However, all of this was based on the most important condition that Henry had nothing to do with the victim’s death.

As expected, Prince was stunned.

He did not expect this at all.

'Instead of thinking about how to compromise with me and exchange benefits or how to get Henry to surrender to me, Jasper decided to turn Henry in directly! How could people like this exist?'

"Are you sure? The situation would be beyond what you can control once you really turned yourself in, haha," Prince mustered up the courage to say.

Both Jasper and Henry took in his behavior. They could tell that Prince was afraid.

"It's alright. A life for a life, right?" Henry chuckled, his eyes gleaming with fury and something cold.

"Weren't you the one who kept telling me to pay the price? Sure. I'll pay the price and turn myself in."

"Thought before that, I'm going to have to tell my dad and my grandfather first. After all, I am the Law family's only son."

"By then, the Law family will definitely do everything to investigate the truth behind all this."

“I’ll tell you now, Prince, that my family’s temper isn’t the best.”

“You better run to your dad and ask him to come up with a plan fast if my family finds out that there’s something off. Too slow and my family might just crush you straight away.”

Prince bit the inside of his cheek silently at Henry’s words. He stared at Jasper and said grimly, “Are you really going to blow this incident beyond what can be resolved?!”

Jasper chuckled and sat on the sofa. He crossed his legs and said, “You’re the one who brought this up, crown prince.

You’re the one who wanted Henry and me to pay the price. So why am I suddenly blowing this ‘beyond what can be resolved’ now?”

“Or perhaps you thought that you could keep Henry compliant under your control here? Is that right?”

Prince barked out an angry laugh at Jasper’s words.

“Fine, then. Go turn yourselves in. I have conclusive evidence and the truth, yet here you are threatening me instead. So what if you’re the Law family? You think you can overpower and control the Chavez family?”

“This is the mainlands, not Harbor City. No matter how powerful the Law family is, they’re still not invincible!”

Henry had always been the most powerful trust-fund child.

This incident had caught him off guard and Henry was extremely pissed about this. Hearing Prince’s claim now, he did not think any further and pulled out his phone angrily.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1205

“Fine, then. The Law family may not be invincible, but getting rid of your Chavez family is child’s play! Come on, then. Whoever surrenders first is a f*cking idiot!”

Henry then dialed the number.

Prince narrowed his eyes and stared as Henry made the call. It would be a lie if he said he was unafraid. He was well aware of what he did.

This had been a setup ever since the beginning but the situation would be extremely difficult to control once the Law family was enraged and the higher-up's power came into play.

His methods were meant to pressure and make Henry surrender. The goal of this was just to take revenge. This did not mean he had the courage to cause a huge war between the Law and the Chavez family.

'Since this incident involves murder, there's no way the Law family would let Henry go to prison. So they'll definitely investigate and find out the truth. By then, they'd know that this was a setup too!'

Prince felt lightheaded at the thought.

The incident had gotten out of his control ever since Jasper arrived and this infuriated Prince.

Prince turned his head to stare at Jasper only to see the same calm and small smile on the man ever since the beginning. As if he was not afraid to blow the incident out of proportion.

Prince gave it some thought before he scoffed and told Jasper, "Don't blame me for what happens when this gets out of hand, Jasper."

Jasper glanced at Prince and said calmly, "With your level of intellect, you wouldn't be able to come up with such a plan. Meaning you have someone planning for you. Let me think, Fabian Atticus?"

Prince's limbs felt numb when he heard Jasper.

'What kind of monster was Jasper? How could he see through the truth with one sentence?'

Still, Prince could not admit it.

"Cut your bullsh*t. As if I'd need others' help to get rid of you!"

Jasper smiled and replied, "You'd know best if you needed external help."

"Henry, do you know the victim's identity?"

Henry stopped dialing and nodded. "I do, the son of a coal company's owner. His family's pretty wealthy."

"Contact the victim's family too. You've got to say something since their son's dead."

Henry frowned slightly. "Do I have to? There's nothing for me to say anyway, I wasn't the one who killed his son."

"I'll just tell my dad directly then I'll go and tell the authorities next. I'm sure they'll investigate the truth."

Prince felt a vein on his head throb, and said, "It'd be good to tell the victim's family too. That way the situation won't go beyond what cannot be salvaged."

Jasper chuckled too and replied, "Is this crown prince showing rare kindness?"

Prince clenched his jaw and balled his fists. He really wanted to punch Jasper across the face.

Prince's gaze flickered between something bright and dark as he said, "It's one of my friends that died. I'm just speaking for his sake."

After he finished talking, a loud commotion sounded outside the door and a group of people rushed into the private room noisily.

The one leading was a middle-aged man, and from the clamor, Jasper came to know who the man was. It was Timothy Burke, the victim's father.

Once entering the doors, Timothy glared with bloodshot eyes at everyone in the private room. He roared, "Who's Henry Law?"

"I'd risk my life today as long as it means I'll take revenge for my dead son!"

Even Prince was stunned to see Timothy and the latter's group of men.

Evidently, the appearance of the Burke family was beyond what he and Conrad had expected.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1206

In truth, Jasper had been watching Prince's expression and reactions since Timothy entered the room. From Prince's reaction, Jasper had some gained valuable information.

Prince did not expect Timothy's appearance. In fact, Prince was extremely shocked.

Just as Jasper thought about how the situation would change with Timothy's appearance, Henry spoke up.

"I am..."

While Timothy was overcome with utter rage and resentment, Henry was completely unafraid.

As far as he was concerned, there was no reason for him to be afraid when he did not kill Timothy's son.

Timothy immediately glared at Henry when the latter replied.

“Henry!”

Timothy clenched his jaw, his voice sounded extremely pitiful.

“My son’s been spending time with you people all this while. Even if he was ignorant and accidentally offended you, then couldn’t you just have scolded him? The Law family is powerful and wealthy, we can’t afford to offend you.”

“But you shouldn’t have killed him! I’ll make you pay with your life for this!”

Henry frowned and replied patiently, “I know that you’re very angry, but you have to listen to my explanation. This has nothing to do with me.”

“Nothing to do with you?!” Timothy smiled in extreme anger.

“My son is now a cold body lying in the morgue. You think a mere ‘nothing to do with you’ will let you get out of this unscathed? You’re going too far!”

Timothy shouted. The group of people he brought over seemed to be well prepared and each of them had a cold look in their eyes as they each pulled out a machete from their waists.

From the way things looked, it seemed like these people would do anything to take Henry's life today. There was no going back once that happened.

Julian's gaze was serious and he looked ready to move anytime.

Just then, Jasper walked out.

"Mr. Burke, there really is a misunderstanding."

Jasper's tone was calm. "Just think about it, everyone knows that it's big trouble to be involved in a murder. Not to mention the murder of someone from the Burke family. What deep hatred must Henry have toward your son to kill him without regard?"

"Even if he's got some irreconcilable hatred with your son, there's no need for him to kill your son himself and leave evidence behind, right?"

"He could've just found some random people to kill your son in secret. There's no promise that he would get away, but at least he wouldn't leave such obvious evidence, correct?"

"More importantly, even if Henry had killed your son, there's no way he would wait for you to come after him here. It's not logical."

Jasper's words were sensible, but Timothy was driven by the pain of losing his child and he did not care.

"I don't care who you are but get lost right now. I don't need to hear your explanation all I want right now is to make Henry pay for killing my son!"

Timothy had just finished speaking when the dozen or so men immediately surrounded them with gleaming blades in hand.

Just then, Prince took two quiet steps backward and narrowed his eyes as he watched the scene unfold.

Regardless of why Timothy appeared here, Prince could tell that Timothy's appearance had helped to break the impasse Jasper caused. This was something good for him.

Once Jasper realized that a conflict could not be avoided, he no longer hesitated.

"Jul, disarm them."

Julian immediately carried out Jasper's instruction. While there were more than a dozen people and they were all evidently fighters from their fierce faces, these people were no match for Julian.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1207

Knives gleamed and people shouted. It had only taken Julian a few moves before the man held four to five machetes in each hand and tossed them onto the ground. The machetes hit the ground with a clang.

Of the dozen or so men, those who were smarter still stood while those who fought back against Julian were now lying on the ground.

Timothy was stunned.

He had never seen someone as powerful as Julian.

Seeing that Timothy had calmed down, Jasper asked calmly, “Can you listen to me now, Mr. Burke?”

Timothy’s gaze turned cold and his chest still heaved in anger.

“I won’t say much, Mr. Burke. But give me one day. I promise I’ll bring you the true murderer.”

Jasper's words finally got a reaction out of Timothy. Timothy stared at Jasper and said, "The murderer is Henry. What more is there to say?"

Jasper shook his head and replied, "I understand that you've lost your son and you're going through a lot of pain right now, Mr. Burke, that's why I'm going so far to explain it to you. I also don't want to watch you being used to carry out someone's dirty work. But if you're adamant about Henry being your son's murderer, then I won't waste time explaining so much with you either."

Timothy clenched his jaw and replied, "Alright. Then I'll give you one day. I'll look for you again this time tomorrow and if you can't fulfill your end of the deal, then it's as I said before. I don't care how powerful the Law family is, but I will risk my life if it means I make Henry pay!"

With that, Timothy then turned and left with his people in tow.

Once Timothy left, Jasper immediately turned to look at Prince and asked indifferently, "Are you ready, Your Highness?"

"What?" Prince was stunned.

"For a full-out war with the Law family and my JW," Jasper replied coldly.

Prince reacted as if he heard a huge joke.

“Who do you think you are? You think you can attack me without preparing? Do you have a death wish or something?”

Jasper smiled faintly and turned to Henry. “Call your dad and tell him.”

Henry did not hesitate and dialed the number.

While Prince continued to sneer at Jasper.

The corner of Jasper’s lips curled upward slightly and he said, “You’ve really been used this time, Your Highness. It’s a hefty price you’re going to have to pay.”

Jasper then called Jake who was far away in Harbor City.

“Gather the funds and prepare to attack Clear Seas.”

Jasper then hung up the phone. Soon later, Henry passed his phone to Jasper.

Zachary wanted to talk to Jasper.

Looking at Prince's darkening expression, Jasper took the phone.

"Uncle Law," Jasper greeted.

"What happened?"

Zachary's tone was extremely stern on the other end of the line.

"Basically Henry's been framed and it involves murder. There's no way we're leaving this be when Clear Seas is coming for Henry's life."

Prince felt his head throb at Jasper's words.

"Will you attack or should I?" Zachary asked.

Jasper glanced at Prince and replied to Zachary calmly, "I plan to attack Clear Seas."

“Alright.”

Zachary paused for a bit before he continued, “I’ll leave Henry’s safety to you, then. Call me if the situation gets worse, the Law family will do everything to protect Henry.”

Jasper nodded and replied, “Leave it to me, Uncle Law.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1208

Jasper was unsurprised by Zachary’s reaction.

Even he was certain that Henry did not kill anyone, let alone someone in the Law family.

As parents, they would know their own child’s character best.

It was also expected that the Law family would do everything to protect Henry.

Not to mention that the situation had not even been investigated yet. With how the Law family were, there was no way they would just stand and watch as Henry was put behind bars.

Prince, who watched and heard Jasper's conversation with the Law family, was in a horrid mood right now. He did not expect Jasper and Zachary to be so headstrong and willing to start a huge war with the entirety of Clear Seas over this.

Prince stared at Jasper, the corner of his lips twitching, and said resentfully, "And you're so confident that you'll win, Jasper? Clear Seas is much more powerful than you could ever imagine!"

"I know."

Jasper replied immediately.

As one of the earliest and biggest privately-owned capitals, there was no doubt that Clear Seas was extremely strong in terms of their capital or any other aspects.

"But so what?"

Jasper looked at Prince and said coldly.

"Timothy is nothing more than just another weapon against me. The moment you decided to join in was when you became a mere weapon too. Don't you get it?"

“I might not be some wealthy or renowned family, but I have my limits. You can pick a fight with me but I will not allow you to use the people around me as a bargaining chip to threaten me. Or else, what’s the point of me making so much money and establishing so many companies?!”

“If you’re so willing to be someone else’s pawn, then I’ll just eat you and move on. So what if it’s Clear Seas I’m dealing with? So what if it’s Fabian Atticus?”

“I don’t care who you are, but cross my boundaries and I will do everything I can to get rid of you!”

Prince’s expression soured further at Jasper’s words.

While Henry now looked at Jasper with excitement.

“Holy sh*t. Hell yeah! Assert dominance!” Henry cheered.

No matter what would happen to Henry in the future, the man was extremely grateful that there was still someone choosing to stand with him unwaveringly at this moment.

At this moment, Jasper seemed to be glowing brightly through Henry’s eyes. Henry truly believed... ‘It sure is great to have a sister.

'Without a great sister, how would I have a great brother-in-law like Jasper?'

"Stop acting so arrogant, Jasper!"

Frantic, Prince glared at Jasper furiously. Fundamentally, Prince and Henry were the same kinds of people.

They were both sons of wealthy families, both arrogant trust-fund children. The only difference was that Prince was more selfish and was willing to do anything just to achieve his goal, while Henry had boundaries and this made the latter much more sophisticated.

However, Prince was naturally fearless and he had never surrendered to anyone before.

The scene was supposed to be much in his favor, yet Jasper had still managed to easily turn the tables and force him into a corner. Furious and indignant, Prince let go of all his inhibitions.

"You think that just because you have a few bucks and the Law family's support you'd be able to get rid of Clear Seas? Do you know why Clear Seas is the chain of business it is?"

“Clear Seas Industrial is backed by extremely strong capital stemmed from its group. No one in the country can claim that they’re strong enough to oppress Clear Seas! Let alone you!”

Prince roared wretchedly and resentfully while pointing at Jasper.

“Don’t blame me when you’re the one with a death wish! Worse come to worst I’ll just go back and tell my dad. Nothing will happen to me, but you’re screwed if you dare to fight against Clear Seas yourself! Haha! Do you even know how futile that is? You’ve overestimated yourself!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1209

Prince was not baselessly arrogant.

Since Clear Seas was indeed one of the strongest within the country’s capitalists.

However, right after Prince arrogantly shouted, a young man suddenly rushed into the room.

“Something bad happened, crown prince. The share prices of the three major stocks under your name, Sandxibit Technologies, Soaring Dragon Telecommunications, and Purple Seas Pharmaceuticals have plummeted across the board!”

“The contracts in the two funding organizations you host are also suddenly faced with the one-sided termination of contracts by many partners. The Securities Regulatory Commission is requesting an explanation from us.”

“If this continues, the Securities Regulatory Commission will likely revoke our funding organization’s financial practice license and we’ll be facing a lot of trouble now.”

The series of news had Prince stunned, the man’s arrogance and prideful expressions still frozen on his face.

He turned his head harshly and stared fiercely at the person who ran into the room. Prince asked in an icy tone, “What happened?”

The man replied sorrowfully, “I don’t know. Everything happened so suddenly and the company’s in a mess. The worst part, the worst part is that...”

“Tell me!” Prince raged.

“The worst part is that the headquarters seems to be aware of it already. They called just now and asked us to explain the situation to them. Your Highness, it’s possible, it’s possible that the old master already knows about this. There’s no way we can hide it from them at this point”

As if to prove the young man's words, Prince's phone rang at the same time.

Prince glanced at the caller ID and the corner of his eyes twitched, but the man still immediately accepted the call.

A gentle voice sounded on the other end of the line. "Mr. Chavez, the old master would like me to ask if you've gotten into trouble."

Prince let out a sigh of relief and forced a smile to reply, "It's alright, Uncle Fleming. It's just a small issue, I can deal with it myself."

Uncle Fleming on the other end replied kindly, "That's good, then. The old master has been busy signing a partnership with Great Britain's nationally owned energy group lately. He does not have the time to take care of business within the country."

"It would be best if you do not add to the old master troubles at such a time, young master."

"I understand," Prince took a deep breath and replied.

"You're welcome to look for me if there are any further issues, young master. But if there's nothing more, please hang up the phone first."

Prince ended the call and stared at Jasper with resentment and shock.

“What a powerful man you are, Jasper! It’s only been a few minutes and you’ve already started attacking?” Prince narrowed his eyes slightly.

There were countless companies that Clear Seas had invested in or was the holding company of. However, the core strength of this group lies in Clear Seas Industrial.

Be it the subsidiary properties held by Clear Seas or Clear Seas Industrial itself, they were not easy to attack. The former was too spread out and easily triggered, while the latter was just too powerful.

That was why Jasper texted Jake to directly attack the properties under Prince’s name.

It was highly effective.

However, a call from Jasper was not enough to have Jake cause the termination of contracts in Prince’s funding organizations.

This was evidently the Law family’s handiwork.

“This is only the beginning.”

Prince was enraged when he heard Jasper.

“Fine! Don’t blame me when you’re the one with a f*cking death Wish, Jasper! I’ll take on your fight today, let’s see who dies first! F*ck you!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1210

A dull thud sounded in the room.

That was the sound of Henry kicking Prince in the stomach.

These past few hours had Henry going crazy with all the bottled up fury.

He had always been the one framing others, not the one being set up.

With this incident of being set up involving such a sensitive subject, Prince was truly trying to get rid of Henry for good.

Henry had no option but to suppress his anger before since the situation was murky and not in his favor.

However, now that both parties were clearly going into war and Henry had Jasper and his family supporting him, he no longer held back his distaste for Prince.

“F*ck you! You motherf*cking b*tstard! I’ve had enough with you already!”

Henry ran after him to kick Prince a few more times.

“You really think I’m something you can mold and control as you wish? What the f*ck?”

Henry looked down at Prince from above and his eyes gleamed with the desire to devour Prince alive.

Henry pointed at Prince who was yelping pitifully and shouted, “Watch your words, stupid. Or I’ll kill your entire family!”

This was the second time Prince was getting beaten up by Henry and the resentment on the former’s face almost seeped out of it.

Still, no matter how much he hated Henry, Prince had no other option but to swallow his fury.

This was because he could not beat Henry in a fight, and a fighter like Julian was also present.

Lying on the ground, Prince's fingers scraped the carpet beneath him and clenched his fists tightly.

He slowly climbed up from the ground and wiped the blood off the corner of his mouth. Then he glared at Henry and Jasper.

"I'd like to see how much longer you two can act proud!"

Then, Prince left the private room with a limp.

Henry was furious and was about to run after Prince to continue beating him up, only for Jasper to help him back.

"Let him go. He's not the most important person in this fight anymore."

Henry frowned when he heard Jasper. “This f*cker’s full of bad news. He won’t just let this go if we let him run free.”

Jasper replied with a smile, “We’re already fighting to the death. Unless you plan to kill me right here and now?”

Henry waved Jasper off.

Beating Prince up to vent his anger was something insignificant.

Yet to kill Prince right here would escalate the situation into something extremely huge. No matter how powerful the Law family was, Henry would not be able to walk out of this unscathed if that happened.

Henry was a trust-fund child, but he was not stupid.

Two parties of substantial strengths and statuses would not engage in battle lightly. However, once engaged, it would certainly be a huge war. Fistfights between the two parties were no more than an outlet to vent.

“The most important thing now is to deal with your murder charge.”

Jasper glanced at Julian as he spoke.

“I’m going to need you to do the legwork, Jul.”

Naturally, Julian had no qualms and he replied solemnly, “What do I need to do?”

Jasper gave it some thought before pulled out a check from his breast pocket and filled it in. Handing it to Julian, Jasper said, “Take this money and go look for a few trustworthy people to follow you from the company. First things first, find everyone involved in the incident this morning.”

“Be it through threats or bribes, find leads.”

“Then go to the morgue in the hospital and look for the doctor or coroner that identified the victim.”

“There’s no way someone would die from getting slapped twice, so find out his true cause of death. This has to be investigated thoroughly because only with this truth will Henry be cleared of suspicion.”

Julian nodded and replied, “I’ll get to it immediately. But Jasper, if we can come up with this, they should have made preparations too, right?”

Jasper replied calmly, "The timing's too hasty. There's no way their planning is flawless."

"Worse come to worst we'll just do another autopsy. A living person can be bribed and threatened, but the dead doesn't lie. As long as the body's still there, there'll be evidence."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1211

Julian replied, “Got it. I’ll get to it immediately.”

Julian knew that time was of the essence, so he immediately got to work.

Jasper then turned to Henry and said, “Let’s go, then. Come back with me first. Don’t go anywhere for the next two days, just stay by my side.”

Henry scoffed and replied sourly, “What’s with this f*cking bad luck. Everything was going great before this troublesome thing happened.”

Jasper and Henry were busy discussing details of this murder on the way back to the hotel when Jasper received a surprising call.

When he saw Jasper fall deep into thought after reading the caller ID, Henry could not help but ask, “Who’s phone call got you looking so grim?”

Jasper smiled and said something that had Henry’s expression changing slightly.

“The little prince.”

After replying Henry, Jasper accepted the call.

Jasper had to pick the call up regardless of the reason behind the little prince’s sudden communication.

“You’re a busy man, Little Prince. It must be something important for you to take time out of your busy schedule to call me.”

A chuckle echoed through the speakers after Jasper finished talking.

“Nothing important, really. I’m just here to provide intel.”

Jasper arched his brow slightly in response.

“While I am very intrigued in seeing Henry, that fool, suffer a little from a prank, I’m more inclined to watch your stunning performance.”

Dominique's words implied that the man knew everything that had happened today.

Jasper was unsurprised.

Waterhoof City was the Royal family's territory. The strengths and depths of this family's roots were, as far as Jasper knew, unparalleled within the country.

The way Prince Chavez called himself the crown prince just because of Clear Seas Industrial was nothing in comparison to this family's strength.

This man had no right to call himself the crown prince in front of Waterhoof City's little prince.

A powerful entity, yet to be determined if friend or foe, that hid and watched the game play out from afar.

This was Jasper's impression of the little prince.

"Fabian sent someone from Harbor City a few days ago to look for Prince. The setup Henry's currently facing was also this person's idea. This person knows you very well, and I'd say the two of you are old friends, even."

Dominique did not hold out and immediately told Jasper what he knew.

“He’s also someone from home.”

With this, Jasper now understood who Fabian had sent over.

An old friend from home who knew him well. There was no one else but Conrad.

“So he’s joined Fabian’s side, then,” Jasper replied calmly.

Dominique commented mirthfully, “You don’t seem very surprised. I thought you might be a little shocked, at least.”

“It was a good choice to retreat from the personal conflict he had with me and advance his narrative by joining Fabian, who’s of a much higher status, to jointly get rid of me. But from what I see, the scale’s still a little small.”

Jasper stated calmly.

“He is merely a frog in a pond.

“Or a fish in bigger waters.”

“By jumping from a small pond to bigger waters, it might seem to him like a whole new world with much bigger possibilities. But...”

Jasper’s eyes shone brightly at this moment, and the corner of his lips quirked into an alluring and charming smile.

Seeing Jasper now, even Henry began to feel sour with envy.

‘What the f*ck. We’re both manly men, so how the heck do you look so cool showing off?’

“I have the blue sky above me while I step foot on the vast land. My future lies high amidst the clouds, and this game I play goes far beyond ponds and bigger waters.”

While Conrad plotted and climbed to what seemed like great heights, evolving from a pond frog to a fish in the sea in hopes of becoming someone much more formidable, Jasper’s every move altered the world. The two were realms apart, and the difference in their statuses had already become too huge to cross.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1212

“Hahaha! ”

Dominique laughed cheerfully on the other end of the call.

“I thought that you’d at least seem solemn, if not shocked, when I told you what I knew. Who’d have thought that you’d be so confident? Interesting. Things are getting very interesting.

“Looks like calling you was unnecessary, then.”

Jasper replied with a crescent- eyed smile, “You’re too kind, Little Prince. While I don’t really care whether it’s Conrad or Fabian that’s come over, this was still a very important piece of information. After all, the advantage of insider information is that, more often than not, it lets me plan far ahead.

“Perhaps we could have tea together next time?”

Dominique, who was in a villa on the outskirts of Waterhoof City, chuckled when he heard Jasper and replied, "I can have tea anytime, but... we'll talk about this again after you resolve this issue."

Dominique ended the call before he handed his phone to a confidant beside him. Then, he picked up the watering pot and carefully watered the plant in front of him.

"Little Prince, so we've decided to invest in Jasper, then?"

The confidant had grown up with Dominique. If this was back in the medieval ages, then this confidant would surely be someone like a personal attendant. This man was a confidant of confidants, so he was also more causal while speaking with Dominique, and which was also why he asked directly.

Dominique focused on the flower he was watering. Once he believed that he had watered it enough, he put the pot back down. The confidant immediately reached out both hands out to take the pot and place it by the side.

Dominique took the towel from the tray his confidant offered him to wipe his hands before he said slowly, "What do you think of my pot of noble orchids?"

The confidant smiled dumbly and replied, "I'm not a sophisticated man, and I don't really understand the art of exquisite playthings. I can't seem to understand the concept behind a sunflower that costs hundreds of thousands."

“Not understanding it is correct.”

Dominique pointed at the flowerbed before his eyes and said, “Every plant here is not necessarily cheaper than the noble orchid.”

“Be it one plant or ten plants, you’ll still have to take care of them. Every flower has its seasons, and they’ll bloom and wilt accordingly. No flower blooms throughout all four seasons, so if you want to be able to admire the beauty of this flowerbed, then you’re going to have to plant a few more. Do you understand me?”

The confidant gave it some thought before nodding. “I understand.”

Dominique chuckled and turned to walk into the house. While walking, he said, “Jasper and Clear Seas will have a harsh battle waiting for them. Pass along my instruction to cause Clear Seas a bit of trouble.”

“That old man, Vere Chavez, wants to sign the entirety of Great Britain’s contract. We should knock some sense into him too. Let him know that it’s never good to eat too much.”

“Yes, Little Prince. According to our sources, we’ve also heard the news that Fabian’s been getting rather close with the Chavez family. Perhaps the Atticus family plays a role in this? Should we teach them a lesson too?”

“The Atticus family? Forget them. Let Fabian, that mad dog, deal with Jasper. We’re mainlanders, so we’ll only deal with issues within the Mainlands.”

“I understand.”

...

This huge and extremely fierce battle in the financial industry had come without warning.

More than ten stocks on class A shares were under attack at the same time, as some of the rather alert investors immediately realized that master investors were fighting against each other.

After detailed analysis, it was revealed that these stocks were all important businesses under Clear Seas. Everyone became intrigued at this news.

Clear Seas was one of the strongest figures among the country’s capitalists. Most people did not dare to irk this ferocious entity.

However, as expected of one of the country’s most prolific entities, Clear Seas immediately made effective defense maneuvers.

As a result, under Jasper's instruction, the gruesome battle between the two parties was condensed to two stocks.

Sandxibit Technologies and Soaring Dragon Telecommunications.

These two companies were outstanding properties under Clear Seas, as well as Prince's core assets.

This battle Jasper initiated was extremely aggressive and forceful.

With the Law family's coordination and support, Sandxibit Technologies was the first to fall as it remained pinned at the limit down.

Soaring Dragon Telecommunications did slightly better, but it was soon approached the limit down as well.

Both Jasper and Prince had invested more than a total of 5 billion funds to attack each other.

While 5 billion was not much to Clear Seas, it was an extremely intense battle since the power was focused on only two of Prince's companies.

Bang!

Prince kicked the coffee table in front of him over; The man was akin to a furious devil.

“B*stards! Where’s the support from the headquarters?! Is that group of people just going to f*cking sit and watch as Jasper attacks my stocks and holds the share price at the limit down? Aren’t they scared that my dad will kill them once he returns?!”

A subordinate mustered up the courage to reply, “Crown Prince, the headquarters said that they need to prepare to defend against the Law family, so they don’t have enough hands to help us now. From the way the current situation looks, it seems like we’re on our own for now.”

“Motherf*cker! Useless trash! Every single one of them boasted and called themselves stock gods in front of my dad, but the second the Law family gets involved, they all run away with their tail between their legs. What a bunch of motherf*cking trash!”

Prince clenched his jaw in fury and looked up to ask, “What about the people from the main house? Are they here yet?”

The subordinate immediately replied, “The plane just landed ten minutes ago. They should arrive in around half an hour.”

“Good!”

Finally, with one piece of good news, Prince was greatly reenergized. “White Glove’s been my dad’s personal bodyguard for more than a decade. With him here, there’s no way Henry, that stupid f*cker, would get to hit me! It’s finally f*cking time for me to beat him up!”

Prince’s cheek flushed and he felt the urge to drag White Glove over to Henry and regain his lost dignity.

At that moment, the room doors opened.

Conrad walked into the room and swept his gaze over the messy sight before him. He asked, “You were looking for me, Crown Prince?”

Prince quickly walked over when he saw Conrad and grabbed the latter by the collar. Prince narrowed his eyes and stared at Conrad murderously.

“Why did Timothy suddenly appear, Monty?! Don’t you dare tell me that you had no idea about this! Explain yourself right now!”

Conrad gave a small smile. Prince might be grabbing his collar, but the man seemed unaffected by it. Instead, he said calmly, “We’re allies now, Crown Prince. How am I supposed to explain anything to you if you grab my collar like this?”

Prince pushed Conrad away and said disdainfully, “Allies? With Fabian maybe, but you’re just a dog! You are unworthy to be my ally!”

Conrad straightened his clothes and said with a peaceful look in his eyes, “You’re right, Your Highness. I’m unworthy, indeed.”

Prince scoffed and said, “You better give me a reasonable excuse. Timothy’s appearance was never part of our agreed plan. If your explanation is unsatisfactory, I guess I’ll just have to call Fabian.

“And tell him that I killed his dog. I’m sure he wouldn’t mind.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1213

Conrad looked at Prince quietly and narrowed his eyes. From the other’s gaze, Conrad knew that Prince meant what he said.

This made Conrad derail from his original plan.

“What do you think of Jasper, Your Highness?”

Conrad asked instead of replying Prince.

Prince scoffed and replied, “That b*stard’s so hollow that even his eyelashes are empty inside. I wouldn’t be facing this predicament if not for that *sshole. What do you think?”

Conrad sighed and pulled Prince’s hand off his collar. “As you can tell, Crown Prince, Jasper is indeed an extremely difficult opponent to deal with.”

“To be frank with you, I was watching the scene through surveillance cameras the entire time. I know when Jasper arrived and what happened afterward.”

“This is also why I had someone direct Timothy over. Otherwise, Jasper would most likely have completely turned the tables.”

Prince replied indignantly, “Turn your foot! Henry is obviously related to this incident. No matter how powerful Jasper is, there’s no way he can rewrite the truth!”

Conrad smiled and said, “But Your Highness, the real people who’ve rewritten the truth are us, no?”

“Both of us are well aware of how the man from the Burke family died.”

“When you told him to hurt himself and gain Henry’s trust, he was too afraid of Henry’s domineering aura to agree. All you did was push him in a fit of anger, Crown Prince, and he happened to drink too much. He hit his head against the wall, meaning his death was an accident.”

“Still, Crown Prince, you’re the direct perpetrator in this accident. Henry is just an unlucky subject you’re framing.”

“But what’s fake will always be fake. A plan like this might work for ordinary people, but it’s far from enough to deal with Jasper.”

Prince’s expression darkened further at Conrad’s words.

“Who’d have thought that he’d be so useless! I just pushed him slightly when he slipped and he hit the corner of the coffee table! What the f*ck! What kind of f*cking bad luck is this?”

“Since the incident’s over, then there’s no point in dwelling over it,” Conrad said calmly. Then, he changed the topic instead of remaining conflicted over the murder.

“I heard that you need money, Crown Prince. Mr. Atticus said that he’s willing to lend you 1 billion without interests.”

Prince’s expression lit up joyfully at Conrad’s words. “Really? 1 billion worth of funds isn’t a small amount. Even bridge loans come with an interests of millions. But he’s just giving it to me for free?”

With his assets under Jasper’s attack, Prince was currently badly short of cash. This 1 billion Somer Dollars had come just in the nick of time.

“Mr. Atticus said that making a friend out of Your Highness is more important than the bit of interest he might have earned.”

Prince liked Conrad’s choice of words.

However, before Prince could smile, Conrad continued, “Mr. Atticus is willing to lend this money to you for 1 month without interests, Crown Prince, but there are still regulations to follow. For example, mortgaging the shares of two of your best and listed companies.”

“Huh?” Prince frowned and looked at Conrad. Something felt off about this.

“Not to worry, Crown Prince. It’ll be stated in the contract that the shares will only be transferred to Mr. Atticus if you do not return the 1 billion loan in 1 month’s time.”

“This mortgage is merely for formalities’ sake. Not to mention that this 1 billion is nothing to Clear Seas, and you’ll also earn much more after you’ve gotten rid of Jasper, Your Highness.”

Prince gave it some thought before agreeing to the deal. “Alright. Then we’ll go according to your plan.”

Conrad smiled brightly as he watched Prince sign the loan contract with his head down.

Once all the procedures were completed, Conrad excused himself from Prince’s room.

Once he exited the room, the humility and smile on Conrad’s face immediately disappeared.

Conrad took the elevator down and got into the car, then he pulled out his phone and dialed a number.

“Mr. Atticus, Prince refuses to partner with us.”

The other end of the call fell silent for a moment. “Forget it, then. Let him fend for himself. There’s no need to interfere with the issue between him and Jasper. He’ll know who to turn to for help once Jasper’s hit him hard.”

Conrad remained expressionless when he heard Fabian’s instructions.

“Then, should I stay in Waterhoof City or return to the Southeast Province, Mr. Atticus?”

Fabian pondered for a moment before he replied, “Stay in Waterhoof City for now. Jasper’s existence is a real problem for us.”

“Wait for an opportunity. There’s nothing wrong with causing him more trouble in advance once there’s a chance, and we don’t lose anything if no such opportunities arise. After all, we have an idiot like Prince taking the brunt of the attack.”

“I understand, Mr. Atticus,” Conrad replied.

“That’s it, then. Don’t contact me again unless it’s something important. I’ll be busy dealing with something big. Once this is done, then it’ll be time to reel Jasper in as well. I’ll contact you if anything else pops up.”

After ending the call, the corner of Conrad’s lips then curled into a playful smile.

“To Peace Church.”

The driver was stunned for a bit when he heard Conrad’s request and asked, “Are we not going back to the hotel, Mr. Monty?”

“Do your job.”

“... Yes, Mr. Monty.”

...

Life at The Top – Chapter 1214

Using the 1 billion Prince got from Conrad, he immediately began to attack Jasper.

This counterattack was immediately carried out in the stock market. Instantly, the quiet class A shares were roped into another storm.

The 1 billion dollar injection would cause a huge change to any stock in the country’s current securities market.

“Someone outside helped Prince.”

Jasper looked at the market trendline and immediately made the correct deduction.

Henry instantly got to his feet and asked, “Is it Clear Seas?”

Jasper shook his head and replied, “Clear Seas and your father have come to a certain understanding. They’re both aware that the moment Clear Seas’ funds are transferred, the Law family will definitely begin their attack.”

“Clear Seas might be owned mostly by the Chavez family, but it’s not a family business. There’s no way other the shareholders would be idiots and transfer Prince their money to be poured down the drain, so it’s not them either.”

“Then what do we do now?” Henry looked at Jasper.

Henry could hold his ground if this was a physical fight, but participating in a battle without actual gunfire or blood was beyond his capabilities.

“No worries.”

Jasper shook his head confidently.

“I initially made the preparations to go into full out war with Clear Seas, but your father and them have come to an understanding to contain my battle with Prince to the three stocks under his name. Since this is the case, then I’ll completely crush him!”

“So what if he has outside help?”

At least 500 million worth of funds had been invested into the three shares. Jasper knew that this money had not been given to Prince for free. There had to be a price for this gift.

What Jasper needed to do now was completely devour these funds.

Jasper pulled out his phone to call Celine, who was far away in Harbor City.

“You guys can make your move now,” Jasper said. Jasper and Celine had already come to an understanding a long time back.

As president of Colossal Investments’ Terra regional branch, Celine was in dire need of a chance to show her ability to earn the company some hefty profits.

Meanwhile, Jasper needed to completely destroy all three of Prince's listed companies.

Business wise, it was only natural they partnered together.

Personal feelings-wise, well, everyone understood. "But I saw the injection of new funds into the market. Is it another player or was that Prince himself?"

In the brightly lit office in Harbor City, Celine sat in her chair as she played with her freshly done nails and asked lazily.

Opposite her sat a group of Colossal Investments' high ranking executives. Every single one of them looked at Celine with cold sweat beading on their foreheads.

No one dared to offend this strong willed president in the office. Celine had even gotten the nickname Woman of Steel because of how firm she was in her management style.

While Celine's high pressure policies had caused extreme agony to the office, employees could see the rapid performance improvements and generously growing monthly bonuses. Thus, everyone was greatly impressed by this ex-general manager, now current president.

However, no one had ever seen the merciless Woman of Steel, Celine, act so casual, alluring, and feminine before.

While the group of Colossal Investments' Terra regional branch's high – ranking executives were busy wondering what formidable person Celine was on the phone with, Jasper had already replied to Celine's question.

“According to the intel I have now, this is money Prince's acquired from external channels by himself. There's already 500 million invested in the three stocks, while I place an initial estimation of his total funds to be around 800 million to 1.2 billion. Possibly more.”

Celine harrumphed and replied, “I can make a move right now, but I'll make it clear first. The investment bank has a bullish view of Soaring Dragon Telecommunications, so I'm going to take it when the time comes.”

Jasper replied calmly, “Since this is an attack on behalf of the investment bank, then there's no reason for you to help without earning any benefits for your side as well. I have no qualms with you taking Soaring Dragon Telecommunications.”

“Deal. Wait for my good news, then.”

Jasper was about to hang up the phone when he suddenly heard Celine ask, “Hey, how long has it been since we saw each other?”

“ ... ”

Mr. Laine felt exasperated.

“A few months, I think?”

“3 months and 4 days to be precise.” Celine scoffed.

“As expected, all men are trash.”

Beep beep beep...

Jasper put the phone down and rubbed the bridge of his nose.

He was about to say something when his phone rang again.

Seeing that it was an unknown number, Jasper arched his brow slightly.

“Hello, this is Jasper Laine. Who’s this?”

“Chat with me?”

Jasper immediately knew who was calling from those three words.

“On the phone or somewhere else?”

“Peace Church.”

“30 minutes. ”

Jasper put the phone down and got up while asking Henry, “I’m going to meet an old friend. Wanna come?”

Henry shook his head. “No thanks. I’ll wait for Julian to get back. Jesus Christ...”

“Relax. I’ll definitely get you out of this.” Jasper smiled.

“I’ve never been set up like this before!”

Peace Church used to be a rather famous and supposedly very spiritual church in Waterhoof City.

However, with the influx of pilgrims came the construction of the business and residential districts. With time, this area had been partitioned to become one of Waterhoof City’s administrative districts, and was now considered the city center.

Jasper made his way to Peace Church and walked straight into the cathedral. Upon entering the main hall, Jasper looked up to see Conrad sitting on the pew with his hands clasped tightly as he prayed.

Jasper walked over and sat on the pew next to Conrad. Placing his hands together, he prayed as well.

“I thought you didn’t believe in God,” Conrad said with a small smile as he stared intently at the cross.

“I didn’t before,” Jasper replied.

He had indeed been an atheist in his past life, but after being reincarnated, Jasper could not help to think that there might be some larger entity in this world.

“It’s not like I believe wholeheartedly. But that’s how these things are, it exists if you believe and disappears if you don’t. There might not be a God that’s watching over your every move, but a person’s morality is what defines that person’s words and behavior.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1215

A middle aged woman walked over as the two conversed.

The woman was dressed poorly and her complexion was dull. Seated on the pew, she murmured her prayers.

Jasper and Conrad were a short distance away from her, so they both heard how she prayed for her family member’s health.

After the middle aged woman left, Conrad said, “Only when people need help do they come and pray. Does anyone ever remember to light a candle for God when they’re without misery? People who come here are all suffering.”

“From your words, it sounds like you’re suffering from something too, Conrad,” Jasper said with a calm smile.

Conrad chuckled and replied, “The lower class worry if they can afford the next meal while the upper class worry if their interests will be affected by competition. Who can truly claim that they’re living carefreely?”

After praying, Jasper got up from the pew and said, “Looks like it isn’t easy colluding with Fabian.”

Conrad followed Jasper to stand as well and replied, “Looks like you already know this, Jasper.”

“Go ahead and tell me, then. Why did you look for me today?” Jasper asked calmly.

Conrad turned around to look at Jasper and said, “For a partnership.”

After speaking, Conrad took in Jasper’s unfazed expression and smiled before explaining, “A partnership between you and me.”

Only then did Jasper’s expression change slightly.

The first thing Jasper did when Conrad brought up a partnership was wonder if this was another trap set by Fabian.

However, now that Conrad clarified that this was a partnership between them, implying that this had nothing to do with Fabian, Jasper found the matter worth pondering over.

“Do tell,” Jasper said with a crescent eyed smile.

Conrad did not withhold any information and said frankly, “Fabian predicted that you would begin to take revenge and attack Prince. If Prince doesn’t request help from his family, then he’s no match for you.”

“So in addition to helping him plan, I also provided a sum of funds as financial support when he most needed it.”

With Conrad’s explanation, the source of Prince’s funds was explained.

Conrad or Fabian was the one who lent Prince at least 500 million.

Jasper arched his brow slightly and replied, “So I’ve seen.”

Conrad chuckled and continued, “I told Fabian that Prince rejected his funds.”

Jasper's expression immediately changed.

"When in truth, Prince has already taken 1 billion worth of funds."

Jasper looked at Conrad and asked, "Those funds were yours?"

Conrad laughed out loud, the smile on his face freezing. "This is why I sought you out to become my partner."

After saying that, Conrad pulled out the loan contract and passed it to Jasper.

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly when he read the contents of the contract.

"What's next is simple. All you have to do is defeat Prince, and our partnership will be considered a success," Conrad stated.

"What do you want from this?" Jasper asked.

Conrad looked at Jasper and replied, "Purple Seas Pharmaceuticals belongs to me after this."

"No problem."

Jasper agreed curtly.

"But aren't you afraid that Prince and Fabian will take revenge afterward?" Jasper asked suddenly.

"I have my ways of turning the table. It's none of your business how exactly I do it. All I want is my share of the reward after you succeed," Conrad replied expressionlessly.

Jasper stared at Conrad for a long time before he replied, "Deal."

Conrad chuckled and extended his hand toward Jasper. "Then I look forward to working with you."

Half an hour later, Conrad walked out of Peace Church and got into his car. Then, he left without looking back. Jasper got into another car as well. He stared at the speeding car that soon joined the endless flow of vehicles through his rearview mirror and fell into thought.

Conrad had lost to him many times before. However, the man gave Jasper a completely different feeling this time.

Perhaps the various failures before had changed Conrad. A change that made this man much more sophisticated than he used to be.

Take this partnership as an example. In the past, Conrad would never attempt such a thing.

Still... It did not matter.

It would not be the first time Mr. Laine crushed Conrad anyway.

Like he told the little prince, this pond frog had only evolved into a fish in bigger waters. Whether Conrad manages to become someone even more formidable was still uncertain.

Thinking of this, Jasper gave Jake a call.

“It’s me, Mr. Laine.”

Jake's attitude was extremely courteous over the phone.

"There's no need to wait anymore. Prince's already showed his hand. He has a total of 1 billion gathered from an outside source. Make him use all of it. Borrow from the Law family if you don't have enough funds, I'll talk to Mr. Law about it in advance."

In Harbor City, Jake's demeanor sharpened, and he immediately replied, "Understood. I'll get to it immediately."

The taxi driver could not help but pout his lips when he heard Jasper's instruction.

'Youths these days. Instead of learning something good, each one of you bluffs better than the last. You're taking a cab and you talk about 1 billion dollars. I don't even see that much money in United Legends' in game currency.'

Life at The Top – Chapter 1216

The afternoon market had reopened by the time Jasper returned to the hotel.

Both Jake and Celine began their attack on all three of Prince's listed companies at the same time.

This wave of attack under Jasper's instruction was done extremely fiercely.

Financial battles could be complicated, but they could also be very simple.

The simplest and most aggressive method was to overwhelm them through sheer volume.

Direct oppression without any consideration for wins, losses, or consequences.

This was a game where you attacked at the cost of injuring yourself. There was no need for smarts at all. With enough funds, you could easily crush the battlefield to dust in the shortest length of time.

Prince did not have the chance to celebrate for too long after receiving the financial injection of 1 billion worth of funds this morning. The fierce attack this afternoon stunned him completely.

“How could this be?! Why is there another party?” Prince shouted in the room, his face pale.

The display in his room right now showed a petrifying line of plummeting share price.

“Our funds can’t hold on much longer, Crown Prince.”

A subordinate in charge of trading reported to Prince while sweating profusely.

Prince’s complexion was pale and his expression soured as he shouted, “Jasper that b*stard! He has another attack up his sleeve? Find out who’s causing the trouble right now! I’ll kill him!”

The traders immediately got to work under Prince’s instruction.

More than ten minutes into the chaos later, a subordinate placed their phone down and looked up to report, “Crown Prince, we traced the funds back to Harbor City.”

“The Law family?!” Prince exclaimed resentfully.

“No, it’s Colossal Investments!” The subordinate’s complexion was tragically pale.

“Colossal Investments attacked. They’ve used a huge amount of funds to short shares of all three of our companies. The situation’s looking very dire.

“Our funds will be completely devoured in the next 30 minutes if they continue to attack. All we can do is watch as our share price plummets.”

Prince stopped shouting when he heard his subordinate. He was stunned and stood rooted in place, his eyes blown wide open and his expression filled with disbelief.

Panting heavily, Prince worded his panic, “How, how can this be?! Why would Colossal Investments enter the market now? This isn’t logical at all!”

“Your Highness.”

A middle aged man who had been standing in the corner of the room quietly finally spoke up. He explained calmly.

“According to our sources, Colossal Investments Terra regional branch’s current president Celine Maynard is very close with Jasper Laine. There were signs of Colossal Investments’ involvement in Jasper’s huge battle with Seatreasures Group before too.”

Prince clenched his jaw at the middle aged man’s words and replied with resentment flaring in his eyes, “Contact Colossal Investments and tell them to give up their partnership with Jasper. Otherwise, Clear Seas will launch an attack on all their investments in the Mainlands! ”

The middle aged man shook his head. “Something so important can only be instructed by the old master himself. And even then, the old master has to come to a unified agreement with the other shareholders before it can be carried out.

“I’m afraid that they won’t take you seriously if you order such a thing.

“Not to mention... As the strongest investment bank in the world, Colossal Investments might not pay our threat any mind.”

Prince was enraged. “Then go look for that Celine Maynard and tell her to act smart! I’ll give her whatever she wants, money, status, anything!”

“You’ve already lost all rationale, Your Highness.”

The middle aged man's gaze was indifferent. "Jasper's played a huge part in Celine's assumption as the president of the Terra regional branch. Their relationship isn't something you can win over with a bit of temptation.

"Not to mention that Celine's familial background runs deep too. You'd only be humiliating yourself by attempting to bribe her."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1217

"Then what do you propose I do?!"

Prince was enraged after his previous ideas was systemically dismantled. He glared fiercely at the middle aged man.

"You're my dad's most trusted confidant, White Glove! Are you going to just watch me get screwed over?"

White Glove replied softly, "The old master already gave me specific instructions before this. I'm only in charge of your personal safety, so I will not interfere in anything else."

Prince panted heavily and roared, "Call my dad right now! I refuse to believe that Jasper is powerful enough to have a say in everything!"

...

“Prince is losing.” Jasper said in the hotel room with a crescent eyed smile. Looking at the computer screen in front of him, he took the glass of champagne Henry passed him and tilted his head back to enjoy a sip.

Henry replied excitedly, “Then amp up the attacks and completely crush this motherf*cker!”

“If he doesn’t have any more funds coming in, then I’ll give him one more hour at most before all his defenses fall. All three of his companies will be done for before the market closes today.”

In the beginning, the task of destroying all three listed companies involved a certain degree of difficulty.

After all, the shares listed on the stock market were only a percentage of a listed company’s overall shares.

Even if the company was crushed on the stock market, there would not be much difference to the company’s daily operations. The company would face a tight cash flow, but funding was never a problem when it came to Clear Seas.

However, with Conrad's coordination, this loan contract had just become a weapon that would cost Prince his life.

This greatly sped up Jasper's plan to completely crush Prince.

If Prince is wiped out on the stock market this week, then he would have no choice but to repay his loan according to the contents of the contract.

At this moment, Julian returned,

He had arrived with one other person in tow.

"Jasper, Mr. Law, there's been great progress in my investigation today."

Julian's expression was energized as he pointed at the jittery man behind him and said, "This is Grayson Cash. He clearly saw that after Henry slapped the Burke victim twice, the man then left safely and went to drink at a bar nearby.

"A group of people then brought the Burke victim away afterward. These people were sent by Prince."

Jasper looked at Grayson's terrified expression after he heard Julian.

From how terrified the man was, he must have already had a taste of Julian's ferocity.

"Is what he said the truth?" Jasper asked.

Grayson immediately nodded vigorously. "Yes, it's the truth. I saw it with my own eyes. I wouldn't dare to lie."

Before Jasper could say anything, Henry jumped up from his seat.

"Where're you going?"

Jasper immediately asked as he watched Henry make his way to the doors impatiently.

"Where else? We've got an eyewitness. I'm going kill Prince, that little brat!" Henry shouted.

"Come back."

Jasper felt exasperated. “There’s no need to rush.”

After stopping Henry, Jasper turned to ask Julian, “How did the autopsy go?”

If Jasper wanted to reinvestigate this incident, then the most crucial piece of evidence would not be a living eyewitness, but the deceased himself. Only the evidence found on the victim’s body was conclusive and unfalsifiable.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1218

Julian immediately replied after he heard Jasper ask this, “We’ve made even greater progress on the autopsy.

“I found the pathologist in charge of the victim’s autopsy. The victim’s verified that the cause of death was blunt force trauma to his temple leading to intracranial hemorrhage.”

“Moreover, according to the type of wound and the heavy bleeding, the fatal injury was completely unrelated to the slap from before.”

Julian might have sounded carefree, but both Jasper and Henry knew that a certain level of aggression was necessary for Julian to get his hands on these pieces of evidence so smoothly.

Grayson's expression of innate fear when he looked at Julian, like a mouse facing a cat, was proof of this.

"Good job."

Jasper nodded.

"Jul, bring this person alongside the pieces of evidence you gathered and hand them over to Timothy. He'll know what to do next."

While the death of Timothy's son had nothing to do with Jasper and Henry, it was still the loss of human life.

Not to mention that Jasper had promised Timothy yesterday that he would give the man a reply within a day.

Naturally, Jasper would not allow Henry, who did not murder anyone, to be framed. The true culprit behind it all had to face the consequences of his actions.

"I'll get to it immediately."

Julian was also very concerned about Henry's incident, and he would not delay the process.

"I'll bring you out for some fun after all this is over," Henry grinned and told Julian.

Henry might be a trust-fund child, and was someone who a majority of people would take as the typical uneducated son of a wealthy family, but he was not a bad person.

As long as Henry approved of you, then the man was a genuine and sincere friend to have.

It was just that not too many people were qualified for his approval.

Fortunately, Julian happened to fit the bill.

This showed that Henry did not make friends based on status or wealth.

Like the son of a renowned tycoon would say in the future, "They'd never be wealthier than me anyway."

Henry's status and familial background made him even more qualified to say such a thing than that tycoon's son.

Julian gave a small smile and replied, "Just treat me to a meal."

"Sounds like a plan."

Henry's great mood was evident in the man's eyes. After conversing a little longer, Julian bid Jasper goodbye and brought Grayson to Timothy.

Henry followed him this time.

With Julian around, there should not be too many issues. Not to mention that Henry also claimed that he was meeting Timothy to resolve the issue. Thus, Jasper let the man go without worrying about it.

After they left, Jasper turned around to sit in front of the computer while connecting a call to Jake.

"Give me a report on the current situation."

“Mr. Laine, since Colossal Investments are joining us to attack the three stocks without inhibition, we’ve made an unrealized loss of 780 million according to our accounts. We don’t have enough funds left.”

“Did you contact the Law family yet?”

“Yes. The Law family said that they’ll transfer another 1 billion funds to our account in half an hour. They’ll reimburse us in the future if it’s not enough, so there’s no limit to how much we can ask for.”

“Alright, then. Ignore the current profit or loss and focus on defeating all three of his listed companies. The assets we’d end of seizing will greatly surpass the current costs.

“Not to mention that we’d still attack even we ended up losing money. This was never a battle of interests, to begin with. Keep attacking until all three companies are completely destroyed.”

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“Yes, Mr. Laine! ”

Under Jasper and Celine's coordinated attacks, the three primary companies under Prince's name immediately turned into gruesome financial battlefields under the barrage of never-before seen firepower.

Astronomical amounts of funds were used up every second.

When godlike entities fought, it was always the weaker retail investors that suffered the most.

Retail investors who used to hold stocks of all three companies wept shamefully as they stared at the terrifying amount of unrealized loss on their accounts.

They were too reluctant to sell their shares, but their wealth was also shrinking with every second they held the share.

This was a financial battlefield where the winner took all, and the strong consumed the weak. Most of the time, there was no way anyone could defend themselves against such exploitation.

This financial battle came without a warning and attracted the attention of quite a few financial companies.

However, since this was a battle involving a personal feud, all the financial companies decided that they would stay clear and simply watch from the sidelines.

They had initially entertained the idea of taking advantage of this fight to earn some profit, but they would need reevaluate their own capabilities first. The slightest mistake could cause them to lose all their wealth.

In the face of such a huge risk, all the organizations immediately sold their shares and exited the market.

They were all smart people who could easily tell that someone was actively picking on these three companies which were under Clear Seas' support.

This was no longer a fight of commercial interest.

As Jasper said before, he would fight the battle to the end if they attacked someone close to him, even he suffered a loss in doing so.

This was not a battle benefit driven organizations were willing to involve themselves in.

“The market’s crashing, Your Highness!”

A desperate shout rang out in the room and a few profusely sweating and pale faced traders looked at their drained funds before directing their gaze at Prince. “We’ve already thrown all 1 billion into the market, but the opponent seems to have an unlimited pool of resources. Without an influx of more funds, we’ll have no other option but to watch as they completely wipe out these three stocks, Crown Prince!”

Prince sat limply on the sofa whilst gripping a bottle of wine tightly in his hands. His expression was twisted and devilish.

“Useless! All of you are useless!”

Prince suddenly shouted.

“Each and every one of you boasted and claimed that you’re stock gods during your job interviews and when you asked for raises. Yet, now that I need you to work, what have you done but ask me for more money?!”

Prince threw the bottle of wine on the floor.

The bottle shattered the instant it hit the floor as the heavy scent of alcohol immediately filled the room. However, no one would be able to enjoy this flowery aroma of alcohol right now.

“I spend so much money feeding you people just so you can be useful to me at times like this! You think I’d need you people if I had enough money?! All I have to do is scatter dog food over the keyboard and even a dog would know to spend money for more buy in orders! What about you people, huh?”

The traders all kept their heads down as they were targeted by Prince’s almost insane shouting. No one dared to look the man in the face.

Panting heavily, Prince flushed in utter indignance.

“White Glove, has there been any reply from my dad?”

Standing in the corner of the room, White Glove replied softly, “The old master said that it’s currently the most crucial point of his negotiation, and he doesn’t have the time to deal with your issue. He’s also rejected the headquarters’ suggestion to transfer funds to help because he doesn’t want to make an enemy out of the Law family while he’s not present.”

“So, the old man’s just going to let me die then, huh?” Prince sneered.

White Glove replied calmly, “Please watch your words, Your Highness.”

“The old master has a thorough understanding of this incident. As far as he is concerned, this is no more than a quarrel between children.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1220

“A quarrel between children?!”

Prince let out an angry laugh.

“It’s because this is a quarrel that I have to win! Otherwise, how else am I supposed to keep my head held high when talking to others in the future?”

White Glove glanced at Prince and said calmly, “Crown Prince, the old master told you before that no one can win forever in this world.”

“Truly powerful people aren’t people that win every battle they participate in, but those who learn to stand up again after they’ve lost. You’ve still got a long way before you reach that point, Crown Prince, and this is also why the old master refuses to pass his authority to you just yet.”

Prince glared at White Glove and sneered. “Since when did you have the right to teach me lessons? Don’t forget who you are. No matter how much my dad values you, you’re still nothing more than my family’s servant!”

White Glove remained calm. It was evident that he had heard similar phrases before.

“I understand, Your Highness. I won’t speak out of line again.”

White Glove bowed slightly before he took a step back, retreating further into the corner of the room.

This meant he would not interfere anymore no matter what happened to Prince on the stock market.

Even without the support of more funds, Prince refused to give up.

He thought of all the different ways of gathering funds, thinking as far as to sell quite a few estates under his name.

This would usually represent quite a bit of money, but they were insignificant in a market that involved hundreds of millions and more.

“B*stards! Jasper that son of a b*tch! He’s got to be doing this on purpose!”

A week later, Prince cursed and shouted demonically as he stared at the screen with bloodshot eyes.

“He’ll slow down the attacks so I can take a breather every time I’m about to give up, but when I put in more money, he gobbles it up immediately.

“He’s cutting flesh off me piece by piece! He’s got to be doing this on purpose!”

In comparison to being crushed instantly, true torment was what Prince was currently going through. This slow game of cat and mouse was what pushed a person toward desperation and eventually go off the deep end.

Prince had lost a good few kilograms over the pasta week, and he was moments away from mentally breaking down.

“Perhaps we should give up, Your Highness. We’ve endured an entire week of hitting the limit down and our share price is only 30% of what it used to be a week ago. We’re going to have to exit the market if this continues.”

A trader mustered the courage to say.

Prince's head snapped over and he stared at the trader icily. Grabbing a glass next to him, he flung it at the trader's head.

The trader yelped and fell onto the floor with a hand covering his bleeding head.

"It's all of your faults, you useless pieces of trash! You're the reason I've lost so badly!"

Prince roared angrily.

He could almost imagine how he would become a laughing stock, doomed to be viewed as an idiot by countless people after this war.

This fury and humiliation was not something Prince could endure, especially considering how arrogant the man had always been.

He did not mind losing, so long as it was not to Jasper.

This concept had become a nightmare of his.

Staring at Prince, who seemed to have gone mad, the already quiet room turned deathly silent. No one dared to speak lightly anymore.

Prince heaved and fell onto the sofa. He clenched his jaw and said, "I still have a villa in Swallow Capital that'll sell for at least ten million. Sell it, immediately contact someone and sell it for me. I can sell it slightly cheaper but I need the money immediately!"

"I don't care if I sell all the assets under my name. I can get all of this back once my dad returns. I still am the crown prince of Clear Seas! No one can look down on me!"

Just as Prince arranged to contact someone to sell off his assets again, someone knocked on his door.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1221

Opening the door, he saw Conrad standing outside. “What are you doing here?”

Prince stared at Conrad icily and asked.

Conrad gave a small smile and replied, “Did you forget, Your Highness? Today’s the deadline we set one week ago. I’m here to take back the 1 billion you owe us.”

Prince was stunned for a moment before he waved the man off in annoyance. ‘Get lost. I’m not in a good mood now so don’t make me attack you. Can’t you tell what kind of situation I’m in? Where am I supposed to get you the money? I’ll pay you back once my dad returns.’”

Prince was about to close the door after he said this. However, Conrad raised his hand to stop the door from closing.

Faced with Prince’s dark gaze, Conrad said with a small smile, “We signed a contract in black and white, Your Highness.

“The 1 billion was lent to you for one week without any interest. But if you were unable to return the 1 billion when the time is up, then three companies under your name had to be liquidated.”

Prince finally understood that Conrad had come to collect his debt.

“What are you implying here?!”

Prince glared at Conrad icily and said venomously, “Are you claiming that I won’t be able to pay you back?!”

“Of course not,” Conrad shook his head.

“Your Highness has Clear Seas’ support and your father is one of the country’s financial industry’s leading figures. There’s no way you couldn’t pay the 1 billion back.”

“So, you are aware! ”

Prince sneered and continued, “Then what are you still doing here?”

“Your Highness.”

Conrad pulled out his loan contract and said calmly, "Either I leave with the money you owe us, or I leave with a stock transfer agreement for the three listed companies today. There's no way I can return empty handed."

"You wouldn't f*cking dare!"

The fury and humiliation Prince had been suppressing over the past week exploded at that instant.

Prince pointed at Conrad's nose and scolded, "As if you'd f*cking dare! You're just Fabian's dog! Not even Fabian would dare to speak to me like this, so who do you think you are?"

"I'm telling you right now! I don't have your money and you can dream on if you think I'll sign some stock transfer agreement! What can you even do to me, huh?!"

Conrad looked at Prince, who was both furious and fearless, then shook his head while sighing. "I guess there's no other option, then."

After this, Conrad tilted his body slightly and moved out of the way so that the people behind him could move forward.

Out from behind him walked Jasper, with an impatient Henry and a calm Julian following closely behind.

Prince's mouth gaped in shock at the sight of this, his mind had yet to process what was happening.

"Looks like the crown prince is in financial embarrassment and debt."

Jasper said first with a smile.

Jasper then turned to look at Conrad and replied, "Mr. Monty, His Highness is still Clear Seas' crown prince and I'm certain that he'd repay his debt in due time. How about this, I'll pay you 1 billion instead, and you transfer the creditor fights to me? Would that be alright?"

Conrad chuckled and glanced at a dazed Prince before replying, "Of course. All I need is the principal loan amount. The crown prince is of formidable status and I am but a mere dog. I would never dare to collect the crown prince's debts."

Prince watched as Conrad and Jasper spoke in an almost rehearsed fashion.

Conrad then handed the loan contract to Jasper as Prince felt a rush of blood rise to his brain. He roared, “Motherf*cker! You set me up?”

Conrad glanced at Prince and replied calmly, “You might not know this very well, Your Highness, but the most distinguishing characteristic of a dog... is that it bites.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1222

Prince paled at Conrad’s words.

Not out of fear, but infuriation.

Due to the huge difference in status between the two, Prince had never considered Conrad a threat.

He meant it when he said that Conrad was merely Fabian’s dog, as he truly saw Conrad as nothing more than a dog that could speak the human language.

This was also why Prince acted as arrogant as he did with people who were below him in terms of identity and status.

His disrespect for Conrad was the reason why Prince was so furious when he realized that Conrad had played him like a fool.

“Son of a b*tch! I’ll kill you for this!”

Prince shouted and raised his fist to punch Conrad. Conrad had already learned of Prince’s mad dog like aggression and was prepared this time.

The man took half a step backward and moved out of the way.

No one knew if it was coincidental or intentional, but Conrad moving out of the way put Henry right in the path of Prince’s fist.

Henry, who had been in a horrible mood since Prince set him up more than a week ago, was already itchy with the desire to fight since they made their way over.

Hence, when Henry saw Prince’s fist coming toward him, he did not care if it was a misunderstanding or not as he grabbed Prince’s wrist backhandedly. Before the man would yelp, Henry raised his foot to kick him in the stomach.

Prince was a young master whose body had long been hollowed out by alcohol and sex. The man was no match for a powerful trust-fund child like Henry who constantly

trained his body and even picked up a few tricks from Julian. This kick landed on Prince's stomach solidly.

Everyone watched as Prince widened his eyes and curled over like a cooked prawn. The man opened his mouth but no sound came out. His expression was extremely pained and twisted.

"Did that feel good, motherf*cker?"

Henry barked out a wretched smile and raised his hand to grab Prince's collar. The former's eyes shone fiercely.

"White... White Glove! How dare you f*cking stand dare and watch him kill me?" Prince suppressed the pain in his stomach and shouted.

Once he finished speaking, the figure of a middle aged man appeared by his side.

White Glove raised his hand to grab Henry's hand which was on Prince's collar.

Everything happened in a flash.

Before Jasper and Henry could react, Julian first grabbed White Glove's wrist and stopped the man. Julian appeared beside Henry in a flash and reached out to meet White Glove's pahn mid-air.

The two parried each other's blows seven times in the blink of an eye.

Both Julian and White Glove had backed down at the same time once Jasper and Henry realized what was going on.

White Glove remained unmoving while Julian had a slight sway in his stance. It seemed like the latter had lost slightly.

However, White Glove did not manage to get Prince out. This fight had ended with a draw.

White Glove looked at Julian intently and said, "You're rather skilled, young man."

Julian did not say anything as he glared daggers at White Glove while oozing with fighting spirit.

Henry jumped once he realized what happened. He grabbed Prince's collar with one hand and raised the other to slap Prince's face.

“Motherf*cker! Trying to scare me with dogs, are you?” Prince was impatient and angry after taking an unwarranted slap. He felt both wronged and mistreated.

“Mr. Law, perhaps you could listen to a servant’s words? Since you’ve come to solve a problem, then how about we solve the issue first? Fighting would not help the situation at all.”

White Glove seemed to recognize Henry and said to the man.

Henry scoffed and replied, “Who are you? If you know that you’re just a servant then why are you speaking now? Is this the place for you to talk?”

Prince finally realized the situation he was in.

He had lost this round.

However, his loss that he merely needed to pay the price and leave. It would be pointless to also be beaten up by Henry.

After coming to that conclusion, Prince quickly said, “Look, Henry. You wouldn’t dare kill me. Even if you did, you’d only be in deep trouble.”

“You win this time and I’ll just pay whatever price you want me to pay! But if you beat me up, then I’ll do everything to fight back!”

Henry looked at Prince icily and sneered. “You still think you’re in the position to negotiate terms with me, idiot?” Henry then held Prince down and beat him up.

Prince shouted raspily in pain. He wanted to fight back but he was no match against Henry. He could not even evade the other’s attacks.

White Glove frowned slightly and wanted to make a move but Julian was currently staring down at the man. The current situation was clear. Prince and Henry would deal with their own issue and no one else would interfere.

If White Glove wanted to get involved, Julian would not just stand by and watch either.

Thankfully, Henry did not lose his rationale. While he was beating Prince up, his attacks went no further than a few slaps and perhaps a few kicks. Most of the attacks were focused on the man’s limbs; his thighs and arms. It might hurt a lot, but it posed no danger to Prince’s life.

The beating lasted for another few more minutes before Henry panted and kicked Prince one last time on the ground. Pointing at the man, Henry scolded, “I’ve officially got beef with you now, you hear me, stupid f*cker? This beating is revenge for setting me up, but this doesn’t mean I’m letting you go.”

“You better walk the other way next time you see me, or I’ll beat you up every time I see you!”

“Think twice about whether you can afford to suffer the consequences before you try to plot against me again.”

“I’ll give you one word of advice today. Next time, you’d kill me in one go, or I’ll beat you to death for it!”

At this moment, Prince looked absolutely embarrassing as he laid on the floor bruised and battered.

He wiped the blood from the corner of his lips and stared at Henry with utter hatred. He clenched his teeth as the internal anger and resentment he felt filled him with the urge to eat Henry alive.

However, the man’s last remaining shred of logic stopped him from saying anything harsh.

Prince himself knew that saying something rude would only lead to him getting another heating from Henry.

Prince rose to his feet with great difficulty and grit his teeth. “Fine, then. You people are cruel!

“But the future is unknown. Just you wait!”

Prince then limped away, intending to return to the room.

“Did you forget, Your Highness? That the three listed companies under your name don’t belong to you anymore?”

Jasper’s words had Prince’s expression paling immediately.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1223

“Are you really going to go so far to get rid of me, Jasper?!”

Prince stared at Jasper and shrieked pitifully. Prince was completely humiliated.

There was nothing wrong with the son of a wealthy family like him losing once. It was only slightly embarrassing.

However, to be completely beaten up by Henry just now was truly humiliating.

Even so, according to the unspoken rules of trust-fund children, you could utterly humiliate them but you could not touch what made up their power.

He did not expect Jasper to ignore this unspoken rule. Who was he kidding? Jasper had spent over 1.3 billion funds on this and even promised ownership of two of these listed companies to others.

Jasper would suffer a huge loss if he did not take his share from Prince's foundational powers.

There was no way Jasper, a man who considered breaking even as a loss, would make such an unprofitable trade.

“And you're not afraid that my dad will make you pay for this?!”

Jasper replied calmly to Prince's frantic threat, “If I choose to back off now, would the crown prince give up on your revenge?”

Prince was completely stunned.

His threat was just a formality, for he already felt hopeless.

However, upon hearing Jasper's words now, it seemed like the threat worked on the man.

A huge gush of hope surged in his chest and Prince frantically answered, "Definitely! There's never been any deep resentment or hatred between us anyway, right?"

"If you're willing to let me go, then we'll put this matter to bed. I promise I'll never cause you trouble again."

'Motherf*cker. Once I catch my breath and my dad comes home, you'll be the first one I'll get rid of!'

'Not only will I kill you, but I'll kill your whole family too!'

'I'll kill everyone that's got connections with you!'

Despite what Prince thought internally, his expression was still extremely sincere.

Jasper nodded and smiled after he heard Prince.

This caused Prince's hope to grow, and the man could not help but smile in relief as well. Yet, before Prince could continue making promises, Jasper wiped the elated expression clean off of Prince's face.

"You made it sound very sincere. But I don't believe you."

Prince would not be this disappointed if Jasper had rejected his plea for mercy in the beginning.

Utter hopelessness was when someone lit an ember of hope within you during your time of desperation, only to smother it right in front of you. This was how Prince felt now.

The abundance of hope Prince once felt now turned into despair and fury.

"Hahaha. Look at this f*cker's face. Did he actually believe you?" Henry pointed at Prince and laughed out loud.

Grinding his molars, Prince stared at Jasper and roared, "How dare you play me like a fool, Jasper! F*ck you! Kill me if you think you're so powerful, then! But if you don't kill me now, I'll make you regret it in the future!"

“Kill you?”

Jasper said calmly, “Murder is illegal and people like you aren’t worth committing a crime over. I’m a law abiding citizen, you see.”

“Not only do I obey the law, I even have the duty to report any illegal behavior I see.”

Jasper then clapped his hands. The clap seemed to be a signal, as a group of people walked over from behind right after this.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1224

Timothy was in the lead. Behind him was a large group of people.

Prince was stunned. When he saw Timothy again, a horrible feeling filled his chest

He looked at Conrad subconsciously, only to see an expressionless face.

“Prince Chavez!” Timothy shouted, resentful and furious.

“You killed my son! I’ll make you pay for this!”

At this moment, despite the extreme unease he felt, Prince mustered the bravery to argue, “What kind of f*cking nonsense is that? Henry was the one who killed your son! It has nothing to do with me!”

Timothy scoffed and replied, “The incident’s already been investigated! You threatened my son and pushed him while he was drunk, causing his head to knock against the coffee table! That’s how he died! You’re the murderer that killed my son!”

At this moment, the color drained from Prince’s face and even White Glove’s expression changed. Everything could still be negotiated if this was merely a struggle of interests.

However, there was nothing to be done once homicide was involved.

Looking at the group of people staring Prince down, for the first time ever, White Glove felt lost about what to do.

No matter how loyal he was to Vere, or how powerful he thought himself to be, he still could not help Prince fend off this murder charge.

The Chavez family's status was too high, and there were just too many people with their eyes on this family!

No one could endure the result of this murder.

At this moment, all White Glove could do was hope that Prince genuinely had nothing to do with this murder. Unfortunately, his heart sank when he spotted Prince's colorless complexion.

Prince... was truly frantic now.

No matter how powerful their family was, there were a few red lines trust-fund children in the country could not cross.

Poison, arms dealing, and murder. The first two resulted in the death penalty while the latter ensured a tragic end.

"Cut that bullsh*t! I never did anything to your son! You think you can frame me?" Prince struggled for the last time, like a gravely injured lone wolf.

"Prince Chavez! Don't think that just because your family's powerful that it means everyone will be afraid of you! My Burke family might not be as wealthy as your Chavez

family, and your family might be able to get rid of me easily, but what do I have to fear for when my only son's dead?! I'd risk my own life if it means I'll make you pay!"

Timothy shouted in extreme fury as he stared at Prince with bloodshot eyes.

Prince took an instinctive step backward and turned to look at Conrad again. He was about to say something when he heard Conrad tell Timothy with a smile, "Your enemy is right before your eyes, Mr. Burke. What are you waiting for? Make him pay his price."

Conrad's words had figuratively kicked Prince into the abyss.

"F*ck you, Conrad! You were the one that came up with the idea but you're also the first to sell me out once there's a problem?!"

Conrad looked at Prince and said calmly, "I don't know what you're talking about. Also, please don't spout nonsense. You're already carrying the weight of murder. Do you also also want to face defamation charges?"

Prince wanted to say more but the sound of a police siren suddenly cut through the room.

Jasper watched the chaos in front of him expressionlessly. He did not know what Timothy would do in his bout of rage, so it would always be better to hand such incidents to the police instead.

A group of uniformed officers rushed to the scene as the man leading them walked over to speak to Prince. “Prince Chavez, you’re suspected of being involved in the murder of Halbert Burke, and are the prime suspect. I hereby summon you according to the law, please cooperate with our investigation.”

Then, he waved his hands as two of his subordinates immediately came over to restrain Prince.

Prince did not stop struggling while he roared, “Let me go! My dad is Vere Chavez! You wouldn’t dare to arrest me!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1225

Jasper shook his head when he heard Prince’s words. This man had gone completely crazy. He would not have said something so stupid if he this was not the case.

As expected, the middle-aged man shouted, “I don’t care who your dad is! You’ll have to face legal charges if you committed the crime! Cut the nonsense and bring him away!”

A few officers then began to drag Prince to leave.

At this moment, White Glove had no other choice but to step forward. "Wait. "

The middle aged man looked at White Glove warily and asked in a solemn tone, "Who are you?"

White Glove replied, "An employee of the Chavez family."

The middle aged man responded expressionlessly, "Even if you were his employee, please don't obstruct us from performing our official duties."

White Glove replied, "I'm an employee of the Chavez family, not his personal employee. I have no intention to obstruct your official duties either. I was just hoping that you would let him make a call to his father before you bring him away."

Prince seemed to become enlightened when he heard White Glove. He struggled and shouted, "That's right! I need to call my dad! You have no right to prevent me from calling my dad!"

Jasper arched his brow slightly.

It had to be said that in terms of intellect, White Glove was much more capable than Prince.

It would be an extremely unwise choice to protest against an arrest at that moment. The best course of action would be to immediately contact Vere.

Still... there was nothing that could be done.

White Glove's plan would be doomed from the start. As expected the middle aged man remained unmoving as he replied, "My apologies. But Prince Chavez is currently a huge suspect, and according to our regulations, he's not allowed to contact anyone for the moment except his lawyer."

White Glove frowned slightly and glanced at Prince exasperatedly. Then, he took a silent step backward to state that he would not hold them back anymore.

The middle aged man's expression eased slightly at the sight and waved his hand. "Bring him away."

Before Prince left, the man turned his head to stare at Jasper and Conrad before he said resentfully, "Just you two wait! You two will die once I get out!"

Prince was then pulled away before he could finish threatening them.

After Prince left, White Glove walked over to Jasper and said expressionlessly, "Jasper Laine, right? I've read a lot about you."

"It's an honor," Jasper replied calmly.

White Glove tugged at the corner of his mouth and said meaningfully, "What happened on the stock market could be regarded as child's play. The old master did not care about that. But I don't think he'll let this matter so easily anymore."

"Is this a word of advice or a warning?"

White Glove narrowed his eyes at Jasper and replied, "Depends on how you interpret it."

"Sorry, but I'm horrible at understanding things." Jasper shrugged. With a smile, he asked warmly, "Or perhaps you're implying that these are things Prince can do, but I'm not allowed to?"

“Prince was the one who framed Henry. All I did was reveal the truth behind the incident. Comparing the nature of these two behaviors, my actions are countless times better, no?”

White Glove harrumphed and gave Jasper one intense look before he turned to leave.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1226

Standing next to Jasper, Julian stared at White Glove's back and said, "I can make him stay if you want, Jasper."

Jasper waved him off and replied, "No need. He's just Vere's subordinate, and getting rid of him won't change anything. Vere Chavez is our main concern."

Julian did not say anything anymore when he heard this. Julian knew nothing when it came to power and planning, but he did not fear anyone when it came to physical fights.

The only person who ever posed a threat to him was the man beside the little prince. White Glove was skilled, but Julian would not lose against him.

After White Glove left, Timothy walked over to Jasper and Henry before bowing deeply to the two.

"I'm really sorry, Mr. Laine, Mr. Law. It was all a misunderstanding before and I was blinded by my hatred. Thank you two for discovering the truth behind my son's death, otherwise the true culprit would've gotten away with it."

Jasper clapped Timothy's shoulder and said softly, "Nothing is too far when a father is taking revenge for his son. Since it was a misunderstanding, all that matters now is that the misunderstanding's cleared up. There's no need to feel guilty about it anymore."

Jasper then glanced at Henry and said, "How about you two shake hands? Fatherly love is something we all have to understand."

Henry was not an unreasonable man and said tensely, "It's fine. You lost more than I did in this incident, so I won't hold this over your head either."

Timothy smiled wryly and replied, "Thank you two for your generosity."

"Mr. Burke, both of us are well aware of the truth here. While Prince was involved in your son's death, it was still an accident."

"Prince is in the wrong, but their family's power and the circumstances of the case means that he won't be in too much trouble. He might be out after some time, so what do you have planned?"

The corner of Timothy's mouth twitched and he sighed deeply. While it brought immense joy to say something cruel, Timothy had to admit that he was powerless against a figure as powerful as the Chavez family.

The man seemed to age a dozen years at this moment as she replied, "Let's see what the charges are first. From what I can tell right now, it'll most likely be a bit of financial compensation and some simple punishment."

"After all, he didn't intend to kill my son, but my son still died because of him. Therefore, it'll simply be a matter of when I take my revenge against him!"

Timothy then bowed to the two again. "I'm not in the mood to dwell here any longer, gentlemen. So, if you'll excuse me."

Timothy then turned and left. No matter how one looked at it, the man's silhouette appeared desolate.

Jasper turned around after sending Timothy away and realized that Conrad was nowhere to be seen. "When did Conrad leave?" Jasper asked.

"He left while you two were talking to Timothy. He told me to give this to you before he left." Julian handed Jasper a document.

Jasper chuckled when he saw that it was a company stock transfer agreement with Conrad's signature on it. The debt was officially between Conrad and Prince, so Conrad still had to liquidate it himself. The transfer of creditor rights was just a little performance they had put on for Prince.

It would be truly troublesome to carry that transfer out. After Conrad transferred the other two company's stocks over to Jasper, he saved the one for himself.

After Conrad transferred the other two company's stocks over to Jasper, he saved the one for himself.

Both of them remained silent and tacit. They took their respective benefits and moved on. Whether they would be friends or foes the next time they met would be up to fate.

"Now that this is finally over, let's go. I'm paying, so let's eat something good and relax." Jasper stretched his back and said with a large smile.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1227

Jasper and Prince's battle came and went quickly, like a tremendous gust of wind.

People within the industry were still watching the situation and predicting whether Clear Seas' huge capital would enter the market to help their crown prince when the battle had suddenly ended.

Jasper walked out away with complete victory. Of course, everyone was smart and they knew that the matter was far from over.

“Vere’s currently being held back by something outside the country. To old crafty people like him, a small issue or some trouble their child was facing is far less important than some huge partnership they were formally negotiating.”

“To a group as huge as Clear Seas, these three listed companies can hardly be considered important businesses, so it’s not worth making a big deal out of losing them.”

“The only thing that probably rattled him would be Prince involvement in a homicide.”

Jasper analyzed the current situation with Henry in the restaurant.

More than combing through the situation, Jasper was trying to guide Henry into understanding the thought process of someone from a higher status as well as their perspective.

Henry also realized that this incident had indeed affected him to some degree. It taught him that in front of true bigshots, the simple identity of the Law family’s third generation was far from enough.

In the end, having a powerful background when fighting someone of a high enough rank only ensured that he would not be killed off. After all, no one would want to risk a full out war with the Law family by killing Henry.

“What should we do next, then?” Henry asked.

Jasper shook his head but did not engage on Henry’s topic. Instead, he grabbed his wine glass and clinked it with Henry’s before he asked, “When are you going back to Harbor City?”

Henry looked at Jasper as if the other was a ghost. “How did you know I’m going back?!”

“After what happened this time, there’s no way you can still fool around here in the Mainlands. Either you get your life together once you go back this time, or you stay in Harbor City obediently for the rest of your life.”

Henry’s expressions darkened. Jasper’s words had hit him where it hurt.

While Harbor City was still much more developed than the Mainlands, and there were many better places to enjoy one’s self there, the problem with Harbor City was that the place was too small. Henry had long enjoyed his fill of Harbor City, so the Mainlands were comparatively much more attractive to him.

More importantly, he and Jill’s relationship was still at its early stages. While the two were currently in conflict, every relationship had its ups and downs, and he would not give up on Jill over something so insignificant.

“I’ll go back and see what my dad says. I’m bored of Harbor City already, so worse come to worst, I’ll just agree to some condition that involves losing autonomy, but I’d be my own man.” Henry was very confident.

Jasper smiled and replied, “There’s another month or so before I have to start setting up for the huge and profitable plan. Stay in Harbor City before then, and I’ll have your dad let you out once the time’s right.”

Henry’s eyes lit up and this good news immediately diluted most of the dejection he felt from being dragged around and locked at home by his dad.

“Deal!”

“Deal!”

Once he decided to leave, there was no point on dwelling around any longer. Thus, after lunch that afternoon, Henry bought a ticket back to Harbor City from Waterhoof City.

After Henry left, Jasper started communicating with Jake.

This was a huge opportunity Jasper had had his eyes on since he reincarnated. The biggest chance to earn big money within the next five years.

Jasper had also hoped to win big with this opportunity, and had already accumulated all the capital JW would require in its inception. It was never too early to plan for something this big.

“Clear all my securities accounts in the United States’ share market.”

Jasper’s first sentence stunned Jake in Harbor City.

“Mr. Laine, the economy is stable worldwide right now, and the plummet brought by the bursting of the dot com bubble from before has also begun to recover. According to our predictions, we’re still very far from the peak.”

“To sell the securities now would be to give up all the interest we could gain in the short term...”

As Jasper’s subordinate, and an important figure in the investment Learn, Jake had the right to propose his opinions to Jasper.

Despite this, Jasper shook his head and took a sip from his teacup. “Let me ask you. How many assets do I have in the United States share market?”

Jake immediately replied, "You currently hold six stocks in the United States Securities Exchange, four stocks in New York Securities Exchange, and twelve stocks in Nasdaq Securities Exchange. The total amount from all three exchanges adds up to..."

After a small pause, Jake continued, "Adds up to 1 billion and 468 million Somer Dollars. In addition to the 200 million reserve funds, you have a asset pool of 1 billion and 668 million Somer Dollars."

Jasper nodded, satisfied with this amount.

Jasper had control of less than 1.2 billion worth of assets in the United States' stock market when he first had Jake start managing them.

After more than half a year, thanks to the exciting recovery of the economy, he had managed to earn a profit of 500 million. This was a wonderful result no matter how he had invested it.

"Do you think it'd be that easy to liquidate so many stocks when the stock market becomes bearish?"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1228

Jake was stunned when he heard Jasper's question.

Everyone's dream when trading stocks would always be to buy in at the lowest point and sell out at the highest price.

This might not be difficult for retail investors, since all they needed was a sharp eye, a bit of luck, and courage.

However, a portfolio as huge as Jasper's almost 1.7 billion worth of funds was a huge sum in comparison to the countless retail investors who operated on a smaller scale.

It was impossible to pull such a huge sum out of the market when the prices were highest.

Not when the volume of this investment was big enough to interfere with a small portion of the market.

To Jake, the most important thing was Jasper's judgment of the stock market's future development.

“Mr. Laine, do you think that the stock market will drop in the future?” Jake asked impatiently.

As an extremely professional trader, Jake believed in numbers and data above all else.

However, there was no sign of a drop in the current data or the overall market. He had no idea what Jasper’s judgment was based on.

However, Jasper’s glorious records urged Jake to take the man seriously.

‘Drop?’

‘It’s going to do more than just drop.’

‘The markets are going to plummet!’

Jasper thought to himself, but he could not explain his thoughts to Jake.

He could not possibly tell Jake that a group of powerful terrorists would drive two planes into New York's World Trade Center in one and a half months, thus resulting in the biggest, most tragic, and most impactful terrorist incident in the entire world.

"You can take this as an intuition of mine. Don't think too much about it, just do as I say. Pull out from the market slowly and try your best to not attract attention."

"At the same time, open positions in the gold futures market. Open many positions but keep every market order small. As I said, keep a low profile."

Jake's brow twitched at Jasper's words.

Global trade was growing in this new millennium, and no country could close its borders and order a national lockdown. As a result, the global economic situation was deeply intertwined with worldwide stability.

The rise and fall of the financial securities market might not represent much in and of itself, but a fall in stock prices coupled with an increase in gold prices could only mean an international conflict was about to occur.

'Does Mr. Laine have intel on some outbreak of war somewhere in the world?!

This thought terrified Jake.

However, the man did not dare to ask further. Jake had always known his limits when extremely important and secretive information was involved.

“I understand, Mr. Laine. I’ll get to it immediately.”

Jasper nodded after receiving Jake’s reply, then ended the video call.

As of this moment, Jasper’s business in Waterhoof City was pretty much completed. Counting the days, Jasper realized he had stayed in Waterhoof City for almost a month.

Jasper was just about to start planning his return to Southeast Province when he suddenly received a surprising phone call. It was from Stephen.

“Mr. Laine.”

Stephen sounded very courteous over the phone.

“My new movie Monastery Soccer’s about to be released in the mainlands for the first time tomorrow. Its first stop is in Waterhoof City. I was wondering if you’d have the time to join the premiere.”

Stephen was an extremely talented man.

Coupled with the fact that the man had made extremely little progress in the early years of his start up, Stephen ended up seeming aloof and cold most of the time.

His character meant the man did not have many friends, while bad rumors about him also began to circulate.

However, this did not stop the man from shining. If he was involved in the movie, the movie was basically set to be a blockbuster.

Moreover, Stephen was not an idiot either. He knew to whom he had to act high and mighty in front of and who to remain humble and honest toward.

Jasper was currently the biggest mogul in Harbor City and the Mainland’s entertainment industries. The man’s resources could easily decide which artist would flourish and which could wave goodbye to their careers. It did not matter how many fans you had or how many big bosses you knew. If Jasper shook his head, then you had nothing but a blacklist waiting for you. A blacklist on all aspects, too.

This was the range of Jasper's influence in the Mainland's and Harbor City's entertainment industry.

Capital was what determined the king in the entertainment industry; A ruthless reality truer here than in any other industry.

This was also why businessmen with resources and contacts had never lacked women, and were constantly being fawned over by female celebrities that civilians considered of superior status.

After much difficulty from Scarlet's side, Stephen had managed to get in contact with Jasper and gotten the man's investment. With that, Stephen's career began to pick up as well.

Thanks to Jasper's investment, Monastery Soccer was the first film Stephen's filming company produced after its establishment. With Jasper's support, Monastery Soccer's box office sales in Harbor City was even more impressive than they were in his past life. Here in the Mainlands, Stephen needed Jasper's support even more.

While Jasper... in all honesty, the man would have forgotten about his investment in Stephen's film company had the man not taken initiative to call him.

There was nothing that could be done. Jasper's business spread too far. If not for the quarterly financial evaluation his company ran, there was no way Jasper would remember all the assets and projects he invested in.

With this result, Stephen's box office sales would certainly do well in other places around the world in the future.

Not to mention that Monastery Soccer could not be shown in mainland cinemas in his past life. Thanks to Easy Media's help this time, there seemed to be no issue with showing the movie in the Mainlands.

Tomorrow would be its premiere.

"As expected. Film productions really do make a lot of money."

Jasper thought back to the 10 million US Dollars he had invested into Stephen. From this film alone, after paying production, advertisement, theater distribution, and sales channel expenses, he would be able to gain back more than half of the principal sum.

Jasper was soon in a good mood as he had a great feeling about the entertainment media's future.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1229

The following day, Jasper first went to fetch the gentle and soft Tiffany from Hoofmorn University.

This lady loved watching Stephen's movies in his past life and she always used to complain about how one needed to watch Steph's films in the cinemas. Thus, every time Stephen's films premiered in cinemas in his past life, she would always drag Jasper along to watch it with her.

This was a feeling shared by a majority of eighties children in the mainlands.

Therefore, Jasper did not forget her this time.

"Really? Do you mean it, Jasper? Can we really go to the premiere?"

"A few of my classmates and I have already heard about this long ago. This is the first time Steph's film is launching in the Mainlands and a lot of classmates are planning to line up overnight to buy tickets once it's released in the cinemas!"

Jasper smiled when he heard Tiffany's excitement. Everything was worth it if it made Tiffany happy.

Not to mention, Jasper could tell from Tiffany and her friends' reactions that Monastery Soccer would earn a lot of money this time.

Whether it was due to the production quality of Monastery Soccer, Stephen's branding, or the Mainlander's appreciation for Stephen, a miracle was destined to happen with the box office sales.

"Of course I mean it. Since when have I lied to you?" Jasper asked with a smile.

"Jasper, will there be a lot of celebrities there?" Tiffany asked worriedly.

Jasper gave it some thought before he replied. He had never attended a premiere before, but he had seen the scene from all sorts of entertainment news channels before. The host would normally invite good friends and formidable figures they knew in the industry to hype up the premiere.

Not to mention that both the mainland's Easy Media and Harbor City's Advent Entertainment Group valued this premiere greatly. This film was the first attempt Harbor City was making to introduce their films to the mainland market, so there would almost certainly be a lot of fuss surrounding it.

"There should be," Jasper nodded and affirmed.

"I'm so nervous," Tiffany said softly.

“Celebrities are people too. There’s nothing to be nervous about. Who knows, maybe they’ll be the ones trying to please you when the time comes,” Jasper said with a crescent eyed smile.

Due to Jasper’s current status in both territories’ entertainment industries, the man was not showing off when he said this.

However, Tiffany did not know that, so she thought that Jasper was simply joking with her.

The car soon arrived at the booked venue, Golden Exchange International Cinemas.

As a state own enterprise, Golden Exchange was the first national theatre chain and currently the most high-class cinema in the country.

At this moment, the cinema had already been decorated for the premiere of Monastery Soccer.

Many reporters were conducting interviews on both sides of the carpet as a bunch of excited movie fans who had been chosen to watch the premiere lined up outside the venue.

Before they could enter though, the more important agenda on the itinerary was the arrival of celebrities. Quite a few celebrities had already arrived by the time Jasper brought Tiffany to the scene.

One had to admit that both Easy Media and Advent Entertainment Group were unrivaled in the entertainment industry.

Every celebrity, regardless of status in the Mainlands and Harbor City, had tried their best to participate in this premiere.

Attending this premiere would give them a chance to meet Stephen and potentially work with the man. More importantly, luckier celebrities might even get in contact with senior executives of Easy Media or Advent Entertainment Group, at which point they would be set for life.

When Jasper and Tiffany got out of the car, the sight that met them was the grandiose of an extremely sophisticated award ceremony.

“Ms. Flowers, could I ask...”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1230

“Mr. Williamson, I heard that you and...”

“Ms. Barlow, your recent project in...”

All renowned and top-notch celebrities in both the Mainlands and Harbor City seemed to have arrived as well.

Jasper had not informed Easy Media or JW Entertainment Group that he was attending. Jasper had even told Stephen that he wished to come in a relatively low profile manner.

Thus, Jasper’s attendance was completely incognito such that no one was aware of his arrival.

Jasper and Tiffany had just gotten out of the car when cameras began to flash and blur his vision.

“Relax a little. These reporters are only taking pictures of celebrities. All we have to do is ignore them and walk in.”

Jasper comforted her when he saw how Tiffany tensed slightly.

Tiffany grabbed Jasper's hand tightly and nodded. She looked on with shock at the celebrities that were being surrounded and interviewed by reporters.

"There are so many people clamoring after them for interviews, Jasper. It's so majestic."

Jasper followed Tiffany's gaze and looked at these so-called prestigious actors and actresses. He naturally thought back to how humbly and courteously these people bowed, toasted, and spoke to him when they ate together before.

Jasper said with a crescent eyed smile, "I can raise you to their level if you want. You could be as famous as them."

Tiffany beamed into a smile in response. "No thanks. I can't sing and my acting skills aren't that great either. I won't be able to do it."

"When it comes to the performing arts, it all comes down to money. If the money says yes, then you'll get it no matter how unskilled you are. If the money says no, then you'll never make it big regardless of your capabilities," Jasper said meaningfully.

Tiffany blinked. Innocent and unaccustomed to the harshness of reality, she did not really understand what Jasper meant.

As the two conversed and were about to enter the venue, a voice rang out from behind.

“Those in front! Don’t you two know that this is a red carpet for celebrities only? Get lost immediately!”

An ear piercing shriek caused Jasper to turn around. Only to see a woman, dressed to the nines with decent features and a slim figure.

“This is where the guests enter. I’m here to attend the premiere as well, so it’s only natural I enter from here.

You can walk first if you’re in a rush, but what’s with your aggression?” Jasper asked calmly.

The woman scoffed and looked Jasper and Tiffany over. After confirming that they were not from within the industry, she said, “You guys are guests? Bullsh*t!”

“All the guests here are huge celebrities, and I don’t recognize you two. What right do you two have to walk in here?”

“With one look I can tell that you two are just nobodies non-famous artists trying to take advantage of this opportunity to walk the red carpet! Either that or you two are mindless fans! Stop acting already!”

The woman then pointed at the car behind her arrogantly and said, “Do you even know who’s in the car behind? It’s Terra’s idol prince! You’d get lost and not block the roads if you knew what’s good for you! Otherwise, I’ll make life a living hell for you two! ”

The woman’s arrogant and domineering attitude had even Tiffany infuriated, let alone Jasper.

“You, you’re being too unreasonable!” Tiffany said angrily.

The mockery on the woman’s expression deepened. “Are you getting lost or not? Did I not make myself clear? This isn’t a place for questionable people like you!”

“Run off to the back if you’re here for a celebrity’s signature. They might give you one if they’re in a good mood. Otherwise, I’ll call security to throw you out right this instant!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1231

This woman's tone made it sound like Jasper and Tiffany had it coming.

The woman's arrogance had Tiffany flushing red in anger. However, while this innocent girl was angry, she did not know how to refute the other party.

Jasper pulled Tiffany behind him and said calmly, "Who are you to tell us to move away?"

Jasper had totally angered this annoyed woman now.

"What did you say?! Do you even know who I am? How dare you talk to me like this!"

"Who the hell are you? Why do I need to know who you are?" Jasper shouted, his gaze cold.

The Jasper of today was no longer the same small businessman that had to be careful while dealing with everyone.

This man currently held an astronomical amount of resources and had companies in all sorts of huge industries.

He might not be the most powerful person in the world, but no one in the industries he was involved in would dare to ignore his words.

Jasper could forget about his businesses if he bent to the will of this woman who had just jumped out of nowhere and boasted inexplicably.

The woman did not expect Jasper to be so strong willed and her complexion paled in infuriation. She pointed at Jasper and shrieked, "Fine then! You want to be shameless, huh? Then I'll forcefully move you away!"

"Security! Where are the security guards!"

A few workers in suits in charge of maintaining order at the venue arrived with the woman's scream.

"What happened?"

The woman pointed at Jasper and Tiffany and replied, "These two want to harass an important guest invited to the premiere!"

“Do you two guys know who’s sitting in the car behind me? It’s Show Long, Terra’s idol prince!”

“Piss him off and he’ll tell your managers! He can destroy both our careers at anytime!”

The man’s words caused the workers’ expressions to change.

“Show Long?”

Jasper chuckled. He was very familiar with the name.

A meme regarding Show had spread all over the place in his past life. The master of time management.

A god level celebrity who managed to have a date with three or four different girls’ during the same night, all while not getting discovered by any of them.

“What are you implying?! What’s with that weird tone of yours? Show’s name isn’t something you can say out loud, okay!” The woman stared at jasper and scolded him.

“Who are you to Show?” Jasper asked calmly.

“I’m his manager,” The woman said arrogantly. Then, she looked at Jasper from the corner of her eye, “It’s still not too late to be afraid. Show’s fame and status isn’t something people like you can ever fathom! Get lost!”

The conversation between the manager and Jasper seemed to have dragged on for too long, as the backseat window of the unmoving car was soon rolled down.

Despite the dark night, Show was wearing a pair of sunglasses as he asked calmly, “What’s going on, Selena?”

The woman immediately walked before Show and pointed at Jasper to say, “Show, I don’t know if this is a paparazzi or some perverted fan, but they’re standing in the middle of the road and they refuse to move away.”

Show seemed to be used to such behavior as he pulled out a signed photograph from his breast pocket and threw it at Jasper’s feet. “I know you just want an autographed picture. Here you go. Now, move along.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly as he looked at Show’s signed picture at his feet.

As far as Jasper was concerned, Show's career was over.

"What are you still doing standing there?" Selena shrieked at Jasper again. "I'd have chased you away if not for the amount of paparazzi here! You already got what you want, so leave!"

Jasper stepped on the picture and said coldly, "No, I don't think I'll be going anywhere today."

Show frowned slightly as well.

He looked at Selena with displeasure. "Look at the venue. There are too many reporters here, and everyone will definitely say that I'm being harsh to my fans if pictures are taken."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1232

After reprimanding Selena in distaste, Show remained seated in the car and smiled, though his tone was slightly annoyed when he said, "What more do you want? Will you only leave after taking a picture with me?"

Jasper shook his head. These so called celebrities made him want to vomit

At that moment, Tiffany stepped up from beside Jasper.

She told Show impatiently, "I used to like your songs a lot. I thought you were filial and an easy to approach celebrity! Who'd thought that you were actually like this? So disgusting!"

Show's expression darkened at Tiffany's words. However, upon seeing Tiffany's youthful and pretty features, Show's eyes lit up behind his sunglasses. "You're a fan of mine too, pretty girl?"

Tiffany replied angrily, "You wish! You're not worthy of being a fan of!"

Show chuckled and replied, "Don't say that. I think we can get to know each other a little better."

"Do you want to die?"

The sudden sentence stunned Show.

Even Selena's expression froze on her face.

The duo looked at Jasper in disbelief. They did not expect Jasper to say such a thing at this moment.

“What the f*ck did you say?! ” Selena screamed.

Show’s expression completely darkened as well. “What are you waiting for, Selena? Call security to chase that man away! I don’t want to see him again!”

Selena was about to instruct the confused workers when a group of people ran out from the cinema entrance.

Leading the group was Stephen and Easy Media’s president, Ted Swanson.

“Why didn’t you tell me you were coming, Mr. Laine? I’d have made sure to prepare for it.” Ted called out to Mr. Laine from afar.

Stephen would not have believed you if you told him Jasper would attend in person.

As far as Stephen was concerned, Mr. Laine was a busy man who did not have the time to attend his movie premiere.

Even Jasper himself only decided to attend in person because Stephen was representing Harbor City and introducing Harbor films to the Mainlands for the first time. The man would have just sent a senior executive over if this were not the case.

Therefore, when Stephen saw Jasper at the door, the man was shocked and he immediately rushed over to greet him.

“You’re here, Mr. Laine.”

Even Stephen greeted Jasper courteously.

Behind the two of them were a group of Mainland and Harbor City superstars.

Ms. Flowers, Mr. Williamson, Ms. Barlow, and other renowned celebrities followed behind Stephen and Ted as they greeted Jasper respectfully.

This was a grand sight to behold.

In contrast, Selena and Show’s complexions were pale.

“Who invited this man?” Jasper pointed at Show and asked indifferently.

Both Ted and Stephen’s hearts skipped a beat, and they immediately realized that something had happened.

While Show and Selena were dazed. An exceptionally terrifying shadow engulfed their hearts.

The duo felt their mouths dry up as they stared at Jasper, surrounded by a group of celebrities.

‘Just.. Just who was this person?!’

‘Why did Easy Media’s President Ted, who was sought out by countless celebrities and superstars, greet this Mr. Laine so politely?’

‘Why was Steph, a man of extremely high status in Harbor City’s entertainment industry, so careful as to not offend this man?’

Life at The Top – Chapter 1233

“About that...”

Ted mustered the courage and approached Jasper to whisper, “Mr. Laine, this man is Show Long and he’s a rather famous celebrity from Nawait.”

“We’ve been in a partnership with Nawait’s entertainment industry lately and the other party hoped that Show could use this chance to enter the Mainland market. That’s why we invited him over today.”

Jasper nodded.

Nawait’s entertainment industry mainly followed a Sunrise-philia style and there were quite a few outstanding celebrities.

However, these celebrities whom ordinary folk regarded as high-class and sophisticated were no more than a source of income for Jasper.

If they stayed in line, then everyone would have a great time.

If they stepped out of line...

“Have him leave.”

“And tell the entertainment company in Nawait that neither Easy Media nor Advent Entertainment Group will partner with people like him.”

Jasper’s words were an informal blacklist.

He had completely banned Show from the possibility of entering the mainland or Harbor City’s entertainment industry.

Because of Jasper’s status and resources in the entertainment industry of both these areas, the man was certainly qualified to say such a thing.

Ted did not dare to go against Jasper’s words and immediately tensed up while replying, “Yes, Mr. Laine. I’ll pass on the instructions immediately!”

Ted then glared at Show and Selena, who were still dazed, and shouted, “Didn’t you hear what Mr. Laine said? Get lost already!”

Show and Selena were the ones who kept telling Jasper to get lost earlier.

Yet, now they were the ones who truly had to leave.

“Wait! Please, wait!”

Show was truly frantic now.

He realized that this Mr. Laine, who he did not recognize, had the power to destroy his future in the Mainlands and Harbor City’s entertainment industry with just one sentence. He instantly paled with fear.

“It’s all a misunderstanding, Mr. Laine! It’s all a misunderstanding! It’s this woman that’s spouting sh*t She’s the one that got us into trouble! It has nothing to do with me!”

Show pushed Selena away and ran toward Jasper frantically. The man’s expression was filled with remorse as he begged.

Selena, who had been pushed away, looked at Snow in disbelief and said with a tremble in her voice, “Show! How... how could you do this to me?!”

Selena went mad, as if she had suffered some extreme duress, and shrieked, “I resigned from a great job for you! I resigned so I could be your manager for free!”

“I took my own savings to pave your way. I apologized for your mistakes before you got famous! You also said that you’d marry me in the future!”

“How can you treat me like this now?!”

Despite this, Show did not seem to hear Selena’s wails. Instead, the man continued to beg Jasper for mercy.

“You heard her too, Mr. Laine. She’s the one that overthought everything, I have nothing to do with her! Please, if you have to chase someone away then chase her, just give me another chance. Please!”

“You’re a great man but I’m nothing more than an insignificant bed bug! You do not need to sink to my level, right, Mr. Laine? Please, I’m begging you!”

Frankly speaking, if one were to focus on Show’s pleas only, the man’s behavior was rather touching.

Innocent little Tiffany was about to forget how arrogant the man was before and was about to cave in.

Yet, Jasper looked at Show coldly.

He suddenly thought of something.

'It's all an act for money.'

When the incident that coined the nickname 'Show the master of time management' was exposed in his past life, the man had also begged the public with the very same expression.

With this thought in mind, Jasper lost any remaining interest in saying another word to him.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1234

“I don’t want to see him.”

Upon hearing Jasper’s comment, Ted immediately reacted and called over a few security guards to drag the two away.

Show was limp in the security guards’ hold while Selena seemed despondent. She let the security guards drag her away while she glared at Show sinisterly.

A short while later, the bright eyed paparazzi immediately swarmed over once they realized that there was conflict. A large group of them soon surrounded the escorted duo.

Not even legitimate entertainment news reporters could hold back from taking pictures of Show as the man got dragged away.

Since Show had yet to completely enter the Mainland market, this man was not as famous as he was when he was exposed for the master of time management incident.

However, he was still one of the superstars in Nawait, and the reporters were no stranger to his face.

Upon seeing these reporters, Selena mustered the courage she did not know she had and struggled out of the security guard's hold. She told Show resentfully, "You used me, Show! So I'll destroy your reputation too!"

With that, Selena rushed to the reporters who flushed in excitement and shouted, "I'm Selena, Show Long's manager. Show might seem like a serious man, but he's an utterly insatiable pervert!"

"Not only did he maintain amorous relationships with five to six girls at the same time, but there was one night where he ran between a few consecutive girl's beds too! And I have proof!"

Small acts could result in huge consequences. Selena's words instantly caused an uproar among the reporters. It was Christmas for the reporters. They were all surprised and immediately pointed their cameras at Selena.

At this moment, Selena turned around to observe the man's reaction. Only to see Show with an expression of fright, hatred,

and a hint of a threat.

"You b*tch! You wouldn't dare sell me out!"

Show's behavior and words caused Selena to give up her last shred of hope.

Taking a deep breath, she turned around to tell the frenzied and gossip hungry reporters, "I can guarantee everyone, especially with my character, that what I say is true. I also have proof..."

Not too far away from the messy scene, Jasper watched intriguingly.

He did not expect a mindless act of his to expose Show's scandal more than a decade in advance.

That was alright. Since by completely crushing Show now, fewer girls would fall prey to him.

Not that those girls who willingly sleep with him were anything good to begin with.

"Not bad, it's free hype. As long as news gets out, there's no way Monastery Soccer won't blow up."

Ted's eyes lit up at Jasper's reminder as a complete operating plan immediately appeared in his mind. Instead of keeping it under wraps, Easy Media would further spread this scandal today. The more people who knew of it, the better.

“Come on. The premiere’s about to start, it wouldn’t be wise to delay the show.” Jasper said with a smile.

“Yes, yes, of course. This way please, Mr. Laine,” Stephen immediately reacted and invited Jasper into the cinema.

“Are, are you really Steph?”

Just then, a timid voice with barely concealed excitement rang out from the side.

Stephen looked over in confusion only to see Tiffany staring back at him with a slight flush.

Stephen had seen many fans like this before, so he was unfazed.

The only difference was that Tiffany was currently clinging to Jasper.

“This is a little sister of mine. She loves your films and she came here to see you,” Jasper explained with a smile.

Stephen lit up in understanding and gave an extremely enthusiastic and gentle smile as he said, "Hello! I'm Stephen Cole!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1235

Signing an autograph, taking pictures, chatting about the filming process, and a bit of insignificant gossip regarding renowned celebrities.

This was what Stephen and Tiffany proceeded to do. Stephen would not pay any ordinary fan the time of day for this, let alone during the premiere. As the main cast and the director, Stephen had a lot of things to do.

However, Tiffany was different. From Jasper's introduction just now, Stephen understood that it was worth it for him to leave everything else aside to talk to Tiffany.

Tiffany was elated as she continued to ask Stephen more questions.

"Alright, Tiff. Let them get to work, there's always time to talk more after this is all over," Jasper told Tiffany.

Tiffany nodded obediently and gave Stephen an apologetic smile. "Sorry, Steph, I was too excited. You don't need to fuss about me, don't let me hold you back from what you need to do."

'I wouldn't dare.'

Stephen thought with a wry chuckle and waved Tiffany off. "You don't have to call me Steph like other people. I know I'm much older, but you can call me Steve if you'd like."

Stephen glanced at Jasper carefully when he said that. He let out a sigh of relief when he saw that Jasper neither agreed nor disapproved.

The simple minded could not possibly make a name for themselves within a hellishly difficult place like Harbor City's entertainment industry.

Stephen might have a more withdrawn and cold character, aloof even, but he knew how to read the room.

Jasper was currently his biggest source of support, and the man gave him more than just the 10 million US Dollar investment.

Upon witnessing the hyped advertisement of Monastery Soccer in both Harbor City and the Mainlands after it was filmed, Stephen understood Jasper's power in the entertainment industry.

More importantly, the Mainlands market! The Mainlands' film industry had a strict review process.

It should have been extremely difficult for Monastery Soccer to air in the Mainlands, but thanks to his connections with Easy Media, the review was easily passed and done with.

Other directors in Harbor City envied Stephen greatly because of this.

Every director and actor knew that the Mainlands market was truly profitable. Whoever entered first would gain the upper hand.

This was why Stephen did not dare to offend Jasper.

If anything, the man kept thinking of ways to gain Jasper's favor.

Tiffany's appearance was a shortcut for Stephen. Tiffany might be innocent, but she was not stupid.

She could tell that Stephen was trying to win her over and by extension of this, be in Jasper's good books.

Thus, Tiffany turned her head to look at Jasper before she gave Stephen a bright smile. "I think I'll call you Big Brother Steve, then."

Jasper was the only one she would greet so familiarly. No one else.

Not that anyone knew what went on in this lady's mind.

Stephen laughed out loud and handed his name card to Tiffany. Then, he said, "If you're free, you can talk to me anytime."

"Okay," Tiffany took the name card happily.

After that, Stephen turned to Jasper and asked, "Mr. Laine, could you say a few things on stage at the premiere later?"

Jasper was stunned for a moment before he waved Stephen off. "Have Ted do it instead. I didn't participate in any of the filming processes so I'm not clear about what happened either. just treat me like a normal member of the audience and ignore me."

Stephen hummed his understanding and did not press the issue.

After the slight delay, the premiere started immediately after Jasper and the rest entered the cinema.

Stephen brought his team over for the opening while Ted went to look for people who could further blow up Show's scandal.

Hence, Jasper brought Tiffany to the VIP seats below alone.

However, that did not mean he did so in peace. After all, only superstars could sit at the VIP seats.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1236

Superstars from both Harbor City and the Mainlands all recognized Jasper.

A spectacular situation immediately unfurled. Superstars, each more famous than the last, immediately lined up before Jasper to greet him.

The male actors were still fine since they just greeted him and introduced themselves before they turned and left happily.

However, female stars all seemed moments away from falling directly into Jasper's arms.

Tiffany ground her molars at the sight.

'These vixens are too annoying!'

Tiffany felt the urge to kick all these vixens as she watched these celebrities purposefully pull their tops down and lean toward Jasper coquettishly. Some even leaned in to whisper into Jasper's ear.

'How shameless can you be?'

Jasper did not show distaste in the face of these celebrities, even though most of them had ulterior motives.

Regardless of how famous they were, he would talk to each of them for a short while.

Jasper did not act unnecessarily arrogant and treat these celebrities like trash either, as there was no need to do so.

However, soon after, the appearance of a particular woman surprised Jasper.

She was the female lead of Monastery Soccer, Vicki Bird. She was a strong and rare woman who had a strong business prowess in the entertainment industry.

"Hello, Mr. Laine. I'm Vicki Bird."

Vicki was beautiful since she was now blooming with youth. As the female lead of the film, she had also enhanced her appearance with makeup such that she looked absolutely stunning.

“Hello,” Jasper crossed his legs and replied with a crescent eyed smile.

“Aren’t you going to participate in the premiere event?”

Vicki smiled beautifully and replied, “There’s still a bit of time before it starts, so I came over to say hello.

“Furthermore, I established my own studio recently so I was hoping I could get a partnership with you if possible, Mr. Laine. I would like an investment as well.”

Vicki handed Jasper her name card cautiously.

After taking the name card, Jasper became speechless when he saw the address and room number of a hotel on the back of it.

The implications were clear.

Vicki scratched a finger against Jasper’s palm softly and asked, “Is there any chance for a partnership, Mr. Laine?”

Jasper put away the name card and smiled softly, "Don't let me hold you back from work. I'll consider a partnership should the opportunity arise."

When someone of higher status said that they would 'consider should an opportunity arise', it usually meant 'no'.

Vicki was a smart lady, so she was instantly disappointed when she heard him.

She had truly wanted to gain Jasper's support. That way, she would be both wealthy and powerful. She was willing to let go of all inhibitions for that. Her body was nothing more than a bargaining chip to her.

However, Jasper's rejection was also very clear.

Vicki did not pursue the matter further. With a small smile, she traded a few more pleasantries before leaving.

Vicki had just left when Jasper threw her name card away.

Tiffany felt extremely pleased when she saw how Jasper did not keep Vicki's contact information in his pockets as he did for other celebrities. Still, she asked confusedly, "Why did you throw her name card, Jasper?"

“There’s no point in keeping an ambitious but ignorant and presumptuous actress,” Jasper replied calmly.

Mr. Laine did not fancy people who lived luxuriously thanks to their fans, yet wanted to escape fundamental tax obligations.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1237

Monastery Soccer was indeed made well.

Not to mention that Stephen wanted to use this premiere to prove himself after the establishment of his own company. Thus, the man had poured countless effort into its production.

Coupled with the results and achievements from Harbor City’s box office sales, its premiere in the Mainlands was destined to garner a lot of attention.

The premiere event plus the movie lasted for a total of almost five hours.

After it was over, Jasper and Tiffany then followed the flow of people out of the cinema. The latter looked extremely pleased.

“Indeed. You really need mature and experienced actors when it comes to films. Also, Harbor films really are much better than those you see in the Mainlands,” Tiffany said genuinely.

Jasper smiled. “You seem interested in developing further in the entertainment industry.

“If you are, I can help you connect with people.”

Jasper was not bluffing. Considering his current status, Jasper could easily raise anyone, including a nobody with no experience like Tiffany, into another superstar actress.

Despite this, Tiffany shook her head and declined, “No thanks. I still prefer my current major.”

What she did not say was that being a celebrity meant she could not help Jasper out anymore.

This mattered more to Tiffany than anything else. Jasper smiled and ruffled Tiffany’s head before he said, “Come on. I’ll send you back to school.”

“Yeah,” Tiffany agreed softly before she followed Jasper into the car.

...

While Jasper and Tiffany participated in the film premiere event.

A black commercial vehicle secretly came to a stop at the doors of a unit. After a short moment, the locked gates opened and a despondent looking Prince walked out expressionlessly.

White Glove got out of the car and opened the car doors for Prince.

The Chavez family was indeed very powerful. While Prince did not intend to kill anyone in this incident, the man still had to pay the price.

However, the Chavez family had immediately bailed Prince out through special procedures.

"I want to go home. Is my dad back yet?" Haggardly, Prince asked with a dark expression in the car.

White Glove replied softly from where he sat in front, "The old master will return the day after tomorrow. He had no choice but to give up a lot of important negotiations because of you, so he's extremely furious. It's best you don't anger him further, Your Highness."

“As for the matter of returning home, you’re currently under bail, Crown Prince. So while there’s no restriction over your personal freedom, you’re not allowed to leave Waterhoof City.”

Prince fumed, “Then what’s the difference with being locked up in jail?”

“At the very least, you’re free to move as you wish within Waterhoof City.

“This incident is rather troublesome, Crown Prince, and the government’s stance on this is firm as well. Since human life was involved, it’s inappropriate for us to do anything that would anger the government. Otherwise, we won’t be able to salvage the situation even after the old master returns.”

“F*ck!”

Prince kicked the chair in front of him harshly and scolded resentfully, “Where the f*ck are those b*stards, Jasper and Conrad? I want them to die!”

“Conrad’s gone missing and Jasper’s currently still in Waterhoof City.”

White Glove glanced at Prince's twisted expression through the rearview mirror and said, "Your Highness, perhaps you should first consider how to face the old master's fury."

Prince clenched his fists tightly and said icily, "Face what? Why do I have to face anything? Are you telling me that the old man will beat me to death?"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1238

"The three listed companies under your name have been completely liquidated. They no longer belong to Clear Seas, let alone to you. Coupled with the fact that this incident had pitted us against the Law family, quite a number of Clear Seas' shareholders have voiced their doubts to the old master. This puts the old master in an extremely passive role. You should grow to be more mature, Your Highness."

Prince's expression paled further at White Glove's words.

"You're just a servant! Who are you to teach me anything?"

Prince scolded angrily. Staring at the receding night scenery of Waterhoof City, Prince heaved and said harshly, "What kind of human would I f*cking be if I don't take revenge?!"

White Glove shook his head slightly but did not say anything more.

As far as he was concerned, Prince was no different from a useless person.

After the fight between Jasper and Prince settled down, the situation became clear to many powerful people who had been watching on attentively.

Far away in Harbor City, Fabian immediately received the news after having just returned from abroad.

The person reporting the news to him was Conrad, who had just returned from Waterhoof City.

“Mr. Atticus, Prince has already lost.”

Conrad reported courteously on the windy parking apron.

Fabian stretched and replied, “Something would truly be wrong if that f*cking idiot managed to beat Jasper. So what if he lost? He’s just a moron.”

“I really don’t get it. How did a man as smart as Vere manage to give birth to such a stupid son? Haha.”

Conrad followed Fabian toward the car calmly.

Next to the car stood a line of expressionless suited bodyguards. One of them domiing white gloves saw Fabian approach and opened the car door respectfully. The bodyguard put a hand over the top of the car as Fabian entered.

After climbing in, Fabian waved Conrad in as well.

“Come in as well. Tell me what happened in detail.”

Conrad got into the car and soon began to recall the entire incident alongside the whirring of the car’s engine.

“According to your instructions, after Prince rejected your offer for a loan, I remained impartial and watched from the sidelines. Jasper’s teamed up with the Law family and Colossal Investments, but there was also a mysterious force behind it all.”

“The Law family was responsible for keeping an eye on Clear Seas so that the main force did not dare to support Prince.”

“Perhaps there was also infighting within Clear Seas. After all, many shareholders are very pleased to see Prince cause trouble to his father.”

“Colossal Investments also coordinated with Jasper’s funds to destroy three of Prince’s listed companies in the shortest time.”

“It should still have been a difficult feat to completely destroy all three listed companies even with Jasper and Colossal investments working together, but a mysterious power suddenly appeared, after which all of Prince’s defenses fell.”

“I’m still investigating the source of this mysterious power.”

Fabian waved him off when he heard this, “No need. It’s the little prince.”

Conrad was stunned.

The corner of Fabian’s lips curled and he continued, “There are only a few youths in the Mainlands worth my time. The little prince is one of them. I already got wind of it before he made his move, so there’s no need to dwell on the matter.”

Conrad suppressed his emotions and asked, “Mr. Atticus, what if the little prince chooses to stand with Jasper?”

Fabian scoffed and replied, “The smarter the person, the more they understand to follow the flow. We’re the ones in control of the situation now.”

“You might not know this, but Jasper’s funds in the United States stock markets have started to move. The opportunity we’ve been waiting for has arrived.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1239

Conrad’s brow twitched when he heard Fabian.

Fabian had always been very wary of Conrad.

Therefore, all Conrad knew was that Fabian had a huge trap waiting for Jasper, one that involved many people by Jasper’s side.

However, Conrad had no idea what the specifics of this setup were.

Right now, he had gained another important piece of information.

Fabian had his eyes on Jasper's foreign stock market investments since the beginning. There was a huge possibility that this setup was related to these funds.

"Jasper really isn't an easy opponent to deal with. Otherwise, we wouldn't have failed in every test we gave him."

"But as difficult he is to deal with, he's also easy to get rid of. You just have to find the weakest part of this kind of person, after which you can deal with them in one swift attack."

Fabian narrowed his eyes slightly. The man must have been in a great mood as he was so willing to tell Conrad more.

"I analyzed the entire structure of Jasper's business plan. To be honest, seeing Jasper's detailed road to wealth makes me suspect he has the ability to see into the future."

"It's as if he was able to grab ahold of every important detail and gain the biggest benefit from each of them."

"He earned his first big windfall from domestic futures, then really kicked off his business with money made from international petroleum futures. With this huge amount of funds, the man decided to invest in businesses like Terizone instead of making more money in the financial stock market."

“Jasper realized the potential of these enterprises before anyone else did, and he managed to successfully acquire them. I admit I cannot hold a candle to his courage.”

Conrad gave a small smile and interrupted Fabian at this moment, “But he’s still lacking in comparison to you, Mr. Atticus.”

“I didn’t know you apple polished too.”

Fabian glanced at Conrad and laughed out loud, “But I like it.”

“After looking at the components that make up Jasper’s empire, he seems to be relying on his own prestige to gather Hudson and the rest to his side.”

“The advantage of this is that their impression of him will be glowing. As long as he manages to maintain that, then no one will doubt his decision, and his say within the group will go unchallenged.”

“But the disadvantages are clear too. All it takes is one tragic failure, one that tells everyone around Jasper that he isn’t a god and can still be defeated, then their trust in Jasper will also crumble.”

“The moment this trust crumbles... well, take a look at how horrifyingly fast Jasper’s subsidiaries are growing.”

“Hudson, Wayne, and even the real estate company. Everyone in charge of his subsidiaries will begin to doubt him.”

“That moment is when the tower falls.”

Conrad’s expression changed slightly, and he asked, “Mr. Atticus, so we’ve chosen to target the... foreign funds?”

Fabian chuckled and patted Conrad’s shoulder. “At least 60% of Jasper’s current funds are overseas. He’s in dire need of a lot of money. When it comes to his subsidiaries, the more important they are, the further they appear to be from turning a profit.”

“I can already tell that Jasper’s planned a business roadmap that will last a decade or even two. But before this plan truly becomes profitable, he’ll need an astronomical sum of money.”

“That’s why he’s willing to throw all his funds into what he sees as a chance, regardless of the consequences or risk. By moving his money in the United States stock market, it must mean he’s found a good opportunity to make money.”

“All we need to do is wait patiently for him to move all his funds somewhere else. Then, we’ll crush him while he’s happily waiting for profit. That is when we’ll truly push him to the brink of desperation.”

Fabian’s words were still echoing in Conrad’s ears, but the man felt his heart shake in awe.

At this moment, he had to acknowledge the difference between him and Conrad.

This difference was more than just status. Fabian’s scheming mind and ability to plan were also much greater than his.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1240

The last few times Conrad had fought with Jasper, the former had always planned around the idea of defeating Jasper.

However, Fabian did not. Ever since the man began to plan, he had never thought of destroying Jasper completely on the first attempt. Instead, the man was trying to destroy Jasper’s reputation as the undefeated god of war and plotted around the idea of tearing apart Jasper’s business framework.

This was completely ruining Jasper’s future!

“Don’t worry.”

Fabian had a small smile when he saw how Conrad fell deep into thought.

“Once Jasper’s screwed, everything he has in Southeast Province will belong to you. You have my word.”

Conrad chuckled and replied courteously, “Thank you for taking me in, Mr. Atticus.”

“That’s because you’re capable and you have potential...”

...

With the matters in Waterhoof City done and dusted, Jasper decided it was time to return to the Southeast Province.

He was about to call Wendy to arrange for a time to meet when she called him first.

“Jasp, are you still in Waterhoof City?”

Jasper arched his brow at the woman's unusual tone and replied, "I am. What's wrong?"

Wendy sighed and replied, "Do you still remember Ms. Tiana?"

"Of course. Didn't we arrange for her to host some charity funding?" Jasper asked confusedly.

Wendy replied angrily, "Things were still fine before this charity, but this funding brought Ms. Tiana more trouble."

"We invested to help Ms. Tiana start up a charity foundation and things were going smoothly in the beginning. But Ms. Tiana's children must've heard from somewhere that Ms. Tiana suddenly got her hands on a huge amount of money, and they're all here to ask Ms. Tiana for cash."

"Ms. Tiana explained that the money was for the foundation and she's not allowed to use them for anything else, but her children refuse to listen and continued to pester her. Ms. Tiana ended up being sent to the hospital for emergency treatment. I was afraid that medical treatment in Southeast Province wouldn't be good enough, so I sent her to Waterhoof City's hospital instead."

"Go visit her if you're still in Waterhoof City. One reason is to ask how she's doing on behalf of both of us, and another is that I heard Ms. Tiana's children are there too. I'm worried that they'll continue to bother Ms. Tiana."

Jasper asked grimly, "Which hospital?"

"Mid Mount Hospital."

"Alright. I'll be there immediately. I'm coming home once I've dealt with this."

Wendy replied softly, "There's been a lot to do at the headquarters lately so come back soon. You need to personally handle many of these issues."

"Alright."

Jasper rubbed his temples after ending the call. Something dark flashed through his eyes.

He had heard that Ms. Tiana's children were snobs in his past life, but he did not have many opportunities to encounter them back then.

However, Jasper would not allow them to target his business.

“Drive, Jul. To Mid Mount Hospital.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1241

Mid Mount Hospital, the Cardiovascular Department.

Jasper saw Ms. Tiana on the ground floor of the inpatient area.

It had only been a few months since they last met but Ms. Tiana looked much frailer.

Despite being forced to move, threatened with the demolition of her house, and being in bad health back then, Ms. Tiana had still seemed rather energized.

However, Ms. Tiana looked exhausted and despondent now when Jasper saw her again.

Under the cold breeze of the deep autumn, Ms. Tiana sat alone on the bench next to the inpatient department. She held a stack of invoices in her hands while her expression was troubled.

“Ms. Tiana.”

Jasper greeted softly and sat beside her.

“Huh? Jasper? Why, why are you here?”

Ms. Tiana was surprised by Jasper’s arrival.

“Wendy told me what happened. Why didn’t you take the initiative to contact me when you needed help?” Jasper chided.

Ms. Tiana waved him off and replied with a smile, “There’s no need to bother you. I can deal with this myself. You’re a busy man. How could I bother you over this small issue of mine?”

“Sigh. The wind’s rather strong here, Ms. Tiana, and your body’s too weak to be subjected to the elements. Let’s talk about this in your room, okay?” Jasper suggested, instead of directly asking about her children.

Ms. Tiana looked rather embarrassed. “Uh, there’s no need. You’re a busy man, Jasper. Don’t let me hold you back from work. I’m fine here.”

Jasper frowned slightly and asked, “Are you hiding something from me, Ms. Tiana?”

Ms. Tiana replied awkwardly, “I’m still lining up and waiting to be given a room.”

Jasper arched his brow,

Mid Mount Hospital was a renowned hospital beside Hoofmorn University. The hospitalization process in big hospitals like this was difficult and normal patients often needed to line up before they could be assigned a room. This was common knowledge and Jasper was well aware of it.

However, Ms. Tiana was transferred from Southeast Province to Waterhoof City’s Mid Mount Hospital. Wendy had been in charge of the procedures, so there should have been nothing wrong with the documents.

‘So why was Ms. Tiana lining up now?’

Jasper was about to probe further when a man and a woman walked out of the inpatient building.

The man was in his forties and donning a lab coat. He was a doctor at Mid Mount Hospital. Meanwhile, the woman was dressed alluringly and held the car keys to a BMW in her hands.

The couple smiled as they chatted, looking extremely intimate.

“Yo, you’re still alive, old woman?”

The woman saw Ms. Tiana sitting on the bench and said with a sneer.

She crossed her arms and walked over, then stared down at Ms. Tiana disdainfully. “Oldies like you are going to die soon anyway. What’s the point of coming to the hospital? Just find somewhere else to die in if you’re sick. Why come here and waste society’s resources?”

Ms. Tiana’s lips trembled in anger and replied, “How could you be so cruel, young lady? You already stole my hospital room, and you’re still cursing me to die?”

The woman scoffed and said, “All that matters in this society are connections, old woman. Don’t think that just because oldies like you found a channel to stay in the hospital that it means you’re suddenly very powerful. I have the power to make you leave

immediately if I want!”

“You were arguing just now, weren’t you? Go on, then. Keep arguing. But after all that arguing, you’re still lining up downstairs, aren’t you?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1242

“I refuse to believe that there’s no order!” Ms. Tiana said in distress.

Just then, Jasper reached out to place a hand on Ms. Tiana’s shoulder. He pointed at the other woman and asked, “Did this woman stole the hospital room Wendy arranged for you?”

Ms. Tiana did not hide from Jasper anymore and told him, “I already had a room the first day I transferred over, but then this doctor suddenly told me to move out. I thought something was wrong, and turns out they wanted to give this woman a place.”

Ms. Tiana pointed at the middle aged doctor next to the woman when she said ‘doctor’.

“I told them I came first, that my illness is severe, that I have to do surgery soon, but they refused to listen and immediately asked people to throw my things out. I was alone against them, so I had no choice but to wait here.”

Jasper suppressed the anger he felt and turned to look at the expressionless doctor to say, “Give me a reason.”

The middle aged doctor slowly pushed up his glasses and replied, "Reason? For what?"

"Why you threw out a patient from their room. Who gave you the courage and right to do that?"

Jasper shouted forcefully.

Being of high status, Jasper dealt with society's most sophisticated people every day. He was no longer the immature and small businessman from before.

Thus, the doctor was stunned by Jasper's shout. However, he reacted immediately.

As if feeling embarrassed by the fact that Jasper shouted at him, the doctor replied tensely, "I'm the deputy director of the inpatient department. I decide who stays in the hospital and who doesn't! Who are you to demand a reason from me? Why do I have to give you any reason?"

"Do you even know anything about the hospital? What can you say if I claim that her illness is even more severe?"

The middle aged doctor pointed at the woman by his side as he sneered and taunted.

The woman snorted and said, "You're from the villages, aren't you? How unsophisticated. You think that just because you can shout, that it makes you powerful?"

"Society is rather straightforward. People with authority have special powers. Don't like it? Then become someone with authority. Ridiculous foreigner."

"So, to you people, authority is what allows you to disregard a patient's health?" Jasper asked icily.

The middle aged doctor snorted and said, "Are you crazy, young man? Don't think that just because you've read a few books and know a bit of knowledge, that suddenly you have the right to argue with me.

"Do you know where you are, right now? This is a hospital!"

"Not a place where people like you can solve problems through shouting!"

"Look at how many patients there are outside! All of them are lining up to be hospitalized, and all this? I..."

The middle aged doctor then pointed at his own nose and said arrogantly, "Get to decide!"

“This old woman would still have been allowed to line up for a room before this, but let me tell you right now! She can die here for all I care, and I still won’t give her a hospital room!”

The doctor then pointed at Jasper and scolded, “You unsophisticated outsider! This is a lesson for you. Don’t start shouting wherever you go, it’ll only tell people how low classed you are! Understood, outsider?”

“That’s right! You’re nothing more than a dog! You know nothing and yet you dare to shout at Mr. Wheatley?” The woman agreed.

“Jasper.”

Ms. Tiana tugged Jasper’s clothes and sighed. “It’s alright Let’s just go to another hospital. I wouldn’t dare to let such an unethical doctor treat me either.”

However, Jasper held Ms. Tiana back and said, “No, Ms. Tiana. We will stay here tonight. He’s just a deputy director of the inpatient department. He doesn’t have the right to treat you. Don’t worry.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1243

Both Mr. Wheatley and the woman reacted as if Jasper had told them a hilarious joke.

“I know! said you didn’t know anything, outsider, but I didn’t expect you to be so stupid.”

“Did you not hear me correctly? Mr. Wheatley is the deputy director of the inpatient department. He’s the one that decides who gets to be hospitalized or not. If he says this old woman can’t stay in the hospital, then no one can help her at all. Who do you think you are?”

The woman pointed at Jasper and laughed out loud.

Mr. Wheatley also scoffed and looked at Jasper pitifully. Then, he turned to the woman. “Forget it. He’s just an idiot, let’s leave him alone. He’ll just make a fool out of himself if he starts shouting until nightfall.”

“Let’s go. Hoofmorn University’s leadership team is coming to inspect the hospital with the hospital’s heads. I have to reach there before they do.”

The woman nodded and turned to Jasper proudly, “You have a plan, right? Then try and get this old woman a hospital room. Now I’m curious how you’re going to do that. Hahaha...”

As they spoke, a group of people was ushered over from afar.

There were a few men in suits and a few others in lab coats, all looking majestic as they walked over.

Among the group of people were Hoofmorn University's leaders and Mid Mount Hospital's president, all walking over while chatting happily.

Jasper saw one of them and put away his phone that he had previously pulled out.

At the same time, one of the middle aged men also saw Jasper.

Dorian was rather surprised when he saw Jasper.

He did not expect to see Jasper at Mid Mount Hospital. Hoofmorn University's professional team had met JW Electronics' professionals over the past two days while their partnership over the stepper had also been officially reviewed and approved by Swallow Capital's education bureau.

Dorian had his own sources of inside intelligence which told him that the higher-ups seemed to value this huge project greatly.

One of the higher officials in the education bureau even praised this partnership between an academy and an enterprise with three consecutive 'good's.

Dorian also understood, from the change in the dean's attitude lately, that Jasper was Hoofmorn University's true VIP.

"Mr. Laine! Why are you here?"

Due to the various reasons, Dorian immediately pushed his way through Mid Mount Hospital's president and vice presidents to run toward Jasper.

Dorian's rare courteous and enthusiastic attitude, as well as tone, immediately made the hospital's group of leaders understand the situation.

Each of them now looked at Jasper politely.

Mid Mount Hospital was a hospital under Hoofmorn University. This meant that Hoofmorn University's leaders had the direct authority to direct Mid Mount Hospital.

As the dean's secretary, as well a high ranking employee from Hoofmorn University that was close to the university's core authority, Dorian was extremely valued by the

hospital's leaders. Therefore, they became extremely careful when interacting with someone Dorian respected greatly.

Seeing Dorian's enthusiastic smile, Jasper did not speak to the man as usual. Instead, he replied coldly.

"An elder of mine had to line up for a hospital room. She's alone and very ill, but she even got thrown out of her hospital room. As a youth, it's only right I wait here with her."

Dorian was stunned by what he heard.

The hospital's group of leaders who rushed after Dorian were dumbfounded as well.

"An elder of mine had to line up for a hospital room." This alone was fine.

Since it implied how noble Mr. Laine was and how he did not demand special treatment because of his high status.

But the next thing he said, "even got thrown out of her hospital room". This statement slapped awake the group of seventeen to eighteen leaders.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1244

There has never been an incident where a patient was chased out of their hospital room!

This would be a huge scandal if word got out.

“Mr. Laine. What... what happened?”

Dorian asked confusedly. He had no idea what Jasper was talking about.

Jasper pointed at Mr. Wheatley, who was stunned by the scene before him, and said, “How about you ask Mr. Wheatley? He emphasized to me quite a few times that he was the one who decided who stayed and who left the hospital. He also said he wanted to see what I could do about it.”

Dorian’s expression darkened after he heard Jasper. Technically speaking, this was an incident of poor management in the hospital. As such, this incident reflected on the medical ethics of the entire hospital.

When a doctor made a mistake, the hospital had to take responsibility. But if the hospital made a mistake? Then it would be Hoofmorn University, the parent organization, that would have to take responsibility! Dorian glared at Mr. Wheatley harshly.

However, due to the huge difference between the two's identities, Dorian could not possibly recognize a mere deputy director of the inpatient department. Therefore, he turned his head and shouted, "Please explain what's going on, Mr. Knowles!"

Mr. Knowles walked out from behind Dorian. Sweat could be seen on this old man's forehead.

"Explain yourself, Hadwin!"

With no other option, Mr. Knowles could only interrogate Mr. Wheatley.

Mr. Wheatley was close to tears.

The tables had turned too quickly, and he had not come to terms with what was happening yet.

"I... I... I didn't mean it that way."

Everyone understood when they heard Hadwin.

The people present were either from Hoofmorn University's or the hospital's managerial ranks. They were considered imposing figures to ordinary people. Those who assumed such positions and roles were not idiots.

From Hadwin's reaction, they instantly understood that Mr. Laine had told the truth.

Hadwin had surely said something similar.

"You... How powerful of you, huh! You even get to decide who stays and leaves this hospital, hmm?" Mr. Knowles was infuriated as he wanted nothing more than to slap Hadwin.

"Our hospital cannot afford to have someone as powerful as you in here. You're suspended with immediate effect, and I'll suggest for your dismissal to be reviewed at the hospital admin office!"

Mr. Knowles' statement confirmed Hadwin's future. Hadwin had put in a lot of hard work and made plenty of sacrifices to assume this greatly desired position as the inpatient department deputy director of a big hospital like Mid Mount.

He was reluctant to give it away now that he was used to the benefits it brought.

He immediately sobbed, “No, Mr. Knowles, Mr. Clem! Please listen to me, that’s not what I meant!”

“It’s all this woman’s fault She’s the one who lied to me and said that this old madam’s all alone and still able to run and walk. She said this old madam was pretty much recovered, that’s why I arranged for her to give up the room.”

“How about this? I’ll arrange a room for this old madam immediately. The best ward with the best treatment I won’t make the same mistake again!”

Hadwin was moments away from kneeling and begging at this point.

Dorian looked at Jasper.

“Why are you looking at me?”

Jasper said indifferently, “This falls under your internal affairs, Mr. Clem, so as an outsider, it’s not my place to interfere. But I am a little disappointed in your management regarding this incident.”

“The hospital is a place to treat and save patients, not a place where people can rule with absolute authority.” Jasper had essentially decided the outcome with his words.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1245

Without needing to see Mr. Clem's gaze, Mr. Knowles immediately replied, "You're right, Mr. Laine. We'll make sure to reflect on this."

"Since all important leaders of the hospital are here, then I'll make it clear now. The hospital will undergo rectification over the next few months and we will not allow black sheep like Hadwin to remain in our hospital's ranks!"

The other vice presidents and directors of the important departments were smart and they all patted their chests and promised to carry out the president's instruction. They also stated that this would affect the hospital greatly.

Under the applause and praise, Dorian saw Jasper's expression smooth over. Only then did he let out a sigh of relief.

In all honesty, this was a small issue, it was just that it was so vile.

Thank goodness this elder who was somehow related to Jasper was alright. Dorian would be at a loss if something had happened to her.

He would be implicated if Jasper wanted to blow this incident up and the school decided to investigate further.

Dorian's eyes flickered over at that thought.

Since he already started, then he might as well do everything thoroughly so that Jasper was satisfied. "This person too."

Dorian pointed at the woman next to Hadwin. She had remained quiet the entire time and even wished that she was transparent as the scene unfurled before her eyes.

"Find out how she got in. If there's been any contact between her and Hadwin in private, then sue them for corruption."

The woman exclaimed when she heard Dorian.

She was smarter than Hadwin, after all. So instead of begging Mr. Knowles and Dorian for mercy, she knew that Jasper, the man she looked down on and called an outsider, was truly the formidable person she needed to plea to.

She disregarded her image and dignity as she immediately fell to her knees in front of Jasper. "Please, Mr. Laine. Forgive me, please. I was blind, I didn't know who you were. I didn't know how powerful you were."

“I’ll immediately give back the hospital room back and leave. I’ll run far away, so please don’t let them sue me.”

Jasper looked at the sobbing woman before he glanced at the BMW car keys in her hands. Then, he said calmly, “You have authority and connections, and that’s why you think you can do whatever you want in society, right?”

The woman shook her head frantically and replied, “No, that’s not true. That’s all nonsense, it’s bullshi*t.”

“No, you’re right.”

Jasper replied calmly.

“This is how society works now. The only difference is that I’m more powerful and have better connections than you do. That’s why when you’re running rampant and accidentally knock into me, you’re the one that falls.”

Jasper then looked at Hadwin, whose expression was colorless.

“You asked how I’m going to get a hospital room. Do you see how now?”

Hadwin shivered and did not dare to say a word.

Not in the mood to care about these two, Jasper helped Ms. Tiana to her feet and said, "Come on, Ms. Tiana. Let's go to your hospital room."

Dorian immediately shouted, "Quick! Arrange the best hospital room for Ms. Tiana!"

Jasper looked at Dorian with a subtle smile. "Mr. Clem, would this be considered a backdoor method?"

Dorian was a smart man and he recognized that Jasper had said this to shut the mouths of people who would comment on the matter upon witnessing it.

Therefore, he replied cooperatively, "No way. Didn't you say Ms. Tiana already had a hospital room? We're just changing her room for her right now. This isn't a backdoor method. Not at all."

It sure was easy talking to smart people.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1246

Jasper nodded and walked into the inpatient department with Ms. Tiana.

“Will this cause more trouble for you, Jasper?” Ms. Tiana asked worriedly.

Jasper looked at the president and vice presidents that ran over to prepare a room for Ms. Tiana and smiled, “Something this small isn’t any trouble at all, Ms. Tiana.”

“Favors and connections are necessary in many aspects of our society right now, and this isn’t something we can change. However, I’m sure that the situation will improve in the future. All we can do until then is do our best to protect ourselves.”

Ms. Tiana nodded thoughtfully at Jasper’s words.

After the group of people left alongside Jasper, Hadwin and the woman’s legs completely gave out.

“Mr, Mr. Wheatley. What do we do now?” The woman sobbed to Hadwin.

“What else can we do?!”

Hadwin was enraged and he looked like the devil.

“This wouldn’t have happened to us if you weren’t so high profile and you didn’t mock that woman after taking her ward! We’re both screwed now! Screwed!”

The woman shivered up and said with a wail, “My uncle is an old officer in Waterhoof City’s education bureau and he has some connections with Hoofmorn University’s leaders. Maybe I should talk to him?”

“About what? The Waterhoof City education bureau is only in charge of high schools and primary schools at most! Hoofmorn University’s ranked on the same level as Waterhoof City’s City Government!”

“Besides, that uncle of yours won’t even be considered a subject chief if he were placed in Hoofmorn University! Do you know who Mr. Clem is?”

“He’s Hoofmorn University’s dean’s secretary! In terms of rank and power, your uncle doesn’t even have the right to tie Mr. Clem’s shoes. Let alone Mr. Laine, who Mr. Clem might as well worship at this point! This is all your fault for looking down on people! Your fault!”

The color drained from the woman's face after what she heard.

If Mr. Clem were personally helping Jasper, then even the president and his aides did not have the right to help Jasper set up the hospital room.

However, thanks to these leaders of the hospital, Ms. Tiana was arranged to stay in a special care VIP hospital room with the best professionals in the hospital soon gathering to diagnose her.

A treatment plan was produced within a day.

"Don't worry, Mr. Laine. The professionals have already looked at her. It's not too problematic and it's easy to treat. There's no life-threatening danger and she'll be able to move around like a normal person after resting a bit post-surgery."

Mr. Clem told Jasper in the hospital room's VIP reception area.

Having either money or power during such times brought plenty of benefits and privileges.

The VIP hospital room was an example. Normal hospital rooms contained at least three other patients, where the scope of the patient's activity was limited to their small hospital bed.

However, the VIP room not only had a private for the patient to rest in, but there were also a bedroom for care workers, a reception area for guests, and an independent bathroom. There were also 24-hours on call nurses.

"Alright."

Jasper nodded, finally smiling at Dorian.

"Thank you for the trouble, Mr. Clem."

Dorian sighed and replied, "There's no need to thank me. What happened today was the result of our negligence."

Jasper waved him off, not wishing to further dwell on this matter, and said, "The partnership with Hoofmorn University has already officially begun, and the first batch of funds will arrive immediately."

“However, I am a businessman at the end of the day, and profiting is still my goal. Therefore, I do hope that research results can be produced as soon as possible.”

Dorian nodded and replied sternly, “Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. Not only will our university do our best, but the officials at Swallow Capital really support us as well.”

“We can request Swallow Capital for governmental technical support when the time comes. Considering all this, I’m sure we’ll be able to produce good results as soon as possible.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1247

Jasper and Dorian chatted for another thirty minutes or so before the latter had to leave. Dorian had business to attend to, so he got up and excused himself after they arrived at an understanding.

Jasper did not hold him back and walked him out of the hospital room himself.

Jasper returned to the patient’s room and pulled out an apple from the fruit basket sent over by the vice president of the hospital. Peeling the skin off the apple, Jasper joked.

“How important of us, Ms. Tiana. Other patients come into the hospital and think of ways to win the doctors over, while the vice president himself brings fruit over for us.”

Ms. Tiana leaned against the headboard and told Jasper gently, “All thanks to you.”

Jasper saw how healthy Ms. Tiana appeared, and took the initiative to ask, “Ms. Tiana. What about your kids?”

Ms. Tiana’s expression changed and she replied after sighing, “There’s no point talking about that unfilial son.”

“Tell me anyway.”

Jasper handed Ms. Tiana a peeled apple.

“I heard that he angered you so much you had to be sent to the hospital’s emergency room.”

Ms. Tiana replied sorrowfully, “He said he’s too poor and he can’t afford to pay his child’s school fees. I gave him my old house and he said it wasn’t enough. He knows that I’m managing the money from the foundation, so he wants me to transfer the money to him secretly.

“There’s no way I’d do something like that.

“I rejected him immediately, but he won’t leave me alone. Sigh, what misfortune to have such a child.”

Speak of the devil.

The hospital room door was pushed open and a man appeared at the doors to the patient’s room.

“Mom!”

Donned in a suit and looking like serious salaryman, he shouted at Ms. Tiana from the entrance to the room.

Ms. Tiana was stunned for a moment before she replied darkly, “Don’t call me mom! I don’t have a son like you!”

Jasper was the one by her side when times were most difficult.

Not only did Jasper solve many of her troubles, but despite his status and role as the owner of a huge business, Jasper even came to take care of her himself. Not to mention that Jasper was passionate when it came to charity.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1248

“But I’m not wrong.”

Jeff shrugged then sat on the sofa bossily and continued, “That’s what he did all those years, he’s a poor student that ate and drank from our house. Besides, if I don’t have a sense of propriety, isn’t that your fault?”

“If I’m being real, Mom, you had this coming, no? You’re in charge of so much money, so what’s wrong with pulling out a few hundred thousand for me? You wouldn’t need to come to the hospital if you just listened and gave me the money at the start.”

Ms. Tiana replied painfully, “How many times do I have to tell you? This money is from the foundation to be used to support poor children who cannot afford to go to school. The only property I have is my house and you already forced me to give it to you. I don’t have any more money.”

“Tsk tsk.”

Jeff's expression was one of disbelief and mockery. He turned his head and looked at the hospital room to say, "Don't give me that nonsense, Mom. I already asked before I came here, this VIP room alone costs a good few hundred bucks a day."

"Tsk tsk. I'm only earning 1100 Somer Dollars a month, and you're telling me that you don't have money?"

"How'd you manage to stay in such a nice hospital room if you didn't have money?"

"So you're telling me that your mom is supposed to live in those normal hospital rooms with other people? Whilst the better alternative she is enjoying must be because she took money from the foundation?" Jasper asked icily.

Jeff laughed out loud and replied, "That's not what I said. I also don't have the time to waste on reasoning with you people."

"Don't think that I don't know what you're thinking, Jasper. A poor student like you definitely haven't achieved anything yet, right?"

"You must've got your eyes on the money my mom is in charge of and you're here to get a piece of it too, right?"

“You wish, I’m telling you! She is my mom! Only I have the right to ask her for money. You’re just her student, so how do you have the gall to ask her for money?”

Jeff then pointed at Jasper and turned to tell Ms. Tiana, “I told you long ago, didn’t I, Mom? I told you that as long as you have a bit of money, these f*ckers will all have their eyes on you! Don’t be softhearted and fall for their lies. Especially not the lies of broke f*ckers like him!”

“Do you really have the heart to watch me be forced to live on the streets? Ava’s going to divorce me if I don’t bring money back! Do you want to see your son live single and alone for the rest of his life?”

Ms. Tiana heaved heavily and hit the hospital bed as she said, “You’ve disappointed me too much, Jeff! Go away, leave right now! I told you I don’t have a single cent to spare for you!

“Your wife is your problem. If she wants to divorce you, then that’s your own issue to deal with. I’m old and about to go for surgery. Have you ever even asked about my health?”

“All you did is ask for money since you first walked through those doors. Is this how you treat your mother?”

“Get out! I don’t have a son like you!”

Jeff felt rather embarrassed when he heard Ms. Tianas' fierce shout.

He immediately stared at Jasper.

“Hey, Jasper, did you say something to my mom?!”

Jeff then warned Jasper wretchedly, “I’m telling you, you’re just a poor f*cker and an outsider. Don’t think that just because my mom cooked you meals for two whole years that you get to pull connections with my mom. Interfere in this again and I’ll kill you!”

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly at Jeff before he told Ms. Tiana, who had disappointment written all over her face, “You’re right Ms. Tiana. He is a rascal. You might as well not have a son than have one like this.”

Jeff was enraged by what Jasper said.

“Motherf*cker, what did you say?!”

“Don’t forget who you are! Without my mom, a poor b*stard like you would’ve died on the streets long ago from starvation! You’ve been eating from my house freely like a stray dog and this is how you treat me now?”

“Look at this group of ungrateful children you taught, Mom. He’s been eating our food for years and this is how he acts now! What kind of repayment is this?”

Then, Jeff seemed to have remembered something and shouted at Jasper, “My mom is your teacher and she even fed you all those years. Now that my mom’s sick, you’re coming here empty handed?”

“Don’t you even understand that you need to come with money?”

“I want 500, no, at least 1000 bucks!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1249

This sentence had emphasized just how shameless Jeff was.

Normal people did not take the initiative to ask someone to pay back a favor in cash.

Let alone in such an arrogant and matter of factly way. Ms. Tiana was the first person to object. She could not accept her son’s shamelessness.

“Unfilial! What an unfilial son I have!”

Ms. Tiana pointed at Jeff, her complexion pale with anger.

“How did I give birth to such a b*stard like you? You’ve brought disgrace to our whole family!”

If not for Jasper, Ms. Tiana might have lost her life when she had to deal with the demolition team before. Not to mention that Jasper was the reason she now laid in the best hospital room in Mid Mount Hospital with the most elite team of professionals treating her.

Ms. Tiana had long felt extremely grateful to Jasper for all of this.

However, Jeff’s behavior now made Ms. Tiana want to bang her head against the wall and kill herself.

Jeff harrumphed and ignored Ms. Tiana, who was about to die from infuriation, and instead stared at Jasper in disdain. “You don’t even have that money, do you?”

“Stop acting like you’re some sli*t in front of my mom. Who the f*ck are you? You can’t even take 1000 bucks “out and you’re shouting at me?”

“I’m telling you, you better get lost if you knew what’s good for you. Otherwise, forget this 1000 bucks, I’ll make you pay for the food you ate in my house too!”

These two sentences made Ms. Tiana explode. She raised her hand to throw the apple Jasper peeled for her at Jeff.

“Get out! Get out right now!”

Taken aback, the apple hit Jeff square in the face as juice spurted all over his head. He shouted at Ms. Tiana angrily, “How dare you throw things at me, old woman?!”

“How dare you throw an apple at me because of an outsider?”

“I call you mom because you gave birth to me and took care of me. But if you’re treating me like this, then I won’t even call you ‘Mom’!”

“Why do I have to acknowledge you as my mom when you’re throwing things at me because of an outsider? Give me 500 thousand and I’ll sever all familial ties with you!”

Ms. Tiana panted and pointed at Jeff from where she sat on the bed and said, “Get out! Forget 500 thousand, I won’t even spare you 5 cents! You rascal!”

“Yes, don’t acknowledge me as your mom at all! I don’t need a rascal like you for a son anyway! Get out right now!”

Jeff scoffed and raised his hand to wipe the juice off his face. “Fine, then! You want me to leave, right? Then I’ll go back and tell the world about how horrible you treat me, old hag!”

“Don’t you cherish your reputation the most? I’d like to see how you plan to live with your head held high once I ruin your reputation!”

“You keep saying that you can’t use the foundation’s money, so where did you get the money for such an expensive hospital room, then? You must’ve used that money!”

“You’re already a dead woman walking at this point, so what’s the point in holding on to that money? You’d rather hold on to money you won’t have the time to enjoy instead of giving it to your son, me.”

“How’re you going to face my dad once you die, huh?”

“Are you done? ”

Jasper interrupted Jeff’s maddening shouts coldly.

Jeff immediately glared at Jasper and chuckled wretchedly, “Who are you to talk here, stupid f*cker?”

“You’re right, I am an outsider.”

Jasper did not seem to care about what Jeff said as he continued on his own.

Indeed, people like Jeff were nothing more than an ant in comparison to Jasper’s current self.

No matter how sensitive or petty a person was, they would not care about an ant boasting in front of them. Thus, Jasper was completely unfazed and calm in the face with Jeff’s venomous words.

However, what truly chilled Jasper to the core was Jeff’s attitude toward his mother, Ms. Tiana.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1250

Everyone had parents. Jasper thought of his own and could not help but ask Jeff a question.

“But I have parents too. So, I’m really curious just what kind of b*stard child you have to be in order to say something like that to your mom.”

Jeff’s expression darkened at Jasper’s questioning.

The man’s words had touched the little shred of dignity he still had in him, and it made him feel mortified.

“As an outsider, I really didn’t plan on interfering in your family issue, but there’s something I have to tell you since it’s the foundation you’re targeting.”

Jasper looked at Jeff and chuckled.

“The money in the foundation you have your eyes on belongs to me. It’s my investment that your mother’s managing, and she does not have the right to use this money as she wishes. Every single cent taken from this foundation has to undergo a professional review before it can be transferred.”

“Of course, telling a rascal all this is pointless because people like you will never understand the management of a foundation’s funds.

“All you know is probably the insignificant amount before your eyes that you equated with your mom’s hard work.”

As that moment, Jeff was too shocked to even get upset at the disdain in Jasper’s tone.

He felt his blood vessels were about to burst.

Jeff was only so aggressive to his mother because he came to know that she was managing a total investment of 10 million worth of funds.

As far as Jeff was concerned, an amount of 10 million was pretty much beyond his imagination.

He did not think there was a problem in taking a small amount out of this mountain of funds.

However, he had never expected this investment to belong to Jasper.

‘Doesn’t this mean that the poor boy Mom brought home to feed every day before is already the owner of a huge business and has at least 10 million worth of assets?’

Jeff shuddered as if electrocuted when he thought of this.

“Bullsh*t! You haven’t even seen so much f*cking money in your life before! You think you’d get to pull out that much money so easily?”

Jeff said in disbelief.

Jasper shook his head and replied calmly, “Whether you believe me or not doesn’t matter. Why do I have to prove it to you?”

“All you need to know is that I speak the truth, and your mom’s right not to give you any money. That’s all.”

Then, Jasper shouted at the door.

“Jul.”

“Right here!”

Julian, who had been waiting outside the room door, was immediately energized as he pushed open the door to respond courteously.

“Have this rascal kneel at the door.”

Julian immediately entered the room upon hearing Jasper’s instruction.

At the end of the day, Julian was a human too and still held human emotions. Therefore, he had nothing but distaste for the rascal Jeff who scolded and swore at his own mother.

“What, what are you doing?”

Jeff shouted in fright. His physique was not that bad, so he had planned to struggle and fight back. Unfortunately, not even 100 Jeffs were a match for one Julian.

More than ten seconds later, Jeff screamed pitifully as Julian forced him to kneel at the door.

After having all four of his limbs dislocated by Julian, Jeff wailed tragically.

“He’s hitting me! I’m getting beaten up! Is there no sense of order around here?! How dare you beat me up in broad daylight!

“Mom! Are you just going to watch me get beaten up?”

The man had just finished speaking when the hospital room opened again to reveal Mr. Knowles and a group of professionals.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1251

“Huh?!”

This was the first reaction of the group of professionals collectively, including Mr. Knowles, when they took in the scene in the hospital room.

It was rare to see someone kneeling to another considering the current time and age. It was a curious and eye catching sight to see an adult male kneeling at the door of a patient's room.

Something flickered in Jeff's eyes when he saw the large group of people enter the room.

“Quick! Someone help me! I'm getting beaten up and harmed in broad daylight!”

“Doctor, doctors! Don't treat my mother's illness, the money she's paying you is something she stole from a charity foundation! It's not her money! You people will be in trouble if investigation traces back to you!”

Everyone was shocked when they heard him.

Ms. Tiana sighed deeply and closed her eyes before she leaned back into the hospital bed. She really did not want to look at Jeff anymore.

At this moment, the forgiving and generous teacher that treated all her students like her own children had completely lost hope in her son.

Mr. Knowles and the other doctors were all looking at Jeff as if the latter were a madman.

Ignoring the fact that Jasper was the one who personally arranged Ms. Tiana's hospitalization and there was no need to worry about him not paying the fees, Mr. Knowles and the other doctor would happily treat Ms. Tiana for free even if Jasper refused to pay.

Money was a non- issue here. What was more important was being in favor of someone as powerful as Jasper.

Not to mention how impossible it was for Jasper to refuse to pay.

Plus, the person lying in bed was Jeff's mother. How could he request doctors not to treat her?

Mr. Knowles shook his head and gave Jeff one last disdainful glance. Then he walked around Jeff as if he smelled horrible and entered the patient's room.

Jeff thought his important statement would attract the doctor's and hospital's attention, so he was stunned by their reaction or lack thereof.

"What's wrong with you people? I already told you that my mom's money is from a questionable source! Didn't you hear me?"

A professional who happened to be walking past Jeff glared at him and said unkindly, "You still have the gall to call her your mom? It's a misfortune for her to have a son like you."

"Mr. Laine had personally arranged for her hospitalization, payment isn't an issue at all. The man in front is the president of our Mid Mount Hospital and we're all specialists in our fields. Mr. Laine was the one who asked all of us over."

"Plus, even if the patient can't afford medication, there's still no way us doctors could just watch as a patient dies before our eyes, okay? Their health is our first priority."

“I really don’t know what I should say about you.”

‘Mr. Laine!’

Jeff acutely caught on to this title.

Coupled with being told that Mid Mount Hospital’s president came over personally, Jeff was completely dumbfounded.

Jeff looked at Jasper again instinctively. This time, there was no more disdain in his eyes, replacing it was a deeply instilled fear.

In his narrow minded vision, Jeff could not even imagine how powerful a man’s status had to be in order to request for the personal attendance of the president from such a prestigious hospital like Mid Mount.

This was already beyond his understanding.

Jasper nodded slightly when he heard this professional’s words.

Whether this professional had purposefully said such a thing so Jasper could hear him, the latter was inclined to believe that the professional was an ethical doctor.

After all, people like Mr. Wheatley were a minority.

“Mr. Laine.” Mr. Knowles greeted Jasper promptly once he entered the room.

Jasper smiled and reached out his hand to say, “Apologies for the scene, Mr. Knowles.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1252

Mr. Knowles immediately smiled and replied, “You’re too kind.”

Jeff felt extremely uncomfortable as he saw this hospital’s president, a man who was already of extremely high status in his understanding, behave humbly in front of Jasper.

After what he saw and heard with his own eyes and ears, Jeff had to admit that he was blind and looked down on the wrong person.

“Mr. Laine, I’ve gathered the best specialists from Cardiovascular Surgery, Neurology, Thoracic Surgery, and other fields to come up with a treatment plan and we’d like to discuss it with the old madam herself before we implement it.”

Jasper nodded at the man's words and replied, "Sure. I only have one request, and that's to ensure her safety and health, and treat her as quickly as possible."

The professional that chided Jeff smiled and replied, "Don't worry, Mr. Laine. We might not dare to promise everything, but there shouldn't be any issues working together to perform surgery."

"Not to mention that the patient's situation isn't too severe either. We can start preparing for the surgery today, for example, the infusion and the fasting. If we're fast, we should be able to perform surgery the day after tomorrow."

"Then depending on the patient's personal recovery situation, ideally, she should be able to be discharged within the week."

Ms. Tiana finally brightened up when she heard this and replied gratefully, "Thankyou, doctors, thank you."

These professionals have heard countless similar thanks before.

They were long used to the thanks of patients and their families since they received many after treating a patient.

The specialists shared a look and a smile, before collectively swallowing down the words, 'You should thank Mr. Laine the most.'

After Mr. Knowles and the other professionals asked Ms. Tiana some detailed personal questions, they left to prepare a more in depth surgery plan.

Jasper did not understand the specifics, so naturally, the man would not speak out of line. After the group left, Jasper then looked at Jeff who was still kneeling on the floor despondently.

"What are you still doing here? Go."

Jeff shivered when he heard Jasper.

His mind had already caught up with what happened in the short amount of time the professionals were here.

He had accepted the reality of the situation. Once he understood what kind of situation he was in, Jeff who was filled with utter remorse was in agony.

'Jasper's current status and identity allowed him to simply invest 10 million for Mom to establish a charity foundation.'

‘As my mom’s son, wouldn’t it be easy to gain benefits from Jasper?’

‘But there’s no chance for that anymore.’

Filled with regret, Jeff’s eyes reddened.

He knelt on the floor and sobbed to Jasper, unable to do anything else due to his disjointed limbs. “Jasper, ah, no, Mr. Laine! Oh, Mr. Laine!”

“I did go overboard this time, you’re right! I am a b*stard son!”

“An absolute rogue who deserves to die!”

“I shouldn’t have treated my mom like that! I’m sorry! I really am! Please just give me another chance! I’m begging you please!”

Jasper’s expression turned playful as he looked at Jeff, sobbing in regret.

“You keep saying you’re sorry to your mom, but why are you begging and apologizing to me?”

Hope reignited in Jeff’s gaze and he turned to Ms. Tiana on the hospital bed, knocking his head against the floor vigorously.

“I’m sorry, Mom! Please forgive me!”

“I’m still your only son! Please forgive me for this once! I’m really sorry!”

“I promise I’ll be filial from now on and I won’t anger you again! Mom, you need someone to take care of you now, don’t you? Let me stay and do that! Ava too, I’ll bring Ava over so she can take care of you as well.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1253

Jasper smiled but did not say anything when he took in Jeff’s behavior.

This was Ms. Tiana’s familial matter, after all, and he did not want to say anything to interfere with her decision.

The truth remained that Ms. Tiana was still too soft hearted.

Or perhaps, this was still her son, her own flesh and blood.

Jeff might be heartless, but Ms. Tiana could not bring herself to do so.

“Don’t kneel anymore.”

Ms. Tiana sighed softly and said tiredly.

Jeff was elated and he quickly shouted, “You forgive me, mom?”

Ms. Tiana waved him off. “Just get up first. Go home. I’m doing fine here and I don’t need anyone to be at my beck and call.”

Jeff wanted to get up, but his dislocated limbs caused him to fall flat onto the ground with a thud.

Jasper glanced at Julian to cue him.

Julian walked over and reset Jeff’s limbs while the man wailed.

“Mom. Thank you, thank you so much.”

Jeff ran over and pounced at the side of the bed once he got up and took Ms. Tiana’s hand to thank her.

“But mom, Ava, and I don’t have a cent to our name anymore. We also don’t have a job so we were wondering if Mr. Laine could help us with that?”

Ms. Tiana’s expression changed once she heard Jeff. Jeff quickly spoke in response, “Just several ten thousand is good enough. Once Ava and I repay our debts, we’ll get a good job so we can support your retirement.”

“You even owe people money?!” Ms. Tiana exclaimed in shock

Jeff replied regretfully, “Mom you know how we have a lot of expenses to pay. That’s why we went to borrow several ten thousand bucks from someone.”

“I’ll pay that for you.”

Jasper pulled out a 50 thousand Somer Dollar check from his breast pocket and tossed it before Jeff.

Jasper pretended not to see the glee and pride in the other's expression and continued, "Don't worry, Ms. Tiana. I'll arrange a job for them too."

Ms. Tiana felt uneasy and quickly replied, "I've already troubled you too much, Jasper. Plus, it's not worth it helping this rascal."

Jasper smiled and shook his head to reply, "Don't worry too much, Ms. Tiana. It's still not too late for them to reflect and become a better person from now on."

Ms. Tiana saw Jasper's determination and sighed. "I owe you even more now."

Jasper smiled. "The me right now wouldn't exist if not for you back then. I'm just repaying the kindness you showed me."

"Plus, I also hope that you'd get better soon so you can continue managing the foundation. Without you, the foundation's development has to be put on hold."

Ms. Tiana smiled brightly and replied, "Alright. I'll make sure to recover as quickly as possible."

Ms. Tiana then turned to Jeff and said, "Quickly go back and return the money you owe people. Try not to look for me if possible. Live your own lives, I don't want to be disturbed by your family either."

He had both money and a job.

Jeff did not care about what Ms. Tiana thought anymore.

"Alright," Jeff replied casually then turned to Jasper and bowed.

"Thank you, Mr. Laine."

As far as he was concerned, Jasper was the formidable figure he needed to gain the favor of. Only by flattering the man could he blatantly continue to ask for money and benefits.

"It's no big deal. Go back first," Jasper replied calmly. Jeff left elatedly.

Jeff had just left when Jasper told Ms. Tiana, "Stay here and get your treatment, Ms. Tiana. I'll send someone to fetch you back once you've recovered. Don't worry about anything else. No matter how important something is, your own health should still take precedence."

“Alright, I know.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1254

Ms. Tiana’s wise gaze seemed to have seen through something when she looked at Jasper but she did not say anything.

Instead, she nodded and smiled gently as patted Jasper’s hand. “If you’re busy, Jasper, then go get to work first. I’ll be fine here.”

“And do what you want to do. I’ve lived quite a long life and I know what’s real and what’s just an act.”

Jasper was stunned for a moment before he nodded and responded, “Then rest well, Ms. Tiana.”

Jasper walked out of the hospital room and spoke to Julian calmly, “Jul.”

“Go run after Jeff and get the money back. Then tell him to run as far as he can. Warn him not to come and disturb Ms. Tiana again. I’ll tell the hospital too not to allow Jeff to visit”

“Alright!”

Julian immediately turned to carry out the instruction. Jasper shook his head as he stared at Julian’s back.

Jeff was too naive.

Jasper had initially planned to pretend in front of Ms. Tiana so that she would move on from Jeff and recover properly from treatment.

However, Ms. Tiana had lived for decades and she could see through his intentions.

Her heart had gone completely cold and that was why she cooperated with his play.

Jasper was reassured by this.

He had nothing to worry about as long as Ms. Tiana was not affected.

People like Jeff can keep dreaming if he thought he could take Jasper's money and rely on Jasper to get a job!

Half an hour later, Julian returned to Jasper's side casually.

"I got it back, Jasper."

Julian said with a smile as he passed the check written less than an hour ago to Jasper.

Jasper waved and did not take the check.

"Keep it."

Julian did not insist. After being by Jasper's side for so long, he knew that Jasper was generous enough not to care about something so insignificant. It was not out of charity or reputation that Jasper gave him money, but more out of convenience.

Julian put the money in his breast pocket and asked, "Are we going back now, Jasper?"

“We’re done with everything here, so we can return directly.”

Jasper exhaled softly and chuckled as he pulled open the car door. “It’s Wendy’s birthday tomorrow. She thinks I’ll forget just because she didn’t tell me.”

“She’d nag me for the next few decades if I really forgot about her birthday.”

“Hmph. As if I’d let her catch on to such a fatal weakness.”

“Let’s go, straight back to the Southeast Province. Return quietly and try not to alert anyone. I’ll go decorate a bit first and give her a huge surprise tomorrow night.”

Julian got into the driver’s seat and started the Bentley’s engine. As he pulled on his seatbelt, he chuckled and said, “Jasper, Mr. Law had me remind you before he left that Miss Anna’s birthday is next week. She’s been staying overseas for a long time and she’s hoping to meet you again.”

Jasper’s expression darkened and knocked on the back of Julian’s head. “Drive the car and shut up!”

Julian drove with an evil chuckle but did not say another word.

While Jasper rubbed his temples frustratedly.

Wendy's and Anna's birthdays were just one month apart. This was something too important for him to forget.

However, according to the timing, next month should be the most crucial time of his plan. His head hurt at the thought.

Thank goodness that this headache could still be solved. Jasper might truly go crazy if both their birthdays were on the same day.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1255

It was fortunate that Waterhoof City was not too far from the Southeast Province. Still, since they left overnight, it was already two am. the next day when Jasper arrived at Nauritus City.

Jasper did not return to the villa or his own home since he wanted to prepare a surprise, instead, the man decided to check in and rest at a hotel until morning came.

The sky brightened and with the rising of the morning sun, the city awoke as well.

The streets began to bustle and steam from breakfast restaurants joined the cacophony of cars and birds whistling. Everyone could feel how Nauritus City was flourishing with every day.

On both banks of the Southface River, white collar elites appeared in various commercial buildings.

Some were on the phone and some held coffees or laptops in their hands as they began a new day of work. It was time to clock in and in JW Capital's office in Southface River Tower, people all got back to work. Wendy sat in her CFO's office and frowned as she stared at the report in her hand.

She did not say a thing, but the middle ranked manager who stood beside her table was too terrified to take a deeper breath.

With the expansion of JW Capital and its growing business, Wendy's prestige also began to grow.

Not only was Wendy in charge of all of JW Capital and its subsidiaries' finances, but she was also the female owner of JW. Excluding the owner, Jasper, who rarely appeared in the office, everyone in the company feared Wendy.

The lone fact that the company's second highest ranked officer, COO Malcolm Malibu, had also been subjected to a harsh reprimanding from Wendy due to a mistake in the operating funds.

The most audacious part of this incident was that Wendy was half a rank lower than Malcolm.

However, thinking back to how this female owner had also rejected the owner Jasper's suggestion over a financial expense, this manager suddenly realized that Malcolm, this foreigner's incident was not too big of a deal.

The middle ranked manager peeked at Wendy who was currently going through the document and suddenly felt regretful.

He should not have sought Ms. Schuler out to review his document today.

According to a few colleagues, Ms. Schuler seemed to be in a bad mood these days.

"Not too bad."

Wendy finally closed the document sometime later and commented.

The manager let out a deep sigh of relief at those three words. Happiness and gratefulness for fate engulfed him.

'Thank goodness, I did put enough effort into this document...'

"But the expenses on Article four, section three and Article five, section two are unnecessary."

What Wendy said next had the manager's heart lurching to his throat.

"About this, Ms. Schuler. These two sections are budgets for increased staff and allocation cars to employees of and above middle ranked deputy managers. Both these budgets were suggested by Mr. Laine before..."

"So what if it's Mr. Laine?!"

Wendy stared at the manager emotionlessly at the mention of Jasper.

The pitiful manager felt his butt squeeze and was about to pee himself in fright.

'Ms. Schuler's gaze reminds me of the one my wife would give when we're fighting and refusing to talk to each other.'

'Did Mr. Laine and Ms. Schuler get into a fight?!'

This thought had cold sweat trickling over the manager's skin.

'What the f*ck. I know this company belongs to you two and you can do whatever you want, but why is insignificant little me suffering when you two are fighting?'

"So what if Mr. Laine suggested it? I won't approve of unrealistic and inappropriate suggestions. Do you know what the situation is now?"

"The company is broke, we need more money!"

"I can approve of the budget for more staff, but allocating cars to anyone of and above the deputy manager position is easily an expense of millions of Somer Dollars! It's completely unnecessary!"

"The company's still in its start-up stages and it's got a long way before we can start being ostentatious. What on earth is Jasper thinking? I'll talk to him about this later. Get rid of that section and add a new section with a proposal to increase the standard of reimbursement for business travel."

"Alright, that's all I have. Revise the report and hand it over for approval on three days."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1256

Wendy then told the man to leave after she finished speaking.

The little manager did not dare protest. Facing the female owner of the business that had revoked the owner's orders, the little manager took the document and ran out immediately.

Wendy tossed the gilded pen in her hand angrily after the manager left, and she crossed her arms huffing where she sat on her office chair.

Wendy subconsciously glanced at her phone and felt even angrier at the lack of activity.

Today was her birthday and it seemed like this man had completely forgotten about it.

'B*stard! How can you forget something so important!'

Wendy felt it was unfair. Deep in thought, Wendy took her phone sub consciously, as if driven by some deity, and dialed a number.

The last time she talked to Jasper was about Ms. Tiana. She did not have the time to talk about her own issue and she still held hope that Jasper would 'realize' on his own. From how things looked now, the man seemed like a hopeless case.

"Where are you?"

Wendy asked directly after the call connected.

"Still working. I've already dealt with Ms. Tiana's situation, what's wrong?"

Jasper's voice drifted over through the phone.

Wendy clenched her jaw silently and said tensely, "Were you the one who suggested allocating cars for everyone of and above deputy manager?"

Jasper seemed to be stunned by what he heard.

He did not remember such small matters.

“It rings a few bells I think...”

“It’s a waste of money so I revoked it. We can reconsider it when we’re not as tight on cash,” Wendy harrumphed but explained herself anyway.

Jasper smiled. “That’s alright. Our funding issue should be solved after the month.”

“When are you coming back?” Wendy asked casually.

“In another two days, I think. I still have a bit of work to do,” Jasper sounded slightly apologetic.

“Alright, then, there’s quite a bit of work at the company as well. But do come back soon. As I said, there’s quite the accumulated workload for you at the office,” Wendy replied, suppressing her unhappiness.

“I Will...”

Wendy tossed her phone away after ending the call.

Wendy tossed her phone away after ending the call.

As if they had just fought, Wendy could not help but think that she could have handled the situation better. Wendy felt that she was too nice to Jasper, to the point where the man would forget her birthday.

Yet she could not state it outright either.

She was concerned about how busy Jasper was, but she also did not tell him directly because the more girly part of her wanted him to remember it himself.

Yet... this rascal!

Wendy grabbed the office landline frustratedly and connected a call with her secretary.

“Jenn, inform our colleagues of the department to get ready for a meeting in half an hour. We’ll do the fourth quarter financial review in advance!”

Turning her frustration into motivation, Wendy began to pressure her subordinates.

In the other end of Nauritus City, Jasper sent away a few people in charge of the venue he needed for the surprise tonight with a crescent eyed smile. He stretched and suddenly laughed out loud.

He certainly could hear the despondence in Wendy's voice. Used to Wendy's gentleness and meekness, Jasper suddenly found that he quite enjoyed pranking her from time to time.

"Oh, Wendy. How could I possibly forget something so important? It's because it's important that I keep this a secret."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1257

Time passed before she knew it as Wendy began to busy herself with work.

It was only when the night lights lit up, the lamps under the office switched on, and the sound of colleagues walking out the corridor that Wendy realized it was time to clock off.

Wendy rubbed her sore neck exhaustedly. She was about to turn her computer off when she received a call from her father.

"Are you still at the office, Wendy?"

Dawson's gentle voice put a smile on Wendy's face. "Yeah. I'm about to clock out. Why, is there something wrong, Dad?"

Dawson laughed out loud. "It's your birthday today. Why, are you so busy..? You forgot?"

Wendy felt her heart warm.

Indeed, all men were trash and could not be relied upon. The only man who could was one's own father.

"Did you get me a gift, Dad?" Wendy asked happily.

"Haha. I was thinking I'd treat you to dinner today. Since it's been a long time we've eaten together."

Wendy felt slightly confused about Dawson's suggestion.

'Dad's always been the one who cooked when we celebrated my birthday before.

'So why's it different this time?'

Still, Wendy did not think too much of it and agreed immediately.

"Sure. Where are we eating?"

Dawson replied, "Come to the North Bank. There's a new restaurant with Fac cuisine that opened recently. I heard a few business friends say the food and view are great. I'll wait for you here."

"Is it the New Garden House? I heard of it too and they've made quite the reputation for themselves, but I never had to time to try."

"Yup, right there. They have a balcony of the river view and it's right above the bank of Southface River. It's pretty nice that you get to see the bustling nightlife of South Bank and the river. I'll be waiting for you here."

"I'll be right there!"

After ending the call, Dawson then called Jasper from Schuler Group's office happily.

“You little brat. I can’t believe you asked me to cooperate with you and prank my own daughter,” Dawson chided smilingly.

“Sigh. The lengths I go to make your daughter happy,” Jasper joked with a laugh.

“Alright. I’ve already done my part so what’s next will be up to you,” Dawson replied.

Jasper asked, “Do you want to eat with us, Uncle Schuler?”

Dawson replied with a huff, “At least be sincere if you’re going to treat me to dinner. An old man like me will only disturb you two, you two have fun.”

“Haha, alright. I’ll bring Wendy home for dinner tomorrow,” Jasper said with a smile.

Dawson chuckled and ended the call.

Wendy took her purse and left the office happily.

Even if the man had forgotten her birthday, Wendy still decided to forgive him for now and only teach him a lesson when he returned.

Wendy drove over the Southface River Bridge and arrived at the North Bank. In less than twenty minutes, Wendy had already arrived at the New Garden House that was lately hugely popular in Nauritus City.

Since JW Real Estate had successfully developed the South Bank of Southface River, the North Bank's development had also begun.

However, due to the topography of the land, there was no way the North Bank could become another commercial district. Not to mention that there was already a South Bank that fulfilled the developmental needs of Nauritus City for the next few decades, the North Bank was more suited for the service sector of the economy like food, beverages, and entertainment

like businesses.

Thus came the appearance of New Garden House.

However, New Garden House seemed desolate today when it was supposed to be bustling with business. There were no cars in the parking lot at all and Wendy was confused by what she saw.

“Isn’t business here doing great? Why isn’t there anyone at all?”

Wendy frowned and walked into New Garden House puzzled.

She had just walked into the vintage dining hall when she saw two neat rows of professionally dressed servers, in white suits, black pants, and white gloves, greet Wendy courteously.

“Welcome, Miss Schuler.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1258

Shing.

Wendy’s eyes lit up.

It explained why New Garden House’s reputation was as good as it was. Even if you ignore how their food tasted, their service was already much better than other restaurants.

“Hello...”

Wendy nodded with a smile and walked toward the open air balcony her father Dawson talked about amidst the servers' shocked gazes.

Wendy was used to such looks because her beauty had always attracted the gazes of men and women alike.

'What a shame that the rascal did not know to cherish it!'

Wendy pushed open the door on the second floor and was stunned by the gaze before her eyes.

The sizeable open-air balcony was decorated and filled with petals.

The entire ground was filled with her favorite flower lilies.

There were pink, white, and green petals and various kinds of lilies bloomed beautifully all around. Not even the light river breeze could disperse the subtle scent of lilies in the air.

Among the sea of lily petals left one small path that led to the middle table in the open air balcony.

On the round table was one opened bottle of red wine, a few small dishes, and a covered candlestick so the flame would not be extinguished by the breeze.

A candlelit dinner.

The slight glow shone on the back of a young man, currently staring at the South Bank of the Southface River and against the door.

As if feeling something, the man turned around and smiled at Wendy.

Wendy swore that at this moment, the girliness within her had exploded.

Every girl had once wished for their prince charming to surprise themselves on their birthday.

Tonight's sea of petals and candlelit dinner had completely surprised her.

"You, I... I thought you had things to deal with in Waterhoof City?!"

Excited and surprised, Wendy stuttered as she asked.

Jasper chuckled and crossed the sea of petals to the small path. He took her hand and pulled her directly to the balcony railings.

“There’s nothing more important than the birth of my treasure twenty- three years ago today,” Jasper whispered by Wendy’s ear.

The chilly river breeze coupled with the subtle scent of flowers and the man’s warm breath by her ear felt like a dream to Wendy.

“But...”

Wendy wanted to say more, but she had only uttered one word when Jasper stopped her with a finger on her lips.

Under the glow of the candle, Jasper’s youthful and defined side profile held an indescribable tinge of mysteriousness and manly charm.

The finger over Wendy’s lips pointed at the sky above the South Bank and Jasper’s eyes resembled the brightest star in the night sky.

“Don’t say anything and look over there.”

‘This sea of flowers and candlelight dinner isn’t all? There’s more?’

Wendy turned over, suppressing her excitement, and proceeded to see a view she would never forget in her entire lifetime.

At this moment, two kilometers around the South Bank of the Southface River, huge fireworks were shot into the sky every 100 meters apart.

Bang bang bang.

The explosion of fireworks woke half of Nauritus City. The colorful shimmers were akin to God’s miracles on earth, and bursts of fireworks continued to unfurl in the sky above the Southface River.

This was a dreamy and heart stopping view.

Countless citizens of Nauritus City looked up in awe and they watched the following scene with Wendy.

Neon lights lit up at the same time on a total of 21 buildings above 10 stories across kilometers of the commercial area in the South Bank of Southface River. Thousands of neon lights cooperated to form one sentence.

“Happy Birthday, Wendy Schuler! ”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1259

Despite the various methods widely used in the year 2020, there was no more exciting or more shriek provoking method to show love than to write your lover’s name with neon lights on the city’s buildings.

There was also buying all the taxis in the city and using the advertising panel above to show their love.

These methods could easily feed every woman’s girly heart or materialistic desire.

However, it was rare for anyone to go as far as Jasper did tonight.

This was because his plan required all the buildings in the entire business district of a city to cooperate with him. Jasper needed more than just money to show his love through neon lights.

All buildings above ten stories were decorated with neon lights across the entire Southface River's South Bank, stretching across several kilometers.

Thanks to precise calculations and control, every neon lightbulb had contributed to a part of the sentence. This wish had stretched across the most flourishing place of Naurituc City.

At this moment, this grand sight had the entire city becoming a background in Jasper's control, one that only emphasized how special Wendy was.

Countless ladies must be screaming while young men smiled wryly at the sight.

On the North Bank, Wendy felt her heart melt at the awe striking sight before her eyes.

No woman could possibly defend herself against such a sight.

Let alone when the man behind all this was someone she had already decided to be with forever.

Wendy put her hand over her mouth and her throat felt like it had been blocked off by something.

She turned to look at Jasper. There were a thousand things she wanted to say but nothing came out of her mouth.

“Dumbfounded?”

Jasper chuckled and reached out to hug the beauty in his arms adoringly.

“Thank you, for staying by my side. For supporting me and helping me without asking for repayment.”

Jasper was never someone who took other’s kindness for granted.

He might never have confessed to Wendy officially, nor did the two ever had a strict conversation involving similar words like ‘Be my girlfriend’.

However, what they meant to each other was mutual recognized through their tacit understanding to stay by each other’s side each day.

More than each other, but it was recognized by both their families as well.

It was just that Jasper kept to himself when it came to relationships. The man believed that instead of confessing how much you liked or loved a person, it was more realistic to show his feelings and being by her side instead, Jasper had always trusted Wendy the most.

Be it out of business or personal feelings, he would trust Wendy without holding back.

While Wendy had always been putting in the effort by his side to help him, and she had never asked for any repayment.

With Jasper present, she would stay by his side quietly as a kind partner.

If Jasper was absent, then she would take up Jasper's responsibilities and work in the office and help him take care of the business.

A long term relationship required more than mutual affection. More importantly, both parties had to be each other's support and shoulder to lean on.

Wendy did not say anything when she heard Jasper. Instead, she quietly buried her face into Jasper's chest and reached out to hug him back.

"I thought you forgot."

Wendy finally said unjustly after a long while.

“I would never.”

Now that Wendy’s emotions calmed down, Jasper pulled her to the chair and sat opposite her. Then he raised his hand to pour Wendy a cup of red wine.

“Today’s an important day and I’ve planned a long time for this. Everything else, no matter how important, will be postponed.”

It did not cost Jasper anything to say sweet things, and considering the setting, the man would say whatever was sweetest.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1260

As expected, Wendy was very pleased with Jasper’s performance... In truth, Wendy was already extremely content with today’s sea of petals, firework show, and neon light confession.

Most importantly, Jasper had returned and he did not forget what day it was today.

This was what mattered to Wendy the most.

“You didn’t need to put so much effort into this. I’m happy enough that you’re back,” Wendy said softly.

Jasper chuckled and replied, “There’s no such thing as too much effort. Anything to make you happy.”

“I am happy... but won’t this hold you back from work?”

Most women were like this. If you were too busy with work to take care of her feelings, then she would be unhappy. However, once you put effort to make her happy, she would then worry that she was holding you back from work.

Of course, the basis of this was that this woman was willing to spend the rest of her life with you. Or she would not care about that at all.

“Tonight’s about us. Let’s not talk about business,” Jasper waved her off and said.

“What nonsense is that!” Wendy’s meekness and grace had her flailing at Jasper’s straightforwardness.

“I can’t believe my dad worked with you to lie to me. There’s no way I’d let him go so easily...”

Still, Jasper's delicately planned celebration was a complete success.

The two did not return to the villa that night. After dinner, they decided to stroll by the riverbank.

It was as Jasper had said before. Tonight was about them, not business.

After strolling, Jasper then brought Wendy to watch a late night film in a cinema. It was already early morning when the movie was over.

While the two had long started living together, they had never gone all the way.

No man would ever let go of such a great opportunity. So Jasper directly brought Wendy to his home in Nauritus City and did the last step according to plan.

The next day, Jasper arrived at the office refreshed and alone. While Wendy caught up on lost sleep at home.

This was strictly Wendy's first time but Jasper was an experienced man in this field. He had only let her rest once the sky was starting to brighten and she had suffered quite a bit as a result.

So Mr. Laine decided to be generous and let his partner rest for the day.

“Hello, Mr. Laine.”

“Good morning, Mr. Laine.”

In a great mood, Jasper greeted everyone back with a smile and nod.

As the company flourished, personnel also began to grow. Jasper spent most of his time away outside of the office, he did not recognize most of his new employees. However, this did not prevent the employees from recognizing Jasper through pictures.

Not to mention that Jasper’s move last night had shocked the entire Nauritus City. Others might not know the mastermind behind the neon lights and fireworks, but JW Capital’s employees knew very well.

Excluding their owner, no one else in Nauritus City would go to such lengths to profess their love for Wendy.

The first thing Jasper did once returning to the office, was seek Malcolm and the rest out to talk about the company’s latest situation.

While Jasper did not spend his time at the office, most important incidents were still reported to him through phone or video calls. So Jasper had always had good control over JW Capital's development. This talk with Malcolm and the rest were mainly for formalities' sake.

Then, Jasper returned to his office to personally deal with the accumulated documents required.

It was almost noon and Jasper still had more than half of the original pile of documents left unread. The man rubbed his sore eyes and decided to eat lunch first before he continued later

He had just put his pen down when Chad, the company's Director of Human Resources rushed into the office.

"Something's happened, Mr. Laine. Six of the company's deputy managers suddenly collectively resigned."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1261

No matter when or how big an organization was, personnel was always a major issue.

This organization could be a company, government or a non government organization.

Among various employment issues, the most severe act of protest by the lower ranks against their superiors would be collectively resigning.

Huge trouble would arise if this incident got out of hand.

Therefore, Jasper immediately frowned when he heard Chad's report.

"What happened?"

Various middle-ranked deputy managers would not collectively resign unless something huge had happened.

Under Jasper's insistence, JW Company as well as its branches' currently provided the most significant employee benefits as compared to the other businesses in its industry. Many people made getting brought into any of JW's subsidiaries their career goal, let alone JW capital, which was the parent company.

This was due to the fact that JW gave a salary 30% higher than their competitors for the exact same position and role. JW's employee benefits also included things that had yet to become the norm in this time and age, such as insurance and paid leave.

Therefore, there was much to wonder about when a group of employees collectively resigned despite these benefits.

Chad chuckled wryly and replied, "It's because Ms. Schuler rejected the proposal to allocate cars to the deputy managers yesterday.

"Since this was a proposal you personally suggested, many people knew about it, so everyone was anticipating its execution. But word got out yesterday that Ms. Schuler rejected the proposal. A lot of people were upset about this and they're throwing a fit.

"I knew that there were a few employees conspiring yesterday, but I didn't think too much of it then.

"However, six deputy managers of various departments gathered at my office to hand in their resignation at noon just half an hour ago. From what I know, there are more considering doing the same."

Chad then told Jasper seriously, "Mr. Laine, this is the first personnel issue our investment company has faced since its establishment. There's already been quite a bit of an uproar and I'm afraid that we'd face a bad response if we don't deal with this well."

Jasper felt slightly confused after hearing Chad's report.

'Have I lost my prestige or are these b*stards getting too arrogant?'

'Resigning just because I'm not allocating cars for you?'

Jasper chuckled intriguingly and asked, "Where are the people who handed in their resignation?"

"They're still in my office," Chad replied embarrassedly.

As Director of Human Resources, any issue regarding personnel would always be under Chad's jurisdiction. The fact that the situation had grown beyond his control and required Jasper's help to solve it was, to some extent, a sign of his incompetence.

However, Jasper waved his hand and did not blame Chad.

This issue did not reflect too badly on Chad, it was just poor management at most.

Not to mention that even if Chad was at fault, the most important thing now was to deal with the collective resignation rather than punishing Chad.

“Let’s go, then. They’re waiting for me to go over too. Let’s not make these important men wait too long.”

Jasper scoffed as he got up and strolled out with his head held high. He opened the office door and walked out.

Chad shivered inexplicably when he heard Jasper as he

looked at the man who was suppressing his anger.

Chad shivered inexplicably when he heard Jasper as he looked at the man who was suppressing his anger.

He had a feeling that this incident would involve a widespread network of people.

More than half of Southface River Tower was occupied by JW Capital’s office.

The Department of Human Resources was an important entity within the company, which led to the department occupying an entire floor of the building. Naturally, they also had their own specialized meeting room.

At this moment, despite it being lunch break, almost no one had left the department office.

Each of them sat by their own workstations as they stared at the silent meeting room not too far away and discussed quietly amongst themselves.

As employees of the human resources department, they had immediately learned about the six deputy managers that resigned at the same time.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1262

Among them was another deputy manager, the one from the human resources department in charge of employee appraisal and performance evaluation.

Just as everyone was busy wondering about how the situation would develop, Jasper appeared at the elevator doors with Chad following behind him.

“Mr. Laine!”

“Hello, Mr. Laine!”

The employees stood up and greeted him instinctively. Jasper nodded slightly and said, “Thank you for all your hard work. It’s break time, so those who haven’t eaten or need to test should go ahead.”

Jasper then pushed open the door to the meeting room.

Chad glared at his subordinates and said unkindly, “What are you all looking at? Get back to work!”

Then, he rushed to follow Jasper into the meeting room. With a click, the meeting room doors closed.

The employees exchanged a look. They did not know if they should have listened to Mr. Laine telling them to eat and rest, or if they should have listened to their immediately superior and get back to work.

Only a few braver employees decided to slink over and eavesdrop by the meeting room doors.

Jasper stood at the front of the meeting room with a calm look on his face.

He did not say anything. The man already oozed absolute strength just by standing in place.

As the founder and owner of JW Capital and its subsidiaries, Jasper's prestige was undeniable.

The deputy managers sat quietly in the meeting room, with three on each side of the table. There were six of them in total, both men and women. Most of them were familiar faces that Jasper recognized.

This meant that these six were old staff that had been in the company since the early stages of JW Capital.

For some unknown reason, these six angry employees began to feel guilty when Jasper entered the room. Some of them did not even dare to look Jasper in the eye.

"What's this? Too afraid to look at me?" Jasper chuckled and broke the silence before sitting down.

The conference room was pin drop silent as everyone stared at the tabletop before them as if it were some valuable treasure.

“Didn’t you guys want to resign?” Jasper continued indifferently.

“Just because the company didn’t allocate cars to you? That’s why you want to resign?”

Still, no one dared to meet Jasper’s gaze.

Jasper took the folder from Chad’s hand next to him, which contained the six resignation letters.

With a loud ‘bang’, Jasper slammed the folder on the meeting room table.

The few deputy managers shuddered at this loud bang.

“Chad, immediately approve these six’s resignations. If anyone continues to hand in their resignation, then approve every single application that they hand in. Everyone that resigns today will be given special treatment!”

“Applications handed in today will be approved and their salary calculated and adjusted, so that they can leave today!”

“My JW Company will never beg anyone to stay. When it comes to those who don’t know better... well, the earlier they leave, the better!”

Jasper’s angry voice resonated throughout the meeting room.

Four of the six deputy managers instantly paled. These four then looked at the remaining two at the same time.

Evidently, the incident had progressed very differently from what they had imagined.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1263

This was a small detail, but it did not go unnoticed by Jasper.

Jasper was familiar with the remaining two.

One of them was June Parham, the deputy manager of the internal purchasing department, while the other was Hannibal Tate, the deputy manager of the budgeting and auditing department.

These two were old staff that had been working in JW Capital since its foundation.

The company could not employ any elite talents during its initial stages, so most old staff were employed as expedients.

However, as JW Capital developed, most of these initial staff could no longer keep up with the company's development in terms of efficiency or capability.

Even so, Jasper did not try to get rid of these people after all the hard work they had put in for him. On the contrary, the vast majority of them were given rather generous benefits.

As someone else's employee in his past life, Jasper knew that to be a successful entrepreneur in this life, he had to treat his own employees well if he wanted the business to develop healthily.

The employees were the heart and soul of the company.

If not for this, it did not matter how many more times Jasper reincarnated or how talented the man was he would not be able to set up JW Company alone.

Therefore, ever since the beginning, JW Capital and its subsidiaries had always treated their employees the best within their respective industries. JW's care for their own employees was also the most genuine.

This was not something written for the sake of attracting employees but was truly executed and carried out.

However... all sorts of people came along when the company started to grow.

If JW Company wanted to continue developing into something great, then Jasper had to fend off more than just external enemies. It was only a matter of time before infighting occurred, and this was what truly placed a halt on JW Company's development.

"Mr. Laine, we can't take all the blame for this either." The deputy manager of the internal purchasing department, June, mustered the courage to stand and speak to Jasper under the gazes of the other deputy managers.

Jasper looked at her indifferently. Instead of getting angry, the man asked calmly, "Did I say I blame you?"

"You're the ones requesting to resign. I did not reject your application and instead gave you a more convenient escape. What's there to explain to me?"

June's expression soured at what she heard.

She took a deep breath and replied, “Mr. Laine, you don’t actually need to pretend. Everyone can tell that you’re angry, but we’re all adults, so I think I should make the issue here clear.”

“Issue?”

Jasper smiled and sat back down on the chair to say, “Sure. If you say that there’s an issue to be cleared up, then I’ll give you the chance to do so. Go ahead, what’s the issue?”

June glanced at her colleagues as if she found strength in them before she looked up and replied to Jasper, “The company promised us before this to allocate a car to every deputy manager.”

“But then Ms. Schuler shot down the suggestion without a second thought. We put in a lot of hard work in the lower ranks each and every day, and we’ve been looking forward to this benefit for a long time already. Now that it’s gone so quickly, we’re upset about it.”

“Alright. If you want to talk about employee welfare, then let’s discuss this issue.”

Jasper looked at June and said expressionlessly, “You’re the deputy manager of the internal purchasing department. With the internal purchasing department being a level two department, according to the ranks of your administrative post, your employee welfare should likewise follow the G4 guidelines, correct?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1264

June nodded.

“Chad, tell me what the salary and employee welfare and benefits my company provides G4 administrative posts and what other companies in the industry are offering for the same position.”

Chad immediately reported in response, “Within JW Capital and its subsidiaries, employees of G4 administrative posts are considered first line managers. According to our regulations, these employees are provided five insurance packages and

two funds. They also enjoy annual paid leave and an additional 3000 Somer Dollar family travel subsidy.”

“Including the various subsidies, each employee is paid a monthly salary of 5000 Somer Dollars and annual salary is counted based on 14 months. Meaning by the end of the year, disregarding year end or performance bonuses, each employee receives an additional 10 thousand.”

“When it comes to other company’s welfare standard for the same industry and position, and taking Waterhoof City as an example since it is the most economically developed region, employees are only provided five insurance packages and one fund, and they receive a statutory annual leave. Monthly salary does not exceed 3000 Somer Dollars, and year end bonus will be calculated separately according to the company’s benefits plan.”

“Meaning if we disregard JW Company’s employee bonuses which is several times more than other companies in the same industry, salary alone is already 1.8 times more than in other companies.”

Jasper nodded. He looked at June and the other five deputy managers and asked, “Did you receive these benefits Chad listed?”

“If you weren’t given the salary or the benefits that should have been assigned to you, then I’ll fire Chad immediately if it’s his fault, or review Wendy’s position if it’s hers.

“So tell me, did you get them or not?”

The six deputies paled when they heard Jasper.

June nodded with difficulty and replied, “We... we received them.”

“Very good. Looks like the company didn’t mistreat you in this aspect, then.”

“Let’s not count the monthly salary or the bonuses. Let’s talk about the five insurance packages and the two funds. It’s compulsory for every enterprise to give buy their employees social insurance now, but let’s not talk about how many enterprises don’t

follow through on this regulation in this time and age. At the very least, my company provides you this coverage.”

“Current statutory law requires five insurance packages and one fund. Not only did I give you all that, but I also added an annuity for you. This is something rare even within international companies.”

Jasper stared at June and the other five deputy managers as he continued firmly, “From the moment I founded JW, I told you on the very first day that I will not mistreat those who work for me. And I did as I promised!”

“But what about you six? You enjoy benefits beyond the industry standard and because you’ve grown used to the kindness the company extends you, you want to take advantage of it?”

“I did indeed plan to allocate cars to those of and above the position of deputy manager, but that was just my suggestion.”

“The company has its own regulations, bylaws, and protocols. The CEO has the authority to reject my suggestion should she believe it to be against the enterprise’s interest.”

“There is no rule within any of the company’s regulations, bylaws, and protocols that states that the company must allocate a car for you!”

Jasper harrumphed and spat with an icy gaze, “Therefore, if the company allocates these cars to you, then it does so an act of affection. If the company does not, then it is a logical response. Yet, you’re choosing to threaten me with resignation over this?”

“In that case, then I’ll approve of all your applications today. I’d like to see if JW can still function without you six and if you six can find a company which offers you better benefits after leaving JW!”

The other few deputy managers could not take it anymore when they heard this.

“Mr. Laine, I... I’ll withdraw my resignation. I must’ve been crazy to be persuaded by June and Hannibal. They wanted to fight with the company because they’d already negotiated with the car dealers, but I never planned to resign at all!”

A deputy manager shouted frantically.

Both June and Hannibal’s expressions changed when they heard this.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1265

It would be unwise to believe that bribery only occurred in government bureaus.

Without good supervision or regular inspections, corruption could be even more toxic in private enterprises.

International financial groups like Colossal Investments had their own internal inspection department that reported directly to the board of directors.

This showcased that as long as interests are involved, cases of corruption and bribery could still appear in companies of any size.

Jasper had long prepared himself for this.

Despite this, it did not stop his heart from growing cold when he encountered situation.

Jasper had always operated his business with the concept of paying high salaries to prevent corruption. After all, once employees had enough money to live a comfortable life, most of them would not be willing to risk breaking the law by taking bribes.

However, a high salary was not a fool proof plan against greed.

At this moment, even Chad's expression changed, much less June and Hannibal.

Not that Chad had anything to do with this incident, but as the director of human resources, the recruitment, appraisal, appointment, and more of all employees in the company were his direct responsibility.

Before Jasper established an independent investigation department, the handling of employee corruption still fell under Chad's job scope.

The current case of bribery and colluding with outside sources was a disgrace to Chad's professionalism.

"The internal purchasing department and the budgeting and auditing department. How fitting."

Jasper commented meaningfully, and looked up at June and Hannibal, whose complexions were void of color. "Let's talk about it, then. What's the situation here?"

Neither June nor Hannibal had expected to be exposed by the very same protest they planned.

The two exchanged a look, but neither of them dared to reply to Jasper first.

Meanwhile, the deputy manager who pleaded for forgiveness just now let go of all inhibitions and exposed them.

Perhaps he saw this as a chance to make up for his mistake as he immediately replied, "Mr. Laine, these two are deputy managers of the Internal Purchasing and budgeting and auditing departments."

"When news of purchasing cars for employees of and above the ranks of deputy manager got leaked, these two immediately contacted a few car dealerships."

"Naturally, rebates and bribes were involved. After all, if the company truly decided to purchase cars, then the other party would certainly have a degree of influence on their superior's decisions."

"With how much they stood to gain, they would have to carry out their job without a second thought. But since Ms. Schuler rejected the proposal yesterday, there's no way the car dealers would still agree. Thus, the agency pressured them."

"Because of this, the two of them then came to look for the rest of us and persuaded us to collectively resign. They said that you'd compromise, be it to soothe the employee's emotions or to prevent a negative response. That's why we dared to work with them."

Jasper rapped his finger on the tabletop after hearing this deputy manager and looked at June and Hannibal expressionlessly.

Under the man's heavy gaze, the two deputies in question, who both only held junior high school diplomas and were only employed in JW thanks to sheer luck, could not bear the pressure.

The first to bend to the psychological pressure was June.

"Mr... Mr. Laine. I... I was blinded by the thought of these benefits..."

"It's all Hannibal's fault! Hannibal was the one who sought me out first and told me that this was easy money, that's why I got into this! Please forgive me this time, Mr. Laine! I'm sorry!"

Hannibal's expression changed and he shouted at June, "Are you f*cking human, June?"

"You were the one who sobbed to me about how your son fell into a large debt. You asked me how to make some extra money and that's why I introduced this method to you. Not to mention, you're the one who chose this path yourself! Yet, now you're blaming me after you get in trouble?"

June would not back down so easily as she immediately refuted the man, "Don't try to make yourself sound like an angel, Hannibal. Did you think I wouldn't know?"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1266

“The agent you chose was actually your relative. How much rebates did you enjoy, hmm? All I got was a small taste of the benefits! It would’ve been fine if no one found out, but now that the cat’s out of the bag, you definitely will have to suffer more consequences since you took the lion’s share of the profits!”

Hannibal clenched his jaw angrily. “I only helped you because I pitied you, b*tch! That’s why I gave you a chance!”

“Enough!”

Jasper said, interrupting the two’s fight.

June and Hannibal immediately fell silent, and they did not dare to say anything more.

“Chad, how do you think this incident should be resolved?” Jasper asked indifferently.

Chad glared at the duo harshly and replied, “Strictly, and according to the law. We should investigate the incident and then sue these two!”

“Go ahead, then,” Jasper waved his hand.

As far as Jasper was concerned, what mattered most was to understand the truth of the situation. How the situation should be dealt with was a small matter.

June and Hannibal were just first line managers, G4 administrative employees. No matter how much trouble they caused, it was not worth Jasper's headache.

What truly posed a problem to Jasper was that if June and Hannibal could enjoy rebates over purchasing cars today, then another pair of July and Lectors could gain similar rebates over something else somewhere down the line.

Agents were not stupid, and there was no way they would give benefits out for free.

These benefits would naturally be earned back from JW Company.

Therefore, in the end, their corrupt behavior still interfered with the company's interests.

It was impossible for Jasper to completely prevent corruption. All he could do was try to minimize the possibility of it happening through strict regulations while rectifying the nature of his employees.

He did this by greatly increasing the cost of committing these acts. If the price to pay for breaking regulations was too huge, they would then be deterred from committing the crime.

It was unrealistic for Jasper to request that every employee treat the company as their own home.

Both June and Hannibal were horrified when they heard Jasper and Chad.

“Mr. Laine, I really only made the wrong decision because I was tempted by money! Please, considering how long we’ve worked with you, please forgive me this once!”

“Yes, Mr. Laine! I’m willing to return all the money I took! Please just forgive me this once! I promise! I will never, ever do this again!”

The duo’s pleas were extremely pitiful and their voices were filled with fright and remorse as they begged Jasper for mercy.

They were both well aware that once they were sued, they would lose this widely envied job and be forced to go to prison.

The other four deputy managers could not help but feel pity as they took in the sight before them. More than pity, they also felt relieved.

Their mistake today might lose them their job at most, but at least they did not break the law and would not have to be thrown into prison.

Unfortunately, Jasper was not in the mood to think about those four.

He got up and walked toward the meeting room door.

“Mr. Laine, how should I deal with these four?” Chad chased after and asked.

Jasper replied calmly, “Give them one last chance. This is also my last act of tolerance. But both Hannibal and June have to be dealt with sternly. Make this matter widely known within the company. I want all the employees within the company to know about what happened to them.

“I hope this deters the others from following in their footsteps.”

Chad replied courteously, “I understand, Mr. Laine.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1267

As far as Chad was concerned, all he had to think of was how to best carry out Jasper's instructions.

However, as the highest-ranking member of his business, there was no one to tell Jasper what to do.

Because of this, it was unreasonable for Jasper to personally handle every single problem or matter within the company.

Instead, he needed to find the source of the problem and get rid of it at its roots.

Coincidentally, this was also what made this situation so difficult. The source of this problem was human greed, something impossible to get rid of altogether. "You're being stubborn, Jasper."

Sitting in front of a mountain painting, Dawson told his confused future son-in-law in his large Schuler Group office with a crescent eyed smile.

JW Company's overall ability had long surpassed the Schuler Group.

Thanks to the memory Jasper had of his past life as well as his extreme talent for management, the man was capable of pushing JW to even higher heights.

However, Jasper had to admit that Dawson's experience from a lifetime in this business world was something Jasper could not match right now.

Hence, he decided to go to the Schuler Group in the afternoon to ask Dawson for advice.

"I've never thought of myself as perfect and peerless. I have my weaknesses too and there are problems that I don't know how to deal with. But an elder will always have more experience than me, which is why I come to ask you for help."

Jasper told Dawson sincerely.

Dawson waved his hand and got up to pass Jasper a cup of tea.

"I've met a similar issue a few years ago, too.

"You should know that the Schuler Group's main business is the supermarket industry. Supermarkets have many constantly-changing supply channels, from daily products, to

snacks, to electronic appliances. It ranges from the cheapest products worth a few cents to the expensive ones costing thousands.

“Because of how big, famous, and recognized Schuler Supermarkets are, many commercial products will try their hardest to get a contract with us.

“But when it comes to the same product, take potato chips, for example, I’ll only sign contracts with two to three brands at most. No more than that.”

“I used to supervise this myself, but with the increasing number of outlets as well as range of products, I had no other choice but to let go of this control.”

“By doing so, I was also giving the opportunity for people to exploit loopholes.”

“Bigger problems might involve choosing suppliers while smaller issues could involve missing payment settlement deadlines. During the most severe period of Schuler Group’s corruption, a mere shop owner of a small area made me lose 100 thousand in a year.”

“This was 100 thousand during the nineties.”

Dawson told jasper matter of factly, his tone gentle and calm.

“I was furious when I discovered this, and I ordered for a complete internal inspection to smoke out all the ongoing corruption within the group. Can you guess how that ended?”

Jasper smiled and replied, “You must’ve caught countless mice and dealt with them strictly.”

Dawson smiled and said, “You’re half right.”

“I did indeed catch many mice, but I only dealt with a small portion of them.”

Jasper was stunned for a moment before he frowned in deep thought.

“Yes. Because I realized that there were too many mice. Getting rid of them all meant losing at least half of the Schuler Group’s employees.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1268

“The group was growing then. It shouldn’t matter if people left since there would be more trying to get employed.”

Dawson then clapped Jasper’s shoulder and said meaningfully, “But so what?”

“The fright from completely cleaning the business might last a few years at most before the same situation occurred again. Am I supposed to get rid of half my employees every year? The group will crash after I do this a few times.”

“I didn’t know what to do at that point, but Wendy’s mom gave me an idea.”

“Half a month later, the group set up a tidiness department. The department worked with the government to advertise the common law, mainly to induce fear and to increase the psychological cost of committing the crime.”

“I let them know that they would be safe if the group did not catch them, but would be in huge trouble if they did.”

“Then I got rid of the most severe cases and left the rest alone.”

“From then on, this tidiness department would catch and punish a few cases every year, but would turn a blind eye toward the majority.”

“Up until now, even as we talk, I’m confident that there are still people gaining rebates and being bribed within the Schuler Group. This seems to have become a publicly known secret within the group.”

“If I know it, then they must know it as well. We have a tacit understanding that small cases are write offs, but anyone who does anything that might severely interfere with the group’s interests will be in great trouble.”

Dawson did not say anymore after this. He knew that with Jasper’s intellect, the man only needed a small nudge and he would understand everything by himself.

“So, Jasper. As someone of higher status, what we need to do is control the balance and not the actions of our employees. Give them a baseline and let them know where the boundaries lie. Whoever oversteps this will face dire consequences.”

“If you want to control everything your subordinates to, then not only will an owner like you die from exhaustion, but you’ll end up alone as well.”

“No one will want to stay when you’re too controlling. As people of higher ranks, we have to remember to punish only those who cause bigger issues and forgive those who make smaller mistakes when we deal with internal conflicts. Our forefathers say that ruling with both kindness and ferocity is the way to go. There must be a reason why ‘kindness’ comes first.”

Jasper fell silent for a long while before he slowly nodded. “I understand what to do, then.”

“That’s good. So, are you two coming home for dinner tonight?” Dawson changed the subject to a lighter and homely one.

“Yeah. I’ll go fetch Wendy then go home,” Jasper replied with a smile.

“Okay. Go then, I still have a meeting. I’ll go home right after it’s done.”

Jasper left the Schuler Group and was about to fetch Wendy when he found out that she had headed to the company.

Wendy stood in the company with a frosty look on her face.

“You found out already?” Jasper asked with a smile when he walked in and saw her icy expression.

Wendy replied angrily, “They’re going too far! How could they work for outsiders?”

“I wouldn’t call this working for outsiders, per se. This is just the result of human greed.” Jasper waved his hand, acting much more open minded than Wendy was.

“We have to catch all of them and deal with them strictly!”

Wendy had always been a black and white person. There was even less of a reason to tolerate these people when they were harming the company's interests.

"I plan to establish an independent supervision department in the future. This department will be independent of the administrative body and report to me and me alone. What do you think?" Jasper sat down and asked.

Wendy agreed, "I think that's a pretty good idea. It's just... it's very important who you choose to take charge of this department. Do you have any candidates yet?"

Jasper rubbed his temple and replied, "No one in the company right now is suited for this kind of work, so I don't plan to transfer existing employees but instead bring in somebody from outside. That way, I'd be able to avoid any ongoing connections they have with other company personnel."

Wendy sighed and said guiltily, "Maybe I shouldn't have rejected the proposal for allocating cars so forcefully. The entire situation could have been avoided."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1269

Jasper walked over to Wendy when he heard her blame herself.

Jasper ruffled Wendy's hair and said, "What are you talking about, I haven't even thanked you for helping me bring this issue to light yet.

“From the way things look now, various issues have already occurred within the company since a long time back. I just didn’t realize them before. It’s great that we discovered them this early since it means we can deal with them early too.

“It’d be too late if the situation was already unsalvageable once we found out.”

That afternoon, Jasper took time out to call Jack, who was far away in Swallow Capital.

As Weresoff’s ex-senior executive, Jack was very experienced in this field.

To the point where Jasper was initially inclined to appoint Jack as the person in charge of this supervision department.

After all, Jack was the company’s most senior executive. He was the first senior executive Jasper invited and employed at the early start up stages.

Both Jack’s experience and prestige qualified him to keep people in line.

However, Jasper considered how Jack still played a role in Sena’s current smooth operations and had no other choice but to give up that thought.

Despite this, Jack agreed with the introduction of this supervision department.

However, he had a question about it.

“Mr. Laine, will this supervision department be part of the parent company itself or will it manage JW Capital and its subsidiaries?”

This was a very important question.

When it came to the large subsidiaries like Terizone, Abbylon, and even Sena, Jasper had promised not to interfere with the specific operations of the company.

Still, even though there was nothing wrong with suddenly introducing a supervision department right now, Hudson and the rest would certainly have some reservations about them.

Thus, after a short moment of pondering, Jasper replied, “The supervision department will only manage the investment, electronics, and the real estate development company for now. When it comes to Terizone, Abbylone, Sena, and the entertainment companies, I’ll leave it up to you guys to deal with it yourselves.”

Jack exhaled in relief when he heard Jasper.

“Alright. I’ll comb through Sena first.”

Jasper waved to dismiss him. “Don’t make too big of a deal about it either. After all, problems like this are still less prominent in Internet companies. It’s mainly physical companies where these problems easily arise. You have relevant experience, so I’m sure you know what to do.”

Jack nodded and suddenly asked, “Mr. Laine, do you have any particular person in mind to head this supervision department?”

“Do you have recommendations?” Jasper arched his brow slightly and asked.

Jack smiled and replied, “Of course not.”

Jack was not stupid. He knew that this supervision department was something extremely sensitive. It might not have been officially established yet, but this department would surely turn into a sharp weapon Jasper wielded in the future.

For a position as crucial as this, Jasper would still be wary no matter how much the man entrusted him.

Nor could Jack willy-nilly suggest a candidate to take charge of such an important department. It would not be worth it to attract Jasper's suspicion for no reason.

Jack knew that Jasper was not someone who doubted people easily, but at the end of the day, they were still superior and subordinate before anything else. As an experienced man, Jack would not do anything to garner unnecessary suspicion.

"But I do suggest that you employ someone who has experience in the government judicial branch. That would be best."

Jasper nodded when he heard this suggestion and replied, "I'll give it some thought."

After ending the call with Jack, Jasper contacted Zachary next.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1270

Jasper did not have too great candidates for this position so the best solution now was to see if the Law family could help.

Jasper did not expect Zachary to actually provide him an exceptional individual.

“I have a junior who resigned from the Anti-Corruption Bureau as first deputy director half a year ago. He’s in his early forties, and the best age to start his career in a company.”

“After half a year of rest, he’s been planning to start his new career lately. I could introduce you two if you’d like?”

Jasper’s eyes lit up.

From an experience perspective, this man who had just resigned from being the first deputy director of the Anti-Corruption Bureau was the perfect candidate.

“He’s got a great future ahead of him if he became the first deputy director in his forties. Why did he resign?” Jasper asked.

Zachary replied slightly wistfully, “He was a sacrificial lamb in political fights. The judicial system wasn’t the place for him. Just keep this to yourself, but he’s definitely got a clean background.”

With Zachary’s guarantee, Jasper nodded and replied, “That’s great, then. I’d like to see him as soon as possible if I could.”

“Alright. I’ll send you two each other’s contact information and you two talk it out amongst yourselves.”

With the head of this supervision department now identified, the most important factor behind the setting up of this department was settled as well.

Jasper let out a sigh of relief once he had completed this first step.

Clocking out that afternoon, Jasper then brought Wendy back to the Schuler villa for dinner. Since there was nothing for him to do, Jasper stayed over at the Schuler villa that night as well.

His parents were both working at the shipyard in Brac County, so Jasper normally would not think to return to the empty house. Instead, he opted to stay at the Schuler villa, which was less quiet.

After dinner, Jasper received a call from Harbor City.

“Hello, is this Mr. Jasper Laine?”

A middle aged man’s gentle voice sounded over the phone.

There was a very strong Harbor City accent in the man's tone. Thankfully, Jasper had known Henry for a long time, or he might not have understood this accent at all.

"I am. Is this Mr. Mortimer Higgins, whom Uncle Schuler had introduced?"

Mortimer replied on the other end of the line, "That is correct. I heard that you have plans to employ someone to be the person in charge of the supervision department. I'd like to try for the position."

Jasper chuckled and replied, "It's not very convenient doing this over the phone, Mr. Higgins. Perhaps you could come to Nauritus City over the next few days? We could talk in person. Regardless of how our discussion ends, I'll pay for your traveling expenses."

Jasper's detailed and cautious behavior gained the favor of Mortimer, who normally dealt with judicial work. The latter quickly replied.

"Sure. I'll take an early flight tomorrow morning and we can talk in person... Coincidentally, I also received an invitation to a Legal Exchange Conference in Nauritus City as well. So I might be a little late."

"That's alright. I'll await your grand arrival tomorrow, Mr. Higgins."

Wendy walked over with a cup of tea from behind Jasper as the latter ended the call.

“Was that a candidate to lead your new supervision department?”

Jasper nodded and replied, “He’ll be here tomorrow. Then we can both interview this ex-first deputy director of Harbor City’s Anti-Corruption Bureau.”

“Is he someone of such high status? That status is almost equivalent to the Deputy Attorney General’s of the Supreme Procuratorate! Would he want to work in our company?” Wendy was shocked.

Jasper chuckled and replied, “Don’t underestimate our company either. We’re very strong too, so who says we aren’t worthy to have someone so powerful work for us?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1271

The following day, since Julian had taken Jasper's Bentley in for periodic maintenance, Jasper sat in Wendy's ordinary and low profiled BMW to work. They two were chatting happily and were a few hundred meters away from the office when a few men suddenly ran out from the roadside to stand in front of Wendy's car.

Wendy gasped. Thanks to her quick reflexes, she managed to turn the steering wheel and avoid knocking into these people.

However, the BMW still ended up crashing into the foliage by the roadside.

There was a loud bang, and a dent appeared in the bonnet of the car as smoke simultaneously began to pour out from the hood. The car's engine then turned itself off automatically.

Jasper shielded Wendy with one of his hands to protect her. Without caring about himself, he quickly asked Wendy, "Are you okay? Are you hurt?"

Wendy shook her head and replied shakily, "I'm fine. Just shocked."

Jasper's gaze sharpened. Those men who ran out must have a death wish.

He was about to get out of the car angrily when he heard those men shout.

“Wendy! Get the f*ck out right now!”

Jasper narrowed his eyes at what he heard.

From the way the men acted, this incident was not accidental. They were blatantly targeting Wendy.

“What do you want her for?”

Jasper alighted the car and asked directly.

Considering the current situation, as a man, Jasper had to come out and deal with these hooligans while keeping his woman safe behind him. Regardless of what conflict Wendy had with them or who was in the wrong, there was no way Jasper would let them hurt Wendy.

If he did not do this, then he might as well not be a man at all.

“What for?!”

The man in the lead was a rather skinny person in his forties. He scoffed and replied, “That stupid b*tch screwed my business over, so I want her to compensate me for my losses!”

“Keep your stinking mouth clean.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes and looked at the man icily. “I am not against beating the stupid teeth out of your mouth.”

Ward’s burned at Jasper’s words.

“Who the f*ck are you, brat? Who are you to jump in front of me and cause trouble?”

At this moment, Wendy got out of the car as well.

“Do you know them?” Jasper asked.

“No.” Wendy shook her head, the shock still evident on her frightened expression.

Ward’s eyes lit up when he took in Wendy’s beauty.

“Yo, who’d have thought that JW Capital’s pretty female president was so beautiful?”

Wendy frowned in disgust at Ward’s distasteful words and asked in annoyance, “Who are you? Are you not afraid that I’d run you over when you suddenly rushed onto the road?”

“Who am I? I’m here to f*cking look for you!” Ward scoffed.

“You’re the b*tch that rejected the car purchasing proposal, weren’t you? I gave your company’s employees more than one hundred thousand Somer Dollars! You better f*cking pay me back!”

The man’s claim told them his identity.

This must be the car agency June and Hannibal had conspired with.

Jasper looked at Ward like he was stupid.

'Both June and Hannibal should be in detention centers now. Yet, instead of hiding away, this idiot actually came here to seek out compensation?'

"I don't think you know giving and taking bribes are equally severe crimes, do you?" Jasper said calmly.

Ward laughed out loud and replied, "You're talking about the law with me, stupid?"

"I've been dealing cars for more than a decade here in Nauritus City! You think I'd be able to stand my ground in this industry without some skills? At least ask around who Ward Benson is first!"

"Oh? So who are you?" Jasper asked calmly.

"Hmph! All you need to know is that I'm not someone you can afford to offend!"

Ward glared at Jasper fiercely, not wanting to waste his time on him. Then, the man turned to look at Wendy and sneered evilly, "Ms. Schuler, was it?"

“I already heard about the whole incident. The purchase contract would’ve been approved and signed long ago if you minded your own business, b*tch. I spent so much f*cking money on this and now it’s all gone because of you!”

“Either pay me 300 thousand for compensation now or...”

Ward snickered and stared at Wendy avariciously. “You could spend a few nights with me and I’d take that as payment.”

The moment he finished speaking, a leather shoe had lodged itself in his stomach.

Ward did not expect such a seemingly calm person to get physical.

Let alone start with such a painful attack.

The kick landed square in Ward’s stomach, causing him to shout in pain. He felt his insides get squashed and his organs intertwine.

The subordinates he brought over immediately ran forward to support him.

“Are you okay, Mr. Ward?” The subordinates asked in concern.

“Motherf*cker!”

Ward looked up and glared at Jasper harshly before shouting, “How dare you kick me, brat! You’re screwed! “I’ll kill you today!”

“What are you guys waiting for? Get him!”

Ward ignored his pain and flung a his subordinates off before pointing at Jasper and shouting.

The few subordinates immediately stared at Jasper unkindly as they began to surround him and prepared to attack.

Jasper’s expression was calm, but he was prepared to fight. Jasper was no match for Julian when it came to fighting, he was not even as good as Henry.

Coincidentally, Julian was not present today and his senior, the bodyguard Jasper assigned to Wendy, Fallon, had taken a leave today as well.

Still, as a man, Jasper refused to remain silent when another man had set their disgusting eyes on his woman.

Some opponents could be quietly tolerated and later dealt with through plans and schemes. Like Jasper's enemies, Conrad and Prince.

However, as a man, some things simply could not be tolerated. For example, Ward's behavior.

This was not because Ward was stronger than Conrad or Prince. In terms of status, a mere car agent did not even have the right to shine the other two's shoes.

Despite this, Ward had crossed Jasper's boundaries.

If this were not the case, then would have had no need to fight Ward right now, especially considering his status. Doing so would only lower Jasper to the other's level.

Wendy saw how the situation was about to get out of hand. There was no way she would watch as Jasper fought a good number of opponents without Julian by his side. After all, Jasper would surely lose and get hurt.

“Enough! JW Company’s main entrance is right ahead of us! What do you think you’re doing?” Wendy looked at Ward icily.

“JW Company’s security guards will arrive right away, and if you dare touch a single hair of his head, I’ll make sure you regret it!”

Wendy’s air of dominance at this moment was incomparable to any other woman’s.

Ward and his subordinates were stunned by it.

Ward narrowed his eyes and stared at the office entrance not too far away. He knew that this was the entrance to JW Company, which was why he had waited for Wendy here.

Weighing his options, Ward ignored the pain he felt and sneered. “Fine! I won’t hurt your stupid f*cking boy toy today, but you have to pay me every single cent of compensation!

“It was 300 thousand before, but I’ll need at least 350 thousand now! Not a cent less or I’ll kill him!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1272

“Oh? So who are you?” Jasper asked calmly.

“Hmph! All you need to know is that I’m not someone you can afford to offend!”

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“It was 300 thousand before, but I’ll need at least 350 thousand now! Not a cent less or I’ll kill him!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1273

Wendy’s expression grew even colder at Ward’s words.

“You’re the one that acted criminally by bribing the company’s personnel!”

“How can you ask for compensation after you got caught?”

“I’ll tell you right now, not even in your wildest dreams!”

Ward’s gaze was icy as he said, “You’re going to have to give me the money whether you want to or not!”

“My brother’s the president of the Southeast Province Lawyers Associates and he’s currently entertaining someone very important from Harbor City! One call is all it takes

for me to spread what happened in JW Company all over the place. when that happens, my brother will sue you until you're broke!"

Ward proceeded to arrogantly reveal to them why he was so fearless.

"I heard that you and the owner of JW Company have an affair, Wendy. I might not be able to offend a powerful person like him, but for you to protect this boy toy next to you, this kid must mean a lot to you, doesn't he?"

"Haha! And you're not afraid that your boss will find out about what's happening between you and your boy toy?"

Ward's expression was sinister as he snickered. "To be the CFO of JW Company at such a young and beautiful age. Tsk tsk, do you think I don't know how women like you get to this point to possess status, fame, and money? Everything you have now is all gained from spreading your legs!"

"If you don't compensate my loss, then I'll destroy your reputation!"

Both Jasper and Wendy's expressions changed when they heard him.

'Not only did this idiot have no idea of JW's internal personnel relationships, but he also doesn't know how Jasper looks?'

However, it made sense since he was just a simple car agent. He was the owner of a small business with a total asset value of a few million at most. After all, current economic conditions did not allow every family to own a car, and the car dealing business had yet to flourish as much as it would in the future.

The owner of a small business like him had no right to know who Jasper was.

Ward did not realize Jasper and Wendy's pitiful gazes as she continued to talk proudly. He spoke as though he had caught onto Wendy's weakness.

"Wendy, when someone as important as JW Company's owner realizes that you're cheating on him, you'll lose a lot more than 350 thousand! It'll be your life that'll be on the line!"

Ward snickered and replied proudly, "Of course, I don't want things to have to get to that point either. All I want is money, so pay me or spend a few days with me and I'll let you go this once."

"Well, choose now!"

At that moment, a few security guards rushed over.

As the company's employees who were responsible for greeting and sending people, the most important part of these men's work was to remember their bosses' cars.

Wendy's BMW was one of the most important ones. The security guards' attention was attracted after the car crashed over here. By the time they gathered a few colleagues, the issue had already developed to this point.

"Ms. Schuler!"

The leader of the team of security guards immediately came to greet Wendy.

Their eyes widened when their gaze flitted around and fell on Jasper.

"Mr..."

Not wanting the security guards to expose his identity, Jasper waved and interrupted them.

“These people harassed Ms. Schuler. Throw them out.” Jasper instructed before pulling Wendy away.

Before he left, Jasper glanced at Ward and said calmly, “Go ahead and use whatever tricks you have. Try to be as interesting as possible, because you’re only going to have one chance.”

Then, ignoring Ward’s shouts, Jasper brought Wendy away.

They left the car there as well since someone from the company would naturally come to deal with it later.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1274

‘The company’s owner and his partner are being harassed by thugs?’

This was the security guards’ first thought. They were immediately pumped up as they stared at Ward and the rest unkindly.

“Didn’t you hear them? Get lost right now!” The leader of the security guards was a veteran. When it came to employing security guards for the company, Jasper would always consider these veterans first.

Not only to give these virtuous people a chance to assimilate back into society, but also because they were much more reliable than most regular folks.

This coupled with JW Company's extreme employee benefits meant it was not at all unkind to employ them to be security guards of the company.

Ward stomped his feet in frustration when he saw the few burly guards.

He shouted at Jasper's back, "You b*tch and boy toy! You two won't surrender until the last moment, huh! You really want me to blow this thing out of proportion, huh? Fine then, just you wait!"

He had just finished shouting when the leader of the security guards began to instruct his team to manhandle these people and physically move them away from the company.

"Motherf*cker! Let go of me! I can walk on my own!" Ward struggled out of the grasp of the security guards before ducking around the corner of the street with a dark expression on his face.

The leader of the security guard looked at Ward and sneered. "At least take a look at where you are. How dare you come and cause trouble here? Just who do you think you are?"

The leader of the security guard then led his team away.

“F*cking Hell. That was too shameful, Mr. Ward. What do we do now?” A subordinate asked darkly.

Ward replied harshly, “We might not beat them when it comes to playing dirty, but don’t worry. I’ll call my brother.”

“He’s the president of the province’s Lawyers Associates, and a renowned barrister. He even has a meeting with the former high official of Harbor City’s Anti-Corruption Bureau today, so I’ll blow up this matter as much as possible!”

“To the point that JW Company’s owner knows about this. I’d like to see how that b*tch’s going to explain herself to the man when that happens!”

Wendy was upset as she took the elevator upstairs.

“I even crashed my car today. What bad luck!”

Jasper consoled, “It’s just a car. I’ll buy you a new one later. I promised to buy you one long ago but never got the chance, right? Looks like this is an opportunity to get you a new car.

“But this car was fine as it was... what about those people just now? Won't they cause more trouble?”

Buying a new car was no big deal since all it took was one word from either Jasper or Wendy to do. She was more worried that Ward and his men would cause more trouble for them in the future.

“It's alright Just focus on work, I'll deal with it,” Jasper said with a crescent-eyed smile.

He did forget how Ward said that his brother was the president of the Lawyers' Associates. This was nothing much since it was still a relatively minor position.

What Jasper was more interested in was that off handed statement Ward made about the entertainment of an important person from Harbor City.

The news Mortimer gave him last night coupled with this Lawyers' Associates... Jasper had a feeling that his meeting with Mortimer was about to be brought forward.

This was also a great chance for Jasper to observe Mortimer's character.

As the person in charge of the supervision department, the man's character was much more important than their capabilities.

Jasper would not be completely assured just because Zachary had recommended him.

Ward did not make him wait too long.

In a little over an hour, while Jasper was still going through a backlog of documents, he received a report. Apparently, a group of people currently waiting in the legal department wanted to sue the company.

“Let’s go take a look, then.” Jasper got up and went toward the floor of the legal department

Life at The Top – Chapter 1275

“Stop f*cking acting stupid with me!”

“It’s written in black and white on the purchase contract! Not to mention that it’s signed by your company’s employees!”

“Don’t think that just because JW is some famous enterprise that it means we’re afraid of you!”

“I, Ward Benson, will be the first to complain!”

“It’s written in black and white on the contract, and it’s signed by your employee. Either follow the contract and buy the cars according to the contract or pay three times the compensation amount! Do it or I’ll sue your company until you go bankrupt!”

Jasper had not even walked through the doors to the legal department when he already heard Ward’s familiar shout.

Just then, the general manager of the legal department also received news of Jasper’s arrival and walked out to greet him.

The manager of the legal department was a man called Eugene Rowse. He was a capable person, had a Law degree, and was extremely knowledgeable in public and commercial law.

However, the man’s expression seemed rather sour right now.

“You’re here, Mr. Laine,” Eugene greeted Jasper.

“What’s the situation now?” Jasper asked.

Eugene smiled wryly, “That Ward Benson person is the car agent who we apparently signed a contract with for the allocation of cars for employees of and above the rank of deputy manager.

“He brought his brother today. I know that man, Edie Benson. He’s a renowned lawyer in Southeast Province, and the president of the Lawyers’ Associate.”

“I already know all that,” Jasper replied calmly, “Tell me the legal issue the company’s facing now.”

Eugene sighed and replied, “The most troublesome part of this is that the fired employee, June, actually did sign her name on the contract. This puts us in a precarious position.”

“Does it count even though there’s no company seal?” Jasper asked with a frown.

“This is only a small blunder we can pick on, but it won’t hinder the legitimacy or validity of the contract. And June did sign the papers on behalf of the company, so it falls under apparent authority this complicates the situation a lot.”

“The contract’s never been approved by the company in the first place and June signed it at her own volition. Now, she’s being fired for corruption and our company’s about to sue her. The corporate world would be lawless if such a thing could be pulled off.”

“I’ll go inside and review the situation first. But remember that our company will not concede on this lawsuit no matter what. We’ll go all the way to Swallow Capital if we have to.”

Eugene nodded at Jasper’s reminder. “I understand.”

After speaking to Eugene, Jasper then entered the legal department’s meeting room.

Inside the meeting room was Ward and another man that looked like Ward but was much more gentlemanly, Edie.

Finally, there was another middle aged man with a curious look on his face as he took in the environment around him. This man seemed elegant and there was a special aura about him.

The man seemed gentle but was actually fierce and firm. There was a certain ferocity hidden deep within him that sent shivers down others’ spines.

With one look, Jasper could see the unique aura people from Harbor City possessed.

... No matter how much a mainlander wanted to act cool, it was still rare to see them putting a white pocket square in the fake breast pocket of their suit jacket.

Mortimer Higgins.

Jasper immediately recognized the man.

It was likely that he came over so he could understand JW Company's business in advance.

The two locked gazes and despite this being their first meeting, they recognized each other as if mentally connected.

"Mr. Laine?"

Mortimer stood and asked tentatively.

Jasper smiled and extended his hand. "Mr. Higgins. I thought it'd be another few hours until we met."

Mortimer shook Jasper's hand and smiled. "I heard Mr. Benson say that he had to come to JW to deal with a few things, so I thought I'd come with to better understand the company. I'm not intruding, am I?"

“Not at all,” Jasper shook his head, “Since they’re also here, then I’ll have to trouble you to give me a moment first, Mr. Higgins. We can talk more after I’ve dealt with this issue.”

“Alright,” Mortimer naturally agreed.

Still, this first meeting had left both of them a great impression of the other.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1276

Their conversation stunned the Benson brothers.

No one expected anything from Ward since he was an idiot anyway. The same could not be said about Edie.

As the president of the Southeast Province's Lawyers' Associates, he knew which enterprises he could not to offend within the province.

Thus, he had come today for two reasons. Firstly, Ward was his brother, and secondly, Ward had guaranteed him that he had evidence of JW Company's owner's woman cheating on him behind her man's back.

The second reason was the most important piece of information since Edie wanted nothing more than to use Mortimer's identity and status to climb higher up the social ladder. He also wanted to use this opportunity to show his ability in front of Mortimer.

However, not only did Jasper, the owner of JW Company, appear in person, but the man was also acquainted with Mortimer?!

This had Edie's heart thumping erratically.

At this moment, Ward still had no idea of the deeper implications of their little ploy. He was just confused about how Jasper and Mortimer knew each other.

“Mr. Higgins, don’t let this stupid f*cker lie to you! He’s just a boy toy and a piece of trash that relies on his woman’s paychecks!”

“You might not know, but he has an affair with Wendy, JW Company’s owner’s mistress!”

“JW Company’s owner will definitely kill him once he finds out!”

“He’s nothing more than a liar and a b*tstard!”

Ward felt refreshed after scolding Jasper, thinking that he had exposed the man’s true form.

He looked at Jasper and was waiting to see a frantic expression on the man’s face before he realized that everyone in the room was looking at him like he was insane.

Jasper’s gaze was the most unique of them all. It was playful but also carried a hint of pity.

“Why are you guys looking at me like that?!”

Ward’s chest tightened in fright, and he turned to a pale faced Edie as he repeated, “Ed, I said that boy toy over there is a f*cking idiot!”

“Don’t be afraid of him, I told you before already. We won’t offend JW’s owner at all. All we have to do is tell him the news and he’d even thank us!”

All he got in response was a huge and heavy slap.

Edie slapped Ward harshly across the face.

Taken aback, Ward’s entire face was twisted sideways by the force.

“F*ck you, stupid moron!”

Furious and frantic, Edie opened his mouth to scold Ward. He did not have the mind to keep up the demeanor befitting of the president of the Lawyers’ Associates.

“Do you know who he is? That’s Jasper Laine, the owner of JW Company! If you have a death wish then go kill yourself somewhere else, don’t drag me into this with you! I don’t have a stupid f*cking brother like you!”

A slap and a harsh round of scolding. This was a metaphorical bolt of lightning.

It metaphorically struck Ward right on his head. The man was stunned, and he felt half his soul get shocked out of his body upon hearing the news.

“How could that be?!”

Ward shouted raspily.

Ward pointed at Jasper and said frustratedly, “How can he be JW’s owner?! He’s still so young! You’re lying to me!”

“You’re really an imbecile!” Edie’s tone was frigid. At this moment, he even felt the desire to eat Ward alive.

No one dared to offend Jasper in Southeast Province. He truly regretted being tempted by Ward into coming to cause trouble in JW right now. He even pitifully wanted to

show his capabilities in front of Mortimer, and perhaps become acquainted with Jasper too.

All his plans were screwed now.

Ward also felt screwed.

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Ward sat on the chair limply and looked at Jasper with fear.

His mouth twitched a few times as he wanted to beg Jasper for mercy, but nothing came out despite the words being on the tip of his tongue.

In the end, Ward simply looked at Eddie and said with a sob.

“Ed... Save me...”

Eddie clenched his jaw. He wanted nothing more than to beat Ward to death now, but despite all this, the man was still his brother.

At this thought, Edie mustered the courage to tell Jasper, "This is really a misunderstanding, Mr. Laine."

Jasper sat at the front of the meeting room and placed his interlocked fingers under his chin. He replied with a crescent eyed smile, "A misunderstanding? I thought you two came to file a lawsuit against JW?"

"After all, as you said before, it's written in black and white on the contract. Either JW pays the compensation according to the contract, or you'll sue us until we're broke. What misunderstandings can there be?"

The corner of Edie's lips twitched twice at Jasper's words.

He chuckled wryly and replied, "There's no point in hiding this from you since it's gotten to this point, Mr. Laine. My brother was the one who urged me to come here, and we did discuss it among ourselves. However, we only did that to seem threatening. There's no truth behind the statement."

"We thought that you'd compromise because didn't know about what happened and wouldn't want to blow up the issue so as not to affect your employees."

"Still, this incident was caused because my brother and I were tempted. My brother's told me about this before and I've been thinking that since it's just a bit of rebate, perhaps we could all just turn a blind eye and move on. I didn't expect this incident to develop to this point."

After hearing so much from Edie, Jasper asked calmly, “Then are you going to sue us or not?”

Edie quickly replied, “No, definitely not. ”

Edie kicked Ward harshly and scolded, “Mr. Laine asked you a question! Did you go dumb?”

Ward replied to Jasper with a sob, “I was blind, Mr. Laine, I’m sorry for starting a conflict and offending you. Please forgive me, I promise I won’t dare to sue you anymore. I’ll stay far far away, and I’ll never anger you again.”

Jasper took in the sight and turned to Eugene, “Send them out, Mr. Rowse.”

At the end of the day, Edie was the president of the Lawyers’ Associates, and the company would have to interact the Judicial Bureau many times in the future.

Jasper would gain nothing out of offending the legal industry.

Jasper’s company did business, and peace was a key aspect in that.

Not to mention that this was never a huge problem and Jasper had planned to let them go to begin with.

Ward and Edie were elated when they saw how Jasper decided to forgive them.

They thanked him and followed Eugene out.

After they left, Jasper got up and smiled at Mortimer. "Let's talk in my office upstairs, Mr. Higgins."

Mortimer got up and replied with a smile, "Since you've invited me, then please lead the way."

Jasper called Wendy over too once he arrived at his office upstairs.

Since this was an interview of the first person to lead the supervision department, Jasper did not plan to involve the opinions of Malcolm, Chad, or the others. Only his and Wendy's opinions mattered.

After a brief introduction, Jasper sat on the sofa in the reception area and told Mortimer straight forwardly.

“To be frank, Mr. Higgins, I am in great need of outstanding talent like you to build a supervision system for the whole of JW.

“If you’re willing to join us, then I’ll be open to giving you what you need, be it subordinates, money, or authority. You will only answer to me within the entire company and you’ll work independently of the administrative system. You will not be affected or

disrupted by anyone else.”

A few sentences were all it took for Mortimer to feel Jasper’s determination and sincerity.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1278

His eyes lit up and he replied, “I also wish to continue my career in a position where I can best show my strengths. But before that, there’s a lot of questions I need to discuss with you, Mr. Laine.”

“Do tell. Let’s not leave any thought unsaid today.” Jasper smiled.

Two hours later, Mortimer walked out of JW Capital with a wide smile on his face.

In the presidential office, Jasper told Wendy, “Call Malcolm, Chad, and all other decision makers of large departments over for a meeting. We’ll start transferring suitable employees from the whole company and start employing new ones too. The supervision department will be officially established once Mortimer starts working.”

The establishment of the supervision department meant that JW was taking another big step in developing into a more modern group.

This was a significant step to take, be it for the development of JW Capital or JW as a whole.

JW Capital’s decision makers were in a meeting for the entire afternoon.

The establishment of the supervision department would surely infringe upon everyone’s interests. Some people would be forced to give up much of their authority, which would undoubtedly lead to conflicts.

All the departments hoped that the supervision department would be laxer with them. After all, no one hoped to have the guillotine dangling over their necks.

Meanwhile, Jasper, the most important decision maker, remained silent and watched.

Leaving Chad, Malcolm, and the others to flush in agitation and fight amongst themselves.

This was quarrel and compromise between small interest groups in the company. It was a virtuous circle so Jasper would not interfere.

Not to mention that this was the appearance of a new system, and a supervisory one at that. Too many moving parts were involved, and by the time the meeting was adjourned and everyone came to a mutually agreeable decision, it was already seven pm.

“Alright. Since everyone’s fine with this, then we’ll do it this way. People from the presidential office will draft out the document tomorrow and it can be officially sent to all the subsidiaries after I sign it.”

Jasper clapped his hand to announce the end of the meeting.

Everyone left except for Chad, who remained unmoving in his seat.

There was something he wanted to tell Jasper personally.

“What’s this, Chad? Do you not want to hand some of power over to the supervision department?” Jasper chuckled as he asked Chad.

The supervision department's authority overlapped with the human resources department's right to review employees. Chad had made a huge concession on this point, so Jasper understood if the man was displeased.

Despite this, Chad chuckled wryly and replied, "The decision's already been made, I won't disrupt the company's natural development because of my personal desire. The supervision department will do the company more good than bad, and it's worth losing a bit of my human resources department's authority to pursue it."

"The main thing is... Do you still remember Baz Willis, Mr. Laine?"

This question Jasper stunned while the latter gathered his meeting documents alongside Wendy.

'Isn't that my past life's superior that I sought out in Waterhoof City?'

Jasper left Baz alone after he arranged for the man to learn about investments in the company. Jasper was busy with work, so it had been a long time since he heard anything about Baz.

"Yeah. Why, is he not doing well?" Jasper asked.

Chad replied weirdly, “Not exactly, it’s just... he’s creative and I arranged for him to work under Albion. It’s only been a while but Albion’s already sent me two reports.”

“He handed in a proposal directly today and Albion didn’t know what to make of it so he threw it to me. I thought about it but I thought you should be the one to decide on it, Mr. Laine.”

“What proposal? If he’s under Mr. Harper, then Mr. Harper should still hand the proposal to the head of the Investment department if he couldn’t decide. Why did he give it to you?”

Chad smiled wryly and replied, “That’s the thing. Even the head of the Investment department couldn’t decide. Since this is someone you especially employed, Mr. Laine, none of us feel right making the final decision. Baz requested that we acquire a business with a market value of 30 million Somer Dollars!”

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Chad immediately pulled out the proposal in question.

After handing it to Jasper, Chad continued to say, “According to normal protocol, Baz is still no more than a small employee in the investment department. He doesn’t have the qualifications to lead a team yet, and this proposal would’ve been discarded by the manager once it was handed in if he was anyone else.”

“But everyone knows that you especially approved his employment Albion also checked it out and found that this proposal actually seems pretty legitimate, so preliminary market research was also done. Therefore, he didn’t really dare to reject it outright”

“He gave it some thought and handed it to me, most likely so I could pass this to you, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper looked down at the proposal in his hands. After a short moment of thought, he chuckled out loud. History sure does repeat itself.

Jasper wondered that Baz would end up living a new life due to him employing the man. He did not expect Baz to retrace the steps he did in his past life, be it by coincidence or due to fate.

This superior of his had accumulated his first big sum of money through the stocks and the financial market when he was young.

What truly started the man’s business and changed him from a common retail investor to the president of an investment company, and gave him the chance to climb the ranks of the social ladder, was the acquisition of Tefa City’s Downstream Investment Company.

‘It was a profitable purchase.’

That was what Baz frequently told Jasper in his past life.

Thanks to all sorts of boasting from Baz, Jasper came to understand the process of this acquisition as well.

Downstream Investment Company was the first investment company in Tefa City funded by the state. However, due to horrible management and the Tefa City City government deciding to reduce state owed liabilities, the company decided to be put on sale.

No one could see into the future, so while many people knew of this offering, not many people were actually willing to acquire it.

Baz had then taken all his savings, back then a total of 11 million, and acquired Downstream Investment Company.

Then the economy in the mainlands skyrocketed and the stock market faced a bullish trend. Downstream Investment Company's market price grew tenfold in just a few years.

This was how Baz joined the line of top notch wealthy businessmen in Tefa City and became a true multimillionaire.

"Is he still in the office?" Jasper asked.

Chad nodded. "He should be. I heard that he's a workaholic who always does overtime. He's the most diligent and hardworking person in his department. This is something Albion told me many times. He's got great potential."

"Tell him to meet me at my office."

Jasper stood up and said.

Wendy then spoke to Jasper in dissatisfaction as they rode the elevator, "How important is this matter that we have to deal with it today instead of tomorrow? It's already very late and you still haven't had dinner yet. You're going to get a stomach ache later."

Due to a long history of irregular eating times, Jasper had recently suffered from stomach aches. It was nothing severe, but it had gotten Wendy attention. Therefore, Wendy could not accept Jasper not eating when he should.

"It's fine. It'll only take around half an hour. Just wait for me for a while and we can go eat together," Jasper comforted.

Wendy glared at Jasper but had no other choice than to conform.

She understood Jasper the most, so she knew that he did not care about something as insignificant as eating once he was in the business headspace.

Jasper had just entered his office when Baz arrived as well.

Opening the door for Baz to walk in, Jasper first gave the man a good look before he chuckled, “Not bad. You’re skinner but you look much more energized.”

In comparison to how Baz looked back in the audio rental shop then, the man looked completely different. He was now with vigor and energy.

Baz chuckled and replied, “Now that I have a goal to strive for, it’s only normal that I’d look different. After coming to work here, I found that I really like the investment industry. I was wasting my life away before this.”

Baz was truly grateful to have met Jasper.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1280

During this time, Baz had come to know just how wealthy Jasper was. He also understood the full extent of Jasper’s influence in JW Company and even the whole of Southeast Province.

This made him even more grateful to Jasper. This man was of extremely high status, yet was willing to help his ordinary self.

Afraid that dallying would evoke Wendy's nagging, Jasper moved on from small talk and waved the proposal in his hands. "Did you do this proposal?"

Baz replied embarrassedly, "They already handed it to you? I was the one who wrote it. Am... am I being overzealous?"

Baz knew his current level within the company, and how inappropriate it was to hand in a proposal on such a huge project.

He regretted it once he handed the proposal in, thinking that he would have to face a harsh scolding.

After all, JW Company had a strict employee hierarchical system and he had overstepped the boundaries of his position by handing in that proposal. Like a security guard doing the task of a director general. It would be weird if he was not chided.

"I'm more curious about why you think so well of this Downstream Investment Company. It's in Tefa City, but most of JW Company's main business is in the provincial capital, Nauritus City," Jasper said.

Baz's eyes lip up and he began to speak without stopping.

"Trust me, Mr. Laine. This Downstream Investment Company's definitely been undervalued. If the company acquires it, then it'll definitely be a profitable purchase. I've done market research too and I found that..."

Baz spoke for a whole ten minutes.

Jasper listened quietly while he looked through the report in his hands.

After Baz was done, Jasper replied, "You're right. But did it occur to you that companies and owners local to Tefa City also have their eyes on this cash cow? We're from Nauritus City, and to suddenly enter the competition would surely evoke hostility."

Baz was stunned for a moment before he replied solemnly, "All I see is that this is a worthy investment. It might cost more than 10 million but it'll definitely bring even bigger returns. I didn't think about the other factors, but doesn't every business have competition?"

Jasper did not say anything after this.

Baz was a little nervous as he stood in place.

He realized that his words were too impulsive.

'Would this invoke Mr. Laine's ire?'

Baz felt unsettled.

He was just a normal employee, after all. He had no right to tell Mr. Laine how to do business.

While Baz simmered nervously, Jasper spoke up. "Prepare your things and come with me to Tefa City tomorrow."

Baz was overcome with joy when he heard Jasper.

"You agree to the acquisition, Mr. Laine?" Baz asked excitedly.

"Don't look so happy just yet," Jasper said with a crescent eyed smile, "Since we're interfering with the purchase of Downstream Investment Company, we'll surely be attacked by Tefa City's local powers."

“I’ll keep an eye on your performance and if I realize that you’re performing below standard, then I’ll give up on this investment and you alongside it.”

“Yes, Sir! ” Baz knew that this was a great opportunity and he immediately shouted.

A moment later, Jasper pressed his palm against the proposal as he watched Baz leave the office happily.

He knew that it had not been easy for Baz to acquire Downstream Investment Co., Ltd. in his past life. Back then, the man had almost been tossed by Tefa City’s huge family, the Covingtons, to feed the dogs.

However, as Baz had said just now, Downstream Investment Company was a profitable acquisition and business had always been filled with competition.

Jasper had no reason to give up on a business that would bring him ten times the profit in the future.

‘So what if you’re the Covington family?’

Life at The Top – Chapter 1281

Tefa City was considered Jasper's hometown. Faith County, where he currently stood, was one of Tefa City's counties.

However, due to multiple reasons, be it now or in the year 2020 more than a decade into the future, Tefa City's economy had always been rather bleak and they had not met too many business opportunities.

That was why Jasper decided to start the most important pillar of his business in the provincial capital, Nauritus City.

As a result, he did not pay Tefa City too much attention.

This day, Julian drove Jasper and Baz over to Tefa City. The trio first checked in to a hotel. Since the main goal of the trip was so that Jasper could train Baz, the man immediately had the latter go and gather all information he could on Downstream Investment Company once they arrived at the hotel.

Baz had already come here before for preliminary market research, so he knew his way around.

However, two hours later at the pre-arranged time, instead of the man's return, Jasper received a call from Baz

"I got beaten up, Mr. Laine."

Jasper immediately rushed to the entrance of Downstream Investment Company with Julian and saw Baz sitting on the staircase with a tissue over his forehead from afar.

There was blood on his hands and face, as well as droplets of it all over the floor in front of him.

Jasper's expression immediately turned cold when he saw Baz's situation.

According to what Baz told him during his past life, Jasper knew that it was not an easy process for the former to acquire Downstream Investment Company. However, Jasper did not expect Baz to get beaten up on the first day.

No matter what, Jasper had to stand up for Baz.

"I'm sorry for being so useless, Mr. Laine."

Baz got up to tell Jasper remorsefully when he saw the other.

Jasper waved his hand and said grimly, "Don't talk about that now. How are your wounds?"

"I have an open wound on my forehead. It looks a little scary but it's not too big of a deal," Baz grinned.

However, due to the huge amount of blood loss, Baz's complexion did not look very good.

Jasper had Julian inspect Baz's physical condition.

During this time, a group of people led by a young man walked over.

"Yo, you really did come."

Scott snickered and pointed at Baz as he asked Jasper, "So this f*cker Baz Willis is your dog?"

“Look, brat. Before you let your dogs out next time, make sure to teach them some manners. Don’t just start shouting when you see people, or you’ll only get killed before you even know it.”

“And you, the trouble your dog caused is still your problem to solve. Don’t be so high profile, or it’ll only get you killed. You get me?”

Jasper narrowed his eyes and looked at the young man in front of him before asking calmly, “Were you the one that hit Baz?”

At that moment, Julian walked over to Jasper and whispered, “There’s nothing major, Jasper. Just a flesh wound. A few stitches from the hospital later should solve it.”

Baz walked over as well.

“Mr. Laine, that man is Scott Covington, the son of Tefa City’s Covington family. He’s also got his eyes on Downstream Investment Company.”

“He warned me before not to interfere with his purchase of this company when I came to do preliminary market research. I’ve only been here for a while today when I met him again, then he immediately called his lackeys to beat me up.”

Jasper nodded and told Baz, “Go sit by the side and take a break. I’ll deal with this.”

Scott laughed out loud when he heard that and said, “You’ll deal with this? What kind of nonsense are you spouting here? Who do you think you are? What makes you think you can deal with this?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1282

Scott then pointed at Baz and sneered. “What happened to your dog is a lesson for you. This company will belong to me, and whoever wants to take it from me can prepare to die.”

“What a bold claim.”

Jasper’s tone was indifferent.

Ever since Jasper started his business, he had destroyed tons of trust-fund children like Scott. Jasper did not even want to waste time talking to the person in front of him.

“Sure. Originally, I didn’t really care if I bought Downstream Investment Company or not. But since you’ve made such a claim, then there’s no way I’m leaving without it I’d like to see how you plan on killing me.”

“What the f*ck! How can you talk to Mr. Covington like that?!”

A lackey beside Scott jumped up and pointed at Jasper as he scolded.

Then, this lackey who wanted to please Scott said flatteringly, “Mr. Covington, why waste time talking to stupid f*ckers like him? Let me crush his head, I’d like to see if he can still act arrogant them.”

Scott snickered wretchedly and replied, “You’re right. Go and make this brat bleed, let him know that the Covington family is king here in Tefa City!”

With Scott’s approval, this lackey scoffed at Jasper and strolled over.

“Watch out, Mr. Laine. He’s the one that beat me up just now,” Baz stood in front of Jasper subconsciously.

Only for Jasper to pull him to the side. “Jul..!”

Julian heard Jasper call him and immediately went to fight that lackey.

“Motherf*cker, you even dare to call for help? I’ll kill you all today!”

This lackey was a fighter too, as he roared and continued to march forward when he saw Julian approach. He raised his fist and aimed it at Julian’s face.

Julian’s gaze was indifferent and he watched the man’s actions after the latter raised his hand. Then, he directly grabbed the lackey’s wrist.

The lackey was stunned and instinctively tried to pull out of Julian’s grasp. However, no matter how he struggled, Julian’s palm clamped on his wrist like a set of pliers, making it hard for him to move at all.

As if feeling embarrassed, the lackey roared and scolded, “Motherf*cker, let go of me!”

Julian’s gaze was cold as he backhandedly twisted his wrist and pulled the lackey’s arm backward, causing the latter to let out tragic yelps.

With a painful cry, the lackey bowed in front of Julian.

Julian raised his leg and slammed his knee into the other’s face.

Blood instantly splattered everywhere.

The sound of the nose bridge fracturing accompanied by the lackey's sorrowful scream rang out across the area. After this, the lackey fell backward onto the ground, his face a mix of tears, snot, and gushing blood.

His vision went dark as he wiped the blood from his face. Half his face felt numb, and upon looking at the terrifying traces of blood on his hand, the lackey shouted and was about to get up to fight Julian again.

However, before he could completely get to his feet, Julian sent him flying far away with a kick.

The lackey hit the side of the staircase like a rolling pin and he did not even have the strength to yelp or scold any more. All he could do was place a hand over the fractured areas of his body and whimper.

The fight might have sounded complicated, but everything occurred in a flash.

The whole thing from beginning to the end was over in a few blinks.

Seeing how one of his best fighters was instantly defeated by Julian, Scott's pupils contracted and he stared at Jasper warily. He shouted angrily, "F*ck! Who the hell are you? How dare you hurt my men here in Tefa City?"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1283

"I'm just a normal businessman, nothing in comparison to the Covingtons, the biggest family in Tefa City."

Jasper replied coldly.

"But if this is all you can do to make me give up on acquiring Downstream Investment Company, then I'm afraid it's not enough."

Jasper's words caused Scott to flush in embarrassment. Scott glared at Jasper and suddenly began to laugh. With his hands behind his back, the man narrowed his eyes and walked over to Jasper slowly.

Meanwhile, his lackeys stared at Jasper and Julian warily, especially Julian.

After all, everyone had clearly seen how Julian fought.

Baz was nervous as well. He was afraid that Scott would do something to hurt Jasper.

However, Jasper remained unfazed and stood in place as Scott walked over to him.

Scott leaned into Jasper's personal space slightly and said, "Interesting. Quite interesting indeed."

"You're from outside, aren't you, brat?"

"After all, no one would dare to talk to me like this in Tefa City."

"Oh well, it's been too long since I've had any rivals. I suppose a moron jumping out from time to time is part of the flavors of life. Rather interesting, I'd say."

"You want Downstream Investment Company, right? Sure, then. The company's having an auction tomorrow and I'll be waiting for you here. I'd like to see how you plan to fight over this with me."

Scott then scoffed wretchedly and poked Jasper's chest as he said, "Word of advice, don't go around asking about me. Otherwise, I'm afraid you'd flee overnight and I wouldn't get to have any fun tomorrow."

With that, Scott chortled loudly and turned to leave.

“Stand still.”

Jasper said calmly from behind.

Scott did not walk further and turned around to look at Jasper with a snort. “Why, are you afraid? Do you want to beg for mercy? Too late.”

“Unless you have your dog break his own arm.” Scott pointed at Julian when he said that.

“You hit my employee and you want to leave just like that?” Jasper asked calmly.

Scott scoffed and replied, “You hurt my men too, didn’t you? What more do you want?”

“Jul,” Jasper called out.

“Right here.” Julian stood beside Jasper.

“This Young Master Covington put a wound in Baz’s head. Go put the same wound on his head. An eye for an eye.”

Julian immediately pounced once Jasper finished talking.

Scott did not expect Jasper to have Julian attack him. There was no way this man did not fear Julian after everyone saw how ferocious the man fought.

Scott chose to back out temporarily because he was afraid Julian would attack.

The arrogant expression disappeared and Scott shouted, “What are you people waiting for? Come f*cking protect me!”

His lackeys had yet to act when Julian arrived before Scott.

No one saw what Julian did specifically. All they knew was that Julian closed his fingers and slapped Scott’s forehead before he immediately left.

Scott felt his head ache, followed by a searing pain on his forehead.

He did not even have the time to look at his forehead wound when a layer of red dyed his vision.

The fresh blood streaming from his forehead was what blinded him.

Scott closed his eyes instinctively in fear and both his hands began to grab around mindlessly.

“Aah! I can’t see! What happened to my eyes! ”

Scott shouted frantically; His lackeys were also in chaos. “Mr. Covington’s been hit! He’s injured! Quick, protect Mr. Covington!”

A few lackeys shouted frantically.

One slightly smarter lackey took some cloth to wipe the blood from Scott’s face. Now Scott could open his eyes as well.

Scott was relieved when his vision returned.

During the chaos, Scott almost thought that Julian had blinded him.

After the relief came deep mortification and hatred. Scott glared at Jasper and roared, "You f*cking called your dog to hit me?!"

"Just an eye for an eye. Watch your choice of words, or this won't be the end of the lesson I'm about to teach you." Jasper said calmly.

Scott's anger was immediately quelled by the words.

He glanced at Julian beside Jasper fearfully. After seeing Julian's strength, Scott knew that the man could easily defeat all his men.

Scott might be arrogant, but he was not an idiot.

He knew that he could not fight Jasper physically at such a time.

"Fine, then! An eye for an eye, huh!"

Scott glared at Jasper resentfully. He placed a hand over his forehead no one knew if this was out of pain or anger and said angrily, "Just you wait! You want Downstream Investment Company, huh? F*ck you! In your dreams!"

"I'll kill you at the auction tomorrow!"

After uttering this threat, Scott was also afraid that Jasper would have Julian continue to beat him up, so he immediately fled with his lackeys.

The lackey that Julian had beaten up before had gotten up a time long ago and also fled.

Not that Jasper cared.

When it came to people like Scott, they had to be completely overwhelmed both in terms of power and wealth. It was unrealistic to have Julian kill the man now.

Since the auction was the next day, Jasper could naturally defeat the man then.

"Come on, let's get you to the hospital," Jasper turned and told Baz.

Baz flushed and stuttered, “Mr. Laine, I, I... Thank you!”

Jasper smiled. “What are you thanking me for? You’re my employee and you got beaten up for no reason over company matters. What kind of boss would I be to just watch as they bully you?”

Baz replied worriedly, “But the Covington family is very powerful here in Tefa City. If we offend them today and they plan to target us tomorrow, I’m afraid that we’d have to face a lot of trouble.”

“Why, are you afraid?” Jasper asked playfully.

Baz quickly shook his head and replied firmly, “I’m not afraid. Just worried that Scott will make us pay more than necessary just to screw us over.”

“Don’t worry. We’re acquiring this Downstream Investment Company no matter what. As for Whether we’ll have to pay more and how much more, Scott will still have to reimburse us in the end.”

Baz was stunned. He did not know where Jasper’s confidence came from.

“Alright. Don’t think too much about this, now. Let’s get your wound stitched up. It won’t be good to delay this for too long as it might leave a scar.”

Jasper clapped Baz’s shoulder and told Julian to drive the car over.

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Julian drove the car over in no time and Jasper had Baz get into the car. Then, they immediately went to the nearest hospital to stitch the wound up.

At the same time, Scott has also gotten into his car with a dark expression.

“Are we going to the hospital first, Mr. Covington?” A lackey asked carefully.

“Bullsh*t! Do you want me to be a laughing stock as I walk the streets with a huge wound on my head?”

Scott pointed at the wound on his head angrily and shouted at his lackey.

His face now coated with Scott's saliva, the lackey did not dare to say anymore and kept his head down as Scott scolded him.

"So stupid. What's the f*cking point of having you people, huh? None of you can do anything and all you know is to take my money. Any lackey under that f*cker can easily beat all of you up! F *cking embarrassing!"

Scott felt angrier the more he thought about it and slapped the back of his lackey's head.

The lackey cupped his head but did not dare to argue. Instead, he replied grimly, "You can't blame us, Mr. Covington. That man's trained to fight, there's no way we're any match for him."

"That's why I said all of you are useless!"

After scolding them, Scott felt the indignance stifling his chest disperse slightly.

Scott tugged on the collar of his shirt and said venomously.

“Go dig around and find out where who that f*cker is. Then go and talk to a few people we prepared for just these situations. Have them act according to the situation tomorrow. I’ll humiliate that f*cker harshly when the time comes!”

“Auction? Motherf*cker, I’ve got enough money to absolutely crush him!”

The time passed in the blink of an eye.

Early the next morning, Jasper and Baz walked out of the hotel with Julian in tow.

The three went straight to Downstream Investment Company’s meeting room once they left the hotel.

This was where the auction that would decide this company’s future was being held.

The auction was about to start when Jasper arrived. Jasper immediately realized that a few idle people were standing at the door and looking at him weirdly once he arrived.

They pointed fingers as if there was much to chat about. It seemed like Scott had already released the news.

Jasper had no idea of what was happening, but he also did not care.

Tefa City alone was still too small.

If not for the fact that Downstream Investment Company was an extremely profitable purchase and was related to Jasper's arrangement for Baz in the future, he would not be here at all.

These people who were speaking among themselves about him would not have the right to see him anyway.

Naturally, Jasper would not need to apply and pay the deposit by himself. Instead, Baz immediately went to look for the relevant employees to complete their registration.

At the same time, Scott and the others arrived late. Scott's head, like Baz's, was also wrapped in bandages such that he looked rather pitiful.

They say people's eyes redden when they see their enemies. Scott immediately glared at Jasper the moment he saw him.

"Hey, brat. You really did dare to come!"

Scott said icily as he approached Jasper.

“Why wouldn’t I dare?” Jasper asked with a smile.

Scott scoffed and said, “Don’t act so arrogant yet. Don’t think that just because your dog bites, that you can do whatever you want. This is an auction, not somewhere your dog can cause a ruckus. We’re talking about business here!

“As I said before, at least take a look at yourself first before you think about stealing from me in Tefa City.”

Jasper looked at Scott, his expression still calm. “As I said as well, I’m not leaving without this company.”

Anger flashed through Scott’s expression and the man harrumphed. “Fine, then! Let’s wait and see!”

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After this, he brought his people into the meeting room. At the same time, Baz walked over.

“Mr. Laine, I’ve already completed the necessary procedures, but as the legal representative, we need you to go and sign.”

Jasper nodded and walked over to the office window. A few curious people surrounded him.

“That’s him? The person that challenged Mr. Covington?”

“Haha. Didn’t you see just now? Mr. Covington doesn’t like him at all. Who the hell does he think he is? Tsk tsk...”

“Exactly. I’ve never seen anyone who managed to walk out unscathed after they offended Mr. Covington in Tefa City. What a shame, so young and ignorant Now he’s doomed.”

“I’d like to see how rich this person who dared challenge Mr. Covington is. Who knows if his company is even worth 1 million?”

“Haha, even Downstream Investment Company’s opening price is at 3 million. 1 million? Are you kidding me, man?”

“To have 1 million at his age is already a lot. Why else would he be so arrogant?”

Jasper ignored the comments thrown around him. "Hello, please show me your business license."

The officer did his part and said numbly, neither polite nor enthusiastic.

Baz immediately pulled out the business license he had brought over.

It was JW Capital's.

The officer took it and compared it with the documents one by one.

"Alright, JW Capital LLC. The company's office, Southface River Tower in the developmental area of Southface River in Southeast Province's Nauritus City. Legal representative is Jasper Laine, is that you?"

Jasper nodded and replied, "I'm the legal representative."

The officer jotted a note on the registration document and was suddenly stunned when he looked back to the company's registered capital."

“1... 1 billion?!”

The officer might have lowered their voice, but the surrounding people still heard it.

The crowd was immediately in an uproar.

‘This was the year 2001!’

While it was no longer the age where people with thousands of Somer Dollars could be considered wealthy, it was still rare for someone’s wealth to be counted in the billions.

The business owners who came to watch the auction were successful people in suits, but their assets did not exceed more than a few million.

People whose assets were in the ten millions were considered huge business owners.

Even so, these people were considered the highest ranking businessmen in Tefa City.

This was not exclusive to Tefa City. Considering the country's current economic state, this was the case for most cities.

Therefore, this 1 billion the officer read out made Jasper into a dragon amidst a group of small chicks.

"Mr... Mr. Laine, please sign here."

The officer was startled and instinctively straightened his posture to be as professional as possible. He pulled out a document for Jasper to sign.

Jasper took the pen and signed his name quickly, then he brought Baz and Julian into the meeting room.

He was not interested in sparing the dazed crowd another glance.

Just like how Jasper had ignored their mockery, he did not care about the fright and envy on these people's faces now that he had shown his strength.

As he had said before, the difference between them was too big.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1286

Almost everyone had already arrived and were seated when Jasper entered the auction venue.

There was around twenty groups of people within the hall.

Every group had around two to three members, so, coupled with the officers around the room, sixty to seventy people were currently packed into the meeting room.

The majority of people took their seats, while the most attention grabbing person was Scott.

The man sat with a high profile in the middle of the room with both arms placed over two empty chairs by his side. He also had someone pouring and offering tea as well as someone giving him massages.

Upon seeing Jasper enter the room, Scott raised his eyes lazily to glance at the man. He scoffed but did not say anything provoking.

After all, this was an auction venue and not even he dared to make a ruckus.

Not to mention that Julian was right beside Jasper, and the wound on Scott's head had not recovered and still ached.

Scott retracted his sinister gaze once he saw Jasper sit down.

Scott took the coffee from his lackey's hands and asked, "Did you talk to those people we asked yet?"

"Yeah. Everyone will go according to plan when the time comes," A lackey quickly replied.

Scott nodded in satisfaction and asked, "What about that f*cker? Did you find out who he is?"

The lackey looked embarrassed and said, "Mr. Covington, we weren't given enough time to investigate. We need more time."

"Useless! "

Scott glared at him and waved him off annoyedly, "You people can't even do anything properly. Go ask the company hosting the auction later since he's definitely registered

his company if he came to participate in the auction. You'll be able to learn about the man through them."

The lackey's eyes lit up and he praised, "I knew you'd have a great plan, Mr. Covington. I'm sure that'll work"

"My life would've been over long ago if I had to count on you people," Scott said with a sneer.

"The auction's about to start so do that later. How powerful can this f*cker be anyway? Hmph, he's got much to work on before he can beat me."

A short moment later, the auctioneer walked up to the stage and said energetically, "Thank you for coming today. There's only one item on the agenda today, and that's Downstream Investment LLC!"

"Now, before the auction begins, let me describe the situation we have today."

"We've currently received a total of twenty two valid applications, which corresponds to the twenty two families or companies present who applied to participate."

“Downstream Investment LLC is Tefa City City Government’s first investment company operating on state funds. According to the higher ups’ policy, we will now begin the auction for this company market valued at 16 million.”

“I’m sure everyone seated already understands the specifics of this company, but just to emphasize, we are auctioning the ownership of Downstream Investment LLC as a whole. This includes existing office building equipment, various financial investment qualifications, and licenses.”

“The opening bid is at 3 million Somer Dollars.”

“Without further ado, let the auction begin!”

“At an opening price of 3 million, interested bidders can start calling their bids now.”

The auctioneer had just finished speaking when someone raised their bidder card in the corner of the room.

“Number 11 calls for 3 million, are there any higher bids?”

“Number 9 calls for 3.1 million!”

“Number 13 calls for 3.3 million!”

Under the steady stream of bidders, Downstream Investment Company’s price rose from 3 million to 8 million.

Seated in the middle of the room, Scott stared sinisterly sideways at Jasper, who had yet to bid. He scoffed.

The people calling out prices now were all helpers Scott invited. If Jasper did not call a price, then Scott would get the company at a low cost. If Jasper raised his bidder card, then Scott would make his move as well. Everything depended on Jasper now.

At this moment, the man’s eyes were slightly narrowed. He caught onto something the auctioneer had said.

This company was being auctioned along with its financial investment qualifications and licenses!

This benefit did not exist in his past life.

The official financial investment license was something extremely rare in the country, both now and in the future.

Ninety five percent of the listed investment companies, regardless of size, did not have formal qualifications.

They either relied on, or borrowed from, another company that did.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1287

With the rapid development of the mainlands' economy, the importance of formal qualifications and licensing also began to grow.

With this license, it meant that the company could legally issue bonds to society and collect investments from the public. This was of great importance. Lately, this kind of license could only be held by enterprises which received state funds.

This immediately increased Downstream Investment Company's worth by a hundred fold!

“Baz...”

Jasper turned his head to call on Baz. The latter was slightly nervous since this was his first auction.

“Mr. Laine,” Baz replied courteously. He was rather excited because he knew that Mr. Laine was about to make a move.

“Call a price of 16 million.”

Baz was stunned when he heard Jasper.

The highest price at the scene was 8 million, yet Jasper immediately bid double the price.

While Baz had never attended an auction before, he knew that people did not normally bid for things like this.

However, Baz saw how Jasper showed no signs of changing his mind and did not dare to ask more. He ignored the excitement he felt and raised his bidder card.

“Number 22 calls for 16 million!”

The auctioneer’s excited voice resonated throughout the venue. The hall was in an uproar.

They immediately turned to look at Jasper, who called for such an astronomical price.

It was not just Scott and his helpers, the businessmen who heard Jasper's registered capital at the door just now were looking at the man too.

The former thought that Jasper did not know any better, while the latter understood that Jasper had the capability to do this.

"You think you can beat me with this?" Scott tilted his head and grinned cheekily.

"Number 1 calls 17 million!"

The auctioneer's voice rang out after Scott raised his tablet.

"17 million going once, is there anyone willing to offer more?"

Downstream Investment Company had a revaluated value of 16 million. However, auction revaluations were normally 10 to 20 percent lower than the market value, otherwise there would be no point in an auction. Therefore, it was not shocking to see the price reaching 17 million.

Scott sneered at Jasper after calling his price.

“Weren’t you rich? Didn’t you want to challenge me? Come one then! Did you lose your voice?”

Scott laughed out loud.

Jasper was currently telling Baz something.

The former looked casual and calm, while the latter had an expression of shock and disbelief.

After talking, Jasper immediately stood up.

He straightened his clothes and told Baz, “I still have a few things to do so I’ll be leaving first. Do you remember what I told you?”

Baz gulped and nodded excitedly.

“Then I’ll get going. I’ll leave this to you.”

Jasper then walked toward the doors with Julian in tow while everyone watched.

“He’s running away?” Scott was stunned and laughed out loud.

“Here I was wondering how powerful you are. But you’re just running away like that?!”

Before Scott could act proud, Baz rose his tablet. “Number 22 calls for 100 million!”

Everyone present was dumbstruck by what they heard.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1288

100 million!

That was a nine digit number, a 1 followed by eight zeroes.

Somerland had a population of more than one billion, but ninety nine point nine percent of its people could never get their hands on so much money within their entire lives.

As everyone sucked in a cold breath, the meeting room door coincidentally creaked as Jasper opened it.

His footsteps slowly moved further away, but the sound of the attendees' thumping hearts in the room only grew louder.

Once the door closed, the venue erupted into chaos. Everyone began talking among themselves.

'100 million!'

'That's 100 million Somer Dollars!'

'Not even the net worth of everyone in the room equals such a sum!'

Even Scott was stunned.

He did not even have the chance to wipe the prideful expression off his face before his expression froze.

He even doubted if he had heard correctly.

Scott shot to his feet and shouted, "What the f*ck! How much did you bid?"

Jasper had already left, so Scott could only stare at Baz and ask.

Baz was completely unafraid.

He shrugged and touched the bandage over his head. Seeing how Scott looked pretty much the same as he did, Baz replied calmly, "I bid 100 million."

Scott's heart raced and his breath quickened. The Covington family would have to sell everything they had to take out 100 million Somer Dollars.

Yet, Jasper had so easily taken this money out to acquire Downstream Investment Company.

'What? Was he kidding?'

At this moment, Scott felt like some bigshot had destroyed his plans while he and his group of people were playing house.

"What did your boss tell you, brat? Don't play around, you're going to have to pay the price you called out! Otherwise, both you and your boss will die tragically!"

Baz thought back to what Jasper told him when he heard Scott's sinister tone and replied with a smile, "My boss told me that he doesn't have time to waste with you people here. He's calling 100 million right off the bat to deter you people."

"Of course."

Baz added with an extremely domineering smile.

"My boss also said that if you continue to raise to price, then we'll also call for 200 million. Up until you cannot take it anymore."

Everyone present exchanged a look when they heard him.

'There's more?'

'This 100 million is already beyond our capabilities, okay?!'

Scott ground his molars.

He had originally planned to crush Jasper with money during this auction.

However, before he could do anything, Jasper immediately pulled 100 million out to completely overwhelm him.

Indignance, disbelief, and fear flooded Scott's chest. He only had one thought in mind now.

"Find out who he is! Right now! He's got to be someone powerful otherwise he can't possibly pull out 100 million just like that!"

"I don't care who he is, but I'll make him pay for humiliating me!"

In the quiet room, the auctioneer gulped and asked carefully, “100 million going once. Is... is there anyone willing to offer more?”

This sentence had everyone who was shocked by Scott’s wretched expression snap back to reality. Everyone shook their heads and sighed. Who were they kidding? This was 100 million! No one could afford to call for a higher price.

This was an auction of Tefa City City Government’s assets. No one would dare to risk angering the government by joking about this.

Was 100 million a lot?

Life at The Top – Chapter 1289

Not really.

Jasper was in a great mood as he rode back to the hotel. There was a reason why JW Capital only did angel investments and had rarely been involved in the country’s securities financial market.

This was because JW Capital, whom Jasper was the majority shareholder of, did not have a financial license.

It was almost impossible to get such a thing.

Most importantly, there was no way anyone could get their hands on it without the support of state funds. Supervision over this licensing would only be founded slightly later on, after 2008.

Jasper could involve himself in the securities market secretly, and like a majority of financial companies, the government would normally turn a blind eye.

However, Jasper did not plan to take this risk. Fortunately, while he was picking up scraps in Tefa City, he had managed to come across this license.

He had hit jackpot with this opportunity.

Forget 100 million, Jasper would be willing to pay 500 million for this company and license.

However, Jasper was now curious about why Downstream Investments had a license this time despite it not having one during his past life.

Jasper had no idea of what had changed in these two timelines. He had just gotten back to the hotel when Baz arrived

soon after.

“It’s done, Mr. Laine!” Baz was still extremely excited.

It had cost 100 million.

While it was not his money, Baz still felt extremely giddy to be the one to call out the price. It was a great feeling.

“Scott didn’t raise the price?” Jasper asked.

Baz laughed out loud and replied, “Raise the price? Mr. Laine, you didn’t see how sour he looked then. It’s like he swallowed a fly. 100 million crushed him completely, he doesn’t have enough money to raise the price even if he wanted to.”

“That’s good, then,” Jasper nodded and said in satisfaction.

After the excitement passed, Baz sat down and said, “Mr. Laine, I originally thought that we’d be able to acquire this business for around 10 million, but we ended up spending 100 million. I’m afraid we’d make a loss.”

Jasper shook his head and replied, "It won't be a loss. We'll make huge profits with this acquisition."

Baz was stunned and he did not understand what Jasper meant.

However, before he could ask about this, a round of fierce knocks was heard at the door.

Baz immediately got up to open the door.

Before Baz could see who was at the door after opening it, someone outside kicked Baz back into the room.

Baz yelled and staggered backward, cupping a hand over his stomach. He turned to shout to Jasper, "Mr. Laine, Scott has brought some people over!"

Jasper's gaze grew cold, and he went to help Baz into a chair.

At the same time, Scott entered the room.

He looked at Jasper sinisterly.

“Wow, Jasper, how could you lie to me like that? JW Company’s owner?!”

Jasper looked at Scott expressionlessly and asked calmly, “Who kicked him just not?”

Scott had a group of burly lackeys behind him as he shouted, “Motl1erf*cker, I’m talking you! How dare you change the subject?”

“I’m asking you, who kicked him?”

Jasper stared at Scott and shouted fiercely.

Scott was stunned. He did not expect Jasper’s voice to be louder than his.

Just then, a strong man move forward from behind Scott and snickered. “I kicked him. Why? You don’t like it? Then come and fight me!”

Scott sneered and said, “You’re so arrogant because your lackey can fight, right, Jasper? This is the best fighter in Tefa City’s Tiger Head Gang. Let’s see who the better fighter is, hmmm?”

“Julian, break his legs!” Jasper said icily.

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When it came to Jasper Laine’s character. This man was easy to talk to most of the time.

This was true so long as you did not step over the line. Such was the case with Henry before and Baz now. Henry was one of the few true friends Jasper had in this life.

Therefore, Jasper valued him a lot.

As for Baz Willis. Jasper more so wished to repay the man for the kindness he had showed in Jasper’s past life.

Jasper might not have survived until he got reincarnated if not for Baz. He might have chosen to kill himself after being hounded by online loans and loan sharks asking for repayment.

For a long time, Baz had also counseled Jasper as an elder. Because of all this, Baz was someone of unique importance to Jasper as well. There was no way Jasper could tolerate it when he saw Baz get beaten up by the people Scott brought over.

Meanwhile, Julian did not think twice after he received Jasper's instruction.

Once Julian moved, the scene immediately turned into a mess.

It took less than two moves from Julian for this number one fighter of the Tiger Head Gang to be kicked onto the ground.

Julian placed a foot over the man's right leg and pressed down.

They heard the crack of bone fracturing followed by the man's tragic wails. A split second later, the room erupted into utter chaos.

"How dare you, Jasper!" Scott was terrified. He did not expect Jasper to be so protective and fierce.

It was just his subordinate. A kick for a kick should have been enough, yet Jasper broke the attacker's legs!

Scott did not understand. Someone like him would never understand how much Jasper valued the people beside him.

This was also why Scott would never have any subordinate who was truly loyal to him.

“So what if I dare?”

Jasper’s voice was strong.

He looked at Scott sinisterly and said, “Be it you, Scott, or your Covington family, I urge you to do your best. I’ve seen more tricks than you can think of since I started my business and paved this path of mine.”

“But if you touch the people beside me, then I can tell you right now. An eye for an eye? I promise no one will be able to stop me and protect you!”

Baz heard Jasper say this as he stood behind the man. Despite the hand over his stomach and his face paling in pain, the man’s gaze was filled with gratitude.

At this moment, Baz would not f hesitate to do whatever Jasper asked.

“F*ck you, Jasper!”

Scott shouted and stamped his feet.

“This is Tefa City, not Nauritus City! Don’t think that just because you’re rich, that it means you can do whatever you want! The Covington family’s power in Tefa City is beyond what you can possibly imagine! Do you really want to go against me?!”

Jasper sneered and replied, “Go against you? Did you only just realize? Or did you think we could be friends? Who are you to be my friend?”

Scott’s complexion paled at Jasper’s words.

In all honestly, while he had come to the hotel room thinking victory would soon be his, he did actually feel afraid once he witnessed Jasper’s ferocity.

More importantly, Jasper was not the slightly wealthy businessman he initially thought the man was.

Jasper was a businessman, yes, but the man was truly wealthy. This wealth could completely destroy the Covington family.

Scott's only advantage was that Tefa City was the Covington family's territory, and he had home advantage.

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However, this advantage meant nothing to Jasper.

Scott's expression changed and he suddenly took a deep breath to say, "Look, Jasper. I admit that I shouldn't have hurt your men. Now we're even."

"I came here to talk business with you. How about we negotiate, hmm?"

Jasper replied calmly, "Business? I've never seen anyone who claims to be here for business start beating people up once they walk through the doors."

"Jasper!"

Scott raised his voice.

"You might be rich and JW Company might be powerful, but you spent 100 million to acquire Downstream Investment Company in Tefa City! You'll gain nothing from making an enemy out of me! Don't you at least know that?"

Jasper arched his brow.

Scott's mind was racing right now.

It seemed like he was not a complete newbie.

"Sure, then. How do you want to do business?" Jasper asked calmly.

Scott's expression turned excited when he saw that Jasper willing to negotiate.

"Simple. I want half of Downstream Investment Company's shares. Then I'll make sure that Downstream's business goes smoothly here in Tefa City and no one will dare to cause us any trouble."

Jasper chuckled when he heard Scott.

Scott felt his heart quake in fear at Jasper's chuckle and asked darkly, "What are you laughing at? What is the meaning of this?"

“I’m laughing at how unrealistic your dream is.” Jasper had never planned to partner with Scott since the beginning.

He understood trust-fund children like Scott too well. All these people thought of all day was how to lie and scam. The only reason they succeeded was that the people they negotiated with before were terrified of their familial background and strength. As time passed and the number of businesses under their control grew, these trust-fund children began to take their success for granted.

However, this act was useless in front of Jasper.

“I spent 100 million to acquire that company and you’re just going to ask me for half the shares just like that? Who do you think you are?”

Scott’s expression grew cold when he heard Jasper’s sentence.

“Jasper, don’t forget that Tefa City still belongs to my Covington family. If my family disagrees, do you think you’ll be able to do business here as you wish?”

Jasper chuckled and replied coldly, “That’s an easy problem to solve. If you disagree, then I’ll get rid of you. If the Covington family disagrees, then I’ll get rid of them. Won’t all my problems be solved then?”

Scott widened his eyes at what he heard.

“Are you f*cking crazy, Jasper? Who do you think you are? Do you really think you’re some kind of god?”

“I’m not God, just a normal businessman.” Jasper stared at Scott and said firmly and strongly. “A businessman that refuses to be exploited by you!”

“As I said just now, I’ve already acquired the company and I will start doing business. There’s no way I’d give you half of the shares just because you asked. Go ahead and show me what other tricks you have then, I’ll be waiting!”

Scott raised his hand angrily and pointed at Jasper, “Fine! Fine, then! You win this time!”

“But I’ll tell you too. I won’t let that stupid company of yours do business here in Tefa City, otherwise I might as well f*cking die!”

Jasper narrowed his eyes and looked at Scott icily before he said calmly, “Alright, then. Let’s fight.”

“From what I remember, the Covingtons are in the real estate business, right? Half of Tefa City’s buildings were constructed by you. Good, I also have business in the real estate industry and I have a few buildings here in Tefa City.”

Jasper then pulled out his phone to call Sean, the person in charge of the real estate company.

“Check all our real estate yet to be sold in Tefa City. Any customer willing to purchase housing contracts will be gifted renovation worth 10% of their housing price, it can be used as a discount off the base housing price or redeemed for free renovation and electrical appliances.”

“And if our customers coming to buy our real estate come with their contracts with the Covington family’s real estate company, pay their compensation fee and raise the renovation bonus to 20%.”

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Sean was stunned for a moment when he heard Jasper’s instructions.

However, Sean was a smart man and he knew one thing. The company was Jasper’s, so the man had complete say over what happened within it.

After understanding that, Sean immediately replied. “I understand, Mr. Laine! I’ll get to it immediately!”

After hanging up the phone, Jasper then turned to look at Scott’s wretched expression and said calmly, “The Covington family doesn’t only do real estate, right? It’s also one of the top three suppliers of non-staple foods in Southeast Province, hmm?”

Then, Jasper made another call. This time to Dawson.

“Uncle Schuler, please take all non-staple food provided by the Covington family off the shelves in the group’s supermarkets.”

Far in Nauritus City, Dawson was in a meeting when he received the call and smiled as he replied, “Alright. I’ll send word immediately.”

As the largest chain supermarket brand, Schuler Supermarkets had way too many suppliers begging for a partnership.

It had gotten to the point where any product of an enterprise would surely be profitable the moment it was sold on Schuler Supermarkets’ shelves.

Hence, it was no problem to pull one brand of non-staple food off the shelves.

Jasper put the phone down and looked at Scott, the man's face devoid of color. Jasper demanded calmly, "Tell me what other industries this dominating Covington family in Tefa City is involved in."

The corner of Scott's mouth twitched. He could not say anything, but cold sweat began to bead over his forehead.

He was just the third generation of the Covington family. His grandfather and his dad still presided over the family.

The person in charge now might be his dad, but even his dad was just a junior in the elder's eyes.

Scott had never imagined he would bring his family so much trouble.

"Mr. Laine, the Covington family also does food and beverages, and they have a few big restaurants and hotels in Tefa City."

Baz suddenly spoke up.

He wanted nothing more than to screw Scott over, so he naturally would not pass this chance up.

Scott shivered when he heard Baz.

He looked at Baz resentfully as if he wanted to rip the man to shreds.

“F&B and hotels, huh? I’m not involved in those two industries.”

Scott felt relieved when he heard Jasper, but this relief had only lasted a few seconds before Jasper continued to talk.

“But I’m close with a few restaurant owners in Nauritus City. It shouldn’t be any problem to invest in them and ask them to start a trade war with the Covington family’s food and beverage enterprise.”

“As for hotels, the person in charge of Hilton Hotels in Southeast Province contacted me a few days ago and asked if I wanted to work together. I planned on declining, but now that I think about it, it doesn’t seem like a bad idea to open a JW Hilton here in Tefa City, wouldn’t you say?”

Scott lost all hope when he heard this.

“You’re crazy, Jasper!” Scott shouted.

“Just what did I do to offend you, to the point that you’re willing to go so far and target the Covington family?! Even if you succeed, you’re still going to end up paying a lot of money!”

Jasper chuckled and asked, “Is this a lot of money?”

“If I manage to completely get rid of the Covington family from Tefa City, then the space you will leave in the market will easily earn me back everything I initially paid.”

Scott’s eyes were filled with fear as he shouted at Jasper, “So you’re going to fight the Covington family to the death over something so insignificant?”

Jasper replied calmly, “You think that this is something insignificant. You also think it’s only right that I give you half of Downstream Investment Company’s shares, don’t you?”

“ ... ”

Scott had nothing to say now. At this moment, Scott’s phone rang.

Seeing his dad’s phone number on the display, Scott shivered as a bad feeling engulfed him.

Scott ignored the strong desire to throw the phone and hide, then mustered the courage to pick up the phone.

“Scott, who the f*ck did you offend?!”

Scott’s dad, Emmet, the current spokesperson of the Covington family, shouted over the line.

Scott’s heart shook and he asked palely, “Dad, how... How did you know?”

“How did I know?! How long more do you plan on hiding this from me? The people below me say that you’ve offended the owner of JW Company, Jasper Laine!”

Scott wailed and replied, “Not just offended. He called his subordinates in front of me just now. Not only is he fighting us in the real estate industry, but he also wants to take our company’s products off the supermarket shelves. He also said he’s going to attack us in F&B and the hotel industry.”

“Dad, he’s trying to uproot the Covington family!”

Emmett immediately roared when he heard Scott.

“You b*stard! I always told you to keep a low profile, didn’t I? Don’t think that because you’re born in the Covington family that it means you’re on top of the world. There are tons of people outside more powerful than the Covington family. Who gave you the courage to offend JW Company?!”

“Do you even know what JW Company controls in the Southeast Province?!”

Scott shivered and replied, “I didn’t think the consequences would be so severe. I was just thinking of gaining some benefits.”

“Where are you now?!” Emmett asked icily.

Scott glanced at Jasper guilty and replied, “I’m in Jasper’s room in Tefa Hotel.”

“You f*cking went to look for him?! How bold of you!”

Emmett wanted to beat Scott up.

“Give Jasper the phone!”

Scott did not dare to take his own sweet time and immediately passed the phone over to Jasper.

Jasper took the phone and said calmly, "This is Jasper Laine."

"Mr. Laine, I'm sure there's got to be a misunderstanding in this," Emmett immediately humbled himself as he spoke.

"I'm Scott's Dad, Emmett Covington. I'll make sure to teach that useless son a lesson for offending you, so please go easy on him."

Jasper replied calmly, "Your son tried to scam me and hit my men twice. Am I supposed to just move on from that?"

Emmett fell silent for a moment before he replied, "Mr. Laine, there are some things that cannot be said clearly over the phone. How about this? I'll set up a feast at my house tonight just for you, Mr. Laine. Our old master is also very interested in talking to a young entrepreneur like you, Mr. Laine. What do you think?"

'You're involving your old master?'

Jasper smiled and replied, "Since you've invited me, Mr. Covington, then it's only right I attend."

Jasper ended the call and tossed the phone back to Scott before saying calmly, "You can leave now. I'll go to your house tonight."

Scott's expression changed and he wanted to threaten Jasper further, but he did not dare to do so after he thought back to how furious his dad was. The man must have wanted to skin him alive.

"Then I'll wait for you at home!"

Scott said before running away without looking back.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1293

After Scott left, Jasper brought Baz to the hospital.

Baz felt despondent, having gone to the hospital two days in a row.

Thank goodness that a checkup revealed that there was not too big a problem.

“Don’t try to take the hit head on if it happens again in the future. Protecting yourself is the most important thing here,” Jasper reminded.

Baz smiled wryly and replied, “I didn’t know that Scott would have his people start attacking me the moment he walked through the door. He caught me off guard.”

Jasper frowned slightly and said, “I’ll do my best to get rid of the problem with the Covington family so that you will have a good environment to work in.”

Baz was stunned for a moment before he quickly replied, “Mr. Laine, do you want me to stay in Tefa City?”

“Why? Do you not dare to do so?” Jasper smiled.

Baz frantically replied, “It’s not that I don’t dare. I’m not afraid of anything, except screwing this up.”

“You were the one who found out about Downstream Investment Company and you’re the one who acquired the company. Now that I’ve bought it, I’m not going to let you run away so easily.”

Jasper joked, then told Baz about what he had been thinking these days.

“I plan to hand Downstream Investment Company over to you for management.”

Despite already guessing that this was the case, Baz still instinctively rejected Jasper when he heard the man’s proposition.

“No can do, Mr. Laine. I don’t have enough experience and I’m just a normal employee at the company. I won’t be able to suddenly manage a whole company.”

Jasper might not have trusted anyone else, but Baz was different.

In his past life, Baz had completely transformed Downstream Investment Company into something big on his own with no one else to guide him.

Not to mention that throughout this period of observation, Jasper had also asked Chad and the investment department what they thought about Baz’s performances. Jasper was certain that Baz had the potential to be successful again.

“Don’t worry, I’ll transfer some people over to help you to manage the company. Talk to whoever you need to bring over from the investment department. As long as they’re willing then they can immediately come to work here.

“As for experience, no one is born with the knowledge on how to manage a company. This is something you have to slowly familiarize yourself with.

“I can give you money.”

“I can give you manpower.”

“I can also give you time.”

Jasper then patted Baz’s shoulder and said, “But confidence is something I cannot give. Confidence is something you need to develop on your own. I trust that you can do well, but you have to trust yourself too.”

Baz looked at Jasper excitedly. He opened his mouth, and after much hesitation, finally asked the question he held in his heart.

“Mr. Laine, why do you value me so much?”

Baz knew he was not some genius. In fact, he had been on the receiving end of harsh words since he was young, and he was not someone who was loved by all.

However, everything changed after he met Jasper. Jasper seemed to value him more than others. Not only did Jasper give him, someone with no capability, experience, or academics, the best job opportunity, but Jasper was also handing a company he acquired with 100 million over to him to manage.

Jasper's act of kindness was so great that Baz could not help but doubt. 'Why?'

'I'm just a normal person, what about me is so worthy of Jasper's admiration?'

In response to this question, Jasper narrowed his eyes and replied with a fleeting tone that Baz did not quite understand, "There's no specific reason, actually. If I had to come up with one, then I can only say that it's fate."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1294

When Jasper lost hope due to his poverty, after he fought with Penelope and was left in disdain and humiliated, or forced to desperation because of his debtors in his past life, it was always Baz who helped him financially and physically.

He had previously asked Baz about he did this as well. To which Baz answered, 'because of fate'.

Jasper could not confirm if it was truly fate, but he knew that as a person, he had to repay this kindness. Even if it was kindness from his past life.

It still had to be repaid.

“Alright Rest well and go back to the hospital after you finish both bags of saline drips. Remember to eat dinner, I can’t eat with you since I’m going to the Covington family,” Jasper looked at the time and got up to say.

Baz immediately looked up and said, “Are you really going to the Covington family house, Mr. Laine? They’ve got a bad reputation.”

“It’s not like they can hold me hostage there.”

Jasper pointed at Julian gleefully and said, “Don’t forget that even if they choose to fight, there’s no one in Tefa City who can hold Julian back.”

With Baz settled, Jasper left the hospital and immediately had Julian drive them to the Covington family residence.

Rose Garden, Tefa City's largest community for the wealthy, also belonged to the Covington family. The Covington family had taken out a large portion from the best area of land in Rose Garden and left it for themselves.

Jasper had just arrived at the villa entrance and gotten out of the car when he saw a middle-aged man waiting with Scott at the door.

"Mr. Laine, I've heard a lot about you."

With frays of white hair around his temple, Emmett looked authoritative. He wore a cashmere sweater over his shirt and looked like an experienced middle-aged businessman.

Emmett walked over with a large smile, reached out to shake Jasper's hand, and engaged in small talk.

Seeing how polite Emmett was, Jasper did not put on a dark expression nor act arrogant in front of him. With a gentle smile, Jasper greeted, "It's nice to meet you, Mr. Covington."

The two shook hands and began to chat among themselves.

From afar, Scott's gaze darkened at the sight. His lips pulled into a disdainful sneer.

He hated these people the most. Despite knowing that they were enemies, these people still smiled and pretended to be friends. How sly.

"The old master isn't young anymore and it's not easy for him to move around, that's why he didn't greet you outside. The wind's strong out here, so perhaps we could talk more inside?" Emmett told Jasper happily.

"Who am I to request an elder to welcome me at the door? It's only right I meet him inside."

Jasper then followed the Covington father-son duo with Julian in tow as he entered the villa.

The villa was decorated luxuriously, with expensive furniture and ornaments everywhere.

Jasper was not the same poor boy he used to be. One glance was all it took for him to get a rough idea of how much everything cost. As expected of Tefa City's wealthiest family, the Covington family's renovation on this villa had to cost at least four to five million. Four to five million during the year 2001.

Emmett brought Jasper into a small tea room. Upon entering, Jasper saw a skinny but energetic old man sitting behind the coffee table.”

“Greetings, Old Master Covington, I am Jasper,” Jasper took the initiative to greet the fellow.

Gerard laughed out loud and pointed at the chair before him, “Come, young man. Come sit and drink tea with this old man.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly at Gerald’s lack of movement before taking a seat opposite him.

At this moment, Emmett gave Scott a look and the two walked out of the tea room together.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1295

The father-son duo walked out from the tea room together and arrived at the study room upstairs.

“Close the door.”

Emmett's expression now no longer showed any traces of the casual smile he had on when he chatted with Jasper downstairs. Instead, it was dark and sinister now.

Scott felt his heart drop as a bad premonition filled his heart. However, he had no other choice than to muster the courage and close the door.

He had just turned back around after closing the door when a large hand struck his face. Scott did not have the chance to say anything.

Slap!

A clear slap landed square across Scott's face.

Scott was stunned by the slap and cupped his face. Ignoring the ringing in his ear, he shouted angrily, "Dad! What'd you hit me for no reason? Are you crazy?"

Emmett glared at Scott and scolded, "I'm hitting you for no reason?"

"The trouble you brought me is currently sitting downstairs and your grandfather and I have to come out and deal with him for you! We don't even know if we can resolve this issue yet! And you're telling me that I hit you for no reason? Even when you're the one who caused this mess?"

Scott's hand still cupped his face and he said indignantly, "You guys looked fine when you talked, though? How much trouble can it be? Do you have to exaggerate?"

Emmett became even angrier when he heard this, and he wanted to slap his son again.

"Looked fine when we talked? What the hell do you know?"

"JW's subsidiaries have already begun a combined attack on us! I've already received negative reports due to the activities of their real estate projects in targeting us!"

"We've already lost a few dozen customers people were willing to disregard the deposits they had given us and opt to buy property from JW Real Estates instead! A few of them even purposefully put their deposit with us, only to take the contract to JW Real Estates and ask for a discount!"

"Just today, we lost dozens of customers and a few million Somer Dollars! News will begin to spread, and soon, the entirety of Tefa City will know about this too! Who's going to buy our housing then? Everyone's going to run to JW Real Estates!"

"Schuler Supermarkets also sent us a statement saying that they've taken all our products off the shelf in their supermarkets all over the country. They're requesting that we ship our products back within three days, so that's at least another ten million worth of loss!"

“Let me ask you, do you still think that it’s no big deal?!”

Scott was stunned when he heard Emmett.

Scott felt relieved when he saw Jasper make the calls earlier today, since he thought that Jasper was just trying to scare him.

“How... how could that be? He’s losing money too by doing this. Isn’t he afraid that he’ll make a loss?” Scott gasped.

Emmett sneered, “You moron. Who cares about that once the fight truly begins? With Jasper’s wealth, he can afford to attack us at the cost of his own money.”

“How long do you think the Covington family can survive against Jasper in terms of wealth? Less than a week I tell you!”

“That b*stard! And to think that despite how happy go lucky he looks, he’s actually so cruel! How can he even laugh and smile?” Scott clenched his jaw and said.

“This is what a scheming person looks like! Unlike you, who shows every single emotion you feel on your face. You’d only get screwed over once you go outside!”

Emmett glared at Scott harshly. "I told you before to do some business and stop playing around with your idle friends. How capable do you think you are?"

"What are you without the Covington family, your grandfather, or me, your dad? You think those useless friends of yours would still pay any attention to you?"

"Jasper's almost your age! He's younger, in fact! But look at him now. He makes a move and, forget me, even your grandfather has to talk to him nicely. This is what a capable person looks like. You bringing your idle friends around and stirring up a ruckus wherever you go is an embarrassment!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1296

“I... I didn't think it would turn out like this either. What do we do now?”

Scott was truly terrified now.

“Your grandfather is talking to him in person now. Let's see how it goes first. If he's willing to compromise, then the Covington family is willing to share some of our profits. But if he truly wants to fight us to the end, then the Covington family will not surrender so easily either!”

In the tea room downstairs.

“Drink some tea whenever you're free, young man. Tea clears the mind and soothes the soul, there's no need for so much anger all the time.”

Gerald passed Jasper a cup of tea.

“People are all driven by interests. There's no need to go to such extreme lengths.”

Jasper took the cup of tea and had a small sip before he replied calmly, "Mr. Covington, I never intended to oppress people with my power. Most of the time, my actions are merely a form of self defense when I'm forced to fight back. The same goes for this particular incident."

Gerald's eyebrow twitched and he said solemnly, "Scott's been spoiled rotten. But isn't a small lesson enough when a child's made a mistake? There's no need to strain our relationship."

Jasper smiled and replied, "Mr. Covington, what if I was a poor man, then? Or perhaps only had a few million Somer Dollars worth of assets. Would I still get the chance to drink tea with you here after Scott threatens me?"

Gerald's smile slowly disappeared and he said, "You're just making excuses."

Jasper replied calmly, "Excuse or explanation, the situation's already occurred. The Covington family invited me today and I agreed to come. So, let's get straight to the point."

"Alright."

Gerald nodded and said expressionlessly, "I've already seen the extent of your capabilities and I admit that you are powerful. Frankly speaking, the Covington family cannot afford to continue fighting like this. What are your demands for you to stop attacking?"

“Simple.”

Jasper looked at Gerald and said, “I don’t want money, nor do I want your family’s property. All I ask is that from today onward, Scott leaves and never returns to Tefa City again.”

Gerald was enraged by what he heard.

“You’re going too far, Jasper!

“The Covington family only ever has a sole heir. Right now, Scott is the only son. What difference would it be between having him leave Tefa city and uprooting the Covington family entirely?!”

Jasper replied calmly, “I don’t care whether the Covington family gets uprooted or not, nor does that have anything to do with me. But I don’t want to see Scott in Tefa City again.”

Gerald clenched his jaw and looked at Jasper icily. “I can put in a word to pay you 5 million worth of compensation. I also have a plot of land by the borders separating the South Mountain area and Nauritus City. It’s quite an expensive plot of land, and I can gift it to you.”

“If you’re willing to sell a portion of Downstream Investment Company’s shares, then I can double the price I suggested just now.”

Jasper looked up gleefully and asked, “Mr. Covington, do I look like someone who lacks money?”

“ ... ”

“Jasper, the Covington family might not be as wealthy as you, but we’ve been in Tefa City for years. Even if we were to be destroyed, you would not come out unscathed. I’ve been in business for decades and I still have a few old friends and acquaintances. Do you truly not plan to show me any respect?”

Jasper furrowed his brows slightly and replied calmly. “I already gave you respect. Otherwise, there’s no way I’d accept the invitation to come to the Covington family villa.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1297

“I’m warning you, Jasper. Downstream Investment Company isn’t something the Covington family wants to buy. There’s someone ever more powerful behind who’s interested in it! You’re only going to get yourself screwed over if you keep acting so stubborn!”

Gerald stared at Jasper and said.

Jasper arched his brow slightly.

Jasper believed what Gerald said since it was likely true. Downstream Investment Company did not come with a license in his past life.

However, it did in this.

Usually, the acquisition of a state fund investment company should not come with a license.

Someone probably pulled a few strings throughout all this.

Only someone with very powerful contacts could include a priceless license along with the sale of a state-funded investment company.

Therefore, Jasper could believe that someone extremely powerful had pulled the strings in question.

The Covington family was certainly not qualified enough to do so.

They were basically an agent in this situation.

Both Scott and Gerald had now brought up purchasing shares of Downstream Investment company.

Hence, it intrigued Jasper when Gerald straightforwardly told him about a more formidable character's involvement.

"I've already acquired Downstream Investment Company, and this is a fact that no one can change. Be it you or this formidable figure you speak of, no one will be taking a dollar of profit from this company. Let alone invest and become a shareholder."

Jasper looked at Gerald and continued calmly, "I'm sure this formidable person has already pulled the strings. But instead of acquiring the business himself, he decided to have your family act as a middle man. So, either this formidable person's got a sensitive identity and cannot appear in person, or he doesn't actually want the company itself. Correct?"

Gerald did not say anything but his heart shook in fear. This Jasper was truly skilled, a few sentences were all it took for him to recount the whole truth.

“No matter what the situation is, the only reason I’d give you what I have is if I don’t want it. If you want to steal it from me, then come and get it.”

Jasper then got up and walked toward the door.

“Either accept my conditions, Mr. Covington, or go and look for this powerful person supporting you. If he manages to defeat me, then there’s nothing I can say. But I, Jasper Laine, have never surrendered to anyone since I started doing business.”

“Just come and try me...”

Jasper did not look at Gerald’s sour expression and immediately left with Julian in tow.

Jasper had just left when the doors to the tea room opened and Emmett entered the room carefully.

“Dad, how’d the talk go?” Emmett asked.

“Horrible,” Gerald replied expressionlessly.

While he had been prepared, Emmett's expression still darkened when he heard the result.

"He doesn't want money or land. The only request he has is for Scott to leave Tefa City forever."

Emmett was enraged when he heard Jasper's condition.

"Bullsh*t! All of the Covington family's foundations are in Tefa City! There's no way we can move elsewhere. We've only got one heir, so what's the difference between that and completely destroying the Covington family?"

"Why would he care?"

Gerald sneered. "If not for your great son, this incident would never have developed to this point. I already asked around, and it was your son who offended others first. This wouldn't have happened otherwise."

Emmett asked bitterly, "Then what do we do now?"

"What else can we do?"

Gerald clenched his jaw and said grimly, "Prepare the car. I need to visit the Marquis."

Emmett was stunned. "Are we really going to tell the Marquis about this? He told us to acquire Downstream Investment Company on his behalf, but not only did we screw up, we even offended Jasper. I'm afraid the Marquis will think that we're incompetent..."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1298

"Do you have a better plan?" Gerald looked at Emmet icily, "Do you plan to fight Jasper head on, or send Scott away?"

Emmett stammered but did not say anything for a long time.

Gerald sighed deeply and said, "Go prepare the car. At least the Duke of the Northwest and I have some history."

"Instead of looking for anyone else, the Marquis came to ask our help on his trip to pay his ancestors respect in Tefa City. This means that there's still a level of closeness to our relationship. We have no one else to turn to but the Marquis right now."

Emmett's eyes lit up and he replied excitedly, "Dad, are you planning to have the Marquis attack Jasper? We'd have nothing to worry about if that's the case! We might

not win against Jasper, but he's trash in comparison to the Marquis. The Marquis would be able to get rid of him easily."

The Covington family seemed to have completely given up on negotiating with Jasper over the following few days.

They began to fight back strongly against JW's subsidiaries and Schuler Supermarkets' coordinated attacks.

One had to admit that the Covington family certainly exercised a degree of power and skill as the wealthiest family in Tefa City.

However, JW Company was no longer the weak and cautious company that was too afraid to offend others anymore. In fact, a huge number of people in many industries had to make sure not to anger JW Company.

Not to mention that this fight occurred within the Southeast Province.

To quote a formidable and high status person in Southeast Province, "JW has already made a name for itself."

The Covington family's defense appeared strong, but everyone knew that defeat was only a matter of time. However, both attacking and defending parties had to pay a price whenever there were these business wars. JW Company had used up quite a lot of money during the past few days as well.

Not that Jasper cared.

Ignoring the benefits Jasper would earn once the Covington family was destroyed, the benefits brought by the financial license from Downstream Investment Company alone could replenish ten to twenty times the value of the money lost.

Not to mention that getting rid of the Covington family was a must if he wanted Downstream Investment Company to develop well in Tefa City. These were prices he had to pay.

"Jasper, there's an invitation for you."

Jasper had just ended a video conference with the people over at Nauritus City when Julian brought a bronzed invitation over.

Jasper took it from the man.

It was an invitation to a meal.

Jasper immediately frowned when he saw the sender's name.

This was not a famous name at all, and only a small amount of people knew of him.

However, anyone who heard this name knew what it entailed.

Lionel Alvarado.

Lord Alvarado, the oldest grandson of the Alvarado family, under the Duke of the Northwest.

Jasper only knew of him because he heard his boss Baz boast about him while drunk during his past life.

Within Somerland, the Duke of the Northwest was publicly recognized as a powerful person. The Northwest Alvarado family was extremely powerful and kept a low profile.

The reason why Baz, the owner of a small business, knew about him was because Tefa City was the

Alvarado family's ancestral land. Baz had also been lucky enough to see Lord Alvarado from afar when he acquired Downstream Investment Company.

Coupled with the understanding Jasper had of upper class families in this life, Jasper recognized that both the identity and status of Lord Alvarado were on par with Waterhoof City's little prince and Swallow Capital's Brown family's crippled son. They were the outstanding individuals from this younger generation.

These three together were known as the three most brilliant young leaders of Somerland's new millennium. This Lord Alvarado simply kept a lower profile than the other two, so fewer people knew of him.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1299

“Jasper, is there something wrong with this invitation?”

Julian had been following Jasper for a very long time. One could even say that Julian was the person Jasper spent the most time with.

It had gotten to the point where Jasper had the habit of bringing Julian wherever he went.

Therefore, Julian knew Jasper very well, and when he saw how Jasper's expression turn solemn at the sight of the invitation, Julian immediately realized that the situation was more complex than he had initially thought.

"Nothing much." Jasper shook his head.

He did not have the intention to hide things from Julian, but the situation here involved too many people and Jasper did not know where to start with his explanation.

Lord Alvarado's appearance caused Jasper to realize that Tefa City's waters ran deeper than he thought.

He did not have much contact with Lord Alvarado in his past life. Therefore, this sudden invitation was most likely related to his fight with the Covington family. This was coincidentally the worse kind of news for Jasper.

"Tell Baz to speed things up with the headquarters and the staff arrangements. Have him take control of Downstream Investment Company as soon as possible," Jasper said grimly.

Julian grunted his acknowledgement and left to look for Baz.

When he heard the sound of the door closing, Jasper placed the invitation to the side.

This meal would certainly be a dangerous one to attend, but Jasper did not plan to decline.

Many things could not be avoided. Therefore, he might as well attend generously and decide his next course of action after he better understood the situation. Exquisite House was a renowned private kitchen in Tefa City.

Its superior dishes were also accompanied by superior prices.

With an average meal price of 2000 Somer Dollars per person in the year 2001, one would never see a regular salarymen appear in the restaurant.

This meal was arranged to begin at seven pm.

Unlike the bustling everyday restaurant, Exquisite House was completely empty, as it had been bought out for the night.

It took more than just money to buy out a restaurant of such sophistication.

Jasper got out of the car and found a few suited men, who were evidently not servers, staring at him intently from the entrance of Exquisite House.

One of them walked over and asked courteously, yet still conservatively, “Are you Mr. Jasper Laine?”

“I am.” Jasper nodded.

“The Marquis is waiting upstairs, please follow me.” The suited man turned around and pushed open the door after saying this.

There were no traces of any servers in Exquisite House’s dining hall. In place of them were men in black suits standing around casually despite being extremely alert. Each of them occupied strategic points of the Exquisite House and stood protectively at the entrance of the staircase.

On the second floor, at the entrance to a private room, two ladies in elegant traditional clothing reached out to open the door at the same time when they saw Jasper and Julian arrive.

The strong scent of hotpot invaded their nostrils.

A young man was sitting at the end of the round table in the large private room, clearly focused on his food in front of him. There were also two alluring and beautiful women on either side of him, one with a bottle of red wine and the other with a towel.

There was an expressionless man in a suit at each of the room's four corners. It was a grand scene.

Jasper arched his brow slightly.

“There are two good fighters, Jasper.”

Julian whispered quietly.

Jasper nodded. There was nothing surprising about a few good fighters protecting someone as important as Lord Alvarado.

However, the scene did seem rather extravagant.

“You’re here.”

Lord Alvarado said calmly from behind the table. As he was served by two beautiful women, Lord Alvarado did not look up at all as he continued to cook the slices of lamb in the hotpot.

“Come take a seat and eat since you’re here.”

The man’s tone sounded like he was greeting an old friend.

Jasper did not decline, and while the grandiose downstairs and outside the room did not quite match with a hotpot meal, he settled in any way. He walked over to the seat opposite Lord Alvarado and sat down casually.

Even though he sat down, Jasper still did not touch his cutlery.

Instead, he looked at Lord Alvarado closely.

To be honest, Lord Alvarado might be the most attractive man Jasper had ever seen.

With exquisite features, sharp brows, and starry eyes, the man's facial features were arranged in beautiful symmetry. What caught his attention the most was the beauty mole under his left eye, which added a feminine touch to the man's delicate appearance.

The two dressed up women behind him were also extraordinarily beautiful, but they paled greatly in comparison to Lord Alvarado.

'What a shame.'

'That such beauty is found on the features of a man.'

This was the first thought Jasper had when he saw Lord Alvarado.

"Why aren't you eating?" Lord Alvarado realized that Jasper had been staring at him for a long time. However, he seemed used to it and did not express any displeasure. Instead, he asked Jasper kindly.

"I prefer my food spicy," Jasper felt slightly embarrassed and simply picked an excuse.

"My bad, it's an oversight on my part."

Lord Alvarado smiled at Jasper. Even Julian felt slightly defenseless against the beauty of the man, let alone Jasper.

Lord Alvarado turned around to instruct the woman beside him, "Go and ask for a plate of spices."

The woman acknowledged courteously, then she turned and left.

At the same time, Lord Alvarado placed a cooked piece of lamb into his mouth. Lord Alvarado made such a simple action seem completely in tune with his aura.

The man managed to make hotpot seem like a noble delicacy. Lord Alvarado's appearance and charm were genuinely off the charts.

"I don't have a lot of time." Lord Alvarado said as he ate.

"I can only spare some time to talk to you while I eat."

"Let's get straight to the point. The Covington family is just a medium, I'm the one who wanted Downstream Investment Company."

Jasper nodded and replied, "I thought as much."

Lord Alvarado smiled and continued, "I don't like people interrupting me when I speak."

Jasper shrugged.

Lord Alvarado might seem like an easy person to talk to when Jasper walked in, but there was no powerful trust-fund child that was truly easy to talk to.

One would be dead before they it if they fell for a simple façade so easily.

The woman returned and brought Jasper a plate of spices.

Jasper grabbed a piece of lamb to cook it, then dipped it in spices before placing it into his mouth.

'F*ck. I miscalculated. It's really f*cking spicy.'

Life at The Top – Chapter 1300

The hotpot soup bubbled as steam permeated the air. In what seemed like a harmonious environment, Jasper and Lord Alvarado's first meeting was taking place.

“Continuing where I left off, I don't really care too much about Downstream Investment Comp any or the Covington family. They're both toys and insignificant to me.”

Lord Alvarado focused on the hotpot in front of him and said slowly.

“But someone from the Covington family came to complain to me today that you're being too domineering, that you're vying to kill them after you stole their company. I had someone check and the situation's pretty much as they claimed.”

Jasper arched his brow. He did not say anything. Arguing or explaining himself now was not a smart move.

Not to mention that explanations were futile in the adult world. When you had enough power, you could call a deer a 'horse' and someone would still praise you for having great eyesight.

If you were not powerful enough, someone would still call you an idiot no matter how much you explained yourself.

Lord Alvarado was satisfied with Jasper's behavior and continued, "They think that if they complain to me, then I would get rid of you angrily. But they thought wrong."

Lord Alvarado shook his head and said regretfully as if he could not understand the stupidity of the Covington family.

"Think about it. I came back to pay my ancestors respect and rarely got my attention piqued. I even paved the way and all I needed was for someone to help me get it. This was something even idiots could accomplish, yet they still managed to screw it up. Don't they deserve what they have coming?"

Jasper did not say anything.

"Why are you so quiet?" Lord Alvarado asked after a moment.

"You said you don't like being interrupted. And I couldn't be sure if you've finished saying your part," Jasper replied sincerely.

Lord Alvarado was stunned for a bit before he replied, "Interesting. You're a very interesting man."

“Everyone lives for a useful purpose. Even a beggar or a crippled man has something of use. If someone’s completely loss their usefulness, then them staying alive would only be a waste of resources, wouldn’t you say?”

Jasper nodded in agreement in response to Lord Alvarado’s question after he laughed out loud.

“So I won’t care about what happens to the Covington family. Just kill them, I quite like watching scenes like this.”

Lord Alvarado said with a crescent-eyed smile, yet Jasper could not help but feel a chill run down his spine. Under the extraordinary beauty was a truly selfish and cold blooded man.

The Covington family had helped him here and there, yet once they screwed up, he completely disregarded their history.

People like this were the last people you wanted to offend. Jasper had given the matter some thought before he

arrived.

Lord Alvarado might interfere and threaten him into ceasing his attack on the Covington family. Or the man would be enraged and turn against him directly.

However, not only did this man allow Jasper to attack the Covington family, he even seemed to anticipate it. This was the last thing Jasper wanted to see.

This showed that Lord Alvarado was an extremely ruthless person and was very difficult to deal with.

“As for you.”

Lord Alvarado chuckled and reached out his hand.

The woman behind him immediately passed him a hot towel.

Lord Alvarado took the towel and wiped his mouth before he tossed it on the woman's hands. Then, he said slowly, “Reputation and image is something that matters to me a lot, and I hate it when someone doesn't want to act accordingly. Jasper, you know you're damaging my reputation here, right?”

This entire time, Jasper had listened as Lord Alvarado talked.

Now that Lord Alvarado was done, it was Jasper's turn to speak.

However, now a choice had suddenly been thrust in front of Jasper.

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Either act according to Lord Alvarado's reputation, or completely make an enemy out of him.

Jasper did not say anything nor did Lord Alvarado rush him. The man looked at Jasper patiently with a crescent eyed smile.

Slowly, Jasper took his cutleries and speared a piece of lamb. He dipped it in the spices and slowly put it in his mouth.

A moment later, Jasper frowned slightly.

"It's spicy."

Lord Alvarado's crescent eyed smile did not disappear as he replied, "You were the one who chose to dip the lamb in spices, there is no room for regrets."

Yet Jasper took the dish and poured it all into the hotpot.

This action had Lord Alvarado narrowing his eyes slightly.

Seeing Lord Alvarado narrow his eyes, the four men in the corners of the room turned to look at Jasper icily at the same time.

As if they were about to rip Jasper apart the next second. Behind Jasper, every muscle in Julian's body tensed up and he prepared himself to attack any time.

However, right in the eye of the storm, Jasper took a spoon and a direct sip of the hotpot soup base.

It was aromatic and refreshing. A superb hotpot soup.

"Look, isn't the problem solved now?" Jasper told Lord Alvarado with a crescent eyed smile.

Lord Alvarado stared at the hotpot with a layer of chili oil over it and said calmly, "You're the only one drinking this pot of soup, though."

Jasper shook his head and replied, "Marquis, the hotpot soup is right here. Everyone can drink it if they wish, I won't stop anyone."

“But I don’t like sharing with others,” Lord Alvarado said indifferently.

“Marquis, this spice dish was mine. I poured it into the soup, now everyone can take a share. If I didn’t pour it, then no one can take it from me,” Jasper said calmly.

Staring at Jasper, Lord Alvarado suddenly laughed out loud. “You’re very arrogant.”

“This isn’t arrogance.” Jasper shook his head as he refuted.

“I’m not you, Lord Alvarado, nor am I the little prince, let alone the crippled Brown. I’m just Jasper Laine, someone of insignificant birth. I don’t have powerful uncles to support me, nor capital to inherit from my wealthy parents. Everything I have is something I fought for myself.

“If I didn’t do this, I’d have died on the streets long ago.”

“Haha...”

Lord Alvarado gave a fake chuckle but looked at Jasper indifferently.

“Looks like there’s not much to talk about then. I said I was busy, so with the end of this dinner, comes the end of our conversation as well.”

Lord Alvarado then got up.

Jasper sat in his seat and watched as Lord Alvarado walked toward the door.

He waited until Lord Alvarado was just about to leave before he spoke up.

“Marquis, this is a spice dish worth at least 5 billion. Are you sure you don’t want to try?”

Lord Alvarado suddenly turned around when he heard this and looked at Jasper expressionlessly.

While there was no expression on the man’s face, his utter beauty and attractiveness had Jasper immediately averting his gaze and apologizing for his sins internally at one glance.

“This was still a matter of my reputation until this point. But if you lie to me, it’ll involve my capabilities and this won’t be resolved so easily,” Lord Alvarado said calmly.

Jasper gave a small smile and replied, “In 1 month, there will be a huge ripple throughout the west’s economy. With at least 2 times the return.”

Seeing Lord Alvarado stand motionlessly in place, Jasper smiled and stood with a spoon of slightly red soup and said, “The soup’s right here. Whether you choose to drink it or not depends on you, Marquis.”

Lord Alvarado smiled, one as ethereal as delicate flowers blooming. He waved his hand and said, “Pour the wine.”

The man returned to his seat as he spoke.

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An alluring lady strutted over to Jasper’s side and bent forward to pour him wine.

With both glasses poured, Lord Alvarado looked at Jasper in interest as if he was admiring a new toy.

“How sure are you?” Lord Alvarado narrowed his eyes and asked.

“Ninety percent,” Jasper replied.

Delicately defined brows arched and Lord Alvarado smiled. “This isn’t a funny joke.”

“I don’t have the habit of throwing my entire fortune and life out like a joke,” Jasper said.

As if satisfied with this response, Lord Alvarado said with a crescent eyed smile, “Good. This is an offering that suits my reputation. If this succeeds, then you and I can be friends.”

Jasper gave a small smile. “It’s an honor.”

“Interesting.” Lord Alvarado was in a great mood.

He knew that Jasper did not dare to lie to him. Otherwise, instead of being treated to a good round of hotpot, Jasper would be facing the possibility of being cooked in the hotpot

The Northwest Alvarado family had the power to make that happen.

Jasper was a smart man and he knew what choices to make.

So Lord Alvarado did not ask Jasper where his confidence and guarantee came from.

All he wanted was to see was results when the time came.

If it meant Jasper had to manifest it with magic then so be it.

“I’m in a good mood, so here’s a gift from me.”

Lord Alvarado waved his hand. “Bring him in...”

One of the suited men in the corner of the room left courteously.

A moment later, the private room doors were opened and a terrified Scott walked in.

Once he saw Jasper, Scott’s gaze immediately exploded with resentment.

“Jasper, you’re f*cking dead this time!”

Scott shouted arrogantly.

All prior worries he had disappeared once he knew that his family was acquainted with Lord Alvarado.

‘This was Lord Alvarado we’re talking about!’

‘An extremely formidable man!’

‘No matter how low a profile the Alvarado family kept, they were still called the Duke of the Northwest for a reason!’

‘All it’d take is the twitch of a finger for him to get rid of someone like Jasper!’

Thinking that Lord Alvarado had his back, Scott walked over to Jasper with his back straight.

“F*ck you! You probably never expected the Covington family to be Lord Alvarado’s men, huh? Don’t you regret your actions now?”

“Haha! I’m telling you, it’s too late to regret anything now! ”

Jasper looked at an extremely prideful Scott and said calmly, “Why didn’t you tell me you were Lord Alvarado’s man before? We wouldn’t have to get to this point if that were the case.”

Scott took Jasper’s meaningful words as fright.

So he became even more gleeful.

“Who the Hell do you think you are? Who are you to know of Lord Alvarado?”

Scott had a wretched expression on his face. “I’m going to make a fool out of you and kill you! Weren’t you acting prideful just now? Weren’t you arrogant?”

Scott then pointed at Julian behind Jasper and laughed out loud. “Hahaha! I thought your dog was a good fighter? How about you try and bare your teeth in front of Lord Alvarado, huh?”

Scott chuckled pridefully before he ran to Lord Alvarado's side flatteringly and said in a sycophant manner.

"Marquis, this man is a moron. Not only did he steal the company you wanted, but he even said he wants to destroy the Covington family! If I were you, I'd just drag this f*cker out to feed the dogs."

Lord Alvarado turned his head to smile at Scott with crescent eyes.

"Do you know what I hate the most?"

Scott was instinctively stunned when he heard Lord Alvarado.

However, seeing how Lord Alvarado was still smiling at him, Scott did not think the situation could be too bad.

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He shook his head dumbly.

Lord Alvarado reached out and waved over the woman behind him.

She immediately handed the bottle of red wine to the Marquis.

It could be seen how familiar she was with what the Marquis was about to do next.

Lord Alvarado took the bottle of wine and suddenly smashed it against Scott's head.

Bang!

The thick bottle shattered and the wine within it splashed, accompanied by Scott's tragic yelp and fresh blood.

Scott cupped a hand over his head as Lord Alvarado took the hot towel from another woman to wipe his hand. The alluring smile on his face did not disappear as he said gently, "I hate it when people swear in front of me."

"Ah! Lord Alvarado, I, I'm sorry! I won't do it again!"

Scott almost got a concussion from the smash and he wailed and begged for mercy, ignoring the splitting pain in his head.

Lord Alvarado then scooped out a bowl of hotpot soup before slowly pouring it over Scott's head.

As the wound met the boiling hot hotpot soup, Scott immediately began to struggle violently like a fish out of water.

“What I hate second most, is when people interrupt me!”

Lord Alvarado did not look at Scott who was wailing in agony after he was done. Instead, he turned to look at Jasper mirthfully. “I've already brought him to you. You decide what to do with him.”

Jasper glanced at how pitiful Scott looked before sighing internally.

Scott was an example Lord Alvarado was using to warn others.

As to who he was trying to warn, who else but Jasper? Lord Alvarado was warning and telling him that he would only meet a more tragic end if he lied.

“Take him away.”

Jasper shook his head.

“He’s already harmless.”

These words had sealed Scott’s fate.

A suited man proceeded to drag Scott who only had the strength to whimper away. The private room was still permeated with the scent of hotpot, but it was no longer as harmonious as it used to be.

Lord Alvarado stood up and said, “I’m very busy, so I’ll be returning once I pay respects to my ancestors tomorrow morning. Someone will pass you my contact information later, understood?”

“I’ll contact you once the time is right, Marquis.” Jasper nodded.

Lord Alvarado smiled in satisfaction, his extraordinary beauty looking utterly alluring.

Without saying more, Lord Alvarado turned and left. An intrigued look flashed through both women's eyes and one of them gave Jasper a name card.

"Mr. Laine, this is the Marquis' personal contact information."

Jasper took the name card and nodded. "Thank you."

With a chuckle, the woman said, "It's the first time I've seen the Marquis so willing to negotiate. You must be very capable, Mr. Laine."

Then she reached out to touch Jasper's chest before she left with the smile of someone who had gotten away with something bad.

The private room immediately was left empty. The corner of Jasper's lips twitched.

Not only did this Lord Alvarado act unusually, but even his maids were uncommon.

"Jasper."

Julian called out and arrived by Jasper's side.

"If we were to fight, I have faith in getting you out unscathed."

Jasper was stunned before he asked with a smile, "Do you think that I've been mistreated because I had no other choice but to bend to Lord Alvarado's will?"

Julian's gaze was murderous as he replied, "Worse come to worst, I'll kill him at the cost of my own life. No matter how powerful he is, there's nothing he can do if he's dead, right?"

Jasper shook his head with a smile, though he was moved by Julian's desire to protect him. He patted Julian's shoulder and said, "Nothing's ever so simple in this world."

"We aren't part of a fairytale where we can do things without consequences. With a company as huge as JW, so what if we manage to flee? The company will still suffer."

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"You think that he's too powerful and I have no other choice but to surrender to him."

Jasper had a playful smile on his face.

“It might seem like that, indeed.”

“But what I’m about to do might result in a very severe outcome, and I alone can’t affect the entire market.”

“If not him, I thought about asking the little prince instead. I just didn’t have an opportunity before.”

“But now that we have Lord Alvarado willing to join in, someone just as powerful as the little prince. It might seem like I’m surrendering to him, but aren’t we also using his strengths at the same time?”

Jasper patted Julian’s shoulder again and said intently, “Things are rarely as simple as they seem.”

“Think about it. Sometimes taking a step back and enduring it doesn’t mean I’ve surrendered and admitted defeat. Maybe I’m just leaving more room to run up so I can jump even higher heights.”

Julian fell into thought when he heard Jasper. After a long while, he suddenly realized something.

“I don’t understand these things, but if you say it’s good then it’s good.”

Jasper felt helpless.

...

Since Jasper’s and Lord Alvarado’s dinner, the situation in Tefa City had immediately changed drastically.

The Covington family continued to lose in every fight against JW, and they did not seem to have any ability to defend themselves.

Unlike what passer-by expected, the Covington family’s resistance was not effective, and no one even tried to help them.

The Covington family that once dominated and controlled Tefa City was now facing grave danger with no one to support them.

People more attentive on the matter realized that Scott, the fuse leading to this conflict, had disappeared.

Some said that Jasper had employed hitmen to kill Scott, while some others said that the Covington family had decided to send Scott away to safety. After all, even if the Covington family was defeated, they still needed Scott to continue the bloodline.

Outsiders continued to guess and create rumors of what happened, but no one knew the true specifics.

This conflict lasted for an entire half month.

The Covington family was still fighting with everything they had, but everyone could see that they were doomed to fail. It was only a matter of how soon.

This day, Downstream Investment Company resumed business. More accurately, it should be JW Financial Investment Co., Ltd.

This company was established with JW Capital as its parent company and would take on all investment businesses from JW Capital. Thus leaving JW Capital to be in charge of fundamental businesses like angel funds and risk investment.

“With the establishment of the financial investment company, you’ll be responsible for all JW’s investments in the financial industry, including stocks, securities, funds, bonds, futures, and more.”

In the meeting room, Jasper looked at the group of confident senior executives of the new company in front of him intently.

A majority of these senior executives were capable employees transferred from the investment department in Nauritus City. The others were talents brought over from hunting companies.

After a short pause, Jasper continued, “You all should know how much money the company spent for this, so I have high expectations for all of you.”

“I hope that under Mr. Willis’ lead, you are all able to truly make this company into something great in the future. As I said before, everyone present will benefit from having good business. But if the company makes a loss, there’s not much of a point making do with basic salaries, correct?”

The meeting seemed to affect the people positively on the first day this new company was established.

After a few simple sentences, Jasper handed the stage to Baz.

He was the newly employed person in charge of this new company. Logically and emotionally speaking, Jasper had to give the man enough respect and power. How the company would actually develop depended on Baz now.

Jasper walked out of the meeting room and planned to return to rest when Julian reported something to him. The Covington father-son duo had asked to see him.

Jasper chuckled before he had Julian bring them to the receptionist room.

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In the receptionist room, Jasper had not sat down for too long when the Covington father-son duo arrived. This duo was made up of Gerald and Emmett.

As for Scott, he should not have too many chances to appear before Jasper if nothing went wrong.

It had only been half a month, but both Emmett and Gerald looked much older.

This father-son duo that once controlled and dominated the entire Tefa City looked more like old men in their twilight years.

Gerald lost the condescending aura and sharpness he had when drinking tea with Jasper that day. While Emmett's entire back was already hunched forward.

"Mr. Laine."

Gerald greeted him first when the two entered the room. Gone was the elder and youth of that day, replaced now with a respectful 'Mr. Laine.'

"Please sit."

Jasper did not humiliate them as the victor but rather talked to them respectfully and gently.

Gerald and Emmett sat opposite Jasper.

Jasper had someone make a pot of tea. After the hot tea was brought over did Jasper tell Gerald with a smile, "The facilities here are simpler, Mr. Covington, nor do we have tea as good as the ones you serve. I hope you don't mind."

Gerald chuckled wryly and replied humbly, "It's an honor for homeless people like us to drink tea with you, Mr. Laine."

Jasper leaned against the sofa and said calmly, "There's no need to insult me like this, Mr. Covington. Everything that happens today is the result of a prior cause."

Gerald sighed and replied, "I didn't mean to insult you, Mr. Laine. My words are genuine."

"Mr. Laine, I bring my son Emmett over shamelessly today to beg for mercy and our lives."

Emmett then continued, "Yes, Mr. Laine. There was never any deep hatred between us, to begin with, and Scott's already gone crazy. We've suffered our losses, so please let us go. I promise I'll immediately arrange for him to leave Tefa City and never appear again."

Jasper sipped his tea and replied calmly, "Did Lord Alvarado give up on you?"

Both Emmett and Gerald's expressions darkened at what they heard.

They would not have met such an end if Lord Alvarado stepped in to help them.

"We're sorry, Mr. Laine."

Gerald suddenly stood up and bowed to Jasper deeply. The man had tears down his face when he looked up again.

“I’m already old and I have no regrets. But I hope that you could let my son and grandson live, Mr. Laine. I have no qualms against losing all my fortune, I only wish that the two of them can live peacefully for the rest of their lives.

No matter how innately crafty Gerald was, he meant everything he said now.

Jasper looked at Gerald and felt pity for the man with a head full of white hair.

“Dad!”

Emmett stood up regretfully.

Jasper remained silent.

Gerald and his son did not dare to say anything when Jasper did not, so they waited for his verdict.

After a long moment, Jasper finally said calmly, “Today marks the end of JW’s attack on the Covington family. I’ll allow the Covington family to keep their properties in the food and beverage and hotel industries within Tefa City.”

“Sell everything else. You’ve worked your whole life, Mr. Covington, it’s time you took some of the money and lived the rest of your life in retirement.”

Both Gerald and his son deflated when they heard Jasper, feeling extremely pathetic. They knew that doing so would remove them from the list of wealthy families in Tefa City. They would be nothing more than a slightly rich family in the future.

While they would not be living in grandeur anymore, they would definitely be able to live comfortably. At least, their bloodline was saved.

“Thank you, Mr. Laine.’

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A moment later, the Covington father-son duo left the receptionist area and immediately walked out of JW Financial Investment Co., Ltd.'s office.

“Dad, is there really nothing we can do? What, what about Scott? Is he useless now?” Emmett asked sorrowfully.

Gerald waved his hand lethargically and despondently as she said, “This is already the best result we can ask for. At least Jasper isn't going to completely kill us off.”

“Do as he says and don't pull any tricks. There's no point. The Covington family is alone now, we're no longer as we used to be.”

“If you're willing, then give birth to another son. If you're not, then find a wife for Scott. Her family might not be as well off, but it's enough if she's willing to accept a crazed Scott.”

“It won't be difficult to find a girl like that. But no matter what, we have to continue the Covington family bloodline.”

“These properties might be able to still keep on for a few more years after I pass, but everything in the future will depend on the karma of our ancestors and if our descendants are hardworking. I’m already old, and I can’t manage so much anymore.”

“I understand.” Emmett looked at his old father who had lost all energy and resembled a walking corpse. He replied while suppressing the sorrow he felt.

Tefa City’s number one family for the past few decades, the Covington family, now completely walked off the stage of history.

From today onwards, Tefa City had a normal Covington family that did not bother themselves with others’ businesses and only managed their own small ones and lost a domineering Covington family.

This would continue until Gerald passed and Emmett’s second son grew into an adult and took over his father’s business with the ambition to further develop it, but this was another story to be told.

With the Covington family dealt with, it would still take a bit more time before the new company was able to operate on its own.

This marked the end of Jasper’s business in Tefa City so he left and returned to Nauritus City. The first thing Jasper did once he returned to Nauritus City was to gather the company’s cash flow.

“The company’s book of accounts shows a current cash flow of 569 million. To not interfere with the company’s operations, you can take our 300 million worth of funds at most.”

Jasper felt his heart squeeze at Wendy’s words.

“Are we really that broke?”

Wendy replied exasperatedly, “There’s nothing we can do about it. You spent 100 million on acquiring the financial investment company, then the follow up investments that company made also cost us quite a bit. More importantly, the business fight with the Covington family also lost us quite a bit of money. 300 million is already the maximum amount of funds you can take out after setting aside the necessary cash flow to run the business.”

Jasper rubbed his temple and was too embarrassed to meet Wendy’s chiding gaze. He spoke up, “It’s still not enough. What’s the situation with the other subsidiaries and branches?”

Wendy replied, “The real estate company definitely won’t be able to spare any. Sean even sent me a report some time ago asking for 30 million from the headquarters. He said that there’s a plot of land in Waterhoof City that’s very worth investing, but I considered how you need money immediately so I told him to take a loan from the bank.”

“The real estate company’s got a high return on profit, but they’ve also got a high demand for cash. If we take funds from them, it’ll likely result in the halting of construction in more than ten construction sites. This will affect JW Real Estates’ business reputation, so never mind.” Jasper weighed his options and shook his head, giving up on the real estate company.

“The entertainment company’s situation is a little better, they can spare 50 million.”

Jasper widened his eyes. “50 million only?”

“The artist’s package, production of films and dramas, and the opening of new cinema chains all cost money. 50 million is already a lot,” Wendy said.

Jasper rubbed his temple again. The entertainment industry in the year 2001 had yet to get to the point where he could sustain the company by making money off of fans. The industry was still at its initial stages and it would be at least 2008 when the industry truly matured. This was not something to be rushed.

“The electronics company is doing quite well, there’s 600 million extra to spare.”

Jasper finally heard some good news.

“But they also said that since they’re researching on the stepper, they’ll need an astronomical amount of funds each day and the second round of funds have to be sent to the lab. So it’s safest that you leave some funds and only take out 400 million.”

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Jasper’s expression darkened. “Those brats. They’re best at asking me for money but now that I need funds to spare, each of them comes up with all sorts of excuses to say no.”

Wendy looked at an amloyed Jasper and could not help but chuckle. “Weren’t you the one who sought them out and have them work for you? Stop complaining already, they’re doing their best.”

“Additionally, Abbylon is the only one out of the three Internet companies that haven’t made enough profit to spare yet. Terizone can spare 200 million and Sena has 400 million.”

Jasper’s eyes lit up.

As expected, the dot-com industry had begun to bare its fangs.

Sena’s starting to make more money.

“Including that, we’ve got 1.35 billion in funds. I can add the 500 million from my account but that’d still be 1.9 billion in total.”

Jasper rubbed his temple again. He felt like he was about to go bald around his temple with how he kept rubbing it.

“That’s still not enough.”

Wendy could not help but suggest, “How about we ask my dad?”

“He has 1.2 billion remaining funds on his accounts and we can take 1 billion out any time.”

Completely standing on Jasper’s side, Wendy sold her dad out without hesitation.

“Every time I don’t have enough money, I ask your dad.” Jasper did not know if he should laugh or cry in response to Wendy’s suggestion.

“But you return it every time, don’t you? Plus, he’s the one who said he’ll put his business in our hands in the future.” Wendy’s cheeks flushed.

“Alright, then. I’m pretty certain about succeeding this time. Ask your dad for 1 billion, I’ll pay back with at least 1.5 billion after a month,” Jasper said with a crescent eyed smile.

Jasper knew that as long as he asked, Dawson would surely lend him money.

With that all together, Jasper currently had 2.9 billion available in funds. 1 billion from Dawson, 1.35 billion from the company, and the rest from his own bank accounts and were already given to Jake to open accounts.

These were enough funds, but Jasper wanted to be greedy.

So Jasper called Vita who was far away in Waterhoof City.

“What’s up, Jasper?” Vita accepted the call quickly and asked cheerily.

After everything that happened, their friendship no longer required any small talk

Jasper went straight to the point. “I have a credit of 12 billion from your bank, right? I need to use that money now.”

Vita's aura grew serious and he asked, "How much do you need?"

There were of course limits when it came to credit from such a huge commercial bank.

The first regulation was that this sum of funds could not be used for financial investment, but only business operations.

However, there was a way to deal with every policy and Jasper had long talked to Vita about this. So the bank could not dictate how Jasper wanted to use this money. Jasper's assets were available to them so the ICBS mostly turned a blind eye. However, if Jasper was about to use a huge amount of funds for financial investment, it was only natural that the bank grew concerned about not getting their money back.

So after weighing his options, Jasper gave a number.

"At least 4 billion."

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Vita's heart skipped a beat at the number.

He lowered his voice and asked, "Tell me the truth, Jasper. Are you using this money for business operations or other purposes?"

Jasper replied with a smile, "Other purposes of course."

The two had a tacit understanding that this 'other purposes' meant Jasper was taking this money for investment.

Vita's suspicion was confirmed and he said, "Then I'll be frank with you too, Jasper. For such a huge sum of funds, the headquarters will definitely supervise you."

"So if you're going to use the money for other purposes, then you have to deal with it carefully. I can have your back here, so this 4 billion shouldn't be a problem."

Then Vita was afraid that Jasper would misunderstand him, so he explained. "After all, this isn't a few hundred thousand or a few million Somer Dollar loan that ordinary people apply for. The bank wouldn't care even if a majority of people took their loans for investment since the loans are all mortgaged."

"But a group of people will lose their jobs if a problem arises with a loan worth a few billion Somer Dollars. So no one's willing to take this risk."

Jasper smiled. "I understand. Don't worry, I just want 4 billion."

"Alright, then. Come over later to go through the procedures, the money will be transferred within three days," Vita said.

Jasper ended the call, energized.

With this 4 billion added to the original 2.9 billion, Jasper had almost 7 billion Somer Dollars on hand now. Jasper gave it some thought before he dialed another number.

"Yo. Does Mr. Laine finally have time to think of me?"

John laughed out loud on the other end of the line.

"There's something I need your help with John."

Jasper went straight to the point.

If Vita was someone close enough to forgo unnecessary pleasantries, then John could be considered Jasper's confidant. There was no need for any small talk or flattering comments.

Unsurprisingly, John's demeanor immediately fell stern, and took back his mischievous smile to reply seriously, "Shoot."

This one word reply was much more reliable than any promise.

Jasper smiled. "There's no need to be so serious. It's not too big of a deal. I just need a 3 billion Somer Dollar loan. I'll use the ownership over the entire Southface River project as collateral, with Schuler Group as a joint guarantor."

John was stunned. "Your company is the most outstanding asset there is and there should be no problem at all with the Schuler Group as your guarantor. Forget 3 billion, you can apply for 10 billion and it'll still go through."

Jasper told him directly, "I'm taking this money for investment. And I need it done within 3 days. I've also taken 4 billion from Vita."

John sucked in a cold breath when he heard Jasper's request. "Are you preparing for a global financial battle?"

What John believed was a joke was actually the truth.

“Just tell me if it’s possible or not.” Jasper did not explain further to him.

John gave it some thought before he replied, “It’s possible. It’s just that three days might be a little tight. How about this, send someone over to the provincial branch right now and I’ll apply it for you myself. There shouldn’t be too big of an issue using special procedures for special cases. I’ll have your back for this 3 billion.”

“Nice. I’ll treat you to dinner afterward.”

“Don’t give me this bullsh*t. Just be careful with the money. I’ll be the first to lose my job if anything goes wrong.”

“Since when have I failed in terms of investment?”

“Haha. Just have someone come and get the procedures done now.”

Jasper put the phone down and smiled at Wendy. “It’s done. A total loan of 7 billion, coupled with the 2.9 billion we have at hand. That’s around 10 billion Somer Dollars, this should really be enough this time.”

Yet Wendy could not find it in herself to feel happy.

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Up until now she still had no idea what Jasper was planning to do.

She was just suggesting methods to him out of her unconditional trust and support.

“Jasp, what are you planning to do with so much money?”

Wendy could not help but ask. As she was in charge of the company finances, she was very sensitive when it came to loans. “This 7 billion worth of loans increase our liabilities exponentially. JW will crash if anything goes wrong.”

“Don’t worry,” Jasper patted Wendy’s hand and said gently, “I’ve got my reasons and guarantee before I chose to do so.”

“I established JW on my own and it’s a fruit of both our efforts and hard work. There’s no way I’d make a joke out of it.”

“I will succeed this time, and there won’t be a better opportunity than now in the next ten or even twenty years.”

“If this goes smoothly, not only will we solve our funding issue, but we’ll also get to officially change JW into a group.”

Hearing Jasper, Wendy nodded. “I believe you.”

Then, knowing Jasper was fighting against time, Wendy personally went to the provincial branch of the Agricultural Bank to look for John and proceed with the procedures.

Jasper let out a soft breath as he watched Wendy leave. This was a battle Jasper bet everything he had on. Unless those terrorists suddenly decided not to follow their plan, victory was in Jasper’s hands!

With this thought, Jasper called Jake who was in Harbor City.

“How’s the situation going?”

Jake replied courteously, “We’ve already opened the short positions you requested for the stock index.

We've lost 80 million as of this moment.”

“Good,” Jasper nodded.

“Keep opening positions to sell short the index and long positions for gold. I'll arrange for the funds later, so all you have to do is open the positions. Don't worry about making a loss now. The more the loss now, the more we earn by then.”

While Jake was completely confused about Jasper's plan to lose money, he still replied loudly, “I understand, Mr. Laine.”

The funds in Jake's control began to move after he received Jasper's instruction.

At almost the exact moment the funds moved, a gaze pinned on these funds realized the abnormality.

Harbor City.

“Mr. Atticus, Jasper’s funds moved and he’s starting to open huge positions.”

“They’re currently selling short the indices but selling long for gold. We don’t know if this is a smokescreen to divert our attention or not.”

Fabian’s brow twitched when he heard his subordinate report, drinking tea with someone in the garden.

“Did he go crazy? What, does he have too much money to waste?”

Opposite Fabian, Mitch said with a sneer before the former could say anything.

Fabian gave a small smile and said, “We’ll sell if he buys and we’ll buy if he sells. Keep reporting follow up situations.”

The subordinate left courteously and Mitch proceeded to apple-polish Fabian.

“Looks like Jasper’s really gone crazy, Mr. Atticus. The market’s doing so well yet he’s choosing to sell short and buy gold. Does he think that World War Three is coming? Haha. You’ve really got an eye for these things, Mr. Atticus.”

Fabian replied with a crescent eyed smile, “Whether he’s truly crazy or if he’s just pretending to be, the people I sent to keep an eye on Jasper will send word over very soon. The truth will come to light by then.”

Mitch’s gaze shone with maddening delight and he said, “Mr. Atticus, don’t forget me when you have the chance to destroy Jasper and split his properties.”

Fabian patted Mitch’s shoulder and laughed out loud. “We’re friends, aren’t we? How could I possibly forget you? Go prepare the money, we’ll completely defeat Jasper this time!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1310

An excited flush spread across Mitch’s cheeks when he heard Fabian.

After losing countless times to Jasper, Mitch had even grown to fear the sight of the man now.

However, looking at Fabian beside him, Mitch felt at ease.

With Fabian’s support, there was no way Jasper could turn the tables around no matter how powerful he was.

“Jasper, I’ll make you suffer painfully this time!”

“All the humiliation you made me go through, I’ll make you pay for them ten, no, hundred times over!”

Fabian chuckled, looking at Mitch who was drowning in his extremely exciting delusions. A meaningful look flickered in Fabian’s eyes.

In a rather private kitchen not open to the public in Waterhoof City.

Jasper was currently drinking and talking happily with Vita and John. Jasper had come here solely to go through the loan procedures.

It was a huge sum of funds and while Vita, the most authoritative vice president, was in charge of it personally, many procedures involved signing and identity confirmation. So Jasper had to do it himself.

“It’s rare that the three of us get to meet and eat together. Let’s drink until we drop tonight!”

John grabbed a bottle of brandy and shouted, intoxicated and his cheeks slightly flushed.

The private room was not big, but it was the perfect size for the three of them to sit together. On the table before them were many rare types of meat.

The six extremely expensive royal crabs alone were something so exquisite that not even the rich could always get.

“Here, Jasper. Come try this royal crab. This is something I had an old friend buy. There’s only one royal crab in two thousand crabs, and only one superior royal crab in every ten royal crabs.”

Vita took a royal crab and spoke as he placed it in front of Jasper.

Jasper had just touched glasses with John when he heard Vita and smiled. “That must really be something great. I’ve got to try it, then.”

Born from poverty, Jasper was not picky with food at all. All he requested was that the food be edible.

This was the year 2001 and the issue with food and health had yet to be as severe as it would in the future. Most of what was consumed now were healthy. However, when it came to treasures like the royal crab, it was a delicacy that ordinary people might ever get to try regardless of era.

“Hehe. This royal crab isn’t the main dish. We’ve got better food coming.”

As the host, Vita lowered his voice and told the two, pretending to be mysterious.

John looked at Vita and said, displeased, “That’s enough, Vita. I already know that you’re the foodie of your bank, the great banker of the gourmet industry. Stop hiding things from us and get to the point.”

Vita laughed out loud and replied, “The main chef of this private restaurant is one of the best chefs in Waterhoof City. The best dish here also happens to be a chef’s specialty, the blowfish!”

John was stunned. He might not know gourmet as Vita did, but he still had some common sense. He frowned and asked, “The blowfish is poisonous, isn’t it?”

“The saying that goes ‘The most poisonous food is also the freshest’ is precisely about the blowfish.”

Vita said with an exaggeratedly shocked expression, “From their organs to their bloodstream, the blowfish is full of poison. One blowfish’s poison alone is so potent that it can kill ten thousand people.”

“But while it is poisonous, there’s also a way to cook it. In the hands of a chef that knows how to cook it, this dish then becomes the best dish in the whole world.”

“Don’t worry. The main chef here’s made their name for more than a decade thanks to this dish and nothing’s ever happened before. Everyone who’s tried it misses its taste.”

“This main chef makes five portions of blowfish every week, and some wealthier people even book flights all the way from the north over to order in advance. It wasn’t easy but I pulled some strings and managed to order a portion today. It’ll be brought up shortly.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1311

Both Jasper and John shared a look and smiled when they heard Vita praise the food.

Vita's only hobby was eating good food, and this was something the other two had experienced firsthand. Upon hearing the man praise this blowfish dish, Jasper's interest grew.

As the three drank and chatted, the private room door was knocked on and subsequently opened.

A middle aged man in a suit then entered.

“Mr. Layne. I heard my subordinates tell me that you've come to eat today. I didn't believe them but here you are.”

Drogo entered the room and greeted Vita passionately. As the economy flourished, privately-owned enterprises normally require a hefty bank loan to grow. Drogo's behavior right now clearly showed his reliance on this simple fact. This was also proof that Vita's status in Waterhoof City was still quite considerable.

Vita smiled reservedly. Both Jasper and John were here, so he would not put on a big show of things.

“Mr. Rice. I brought my friends over today and we’re all greatly anticipating the restaurant’s blowfish dish.”

“This is Mr. Jackson of the Agricultural Bank, and this is Mr. Laine, a business friend.”

Vita knew that Jasper preferred to keep a low profile, so he did not introduce the man grandly.

As someone who had been working in the business field for years, Drogo could tell from Vita’s behavior that these two guests were special.

However, most of his attention was on John, who Vita claimed was from the Agricultural Bank. He merely assumed that Jasper was the one paying and trying to please the other two. He assumed that Jasper was just a small fry.

After all, the man was too young.

“Hello, Mr. Jackson. This is my name card. Please do come more often, I’ll make sure to give you a discount.” Drogo handed the name card with a wide smile.

He watched how John took the name card happily first before Drogo turned around to give Jasper one respectfully.

“Hello, Mr. Laine.”

The wrong sequence of greeting John and Jasper, combined with the difference in words he used to greet the two showed that Drogo’s attention was mostly focused on John.

Jasper took the name card with a smile, nonchalant about the man’s difference in attitude.

It was evident that Drogo really valued Vita. After greeting everyone passionately, Drogo took a glass of wine and toasted everyone before he downed two glasses.

With a smooth and slick personality now present, everyone ate at ease.

In less than twenty minutes, Drogo’s easy going personality had livened up the private room’s atmosphere.

Just as Drogo planned to excuse himself, someone who looked like the manager rushed in from outside.

“Something’s happened, Mr. Rice.”

Drogo felt embarrassed to see his manager in such a rush and shouted angrily, “What’s with the franticness? Can’t you tell that I’m busy entertaining guests?”

The manager replied embarrassedly, “It’s Mr. Heron, Mr. Rice. Mr. Heron’s throwing a tantrum outside and he’s demanding to see you.”

“Mr. Heron?”

Drogo looked shocked and slightly frantic when he heard the name. Before he could say anything, the private room doors were kicked open loudly.

A young man stood at the door and looked at Drogo sinisterly as he said, “Look, Drogo. I have guests to treat today and we want that blowfish dish. Those f*ckers said they don’t have any, so I’m here asking you if you do!”

“Do you want to humiliate me or not? Think carefully before you reply. Do you have the dish?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1312

Mr. Heron’s sudden arrival was akin to a bucket of ice water in winter completely ruined the private room’s warm and toasty atmosphere.

The corner of Drogo's lips twitched, and while he was evidently trying to suppress his anger, it appeared that he was also terrified of this Mr. Heron's familial background and history.

Drogo suppressed the anger he felt and smiled apologetically, "You misunderstand, Mr. Heron. I'm sure you know the restaurant's rules and that every blowfish is prepared on the spot. There are only five blowfishes for five portions. We don't have the ingredients for more."

Mr. Heron scoffed and looked at Drogo before he said ambiguously, "So you want me to embarrass myself in front of my guests, then?"

Drogo's expression changed and he quickly replied, "How about this, Mr. Heron. I'll immediately have someone gather new ingredients and make one for you. But this might take some time."

Coincidentally, two waiters pushed over a cart of food just as Drogo spoke.

On the cart were plates of exquisite food, including the renowned and rare blowfish dish.

When he saw the path the cart was taking, as well as and the private room number on the cart, Drogo knew that this was the plate of blowfish Vita had ordered.

Mr. Heron's eyes lit up when he saw the cart and he immediately raised his hand to stop it.

"Isn't there one here? I want this one."

Drogo's expression turned bitter at the words, and he looked at Vita instinctively.

This time, Vita was the one whose expression changed. It was rare for him to have the chance to treat others, and now that both John and Jasper were here, Vita refused to be humiliated in front of them.

"That is the blowfish I ordered."

Vita said calmly.

His tone was light, but the implications were clear.

Mr. Heron scoffed and looked at Vita before he snorted disdainfully, "Where the f*ck did you come from? How dare you take what's mine!"

“You...?!”

Vita was enraged.

He was still someone of high status. Due to his special identity and the fact that he was an authoritative senior executive of the bank, people were almost always kind and respectful toward him.

However, Mr. Heron was just in his twenties, around the age of Vita's nephews and nieces. Therefore, Vita immediately flushed red when he was scolded without warning.

“Don't, don't!”

Drogo quickly interrupted Vita. He put his hands together with a pleading expression and said, “Both of you are extinguished guests. Business is good when there is peace, right? Let's not strain any relationships and end up appearing like fools to other people, yeah?”

Vita glanced at Drogo angrily but changed the words he wanted to say. “You decide how to deal with this issue then, Mr. Rice.”

This sentence was brash considering the setting.

Drogo could understand this. Moreover, the man's expression looked bitter.

Yet, Mr. Heron scoffed and told Drogo, "Look, Drogo, you know who I am, don't you? Do you still want your restaurant or not? If you don't, then I'll have someone demolish it for you tonight."

Veins bulged on Drogo's forehead.

After a long moment of hesitation, he turned to Vita and said pleasingly but with great difficulty, "Mr. Layne, perhaps, we could give Mr. Heron this plate of blowfish first? I'll have someone prepare new ingredients and send another plate over immediately. And all your expenses tonight will be free."

Drogo made his decision.

After weighing his options, he chose to stand on Mr. Heron's side.

After all, Vita was just the vice president of a bank. If he could not ask ICBS for loans, then he could always seek out another bank.

Mr. Heron, though, was different.

As far as Drogo was concerned, Mr. Heron was more powerful than Vita.

Vita's instantly complexion flushed dark red.

Drogo's decision made him feel like he had been humiliated in front of John and Jasper.

"Hahaha!"

Mr. Heron burst into laughter and said, "Good, very good. So you still do know what's good for you, Drogo."

Delighted, Mr. Heron glanced at Vita and the other two before snorting. "Who are you to challenge me? You think f*ckers that came out of nowhere can steal what I want? Go home and eat bread. F*cking idiots."

Jasper frowned slightly in displeasure.

Drogo's way of handling problems alone doomed him to a life of small businesses.

However, John could see Vita's embarrassment and he immediately told Vita, "It's alright, Vita. It's just a dish, we don't have to eat it."

"No!"

Vita suddenly shouted, startling John.

Vita glared at Mr. Heron and Drogo, and said icily, "I ordered this plate of blowfish so it must come to my table. I'd rather feed it to the dogs than give it to someone else!"

"Motherf*cker! You're taking advantage of my kindness, huh?" Mr. Heron accused disdainfully.

Drogo's expression was also dark. He felt extremely conflicted before he made the decision.

However, now that a decision was made, Vita's insistence annoyed him.

"Please don't make it difficult for me, Mr. Layne," Drogo said icily, "My business is small and I can't afford to offend anyone."

“Is that so? So, you think I can easily be offended, then?” Vita asked Drogo frostily.

Drogo took a deep breath and replied, “If that’s what you think, Mr. Layne, then there’s nothing I can do but apologize.”

Drogo then turned to stand by Mr. Heron’s side.

Mr. Heron laughed out loud and told Vita proudly, “Don’t think that just because you’ve lived a few years longer that it means you’re powerful, old f*cker. If you’re doing business in these times, then open your eyes and take a good look at who you’re talking to. Or you’ll be the one who ends up getting embarrassed.”

Vita clenched his jaw and balled his fists. He looked extremely humiliated and furious, but also exasperated. He knew that there was nothing he could do now that Drogo had chosen to side with Mr. Heron.

He was just a vice president with a lot of authority within ICBS. However, his range of influence outside the banking industry was small.

These businessmen only flattered him so they could get a bank loan, but people like Drogo could easily seek out other banks if ICBS was no longer an option.

For the first time, Vita felt like he held too little power, and his face burned in embarrassment. He felt like he had been completely humiliated in front of Jasper and John.

John could tell that his old friend was furious, but there was nothing he could do.

He understood the humiliation Vita felt since he was also a member of the banking system.

John sighed deeply and thought about how he should comfort his friend when he saw Jasper put his chopsticks down slowly.

At the same time, Mr. Heron was also about to leave pridefully alongside Drogo who was fleeing the scene.

“Stay right there.”

The two words were spoken clearly and powerfully.

“You can leave.”

“But the dish stays.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1313

Both Drogo and Mr. Heron were stunned when they heard him.

Even Vita was shocked.

He did not expect Jasper to speak up.

The only one unsurprised was John.

After all, John had known Jasper for a long time and he knew that Jasper was a man who did not like being disrespected, nor did he like the people around him getting disrespected.

If he spoke up and interfered with this tonight, it at least meant that he saw Vita as a great friend.

Vita could understand this as well, so after the initial shock, he felt was touched.

“Yo, which moron is it this time?”

Mr. Heron turned around and looked at Jasper icily. Drogo’s expression was one of complete annoyance now.

He already planned to offend Vita, so who cared about the young man beside him?

“Enough. Are you done yet?”

Drogo shouted at Jasper, “I’m the owner here. I already said I’ll send you the same dish later! Don’t take advantage of my kindness!”

If Drogo was conflicted before he made his decision and guilty after deciding, then he was completely annoyed now as he faced Jasper.

He thought that Jasper could not read the room.

“Can you stop causing trouble? Do you want all of us to turn against each other and become enemies? Is that what you want? ”

Mr. Heron was elated when he heard Drogo and snickered icily. He was in no rush to join in just yet; “It’s just one dish. I don’t care whether I get to eat it or not.”

Jasper said, then he looked at the table full of dishes and exotic food before continuing calmly, “I also don’t care whether this table of food is free or not.

“But if we ordered something and you don’t send it over, then of course I’ll ask you about it.”

Drogo scoffed and replied darkly, “Don’t think too highly of yourself, young man. You’re just a youth, what right do you have to talk here?”

“Ask me about it? It’s not like I’m looking down at you or anything, but if I’m not even going to entertain Vita, then why would I entertain you?”

Jasper looked at Drogo intently but ignored him.

Drogo was enraged. He felt furious to be ignored by Jasper, the supposed weakest person present.

Jasper’s gaze had fallen on Mr. Heron instead.

“Heron’s not an extremely common nor extremely rare surname, but there aren’t many in this small land of Waterhoof City that can be considered powerful. Who is Gerry Heron to you?”

Jasper’s words caused Mr. Heron’s expression to change immediately.

Beside him, Drogo was also stunned.

He was terrified of Mr. Heron because his father was Gerry.

A renowned old thug in Waterhoof City.

To be honest, Gerry was a lowly person.

Ever since the Strike Hard Against Crime Campaign, Waterhoof City’s gangsters had diluted, while Gerry, a boss from the days before the campaign, had also successfully changed industries and started doing legitimate business. Nevertheless, the man had quite the reputation within Waterhoof City’s underground.

Therefore, no one dared to offend young Mr. Heron. After all, his father Gerry was a cruel man that could not be reasoned with.

When Mr. Heron threatened to demolish his shop tonight, Drogo had not doubted him.

However, when he saw this so called Mr. Laine call out Gerry's name so easily, Drogo felt uneasy.

“Who the f*ck are you?! How dare you refer to my dad by his name?”

Mr. Heron did not think too much into it and pointed at Jasper's nose while scolding.

“What's wrong? Isn't the point of your dad's name is so he can be referred by it?” Jasper asked calmly.

He had already dialed Gerry's number while talking.

He did not want to waste time over brainless trust-fund children like young Mr. Heron.

Jasper put his phone on speaker and out came Gerry's utterly courteous and surprised voice.

“Mr. Laine? Why’d a busy man like you spare the time to call me? Is there something I can help with? Just say the word, I’d gladly go to extreme lengths to get it done for you!”

Ever since the incident with the little prince, Jasper’s status in Gerry’s eyes was that of a god’s.

He would do anything just be on Jasper’s side, but the man had never given him any chances to do so. Therefore, he was elated to receive Jasper’s call today.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1314

He had no idea that his voice resonated through the private room and reached everyone’s ears because he was put on speaker.

Vita and John still seemed fine, but Drogo looked like he had just seen a ghost.

The most terrified person present was Mr. Heron.

He did not expect Jasper to know his father, let alone hear his father talk to Jasper like a servant to their master.

“I’m having dinner at a private kitchen with a very famous blowfish dish,” Jasper said calmly.

While confused, Gerry still replied pleasingly, “That restaurant? I know of it. I’ve eaten there twice. The blowfish dish is pretty good. Hehe, are you there too, Mr. Laine? Could I come and toast you?”

‘Gerry, the ex- gang leader, wanted to come over to toast Jasper!’

‘And this was suggested by Gerry himself!’

From his tone, it did not seem like Gerry was kidding. At this moment, both Drogo and Mr. Heron had sweat beading over their forehead.

They both looked at Jasper as if they had seen a ghost.

Jasper replied slowly, “There’s no need to toast me. But there’s a Mr. Heron here who pointed at my nose and gave me a scolding. This blowfish dish sure does seem delicious, but it doesn’t seem like I have to right to eat it becomes this Mr. Heron wants it instead.”

Gerry’s breath immediately turned heavy on the other end of the line.

He was also surprised by what he heard.

“Mr... Mr. Laine, could I ask if this Mr. Heron is my son Geoffrey?”

Gerry's voice was shaking when he asked this.

From anger, but more so from terror.

He knew Jasper's methods and understood his son's character well.

If his stupid son had offended Jasper, then Gerry should start packing to leave Waterhoof City that night itself.

“Let him tell you himself.”

Jasper directly handed Geoffrey the phone.

Geoffrey shuddered and took the phone. Putting it to his ear, he said sorrowfully, “Dad, it... it's me.”

Geoffrey was not stupid, for he immediately turned the speaker off once he received the phone.

No one knew What Gerry said over the phone, but Geoffrey's entire body shuddered and his complexion paled as well.

He then looked at Jasper with utter fear in his eyes.

A moment later, Geoffrey walked over to Jasper shakily and...

Thud.

Geoffrey directly knelt before Jasper.

He did not actually fall to his knees too hard.

Yet, it made Drogo shiver from where he stood at the door. His legs felt weak and he almost knelt onto the floor himself.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Laine!”

Without another word, Geoffrey began to slap himself. His face was swollen after four to five slaps, and his nose began to bleed. He looked both pitiful and tragic.

After slapping himself, Geoffrey handed Jasper the phone with both hands courteously and wailed, “Please forgive me, Mr. Laine!”

Jasper crossed his legs and looked at Geoffrey with a crescent eyed smile. He did not take the phone back nor did he say anything.

Geoffrey clenched his jaw and put the phone on the table in front of Jasper, then raised his hand to slap himself another seven to eight times.

Slap slap slap.

The sounds of flesh smacking flesh rang out continuously.

He did this as if he showed no desire to stop as long as Jasper did not ask for it.

A dull thud rang out and Jasper looked up to see Drogo's legs going limp and him finally falling to the floor.

At that moment, a figure also appeared at the door.

It was a young and energized man with quite a dignified aura around him. One glance was all it took to tell that this was the son of a wealthy and renowned family.

The man glanced around the room before his gaze fell on Geoffrey, who was slapping himself as he knelt in front of Jasper. Something instantly flickered in the man's eyes subtly.

Then a smile graced his features as he spoke to Jasper calmly.

“My friend, Geoffrey is here to treat me to dinner today. Aren't you humiliating him and me by doing such a thing?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1315

Geoffrey was stymied when he heard the voice.

He froze for a few seconds.

Jasper's gaze fell on him, and Geoffrey clenched his jaw before continuing to slap himself.

Jasper was rather satisfied with this.

However, it caused Ainsley's expression to darken from where he stood at the door.

"Alright, you can stop."

Jasper's words were like a great gift of mercy to Geoffrey, but his face was already as red and bloated as a pig's.

The words Gerry said over the phone echoed in Geoffrey's head like a curse.

Geoffrey might be an arrogant trust-fund child, but what made him different from the others was that he was slightly smarter.

His father's attitude told him that Jasper was someone too powerful for either him or his dad to offend.

His father knew who he was treating to dinner today, yet the man still warned him not to worry about anything else. He told Geoffrey that if Jasper chose not to forgive him, then not even God could save Geoffrey.

This terrified Geoffrey.

“Look, friend. It's always better to be kind to people when you're outside. You'll gather many enemies by being extreme, and it'll result in a lot of trouble.”

Ainsley looked at Jasper from the doorway and said calmly.

Jasper had ignored Ainsley since the start, while Geoffrey did not dare to stop slapping himself. This truly embarrassed Ainsley.

There was no way people from the Royal family could be humiliated outside.

Not to mention that this was Waterhoof City, the Royal family's territory!

'Who would dare to offend the Royal family in Waterhoof City?'

Ainsley came up blank.

Therefore, he was confident that he could make Jasper pay for looking down on him.

"Who are you?"

Jasper asked calmly.

Ainsley instinctively thought that Jasper was asking a question, so he gave the man a small smile.

He wanted to show off the reserved and arrogant aura of someone from a renowned family. He was about to introduce himself and enjoy Jasper's fear and subsequent flattering words when he heard Jasper continue.

"It's doesn't matter."

What started as a question became a statement.

The second half of it only came out after a slight pause. With his words already at the tip of his tongue, Ainsley almost choked on his saliva. His cheeks flushed red in embarrassment and anger.

Before a mortified Ainsley could say anything, Jasper continued indifferently, "I don't need you to tell me how I should act outside either, understood?"

Ainsley looked at Jasper in anger and sneered. "What an arrogant piece of sh*t. Karma will get you one day, and being too arrogant in a place like Waterhoof City will only cause you to be trampled to death!"

"And before you act arrogant, at least ask around and understand who you're acting arrogant toward! I'll give you a hint, my surname is Royal!"

Drogo, whose presence had been ignored for a long time, suddenly changed his expression when he heard Ainsley say this.

John did not work in Waterhoof City, so he was not acquainted with such powerful people. He did not know too much about the Royal family in Waterhoof City, so he did not react to this.

The same thing could not be said about Vita.

Since he made a living in Waterhoof City, he was very sensitive to the Royal family name. His expression immediately changed when he took in Ainsley's dignified aura and heard him state that he was from the Royal family.

At the same time, Vita became silently regretful. It seemed like tonight's incident would result in great repercussions.

He would never have spoken up to protect his dignity if he knew that Geoffrey was treating someone from the Royal family to dinner.

At that moment, Vita looked at Jasper and felt the need to urge Jasper to let the situation go.

While he was not the cause of the problem, this incident did start because of him. He did not want Jasper to offend someone from the Royal family because of this.

"Does being a Royal make you better than everyone?" Jasper tilted his head and asked curiously.

This reaction was beyond Ainsley's expectations.

He was stunned for a moment before he laughed out loud, “And here I wondered what kind of family you came from. When in fact, you’re just a stupid young man. The last person you can offend here in Waterhoof City is a Royal, do you understand?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1316

“It makes sense, since the Royal family’s of such highstatus. How could someone as insignificant as you have the opportunity to come into contact with us?” Ainsley laughed out loud.

“Jasper, it’s fine.”

Vita immediately said this, afraid that Jasper did not know the implications of offending the Royal family.

“Let’s just forget it.”

Despite this, Jasper shook his head and gave Vita a reassuring look.

“I also happen to know a friend that’s also a Royal. Do you know him?”

Jasper tossed out a name card as he asked.

It was a rectangular shaped card, that flew from Jasper's hand before landing right in front of Ainsley who was laughing out loud.

"You have a friend that's also a Royal? What a hilarious joke. Do you even know what the Royal family name means in Waterhoof City..."

Ainsley said mockingly while his gaze fell on the name card in front of him.

It was a simple snow white name card without any unnecessary decorations. On it was just a name and a number.

The name was Dominique Royal.

Ainsley suddenly halted mid speech like a duck whose throat has been seized mid quack.

His eyes widened and he stared at the name card in disbelief.

Dominique Royal!

The little prince!

The Royal family's direct heir!

Both Dominique's identity and status were far beyond his, the latter just a child of the insignificant extended family.

Ainsley might still be able to show off to the public as a member of the Royal family and be fawned over by trust-fund children like Geoffrey, but when it came to the internal members of the family, Ainsley had no right to even speak to Dominique.

It would be easier to think of it as an international group. The person manning the doors was technically still the group's employee, but he was no match for the president of the group.

One of them belonged on the ground while the other was destined for the skies.

Most importantly, this was Dominique's personal name card.

Only people the little prince valued were allowed to contact his personal number!

This was a treatment not even Ainsley would dare to dream of, let alone outsiders.

Eyes wide and expression shocked, Ainsley looked at the name card in disbelief as all four of his limbs shook slightly.

This was done out of fear.

He knew that in comparison to this name card, an insignificant relative of the Royal family was nothing.

“I... I...”

Ainsley could not say anything.

All the dignified, confident, arrogant aura he wore a moment ago completely disappeared now.

All that was left was fear and terror.

“Do you recognize this friend of mine?” Jasper asked with a crescent eyed smile.

Naturally, Jasper did not know of the Royal family’s strict hierarchy, nor did he know what Dominique represented among the younger generation of the family.

However, from Ainsley’s behavior, he could tell that this name card was quite powerful.

Jasper’s voice had Ainsley quaking in his boots. Without another word, he quickly took the name card and handed it back to Jasper respectfully.

While he did not kneel on the floor as Geoffrey did, the look of superiority in Ainsley’s face had totally vanished.

“I’m sorry. I was blind to look down on you. Could I ask for your name?”

The stark contrast between before and after had Vita’s eyes blown wide open as his tongue tied in disbelief.

‘This was someone from the Royal family!’

'How could he be so terrified of a mere name card?'

Then, a stinky smell permeated the room. Drogo who had seen the contents of the name card from where he sat on the ground by the door, and had peed himself in fear!

Life at The Top – Chapter 1317

"There's no need to be so courteous, my surname is Laine," Jasper replied calmly.

"Young Master Laine, I see."

Ainsley instinctively took in Jasper's age and referred to him in the same way the youths liked to refer to each other as of late.

Despite this, Jasper chuckled.

Ever since he started his business, Jasper had always been referred to as 'Mr. Laine', with the occasional 'president' or 'sir'. This was the first time anyone had called him a young master.

It sounded weird and embarrassing.

“I’m not a young master, nor do I come from a renowned family.” Jasper shook his head. He did not like this title that was filled with negative connotations.

“Mr. Laine!” Ainsley immediately changed the way he addressed him while wearing a flattering and apologetic smile on his face.

“My sincere apologies. I did not know that you were good friends with the little prince, Mr. Laine. Let me go set up a new table next door to apologize, Mr. Laine.”

Ainsley said sincerely.

However, he had no idea of the ‘damage’ his words caused Vita and John.

Just because John did not think of the little prince when he heard the surname Royal did not mean he was oblivious to the implications of that three word title.

Now that he understood what was going on, John immediately looked at Jasper.

'Since when did this young friend manage to get in touch with the little prince without my knowledge?'

'And this Ainsley is from the Royal family too?'

'From his behavior, it's almost like Jasper and the little prince are close!'

He thought back to the time when Jasper first went over to Faith County to settle some business. The man's status was so insignificant then, and most people thought he just enjoyed a bit of luck to go along with his stock trading capabilities. Yet, the man was now a wealthy businessman John could not quite recognize anymore.

John could not help but feel stunned to know that the people Jasper dealt with now are of the same status as the little prince.

Vita was even more shocked.

Since he worked in Waterhoof City, he was even more aware of what the title the little prince implied.

That man was held a status that ordinary people could never achieve no matter how hard they worked throughout their entire lives.

‘Even multimillionaires and billionaires are no more than nouveau riche to the little prince.’

‘But Jasper is good friends with him?’

‘People only make friends with those within their circles.’

‘People of different ranks do not belong in the same circle.’

At this moment, both Vita and John thought of the same thing.

‘The reason why Jasper remained in contact with them is because they’re friends.’

In terms of social circles, Jasper was already miles away from them.

“There’s no need,” Jasper waved him off.

“I’ve already eaten dinner. Nor is there a need to apologize.”

Jasper's rejection caused Ainsley to feel slightly awkward and afraid, but the man did not dare to get angry.

Jasper, who had the little prince's personal name card, was no longer someone Ainsley could afford to offend.

At this moment, someone rushed into the room.

Gerry had dashed over.

Gerry entered the room and saw Ainsley standing courteously by the side. Something flickered in his eyes as he caught sight of this.

Among everyone within the room, Gerry had the most profound awareness of how terrifying Jasper could be. He had watched with his own eyes how Jasper managed to get his hands on Norman and his daughter.

This was despite the fact that these were people that the little prince said he would protect.

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Now, Norman and his daughter were long gone while Jasper, on the other hand, was completely fine. Therefore, despite knowing his son was supposed to treat Ainsley to dinner, he still had his son immediately apologize to Jasper upon offending him.

As for Ainsley, he could go screw himself.

While he was also a Royal, he was nothing much in comparison to the little prince, let alone Jasper.

Having made this smart decision, Gerry did not dare to dwell on the topic anymore, and after glaring at his son's bloated face, he made a beeline for Jasper and said sincerely.

"I won't say too much, Mr. Laine, but please forgive my stupid son this once! I'll take any punishment you have in mind!"

Gerry knew Jasper's temper, so he made sure not to create any complications at such a time. He had to be sincere and just hope that Jasper would overlook this incident. Otherwise, both he and his son would have to flee Waterhoof City tonight.

It must be said that Gerry had a good understanding of Jasper's temper.

Jasper glanced at Gerry. He had not planned to torment the man at all.

Still, Gerry was not his friend, per se. The two of them started on bad terms, but Gerry had chosen to join the right side in the end. He had also extended Gerry a few opportunities, of which he had made good use of.

“Alright.”

Jasper stood up.

“Don’t put on this tragic act for me. If your son didn’t know better, then go home and teach him well. I’m sure you’ve seen your fair share of a businesses that had been built for decades only to be destroyed by a lone ignorant descendant.”

Gerry began to sweat when he heard Jasper.

As a councilperson of the ex-Haddock Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof of City branch, he knew that both the Hull and Gardner family had met their destruction by Jasper’s hand because of their incompetent children.

“I understand! I’ll definitely teach my son well!” Gerry said with a forehead full of sweat.

Jasper looked at Ainsley and asked calmly, "I plan to invite the little prince for a meal in two days, should I bring you up in conversation?"

Ainsley's buttcheeks squeezed tightly and he immediately replied, "No, no need, Mr. Laine. I'm just an insignificant child of the Royal family's extended family. I'm sure what you and the little prince discuss are all important matters. Someone as insignificant as me has no right to be brought up by someone as dignified as you."

Jasper smiled but did not say anything, then he walked out the room with hands behind his back while Vita and John trailed after him.

Gerry, Geoffrey, and Ainsley let out a long sigh at the sight of this.

Thank goodness this was over.

By the time their minds processed what was happening, the three of them, including Gerry, felt their backs drenched with sweat.

Jasper walked to the door and glanced at Drogo, who was sitting in a puddle of yellowish pee.

Drogo shuddered. He did not have the headspace to think about how embarrassing he must have looked when he forced an ugly smile and stammered, “Mr... Mr. Laine. The blowfish, I... I’ll send it to you...”

Before Drogo could finish talking, Jasper had already turned his head and left.

Drogo’s complexion immediately paled.

Behind Jasper, Vita sneered at Drogo. He was not as forgiving as Jasper.

“Looks like we’re not fortunate enough to get a taste of the blowfish, Mr. Rice. How about you leave it for yourself!”

Vita then stepped over the pee stain on the floor and left.

John, the last of the trio to leave, looked at the plate of delicious blowfish and shook his head with a smile before sighing, “What a waste of such a good dish. Tell me, why did this blowfish have to be so blind? He just had to get caught, now he loses his life just to be someone’s dish.”

Then John left.

Drogo was about to cry from fear.

He looked at Geoffrey and Gerry palely, then shouted, "Mr. Herons, please, help me put in a word. I only offended Mr. Laine because of you two!"

Gerry glared at Drogo sinisterly and said with a wretched smile, "Don't worry, Mr. Laine is too important to waste time over being calculative with trash like you."

Gerry then continued before Drogo could relax, "But none of this would have happened if not for a stupid f*cker like you! I'll demolish your restaurant tonight!"

Drogo felt his body go limp. He wanted to cry but no tears came out.

He wanted to flatter Geoffrey, but it did not occur to him that Jasper was the truly powerful person in the room.

He had no other choice but to accept his fate now.

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After walking out of the restaurant, Jasper bid Vita and John goodbye.

“Well, since we didn’t get to eat the blowfish today, looks like you’ll have to go and look for something else to eat, Vita,” Jasper joked.

Vita smiled wryly and said in a slightly embarrassedly tone, “The dinner was supposed to be something great. Who’d have thought that this incident would destroy everyone’s good mood.”

“What do you mean destroy?”

Jasper glanced at John and said with a smile, “I was in a pretty good mood tonight. Weren’t you, John?”

John understood Jasper’s intention and internally exclaimed to himself how smooth and slick a person Jasper was. He told Vita, “It’s fine, Vita. Don’t worry about something so insignificant. We’re all friends here, so let’s not dwell on what’s already happened.”

Vita nodded, feeling much less conflicted as he replied, “You’re right. I’ll owe you guys this meal then, and invite you out again when I find something good later.”

“You better tell me in advance. I’ll eat less for breakfast so I can eat more out of your wallet,” Jasper said.

The three exchanged a look before laughing out loud. Jasper had originally planned to talk to the two a little longer before his phone suddenly rang.

Seeing that it was a call from Jake, Jasper knew that the other would not contact him so late at night unless it was something important.

“Alright. I still have a few things to do, so let’s talk more in the future,” Jasper said as he opened the car door.

Neither John nor Vita asked him to stay. The two each promised to meet again before they watched Jasper’s Bentley drive away.

“Sigh. I remember the first time I saw him when he wanted to buy a plot of land in Waterhoof City. He was just a slightly wealthy businessman back then.”

“But he’s reaching higher and higher heights now.” Vita lamented.

What he saw and heard today had truly shocked him. It also made him understand that Jasper’s level had long surpassed his imaginations.

Patting Vita's shoulder with his large hand, John said, "Don't think about it too much. Jasper has the rare trait of someone who remembers his roots. Now that I think closely about it, excluding the brief times when we helped him at the very beginning, he's been helping us the whole time after that, right?"

"From an ordinary bank president of the Faith Country subbranch, I've become the vice president of the Agricultural Bank's Southeast Province branch. Your achievements are even better. From a normal office manager to Waterhoof City branch's second in command.

"While we did get promoted thanks to our achievements and business capabilities, there are also tons of people better experienced, from better families, and more capable than we are. Yet, out of all of them, we're the ones that got promoted."

"All because the higher ups value our relationship with Jasper. Furthermore, Jasper's always helped us when it came to bank business."

"He's a worthy friend to make, and we shouldn't feel uncomfortable about the huge gap between us. If he doesn't mind it, then who are we to care?"

Vita nodded in understanding and agreed, "You're right. I was just lamenting... But John, I had a thought."

"What is it?" John asked curiously.

“I want to leave the banking system to pursue politics!” Vita replied seriously.

John’s expression changed. He knew that what happened tonight had changed Vita’s life plan, so he replied solemnly, “This is a huge decision. Come on, let’s go to your home and talk about this seriously.”

“Alright. I’ll have my wife make a few dishes and we can talk about it. We can ask Jasper what he thinks later on. Everything should go much smoother with his support.”

As he sat in the car, Jasper had no idea that tonight’s incident had changed Vita’s life. After all, the man was currently busy on a call with Jake.

“Mr. Laine, from how the current situation looks, I can confirm that there’s someone, or a group of people, who has their eyes on our movements. They’re also targeting us, causing us to lose a lot of money.”

“According to our original predictions, our current orders might go against the market trend, but we shouldn’t lose more than 160 million. But as of this moment, we’ve already lost 220 million!”

“As we increase the amount of our investments, our losses will also only continue to grow since they’re actively targeting us.”

“According to our finance guys, we might lose an extra 400 million after we’ve fully opened all the positions, amounting to a total loss of 1.04 billion.”

“Does that mean this opponent’s appearance will cost our losses to increase by 70%?” Jasper asked calmly.

The original budget estimated a loss of 600 to 700 million by the time the incident occurred. This was an amount that Jasper and Jake had calculated together. However, the 600 million had suddenly become 1 billion. This additional 400 million loss was not a small amount in comparison to the original 600 million.

“Yes,” Jake replied clearly.

After a slight hesitation, Jasper rolled the windows down so that the icy wind could blow away the scent of alcohol around Jasper and clear his mind a bit.

“From your previous description, you don’t know whether this is one person or a group of people targeting us, let alone who this entity is, correct?”

Jake felt slightly embarrassed when he heard Jasper's question.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Laine. The opponent is very crafty and they're only targeting us. They're hiding within the market and we're still in the process of eliminating suspects now. All I can say is that the opponent came prepared, and that we're not capable enough."

"Since they're intentionally targeting us, then they must've come prepared. There's no point in being calculative over your incompetence now either. Follow the original plan. A loss of 400 million is nothing in comparison to the profit we'll make in the future, but you have to find out who this group of people are as soon as possible."

"Otherwise, they might cause us quite a bit of trouble during the last mile of our plan."

Jake immediately became stern and replied, "Yes, Mr. Laine. I'll do my best."

"Go ahead, then. Contact me again if there's more news."

Jasper's expression was solemn when he ended the call. While he did not seem like he had much of a choice, using this opening to involve Lord Alvarado was the correct decision.

The situation did not look good now, and someone had already started to target him.

However, Jasper thought about the earth shattering incident that was about to happen and he understood that this group of people would surely set their eyes on him during the chaos.

While Jasper was confident of his victory, he was not arrogant enough to believe himself peerless.

God did not exist in the financial market. Not to mention, Jasper was trying to profit off the entire western capitalist market this time.

It would be a waste of Lord Alvarado's power if Jasper did not ask for the former's help.

Not only was Jasper going to ask for their help, but he would do it blatantly and broadcast it loudly.

Thinking of this, Jasper pulled out the little prince's name card and looked at it with intrigue.

He had asked the help of one Lord Alvarado, and he would ask the help of another little prince.

Perhaps the dinner with the little prince that he had casually brought tip was going to become reality.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1320

Waterhoof City's Tomson Clubhouse.

The Tomson Clubhouse was the only high end clubhouse in Waterhoof City with a bowling alley, a golf course, and horseback riding grounds. It simply wasn't a place ordinary people could afford to visit.

This was where Jasper and the little prince agreed to meet.

At the horseback riding grounds, the little prince could be seen lying on a recliner idly. Dressed in professional riding gear, the handsome and casual man oozed with a dignified aura.

Not too far away were a few well mannered members who would glance over from time to time. While each of them looked at man with desire, none of them dared to walk over and greet the little prince.

Thus, a few hundred meter wide radii formed itself around the little prince, with the entire area becoming a vacuum in which no one dared to enter.

Jasper laid on the recliner beside the little prince casually, oblivious to Coffey's intrigued gaze beside the little prince.

"I'm very busy."

The little prince replied lazily without looking over. Jasper said with a smile, "I can't say you look busy with how idly you lie here, Little Prince."

"Being lazy is also serious business."

The little prince chuckled and looked at Jasper, "At least to me, it's a very serious and important business. I don't normally like being interrupted when I'm doing something serious and important."

Jasper replied, "Trust me. I'm sure the reason I'm here today will be worth you taking the time out to meet me."

The little prince yawned lazily but did not follow up on Jasper's topic. He did not even ask Jasper why he claimed such a thing, but instead said, "Someone also laid here as you did half a year ago."

"That man."

The little prince raised his hand and touched his chin before he suddenly snorted, “I don’t know if he turned stupid from all the sandstorms he’s experienced in the great northwest or something else, but he said he wanted to challenge me in horseback riding. Do you know what happened afterward?”

“I’m sure you beat him by a country mile, Little Prince,” Jasper replied calmly.

“I lost,” The little prince sounded slightly resentful.

“He did grow up in the great northwest, after all. That’s a place that produces great horses in abundance.”

The little prince smiled gleefully as he continued, “The reason why I wondered if he’d gone stupid from all the sandstorms in the great northwest is because he came all the way from the northwest to Waterhoof City just to make a fool out of me. If that’s not an idiot, I don’t know what it is.”

While they talked, staff at the riding grounds not far away cautiously led two horses over.

The one in the front was a handsome and extraordinary horse with well-proportioned and slender limbs. It trotted over as its solid muscles moved under its shiny black hair. Despite being a mere horse, it felt extremely majestic.

Jasper did not know much about horses, but he could tell that this one was special.

“There. Look at that horse, that’s the one that idiot left for me after he won. There wasn’t any fancy pedigree certificate, but it’s a true purebred.”

The little prince became animated and stood up to take over the reins. He patted the horse’s neck and boasted to Jasper with a smile, “This horse eats a daily meal worth more than 1000 bucks, and he needs to be professionally maintained every week. Each maintenance session requires four people and lasts for three hours.”

“Not only that, but this horse also needs to listen to music. Therefore, there’s a twelve man musical team who do nothing but serve it ”

“And that white horse?” Jasper asked about the white horse behind.

Despite being compared to the extraordinary black horse, the white horse no less impressive. At the very least, it did not lose to the black one in appearance.

“A truly great horse certified by the International Equestrian Association. There are less than 3000 of them in the world and they cost more than 6 million each.”

The little prince tossed Jasper the white horse’s reins uncaringly and disgustedly.

“This was still my ride half a year ago.”

“We’ll talk on the horse.”

The little prince climbed onto the horse professionally and handsomely, then told Jasper while he pulled on the reins with practiced ease.

Jasper’s brow twitched.

This Mr. Laine might be able to drive cars and motorcycles, but this was the first time he was trying horseback riding in both his past and current life.

However, Jasper was no longer a troublesome person. He might not have known how to ride it, but he still openly and humbly asked the staff what he should do and what the instructions were before he got onto the horse with their help.

While his posture was rigid and his actions were awkward and not as practiced as the little prince’s, the white horse was obedient and respectful as it did not tum Jasper into a fool.

The little prince laughed aloud when he saw how cautious Jasper looked on horseback and said, "Seriously, you're already a somewhat powerful person. It'd do you good to learn things like this."

"Owners of small enterprises will go to bars and entertainment clubs while owners of huge enterprises might have yachts, luxury cars, and villas. However, true businessmen ride horses."

Jasper did not reply to the little prince, instead focusing on balancing himself on horseback. After ensuring that the white horse would not suddenly throw a tantrum and throw him off, Jasper asked the little prince, "Why did Lord Alvarado agree to leave his horse here after beat you?"

Unsurprised about the fact that Jasper knew that it was Lord Alvarado who came half a year ago from the great northwest, the little prince shrugged and replied, "This is Waterhoof City. What I say goes."

Jasper understood.

"By telling you this, you should also know that I don't really like partnerships. Are you sure you want to continue your earlier discussion?" The little prince asked meaningfully.

The white horse began to slowly walk forward and Jasper narrowed his eyes above it to say, "I'm not Lord Alvarado."

“But I’m still the little prince,” The little prince replied with a crescent eyed smile.

“Lord Alvarado came to race horses in Waterhoof City with you, so a winner and a loser could be determined. But I’m different.”

Jasper turned to look at the little prince.

“I came here to look for you, Little Prince, because I want to win with you.”

The little prince chuckled and replied, “Go ahead and tell me, then. Don’t ask if it’s a small deal, as I don’t have the effort for such a thing. You know how busy I am.”

“I want the US Stock Market index to drop by 3000 points.”

Jasper said.

“Neigh!”

The black horse’s head tilted upward and let out a long neigh in pain.

The little prince loosened the reins that he had suddenly tugged too hard in shock. Then, he turned to look at Jasper and said neither coldly nor warmly, "It's not a good habit to always be such a sensationalist."

Even someone as dignified as the little prince felt his heart tremble when he heard Jasper.

Not because the little prince was not educated enough or weak at masking his emotions, but because Jasper's words were just too extreme.

If Jasper was not such a formidable man, then the little prince would surely have asked Coffey to throw this madman out of the club grounds.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1321

“Lying to the little prince is most certainly not a good habit,” Jasper’s tone and attitude were sincere, “And I don’t like doing things that are all effort but bring no benefits.”

The little prince arched his brow and chuckled, “You mean it?”

Jasper replied sincerely, “Why would I amuse you with such a huge lie?”

The little prince narrowed his eyes and asked, “Do you know what damage 3000 points will do to the US stock market?”

“I do. As of this moment, the Dow Jones Index is at 10982 points. A drop of 3000 points means that humanity will face the biggest financial crisis in history, and more than 1 trillion US Dollars will be lost.”

The little prince narrowed his eyes but did not say anything.

“Why would I ask you to join if the market wasn’t so big?”

Jasper chuckled, his tone casual as if he was discussing the porridge he had that morning.

“Before I came to look for you, Lord Alvarado, who left you the horse, already agreed to work with me.”

“Your plan?” The little prince asked curtly. His expression was serious and... excited in a way Jasper had never seen before.

Yes, excitement.

For people with an identity and status like the little prince's, they would not feel interested in incidents that were normally seen as earth shattering to ordinary people.

Money?

The little prince would not even bat an eye at the transaction of more than a billion or even tens of billions.

Power?

There was no one more powerful than the Royal family in Waterhoof City.

Women?

Discussing this was an insult to the little prince.

Only a game involving hundreds of billions or even trillions of US Dollars, a setup that would affect the current strongest country in the world and even the entire western financial ecosystem, had the ability to excite him.

“No plan.”

Jasper’s two word reply was like cold water on Lhe little prince’s flame of excitement.

“Are you kidding me?” The little prince harrumphed.

Jasper sighed lightly and replied, “If you don’t mind me being bold, what kind of plan do you think I have to come up with to achieve such a result, Little Prince?”

The little prince frowned silently.

Indeed, this plan had to guarantee that the economy of the strongest country in the world had to suffer greatly, thus resulting in the Dow Jones Index dropping by 3000 points. Only a madman who would want to stir up trouble in the world would dare to come up with such a plan.

If not a madman, there were only so many countries who hated the United States to such an extent.

This was something not even the government could attempt, let alone a single person.

“All I can say is that there’s an opportunity.”

“And from what I see, this opportunity will arrive very soon. Once it’s here, then everything will run smoothly,” Jasper said vaguely.

He could not tell anyone about the 9/11 incident, or this Mr. Laine might get dragged to the lab to be researched on.

“What kind of opportunity will cause the entire index to drop by a third?” The little prince asked coldly, not believing Jasper at all.

Jasper had been prepared to face this question.

“Finance is like the sea, and there are always signs of ups and downs. Since the concept of macroeconomics was put forward, human economics and finance have thus faced its own set of regulations.

“I can open a door for you to walk through, Little Prince, and all you need to do is promise me something.”

“That you can transfer enough funds over so I can do what you want me to do. That’s all, Little Prince.”

The little prince smiled when he heard Jasper.

“Jasper, do you know that no one’s ever dared to talk to me like that? What do you take me for? A lackey? A money provider? Or an accountant?”

Jasper shrugged and replied, “We’re partners.”

“Interesting.”

The little prince's smile did not change.

"Alright, then, Since I don't need to do anything but promise you, I can give you my word. "

"But Jasper, even an untouchable promise comes with consequences. You have to know that I won't like it if I feel that you're lying to me."

Jasper nodded. "You have the right to feel that way, Little Prince."

"Good," The little prince chuckled then tapped the black horse under him with both legs lightly.

Professionally trained, the black horse immediately understood its master's command and began to gallop "Follow me. If you manage to stay on the horse for two rounds, I'll agree to the partnership."

Jasper copied the little prince and tapped the white horse under him with both legs lightly. He was hoping to follow the little prince, only to awkwardly realize that the white horse refused to move.

"Please? Won't you trot a bit?" Jasper asked carefully.

The beautiful white horse neighed but did not seem to understand Jasper.

The horse was confused, but not more than the man.

Two hours later, with a sore waist and the skin around inner thighs about to peel off from all the friction, Jasper winced as he got into the Bentley.

“Jasper, do you want to go to the hospital?” Julian asked concernedly when he saw how much pain Jasper was in.

Jasper waved his hand and replied, “No need. The horseback riding instructor inside said that this is the case for all new riders. I just need to soak in a hot bath for half an hour and sleep it off tonight and all will be fine.”

Jasper then began to grumble resentfully, “How did those people from ancient times do this? Transport back then was either on feet or horses.”

While in great pain, Jasper was in a good mood. Despite the small inconvenience, the objective of this trip was completed.

Just as Jasper’s car left the horseback riding grounds, the little prince walked out in a new set of clothes.

“Oh, right”

The little prince seemed to suddenly remember something.

“That Jasper fled too fast. Send him this diamond membership card later and tell him to practice more. What a country bumpkin.”

The little prince could not help but laugh out loud when he thought back to how Jasper winced and grimaced today.

Coffey followed him from behind and replied softly, “I understand... It’s rare to see you so happy, Little Prince.”

“How can I not be happy when I’ve met such an interesting person and thing?”

“Oh, and send that black horse to him.”

Coffey was stunned and replied in shock, “But Little Prince, that’s your favorite horse from the few that you took from Lord Alvarado.”

“It’s just a horse. If what he said today was true, I wouldn’t even mind giving him the entire equestrian grounds.”

The little prince said before his smile slowly faded.

“Have a few trustworthy men look in on the United States stock market to check what the actual situation is.”

“Jasper might be a country bumpkin, but he’s never done anything non-beneficial to him since he started his business. He has no reason to risk offending me and make a joke like this.”

“I understand, Little Prince.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1322

Upon leaving the horseback riding grounds, Jasper immediately returned to Southeast Province.

He had come to Waterhoof City for two reasons. One was so he could complete the loan procedures, and two, to invite the little prince to join him.

Now that both these things were over and done with, and Jasper still had much to do in Southeast Province, Jasper had no reason to further his stay in Waterhoof City.

It was already night by the time he returned to Southeast Province.

Jasper had underestimated the strain from riding a horse for the first time, and his legs were so sore he could hardly move them.

“The little prince definitely did this on purpose. Oh, that little rascal, I’ll make him pay for this next time!”

Jasper’s shouts stunned Dawson when the man came to greet him.

“You went to meet the little prince?” Dawson asked solemnly.

“Yeah. I went to talk about a partnership with him,” Jasper slowly made his way into the villa with Dawson’s support.

“I even rode horses with him the entire day today. I’m in so much pain right now.”

Dawson let out a sigh of relief when he took in Jasper's attitude and tone. Then, he said, "The little prince's familial background is too powerful and his identity is too high up. You have to be careful when dealing with him."

Jasper was about to reply when Julian ran over from behind him and announced, "Jasper, Mr. Schuler, Coffey, the little prince's right hand, just called to say that the little prince gave you a diamond membership card to the horseback riding grounds as well as the black horse, Jasper."

Jasper snorted. "I am not going to make myself suffer that again!"

Dawson was stunned.

He was extremely surprised to know that the little prince also sent Jasper a gift.

After all, the little prince's identity and status was just too high.

"Looks like you two are quite close."

After a long time, Dawson sighed.

Jasper replied, "Don't worry, Uncle Schuler. I know my limits. These people aren't actually too difficult to talk to. They're just a bit higher on the social ladder. But so what?"

"As long as they have desires and wants, then they'll partner with you. The smarter the person, the more worthy of a partner they are, and the easier they are to talk to."

Dawson nodded and asked, "It's related to what you told me before, about the United States stock market, right?"

"This might just be the only thing that can interest him," Jasper nodded and admitted.

He would not keep secrets from Dawson, let alone when his further father-in-law had just lent him 1 billion dollars. Logically speaking, he had to explain what he needed the money for.

"Jasper, if this is about making money, then you don't need the help from so many other forces. As long as there's an opportunity, your capabilities are more than enough."

"But now that you've accumulated so much, and even enlisted the help of Lord Alvarado and the little prince, you're going to be in a lot of danger once you make too big a movement," Dawson reminded vaguely.

Jasper nodded and replied, "I know, Uncle Schuler. But the west's capitalist market isn't that easy to deal with. I could get rich easily, but it won't be easy to get out in one piece after."

"What I need to do now is ensure that I can get the money and come out unscathed. I alone am not strong enough. If someone's actively targeting me, then instead of me exploiting the situation to gain wealth, I'll end up being the one who is exploited."

Since the beginning, Jasper's plan had been to confirm the damage the 9/11 incident would deal to the United States' and the western economy, much like the crude oil incident from years before. He planned to earn money from this incident before fleeing immediately. However, things were different now.

He was no longer the insignificant retail investor with just a few million in capital. His accumulated funds alone amounted to 9 billion, and he could turn it to 10 billion if need be.

However, these funds were nothing in comparison to the entire United States financial system. Still, as the leader of the western financial bloc, the United States would not go down without a fight.

Not to mention that the conflict between the East and the West was the most crucial worldwide conflict since the World War Two.

All international political events had stemmed from this conflict.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1323

He was an easterner, and of Somer descent, so naturally, the west was his enemy.

More importantly, Jasper had already realized that someone was targeting him so he had to deal with this issue extremely carefully.

Dawson patted Jasper on the shoulder when he heard the man and did not say anymore.

As of this moment, Jasper no longer needed to be reminded at every turn.

“Alright, then. Go take a bath and rest, we’ll eat dinner in a few.”

Jasper soaked comfortably in the bathtub upstairs.

He could not help but think that the rich had nothing better to do. ‘Instead of enjoying life as it is, why do you have to make yourself suffer with horseback riding?’

The next day, Jasper and Wendy went to the office together.

Jasper arrived at his own office and began to chisel at his pile of work.

While Malcolm had managed to help shoulder a large portion of his responsibilities, there were still a lot of things Jasper had to deal with himself.

There had been many accumulated matters that had to be dealt with immediately. Many of which were forced to be put on hold since he did not sign his agreement.

A day passed before he knew it.

By evening, the large stack of documents had finally been completely dealt with.

Jasper rubbed his sore neck and called someone to take out the pile of documents and distribute them to their respective departments.

“Come on, let’s go eat dinner.”

Wendy walked through the doors and saw Jasper massaging his neck. So, she naturally made her way over and raised her hands to give him a massage.

Jasper exhaled in comfort and asked, "Why are we eating out?"

"Dad went to do business outside and he's only coming back in three to five days. It's just the two of us and it'll be a trouble to ask the auntie at home to cook. So we might as well eat out," Wendy replied.

"Alright. You choose the place, my treat," Jasper took Wendy's hand and said with a smile after getting up from the chair and grabbing his jacket.

Ever since the successful development of the South Bank of the Southface River, Nauritus City's development seemed to have sped up as well.

The most evident change was that there were more shops selling luxury items on the street.

As long as you had money and the desire to spend it, shopping areas, restaurants and cafes, shops of different varieties could be all over the place.

Jasper and Wendy had originally planned to have something simple, but when they passed by a new and chic restaurant called New Garden Residence, Jasper brought Wendy in.

The servers were respectful and polite as they asked how many people were dining. When Jasper requested somewhere quiet, they immediately brought the two to a private room.

The room just happened to be a two-pax room, designed for couples or guests who needed some privacy.

After ordering and their waiter leaving, Jasper turned to Wendy who was taking the cutlery out, and said, "My first dream was to open a restaurant with average business, then I'll spend the rest of my life running that business with my wife and kids."

"I did not see that coming." Wendy glanced at Jasper and smiled mesmerizingly.

"Forget the situation back at school, when I met you again in Faith County, the impression you gave me was of someone who wanted to make money. A lot of money."

Jasper smiled but did not explain himself to Wendy.

The dream he brought up just now was real. It was just a dream he had in his past life.

The restaurant was not too busy so the food came quickly, its taste was not bad.

While he ate and chatted with Wendy, Jasper suddenly heard the sound of cutlery smashing in the adjacent private room.

Followed by shouting.

These things were not worth Jasper's attention, but the extremely familiar voice of a woman had him frowning.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1324

“Calvin! I thought that you would change for the better once you got out of jail, but you didn't change at all! I'm so disappointed in you!”

Jasper could not tell himself to ignore the woman's voice, especially when she called the other man Calvin. It was Penelope.

Jasper did not forget what Penelope's voice sounded like.

'But didn't I ask John to arrange some work for Penelope in ICBS?'

'Why's she suddenly in Nauritus City?'

Before Jasper could think about this, another voice rang out from the adjacent private room.

"Enough, Pen. I'm your brother. You know that I went to prison and people end up looking down on me because of this. Stop reminding me about the fact that I've spent time there. Don't you know that our mom will be sad if you keep saying that?"

This was Penelope's brother, Calvin's, voice. The man who was once the source of the so much misery in Jasper's past life.

He was still uncaring and casual.

"How do you have the shame to bring mom into this? If not for you, she wouldn't have gotten so angry that she got Alzheimer's! She doesn't even recognize me now."

"Not counting the first few days, have you visited and taken care of her even once since you came out? I'm the one who's been taking care of her this whole time, so how do you have the shame to talk about her?" Penelope said angrily.

Calvin was also mortified and he shouted, "Enough! Are you done yet? You think I alone am the sole cause for how mom is now?"

"If it weren't for you stupid f*cking boyfriend Jasper Laine, she wouldn't be so angry now either! You bear at least half the responsibility here!"

Even Wendy's gaze changed when she heard the man, let alone Jasper's.

Meeting Wendy's meaningful gaze, Jasper replied with a wry smile, "It should be Penelope and her brother. I don't know why they're here, though."

"Do you want to go say hi?" Wendy suggested courteously.

She did not have an ex, and her dating history was empty. Jasper was her first, and he would be her last too. However, she did not mind the fact that Jasper had dated before.

She knew that Jasper had long since moved on from Penelope.

"It's fine."

Jasper shook his head.

Since their relationship was already in the past, they were just strangers now. There was no need to see each other again.

Just as Jasper was about to move on from this topic, the quarrel in the adjacent private room grew louder.

The noise was loud enough to be heard outside, and it was evident that their dinner was doomed to become a disaster.

As Penelope and her brother fought at the private room doors, a waiter came to bring Jasper his dish.

The private doors opened and two pairs of eyes locked. The shouting instantly stopped and Jasper put his chopsticks down as well.

Calvin stared at Jasper with wide eyes and a curious expression on his face.

He had just come out of jail, so Calvin naturally had no idea of Jasper's sudden change. He still believed that Jasper was just a poor boy.

Calvin scoffed and stared at Jasper to say, “What a small world we have here. You probably never expected to meet me here, huh?”

Penelope’s expression changed immediately. She stood beside her brother as she dragged him away. “Let’s go!”

Calvin flung Penelope off, then pointed at Jasper while telling her, “Are you kidding me, Pen? Why’re you so afraid of him?”

“You’re already the owner of your own company now. Your status is much higher than his! It’d be a disgrace to your identity now not to humiliate this f*cker when you see him!”

Penelope was both angry and frantic. She raised her hand to slap Calvin.

“You’re taking this too far, Calvin!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1325

Calvin cupped his face and looked at Penelope in disbelief. He shouted at Penelope angrily, “How dare you hit me!”

Calvin's eyes were filled with anger as he raised his hand to hit Penelope back.

Suddenly, Jasper grabbed his hand.

"No matter what, she's still your sister and she hit you for your own good. You hitting her is disrespectful," Jasper said indifferently.

Calvin glared at Jasper harshly and tried to pull his arm back and fling Jasper's wrist off, but his struggle was to no avail.

"F*cking let go of me!" Calvin shouted wretchedly.

"Don't assume that I have no idea what you're thinking of! Now that Pen is rich and has her own company, you want to get back together with her, don't you? You f*cking wish!"

Calvin pointed at Jasper's nose and shouted, "I've seen too many people like you! You have no f*cking right to be called a man! I'll beat you to death!"

Jasper ignored Calvin's crazed clamor and turned to Penelope, "This is your brother, you bring him back and teach him some manners."

Calvin wanted to say more when Penelope stared at him icily. “Leave this place right now, Calvin! If you keep causing trouble, then I’ll never give you another cent again! I swear!”

Calvin’s fury was immediately replaced with fear.

He had just gotten out of jail, and he did not have any income. Even if someone was willing to give him a job, the man was still too lazy to take up any manual labor. Not to mention, Penelope was rich now, and ran her own company. All Calvin wanted to do was to take money from Penelope.

This was why they had fought tonight.

Calvin could tell that Penelope was not joking. He clenched his teeth and told Jasper resentfully, “Look, you piece of crap. I don’t care what kind of tricks you have up your sleeve, but there’s no way I’d let you come back and be with Pen now that she’s rich!”

“Calvin!”

Penelope shouted.

“Do you even know what you’re talking about?!”

“Go out there and ask around who Jasper is! The entire JW Company is his. Ask any businessman here in Nauritus City if they know about JW Company!”

“What do you take my small company for? In comparison to JW, my company can’t even be considered a workshop!”

“Jasper is extremely wealthy here in the Southeast Province and his character isn’t something any normal person can compare to, let alone me. Do you even know how hilarious and embarrassing your words just now were?”

Calvin was stunned when he heard Penelope.

From the beginning, his impression of Jasper had always been of a poor boy from the village.

His family was in the county, and it was a blessing to Jasper that Penelope had wished to be with him in the past.

Yet, Jasper had turned things around and became someone with overwhelming wealth in the province. Calvin looked at the man before him. Ignoring the fact that he had previously spent time in prison, even his sister, the only person who could back him up, was nothing in front of Jasper.

The huge difference caused Calvin's expression to turn into something extremely interesting.

"What are you still waiting for? Get lost!"

Penelope shouted, waking Calvin from his daze.

The man glanced at Jasper with resentment and fear before he clenched his jaw and turned to leave. No one knew what he was thinking of, but his eyes shone with ferocity and envy.

Jasper did not stop him from leaving.

Looking at Penelope, Jasper said calmly, "Looks like you're doing better than I thought."

Penelope smiled sadly.

Only she knew her own suffering.

At that moment, Wendy also walked over from behind Jasper.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1326

Women look at each other differently from how men look at them.

This was not the first time Penelope had seen Wendy, but the two did not interact much back then.

Every time Penelope saw Wendy, she would feel inferior and embarrassed.

Wendy's pose and appearance were something ordinary girls did not have.

Penelope was aware that her features were above average, but she was like an ugly duckling in front of Wendy.

Thinking back to Jasper's current identity, Penelope suddenly realized how well these two complimented each other. They were a match made in heaven.

The spot next to Jasper once belonged to her.

This thought had always caused a rush of regret to fill her heart. This time was no different, which made her feel extremely uncomfortable.

“Hello. We’ve met before, I’m Wendy.”

Wendy extended her hand generously and greeted Penelope.

A man’s current and ex-girlfriends were innate enemies.

Despite this, Wendy did not show any hostility and behaved very generous and kind.

This was also why Penelope felt inferior.

She reached her hand out and replied rigidly, “H-Hello...”

“Entertain her for a while, Jasp, I’m going to the bathroom.”

This act was a testament to both Wendy’s EQ and IQ. She knew that Jasper and Penelope would not be able to talk freely if she was there.

Jasper might not have anything to tell Penelope, but Wendy did not care about that. In fact, she was willing to give Jasper and Penelope space to talk.

She knew that there was no way any relationship would blossom between the other two. Jasper might seem kind, but deep inside, he was more arrogant than anyone else.

At this moment, Jasper was no longer the man he used to be, and there was no way he would forgive Penelope who had once looked down on himself and get back together with her.

Thus, Wendy generously gave the two the chance to talk.

“Alright, come back soon, ” Jasper told Wendy with a gentle smile.

Wendy beamed and left gleefully.

“She’s very pretty.” Penelope stared at Wendy’s slim and gentle figure. As a woman herself, she could not help but praise Wendy’s beauty and elegance.

“Come sit.”

Jasper had Penelope return to the private room and sit down.

The Penelope before him was dressed in a female suit and her long hair was tied up. She looked drastically different from before.

The woman now looked more like a successful businesswoman. Gone was the city woman who only knew of the small world around her.

“I originally thought introducing a job for you at the ICBS was the best possible decision at the time, but it looks now like I was wrong,” Jasper said.

Penelope replied frantically, “I was in the middle of doing the job when there... there was a small accident.”

Jasper waved his hand and replied, “There’s no need to explain anything to me. It’s enough that you’re doing well. We can’t be lovers again, and being friends doesn’t seem very realistic either. But that doesn’t mean I don’t wish you a comfortable life from here on out.”

This sentence seemed to have broken through Penelope’s last defenses, as her eyes suddenly turned red and she said, “Only after everything that happened did I realize that you were genuinely good to me back then.

“All my mom cares about is my brother, and all my brother cares about is himself and money. You were the only one that truly cared about me.”

“Why say all this now?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1327

Jasper shook his head and said softly, “We can’t be together again.”

Penelope took a piece of tissue to wipe the corner of her eyes before she said, “You don’t have to remind me, nor will I entertain those unrealistic delusions again.”

“What business are you doing now? If possible, there might be a chance for a partnership.”

Considering Jasper’s status and wealth in Southeast Province, the man was evidently trying to help Penelope.

Any businessperson within Southeast Province knew that partnering with JW company would lead to very healthy profits. It would be difficult not to make any money with JW.

“I mainly import clothing and make up from Harbor City,” Penelope replied honestly.

“Harbor City?” Jasper arched his brow slightly.

He was rather surprised that Penelope had contacts in Harbor City.

Penelope looked at Jasper sincerely and mustered the courage to say, “Someone took the initiative to contact me. They gave me funds and a team, basically set up an entire company and gave it to me to manage for free.”

“I did not know that such saints existed in this world.” Jasper narrowed his eyes. The situation felt peculiar to him, while Penelope also looked like she had more to say.

“They only had one request, and that was to approach you and gain your trust,” Penelope said suddenly, as if letting go of all inhibitions.

Jasper’s expression was solemn and unfazed.

“I don’t know what exactly I’m supposed to do after gaining your trust, but they weren’t too strict with me either. They even let me get close to you slowly, but I can’t but help think that they’re targeting you. You have to be careful.”

Penelope finished talking and suddenly got up to say, "I can't stay here for long. You have to be careful, Jasper. Especially of Mr. Atticus."

Jasper looked at Penelope and suppressed the shock and anger he felt before asking, "Did it occur to you that these people won't let you go after you tell me all this?"

Penelope chuckled wryly and replied, "But so what? Worse come to worst, I'll just return everything they gave me. It was never mine to begin with anyway."

"I originally thought that I'd be overjoyed after I became rich, I even thought that I'd do as they asked, but I changed my mind just now, Jasper. You're a good man, and you don't deserve to be hurt by horrible women like me."

"I had all this coming."

Penelope turned to leave after saying this.

Just as she grabbed the door handle, she heard Jasper speak up from behind.

"You can contact me if you need help."

Penelope's body froze and a flicker of joy flashed through her eyes. Then, she opened the room door without looking back.

Just as Wendy returned.

"You're leaving already?" Wendy asked in surprise.

Penelope forced a smile and replied, "Yeah. There's nothing much for me to say anyway. Good... goodbye."

Penelope rushed away and Wendy returned to see Jasper with a solemn look on his face.

"What's wrong? You just talked to your ex-lover for a bit and you look so solemn. Don't tell me she gave birth to your child without your knowledge," Wendy joked.

"What is that nonsense?" Jasper glared at Wendy.

"I just realized how I've been underestimating how vile my enemies can be. I don't think I'll be able to sleep peacefully at night if I don't completely get rid of him."

Jasper did not expect this move from Fabian at all. He naturally would not accept Penelope again since that was unrealistic.

However, Fabian did not seem to care so much about that, since he invested in Penelope anyway.

This proved one point.

That Fabian was willing to do anything just to deal with Jasper, and that the man's methods were cruel and vile. This thought made Jasper lose his appetite. He stood up and said, "Wendy, let's go back first. I need to contact people in Harbor City."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1328

Naturally, Wendy would not hold Jasper back if he wanted to head home.

The two got up and called the server over to pay the bill before they left the restaurant.

By then, Julian had already driven the car over and was waiting for them. The two of them got inside and the Bentley immediately started to head toward the villa.

At the same time, a taxi had also driven out from a dark corner and started following the Bentley from afar.

In the taxi.

“Faster! Follow them, don’t let them get away!” Calvin’s expression was wretched as he sat in the passenger seat.

The taxi driver looked hesitant.

“Seriously, man, that’s a Bentley. A car that costs two to three million Somer Dollars. I can’t afford to offend someone with that car. How about we don’t do this and you hail a different taxi instead?”

Calvin’s expression darkened. He did not know what a Bentley entailed, all he knew was that he had never seen a luxury car like Jasper’s before in his life.

When he heard that this car was worth a few million, Calvin went mad with envy.

Jasper, that b*stard. To think that he was so wealthy but kept the money all to himself. The man was not even willing to give him a few hundred thousand before this!

He would not have been left to rot in prison if he had gotten the money back then.

Calvin's chest twisted in anger when he thought of this. Heart aching, Calvin pulled out a one hundred Somer Dollar banknote from his pant pocket and said icily, "Just follow them already! Cut the nonsense!"

While the driver was still unwilling, he immediately shut up when he saw the hundred Somer Dollars.

The taxi soon followed the Bentley out of the city center. The Bentley was a short distance away from the villa now. In the quiet car, Julian glanced at the rearview mirror and saw a familiar car following them from a small distance away. He narrowed his eyes.

He had been aware of this car since the beginning. Julian had initially thought that the person coincidentally happened to be taking the same path as them. After all, there was no rule that only he was allowed to take this route.

However, Julian had also purposefully made a detour and, after realizing that this familiar car was still following them, immediately that this was not a coincidence.

"Jasper, someone's following us."

Julian informed Jasper of the situation.

Jasper frowned slightly and said, "Let's find out who it is."

Julian nodded and made a turn, driving the car into a small alleyway.

"F*ck! Chase after them, quickly!"

Calvin was impatient when he saw the Bentley make a sudden turn, afraid that he would lose track of it.

His goal tonight would be to find out where exactly Jasper lived. Then, he would gather the friends he made in jail to teach Jasper a harsh lesson.

It would be even better if he had managed to get money from Jasper.

Calvin felt his body burn up, especially when he thought about Wendy's alluring appearance and figure he had caught sight of today.

It was unfair that such a pretty woman would be so blind as to stay with Jasper. If he had the chance to kiss such a beauty...

“Quickly follow them!” Calvin urged impatiently.

The driver had no other choice. On behalf of that one hundred Somer Dollar banknote, he stepped on the accelerator and followed.

Only to see the Bentley stopped by the road once they turned the corner.

“F*ck! We’ve been found out!”

The driver was frantic and also silently regretful.

It would be best if the people they were tailing did not discover them, but now that they did, he began to regret his greed.

It was a stupid decision to offend some formidable figure who could afford a Bentley over a hundred bucks.

“What... what do we do?” Just as the driver was frantic, a tall, well-toned, and expressionless man suddenly appeared before the taxi.

“Holy sh*t!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1329

Like a ghost, Julian’s appearance startled the taxi driver, causing him to instinctively turn the steering wheel.

Screech.

The taxi drifted and came to an emergency stop in the middle of the street.

Julian walked over to the side of the car expressionlessly and opened the door to pull Calvin out.

“Who told you to follow us?” Julian grabbed Calvin by his throat and asked coldly.

Calvin felt like his throat was clamped up as he struggled to breathe. His eyes were filled with fear and shock.

He wanted to struggle, but that only caused the hand around his throat to tighten. In the end, Calvin's eyes rolled back as he struggled like a fish out of water.

"Let him go, Jul."

A voice rang out, and Calvin immediately felt the hand around his throat loosen.

The first thing he did was cup his painful neck and take big gulps of fresh air.

For the first time, he realized how lucky he was to be able to breathe easily.

Jasper, who had alighted the car some time ago, felt disappointed when he realized that it was Calvin who had been secretly following him.

He thought that it would be Fabian's men.

“Why did you follow me?” Jasper asked Calvin.

Catching his breath, Calvin looked at Jasper resentfully and scolded, “Do you own this street? What if I just so happen to be here, huh?”

Jasper requested indifferently, “Slap him, Jul.”

Julian raised his hand to slap Calvin across the face without hesitation.

Even though Julian had already controlled his strength and ‘lightly’ hit the man, the slap almost stripped off a layer of Calvin’s skin.

Slap!

Calvin cupped his cheek. Half his face felt numb.

His eyes were bloodshot as he stared at Jasper and Julian in utter resentment. He roared, “How dare you hit me?!”

“Slap him again,” Jasper said calmly.

Slap!

He got smacked again.

This time across the other cheek.

The two slaps caused both of Calvin’s cheeks to turn red and bruised, making his face resemble a pig’s head. These two slaps also deterred Calvin from causing further trouble.

The man cupped his face but did not shout any more, opting to stare at Jasper angrily instead.

“Can you talk normally now?” Jasper asked.

Calvin did not say anything, but the fury and indignant he felt internally made him want to swallow Jasper alive.

“My relationship with your family is already in the past. There’s nothing between us, not now, not ever. What happened tonight is just a small lesson, and I hope this deters you in the future.”

Jasper walked over to Calvin and said expressionlessly. “You know how horrible my temper can be sometimes. So, let’s not have a next time, understood?”

Calvin shuddered.

He kept his head down and balled his fists. After a long while, he seethed out, “Understood.”

“Very good.” Jasper nodded and turned to leave.

Julian glanced at Calvin to remember the man’s face before he turned around and left as well.

The engine soon started and the Bentley drove away. Meanwhile, the taxi had also dashed off like a frightened animal.

Leaving Calvin in the middle of nowhere.

Calvin clenched his jaw and stared at the vanishing taillights of the Bentley with bloodshot eyes. With a wretched and devilish roar, he shouted, “Just you wait, Jasper! Don’t act so f*cking proud! I’ll kill you one day!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1330

After a round of crazy screaming and venting, Calvin sat down on the curb despondently.

No matter how unwilling he was to admit it, Calvin knew deep inside that he and Jasper were of drastically different statuses. He belonged in the mud while Jasper lived high up in the skies.

He was unable to destroy Jasper on his own.

Therefore, he had to employ a more special method. Calvin then pulled out a small slip of paper from the innermost pocket of his pants and looked at the cursive phone number written on it.

After he was released from prison, he realized that his sister Penelope had managed to turn her life around and become the owner of a company. Calvin knew his sister too well. She might be able to play cards with a bunch of married women and talk to parents about homely matters, but Penelope was not equipped to start up a company.

Under Calvin's close observation, he finally found out that Penelope would contact someone from time to time.

Calvin first thought that this was a new lover Penelope had found, but he slowly realized that Penelope was terrified of him.

After a period of observation, Calvin realized that this mysterious man was the reason Penelope now had her own company to manage. The other party had provided resources, products, and sales channels, and all his sister had to do was be the company's owner.

Calvin had also discovered a huge secret.

This person seemed to be asking his sister to deal with Jasper.

"So, you're not going to help me as Jasper steps all over me, huh, Pen? Fine! Then you two have no right to blame me for being cruel!"

Calvin said to himself before he dialed the number he secretly copied from Penelope's phone.

A moment later, the call connected.

No one said anything.

Calvin's breathing was heavy as he ignored the excitement and pain in his cheek to say, "I'm Penelope's brother."

The person on the other end of the line finally replied.

"Penelope wouldn't dare to give you my contact number. How did you find me?"

Calvin chuckled and said, "That's none of your business. I'm just telling you that my sister has never carried out any of your orders. She doesn't even dare to deal with Jasper."

The other end of the line fell silent for a moment before he said indifferently, "And how does that concern you?"

"Of course it does! "

Calvin raised his voice suddenly, his aura seeped with resentment and heartlessness.

“I’ll do the things she’s too afraid to! And I’ll definitely do it better than she can!”

After a long while, the person on the other end replied, “Interesting. I originally planned to get rid of you, but if you’re this confident, I might just be willing to give you a chance.”

Calvin was overjoyed. “I won’t disappoint you.”

Having immediately returned to the villa, Jasper naturally had no idea of what happened after he left. As far as he was concerned, whether Calvin gave up or tried to take revenge in the future was an insignificant matter to him.

The higher his status and the greater his wealth, the more people would hate him.

Jasper would not have time to do anything if he spent effort and time dealing with insignificant people like Calvin all day.

His true enemies were people like Fabian.

Just then, his video call with the Law family also connected.

“Hello, Uncle Law. How are you doing?”

Jasper smiled at Zachary on the monitor and said as he sat in the study.

Zachary waved him off and took a sip of tea idly before he said, “You don’t contact me unless there’s something you need. Go ahead, then. What is it?”

Jasper laughed out loud. Considering his relationship with the Law family, there was no need for too many unnecessary pleasantries, so he went straight to the point, “Uncle Law, do you still remember when I said I’ll show you an opportunity to make a large sum of money?”

Be it Jasper, or the Law family, personal interest was always the strongest bond in a relationship.

The Law family admired Jasper greatly and had been helping him all this while. Whenever Jasper asked, they would always help him without holding back.

However, Jasper had to eventually repay them for their help.

From the very beginning, Zachary and Old Master Law had greatly admired Jasper's capabilities. In this way, their help could be understood as a form of investment in him.

This was especially true after the Harbor City stock crisis whereby the Law family and the whole of Harbor City had seen Jasper's capabilities. Due to this, the relationship between them only grew closer.

Now was finally the time for Jasper to repay their kindness.

"Of course I do."

Zachary's eyes lit up in interest and he put the teacup in his hands down.

"Why? Has the opportunity arrived?"

Jasper grunted in affirmation and informed him that in these two months, this bull market has been showing signs of a dwindling, and that there would be a huge pullback.

"Our analyst team has also caught on to what you just said long ago, but this is a technical pullback Do you think that there's a huge opportunity here?"

Zachary frowned slightly and asked in confusion.

Jasper smiled. No one would expect the earth-shattering 9/11 incident to happen at such a time.

It would turn this technical pullback into a horrifying plummet on the market. However, Jasper would not tell him that.

“It’s not that I don’t believe you, Jasper, but you have to consider this very carefully.

“If we misread the direction and trend and put in more than a billion Somer Dollars, not only will we lose the money if something goes wrong. But we’ll also anger Wall Street’s capitalists.”

“More than a billion?” Jasper chuckled and proceeded to say something that stunned Zachary.

“Uncle Law, my funds alone amount to 9 billion and I even contacted the little prince and Lord Alvarado. The three of us together will amount funds of at least 20 billion.”

“So much?!” Zachary was an experienced man, but he was still dazed by what he heard.

“You know me, Uncle Law. I wouldn’t make such a big move if I wasn’t sure.”

Zachary’s brows knitted together, and three wrinkled lines appeared between them.

He had more to consider than Jasper did.

“Tell me, Jasper, how sure of this are you? We’re hitting hard at what is essentially Wall Street’s artery, the center of the global economy. There are countless wealthy capitalists there.”

“We’re no match to their money and capabilities. If we fail, the entire Law family could potentially fall.”

Jasper smiled and replied with a fiery gaze, “The western capitalists have been making money off of people all over the world for centuries. Their roots are most certainly too deep and unreachable.”

“I’m not planning to use this opportunity to do anything to them either. But I’m certain I can make them suffer a little. I’m ninety percent sure of my success!”

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Jasper's tone was calm, but it was filled with a lot of confidence.

Zachary's expression was solemn.

After some time, Zachary finally asked, "How much funds do you need from the Law family?"

"At least 5 billion, but with no upper limit."

Jasper's reply had Zachary's brow jumping again. According to what Jasper said before about amounting a total of 20 billion with Lord Alvarado and the little prince's input, another 5 billion meant that Jasper would have 25 billion to use.

25 billion in the year 2001.

That was enough to win an economic war of an underdeveloped country!

Even in the future, when Internet companies would have valuations of tens and hundreds of billions, only people who truly worked in the industry knew that market evaluations were much more exaggerated than they ought to be.

This market value was only a number to scam retail investors of their money. Not to mention that this 25 billion now was physical money.

There were no companies or people in the world now who could take out such a large amount.

“I can give you 7 billion.” Zachary clenched his jaw as his eyes shone with a sharp glint.

Harbor City’s economy might be flourishing, but it had already shown signs of weakening.

For no other reason than the fact that Harbor City was too small and there were no more resources to continue developing.

This was also why the four richest families, lead by the Law family, were planning to further development in the mainlands. This was even though the most renowned families had long since diversified their investments to areas like Southeast Terra and the Golden Peninsula.

However, Harbor City was still where their most important roots laid, and the moment Harbor City loses all potential for future development, then the Law family would start heading on a downward trend.

There had already been signs of limited potential.

In the face of such an opportunity, Zachary chose to risk it and trust Jasper.

This 7 billion worth of cash was the maximum amount the Law family could take out without affecting the daily operations of their properties.

After all, the Law family had still yet to recover from the fallout of the stock crisis. Had Jasper not helped the Law family earn a huge amount from the bursting of the dot-com bubble back then, the Law family might not even be able to take 7 billion out.

However, looking at the bigger picture, even if Jasper failed this time, the Law family still had their roots to fall back on.

“Uncle Law, victory is ours.”

Jasper told Zachary sincerely.

The Law family had a total asset of almost a hundred billion, but Jasper understood that total assets and liquid were different things.

Just like how Jasper would not sell JW Company to gather funds, the Law family would not liquidate their core properties.

This 7 billion had already surpassed Jasper's expectations.

This was trust that not even ordinary family members could give each other, let alone Jasper and the Law family, who were completely unrelated.

Zachary smiled generously and said, "I trust you. If you think you can do it, then I have no reason not to make use of this opportunity."

"Uncle Law, there's one more thing."

Jasper proceeded to tell Zachary about Fabian's control over Penelope.

"Fabian's setup is more detailed and deeper than I thought. I don't know how many backup plans he has waiting in the dark."

Zachary turned solemn again when he heard this and asked, “Do you need the Law family to step out?”

Jasper shook his head and replied, “The situation in Harbor City isn’t stable right now. Even if the Atticus family isn’t part of the four richest families, it’s not any weaker than the four. We’re about to do something huge and it would be unwise to involve the entire family at such a time.”

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Hearing Jasper, Zachary nodded in approval and replied, “You’ve become much more mature now, Jasper.”

The four richest families in Harbor City were deeply intertwined, and most of the time, their relationship was not as simple as mere friends or enemies.

While the Atticus family was not among the four richest families, it held an extremely unique position.

As Jasper said, the Atticus family was not weaker than any of the four richest families.

In reality, the fact that the Atticus family was not one of the four made it much more convenient for them to conduct their operations.

Take the stock crisis before, for example. When Harbor City's economy took a huge hit, the citizens and Harbor Government placed all their hope on the four richest families. They did not expect much from the Atticus family.

When it came to Fabian, anything the Law family did to him would be understood as a move against the entire Atticus family. The Atticus family was not an easy opponent either, and they might not surrender to the Law family.

The Law family, of course, did not fear the Atticus family, but Harbor City's current situation was a mess, and the whole Atticus family could potentially be triggered by a small move. Since the situation was already less than ideal, it was better not to create any more issues.

This had always been the Law family's reasoning.

As far as Jasper was concerned, it was important to recognize that the Law family and himself were different entities. This was a personal issue between Fabian and himself, and it was evident from the man's setup that he intended to kill Jasper.

With this premise in mind, unless the Law family completely destroyed Fabian, he would not give up on attacking Jasper.

Otherwise, Fabian would not have plotted against him so openly despite knowing Jasper's relationship with the Laws.

Not to mention that Fabian was also the Atticus family's only heir, and unless the Law family was ready to fight the Atticus Family to the death, they would not completely destroy Fabian.

"Uncle Law, I just need you to keep a close eye on Fabian. Especially the transfer of the Atticus family's or Fabian's personal funds," Jasper said.

Zachary frowned slightly and asked, "You're worried that Fabian will see through your plan?"

'He most likely already did.'

Jasper sighed internally.

When he found out that someone was targeting him on the United States stock markets, Jasper's first guess was Fabian.

The man had the motive and the capability.

Fabian was certainly the most difficult opponent Jasper had ever encountered.

It was either Fabian or a capitalist from Wall Street, but the latter was not very likely.

The only Wall Street capitalist Jasper had crossed paths with was Quantum Funds, but they should be busy profiting off retail investors in the European financial market. They could not keep an eye on him all the time. Therefore, Jasper was more inclined to believe that Fabian was behind this.

“It’s just a precaution,” Jasper replied.

“Harbor City is too far away for me to do anything, especially if its something as subtle as the transfer of funds. Without your help, Uncle Law, there’s no way I’d be able to keep an eye on Fabian. Thus, I’ll have to ask for your help with this considerably important matter, Uncle Law.”

Zachary nodded solemnly and replied, “Alright. You have my word. I’ll contact you right away if I have any news.”

Jasper replied in relief, “I can rest assured with your promise, Uncle Law.”

“I also hope to have Henry by my side during this incident. It’s also a chance to let him feel the risks of a fight involving huge sums of capital.”

Jasper's suggestion had Zachary laughing out loud. Within the family, Henry, who previously refused to take up any form of business, was the thing that worried him the most.

However, Zachary had watched how his son matured ever since he became friends with Jasper. He was also very impressed with the old master's insistence on having Henry stay by Jasper's side since the very beginning.

Therefore, Zachary was overjoyed to hear this suggestion.

"I'll have him leave tomorrow."

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"But remember to keep a good eye on him this time. Don't let him fool around with his useless friends. He almost got involved in a murder last time and that's not a small issue."

"The Law family is powerful, and that's why we're very strict with who succeeds the family business. The moment his record is tarnished with a charge like that, it'd be a huge hit to him and the Law family."

Jasper nodded and replied, "I know what to do."

“Right, and Uncle Law? If possible, perhaps you could release news of this to two of the other four richest families, excluding Wallace Langdon’s family.”

“You want them to join..?”

“I don’t have such plans in mind yet, but like I said. It’s just a precaution.”

“Alright. I’ll invite them out for tea.”

After a few more idle exchanges, the video call ended since Zachary had some other business to attend to.

While Jasper began to plan in the mainlands, his operations against the market trend in the United States financial market finally attracted the attention of some forces, particularly due to his astronomical amount of funds.

Somer Descents might be the most hardworking and smartest people, but that did not mean they could overlook the western world’s power.

After all, the west had been the true rulers of the world for the past few centuries.

The west was led the world almost all aspects, be it modern economies, finance, governments, and armed forces.

The blood filled sufferings of Somer descents a century ago was a lesson to them not to look down on these blond haired and blue eyed men.

“Mr. Rogers, according to the evaluation report, Jasper’s began to operate against the market trend 11 days ago. He first sold a majority of the stocks under his name and gained no less than 200 million US Dollars.”

“Then, he gathered his funds from mainland Somerland and began to short-sell the Dow Jones Index while buying gold futures.”

“As of this moment, he has a total position worth 530 million US Dollars.”

As the chief of Quantum Funds’ think tank, Vincent had a scholarly air about him. The elegant gentleman had a pair of gold-rimmed glasses sitting on his nose and he looked like a university professor.

The man spoke calmly and at a normal pace, but his words were clear and his gentle voice sounded very friendly.

Sitting behind the office table, Rogers looked at the evaluation report in his hand expressionlessly.

“Vincent, tell me. What do you think Jasper’s intentions are?” Rogers asked.

Vincent replied calmly, “We don’t have sufficient material and data yet to profile him or logically predict what he’s about to do.”

Rogers put the report down and got up to take a bottle of red wine from the wine cabinet in his office. He poured Vincent a glass first before he said, “My old friend. Forget the data, why do you think Jasper’s doing this?”

Vincent sipped the red wine and replied with a shrug, “Maybe he’s crazy.”

“The Dow Jones Index might be oscillating, but anyone with more than six months of investment experience could tell that this is just a technical pullback of the market.”

“This alone is something our Quantum Funds as well as the other financial companies in Wall Street have arrived at a consensus of.”

“But based on Jasper’s current operations, we can tell that he thinks a stock crisis is about to happen and he wants to profit from the United States citizens.”

Rogers chuckled and replied, "That's impossible unless there's suddenly war on United States grounds, and the United States loses."

As the president of Quantum Funds and one of the main financial forces of Wall Street, Rogers had the qualifications to say something like that.

"What do you think we should do, Vincent?"

Vincent glanced at Rogers and replied, "This Jasper Laine from Somerland might have achieved extraordinary success according to our intelligence, but he's still nothing in comparison to Quantum Funds, let alone strong enough to go against Wall Street."

"There's no entity in Somerland powerful enough to challenge Wall Street's capital."

"So I think we should do nothing."

Rogers shook his head and replied, "No, Vincent. I've fought Jasper before, and he... the feeling he gives me is that we can't look down on an opponent like him."

Rogers' words caused something to finally flicker across Vincent's gentle expression.

One was the president of Quantum Funds and the other was the chief of the funds' think tank. The two had been working intimately together for more than a decade, so they were both very familiar with the other's character.

This was also why Vincent was so shocked about Rogers's high regard for Jasper.

"From what I know, this is the highest praise you've ever given a youth."

"Even Winston Bennett admires him a lot, so it's only natural that I don't underestimate him." Rogers clapped Vincent's shoulder.

"My old friend, there's a saying in Somerland that goes 'Don't overlook the young for their inexperience.' This sentence teaches you not to underestimate an opponent just because they're young and not as powerful as you. Because one day in the future, he might just become someone extremely formidable."

"So, as the chief of Quantum Funds' think tank, I need you to give me a more comprehensive evaluation and counter suggestion."

Vincent put the glass down and got up to say, "I'll need more information and intelligence on him."

“I’ll grant you full authority.”

“Three days.”

“Okay.”

A similar situation was also happening in the investment banks Layman, as well as Colossal Investments.

The situation in Layman was similar to the one in Quantum Funds. While Colossal Investments was reacting differently because of their partnership with Jasper.

In Colossal Investment’s Terra regional branch headquarters, Harbor City.

Celine crossed her legs where she sat on the chair in the conference room.

In front of her was a huge electronic display, separated into six portions with a video feed playing out on each of them.

This was a managerial meeting of Colossal Investments' headquarters and the large regional branches around the world.

Without question, this was an extremely high profile video conference.

At this moment, Celine voiced her opinion to the president

"President Paulson, I think the investment bank's senior executives are overreacting to Jasper's actions."

Celine's first sentence immediately had Paulson, the president of Colossal Investments, frowning slightly.

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"Miss Maynard, you have to understand that Jasper's actions have already attracted the attention of a portion of Wall Street's financial companies. His high risk operations against the market trend require the investment bank to reevaluate our partnership with him."

Paulson's voice was calm but powerful.

Not that it affected Celine.

“Pardon my boldness, President Paulson, but excluding our involvement in Sena’s listing, does the investment bank have any other important partnerships with Jasper?”

Paulson fell silent

The other presidents of the other major regions around the world fell deep into thought as well.

“As far as I know, there isn’t. Jasper has only entrusted the investment bank to manage a portion of his portfolio.”

Faint mockery and disdain graced Celine’s exquisite features.

“So what do Jasper’s actions have to do with the investment bank? Or perhaps I should rephrase myself, can the investment bank even control Jasper?”

Paulson answered with displeasure, “Please watch your choice of words, Miss Maynard. You are now on the video conference involving presidents of Colossal Investments’ large regional branches from around the world. Everything you say and do is recorded.”

“I will take responsibility for my behavior, President Paulson.”

Celine replied strongly.

“But I stand by what I said. Jasper will take responsibility for his own actions, he is just one of our many customers.”

“At the same time, the investment bank is also one of the many options Jasper can choose from. There is no binding relationship, we are but customer and service provider.”

“The investment bank can choose not to help in times of need, nor does it have to add salt to his wounds.”

“Because of all this, I greatly disagree with the reevaluation of our partnership with Jasper.”

Paulson looked at Celine calmly, as if his gaze could traverse half the globe and fall on her.

“Alright. The head quarters will consider your opinion.”

“I’ve said my part,” Celine stated calmly.

An hour later, the conference ended.

The first thing Celine did when she returned to her office was to call Jasper.

“What have you been doing lately?”

Jasper smiled when he heard Celine’s question and replied, “Let me guess, your superiors gave you a hard time?”

The corner of Celine’s lips lifted beautifully.

“I really can’t hide anything from you. But there’s no way you can hide your actions from Wall Street or the investment bank, it’s unrealistic.”

Jasper gestured for his subordinate, who was sitting and reporting some information in front of him, to leave the office before he smiled and replied, “I never intended to hide it from anyone.”

Celine sighed and asked, "Can you tell me what you have in mind?"

"I'm investing! I think that the United States economy will go downhill, so I'm setting things up to make some money. What's wrong with that?" Jasper asked calmly.

"Even an idiot can tell that the current drop in the United States Stock Market is a technical pullback. The ratio isn't anything major and you've lost at least 100 million US Dollars over these past few days. Everyone's wondering what you're trying to do!"

Celine said in displeasure when she heard Jasper's perfunctory reply.

Jasper rubbed his temple and replied, "I have my own reasons."

"The investment bank's senior executives are very confused and our think tank might be analyzing your every move as we speak They'll be trying to find your true intentions," Celine told him.

Jasper replied playfully, "Since when did I get so influential? It's just a small sum of funds and Colossal Investments' already engaging their think tank to analyze me?"

“Jasper, you might not be aware of this, but you’ve already got quite the reputation after the fight over Harbor Stocks. Many people have information on your path to wealth, and they know that you started your business operating in financial markets.”

“That’s why your irregular operations now is attracting the attention of many people.”

Celine then paused for a bit before continuing, “I don’t know what you’re thinking, but trust me when I say that it’s extremely difficult for you to profit from the United States stock market.”

“It’s always been the United States capitalists profiting off other people, be it the Plaza Accord with Sunrise Land or the siege on the European Union. Right now, no one can challenge Wall Street’s absolute authority over the financial system.

“Because these people are the founders and rule makers of the modern financial system.”

“That’s what a lot of people think.”

Jasper did not refute Celine.

This was what everyone around the world thought, including people from the United States.

The US citizen's arrogance and sense of superiority was the main cause of the subprime crisis in 2008.

At the time, the powerful Layman Investments would fall, while countless financial enterprises of various sizes collapsed alongside it. This was accompanied by the loss of trillions of US Dollars.

With memory and experience of the next 20 years, Jasper knew that while the United States citizens were powerful, they were not untouchable.

"Don't worry. There's no way I'd risk making an astronomical mistake and do something irrational. I know my limits and what I can or cannot do."

Celine finally relaxed slightly when she heard this.

"But if possible, I do hope you can use your contacts and help me keep an eye on the movements on Wall Street," Jasper said.

Celine harrumphed and replied, "I'm not powerful enough to keep an eye over the wealthier capitalists in Wall Street."

Jasper smiled and said, "I'll treat you to dinner next time."

"Don't think that just because I grew up overseas that I don't know what you mean. Words like I'll treat you to dinner next time, another day, one day, all mean I won't see you again."

Jasper laughed out loud when he heard Celine.

"Alright, I know what you're thinking, but I really can't explain the details to you. Just give me some time and you'll understand what I'm doing without needing me to explain it further," Jasper said.

Celine fell silent for a bit before she whispered, "You think that the United States will go into war?"

Other than war, there was nothing that could result in the United States' economy plummeting suddenly.

“But that’s not possible. The United States systems have decided that capital can affect the will of the country.”

“Ignoring the other titans on Wall Street, Colossal Investment alone has a great influence on the entirety of Congress. There’s no way we wouldn’t know if something like war was about to break out”

Jasper replied mysteriously, “There’s no way I’d be able to predict war. I just think that the United States Stock Market is in for a huge change soon.”

Celine harrumphed when she realized she could not get Jasper to speak about his plans and replied, “Alright. I’ll stop wasting my time as you put on your mysterious persona, but there should be a lot of people in Wall Street waiting to watch you make a fool out of yourself.”

“Your slightly famous title as the Somer Genius might soon turn you into a laughing stock. Do what you believe benefits you most.”

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After ending the call with Celine, Jasper called Jake next. Not for anything else but to tell him to keep opening positions without hesitation.

The 9 billion Somer Dollars Jasper had gathered yesterday had been converted into 1.1 billion US Dollars which he had transferred to Jake.

Jake immediately started opening more positions after Jasper instructed him to do so.

Wall Street, which was already closely monitoring Jasper's funds, immediately caught on to this.

Everyone was confused.

'Did Jasper really go crazy?'

Everyone could not help but think this.

The current situation was too calm, and after the latest technical pullback ended, the market began to grow again.

The increase of every point in the index meant Jasper lost one hundred thousand US Dollars.

Not even a mountain of gold could last two days with the way the money kept disappearing.

“Looks like the legendary Somer Genius has been blinded by victory and praise.”

Someone sat in their office in Wall Street and shook their head while sighing as they stared at the steadily climbing market trendline.

“I really wonder who gave him so much confidence to think that he could challenge the United States’ financial system on his own.”

Someone drank champagne and began to mock him. Shock at the very beginning turned to confusion. Meanwhile, Jasper continued ignoring the questionable gazes of everyone around the world as he continued to open more positions. Due to this, the people who had their eyes on Jasper soon began to target him.

Whenever Jasper sold stocks, they would snap it up. Thus profiting from the money Jasper invested.

The feeling of earning money just by issuing buy orders had countless people mocking Jasper and calling him a money gifting child from Somerland.

In Harbor City, Fabian had also immediately received news that Jasper had opened more positions.

“He’s already invested 600 million US Dollars.”

Fabian narrowed his eyes and said.

“Coverting that back to Somer Dollars, he’s basically deposited all the liquid funds JW Company holds. According to our evaluation of his company, JW’s already tight on cash, and doing so will only increase the pressure on them. Did he really go crazy?”

Mitch was utterly dumbfounded.

“What’s the situation over at Wall Street?” Fabian asked.

Mitch snorted and replied, “What else? The bigshots there all think that he’s looked at the trend incorrectly. They were nervous in the beginning and did a thorough investigation, but after realizing that there was genuinely nothing wrong, they left him alone.”

“After all, it’s just 600 million US dollars. It’s not enough to do anything at all.”

“Not to mention that as things stand, he’s losing more than 10 million US Dollars a day. He’ll get himself killed after a short while without us needing to do anything.”

Mitch felt overjoyed.

After losing to Jasper a few times, he was extremely relieved to see Jasper actively screw himself over.

Even better, he had earned quite a bit for every cent Jasper lost.

“It’s all thanks to you targeting him in advance, Mr. Atticus. Now we earn 3 million from every 10 million he loses every single day. Haha, he might just vomit blood in infuriation if he found out about this.”

Fabian glanced at Mitch and swallowed the curse at the tip of his tongue.

Mitch was still a useful pawn now and Fabian did not mind letting him act prideful for a little while longer.

“Jasper won’t hand out money for no reason. I still think that he has an ulterior motive that no one knows of yet.”

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Mitch shrugged when he heard Fabian and said, “Mr. Atticus, maybe we really are being too sensitive. After all, Jasper isn’t some god, and he can misinterpreted the trend. Didn’t we also think that he had some ulterior motive before as well?”

“But there’s no way war could break out in the United States right now, and unless aliens attack tomorrow and causes the global financial system to crash, there’s no way he’d get to turn the tides.”

“We’ve investigated for so many days but came up empty handed. Not only us, but even the people on Wall Street are confused as well. Maybe it’s really as the others’ think, maybe he did go crazy.”

“Misinterpreted the trend?”

Fabian scoffed and said, “If the situation was a complicated one, then I’d believe you if you tell me he made the wrong decision. But even an idiot can tell that the market is booming. There’s no way this can be explained as a simple mistake.”

Mitch was stunned for a moment too and asked instinctively, “Then, what should we do now?”

“Nothing.” Fabian’s expression turned indifferent.

“We continue with the original plan. If he invests more, then we’ll follow. I’d like to see how much money he can take out!”

It was 9th September 2001 when Fabian and Mitch decided on this plan. It was a sunny day and there were no clouds in the clear sky.

The following day, Henry arrived at Southeast Province.

“Hey hey hey! Young Master Law is here!”

Henry stood in the airport in high spirits.

When he saw Jasper standing far away and looking at him with a crescent eyed smile, elation graced Henry’s features and he immediately grabbed his bag before running over.

“Don’t say anything, here is all my money!”

Henry handed Jasper a bank card excitedly.

“There’s 100 million inside.”

Jasper was shocked. “100 million? How did you get your hands on so much money?”

It was an open secret how ‘broke’ Henry was, so Jasper was shocked to discover that he could amass 100 million.

“Hehe, I mortgaged my plane, yacht, and a house,” Henry said with a grin.

Jasper could not help but ask, “And you’re not afraid that you’ll lose your money with me?”

“What’s there to be afraid of?” Henry did not care and waved Jasper off generously, “I bought the plane with the money I earned from you. If anything happen, I’ll just pretend I never made any money with Sena before. If that’s not enough, then I’ll start working in my family businesses. I’ll leech off my dad.”

“Not bad. This mindset is commendable,” Jasper praised.

Henry's expression immediately fell and his true nature showed, "I'm just saying that for the sake of it. Don't you dare make me lose my money, or I'll be mocked to death by others when the bank takes my plane."

"Don't worry. There's no way I'd let you lose your money when you'll be needing it to marry the love of your life," Jasper joked.

Henry shook his leg as he sat beside Jasper in the car.

"I heard my dad say that Fabian's been causing you trouble?" Henry asked.

Jasper nodded and replied, "His methods are crueler than I thought."

"Don't worry. After this is over, I'll screw him over with you," Henry said energetically.

Jasper replied heavily, "Fabian's not like other people. Don't act rashly."

Henry arched his brow and said, "What's with that? Are you looking down on me? I'm known in Harbor City as a n evil trust-fund child, but ordinary people don't hate me. Do you know why that is?"

“Why?” Jasper was curious.

Harbor City’s gossip did not follow the mainland’s strict guidelines, so Harbor City reporters confidently dared to report every bit of news they could get their hands on. Scandals involving wealthy families were always more interesting than the last.

Yet, it seemed like Henry had never been put in a bad light by these entertainment reporters.

“Because while the other trust-fund children bully ordinary people, I only bully these trust-fund children. Hahahaha...”

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Henry’s tone was arrogant, but upon further thought, one would realize that he spoke the truth.

Henry might have a horrible temper, but he was easy to communicate with for the majority of ordinary people. He would not vent his anger on ordinary people.

However, when it came to other rambunctious trust-fund children, Henry would not hesitate to slap them across the face when they pissed him off. More often than not, there was nothing these people could do in retaliation.

After all, the world of trust-fund children was a competition of familial backgrounds. Henry had never lost in this aspect since his father and grandfather's identities were a direct display of their capabilities.

After checking Henry into the hotel, Jasper specifically told Henry not to cause any trouble before he left.

Henry agreed in annoyance, only to leave and seek out some fun after Jasper left.

Jasper did not worry too much about this.

Henry might seem flamboyant, but he was a smart man. Not to mention, they were in the Southeast Province and not Waterhoof City, so Jasper would cover for Henry no matter what.

After he returned, Jasper contacted both Lord Alvarado and the little prince separately.

In no time at all, two sets of funds were transferred to his account.

It was a total of 10 billion.

Jasper was unsurprised to find that both Lord Alvarado and the little prince could give him 5 billion each.

If anything, Jasper was very aware that they could take more out if necessary. The only reason they were cautious was that this was everyone's first time working together, and Jasper had been vague on the details of the operation.

These two individuals were the type to only act when victory was in sight. If Jasper wanted more money from them, then he had to show a big enough guarantee that they would profit.

The fact that they could provide 5 billion each during their first time working together was in line with their identities as the children of top-notch families within the mainlands.

Following that, the Law family's 7 billion had also been transferred over.

All the funds sitting in Jasper's capital pool accumulated to more than 26 billion now. Among the 26 billion was 9 billion of Jasper's own money, 7 billion from the Law family, and 5 billion each from Lord Alvarado and the little prince.

Jasper had even entertained the thought of inviting the crippled Brown of the Brown family in the north.

The only issue was that the crippled Brown was too mysterious an entity, and Jasper had never encountered the man. He could find a way to contact him if he wanted to since Lord Alvarado or the little prince had to have a way of contacting the crippled Brown.

However, Jasper did not do so. After all, there was still no certainty as to how this fight would play out, and the crippled Brown, who was rumored to be insanely smart, might not necessarily agree to work together.

The day was the 10th of September 2001.

All Jasper did was wait patiently for the earth-shattering incident that was destined to be remembered in history.

However, before this monumental moment arrived, Jasper first received news that almost drenched him in a cold sweat.

Someone had tampered with Wendy's car.

After the accident that occurred at the office entrance in the past, Jasper had planned to buy Wendy a new car, but she insisted on repairing it and proceeded to drive her BMW into the car dealership shop.

Because of this, the purchase of a new car was postponed.

He did not expect an accident to almost happen right after the car was repaired.

“The brakes were sabotaged. From what we can tell, the car’s brake system will fail when the car is driven at more than 80 kilometers per hour.”

Julian’s senior and Wendy’s personal bodyguard, Fallon, said.

In comparison to Julian, Fallon possessed a more comprehensive set of skills. It was only after he employed her that Jasper learned that Fallon was not only a great fighter but also a professional auto racer.

What was even more impressive was that she also had a helicopter license, and a seafarer’s passport, and a boating license.

“Did you catch who did it?” Jasper’s expression was frosty.

Standing next to him, Wendy was still in shock.

Thankfully, Fallon had found out beforehand, otherwise some huge accident might have occurred.

Fallon chewed her gum and sat down casually before replying, "The cameras caught someone sneaking around the car park, and Jul's gone to catch him now."

"Thank you ," Jasper thanked Fallon earnestly.

Fallon had essentially saved Wendy's life today.

Fallon snickered and replied, "Don't worry about it. I'm just doing my job. You're the one paying me, after all."

JW Company currently had a huge influence in not just Nauritus City, but the whole of Southeast Province.

No matter who the culprit was, Jasper would not forgive him for threatening Wendy's personal safety.

Wendy was more than Jasper's significant other, she was also the future co-owner of JW and Dawson's daughter.

Considering Wendy's multiple powerful identities, whoever still dared to hurt Wendy definitely had no fear for Jasper.

Still, that did not matter.

Jasper would flip whoever dared to hurt Wendy upside down, even if it was God Himself!

Soon enough, Julian caught the man and dragged him over.

Jasper was also shocked when he saw the man Julian brought over.

"Calvin Hunt!" Jasper looked at Calvin icily and shouted his name. He did not expect Calvin to be so bold.

Calvin knew that he had been found out, so he said harshly, "What a shame I didn't manage to kill her."

Slap.

Jasper got up to slap Calvin across the face harshly. "You come at me if you want! But if you touch Wendy, then I'll make you regret ever being born!"

The whole of Southeast Province, and even Jasper's enemies, knew that involving Wendy was a taboo when it came to attacking Jasper. Whoever hurt her would have to face Jasper's mindless revenge.

Calvin was very bold to do what he did!

He had done something countless people wanted, but did not dare, to do.

Calvin took the slap and glared at Jasper with bloodshot eyes. He roared, "Beat me to death if you can, Jasper! Do you even dare? You wouldn't dare to kill me!"

"Kill you?" Jasper sneered. "As if you're worth my time and effort."

Jasper grabbed Calvin's collar and said icily, "But don't worry. I have more than enough ways to make you suffer without killing you."

At this moment, even Calvin panicked when he took in Jasper's icy gaze.

"Think before you act, Jasper! I'm telling you, this is a just society we live in!"

"You, an attempted murderer, are talking to me about what's just?" Jasper sneered.

Calvin clenched his jaw but did not say anything.

"I'll torture you first, then send you to the police. By then, this attempted murder charge will be enough to lock you behind bars for the rest of your life. I've always just let you be, Calvin, because I thought that you wouldn't be able to cause too large a problem."

"But thank you for letting me understand that while trash like you can't bring me actual trouble, you can still threaten the people around me. I'll make sure to be extra careful in the future."

"So, to thank you, I'll definitely teach you an unforgettable lesson. I'd be a horrible excuse of a human being if I let you live a single day in comfort until you eventually die!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1338

Calvin started to feel regretful when he heard this.

He did not regret troubling Jasper, but rather not achieving anything out of the bad things he had done. This was what he felt the most indignant about

It was too late now to say all this, and the most important thing to Calvin was to come up with a plan on how he to escape.

“You wouldn’t dare hurt me, Jasper! Pen’s been with you for so many years, and you’re going to ignore the history both of you share? Are you even human?”

Jasper chuckled annoyedly at Calvin’s words.

“Ignore the history we share? My kindness to you was what gave you so much courage to do what you did today!”

“Julian!”

Julian immediately straightened his back when he heard Jasper shout for him and replied, “Right here!”

“Are there any untraceable ways to put him in extreme agony?”

Julian looked at Calvin, who resembled a frantic mouse caught by a cat, and replied, “There are. And more than 10 methods at that.”

“Good. I want him to try every single one of them.”

Jasper’s gaze was cold. “He says that I’m ignoring the kindness I was given before. So, let’s have him understand what it truly means to ignore the past.”

Calvin’s last psychological defenses failed when he saw Julian reach out toward him.

He had experienced Julian’s attack before.

Like the action movies in television dramas, he could not find any desire to fight back against Julian. He was doomed to die once he was put in Julian’s hands.

“Wait! Jasper, wait!”

Calvin shouted frantically.

Jasper's expression was cold and unfazed.

Anyone who dared to attack his lover would be decisively gotten rid of. This was so that they could not cause any more trouble in the future. Even if it was God Himself, Jasper would still flip Him upside down. Let alone Calvin.

"Jasper, I did it because I was ordered to!"

Calvin shouted frantically just as Julian grabbed his collar and was about to drag him away.

This sentence had Julian freezing as well.

Jasper looked at Calvin icily and said, "You'll only end up in a more tragic situation if you lie to me."

Resentment flickered across Calvin's features, but he did not dare to act on it. He clenched his jaw and said, "I'm already in such a sorry state. Why would I lie to you?"

“I can tell you who the mastermind is, but you have to promise not to hurt me. I don’t care about going to prison, but I won’t say a single word if you torture me.”

“You’re in no position to negotiate with me right now.”

Jasper looked at Calvin and said indifferently, “Tell me everything you know and I might consider being merciful. But if you try to lie or hide anything from me...”

“Trust me, I’d still have a way to make your life a living hell even after you’re put in prison.”

“As someone who’s been inside before, I’m sure you know what kind of world prison is. All I need is a bit of money, and the people inside will do almost anything.”

Calvin looked terrified when he heard Jasper. Indeed, having been in prison before, Calvin knew how the inside of the jail was a completely new world.

The best fighter was king in prison, fighting and the bullying of the weak was a daily occurrence.

As long as nothing too horrid happened, the prison guards did not care either.

Calvin shivered at the thought and told Jasper everything he knew.

“It’s... it’s Fabian.”

Calvin then proceeded to spill the beans to Jasper about how he and Fabian got into contact and the process by which Fabian passed him the order.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1339

“Jasper, I admit that I hate you to your bones and I want you to die, but you have to believe that Fabian was really the person who ordered me to do this. He even taught me how to mess with the brakes. How else would I know how to do something like that?”

As if terrified that Jasper would not believe him, Calvin explained sincerely.

Jasper replied calmly, “I knew that you’re telling me the truth when you said it was Fabian.”

Calvin exhaled in relief. He did plan to hide the truth or lie to Jasper, but he gave it some thought and realized that there was no way Fabian would be willing to save him right now.

Since that was the case, then he might as well tell Jasper everything in return for his safety.

At least he would be sent to prison safely now.

Having been in prison once, Calvin did not mind returning. However, he did care about whether he was carried in or if he would be able to walk in himself.

“Jul, report him to the police and let them deal with him.”

Calvin was about to cry from joy when he heard Jasper.

After Julian brought Calvin away, Jasper sat in the office chair with a solemn look on his face.

Fallon observed the situation and left the office as well, having remained silent the entire time.

She knew that she was no longer needed here.

Wendy stayed.

She walked over to Jasper and squatted down to put her face over the back of his hand as she said, "Don't be angry anymore. I'm fine now, aren't I?"

Jasper chuckled, the gloomy cloud over him disappearing, and he pulled Wendy up. Ignoring her gasp and embarrassment, he pulled her down to sit on his lap.

"I'm just afraid of what might have happened."

Jasper hugged Wendy and said, "What if Fallon didn't find out about this? What if something happened to you? I could rip my enemies to shreds and that still wouldn't bring you back to me."

Wendy chided, "Nonsense, nothing's going to happen to me."

"Yes, yes, nonsense..." Jasper smiled.

Wendy was not just an ordinary girl, after all. While she was scared of what-ifs, the incident had already passed, and she had already let it go and moved on.

“Fabian is powerful. You have to endure this a little longer.”

Wendy told Jasper seriously.

“Now isn’t the time for you to turn against him.”

Jasper gave her a small smile, “Don’t worry. I know my limits.”

Wendy pouted when she heard Jasper.

She knew that every time Jasper wore this expression or said something like this, it meant that he had already made his decision. More often than not, the man would not change his mind.

Therefore, Wendy did not linger on the topic and said gently, “Then I’ll get back to work first. Promise me you won’t be angry anymore.”

“Okay,” Jasper watched Wendy leave the room.

A short moment after the office door closed, the silence was suddenly broken by the loud crash of a shattered teacup.

Julian opened the office door after finishing his part only to see Jasper sitting silently and alone behind the office desk

“Jul, go find out who else Fabian has here in Nauritus City. He’s got to have men here, find all of them,” Jasper demanded.

“Alright.” Julian nodded and left quietly.

After Julian left, Jasper grabbed the office phone and called a number he had gotten from Henry a long time ago but never contacted.

A moment later, the call connected.

“Hello? Who’s this?”

A young man’s voice sounded on the other end of the line.

“Fabian Atticus. You’ve targeted me both in secret and in the open many times, but you’ve truly angered me this time.”

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Fabian must’ve been surprised to hear Jasper’s words, for he chuckled after a moment of silence.

“Jasper Laine, hmm?”

Fabian spoke in standard Somerish.

“I’ve been waiting for this call for a very long time. If I’d known doing so would have you act so furiously, I’d have done it long ago.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes and replied, “Agreed, doing so would also get you killed much earlier.”

“Haha, do you know, Jasper? I’ve asked around about you and I got two very extreme descriptions”

“Some say that you’re gentlemanly and kind.”

“But some say you’re heartless, brutal, and cruel.”

Jasper replied indifferently, “The former are my friends, and the latter are my enemies.”

“So, what I’m seeing now is the heartless, brutal, and cruel Jasper?” Fabian chuckled.

He seemed to admire Jasper’s fury a lot.

Jasper’s tone suddenly turned calm and he said, “Fabian, this call today isn’t to vent my anger. Since both of us know how pointless that is.”

“Of course, it’s not to reconcile either. Perhaps there was still a possibility for reconciliation before today, but there is no turning back from this moment onward.

“Between you and I, only one will remain standing.”

Jasper’s claim infuriated Fabian.

“Jasper Laine! Watch your tone, who are you to say something like that?”

“Who am I? And who are you?” Jasper arched his brow, the corner of his eye filled with an rage rarely seen on him.

“Hahaha,” Fabian laughed out loud.

“Good, then. Very good. No one’s ever dared to talk to me like this.”

“I guess someone does now.”

Jasper said icily, “Keep your sense of superiority to yourself. You’ve been targeting me this entire time, be it in secret or openly. Since what happened has already passed, then there’s no more fear on my part.”

“Execute whatever plan you have, Fabian, but you just tried to hurt my significant other. Forget Harbor City, I’d drag you over and skin you alive even if you were on Mars.”

“F*ck your sense of superiority, you think that just because you come from a wealthy family that suddenly you’re better than everyone? How are you different from the other trust-fund children I’ve screwed over before this?”

“Let me tell you, there is no difference. You think that you can be considered a scheming man because you’re hiding in the dark and you can come up with sinister plans? It’s so ridiculous I pity you.”

Fabian’s gaze was extremely icy after hearing the other person speak “Fine, then. Come over, come to Harbor City and let me see how you plan to skin me alive!”

“Just you wait. It won’t be too long until then.”

Beep beep beep...

Fabian clenched his phone sinisterly as his gaze became extremely dark.

Mitch was too terrified to speak when he saw Fabian’s expression.

Everyone knew that when Fabian was on the edge of exploding, any person or thing could become a fuse that ignites him.

Mitch refused to be subjected to Fabian’s venting.

“Insolent! ”

Fabian suddenly shouted and threw the phone in his hand harshly at the wall across him.

The phone shattered into pieces with a bang.

It was a loud bang which terrified Mitch.

He knew that Fabian was furious, but he did not expect it to be to such a degree.

This was Fabian Atticus.

The openly recognized most scheming youth among Harbor City’s wealthy children. He was also the one with the brightest future.

Not even Kayden from the Langdon family was as valued by the elders as Fabian was.

Therefore, Mitch had only ever seen Fabian's gentlemanly and generous side this entire time.

It was as if the man could not be affected by anything in the world like he had predicted everything in advance. Nothing could affect the man's calm nature.

So, what did Jasper tell Fabian?

How did one phone call manage to get through all of Fabian's defenses?

"Increase our attack!"

Fabian's expression was terrifyingly frigid.

"Keep a close look on him on the stock markets. I want him to die tragically!"

Mitch asked cautiously, "Mr. Atticus, what did Jasper say?"

Fabian glanced over and Mitch immediately shuddered. He felt endless horror descend upon him.

“Just... pretend I didn’t ask at all,” Mitch quickly said.

Before Mitch finished talking, the sinister and icy look on Fabian’s face suddenly vanished.

It had only been one second and the man’s expression had completely changed. The stark contrast between then and a second before that was almost awe inspiring.

“Something very interesting.”

Fabian’s tone also became gentle.

Yet, Mitch’s fear only grew.

“Of all the years I’ve lived, this is the first time I’ve been cursed at and threatened to be skinned alive.”

Fabian tilted his head up and laughed out loud as he spoke. It was as if he had heard a hilarious joke.

Mitch quickly replied, "This Jasper is crazy. He's always been like this. He's just a country bumpkin from the mainlands, but he looks down on everyone. There's no need to sink to his level, Mr. Atticus."

"Plus, this also means that we've hit a sore spot."

Fabian's hand fell on Mitch's shoulder, causing the other to shiver as Fabian said softly, "Interesting. I've never thought that I'd be pointed at and scolded one day. It's an interesting feeling."

"Don't be gloomy about it, Mr. Atticus. Perhaps I could find someone to beat him up." Mitch suggested carefully.

"You think that there'll be another good opportunity to do so after this? The reason sinister plans are hardly anything to be proud of is because they can only be used once."

Mitch chuckled dryly at Fabian's gaze, the latter looking at the former as if he was an imbecile. He said, "I just wanted to take revenge for you, Mr. Atticus."

“I don’t need you to take revenge for me.”

Fabian said calmly.

“Jasper’s got no one to blame but himself when he’s actively trying to screw himself over. In the beginning, I thought I’d just have to destroy his wealth, but right now? You are so good, Jasper, so very good that I’m going to destroy you and your wealth!”

“Take out the funds you’ve prepared. I’ll completely crush him this time.”

Mitch did not dare to protest and immediately replied, “Alright. I’ll transfer them to you immediately, they’ll arrive in an hour.”

Fabian did not reply. Something flickered in his eyes and he sneered.

“Motherf*cker!”

After returning from having fun outside, Henry was even more agitated than Jasper when he found out what happened.

“That f*cker’s playing dirty, huh? Fine, then! I’ll immediately have someone screw with him! He messed with your car, right? Then I’ll mess with his car and kidnap him!”

Jasper instantly raised his hand to stop Henry.

“Doing so will only turn this situation into a low class fight between rascals. Plus, you’ll be putting your dad in a dangerous spot if you break the rules so blatantly.”

Henry glared at replied angrily, “He’s the one that broke the rules first! How can you just let him go like that? How can you just move on?”

“Who said I’m letting him go?” Jasper said indifferently.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1341

Henry was about to ask Jasper what he had in mind when the request for a video conference rang out from the computer.

Henry had no other choice but to swallow the words he wanted to say and wait until after Jasper was done with the call.

It was a video call from Jake.

Jasper did not mind that Henry was present and answered the call immediately.

“Mr. Laine, as per your request, we’ve already begun to increase the number of our positions and funds invested. We have a total position worth 1.89 billion US Dollars, with a 5 million US Dollar increase every hour.”

“And our losses?” Jasper asked calmly.

Jake paused before replying difficultly, “We’ve lost a total of 230 million US Dollars right now. Every 1 million we invest amounts to a loss of 380 thousand US Dollars, and this loss percentage shows signs of a steady increase.”

“The entities targeting us since the beginning have increased their attacks, so most of our losses are going to them.

“Besides this, we’ve also realized that many financial organizations are starting to operate against us as well. Due to our continuous investment of funds, they seem to plan to benefit from us.

“As of this moment, we have sufficient evidence showing that most of these organizations are from Wall Street. A minority are from Europe, and there’s one from Sunrise Land.”

Jasper was unsurprised to know the involvement of Wall Street and European organizations, but he was shocked to find that an organization from Sunrise land was also among them.

However, in no time at all, Jasper could guess who it as.

Except for Softwin, which Jasper had previously had a feud against, no other organization would be willing to involve themselves in this matter while the situation had yet to be made clear.

Jasper nodded calmly and replied, “Keep it up. We need a position of 2.5 billion US Dollars before the market closes today.”

While expecting this, Jake was still shaken when he heard the amount.

Jake took a deep breath and said, "I'll get to it immediately, Mr. Laine. But I must remind you that according to our current rate, our percentage of loss will become extremely high."

"Because once we amass a huge enough amount, our operation against market trend will essentially become a flame to the moths in the market. It might not have been tempting enough before this, and the organizations might not have set their eyes on us yet, but once the funds breach 1 billion US Dollars, there will be signs of herd behavior.

"The moment the organizations against us groups together, all our funds will get consumed."

Jasper waved him off. "Don't worry, let them consume what they want. Before the day of reckoning arrives, it doesn't matter even if the accounts show a complete loss."

Jake sighed and replied, "Alright, Mr. Laine. I'll get to it right now."

"Good..."

After hanging up the call, Jasper looked at Henry, who had his eyes wide and his jaw gaping.

“Holy sh*t, so we’re losing hundreds of thousands of Somer Dollars every minute?”

Jasper nodded and replied, “That’s pretty much the rate.”

Henry sucked in a cold breath and asked, “The risks here are huge, aren’t they?”

Jasper smiled and replied, “Short selling is considered a trade of futures, and they have a settlement date. Therefore, everything we and our opponents make are all on paper for now.

“Even if we manage to hold on and not liquidate our accounts, if the situation doesn’t turn around in our favor before the settlement date, then we’ll still lose everything.”

“That is when our money will truly be gone.”

Henry felt lightheaded.

Despite being the next successor of the Law family and having no understanding of the concept of money since he was young, which were just a bunch of numbers to Henry, he still felt stricken when he realized that he was in a situation where he lost hundreds of thousands, or even millions, every minute.

“When’s the settlement date?” Henry asked.

“In three days.”

“Motherf*cker!” The corner of Henry’s lips twitched.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1342

“What happens if we lose everything and have to liquidate?” Henry asked.

“Then you go back and leech off of your dad, while I live here with my little bit of money in Nauritus City,” Jasper replied calmly.

“So the person targeting us is Fabian?” Henry hit jackpot with his question.

“Most likely.” Jasper sighed.

Jake’s investigation all this while had not come up empty handed. No matter how good Fabian was at hiding himself, Jake could still find a few leads. While there was no concrete evidence, the funds were proven to originate from Harbor City.

With this point confirmed, Jasper could also be certain that the mastermind behind this was Fabian and no one else.

“Who are the other organizations, then?” Henry asked.

Jasper replied, “I can confirm that that the organization from Sunrise Land is Softwin. But as for those from Wall Street, there are too many of them for me to lock onto. And I have absolutely no idea about those from Europe.”

Henry clenched his jaw and said, “ So we’re literally sending Fabian money, then?!”

“This money is pretty much a hot potato.”

Jasper closed his eyes slightly and murmured to himself.

Originally anxious, Henry took in Jasper's calm behavior and suddenly relaxed.

Throughout their time together, the man in front of him had always been able to turn what everyone believed was an impossible situation around.

The fight in Harbor City alone was something most people would boast about their entire lives.

Henry had involved throughout the entire process back then.

"Are you trying to fish someone out?"

Henry's question had Jasper laughing out loud.

"While the entire world thinks that I've gone crazy, you're the only one who thinks I'm fishing."

Henry shrugged and replied, "Maybe I'm crazy too." Then, his expression turned crazed.

“F*cking Hell, it’s just money, isn’t it? Worse come to worst we’ll just lose everything. We’ll still have enough to sustain ourselves and isn’t that good enough? What’s the point of so much money anyway? We win, then we’ll go to clubs and look for pretty girls, lose and we’ll get back to work!”

“Don’t worry. Even if you lose all the money, I’m sure with your title as Young Master Law, you’d still have pretty girls to sleep with at any club you go.” Jasper chuckled.

“Hahaha!”

Henry guffawed. “You’re not wrong.”

As Jasper and Fabian officially turned against each other, murmurs of a strange financial war were heard. Despite physically being in the mainlands and Harbor City, the two decided to make the United States’ financial market into their battlegrounds.

Funds worth 2 billion US Dollars was like a drop in the ocean in this market, but this drop of water had coincidentally decided to operate against the clear market trend. In this case, it was as obvious as a drop of water in the desert.

2 billion US Dollars was not a small amount either.

A huge short sell order that ran against the Dow Jones Index would appear every 10 minutes, and would also be snapped up immediately.

Everyone knew that this was a blatant gifting of money. Jasper knew that among these purchasers were Fabian and Softwin.

What he did not know, was that Layman Investment Bank and... Colossal Investments were also involved.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1343

Capone was the office manager of Colossal Investments Headquarters' advanced investment department.

He was mainly in charge of a sum of funds from the headquarters, and his job was to help this sum of funds grow on the securities market.

The more profit he made, the more his bonus was. There were many advanced investment office managers like himself in Colossal Investments, and they would all undergo a performance evaluation every month. The only metric to this evaluation was the amount each investment manager earned the investment bank, with the most profitable person gaining the largest benefits.

Therefore, Capone was under a lot of pressure to perform.

He was in a great mood today.

“Mr. Morrison, thank you for your information. I’ll make sure to remember your kindness.”

Capone held the phone with his legs crossed. His shiny leather shoe twirled around slightly as he spoke flatteringly.

“You were our closest classmate during university. How could I possibly forget you when there’s such a great opportunity before us?”

Morrison’s tone was calm on the other end of the line. “I’m sure you know this Capone, but I hope you do as you promised.”

Capone smiled in response and replied, “Rest assured. As long as I receive any news from the senior executives about Jasper, I’ll tell you immediately.”

“Thanks to your information, I’ll be able to dominate all my opponents during this month’s performance evaluation. I’ll have much greater chances of being the deputy

manager of the investment department, and I'll be able to source information from the higher ups."

"There's a Somer phrase saying 'take as you need'. I believe that our partnership will be a merry one, but I do suggest that you keep a low profile.

"After all, according to the information I have, the president of Colossal Investment's Terra regional branch, Celine Maynard, had defended Jasper during the senior manager conference. This caused your senior members to feel rather concerned."

"Don't worry, Morrison. You work in the investment bank business as well, and I'm sure you know that when it comes to the senior executives, profit is always the most reliable partner. Any lesser partnerships, for example, when it comes to the defense of a single person, are pointless."

After ending the call, Morrison, the president of Layman Investment Bank's Terra regional branch, sat in his office with a joyful smile on his face. The monitor before him showed the overall market trendline for the Dow Jones Index.

Another of Jasper's orders had been devoured.

Knock knock knock.

Someone knocked on the door.

Morrison called for them to enter and in walked a shrewd looking middle aged man.

“Mr. Morrison, according to our comprehensive investigation, we’ve found no leads at all.”

“The think tank has produced two reasonings for Jasper’s actions. One being that Jasper had gone crazy, or that Jasper believes that the Unites States stock market will suffer a huge blow very soon.”

A dark look flashed through Morrison’s gaze and he replied, “We aren’t the only ones. Many people have been investigating him, but everyone’s come to the same result.”

“Looks like Jasper really is crazy.”

With a scoff, Morrison said, “Everyone is reading too much into this. Jasper’s made a severe mistake in the most fundamental decision. This reason that everyone believes to be impossible just so happens to be the closest to the truth.”

The middle aged man asked, “So what do we do now?”

“Continue with our original plan. We’ve entered the market too late so there’s not much we can profit from him. But as long as Jasper continues to short sell, then we’ll continue to issue buy orders. All of Jasper’s orders now are extremely profitable hot pockets.”

“We have no reason not to profit off such easy money.”

The middle aged man bowed slightly and replied, “Yes, Mr. Morrison. I’ll get to it immediately.”

As Jasper continued to sell, more people also began to enter the market.

No one would reject money when it was handed over to them on a silver platter.

Softwin, Layman, Colossal Investments, and other organizations from all over the world also came to know that a Somer idiot was crazily handing out money in the United States stock market thanks to the exchange of intelligence and the ticking of time.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1344

Since great opportunities like these were rare, everyone originally wondered if Jasper had an ulterior motive in the beginning. After all, the situation was too good to be true.

However, as time passed, everyone also began to draw their own conclusions.

Jasper had gone crazy.

They no longer cared what the man's original intentions were, and they took the money he provided on a silver platter.

With that, more organizations began to enter the market to snap up Jasper's orders.

Every order Jasper listed would be purchased within a few seconds.

As time passed, everyone started to feel impatient.

This situation had, after all, attracted the attention of many.

Jasper's phone was similarly bombarded with calls. Even Winston Bennett called Jasper himself to ask why Jasper did such a thing.

Jasper told him the same thing.

He had a bearish View of the United States stock market. That was it.

“Tsk, tsk. Just how many people have their eyes on us?”

Henry lamented in Jasper’s office, staring at the account’s startling unrealized loss on the screen.

“The total investment already amounts to 2.5 billion US Dollars.”

Jasper looked at the screen and exhaled softly.

While he had always been very confident, Jasper could not help but feel frantic at this moment.

Jasper would truly be screwed if the world played out different after he reincarnated and the two planes did not crash into the Twin Towers.

Jasper sounded carefree when he talked to Henry about it before, but he knew that it was more than an issue of money if he lost this time.

Both Lord Alvarado and the little prince had each invest 5 billion into this.

The two would be the first to come after him if he screwed up.

It could be said that Jasper was betting his whole life on this incident.

It was impossible for him not to feel nervous.

“All of the outside worlds is doubting you. Some of my friends in Harbor City that know of our relationship even called me in the beginning when they learned that you were making a move. They told me to pull them in if I had a chance to make big money.”

“But now they’re all telling me to quickly distance myself from you.”

“I’ve completely lost contact with them now. I don’t think there’s anyone in the world who truly believes in you.”

Henry hit the nail on the head.

Lord Alvarado and the little prince had not questioned any of his decisions.

However, Jasper knew this was because they were waiting.

The moment Jasper screwed up, Lord Alvarado and the little prince might just be the first to hurt him.

After all, this was 5 billion Somer Dollars, and not even the wealthy would just turn a blind eye at such a huge loss.

Jasper looked at the clock and whispered, "8 more hours to go."

Henry was stunned and asked instinctively, "8 hours?"

"Nothing," Jasper shook his head and stood up with a smile, "We might not be getting any sleep tonight. Do you want to go out and get food? Only when energized can we enjoy the show to its fullest."

Henry was stunned for a moment, but Jasper's expression told him that the man would not reply to any of his questions. Hence, he put the thought in the back of his mind. "Let's go, time to eat!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1345

Due to the time difference, Somerland was 13 hours ahead of the United States.

It was 1 PM in Somerland, which was around midnight on September the 11th in the United States. The night was quiet, as if needing a shocking change to wake its people.

Jasper and Henry had just gotten out of the office and were about to go eat lunch when Julian suddenly came over with a report.

“Jasper, there’s already a result regarding Calvin’s situation. His sentence will be around 8-10 years and the officials wish to get the victim’s opinion and ask if they agree with the standard sentencing.”

Jasper replied calmly, “Just follow the legal provisions available. We might be the victims, but that doesn’t mean we’re above the law.”

“10 years is long enough. By the time Calvin is released after 10 years, the world would’ve changed as well.” Julian nodded understandingly at Jasper’s reply.

The man’s intention was clear. Any criminal sentence had an upper and lower limit. The final decision on the length of jail time would be affected by the details of the crime and whether the defendant repented.

If Jasper decided on 10 years, then it would be the maximum of 10 years.

There was nothing anyone could harp on.

“I’ll pass your intentions along. Oh, and, Jasper, there’s one more thing…”

Jasper exclaimed in shock, “Jul, you’re even speaking long windedly now. Just get to the point.”

Henry then snickered and made a joke, “Did you set your eyes on a girl and now want Jasper to be your wingman?”

Julian replied awkwardly, “Stop making jokes about me, I’m talking serious business here.”

“After what happened to Calvin, a huge crisis appeared at Penelope’s company suddenly. Her supply channel from Harbor City seemed to have collapsed, but Penelope already signed contracts with many of her underwriters. Now that she can’t provide the goods, the underwriters are stirring up trouble for her.”

“Coupled with the fact that Calvin was caught and sent to prison, Penelope’s under a lot of stress and she tried to kill herself last night.”

Jasper furrowed his brows at what he heard.

“How’s Penelope doing now?” Jasper asked.

Julian replied calmly, “She was discovered in time and she’s already been treated in the hospital. She’s in MidHeart Hospital right now but her suicide attempt was also what pushed the underwriters into a panic.”

“They’re worried that if Penelope dies, they won’t be able to ask anyone to repay her debts... basically, the situation isn’t looking good at all.”

Jasper sighed lightly.

Logically speaking, he did not want to involve himself in Penelope’s matters anymore.

The point of having John arrange her a job before this was so that he could completely let go of her and move on from the past.

Whether she did her job well or if she started her own company had nothing to do with Jasper anymore. However, she ended up being used by Fabian. Even so, Penelope had not sold Jasper out, but instead told the man everything at a crucial time.

Moreover, Jasper was the one who put Calvin in jail, not that Jasper thought he handled the situation inappropriately. Still, Jasper could not help but feel slightly remorseful toward Penelope.

“Let’s go to MidHeart Hospital, then,” Jasper instructed.

“Alright.” Julian immediately turned the car around.

Henry asked playfully, “Lingering feelings?”

Due to the situation with Anna, Henry was very sensitive about the women by Jasper’s side.

No matter how ingenuine Henry was, he still did not want to see other women appear and fight with his sister over Jasper. One Wendy Schuler was enough of a headache.

“Nonsense!”

Jasper glared at Henry. “This is putting an end to any last remaining debts I owe her. She helped me but at the cost of her company threatening to close down. Not to mention, I’m the one who sent her brother to prison as well. No matter the reason, it’s only right I go visit her.”

Henry grinned in relief.

Jasper's character had always been upstanding in this regard, and he would never lie about this.

In the advanced hospital room in MidHeart Hospital. Seven to eight chubby men were glaring and blocking the entrance to the door. Each of them looked fierce and with a bad temper.

There was also a man in a suit standing sinisterly in the hospital room.

Bang!

Suddenly, there was the sound of a water jug being kicked and shattering within the hospital room.

"Penelope, I'm warning you right now. In the whole of Nauritus City or even Southeast Province, there is not one person who dares to scam me, Martin Monty, of my money!"

Martin stood in front of Penelope's hospital bed and roared. He ignored the sickeningly pale complexion she had and the fact that tubes were sticking out of her everywhere.

Penelope's body was extremely weak and the frantic beeping of the monitoring device beside her showed how agitated she felt.

Her blood pressure was skyrocketing and her heartbeat beat erratically.

"Give me some more time, Mr. Monty. I'll definitely come up with a way to solve this," Penelope said weakly.

"Solve this? Solve my f*cking foot!"

Martin raged, pointing at Penelope's nose to scold, "You said you'd solve it yesterday too! And look what happened, you got brave and tried to commit suicide! Is this how you plan to solve it?"

"I'm telling you, Penelope, according to the contract, you have to pay three times the compensation because you don't have the goods. That's a total of 6.5 million and not a cent less. Otherwise, I'll sell you to brothels so you can pay your debt with your body for as long as there is still blood in your veins!"

"Don't think that dying will solve everything. You still have a bedridden mother, don't you? I'm sure you don't want an old woman like her to still get beaten up, scolded, and tortured, right?"

“You also have a brother, yes? But I heard he was put in prison. Haha, that’s alright. I’ll just use some money to have the people inside teach him a good lesson.”

Penelope immediately struggled in the hospital bed when she heard the man.

Yet, no matter how she tried, her body was too weak to do so.

Beep beep beep.

The ear splitting alarm rang out from the monitor. Penelope’s heart rate and blood pressure had reached a critical level.

“Don’t you dare, Martin! Otherwise, I’ll make sure to haunt you even after I’m dead!”

Martin said icily, “Dead? I’m not even afraid of you when you’re alive, let alone when you’re dead! Even when you’re dead you’re still going to have to repay what you owe me!”

Penelope opened her mouth widely to pant, but as she tried to breathe, the air suddenly seemed too thick to enter her lungs.

Jat that moment, the alarm from the monitor also changed to become more ear splitting and frantic.

Martin looked at Penelope, who was struggling for her life icily and sneered, “Pretending to die again? F*cking Hell, go ahead then! I’d like to see if you really die this time.”

Just then, an angry roar suddenly sounded from outside the hospital room.

“Julian, throw them all out! ”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1346

The yell with a wild rage that spooked Martin.

He did not get a chance to turn around and look at the person when he felt someone behind him grab the back of his collar. The next second, his body was being lifted into the air as the world around him started spinning. Then, there was a loud bang as pain started to flood his body.

In the blink of an eye, the muscular Martin who weighed more than a hundred pounds was like a little chick being grabbed and thrown out of the ward by Julian.

As for the several big fellows outside the room, they all encountered the same situation as him.

Almost ten of them were lying down, scattered around on the hospital's corridor outside the ward. It was a spectacular scene.

“You got something coming, little dumb*ss.”

Martin lifted his head and saw a young face brimming with an aura of stubbornness.

He was familiar with this kind of aura. Second generation with extraordinary backgrounds often possessed this overwhelming aura, himself included. However, the young man who was in front of him was emanating a certain stubbornness that was overwhelming.

Due to the sharp senses the second generation possessed, Martin had managed to stop himself from blowing up in time.

“If she dies, you can’t get anything from her. Haven’t you seen her condition? You’re still trying to make her pay, but are you even able to get a cent from her right now?”

Henry gave Martin a look as though he were an idiot and said.

“You... Who the f*ck are you!?”

Monty grit his teeth and asked while he endured the pain and got up forcefully.

“Who am I?” Henry smiled broadly, “You’ll know soon enough, dumb*ss.”

At this moment, Jasper had already strode into the ward.

When Julian was throwing Martin out of the ward, he noticed Penelope's abnormality. He went out and called the nurse immediately without saying anything else. The doctor and nurses had previously been chased out by Martin, and none of them were willing to risk getting beaten up to rescue the patient.

When Jasper walked over to the side of the bed, Penelope had already lost consciousness.

"Penelope?"

Jasper called out Penelope's name gently, but she was unresponsive.

At this moment, the doctor and nurses hurried in. Jasper immediately took a step to and let these professionals do their work.

Jasper did not blame them for not saving her in time. It was obvious that Martin gave them a warning.

"Sir, can you please leave? We have to rescue the patient, and we might need to undress her... Are you her lover?"

A doctor turned his head and asked Jasper.

Jasper shot a glance at Penelope, who was pale white with her eyes closed as she laid on the bed. Then, he shook his head and replied, "I'm her friend... I'll wait outside."

Jasper left immediately after he said this.

"Her blood pressure is 60, her heart rate is dropping, and she's in shock. Hurry, inject 0.5mg of adrenaline into her veins, it's an emergency!"

The indistinct chatter of the frantic medical staff in the ward were muted after he closed the door gently.

Jasper turned around and stared at Martin expressionlessly. His finger was raised to point at the closed ward door, and said, "Last night, she tried to kill herself, and she just got saved. Yet, you're here to ask for money. If she had that money would she had committed suicide?"

"If anything happens to her today, I'll hold you responsible!"

Martin was stunned for a moment. He would never have thought that someone other than a certain young man could exude an aura that made him nervous. Even so, the unknown man before him was doing just that.

Martin sneered and said, “Who the f*ck are you to yell at me? Kid, how dare you interfere with what I’m doing? Are you not afraid of dying?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1347

”I don’t give a sh*t about you, but I’m interfering if you’re making her kill herself.” Jasper said coldly.

Martin sneered and replied, “You’re interfering? Well, you can get your money out and pay the debts for her then. I’ll leave right away with the money. Do you think I like being here?”

Martin poked Jasper as he saw his sullen eyes, and scolded, “You don’t have it? If you can’t f*cking pay then why the f*ck are you bluffing here?”

Smack.

It was a loud and sharp slap.

Martin squealed as he took a few steps back, covering his face.

Henry flung his arms and made a spitting sound, “F*ck, what an oily face you got there, it’s disgusting.”

As he said that, Henry gave Martin a grin and said, “You better watch your words, be careful cause you might get yourself in trouble, dumb*ss.”

Martin glared at Henry and yelled while covering his face, “Who the f*ck are you exactly!?”

At this moment, the men that Martin brought along with him surrounded him, each of them eyeing Jasper, Henry, and Julian.

If not for Julian, who had single handedly thrown him out, and Henry, who looked dangerous in his own right, Martin had already ordered his men to tear them apart.

“I’m warning you, you’re all going to die for offending me in the Southeast Province.”

Henry grew excited when he heard this.

It sounded familiar.

“Is that so? How amazing is that? I’m scared.

“Let’s see, tell me what your father does, what your grandfather does. Maybe after I know that, I’ll start trembling and begging for my life.”

Martin looked hideous as he shouted, “The Monty family of Southeast Province! Kids, although I don’t know what your background is like, you should never offend anyone from the Monty family. You’re dead meat!”

“Is the Monty family that impressive?” Jasper asked coldly.

“The Monty family is nothing crazy.” Martin smiled in a creepy way as he stared at Jasper. “But crushing a piece of sh*t like you is still a piece of cake!”

“The Monty family had kept themselves low key this entire time. Didn’t the three of you ever hear about us? It’s alright, hurry up and go home to your elderly to ask about it. Then you’ll know how scary the Monty family really is!”

Martin believed that it would be the same this time.

He was already thinking about how to punish the three of them.

“As far as I know, Conrad Monty is the family chief of the Monty family. He doesn’t have any children, and his father is Steven Monty. It seems like you had nothing to do with the Monty family at all.”

What Jasper said snapped Steven back to reality.

“How do you know so much about the Monty family?”

Something crossed Steven’s mind after this, and he sneered, “Looks like you’re not dumb after all. So, you heard about us from your elders at home, huh? Hah, if you know that much about the Monty family, then you will know we have an extraordinary background in the Southeast Province.”

“Despite knowing this, you still dare to offend me?”

“Let me give you a little clarity on the situation. I’m Mr. Monty’s cousin while Steven Monty is my uncle. My grandfather and Mr. Monty’s grandfather are brothers!”

Martin thought that right after he exposed his identity, both of them would be dumbfounded and terrified. However, all he heard was an enigmatic voice coming from Henry instead.

“That’s barely related. You have almost nothing to do with the family, yet you’re saying that you’re one of them. How shameless.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1348

What Henry said caused Martin’s face to turn a dark reddish purple.

He was embarrassed, angry, and ashamed. Those intertwining emotions caused his eyes to become bloodshot as he so badly wanted to swallow Henry whole.

“Good! Very good!”

Martin turned shame into anger. He pointed at Jasper and Henry as he yelled and stomped his feet, “No one dares to talk to me that way in Southeast Province! You’re looking down on the Montys, huh? Alright! Just you wait!”

After he said that, Martin took out his phone.

When Jasper saw Martin calling for backup, Jasper said insipidly, “Are you calling your elders?”

Martin chuckled coldly and said, “Are you scared? If you kneel, beg for mercy, kowtow three times, and then crawl out of here, I might consider forgiving you.”

“I mean it’s useless even if you call those irrelevant people. Why don’t I help you call them instead?” As Jasper said that, he dialed a number.

When Martin saw Jasper making the call, he was immediately bewildered.

He did not know who Jasper was calling.

He merely saw Jasper talking to the person on the phone before tossing the phone over to him.

Martin put the phone to his ear suspiciously.

Then, he heard a familiar yet foreign voice.

He was familiar with it because he would have the chance to meet the owner of this voice whenever he went to the family gathering at the end of the year. Every time, the owner of the voice would be in the center of attention, and everyone would flatter and fawn over him.

It was also foreign because Martin only had one or two chances to hear his voice a year, and it was always in a public setting. Unfortunately, he was still unqualified to speak with Conrad in a private setting yet.

“You’re Martin, right? I don’t remember you.”

The first thing Conrad said on the phone shook Martin’s heart.

He did not expect Jasper to get through to Conrad with just a phone call.

Before Martin could say anything, Conrad continued.

“From now on, you’re not a Monty anymore.”

This statement caused Martin to feel as if his soul had left his body and he had fallen into a bottomless abyss.

As the head of the Montys, Conrad had the right to remove his name from the genealogical record completely unless the seniors in the family rejected the idea.

However, Martin knew that nobody in his family would offend Conrad because of a nobody like him.

Therefore, Conrad's statement was equivalent to stripping Martin of his family crest that he was always so proud of.

"S-sir, I... I... Why?"

While he was still reeling in shock, Martin subconsciously asked this stupid question.

"Because you offended someone I can't afford to offend!"

Conrad, who was initially calm, blew up suddenly. "Who gave you the courage and the balls to offend Jasper Laine? Huh? Tell me!"

Martin felt as if he had been struck by lightning.

The name 'Jasper Laine' was no stranger to anyone who had any semblance of status and reputation in Southeast Province.

To the Montys, this name was also like a nightmare.

Jasper's presence caused the Montys to suffer more than once. The Montys were like royalty in Southeast Province, so not only did they suffer huge losses, their reputation also plummeted over and over.

If the Montys did not have enough experience in dealing with this kind of matter, they might have suffered horribly in Southeast Province. Right now, Jasper and the Montys were in peaceful coexistence.

Of course, Martin knew Jasper's name, but he had never met the man in person.

He even fantasized multiple times about Jasper going all out so that his position in the family would increase. However, at this moment, as he stood in front of Jasper, Martin could only quake in fear.

"If you want to die, go ahead. Don't drag the family into this."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1349

Conrad's icy voice pulled Martin back to reality.

"Sir, I had no idea," Martin said, his voice breaking.

"Do you think it matters whether or not you were aware of this?" Martin said coldly.

Martin shivered and he was speechless.

"Give the phone back to Jasper."

After Conrad's order, Martin did not dare to hesitate. He handed the phone back to Jasper with both hands shaking.

Earlier, he was very arrogant, but now, he was as timid as a mouse as he did not even dare to look Jasper in the eyes.

At this moment, he was feeling extremely remorseful. He just wanted to get out of this scary place as fast as possible.

However, he knew no matter where he ran to, it would all be the same. His life was over!

After he took back his phone, Jasper said with a grin, “How are you going to take care of this, Mr. Monty?”

Conrad said calmly, “I don’t need to do anything. Martin is not a Monty anymore so you can do whatever you want with him, Mr. Laine.”

“Savage,” Jasper said half grinning.

Conrad chuckled and said, “This is just one of the ways I’ve grown after considering your caring pointers.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes. After Conrad’s secret collaboration with Jasper, the latter felt that the current Conrad had become much more powerful than he was back then.

It seemed that Conrad was not the same person he was before.

“I am in Nauritus City now. Will you do me the honor of having a chat with me, Mr. Laine?” Conrad asked all of a sudden.

“I don’t think I have much time.”

Jasper was not evading Conrad.

It would be time for the main event soon, and Jasper still needed to go back and wait.

At this moment, Penelope was still being resorted. Therefore, Jasper naturally did not have the time nor mood to chat with Conrad.

“I just need half an hour. If you’re busy right now, I can wait. It’s fine. I’ll be waiting in Brew Splash Teahouse until you show up, Mr. Laine.” Conrad sounded very sincere.

“I’ll try my best.” Jasper thought about it and agreed.

His relationship with Conrad right now was a little complex.

They were not friends.

They could not resolve the grievances between them, and now that Conrad was on Fabian's side, so they could only be rivals.

However, they were not enemies.

They had a pretty pleasant collaboration before this, and the only person who walked out of it unhappy was Prince.

Jasper could sense that Conrad had some ulterior motives for asking to meet him.

However, Jasper did not know what it was as he was not a god and he could not predict the future.

He would only know if he went to meet Conrad.

Martin was petrified when he saw Jasper's gaze. Then, he immediately quivered.

After contemplating about it, he gritted his teeth and knelt in front of Jasper with a sudden thud.

Then, he started begging for mercy as he cried.

“Mr. Laine, I really didn’t know who you are. I was so blind to talk back to you just now. Please forgive me. If I knew who you were, how would I have the balls to talk back to you?”

Henry was disappointed when Martin admitted defeat so decisively.

He still wanted to make Martin dance.

“You idiot, weren’t you pretty arrogant just now? Continue being arrogant! I feel bad for bullying you when you’re like this,” Henry said in a conflicted tone.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1350

“S-sir, I know my mistake. Please forgive me!”

How would Martin dare to argue with Henry again? At this moment, he only wanted to run away.

Henry scoffed and did not even bother to look at Martin. He was not interested in lowly children of wealthy families anyway.

“Monty...”

Jasper said calmly and walked in front of Martin.

“Do you know why most families aren’t able to stick around for a long time?”

How would Martin dare to answer such a sensitive question? He lowered his head timidly and did not dare to say anything.

“Because there are too many people like you.”

Jasper sounded cold.

“Every founder of a family has great skill and strategy, if not, they would not be able to create a foundation that would be worthy of being called a family. However, there are always good and bad people sprouting up within the descendants. Aside from a surname, what do people like you have that you’re so proud of?”

Jasper's words caused Martin's face to burn painfully. However, he did not dare to talk back.

"Yes, you're right, Mr. Laine. Trash like me is everywhere. One rotten apple spoils the barrel. I deserve to die, and I am trash. I am the rotten apple."

When Jasper saw Martin's horrified face, he shook his head and did not want to say anything more.

"What's with your contract with Penelope?"

Martin shook his head and said, "What contract? I don't know. There's nothing like that. Penelope..."

"No, Miss Hunt has a very pleasant collaboration with me, and our contract just ended, so I was just about to extend the contract with her. However, Miss Hunt's sick so we can only talk about this next time."

Henry started laughing when he heard Martin's clever words.

Jasper was smiling as well.

“Don’t worry, I won’t force you. A breach of contract is a breach of contract. How much money does Penelope owe you? Tell me and I’ll pay for her. Not just you, I’ll also hear the compensation of the other dealerships.”

After Jasper said that, Martin shook his head fiercely.

What a joke. He was lucky to be alive, so how could he dare to ask for money?

Obviously, he misunderstood what Jasper meant.

“Mr. Laine, I’m serious. There is no breach of contract. As for the others, I know who they are, so I’ll talk to them. There must be a misunderstanding.

“Miss Hunt’s company is in a bit of a crisis, so we’ll just wait patiently. It’ll be best if she has the goods, but if she doesn’t, we’ll just wait until the day she does.”

Jasper looked at Martin ruminating. This kid was pretty smart when he needed to be.

Martin became more confident after Jasper looked at him. He figured he said the right thing to please Mr. Laine. If Mr. Laine was happy, then he would be safe.

When he thought about this, Martin made a solemn vow and promised, “Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. Leave this to me. You’re an important person and you have so many things to handle in one day. The matters you have to attend to are all of great importance.”

“You don’t need to meet those immature bosses from those lousy companies yourself. You’ll just be lowering your status.”

“I promise no one would cause trouble anymore. It’s impossible to breach the contract, and I guarantee there will be no breaches for the rest of her life. We’ll just wait until Miss Hunt feels better and provides us with the goods. We’ll talk about the goods when Miss Hunt recovers.”

At the same time, the door of the hospital room opened suddenly. Thus, Jasper did not want to waste time talking to Martin anymore.

He did not care whether Martin wanted the money or not.

If Martin did not want it, he would not force the money into his hands.

However, since he was sensible, Jasper would not teach him a lesson while he was being troubled by so many others things.

Jasper turned around to look at the doctor. Meanwhile, Henry turned around to shout at Martin, "What are you still standing here like an idiot for? Scram!"

It was as if Martin had gotten a pardon. He was gleeful as he bowed, nodded, and ran away.

"Doctor, how is she?" Jasper asked the doctor who had just walked out of the room.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1351

The doctor took off his mask and said, “It’s not too bad, she’s fine. However, the patient lost a lot of blood, she’s pretty weak now. If you’d like to visit her, please limit it to ten minutes.”

“And, the patient can’t be disturbed, please don’t excite or agitate her.”

Jasper nodded his head and said, “I understand, thanks, doc...”

Although the doctor who had been busy rescuing her in the ward did not know what happened on the outside, he shot a glance after he came out from the room. He saw the way the arrogant and bossy Martin and his men, nodding and bowing modestly at Jasper, looking like a pug.

Martin’s arrogant behavior contrasts with the mysterious aura and power of Jasper’s. The doctor spoke politely spontaneously.

“It’s alright. That’s my responsibility, will you excuse me, I have some paperwork to do. If you’re paying a visit, make it fast.”

After the doctor left, the nurses came out one after another from the room. Jasper then entered the room. The concentrated smell of the sanitizer in the ward was slightly piercing.

Jasper stepped over to the side of the ward bed, he saw Penelope was staring weakly at him.

“I am sorry...”

Jasper had no idea why the first word that came out of his mouth was those two words after seeing Penelope.

Penelope’s eyes reddened at once, and spoke softly, “I should be the one to apologize... Martin, are they still here?”

“They’re gone.”

Jasper sat down.

“The next thing you should be doing is to recover. Don’t think about these matters, they won’t be coming for you anymore.”

Penelope choked and said, “Never had I thought that you’re the one to help me again.”

“The doctor said you should keep calm.”

“These are just a piece of cake.”

Jasper thought for a moment, and said, “Get well and wait until you’ve recovered. If you’re looking for a job I can help you to get one, if you’d like to continue your business and manage your company, I’ll help to get in touch with the business channels.”

“There’s a company under my name, Abbylon. The company focuses on the e-commerce platform. It’s doing quite well now, the future prospects of the company are good too.”

“I’ll help to contact them then. You can distribute your stocks to the e-commerce platform, it’ll be best to go in the future.”

Penelope was biting her lip, and replied without continuing to talk about Jasper’s topic, “I already knew about my little brother’s matter, I’m sorry...”

“There’s nothing to do with you.”

Jasper saw Penelope's eyelids were getting heavier, knowing that the anesthesia was working, he stood up and said, "Get some sleep, I'm leaving. I'll visit again when I'm free."

Jasper turned and walked toward to door while saying that.

Penelope's voice came from behind all of a sudden.

"Jasp, I, we..."

Jasper turned around, gave a smile to Penelope, and said, "We're friends."

Penelope fixed her gaze at Jasper, at last, she nodded with tearful eyes. Eventually, the other half of the sentence was left unspoken.

Jasper was in a bad mood after he came out of the ward. "Let's go to Brew Splash Teahouse."

It suddenly came to his mind that Conrad was still waiting for him. Jasper looked at the time, there was still time to talk over a meal."

“To meet Conrad?” Henry asked.

“Yes.” Jasper nodded.

“Hey, that kid, he’s kind of popular in Harbor City.”

Henry gave a cold grin, his eyes were slightly gloomy. This was his prelude to punch someone.

“Did he provoke you?” Jasper was surprised.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1352

“Do you know Fabian opened a luxurious nightclub called the Empire Meet in Harbor city?” Henry spoke in an annoyed tone.

“Yes, I thought that was some time ago?” Jasper asked curiously.

“Humph, humph.”

Henry snorted in an enigmatic manner, then continued, "It certainly was some time ago, but after Conrad went there, he became the deputy of Empire Meet, and he's causing a lot of trouble in Harbor City."

"Now the Empire Meet's influence is getting stronger, it was all because of Conrad."

"Needless to say, this is none of my business, but this b*stard created something called the Harbor City's top ten grandmasters. Although they told the others that it was based on the club member's ranking, everyone knows he's trying to establish the Empire Meet's authority."

"As time goes by, people like us who didn't join the Empire Meet are going to be outsiders."

"There's also another series of actions. After all, their purpose was to strengthen the fame and status of those who joined the Empire Meet, and to weaken those who didn't."

Jasper heard this and said, "It was a good move indeed."

"Your generation is already in the twenties. Those who are slightly elder are in their thirties, which is a critical period for them as they're starting to take over their family business."

“It’s hard to see the consequences now, but wait until ten or twenty years later. After this generation took over, there’ll be tons of resources for the Empire Meet.”

“Think about it, out of ten there’s six or seven of the family heads are the members of Empire Meet in the Harbor City. Even the four richest families wouldn’t dare to underestimate them.”

Henry’s facial expression turned darker at once.

“Well, it’s fine. You’re able to realize the problem now, which means you improved a lot.” Jasper smiled and complimented.

Henry was a little embarrassed, and replied, “My sister reminded me about it when she called me last time when I was being brought back home.”

“Has she been busy these days?”

Jasper recalled that he called Anna the day before but ended the conversation shortly.

“Don’t even mention it, she’s planning to open a workshop in a foreign country. She’s been terribly busy, she’ll be free after this. Her birthday is just around the corner, don’t you forget that.” Henry reminded him.

Jasper recalled back the previous conversations with Anna, it seemed like she was hinting at something. He could not help but smiled and said, "Don't worry, I got it."

Brew Splash Teahouse had the best quality tea in Nauritus City, yet it kept a low profile. The owner never put up any advertisement as if 'whatever will be, will be' was its business management style. Had it not been for the tea ceremony experts, no one would have known that there was a place like this.

It was Jasper's first time here.

Brew Splash Teahouse was located in a remote place, and so it was a quiet place. It was quite a scene walking along with the shadows of bamboo in the inner courtyard."

"Mr. Laine, Mr. Monty is already in the private room waiting for you, please follow me."

It was a woman with an attractive figure, wearing a pale blue-colored cheongsam, speaking gently.

Jasper and Henry walked toward the private room together, following behind her. As for Julian, he stayed outside waiting for them.

“Tsk, the boss here is smart enough.”

Walking beside Jasper, Henry spoke while he stared at the woman’s wriggling waist and booty who was leading the way ahead.

“Look at this figure. Tsk tsk, I wonder where he found her. Well, I’m starting to like here. I wonder if there is any club membership available here?”

The woman in front turned around all of a sudden, gave Henry a charming smile, and said, “Young Master Law, I’m Adele, who’s in charge of the Brew Splash Teahouse.”

Henry was startled for a moment and felt awkward.

“This little teahouse was meant for a bunch of fellows who loves tea ceremony, it’s not particularly profitable. Young Master Law can visit more often if you like it here. As for the member system, we don’t have one here.”

“Yes I will, I’ll visit often...”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1353

Henry was the expert among the experts in fooling around at nightclubs, and he chuckled after he heard her reply.

Jasper who was beside him slightly raised his eyebrows, and said, “Looks like our lady boss Adele knows a lot.”

Ranging from the Southeast Province to the Mainland, only a few would have known Henry.

However, it was unusual that she exposed Henry’s identity once she spoke.

Adele gave a faint smile and said, “Even though there aren’t many customers here in the Brew Splash Teahouse, but tons of information were gathered here. I’ve heard about Young Master Law occasionally, and that’s how I know the Young Master Law looks like.”

“I didn’t know I’ve grown in such popularity.” Henry was pleased.

Adele flattered him further. “Young Master Law is a virtuous and talented person, and of course, you’ll attract attention no matter where you go.”

“Hahaha, I’m starting to like you.” Henry gave out a big laugh.

Jasper slightly narrowed his eyes, looking at Henry and Adele talking and laughing while they were walking.

It seemed like Adele was flattering Henry, but there was some leaked information from within.

The one thing that Jasper could confirm was, the Brew Splash Teahouse, and the lady boss Adele was not as simple as they looked.

‘Does she have anything to do with Conrad?’

Jasper kept that question in mind, and asked as if it was unintentional, “Is Mr. Monty a regular customer here?”

“Not really.” Adele chuckled, her bright eyes turned to look at Jasper, it was stunning.

“Mr. Monty and Mr. Laine are too busy, it looks like there’s no spare time for them to visit my teahouse that often. If Mr. Laine likes it here, you’re always welcome.”

Jasper nodded his head and smiled. "Sure."

Adele brought them both to a private room, excused herself to prepare tea then left.

Henry's eyes were shining while he watched Adele's graceful figure walking away from behind. "This is such a good place."

"What about Jill?" Jasper replied.

Henry glared at Jasper. "Can they be the same?"

"Adele, the prettiest wildflower, that's how we called it in Harbor City. You see, two flowers are essential for a man a wildflower and a garden flower. I can't find anyone else other than Adele to be that particular wildflower."

"Normal people wouldn't be able to handle it."

Jasper shook his head as he pushed the box's entrance door.

It was not big a small winged room structure, the decorations, and furnishings were the pseudo classical style. It made people felt like they've transmigrated to some ancient courtyard house's guestroom after entering.

The materials used for every piece of furniture were luxurious.

All of them were made from scented rosewood, it was being used as a material for large areas on the furniture, which was something that could not be done by just having enough money.

The small room was suffused with the aroma of wood, and the thin wisp of incense curling up, made them felt relaxed.

Conrad was sitting beside a round table, pouring tea. Seeing the two of them, he smiled and stood up. His hands reached out and gestured to the two seats opposite him, and said, "Mr. Laine and Mr. Law, please take a seat."

The moment Henry saw Conrad, he pulled a long face immediately.

However, he did not lose his temper as Jasper was there too. Instead, he snorted and sat down.

Jasper sat down at the same time and glanced toward Conrad, smiled, and said, “How free is Mr. Monty, having the time to enjoy a cup of tea here. Well, too bad I didn’t know it’s such a nice place here.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1354

Listening to what Jasper said, Conrad then smiled. “I’m just an ordinary person, and exquisite hobbies like tasting tea don’t suit me. This is my father’s favorite place to go, I came to know this place before long.”

“The lady boss Adele is a sophisticated woman, and so is her social status. That’s why her Brew Splash Teahouse is the best place to talk about business.”

Unusual social status?

Jasper narrowed his eyes.

While his facial expression showed no sign of changes.

“What’s the matter that Mr. Monty invited me here to talk about?”

Conrad chuckled and said, "I'd like to form a united front with you, Mr. Laine."

Not to mention that Henry was shocked, even Jasper raised his eyebrows after listening to what he said.

"Fabian wouldn't have agreed on this, right?"

Conrad laughed and said, "Can't the matters that he disagreed with be hidden away from him?"

"Give me a reason," Jasper replied coldly.

"There's no such thing as a free lunch, you have your reason for doing this. Stop giving false excuses, I'd like to listen to the truth." Jasper added.

Conrad spoke expressionlessly, "A few months ago, I talked to my father. He told me that it took more than twenty years for the Monty family to make their fortune, which started with my grandfather. Within all these twenty years, given that the few chances, there's only one reason that strengthened the Monty family."

"My grandfather didn't put all his eggs in one basket when he was making important decisions last time."

Henry scoffed once he heard it.

“Nonsense, sounds nice but isn’t that being a fence sitter?”

Conrad did not lose his temper, instead, he nodded and replied sincerely, “Yes, it is.”

“Although fence sitters were always being cast aside, you can’t deny that no matter you’re standing on the left or the right side of the wall, you need that fence sitter to exist. Otherwise, who’s going to rebuild that wall after the wall came tumbling down?”

“Winners disdain to do such things, so this is why fence sitters exist.”

Jasper replied calmly, “Mr. Monty seems to forget about something else. Fabian and I only need a steadfast ally in the battle of life and death. Of course, this character could be one of those Fabian’s loyal attendants.”

“It doesn’t matter if he’s an ally or an attendant. I’m afraid that once the fence sitter has any second thoughts, he’d be the first to die.”

Conrad replied blandly, “Mr. Laine, maybe we should change our perspectives regarding this matter.”

“Looks like you’re sure that I’m going to say yes.” Jasper laughed.

Conrad lifted his hand to pour tea into the cups and served Jasper and Henry a cup of tea each personally in a humble manner.

When the tea was served in front of Henry, Conrad smiled. “Mr. Law, you don’t have to detest me. Working with Mr. Atticus, there are many things I had to do in that position, otherwise, I’m useless to him.”

“You know how Mr. Atticus’s behaved, If I don’t show how useful am I to him, I’ll out of luck.”

“You’re good in smooth- talking.” Henry sneered, his face was still unhappy.

Conrad got back to his seat, looked at Jasper, and said, “I’m sure because there’s no reason for Mr. Laine to reject someone who working beside Mr. Atticus a spy who’s able to obtain first hand information from Mr. Atticus’s right?”

“How do I know this wasn’t Fabian’s plan?” Jasper asked.

Conrad’s facial expression was cahn, he then answered, “Fabian has already teamed up with Softwin’s Mr. Welch and Mr. Morrison from Layman Investment Bank. Three of

them combined and collected not less than 1.2 billion US Dollars, and were planning to liquidate all of your stocks on Jow Dones Index.”

“And they’re planning to do it...”

Conrad lifted his hand and shot a glance on his watch, then said, “Five hours later when the US Jow Dones Index stock market opens.”

Conrad looked at Jasper, and continued, “Does this prove my sincerity?”

Henry’s facial expression slightly changed when he heard these words, then he turned and looked at Jasper.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1355

However, whether it was Henry or Conrad, both of them looked at Jasper who was as calm as still water.

“Yes.” Jasper nodded his head and gave a reply.

Conrad said, "This is the core of what Fabian is doing now. It wasn't long before I heard the news. I decided to contact you when I knew about it."

"Reason?" Jasper asked.

Conrad shook his head and said, "The reasons Fabian teamed up with Softwin investment and Layman Investment Bank, one of them was to fight against you, but I have yet to know the other one which is the true secret."

"As for the reason that you asked for, it's still the same. Fabian doesn't seem to be sharp enough, but I'm not sure if you can win either, so I'm betting on both sides."

Jasper replied, "When the whole world thought I was crazy for investing in the US stocks, you're here thinking that there's a chance for me to win?"

"They haven't played against you, they don't know how scary you can be."

Conrad gave a mocking smile, and said, "But I sensed it, even if everyone out there is crazy, I know that you're not."

"I didn't know I portrayed such an image in your heart." Jasper laughed.

“If I can, I’ll kick you away without hesitation when you fall, but I’ll not be the one who’s going to make you fall.”

“Does that mean if I don’t fall, you’ll side with me?” Jasper was trying to figure it out

“Something like that...”

Conrad smiled and answered.

“Deal,” Jasper uttered the word slowly.

Conrad smiled while he raised his teacup, and said, “Then we shall celebrate our partnership in advance, let’s toast with our cup of tea.”

Clink.

It was the sharp ringing sound of expensive porcelain cups clinking together.

After finishing the tea, Jasper stood up and spoke. "Please excuse me, I'll have to leave."

"I'll have to go back to Harbor City immediately," Conrad replied.

Jasper turned around all of a sudden when he reached the door, and asked Conrad, "The money that Fabian invested, do you have a share of it?"

Conrad stared at him blankly for a moment and shook his head. "No, but if you lose, everything in Southeast Province will be mine."

"You believe that?" Jasper was amused.

80% of his assets were within Southeast Province, it was unexpected that Fabian went so far as to make a declaration like that.

Conrad shrugged and said, "No."

"Interesting, I'm glad you don't have a share of that money. As a gift for my new partner, I suggest you start short selling now. Better be quick, there'll be no chances left if you're late."

Jasper left with Henry after saying those words.

In the box, Conrad slightly creased his eyebrows and thought deeply of what Jasper told him.

He knew that Jasper planned strategically in everything he did, then he would make each move with confidence. However, he certainly did not expect Jasper had so much confidence this time.

As far as he could see, even if it was Fabian, Layman, or Softwin, they meant nothing to him, it was as if they couldn't harm Jasper.

Conrad gave out a light sigh, and muttered, "Jasper, where did you get that confidence from?"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1356

“Leaving so soon, Mr. Laine and Young Master Law?”

Both of them had not walked far away from the private room, Adele’s voice came from behind.

Jasper stood still and turned around, smiled at Adele, and said, “We must leave, there’s still work to do. Lady Boss Adele, is there anything I can help with?”

Adele smiled faintly and shook her head. “Nothing, but Mr. Laine, you can just call me by Adele. I wouldn’t dare to address myself as a lady boss in front of you. Not to mention that it sounds old fashioned being called that way.”

Jasper gave out a laugh. “Sure, I’ll take note of that.”

“Take care, Mr. Laine, do visit here often, ” Adele spoke gently.

“I will.” Jasper nodded.

Henry grinned and said, "I'll come more often too."

Adele gave a faint smile and replied, "That's great. I'll personally make tea for both of you the next time you're here again."

"Hey, I don't feel like leaving anymore." Henry gave an evil grin.

Adele chuckled. "It is an honor that Young Master Law likes it here, but my teahouse isn't big enough to provide accommodation, only enough to have tea here."

"Let's go."

Jasper spoke before Henry caught the chance to flirt with Adele again.

Adele was a tricky person, her background was unknowingly mysterious too. Jasper did not plan to rub shoulders with her too much, not until he figured out her background.

Adele held a gentle and faint smile while watching them disappear at the end of the aisle.

Not long after, Conrad came out too.

“Miss Adele, I’m leaving.” Conrad showed great respect for Adele.

Adele nodded and smiled. “Take care, Mr. Monty.”

Something came across Conrad’s mind and he asked, “Miss Adele, people have been calling you by your name, but none of them know your family name. I’ve heard from a friend that Miss Adele’s family name is Browns, from the swallow capital in the North, is that true?”

Adele was still smiling and replied, “Indeed, my family name is Browns, but it has nothing to do with Brew Splash Teahouse. I’m just the owner of this teahouse.”

Conrad suppressed the uneasy feeling in his heart, nodded, and said, “I understand, Miss Adele. Please wait a minute.”

On the way back, Henry looked at Jasper and asked, “Do you trust him?”

“He didn’t lie,” Jasper answered.

“It wasn’t about trusting him, it’s a mutual benefit partnership, so why not?”

Henry was unhappy. “He gives me that enigmatic feeling.”

“It was as if he’s not the same person I knew in the past.” Jasper narrowed his eyes and said, “Speaking about how much he has grown, he’s changed the most among the people I’ve ever met...”

“Hey, are you afraid?” Henry laughed.

Jasper shook his head, and replied, “Not really, I have my ways of dealing with him. It looks like we should review his identity, this man might surprise us.”

Right after Jasper reached his home, Jake called his phone.

“Mr. Laine, US stock market will be opening in a few hours, we only have less than 500 million US Dollars in hand. We’ll go into liquidation if Dow Jones Index increase more than 10 points.”

Jasper answered, "I know, just wait for it."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1357

Jake lowered his voice and said, "Mr. Laine, the rumors were not in our favor. If anything goes wrong, we'll have to pay at least 1 billion US Dollars in deposit for this heavy stock which costs 2.5 billion."

"Are you afraid?" Jasper laughed.

Jake forced a smile and spoke honestly, "I'm kind of nervous."

"Don't worry."

Jasper who just walked into his office looked up at the clock hanging on the wall, and said, "3 hours till the market opens, and we'll see who the winner is."

The trading hours of US market stock opens from 9:30 AM. until 4 PM. every trading day without closing in between. However, that incident occurred at 8:40 AM, so it would happen in less than 2 hours.

It was already nighttime in Summerland.

Jasper asked his men to get him a television equipped with a satellite receiver in this office. He would be able to watch the US live broadcast in this place.

After adjusting the channel, Jasper threw a bottle of drink to Henry, sat down, and said, "Let's wait for it."

Henry could not hold back, and asked, "You're still watching the news? Is there any breaking news today? One that can influence the stock market?"

Jasper stared at the news anchor who was live broadcasting, and replied calmly "Yes, there must be."

Henry suppressed the impulse to ask for more answers and waited patiently.

"Things have come this far, just relax and wait."

Far away in Harbor City, inside the chairman's office of Law's Corporation, Zachary spoke blandly to his assistant who was looking worried.

"But Mr. Law, a few shareholders disapprove that you're releasing funds for Jasper."

"Yesterday, the Dow Jones Index closed at 11650 points, if it climbs up to 11660 points and above, there's a risk that Jasper's stocks will be fully liquidated, it'll be a big threat to our capital."

Zachary looked up at him straight in the face when he heard his assistant.

"Are you Mr. Law or am I?"

One word from Zachary and the assistant was terrified, he lowered his head immediately, and said, "I'm sorry Mr. Law, I shouldn't question your decision."

Zachary replied with his face slightly darkened, "The Law's Corporation belongs to the Law family, the shares that those shareholders were holding were not even 10% of it, if they have any opinions, ask them to talk to me. I've released 7 billion of capital, who's objecting? Who's eligible to object?"

"I'm sorry, Mr. Law."

“Leave and do your work.”

“Yes, sir...”

In Harbor City, the thick and fragrant smelling cigar smoke was curling up, Fabian was laughing out loud with Morrison. “Mr. Morrison, my father, and your father, Mr. Robin were good friends for such a long time. I had dinners with Mr. Robin a few times, but I’d never thought that I’d hit it off quite well with you instead of him.”

Mr. Morrison fiddled with the cigar in his hands and smiled. “By having the same goals, we talked about the same topics. Wall Street believes in teamwork, I think Mr. Atticus and I will become good partners.”

Fabian patted Morrison’s shoulder heavily and laughed. “3 more hours till the market opens, we’ve already spread the rumors that we’ll trample Jasper to death once the market opens today. But no one knows that we had already put our funds into it, once the market opens, Jasper will be dead!”

“2.5 billion US Dollars, what a huge amount. The higher the amount, the faster Jasper will be dead. Once it opens, I wonder about Jasper’s remarkable facial expression when he comes to realize everything has been arranged last night.” Morrison was delighted.

“Too bad Mr. Welch is far away in Sunrise, he’s unable to celebrate with us.” Fabian smiled.

Morrison shrugged his shoulders and said, “Perhaps he’s waiting for the stock market to open too.”

Countless people, organization and capital, were waiting silently. The moment when the stock market index opened, it would be a moment of the earth cracking and heaven falling.

A big war was about to erupt!

Life at The Top – Chapter 1358

Time passed by as they waited.

Everyone thought today was just another ordinary day. None would have thought that such an ordinary day would be written into history.

Tommy was a backpack traveler. In the year 2001, all he had was his traveling backpack on him. He got his clothes and camping tent, some electronic devices in his backpack, and a portable DV camera. That was all the equipment he got.

Tommy made a living by recording down the beautiful sceneries and his travel stories in different countries all around the world with his DV camera and uploaded it to the internet.

Today, Tommy came to the World Trade Center. It was New York City's landmark in the US, not only it was the pride of the nation, it was one of the icons that represented the World's Economy Center.

Tommy stood on top of another skyscraper which was opposite to it, facing the camera, the Twin Towers of World Trade Center stood tall behind him.

"Hello everyone, it's me, your old friend Tommy. I'm currently in New York City, one of the greatest and the most modern cities on this planet.

"Behind me, that's the famous Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, the pride of New York City and the might of US."

Tommy was busy introducing the building behind him. Before uploading the video, he would need to edit the video after he finished recording.

When he was recording halfway, all of a sudden Tommy heard the tourists beside him were in panic and screaming loudly.

Tommy was startled, he turned around and saw something he could never forget in his whole life.

An aircraft appeared in the sky, it was diving through the clouds. The aircraft was moving fast, at first it was a tiny black shadow, then in a blink of an eye, it was clear enough to see its outline.

At this moment, all the witnesses did not realize how serious it would be, including Tommy. Tommy sensed something was wrong at the first moment.

“Why is this plane flying at such low altitude?”

Other than backpacking, he was an aircraft enthusiast. Although he was not a professional flyer, he knew that in New York City, where tall buildings were everywhere, the flight routes across the airspace were highly restricted.

It was obvious that the aircraft was flying so much lower than the altitude required.

For some bizarre reason, Tommy focused on the aircraft with his DV camera. At the same time, he shouted to the voice recording equipment, and said, “Friends, look what I’m seeing. An aircraft flying low...”

It was more than ten seconds after the aircraft appeared.

It continued to fly at low levels with increased speed, the aircraft became clearer and bigger as it in their eyes.

“Oh my God, this plane is flying way too low. It’s dangerous, I can even see the windows and emblazoned design on the plane clearly, it’s a US aircraft!”

“Oh God, it’s flying toward the Twin Towers, what’s going on!?”

As the distance got closer, the stronger the impact flying in full throttle.

At this moment, countless witnesses including Tommy were able to hear the roaring engine of the plane approaching.

Along with the humming of the machines, neither did the aircraft slow down nor fly up. With countless people’s dumbfounded and disbelieving gazes, it crashed into one of the Twin Towers!

Boom!!!

A loud roar with a massive explosion, followed by a strong trembling of the ground as if there was an earthquake.

The unseen impact from the crash on the tower spread out, Tom fell and sat on the floor, the DV camera was dropped from his hands.

Without hesitation, Tommy picked up the DV and focused on the crashed tower as if he was possessed, even if he felt that tingling in his scalp which made his hair stand on end.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1359

At this moment, there were loud explosions continuously ringing in his ears, and the horrified screaming of the people around him.

Crowds were streaming out onto the streets, fleeing. Looking from above, it was like ants fleeing for their life after their nest was stirred up, countless people were fleeing.

High above, there was smoke billowing from the tower of the trade center, a fiery red fireball exploded instantly at the crash site.

Rolling clouds of smoke streamed up, covering up the higher floors of the tower, it was unknown that how many people had lost their lives in a second without knowing what happened.

The most tragic thing that happened was when some of the survivors who were trapped in the higher floors of the tower were suffocated to death by the smoke, while some opened the windows, tried to jump off the building, but it was a skyscraper of hundreds of meters high, completely cutting off their way out.

“Oh my God!!! Sh*t!!!”

Tommy yelled so loud that he almost lost his voice, causing hoarseness in his voice.

“What the hell happened, is there a war?!”

The whole city was in chaos, the sirens of the fire engines were wailing from every corner of the city. The people in New York City were able to see the plume of black smoke billowing from the tower, covering up the skies once they lifted their heads from every direction.

All of a sudden, it was as if the horrendous fear of the apocalypse had shrouded New York City.

People were screaming and running around like a headless chicken, looking for shelter.

Before this happened, the US nation would have never thought that being a resident of the world's strongest country would be enveloped by such terrifying trauma one day.

There were continuous explosions and trembling of the ground, Tommy finally realized that it was dangerous for him to remain there.

He even saw an office worker jumping out from the window from the Twin Towers, hundreds of meters above, and disappeared in the black smoke and fiery blaze.

He could feel the ground shaking as if the skyscraper he was standing on was not safe anymore.

Again Tommy heard another familiar humming sound, he lifted his head, and another aircraft came diving from the skies above, piercing through the clouds.

Tommy was frozen with horror at that moment. "There's, there's another one!"

Tommy screamed in fear as if he saw the devil's face. Without hesitation, he turned around and ran.

After a few minutes.

Boom!!!

The second plane smashed onto the second tower.

The two crashes hit through the sixth floor within the Twin tower thoroughly destroyed from the inside to the outside.

The explosion took hundreds of lives in a second, the most terrifying was the aftermath, the fire, and smoke which caused the death toll and the number of injured to escalate.

Running away from the building, Tommy was trapped in the escaping crowds. Suddenly, he heard a roar as if the sky had fallen.

He turned his head over, the horrendous scene of the 12th floor of the Twin Towers, World Trade Center collapsing was reflected in his pupils.

Tommy shivered, his heart almost stopped beating, and there was nothing more tremendous than what happened right in front of him at this moment.

“The US... is doomed!” Tommy groaned.

He had no idea that, at the very same time, there was a third aircraft crashing onto another building.

Here was the military base of the US.

The Pentagon!

Life at The Top – Chapter 1360

Three loud smashes sent the whole world in terror.

Before this happened, the US nation would have never thought that there would be a horrendous terrorist attack happening on the land of the US.

There was not even a gunshot during the world war, but after the new millennium, New York City and the US capital had suffered from the worst terrorist attack that had never happened in world history.

The aftermath of the explosion had quickly spread across the whole world at the speed of light.

There were slight yet complex changes happening to the whole world in a second.

Jasper was not aware of anything but Henry was giving him that death stare.

“You, d*mn you...! F*ck!!! What the hell?! Are you a human or a ghost?!”

Henry looked at Jasper in disbelief, he was short of breath and slightly frightened.

He could not help himself being terrified.

At this moment, on the television screen in the room, it was an image of a reporter holding the microphone standing in front of the debris of the Twin Towers, reporting about this incident on the live news stream. It was a piece of emergency news that just came in 4 minutes ago.

Although Henry was a rich kid, he was from the Law family after all. Even if the Law family's nature was doing business, they are still somehow connected to politics.

Henry acquired that political mindset after many years of upbringing by his family.

When he saw the apocalyptic scene with his own eyes, he knew what serious aftermath the incident would have caused immediately.

There was no doubt that the US would take revenge after being provoked, no matter who was the mastermind, none of the countries in this world would be able to deal with their anger.

Henry could not be bothered about those matters, at least he understood that the US stock market was going to explode.

As the evolution of globalization is getting developed, economies, politics, and the military were associated in every modern country. The terrorist attack in the US would cause significant economic damage to the country.

In the immediate aftermath, the stock market would be the first to be affected.

The stock market was meant to be doomed.

“You were planning this. Everyone thought you were crazy until this happened. You, how do you know this would happen!?”

“Do you have anything to do with the mastermind of this incident?!”

Henry asked from the deep of his heart.

“Nonsense...”

Jasper’s mood was swirling up and down now.

In the past life, he was one of those countless onlookers, but this time, he was the witness.

Even though he was only playing strategy games in the stock market, it was considered as participating in this significant matter in history.

The anxiety and nervousness that he felt before were all finally gone at this moment.

“Even if I’m given ten more lives I’ll still not get myself involved in this.”

Jasper gave his answer straightforward.

Jasper knew that this world was dangerous.

All this time he had been reminding himself that to control everything he needed and wanted to do within the economic sector. Going as far as playing political games with countries, no thank you, Mr. Laine was not interested in that.

Attacking the US , Mr. Laine was not mad.

“Then how is it possible that you know this is going to happen?” Henry asked, surprised.

If he had not seen with his own eyes, Henry would not have believed that.

He could not help feeling suspicious when he saw what happened.

“I can only tell you that, something happens for a reason in this world. Where there is a cause, there will be a consequence. It would be the same in the opposite.”

There must be a reason why this happened today, it was because of all what they had done before.

“If you would like to know more about it, I suggest you start with the policies that the US implemented in the Middle East countries three years ago.”

“Only after you’ve seen it all, and think about it, then you’ll know. There must be rebellion when living under such stressful policies and exploitation by oppressors.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1361

“It’s impossible for them to fight against the United States in the local war.

“With a single strike, nothing would be left, and their homeland would be destroyed. Therefore, it was reasonable that they targeted the United States’ territory.”

Jasper did not talk much about this. He thought for a while, then he stood up.

“Alright, enough with the entertainment, it’s time to look at our good harvests.”

A video call request rang out loudly right after.

Jasper accepted the call, and, as he expected, it was Jake. On the screen, Jake was exhilarated to the extent that his face had reddened.

“Mr. Laine, you won’t believe it. Oh my God, there was a plane collision at the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon in the United States. Two more minutes till the stock market opens!”

Jasper was in a good mood, and replied, “I know, this is our long-awaited chance. Quickly get everyone ready, we don’t have to do anything, just wait to get paid.”

“Yes, yes Sir!”

Jake was so excited that he could not even talk properly.

Before this, most of the traders in Jasper’s team were pessimistic toward his actions at the time.

Being one of Harbor City’s top trading teams, their professionalism was nothing scoff at.

Any one of them would have been aware of the current economic situation, so the fact that Jasper predicted that the United States stock market would drop drastically was as unbelievable as announcing that the aliens were going to invade the Earth the next day.

But!

It happened right before their eyes.

When they received the news of what happened in the New York City of the United States, the first thing that came into their mind was fear. Was their boss a human or a ghost?

How was he able to predict this?!

Even so, there was no time to think too much as the stock market was opening soon.

Everyone shared the same thought.

They had planned the deployment strategies for half a month and amassed a total sum of 2.5 billion US Dollars. How much could they stand to gain this time? Those were numbers that no one could have ever imagined.

Counting down till the market opened, in Harbor City at Atticus's home.

Fabian sat on the sofa, his face expressionless. However, anyone was able to see that he was agitated from the slight tremor of his hands resting on his knees.

In front of him was the outraged Morrison.

“F*ck!”

“F*ck!”

Morrison was swearing with distorted facial expressions, like a hideous demon.

“How is this possible? Jasper was going to die, then this happened!”

“Unbelievable!”

“Is even God helping Jasper?!”

A whole load of ranting and cursing got on Fabian’s nerves.

“Enough!”

A loud yell shut Morrison up.

Fabian took a deep breath, calmed himself down, and spoke to Morrison, “I’m sorry for being rude, but yelling can’t change anything now.”

“What now?” Morrison asked and gritted his teeth, suppressing his anger.

Regardless of the situation, Morrison’s confidence recovered a little when he saw Fabian’s calmness.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1362

“There’re two things we have to do now.”

“First, get in touch with all the connections you have in the United States, find out the how serious the aftermath of this incident is.”

“Second, I’ll ask my men to place a stop-loss order to limit our losses as much as possible.”

Fabian was slightly parched by the time he stopped talking. He had just set aside his nervousness and anger, but now they suddenly returned with a vengeance. "All of our funds were invested in the hedged orders that ran against Jasper. It was natural for the stock market index to fall since something big just happened there."

"What we can do now is to sell it off, and sell as much as we can. We can't afford to lose that much money."

Morrison's face took on a ghastly expression when he recalled the disastrous amount of funds he had invested in the stock market.

"I made calls, but I either couldn't get through, or they didn't know the answer."

"But I can confirm that the President of the United States is already aware of the incident."

"The United States is on high alert, the military forces deployed three fleets of fully loaded aircraft carrier while six fleets of combat aircraft are already on guard. One third of the entire country's missile silo were on standby to be launched."

Morrison, given with his high social status, shuddered with fear after he said that.

Fabian closed his eyes when he heard this, at this moment, he felt as if the whole world and his eyes fell into darkness.

“It’s open.”

Fabian opened his eyes once his trader reminded him.

Fabian’s and Morrison’s gazes fell onto the big screen at the same time.

“New York Securities Exchange, Nasdaq Securities Exchange, and the United States Securities Exchange are opening at the same time.”

“When the three largest stock exchanges opened at the same time, thousands of stocks began falling sharply at the same time!”

“Drop! Drop! Drop!”

“As we can see, every stock is falling. A dismal performance by the stock market that is filled with red, nothing is moving upward!”

“The wealth is gone. Wealth that the United States had accumulated over hundreds of years is disappearing rapidly every single minute!”

“This is the darkest day in United States’ history! A painful point in modern economic history!”

“The wealth of the United States stockholders are declining while the massive numbers are rippling through the whole world’s economy. This means global wealth is decreasing as a whole!”

The financial reporter’s pessimistic voice was aired on the television.

However, Jasper and Henry were celebrating.

“Indeed, one of the easiest way to get rich is from war.” Henry was still excited and thrilled.

It was none of his business that the United States was losing their money. He even wished that more of their money was lost.

The more they lost, the more profit Jasper and he could gain.

“Mr. Laine, here’s the data!”

The video call had not ended, and Jake’s voice was filled with excitement as it resonated through the phone.

“Five minutes after the market opened, Nasdaq fell 1200 points and Dow Jones lost 1800 points. It’s still falling rapidly!”

“The whole stock market is selling off stocks now. Everyone is selling crazily, but no one is buying them!”

After Jasper heard his, he opened his backstage account. He saw the unified management backstage managing hundreds of trading accounts clearly displaying that the overall process had turned his losses into profits. It took only five minutes to gain back the losses of billions of US Dollars that he had previously deployed. He even gained a few millions of profit!

Moreover, the numbers were still rolling. Each shift was quickly credited into the account.

If Jasper wanted to, he could choose to close the position at any time, and the profit gained would be credited into the account immediately.

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However, Jasper was not foolish enough to sell it off now.

“Phew.”

Jasper let out a sigh of relief as he laid his back on the executive chair.

It was undeniable that he had been under a lot of stress during this period.

At last, everything came to light, and there was rainbow after the storm!

“F*ck! Money, tons of money!”

Henry’s eyes shone as he stood beside Jasper and watched the numbers roll. He could not help but feel his heart racing.

Born into the Law family, Henry had no idea about the concept of money. They were just numbers to him. However, he knew that when the numbers reached a certain level,

qualitative changes could happen. No one would have rejected an increase in wealth, or the number of digits getting longer.

“How much is being put into my account every minute?” Henry asked Jasper excitedly.

“Based on the one hundred million that you invested, approximately 50 million gained every minute.” Jasper smiled.

“F*ck! f*ck! f*ck!”

Henry whined.

“If I knew about this earlier, I’d get a loan from the loan sharks!”

Jasper’s profit was coming in insanely quick. Meanwhile, Fabian, who bought orders before the market opened, was suffering massive losses.

“Liquidation!”

“Mr. Atticus, another account is being liquidated!”

Since he was acting against Jasper, Fabian needed more than one account to control so many funds. Hence, he created hundreds of account to hedge by betting against Jasper.

Hedging was a process whereby Fabian bought everything Jasper sold.

In essence, they were offsetting each other on the book.

Now, the profitable position which could gain profit every single minute and second that he had bought a day ago had turned into a deadly poison.

Five minutes after the market opened, 28 of Fabian’s accounts were liquidated.

“Son of a b*tch!” Fabian cursed in rage.

At this moment, Mitch’s face was pale white. He hurried over once he received the news.

He crumpled on the sofa, and spoke to Fabian suddenly, “Mr. Atticus, what should we do? The Dow Jones Index fell 1800 points since it was opened. Based on the situation, it’s possible that it might fall to 3000 points in a day. What, what should we do?”

“Once it drop more than 2000 points, all of our funds will be liquidated. Mr. Atticus, it’s a total of 30 billion of Harbor Dollars!”

“I’m not f*cking blind, you don’t have to remind me about that!”

Fabian snapped his head around and yelled in annoyance as if a human eating demon was glaring at Mitch.

Fabian was unable to hold back his emotions anymore. His trembling hands showed that he was panicking too. Morrison, who was beside him, had just ended the phone call and walked over, his face pale white.

“My father just called me. He told me he’s at the headquarters attending a meeting discussing the measures against this incident now. He didn’t have the time to tell me more about it, he just warned me to get away immediately. No one can stop the plunge of the stock market.”

“Get away!?”

Fabian sneered, and gritted his teeth, “How...?!”

“Everything is falling apart now and we’re standing right in the middle of it. There is no way we can get away!”

“Deposit additional funds!”

Fabian suddenly yelled, his bloodshot eyes as he shouted crazily, “I don’t believe that the officials in the United States and Federal Reserve will simply watch the stock market crash. They’ll definitely bailout the stock market. I’m betting on this! Deposit funds into the margin account to prevent a margin call!”

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Fabian’s decision caused Mitch to fall into a state of despair.

“H-how much?”

Fabian’s stock traders were extremely qualified, and they were able to calculate the figure in the shortest time possible.

“If you want to prevent the position from collapsing, according to the trend of the call, I think you have to add on about 500 million US Dollars.”

“Moreover, this is before the United States government and Federal Reserve fall to 2500 points on the Dow Jones Index, and before a successful market rescue.”

When Mitch heard this, his face turned pale.

“500 million US Dollars is 4 billion Harbor Dollars. I-It’s so much money...”

Back then, Mitch had already thrown in 2 billion Harbor Dollars, so he had nothing left.

He only got that sum because he went behind his family’s back and put up some of his family assets as collateral.

Now, he would need so much money just to stay afloat. Even though 4 billion Harbor Dollars was the total amount, and he would not need to spend so much himself, he still could not gather that much money.

At that moment, Mitch was looking at Fabian as if he was asking for help. He said, “Mr. Atticus, y-you can’t leave me to die.”

Fabian looked at Mitch coldly. Even though he wanted to kick this useless thing away, his instinct told him that this was not the time to have internal strife or abandon his allies.

Even if his ally was useless, he still had to think of a way of helping him.

“After the division, you’ll need to take out about 700 million Harbor Dollars for the cover up. How much can you provide?”

Fabian’s words gave Mitch a spark of hope. However, he blushed soon after and said in embarrassment, “I-I think I can take out 50 million at the most.”

“50 million?”

Fabian started laughing out of anger.

“Mitch, I have to put in at least 2 billion Harbor Dollars. Is that 50 million a joke?”

Mitch said with a lamentable look, “Mr. Atticus, I’m not you, nor I do not possess remarkable abilities. You know how much money I have. The money I put in is the money I got from putting up my stocks as collateral.”

“This is too much. I can’t help you with this.” Fabian gritted his teeth.

Fabian was betting that the United States Government and Federal Reserve would save the market.

However, he did not know if, when, and whether they even could.

If they failed, he would lose the money that he put up as a cover up.

Besides this, he would also lose the money that he set aside to help Mitch.

“Mr. Atticus, you have to help me. If my family learns about this, I’ll be dead meat!” Mitch was panicking and he yelled.

Fabian gritted his teeth and took two steps forward. He said, “Conrad will come back in a bit. When he’s back, go to him and dissect this issue with him. I think he should be okay with paying for you.”

“That Mainlander?” Mitch was stunned.

“You’re in such a horrible position, yet you’re looking down on people from Mainland?” Fabian chuckled coldly. “He has the most money now and I think he should help you out of respect for me.

“However, he’s a businessman, so he won’t give money without some benefit on his side. If he has any requirements, just agree to them so long as they are not too extreme.”

“When we turn this situation around, you’ll be doing whatever you want, right?”

Fabian’s hinting statement caused Mitch’s eyes to brighten.

Yes, he was at a dead end now. He would definitely run out of money unless he was honest with his family.

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However, if he told his family the truth and they discovered that he put up the stocks his family gave him as collateral, his family might very well kill him.

On the other hand, it would be different with Conrad. Mitch would say yes no matter what the requirements were. He was just Mr. Atticus’ dog, so once he turned this situation around, it was unlikely that Conrad would trouble him again.

When Mitch thought about this, he looked much better. “I understand. Thank you, Mr. Atticus!” Mitch said with gratitude.

“Go contact Conrad and tell him to come back as soon as possible.”

Fabian turned around and ordered his subordinates. After saying that, Fabian walked to Morrison and said through gritted teeth, “The situation right now is challenging, so we have to cooperate whole heartedly. If not, no one will be able to walk away from this unscathed.”

Morrison also had an unpleasant look on his face. Morrison and Fabian contributed the most money this time. Meanwhile, a lot of the money Morrison used were funds from his investment bank.

If this matter came to light, he would lose his position as the president of the Terra regional branch; Layman Investment Bank might even throw him into jail.

If Layman Investment Bank was enraged, the fact that his father was the president of the Quantum Fund would be irrelevant.

After Morrison took a deep breath, he gritted his teeth and said, “That bastard, Jasper! How did he predict this?”

Celine wanted to ask this question as well. When she got the news, she was in a meeting.

This major event caused Celine to end her meeting immediately. She knew the higher ups from the investment bank would immediately want to start discussing countermeasures for dealing with the situation.

The stock market plummeted and the ones who would bear the brunt of it would be the investment banks that held investments everywhere.

This was a very serious crisis for investment banks. After all, investment banks would make money from investments, and those properties they invested in would lose money when they were faced with a financial crisis.

Sure enough, when Celine got back to the office, she received a special purpose phone call from Paulson, the president.

“Miss Maynard, I believe you’re already aware of what happened in the United States.” Paulson’s tone sounded serious.

Celine nodded and said, “Yes, but I don’t know the details. Sir, how bad is it this time?”

Paulson removed his glasses and wiped them with a piece of cloth. He said, “The higher-ups are in an emergency discussion right now. The country is in a state of emergency. I can only tell you that this is even more serious than anyone can imagine.

“Let’s not talk about this. Right now, our investment bank is starting to lose money. Moreover, the loss will only grow as time goes by. The chairman is preparing to host a meeting. In ten minutes time, I’ll report the situation to the board of directors and also the shareholders.”

“Before that, I hope you can do something for me, Miss Maynard.”

Celine nodded, “Please tell me...”

“I hope to meet and talk to Jasper.”

Celine frowned slightly and said, “I don’t think he has the time for such a thing during this critical period.”

“That’s why I need your help. You have to know that the shareholders are suddenly very interested in Jasper. I think the only person in the world who’ll benefit from this might be your friend.”

“According to the investment bank analysts’ predictions, Jasper could make a profit of at least 10 billion US Dollars from this.”

Even though Celine had been prepared for such a thing, she was still shocked to her core when she heard the figure.

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Before the market opened today, the fellow who was being mocked and called insane by half of the Wall Street had quietly accomplished such a scary and big capital deployment strategy.

An astounding comeback, with a profit of 10 billion US Dollars!?

What kind of idea was this?

Converted, it would be 80 billion of Somer Dollars! Celine would not have believed it if she did not see it for herself. However, Celine felt as if she was dreaming.

‘That guy... how he did that!?’

“You have to know, the seniors in the Investment Bank, myself included, were not optimistic toward Jasper’s stupid behavior before this. But his countertrend strategies are now known as him seeing into the future.”

“I wish to talk to him. When you speak to him, please let him realize how important this matter is. You have to understand, it happened in the land of the United States, and they are suffering from the biggest terrorist attack ever.”

“Yes, there’s nothing wrong in making money, but making too much of it will result in a series of repercussions. The senior officials of the United States are being sensitive, and you know what I mean by that.”

Some time after the call ended, Celine had yet to recover from Paulson’s cautionary statements.

She knew what Paulson was implying.

Jasper making so much money would attract the attention of Wall Street and the senior officials of the United States.

Getting this kind of attention during such a sensitive period was probably not a good idea.

Currently, Jasper, who was in Nauritus City, certainly had no idea things were escalating quickly.

The television was broadcasting the rescue efforts after the incident The location was a scene of horror, with bodies and debris everywhere.

The surrounding skyscrapers were still standing, but no one would have believed that this was the world's most important financial center, the New York City. They would have thought that such a chaotic scene was taking place somewhere else.

“Mr, Laine, the Dow Jones Index plunge is slowing down, but the stock market is still in free fall.”

Jasper nodded and told Jake, “Before the officials release the news and response measures, the stock market will not stop plunging. All you have to do now is observe if anything happens on the stock market.”

“More than 2 billion US Dollars gained.”

Suddenly, Henry who was beside him, let out a cry of excitement after suppressing it for so long.

Jasper turned around and look at the computer screen which displayed that the accounting system profits. Right now, it had officially exceeded 2 billion US Dollars.

He blinked his eyes and another 280 thousand US Dollars were added.

Converted into Somer Dollars, and based on the housing prices there, a oceanfront property could be bought in the blink of an eye. There was no other way one could make money any faster than this.

Jasper let out a sigh.

With a capital of 3 billion US Dollars, 2.5 billion was invested, and now the profit gained was 2 billion, which was nearly a 70% increase.

“Covering position! Mr. Laine, those who were against us are covering their position!”

In the situation where everyone was selling off their stocks, the buy order stood out like a sore thumb. Besides, Jake and his team were keeping a close eye on the changes in the stock market, so the moment when Fabian began covering his position, they spotted it.

Jasper pulled out the relevant data immediately.

On the display panel, the buy order stood in clear defiance to the hundreds of others who were desperately selling. Jasper smiled. “Looks like this 200 million US Dollars is just the beginning. There’s more to come.”

“Let them cover it.”

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Jasper chuckled and said, “They’re pinning their hopes on the United States government and Federal Reserve, assuming that they will bail out the stock market. They’re betting on this.”

“Aren’t they going to do so?” Henry asked curiously.”

“They will. The officials from the United States and Federal Reserve will not sit by and watch the capital wealth of the United States disappear.”

Jasper slightly narrowed his eyes, and thought of what he had experienced in the past life, then said, “If my predictions are correct, the bailout plan will come out latest by tomorrow, but it’ll be difficult to stop the trend.”

Usually, only the United States was able to play others for suckers, but now it was different.

A terrorist attack that shocked the whole world had exposed the weak nature of the United States financial system.

Rapid development and economic prosperity that came from plundering others was nothing more than a façade.

However, the United States was still a strong country at the end of the day. Even though someone else did realize this, no one would take the risk of offending the United States and Wall Street to exploit them.

It was because Wall Street covered up for the United States, so in a way, Wall Street itself was the biggest exploiter in the world.

Despite this, things were different now. The terrorist attack had caught the United States off guard, it was like drilling a wound into a giant's body.

The leeches that had long been oppressed would give their lives to pounce on the wound to take a sip of the blood. Jasper was the first one to do so.

His early entry allowed him to take the best position, destined to drink up the sweetest of the blood.

“Ordinary people would see this as a terrorist attack, but the financial and political game behind the incident was the real chaos. We had nothing to do with the politics, but you can understand the financial games just by looking at it.”

“Oh, sh*t, my father is calling,” Henry shouted and ran to the other side to pick up his phone call. Looking at his excited face, he probably was going to show off.

Jasper smiled and ignored him, then discussed the current situation with Jake.

While he was talking, Jasper’s phone rang. It was an unknown number. Jasper picked up the phone.

“I’m Jasper.”

Conrad’s voice came from the other end of the phone line.

“Congratulations.”

Jasper replied coldly, “You’re using the secret number just to congratulate me?”

“Sure enough, I was right. Everyone looked down on you. From now on, I’m afraid that even mentioning your name will cause terrible nightmares for the financial titans.”

“That’s a stretch,” Jasper replied blandly. “I’m just making some money. I never thought of becoming anyone’s nightmare.”

“Let’s get down to business. Are you interested in planting a secret agent in Harbor City?”

Conrad’s words made Jasper raise his brow.

He did not respond. Meanwhile, Conrad continued to chatter away.

“Mitch called me for a loan. He borrowed a sum of 1 billion Harbor Dollars to prevent the margin call. He got some shares in Fabian’s investment, and you know the current market situation. The hunter has now become the hunted.”

His agreement was that he would transfer over 3.5% of his family’s core assets that were under his name.“

Jasper thought about it and said, “The value of 3.5% of main assets shares of the Langdons family is only 1 billion Harbor Dollars?”

“Based on the total sum 3 billion Harbor Dollars, I’ll have to pay 2 billion of the bank’s mortgage loan on behalf of him,” Conrad said.

After Jasper heard this, something caught his interest. This was a rare opportunity.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1368

Everyone knew that money could buy many things, but some things could not be bought with just money. Not when the premium reached a certain point.

For example, the stocks in Langdon's foundation that by Wallace Langdon created could not be measured with the market price. It was because the Langdon family would not sell their shares.

It was like if someone came to buy the JW's shares, Jasper would probably answer them with a simple sentence f*ck off. This was not about the money, but the title of the core assets could not ever be put at risks.

It was not much with 3.5% of the shares, not enough to influence any decisions made by the Langdon family.

However, it would forever be a thorn that was embedded deep within the Langdon family's decision. Usually, a chance like this would never surface, but the opportunity was now presenting itself to Jasper.

"Don't you want it?" Jasper asked.

It seemed like Conrad had expected Jasper to ask something like this, as he replied honestly, "If you're in my position, would you take it?"

He did not wait for Jasper's answer before he continued to speak, "The waters are deep in Harbor City. Owning the Langdon family's core assets shares is a good thing, but it also depends if you're destined to have it. In my opinion, it's not a glass of wine but deadly arsenic.

"I don't have any background in Harbor City, and even the rich people in Harbor City would not simply take the shares of the Langdon family."

"The ones that are truly interested are the ones who can talk to the Langdon family, and clearly, I'm no such person. That's why I'm thinking of selling it to you as a favor."

What Conrad said was reasonable. Jasper could not see any loopholes in his argument.

Jasper laughed. "Do you think of me that highly? The Langdon family is one of the four richest families in Harbor City, the shares are a hot potato for me too. "Jasper shared Conrad's concern.

The point was, it would be useless even if Jasper took it. He was not interested in the Langdon family's assets. The Langdon family's assets were all over the Golden Peninsula. They made their fortune through producing rubber, and were one of the five biggest rubber making companies. With this commodity as their core, they spread out to property, logistics, construction, and financial securities, and other markets.

Jasper had nothing to do with all those sectors except for the last two.

Holding shares of the Langdon family was stepping on the Langdon family's tail, there was no doubt that the family would turn against him.

Considering all this, the benefits were low while the short term risk was too high. Although the long term returns were good, it required too much investment, which did not make it worthwhile.

However, Jasper was still interested in it.

As Jasper thought of the reasons why it would be trouble for him to hold the shares, he realized that these problems would not exist to other individuals. Jasper unconsciously looked at Henry who was not far away as he excitedly bragged on the phone.

Conrad's voice interrupted his thoughts.

"It's your business whether or not you regard it as a hot potato. Now you'll only have to give me an answer, do you want shares or not?"

"Do I have to pay for it?" Jasper asked.

“Easy, 3 billion Harbor Dollars. These are not for me, they’re for Mitch.”

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“Deal.”

Jasper said yes without hesitation.

Conrad seemed to be relieved on the other end of the call, then replied, “Alright, I’ll send a contract to you as soon as possible.”

After hanging up the call, Jasper stood up and patted Henry’s shoulder, smiled, and said, “Give me your phone, I’d like to discuss something with your father.”

Harbor City, inside a car parked at the entrance to Fabian’s villa, Conrad put away his phone and let out a sigh of relief.

“Finally getting rid of the hot potato.”

Sitting on the driver seat, Valentine turned his head around and asked, “Mr. Monty, why didn’t you reject Mitch just now since he’s putting us on the spot?”

Conrad sneered, and replied, “Mitch appears to be polite, but look at his attitude, are we allowed to say no? To be honest, he’s just hard selling, regardless of whether we want the shares or not, we still have to get the money for him.”

“Mitch’s purpose was not to sell the shares, he just wanted the money.”

Valentine gasped and recalled the scene from half an hour ago. The harshness in Mitch’s normally gentle attitude was unlike someone who came looking for a loan. Instead, he looked like someone ready to commit robbery.

At the thought of this, Valentine spoke, “If we said yes, would Mitch be willing to transfer the shares?”

“What do you think? Does Mitch have the guts to sell his portion of the Langdon family’s core asset?”

“The situation is critical now, if he doesn’t cover his position, all of the funds he invested would be gone, and Fabian wouldn’t even give a sh*t about him. Therefore, he had to cover it, it’d be easy if Fabian turn it around and beat Jasper, but will Mitch let go of his shares so easily if they lose?”

There was a gleam in Valentine’s eyes. He complimented Conrad, “Looks like it’s a wise choice leaving it to Jasper.”

“We’re the weakest one out of all of them, so that’s what we had to do. If I were strong enough, would I have given Jasper something as precious as the 3.5% shares of the Langdon family’s asset?”

“Unfortunately, I’m afraid there’ll be no such chance again in the future.” Conrad stared at the brightly lit villa and gave out a long sigh.

“Mr. Monty, I believe you’ll rise one day.”

Valentine’s determined words made Conrad let out a laugh, his heart slightly warmed.

“For example, look at the others. Mitch came from an extraordinary background while Fabian is good at investing, but that doesn’t mean anything. After all, they’re suffering more than us now.”

Conrad chuckled, his worries were set aside. Then, he opened the car door and said, "Let's go, we have to finish our act."

Inside the villa, the table was full of dishes but nobody was sitting there.

Fabian sat on the sofa, his face dull and sullen while Morrison was on his third bottle of red wine. The drinking was not for celebration, but rather to soothe his frustration.

"Mr. Atticus, the Dow Jones Index is still failing. More than half of the funds that we deposited were used up. If this situation continues, we won't be able to defend ourselves anymore."

He took a glance at the falling trend on the screen. It looked like the sky was falling as if it was an endless decline, as if it would continue to fall until it burst out of the screen.

Morrison was growing more frustrated. He lifted his head and gulped down another glass of wine.

"Continue to maintain it. Place sell orders, and trade to stop our losses. We must hold on until the bailout plans is announced!" Fabian growled with reddened eyes.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1370

"Jasper, is this true?"

Zachary's surprised tone was heard on the phone. Jasper had told Zachary about Mitch selling off his 3.5% shares of his family's core assets a moment ago.

Jasper smiled. "Of course it's real. I can't do anything with these shares, but I suppose it'll come in handy for the Law family. Therefore, I took the liberty to say yes for you. You won't blame me right, Uncle Law?"

Zachary laughed. "Not at all, I would have to thank you first."

The gift Jasper brought for Zachary made him rejoice internally.

The Langdon family's core assets were not valuable to Jasper, as the costs they bore were way too troublesome. Based on the current situation, it was unrealistic for Jasper to be tempted to do anything with the Langdon family's assets while owning just 3.5% of the shares. However, it would be different if it was in the Law family's hand.

They were among the four richest families, while the Law family's wealthy heritage was deeper than Langdon's family. They ate from the same bowl, and even though it appeared that they were harmonious, they always had to remain cautious of each other.

Considering the four big families' situation, it was almost unrealistic for them to obtain each other's core assets.

However, Jasper gave him the chance to do just that.

"After the Law family infiltrates them, they'll be forced to act defensively. Things will be hard for that fellow, Kennedy." Zachary was laughing out loud.

Jasper chuckled and said, "That's good, I'll arrange the transfer of shares after this. I'll personally deliver it to Uncle Law once I get it."

Zachary was a sharp person, Jasper only briefly explained to him what happened, but he instantly recognized that things might be trickier than they first appeared.

"I'm afraid that Mitch isn't going to give the shares away so easily."

Jasper answered, "It'll be fine as long as this doesn't involve the elders of the Langdon family. It'll only involve Mitch, so there won't be a problem."

Zachary nodded and said, "Fine, Mitch is the younger generation. I shall not intervene, but if Kennedy steps in, I won't sit by and do nothing."

Obviously, the Law family would not sit back and watch, they were the biggest beneficiary of this deal, after all.

For so many years, the Law family did think of infiltrating the other three families, but this was simply because the chance never presented itself.

Now that it was set before him on a silver platter, Zachary was not going to pass it up.

It was worth it even though he would have to fight against the Langdon family.

After ending the call with Zachary, Jasper turned and sat in front of the computer.

“Jake, please tell me how our opponents are doing now.”

Jake’s cheerful voice came out from the computer. “They’re still covering their positions, but they’re obviously running out of funds. They’re currently giving up some accounts with less valuable stocks. They are constantly being forced to liquidate before closing the positions. They’re saving their funds to protect the heavier stocks.”

“Based on our analysis and calculations, their invested funds were more than we had expected. They invested a total of 600 million US Dollars before the market closed yesterday without anyone noticing. We just found out about it.”

“It was clear that the 600 million US Dollars was used to defeat us in a one off today, but after the crashing of the Dow Jones Index, this 600 million US Dollars soon became their biggest burden.”

“Their overall trading volume was around 2.4 billion US Dollars. After amending the errors which should be no more than 200 million US Dollars, and adding in the funds that they’ve used to cover their position, their total trading volume was nearly 3 billion. Today they lost 1 billion US Dollars in total.”

Jasper shot a glance at his accounts system.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1371

Fabian had lost 1 billion US Dollars in a day, while he had gained 8 billion US Dollars of profit.

It did not seem like... enough.

“There are 30 minutes left till the market closes, I’m giving you 20 minutes to close one of their positions worth 5 billion.”

Jasper smiled impudently and said, “He’s been proud for a very long time, I want him spitting blood today.”

What Jasper said lifted the fighting spirits of Jake and his team.

Since the planning of deployment, due to strict Jasper’s orders, Jake and the others had to endure being bullied by Fabian.

Fabian would be the first to buy whenever they placed the sell order.

Although Jasper intended to watch the funds flow into his opponent's pockets, Jake and the others were holding back so much anger after all those humiliations.

Even though the situation had reversed today, Jasper did not initially command them to strike back. This was because gaining back their losses and making a profit was the most important thing.

Now, Jasper had finally commanded Jake and the others to strike while the iron was hot.

"Yes, Mr. Laine. It won't take up 20 minutes, 15 minutes will be enough for them to suffer heavy losses!"

Jake gave his guarantee excitedly, then turned around to order his trading team to launch their attacks.

The games in the financial war were treacherous and uncertain most of the time. However, this always depended on the timing.

For example, in the situation that was taking place at that moment, the whole market was falling, so it would be too easy for Jasper to attack Fabian.

Not to mention that Jake and his team had plenty of experience in trading. Right now, even a beginner who only knew how to click with a mouse to buy or sell would know how to fight this war.

Taking aim at a target and crushing it as forcefully as you could. That was that easy.

It made Fabian, who was sleepy and exhausted, jump up as if he had just been electrocuted.

Morrison, who was sleepless but had reddened eyes, joined Mitch to surround Conrad after the latter jumped up.

Fabian was the first to rush over to the side of the computer. The fingers of the person seated in front of the computer were dancing on the keyboard, pulling out a set of data.

“Mr. Atticus, there were a large number of trade orders that intentionally targeted us.

These orders look disorganized and hidden among the numerous normal trade orders, but the accounts were all under Jasper’s name.

“This wave of attacks cost us a few million US Dollars.”

Bang!

Morrison slammed the table with his palm and spoke with a hideous expression, "Is Jasper planning to make things worse!?"

Fabian's facial expression was gloomy and scary. He glared at the screen without saying anything.

Once the attacks were launched, Fabian immediately took notice.

Fabian's men were well trained too in their own right, They were pretty much equal to Jake's team. Therefore, in such a chaotic situation, they were able to sense something wrong almost immediately.

"Mr. Atticus, someone is attacking us!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1372

"Mr. Atticus, they're still attacking us. What do we do next?"

While they were talking, Jake's attacks battered them fiercely. The trader was unable to withstand it anymore, so he turned around and asked with an awful look on his face.

He was afraid that the furious Fabian would treat him as the whipping boy.

Although Fabian was angry to the extent that he could kill someone, he was still keeping his rationality.

"How much do we have left for cover ups?" Fabian asked a crucial question.

The man replied immediately, "Only 200 million left."

"200 million left..?" Fabian gritted his teeth. He felt something heavy on his chest, as if he was unable to breathe.

Morrison looked at Fabian's pale white face and said, "Atticus, don't fall apart just yet."

“I know...”

Fabian sneered after he gasped for air, “Well done! Well done, Jasper!”

“I expected him to take revenge earlier, but he did not move until the next day. I didn’t expect him to strike when it’s almost the closing time when we’re running out of funds.”

“He purposely did that.” Conrad suddenly spoke, attractive Fabian’s and Morrison’s attention.

Fabian looked at Conrad, and spoke in a low voice, “You faced Jasper the most often. Tell us, based on how much you understand him, what is Jasper going to do next?”

“He’s going to beat us until we’re in pain.” Conrad’s answer was simple and clear.

Mitch could not hold back his sneer. “He doesn’t even know how much funds we have left. How is he going to hurt us?”

“He doesn’t need to know. All he has to do is evaluate our total funds and the funds we invested to cover up today, and he’ll be able to estimate how much longer we can withstand it.”

Conrad continued to speak calmly as he ignored the slight provocation hidden in Mitch's words.

"Besides, he didn't strike throughout the entire day because he wanted the plunging market to consume our funds as much as it could. Now that trading hours are ending soon, he has achieved his goal."

"Nothing happened when he didn't do anything, but once he starts to take action, all we can do is to bear it. He'll stop when he wants to."

What Conrad said infuriated Mitch.

He had just got the capital from Conrad to cover the positions, and now he could only watch his money being swallowed by Jasper. He was enraged by the situation.

He was going to break down emotionally after listening to what Conrad said.

"F*cking bullsh*t!"

Mitch pointed his fingers at Conrad and scolded him.

“Are you here f*cking misleading us? You’re talking about how impressive Jasper is, as if he’s a God destroying our aspirations. Why are you here kissing my feet if Jasper is that capable? If you don’t know how to talk just shut your mouth and f*ck off!”

“And you’re f*cking tell me that Jasper is the one who decides when to end this. Do you think he’s God?! F*cking mainland bumpkin, piece of sh*t!”

What Mitch said was extremely rude.

However, there was no change in Conrad’s facial expression.

As if the person who got scolded was not him. He turned his head around and looked at the angry Mitch.

“Mr. Langdon, if Jasper were an easy opponent to deal with, he would have died by your hands. So, why is he alive until now? Why are you lingering around Mr. Atticus, without the guts to fight against Jasper personally?”

“Yelling at me will not help anything. I’m just voicing my opinion. Mr. Langdon can choose to listen or not. If you don’t like it just treat it as a bullsh*t. Is there a need to be so unpolite?”

Mitch's face reddened when Conrad said this.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1373

No one had to tell him that what Conrad said was reasonable. Thus, Mitch was left to burn up in embarrassment.

Comparing his agitated attitude with Conrad, there was no doubt that Conrad was way more elegant. The more reasonable the argument, the angrier Mitch was.

“Who are you dare try to teach me a lesson? You're just a f*cking bumpkin from the mainland. Believe it or not, I'll...”

“Enough!”

Fabian interrupted Mitch's conversation.

When Mitch lifted his head to look at Fabian, he saw those emotionless cold eyes and fell silent immediately. He did not treat Conrad as a person in the first place. Similarly, he did not dare to treat himself as a person in front of Fabian.

“What Conrad said was reasonable.”

Fabian spoke calmly.

“Continue to give up the positions that are not high value and those which are less important. Allow them to be liquidated. I can still afford all those losses.”

Morrison and Mitch’s lips twitched when they heard Fabian’s instruction.

The amount of money burned every minute did not just belong to Fabian, they owned a share of it too. This was especially true for Morrison, his share was only slightly less than Fabian’s.

This command was to sacrifice the rest to protect the king, meaning that at least a few billion US Dollars were about to be given up.

Indeed, when Fabian took a step back, Jasper came charging forward. Twelve positions were liquidated at once.

“Mr. Atticus, he’s, he’s not stopping.”

The man was terrified when he reported this.

“He’s going too far! ”

Fabian growled in a low voice. He grabbed the ashtray beside him, turned around, and smashed it on the floor.

“Continue to retreat, as long as the core positions remain, I’ll allow all the other losses!”

“Conrad, inform the members of Empire Meet, the first Empire Meet meeting with all members will be held at dawn. I, Fabian Atticus, am going to give them a big present!”

Conrad’s expression appeared calm, but his heart was surging like a stormy sea after hearing this.

“I’ll arrange it immediately,” Conrad replied. In his heart, he was thinking about immediately telling Jasper about this important news.

“Wait...!”

Fabian suddenly called out for Conrad.

Conrad stood still and turned around to look at Fabian.

“Uncle Gale, follow him.”

An aged old man who looked like he was in his sixties or seventies walked out after Fabian called him. His hands respectfully overlapped in front of his body. He appeared well mannered as he bowed to Conrad and said, “Mr. Monty, I’ll be by your side to assist you.”

“Uncle Gale is my confidant, most of the young masters in Empire Meet are bad tempered. I don’t have to worry much if he’s with you.” Fabian said blandly.

Conrad smiled, nodded his head, and said, “That’ll be best. It’ll be easier for me too.”

Conrad turned around and walked toward the door, his body tensing up but showing no sign of any unnatural behavior.

“Atticus, you’re planning to use the Empire Meet’s power?” Morrison glanced at Conrad’s retreating figure as he left, before shifting his gaze back and asking.

“After spending so many resources, those young masters reaped so many rewards. Now it’s time for everyone to contribute. Not to mention that it’s something they can all benefit from, so wouldn’t they agree?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1374

”Mr. Atticus, Jasper stopped attacking.”

Fabian slowly let out a sigh of relief after he heard his men’s voice.

“How is it? How much did we lose?”

Fabian walked up and asked.

The man’s face was pale white. Although Jasper had stopped attacking, there was no sign of relief on his face.

He swallowed his saliva and spoke in a cautious tone, “Jasper’s attack caused us to lose 180 million US Dollars. Totaling up the others, today we lost a total sum of 1.5 billion US Dollars.”

Fabian's facial expression froze at once.

There was a wave of indescribable anger building up within his chest.

No matter how wealthy Fabian was, losing 1.5 billion US Dollars within a day was unbelievable. Converting it to Harbor Dollars, it would be a sum of 12 billion Harbor Dollars!

The whole Atticus family would be in pain dealing with such heavy losses, much less Fabian himself.

It was fortunate that the initial sum of money had been contributed by multiple parties. However, even so, Fabian lost at least 7 billion Harbor Dollars. He was the fund's largest shareholder after all.

7 billion!

The raging fire within his chest was flared up as if it had been doused with a bottle of gas.

"A*shole! Jasper, I'll make you pay for this!"

Fabian could not hold back any longer after suppressing it the whole night. He eventually erupted.

“Mr. Laine, mission accomplished!”

Jake’s voice resonated from the computer.

“They’ve lost at least 1.5 billion US Dollars. The last wave of attacks caused them to lose 8 of their positions. They couldn’t cover up anymore! Hahaha...”

Jasper smiled after listening to Jake.

“Well done!”

Time flew, and in the blink of an eye, the market was already closing.

A whole day of continuous downward trendlines finally stopped as trading hours ended. However, everyone knew that when the market reopened the next day, it would resume plummeting.

The wise could see that NASDAQ and the US stock market were doomed.

There was no way to stop the downtrend of the market. The more it dropped, the higher the rate of decline, and the more intense the selling off process became. This was all because the stockholders were following the market trend.

One day was not enough to stop the sell orders. It had not even reached the climax yet. Most of the stock prices hit the limit down before the stockholders managed to sell them off today.

Today was just the beginning. When the stock market reopened, the prices would open at the limit down price, sealing the fate of these doomed stocks.

The situation would be even more violent the next day.

“Total profit gained today is 2.864 billion US Dollars. Our total funds reached a sum of 5.9 billion US Dollars!”

Jake's unbelieving tone came from the computer. Although he had witnessed it himself, the situation was too exciting and thrilling. When everything had ended, Jake took a look at the accounting system and realized the profit number had reached a terrifying point.

"Total trading hours was 7 hours, but there was a total of 2.9 billion profit. That means we were able to make 410 million each hour, or 7 million US Dollars every minute!"

"Converting to Somer Dollars, it'll be 56 million!"

Jake's voice was trembling with excitement.

"Mr. Laine, we definitely broke the world's record with this profitability and speed. It's scary!"

Jasper was slightly excited when he heard those numbers.

A capital of 26 billion, of which 9 billion was his own. The 9 billion generated him a profit of 8 billion.

Now the 26 billion had grown to approximately 47 billion, while his 9 billion had become 17 billion. There was only one word to describe it, terrifying!

“F*ck! F*ck! F*ck!”

Henry was even more excited than Jasper.

“What about my 1 billion, how much is it worth now?”

Henry was busy asking while his face turned red from his nervousness.

Jake answered him immediately.

“Mr. Law, your 1 billion has become 1.8 billion.”

“Hahaha..!”

Henry burst out laughing with his hands on his waist.

“I’m so f*cking awesome. It took a while for me to get those profits, I’m going back to tell my father. If he tries to discipline me anymore, I’m going to branch out on my own, hahaha!”

Jasper clapped his hands, smiled, and said, “Alright, dawn is coming, everyone take a rest. A bonus equal to your annual salary will be given to everyone here. Jake, you did well, and you worked hard. Bring home double your annual salary as a bonus later.”

There were always rewards for good performances and punishments for mistakes. Although the matter had not fully ended yet, it did not stop Jasper from giving some benefits to his men to let them taste the sweetness of hard work. Hopefully, with this, they would put in more effort while working for him.

The sound of Jake and his team cheering loudly was heard on the other end of the video call.

Jake smiled too. Although he had already achieved financial freedom, his net value was not anything over the top. Therefore, Jasper’s reward was undoubtedly generous.

No one would ever complain about having more money, and Jasper’s reward was recognition of their hard work.

“I’ll help the others to thank you, Mr. Laine...”

“Alright, take a rest. The US stock market is opening tomorrow afternoon, and we’ll have to stay up the whole night again. Get enough rest, take some supplements, and order as much as you like I’m paying the bill.”

Jasper hung up right after he finished talking. He ignored the cheering and howling from the other end of the line.

He turned around, planning to celebrate with Henry, but found that the fellow had fallen asleep on the sofa. Jasper smiled bitterly and shook his head. Then he walked toward the window and saw that the sky was getting brighter.

A time difference of 13 hours. The United States closed the stock market at 4.30 PM, which was 5.30 in the morning in Somerland.

However, Jasper could not sleep just yet. He covered Henry with a blanket, went to another room, and switched on the computer to follow up with news from United States officials.

Jasper knew that the officials would respond, and the responses would affect the stock market forcefully and rapidly.

The victory from the first day was just the beginning. It was his return from accumulating all the funds and releasing it little by little. The real game would come be after the first day.

This time, the amount that Jasper could gain depended on how long the market continued on a downward spiral.

The memories from his past life were still inside his head, but Jasper would not rely too much on them, as he was unable to confirm the differences that would occur in this lifetime.

When Jasper opened a United States news website, his phone vibrated for a brief moment. It was not a phone call, but a message.

He had gotten a message from Conrad's secret number.

"Be careful of the Empire Meet!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1375

Those few words set Jasper on guard.

Conrad must have been stuck in a situation where it was inconvenient for him to make a phone call. Even if he was in such a perilous situation, he still took the risk to send Jasper a message.

This indicated that the contents of the message were extremely important.

Jasper knew about Empire Meet.

A luxury club that Fabian had been operating and planning since back then had become the primary network for the rich young master of Harbor City. To join, one had to either be a wealthy man or lead a big clan of some sort.

It was a place for everyone to gather and pass the time, a place to broaden one's network when it was not in use. However, when all these connections pooled together, they would form a great power.

'How will Fabian use them, and what is he going to do to him with their collective power?'

Jasper narrowed his eyes and remained motionless while holding his phone.

He remained still until the sound of the door being opened was heard.

"I knew you hadn't sleep."

Wendy was holding a thermos bottle and scolding him. Jasper smiled while he eased his troubled mind away and said, "I still have some things to do. They can rest but I can't. I'll have to keep up with the latest news. Why are you up so early?"

“I can’t sleep, I was worried about you, so I got up early to make you some soup. You can’t keep on staying up like this. Take some to replenish yourself and go rest later.”

She sat down and nagged Jasper seriously after putting down the thermos bottle in front of him.

Wendy was waiting for Jasper’s response after she finished nagging, but she turned around and instead saw Jasper looking at her with a smile.

“Why are you looking at me like that?”

Wendy was embarrassed and uncomfortable after seeing Jasper looking strangely at her. Thus, she asked fiercely.

“It feels like you’re becoming a good wife and mother.” Jasper opened the thermos bottle and smiled.

“Hey, I already am.” Wendy snorted proudly.

Their relationship had come to a point that Wendy was no longer embarrassed to refute what Jasper said as he attempted to ‘take advantage’ of her with his words.

Jasper grinned and lowered his head to take a sip of the soup.

'Hmm, its red dates with ginseng stew bird's nest.'

It tastes like saltwater.

"Why, does it taste awful?" Wendy asked nervously. Jasper took another sip, smiled, and said, "No, it's good."

Wendy let out a sigh of relief.

"It's my first time drinking a salted stew bird's nest."

"Huh!? I thought it was sugar!"

Forget the taste or the nutrients.

A small bowl of soup needed to slow cook for at least an hour.

What time was it?

Wendy must have woken up around three or four in the early morning to prepare this, and she had to deliver it to the office.

Just because of that, Jasper finished the whole bottle of soup, until not a drop was left.

“Don’t drink if it tastes awful. I, I’ll make a better one next time.” Wendy was embarrassed.

She had thought of making something for Jasper to replenish himself, but she felt remorseful after making such a careless mistake.

“It was quite refreshing.” Jasper put down the empty bottle and winked at Wendy. “Make more of your hand made stew. I’d still drink even if it were arsenic.”

“You’re bluffing!”

Wendy replied sweetly in a spoiled manner.

Women and men were the same, and they had similar natures.

'There is no such thing as a free lunch in this world, if I treat you well, it's because willing to give you my all, but I hope you know that I'm sincere toward you.'

'Every act of kindness has to be returned. If not, it'll be unequal and won't last long.'

At present time, Jasper never neglected the people beside him. Not to mention that this person was Wendy.

"How's the situation today? You look like you're in a good mood." Wendy asked.

She knew Jasper was stressed out these days, even if Jasper did not tell her anything. However, being one of the closest people to Jasper, Wendy was able to find traces and clues about what led to Jasper's unusual behavior.

During situations like this, she was unable to help with anything. All she could do was to support Jasper from behind.

"Not bad at all." Jasper gave her a smile.

“Really?”

Wendy’s mood brightened up too after confirming that Jasper was genuinely smiling from his heart rather than blindly comforting her.

Jasper hinted coyly for Wendy to come nearer to him, then he switched on the system display on the computer.

“How... how much is this!?”

Wendy’s eyes were wide open. The shock and disbelief on her face was cute.

No matter who it was, after seeing such heart racing digits of numbers, their reactions were almost always the same.

“Almost double.” Jasper took the opportunity to hug Wendy, putting her head on his shoulder and enjoying the fragrance of the girl’s hair. It was truly relaxing.

“Let me put it like this, if the funds were withdrawn, not only could we pay off all of JW Company debts and also the funds that we took out from JW Electronics, but we also won’t have any financial problems for a long time into the future, to the extent that we’ll be worried that we have too much money.

“If we were willing to make the information public, those magazines would include us amongst the wealthiest figures in the country.”

The magazines he meant were the Hurun rich list and Forbes billionaires. It was because of the traditional culture of the country that many low profile businessmen refused to expose themselves. No one would print their names on it if they refused to allow it.

For example, the Spencers, the Shanghai stock market king, and the Zhaos from the North. Any one of them would easily break into the list of richest figures in the country.

The billionaires that were known by most people had reached a level that surpassed 99.999% of the one billion population of the country.

“Then what are we waiting for? Let’s run!”

Wendy was excited, her eyes were shining with golden rays of light that Jasper had seldom seen before.

“There’s so much money that you don’t have to work that hard anymore. Withdraw it and focus on our business. We can work when we want to, or we can travel the world.”

Jasper laughed and said, "You little petty thing, is that all you want?"

Wendy tilted her head, then leaned on Jasper's chest with a blushing face. "As long as I'm with you, I don't care about anything else, no matter if I'm rich or poor."

Jasper smiled warmly, he hugged Wendy tight and said, "I know, but when there's too much money, it's not easy to just leave and retire. In fact, it's impossible."

If Jasper set aside everything to enjoy himself today, Fabian would strike back and push him into the abyss tomorrow.

Empire Meet... it was a poison needle in Jasper's heart.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1376

Jasper held Wendy as they whispered sweet nothings to each other. Most of the conversation was just idle gossip. Whenever they were in this state, they would not kill the mood by talking about work. Instead, they would just ramble on and on mindlessly.

However, this was the very thing that would strengthen their relationship.

As Jasper chatted with Wendy, he focused on the news about the United States.

As expected, the United States government released a detailed news report about this terrorist attack immediately. Even though they did not have the final number of casualties, the number of people who were rescued and the number of corpses that were discovered had reached a terrifying number.

From this official announcement, most people could feel the extreme rage of the United States government. After what happened today, the United States was on high alert. Everyone could sense that the United States would not let this rest easily.

Meanwhile, Jasper did not pay much attention to the news about politics and the military.

Instead, he noticed a statement on the announcement.

“Now, regarding the time of this terrorist attack and the huge impact it had on the economy of the country, the joint conference of the financial heads invited the chief economic team, as well as the Federal Reserve’s president, Greenspaner, to discuss the next steps.”

A huge storm was hidden behind this statement. Moreover, there was also the battle that was caused by authorities fighting and scheming against each other in the dark.

“We can’t be sure how long the discussion on the appropriate countermeasures will be.”

Jasper murmured as he felt Wendy breathing steadily in his arms. When he lowered his head, he noticed that she had fallen asleep while leaning her head against his shoulder without him even realizing.

After Jasper chuckled lightly, he lifted Wendy gently and stood up to walk out of the room.

Because it was still early, he saw that some of the employees who came early had already started working. When the employees saw their boss carrying his wife to the office carefully, they broke into smiles.

The male employees were mostly simple minded and naive, so when they saw this scene, they forgot to walk away, and instead, they just stood there dumbly and watched.

Meanwhile, the female employees were heckling Jasper.

Even though they did not dare to make any noise to wake Wendy, the envy and mockery in their eyes was unconcealable.

Jasper was in a good mood too, and he chuckled inaudibly as he carried Wendy into the office with a smile.

Then, he carried her to the small lounge in his office. Jasper requested this lounge when they were renovating the office. There was a toilet and bed inside, so it could be treated as a small room that could be used at any time.

After Jasper placed Wendy in bed, he washed his face. When he felt refreshed, he went back to work.

The issue had not yet ended, so Jasper was still on edge. He needed to watch any movements, and simultaneously could not stop handling business in the office. He needed to take care of a lot of documents and could not delay the tasks any longer.

The sun rose in Harbor City. The bustling city was the liveliest when it was about 9 o'clock in the morning.

A villa district in Repulse Bay that was not open to the public was transformed into a high end club.

There was a swimming pool, a golf course, and also a standard racecourse. At one point, this was the place that all the paparazzi in Harbor City wanted to sneak into.

However, even the paparazzi that were known to be pervasive and daring in their reporting were not able to enter this place. Even if something were to happen here, it would not make it to the news.

Harbor City was heaven for capitalists. The capitalists were in control of this place, and they were also the same people who controlled the Harbor City media.

After this place was founded, its name was the only thing that was ever leaked to the public, Empire Meet.

Currently, inside the clubhouse of Empire Meet, luxury cars filled the area as almost half of the influential and reputable young masters and young mistresses from Harbor City gathered around.

These people were the children of the upper-class circle in Harbor City. Furthermore, they would be the successors of half of Harbor City's economy in the future.

Even so, this was the only time all members of Empire Meet were present since the club was first founded.

"Mr. Dormer, you're here as well! I thought you'll be slightly late. Shall we have a glass of Brandy?"

A young man in casual clothing greeted a slightly chubbier man.

Mr. Dormer yawned lazily, and he shook his hand at the alcohol that was presented to him. "I'm not drinking. I slept at about 3 or 4 in the morning last night after fooling around with some chicks from Nawait, then I was asked to come here early in the morning. I'll die if I drink any more."

The man in casual clothing did not force him. Consequently, he placed the alcohol on the table on the side and said curiously, "So many people are here, yet, we were not informed of anything before being asked to come here. I wonder what's going on and why they woke everyone up so early in the morning.

"A drinking party at 8 or 9 in the morning. Tch tch, this is the first time I'm attending something like this."

Mr. Dormer scoffed and said, "Don't try to figure out what Mr. Atticus wants to do with that pea brain of yours. He asked us to come, so we did. I didn't see that Hasting kid yet. He was just discharged from the hospital a while ago after his surgery and he didn't even complain. So what are you grumbling so much for?"

"I'm not. How would I dare make any noise when it comes to Mr. Atticus. I'm just curious," the casually dressed man said.

"Mr. Atticus will be here soon. We'll know what's going on after he gets here," Mr. Dormer said flatly.

Most of the people at the scene were having the same conversation as the two of them.

Even as everyone interacted with each other, they just could not figure out why Mr. Atticus had invited everyone here early in the morning.

Even though these young masters who were used to indulging in lives of debauchery were feeling annoyed, they did not dare to complain. Instead, they all waited patiently for Fabian's arrival.

Fabian did not make them wait too long. Soon, he appeared at the scene in a formal outfit.

He had a foreigner with blonde hair and blue eyes next to him, which was Morrison.

It was not rare to see foreigners in Harbor City and it could be said that they were everywhere. Besides, since the people at the scene were all descendants of the rich and famous, they were not unfamiliar with foreigners. As such, all of them could even converse with a standard British accent.

However, the appearance of this foreigner elicited gasps from the people whose family were in the finance industry.

“It’s the president of Layman Investment Bank’s Terra regional branch!”

“Why is he here?”

“Has he joined Empire Meet too?”

All kinds of assumptions could be heard as everyone started discussing among themselves while looking at Morrison.

At this moment, Fabian held a glass and tapped on it with a spoon, creating a clear ringing sound.

This was a typical gesture that people from upper class circles would do to tell others to quiet down.

Naturally, Fabian was invulnerable when he did that.

“Everyone, today I want to introduce my friend right here to you all. This is Mr. Morrison.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1377

“I believe that a lot of you are not unfamiliar with Mr. Morrison. However, in order to ensure that everyone here shares the same impression of him, I shall introduce him officially.”

“Mr. Morrison, who is standing next to me now, is the current president of one of the Big Four, Terra regional branch of Layman Investment Bank. His father, Mr. Rogers, is the president of the famous hedge fund, Quantum Fund.”

“Mr. Morrison and Mr. Rogers are very prestigious in the global financial industry.”

“That’s why it’s such good news to have Mr. Morrison here today in Empire Meet. I’m hereby announcing that Mr. Morrison will be taking the role of the vice president of Empire Meet.”

Fabian's words caused a huge stir in the people in front of him.

Some people were ecstatic, mostly the ones in the financial industry.

The club had been able to recruit a big shot like Morrison, so it would make things easy for them to go on about their business in the future.

All things aside, a connection like this was very hard to come by. At the same time, a minority of people were not too happy.

"Mr. Dormer," the casually dressed man approached Mr. Dormer quietly and said gloomily, "Didn't Mr. Atticus say that he'll only take people of Sommar descent as members?"

"And he also named the club as such."

"What is he trying to do here?"

Mr. Dormer smiled softly and said, "That's just an antic to get people to join when the club was first founded. You seriously believe that?"

“Also, I don’t think this is a bad thing.”

“Although Harbor City returned to the sovereignty of Mainland, you can’t underestimate the power of foreigners over here. We’ll benefit from harnessing their influence.”

The two of them talked as Fabian continued with his speech.

“I believe some of the more well informed individuals here already know that there was a terrorist attack in the United States yesterday. When that happened, I was discussing with Mr. Morrison about him joining Empire Meet.”

“Thanks to Mr. Morrison’s support, we now have a chance to make some money from this terrorist attack. I’m giving everyone this chance for free, and it’s up to you whether you utilize it.”

After Fabian said that, he gestured and invited Morrison to the front of the stage.

Morrison came forward. Then, he looked at the members of the club in front of him and said insipidly, “Hello everyone. From now on, I will be the vice president of Empire Meet. I just got here, so I didn’t bring any gifts for you guys. Therefore, this

opportunity will be my present to all of you.”

“I plan to start a temporary funding team who’s main purpose will be to gather funds for us. Then, we’ll use these funds to enter the market in the United States to make a huge profit.”

“On principle, everyone can join, and the entry amount should be no less than 5 million Harbor Dollars. There will be no upper limit.”

After hearing what Fabian and Morrison said, the discussions in the hall grew even louder.

Some of them were very excited and they could not wait to hand in their money immediately.

At the same time, some of them showed signs of doubt and hesitation on their faces. Even so, their eyes lit up.

The people at the scene were all descendants of powerful families. Even though some of them were not very bright, most of them were well educated and they knew how to think independently.

Therefore, they instinctively figured that something was off about this.

“Mr. Atticus, Mr. Morrison, is there any income security for this fund?” Mr. Dormer asked suddenly.

Morrison’s blue eyes looked over and he answered, “If you need profit that comes with income security, don’t you think it’ll be more suitable for you to buy from a wealth management fund? This will be our private fund, so I won’t guarantee any of you anything.”

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“Or perhaps, Atticus and my name will act as a guarantee.”

Fabian said insipidly, “Mr. Dormer, are you worried that I’ll scam you?”

Mr. Dormer was shocked when he heard that. He quickly smiled and said, “I didn’t mean that. Mr. Atticus and Mr. Morrison are leading this fund so I’m sure it’ll be fine.”

“Some people are more cowardly, just like his father. He only knows how to cower in fear and doesn’t dare to take the opportunity that is standing right in front of him. That is why he is destined to run small businesses selling building materials.” A voice could be heard suddenly.

The person who said that was Mr. Hasting, who was just discharged from the hospital after his surgery. He still looked a little pale and weak.

A lot of people were smiling mysteriously when they heard Mr. Hasting roasting Mr. Dormer.

The circle in Harbor City was not that big and something minor could also cause a huge stir.

Mr. Dormer and Mr. Hasting's families were business partners. However, after a failed collaboration, they were no longer as closed as before.

They also could not be in the same room as each other. This was a very public secret now.

When Mr. Dormer heard that, his face fell and he said coldly, "Mr. Hasting, please watch your tongue."

With a scoff, Mr. Hasting turned to Fabian and said, "Mr. Atticus, you and Mr. Morrison are giving everyone a chance to make money, and this is a good thing. The people out there can't even get it even if they beg for it. In case anyone wants to talk bad about me, I, Drew Hasting, will put in 60 million Harbor Dollars first."

Fabian's mood immediately improved.

"Very good, Mr. Hasting. Let's talk privately after the party."

This sentence caused Drew's face to blush slightly from excitement. It seemed that he was cured of all sickness.

Meanwhile, the rest of them were envious and jealous. They were secretly feeling remorseful that they were too late.

Even though they were all members of Empire Meet, they were categorized into different classes. For example, Drew and Mr. Dormer were in the middle class, while the casually dressed man from before was slightly below them.

Of course, Fabian was standing at the top of the pyramid.

Fabian's statement clearly proved that even if Drew lost his money, it would be worth it.

So, after he managed to stir up the emotions of the crowd, everyone started to put in money furiously.

After that, the fund that was founded a little more than ten minutes ago now contained about ten billion Harbor Dollars.

Some of the children of families in the financial industry had more than enough money than they would ever need. Therefore, to prove themselves to Morrison, they invested a few hundred million in one go.

After all, this was a proper investment, so they would not be stingy with their money.

When Fabian and Morrison saw that the fund was increasing, they looked at each other and noticed a satisfied glow in each others' eyes.

“Alright, everyone. If you want to invest, there will be people contacting you soon. You’ll just have to cooperate with them when it happens. Now, I have to announce something else.”

Fabian said once again.

The noisy room quieted down immediately. Everyone was looking at Fabian with wide eyes and waiting for him to tell them the next thing.

“Empire Meet never had such a huge event since it was founded. Back then, I aspired to build a platform for you guys to interact and build your connections. However, I still can’t stop people from coming to provoke us!”

“So now, I plan to gather all of the power in Empire Meet to destroy these who are provoking us!”

“This is to teach a lesson to the people who dare to challenge Empire Meet, but at the same time, we’re also announcing to everyone that Empire Meet is not a place of ecstasy where hedonists come to have fun. Rather, it is a genuine commercial power that can’t be neglected.”

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“Mr. Atticus, who dares to provoke you? You just need to say a word and all of us who will get together and kill him!”

It was still Drew. He proved himself to Fabian just now, so naturally, he thought he was Fabian’s henchman. Thus, he immediately voiced out right after Fabian finished talking.

Coincidentally, Fabian desperately needed this kind of henchman right now.

Fabian was now looking at Drew with a friendlier gaze. He smiled and said, "You're right, Mr. Hasting. However, I need to correct you on one thing. This person is not provoking me, instead, he's provoking Empire Meet. Therefore, not only is he my enemy, but he's also the enemy of everyone in Empire Meet."

When Fabian said this, he looked at the members of the club that included people from backgrounds and families that spanned across all industries.

"Before Empire Meet was founded, I promised that everyone in Empire Meet would be my siblings."

"Moreover, Empire Meet would be our big family. Now that our family has been bullied, what we have to do is to kill that person who dares to provoke us. If anyone doesn't have the courage to do so, then they're not worthy to stay in the club."

This statement was heavy.

It seemed as if he was forcing everyone into a decision. It was either they listened to him or they got the hell out.

At this moment, no one would dare to talk back to Fabian. After all, if they did that, they would be painting a bright red target on themselves.

Besides, no one would dare to cross Fabian in Harbor City anyway.

Fabian showed a satisfied smile after taking in the silence.

“I guess everyone agrees. Now, I’ll contact Conrad Monty. The people here have family businesses that cover all industries. If we work together, then nobody can match us.”

“Mr. Atticus, who’s our enemy?” Someone asked the all important question.

What nonsense. It would be fine if their rival was an ordinary person. However, if Fabian short circuited and decided to bring everyone to fight the four richest families, what would they do?

“I’m sure most of you have heard this name before. His name is Jasper Laine,” Fabian replied insipidly.

Most of them in the room were familiar with Jasper’s name. They felt like they had heard his name before but they could not remember who exactly it was.

However, they could be sure that he was not from Harbor City.

No one in Harbor City would be so insane as to provoke Fabian.

“Do you mean Jasper Laine, the businessman from the mainland who also came up with the market rescue in Harbor City? I heard he owns JW Company and it’s doing pretty well.”

Some of their families would do business in the mainland so they were more well informed and thus asked.

“Yes, Jasper is a Mainlander. His businesses are all in the mainland too, and he has a very good relationship with Henry Law. JW Company is under his name, and it includes industries like entertainment, real estate, electronics, internet, and so on. He could be described as full of potential.”

Fabian narrowed his eyes and said coldly, “That’s why he’s brave and confident enough to provoke Empire Meet.”

“Now, Empire Meet needs all of you to target and shut out Jasper’s subsidiaries. Anyone scared can leave now. I won’t get angry.”

Even though Fabian said that, the members were not idiots.

Firstly, from what they could see, Jasper was from the mainland, so they were not scared of him.

Secondly, Fabian would take the lead and everyone else would follow. Fabian would be the one taking the risk if there were any, why should they be scared?

Lastly, if they ran away now, they would definitely fallout with Jasper. This was a given.

After all, even three years olds would not believe him when he said he would not get angry.

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“Good. Jasper has properties in Harbor City in the form of Advent Entertainment Group. Let’s start with this one.”

“From this day onward, I hope none of you work with the artists from Advent Entertainment Group. This includes endorsements, advertisements, venue rentals, cinema screenings, new song releases, and so on!”

“I want the artists under Jasper to not star in any movies or drama-even if they do, I want there to be no channels that will dare to play them. I want them to not have any

industries looking for them for endorsement and advertising. I also don't want any cinemas to premiere their movies!"

"In other words, I want to completely shut them out!"

Right now, Fabian and Empire Meet had no idea what kind of storm this decision would cause.

Empire Meet was quick to react. The afternoon after the party ended, in just a few hours, some descendants who worked with Advent Entertainment Group immediately executed Fabian's plan.

They ended all collaboration with Advent Entertainment Group.

It was normal for one or two companies to suddenly stop their collaboration.

However, when more than ten companies ended their partnerships at the same time, this sudden change was instantly reported to the president of the company, Ryder.

"What's going on?" Ryder lifted his head and looked at the manager of the marketing department as well as the manager of the operating department with displeasure. Right now, the two managers were both looking fidgety.

“More than ten companies asked to terminate their contracts all of a sudden. Did something happen to our artists, or did something happen to the company?”

“However, these contracts involved five to six of our most popular artists right now. Among them are even the best actors and actresses. It’s impossible for something bad to happen to them at the same time.”

The manager of the operating department sighed and continued, “Also, I’ve asked the artists and they had no idea what happened. They’re just as confused as us.”

Knock knock knock!

The sound of knocking could be heard.

“Come in,” Ryder said in a deep voice.

The person who walked in was from the movie department and was in charge of cinema partnerships. He was drenched in sweat as he said, “Mr. Lawrence, bad news! 70% of the cinemas in Harbor City want to take down the movies our company produced!”

At this moment, Ryder finally realized something was wrong. Someone was targeting Advent Entertainment Group from behind the scenes.

“Damn it, who has the balls to do this? Our company includes 60% of the best artists in Harbor City. If they don’t screen the movies we produce, are they going to play cartoons for the movie goers?” Ryder said angrily.

The person from the cinema department said with a bitter smile, “They took down our movies and played movies produced by other companies. Mr. Lawrence, you have to think of something soon. Our company will get into big trouble if this continues.”

“Why are you in such a hurry?” Ryder growled.

“You guys should go back and comfort everyone while trying to find out who’s targeting us. I’m going to report this to the headquarters.”

The manager of the marketing department said in embarrassment, “Mr. Lawrence, we’re as confused as you are. The reasons these companies gave were the same. They said they have to terminate the advertisement and endorsement contracts due to a tactical readjustment within their companies. However, they were not willing to disclose more.”

“Strange...”

Ryder had many years of experience, and he immediately knew something was not right.

“Mr. Lawrence, normally when a company terminates their advertisement and endorsement contract mid way, it’s because of some huge scandal regarding the artists which might affect their brand image.”

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When Jasper received the call from Ryder, he was busy listening to Sean's complaints.

"Mr. Laine, I am not crying about how poor I am. However, over the past few months of the second half of the year, most of land price in first tier cities rose by about 30%, causing the budget within our real estate company to become very tight."

"We're unable to buy the two pieces of land that we're after and had planned to buy after you took out the funds back then."

"After this period, the headquarters will have to consider our project department. We're not willing to abandon those projects just yet. You have to remember that the real estate industry requires a lot of money to play in. We won't be able to show you any results if we don't have any money."

Jasper took a sip of water and said bluntly, "Stop complaining to me. I know what you're thinking. Also, you're a little too late. The electronics company and the person in charge of Abbylon have already said something similar to me."

"If we're so well off, do you think we'll take out the funds from your company? Soon, some of the funds will be returned to the company, but all of you are saying right now is that you're in a difficult position and that this is hard on you. Money is tight, so who do you think I should help and not help?"

Sean gritted his teeth and said, "Lance looked cheerful all the time but I know he's a bad kid. And Wayne too! Damn it, he's so ugly and has so many tricks up his sleeves."

Jasper waved his hand in exhaustion and said, "Enough. Stop your act. All of the branches are growing right now so they all need monetary support. I know this very well. I'll allocate the funds after we procure more stable funds in the headquarters."

When Sean heard this, he grinned.

At this moment, the phone on the table rang. Jasper lifted his head to tell Sean to go out before picking up the phone.

"This is Jasper Laine."

"Mr. Laine, it's me, Ryder Lawrence."

When Jasper heard that voice, he lifted his eyebrow and smiled. He said, "Don't tell me you're here to cry about being poor too."

Ryder chuckled bitterly and said, "Mr. Laine, I have more important things to report to you."

Jasper stopped being playful and asked seriously, "What's going on?"

Ryder immediately told Jasper what was going on in Advent Entertainment Group in detail.

After he reported this to Jasper, Ryder told Jasper what he thought about this.

"Mr. Laine, from what I can see, someone is sabotaging us. Also, I've never seen such an aggressive attack before."

"I've collected information on some of the companies that terminated their contracts with us at the same time. They come from different industries, ranging from fashion, cosmetics, and sundries. There's also one that's in the aquaculture industry."

"According to my experience, either the other party is someone who has more power than the Harbor City government, or they are gathering a group of people from different industries to target us."

When Jasper learned about the attack on Advent Entertainment Group, he subconsciously figured that Fabian was behind it.

By pairing it with Conrad's text from a while back, he was able to connect the term 'Empire Meet' with the clues he was being given now. Thus, everything immediately made sense.

However, Ryder had no idea about any of this. Therefore, when Ryder deduced a conclusion that was not too far away from the truth, Jasper could not help but feel impressed.

This experienced entertainment manager from Hallavu was more competent than he thought.

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"It's Fabian," Jasper said flatly.

Ryder's voice paused for a while on the other end of the phone.

Obviously, Ryder, who had stayed in Harbor City for so long, could already be considered as someone from the upper class circle. Because of this, he was not unfamiliar with that name.

With a bitter chuckle, Ryder said, "Mr. Laine, if it's him, I'm afraid only you can settle this."

“I know Fabian will do something, but his speed and aggression surprised me. He’s truly a young master from the Atticus family. He’s so different from the ordinary people.”

Ryder could detect the complimentary tone in Jasper’s words, hence, he said sullenly, “Mr. Laine, we’re losing money with every minute that passes. Also, if we don’t take care of this soon, the company’s reputation will be greatly affected.

“You should know that the artists make money from their reputation. If they don’t have any publicity for a very long time, even the most popular artists will lose their jobs. How are you still in the mood to mock him?”

Jasper chuckled and said, ‘Don’t worry. This is not a big deal, yet you’re already so anxious.’”

“Do you already have a solution, Mr. Laine?” Ryder said in shock.

Jasper explained patiently, “According to our long term plan, we will abandon the market in Harbor City sooner or later.

“There’s nothing left in this market anymore anyway. It’s not stagnant yet, but the entertainment industry in Harbor City can’t support so many artists anymore.”

“Because of this, we’ve always been targeting the market in the mainland ever since the company was founded.”

“Total annihilation by Fabian’s hand right now might not be a bad thing. It’s just in time to prompt us and our artists to completely shift over to the mainland market.”

What Jasper said frightened Ryder. He could not help but say, “Mr. Laine, you’re right. With Easy Media helping us, we were able to do our jobs without any obstructions in the mainland for the past year.”

However, I’m afraid we’re still not prepared enough to leave Harbor City completely and enter the mainland.”

“Prepared? It’ll be too late if you need to be fully prepared before you do anything.”

“You have to go in steadily and strike hard when it comes to business. oftentimes, there’s nothing in this world that’s completely risk free.” Jasper shot down Ryder’s hesitation bluntly.

Ryder became more confident after he heard that.

In any case, the tall people would die first if the sky fell. Moreover, Jasper never made a wrong decision before this, and something great would always come from his leadership. For example, not only did they not fail when the company attempted to enter the market in the mainland before this, they even made a lot of money. This made everyone in the company, including Ryder, trust Jasper completely.

“So, Mr. Laine, what should we do now?” Ryder asked.

“There’s only one plan. If the cinemas in Harbor City won’t screen our movies, then we won’t go to them. What’s the use of those tens of millions of viewers in Harbor City? When are we supposed to make money if rely solely on them?”

“We should go to the cinemas in the mainland. Right now, the cinemas in the mainland lack high quality movies so you don’t have to worry about underperforming in terms of ticket sales.”

“If they don’t give us a venue for our productions, then we’ll do it in the mainland.”

“If they won’t endorse our artists, then we’ll go get endorsements from the businesses in the mainland. You can go and read up on the branches of JW. We’re all on the same team so it’s going to be much easier to negotiate these things.”

“The artists in Harbor City are more well known than the ones in the mainland. Moreover, they have more fans too. As long as the price is right, they’ll know what to choose.”

“In short, if Fabian won’t let us do business in Harbor City, then we won’t do it. We’ll do it in the mainland. After all, the mainland has more clientele and can provide us with a brighter future. Yes, Harbor City is Fabian’s territory, but he has no say when it comes to the alternative.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1383

What Jasper said caused Ryder to feel an intense and passionate fire in his chest.

That was right, even though Fabian was very influential in Harbor City, so what? His power was only limited to Harbor City.

Harbor City was too small, and Advent Entertainment Group was not interested in this place anyway.

The mainland was the future.

However, Jasper was not the one who wore the pants in the mainland. If Fabian wanted to put his foot in the mainland, he would be lucky if his foot was not chopped off by someone else, let alone if he wanted to cause trouble for JW.

“I understand, Mr. Laine. I’ll ask my subordinates to get on it now.”

“The change of our target market is a core strategic decision and it’ll affect all operations of the company. You’ve been managing the operations of Advent Entertainment this whole time, so I can only give this to you. You also have to be responsible for this, so I’ll be monitoring your performance.”

When Ryder heard what Jasper said, he answered loudly, “Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. I won’t let you down.”

“Good, call Ted after this and ask Easy Media to cooperate with us on all aspects. Advent Entertainment doesn’t have as many resources as Easy Media in the mainland. So, you guys will need Easy Media to lead you in the early stages.”

“I’ll ask Ted to work with you on this. We can keep the current business in Harbor City for now, but remember, it doesn’t matter what difficulties the people who abandon Advent Entertainment are facing right now, we will not consider working with them again in the future.”

Ryder hesitated when he heard the last sentence.

“Mr. Laine, there are multiple decision makers in a company’s hierarchy. Is it necessary to be so extreme? After all, we’ll still be able to make money if we continue working together in the future.”

“Are you trying to say that I shouldn’t give up on money because I’m frustrated?” Jasper said insipidly.

When Ryder sensed the dissatisfaction in Jasper's voice, he quickly answered, "I'm sorry, Mr. Laine."

"You don't have to apologize. I understand what you're thinking. You're considering this from the perspective of the company."

Jasper sighed.

This was the natural difference in mindset between an experienced manager and a boss.

The two of them would look at a problem from almost completely different angles. He had to remind Ryder about this.

"Ryder, you can never make enough money, nor all the money in the world. Of course, abandoning preconceptions and making sure all parties enjoy mutually profitable partnerships is what a mature company should do."

"However, have you ever considered that a company without moral integrity will never be respected?"

“If people respect you, you become an enterprise. On the contrary, a company is a place where profit is the only decision maker.”

“You’ll only be qualified to fight for the position of the head of the entertainment business department after you understand this problem.”

After Jasper said that, he hung up the phone.

When Ryder heard the beeping of a busy line, he became lost in thought for a very long time.

He thought deeply about what Jasper said. At the same time, he was surprised that Jasper was giving him a chance.

However, he was not the only one eyeing the entertainment company under JW. Ted from Easy Media was also eyeing it hungrily.

Currently, he had the resources of the entertainment industry in Harbor City, so he could defeat Ted easily. However, Advent Entertainment Group was going to enter the market in the mainland, at which point he might have to exchange positions in his relationship with Ted.

One had to know that Ryder and Ted had been longing for the position of the president of the entertainment company for a very long time.

Meanwhile, most of the major departments under JW, aside from the less experienced Lance, who was temporarily replaced by Chad as the president of the electronics equipment manufacturing company, already had individuals occupying their highest positions.

All except for the entertainment company.

Ryder suppressed the excitement in his heart and picked up the phone again. He said in a deep and steady voice, "Tell all of the people who are ranked manager and above to come to a meeting immediately."

Nauritus City in Southeast Province.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1384

After Jasper hung up the phone, he had an unpleasant look on his face.

He was not scared of Fabian shutting out Advent Entertainment. After all, the market in the mainland was so big that Advent Entertainment would fit in with no problems.

However, this could not change the fact that Fabian had forced him to exit the entertainment market in Harbor City while he was too helpless to stop him.

At this moment, someone pushed the office door open. No one in the company dared to enter Jasper's office without knocking.

Even Wendy would not do that because she placed a lot of importance on maintaining Jasper's authority and prestige in the company. Therefore, she would always knock before she entered the office, as was the established standards.

From this, one could tell that the person who did this must be someone that did not belong to the company.

After Henry entered the office, he sat opposite Jasper and crossed his legs. Then, he chuckled and said, "Fabian took action against you, huh?"

"You heard about it?" Jasper asked.

"Damn, I'm the top young master in Harbor City, okay? This is such a big piece of news which I only just heard about. I came to you the moment I understood what's going on."

“So what are you going to do? Are you going to go back to Harbor City to drag that son of a b*tch out to parade down the streets?” Henry said with excitement on his face.

“Go back?” Jasper chuckled coldly. “There’s another way to hurt him more, so why should we do so much?”

“Fabian only reacted so strongly because we hurt him too much yesterday. So, it’s up to him if he wants to use all of his tricks on us. However, we’re still the ones in charge when it comes to the stock market.”

Jasper had no expression on his face. Then, he grabbed his phone and called Jake.

After a short while, the call went through.

“Once the trading commences in the afternoon, watch Fabian’s funds closely and destroy them.”

Jake shuddered and answered immediately, “I understand, Mr. Laine.”

After Jasper hung up the phone, he grinned at Henry and said, “See, it’s that easy.”

Henry gave Jasper a thumbs up. "Very aggressive."

Throughout that day, Advent Entertainment Group was shut out by every establishment in Harbor City because of someone with bad intentions. This piece of news spread all over Harbor City like it had sprouted wings. This was the first time this had happened In Harbor City. After all, this was a place where the entertainment industry was booming.

Back then, shutouts would only happen to one specific artist.

However, this time Fabian was shutting the entire company out. Moreover, he was targeting Advent Entertainment Group, who was arguably the strongest figure in Harbor City's entertainment industry.

A lot of people were impressed by what Fabian was doing while all this commotion was going on.

Things were fine while he did not move, but the second he did, he caused an uproar.

"Mr. Atticus is really something else. A Mainlander is still too inexperienced to fight with Mr. Atticus."

This was what a lot of the people in the industry thought.

The sun set and it was soon nighttime in Harbor City. Meanwhile, it was the next morning in the United States. The trading had commenced.

“The Dow Jones Index is still falling drastically after the trading commenced!”

Fabian’s stock trader howled one minute after the trading commenced.

“Mr. Atticus, Jasper is targeting us!”

Fabian’s face turned cold and he said, “Hold on. We got 1.3 billion US Dollars from the fundraising yesterday, so it’ll be enough for us to fight back.”

“We can’t, Mr. Atticus. Jasper is like a lunatic! He’s coming in strong!”

“Gosh, Mr. Atticus, Jasper is taking the lead to attack us. A lot of the organizations are after our position. They want to devour us!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1385

The Dow Jones Index currently looked like a horrifying scene from a battlefield.

Under the influence of the market, the short selling party was making triumphant progress. However, the number of funds held would also make a difference on a battlefield like this.

Even though Fabian had tried everything to hide his position, he could not stop Jasper because Jasper had already thoroughly hunted him down.

The two parties maintained this intricate dance for a very long time. Both sides already understood each other inside and out.

Jasper soon led the attack as he began targeting all of Fabian's positions.

Jasper's attack left no means of escape, as Fabian's disguise was ripped off and he was left completely exposed.

In that moment, the eyes of all the hungry establishments that were busy looking for a free meal lit up.

They did not expect such a big fish to be hiding in such a chaotic battlefield.

To those agencies, they did not care if you were Fabian Atticus or Atticus Finch, as long as there was profit and returns, they would take you down even if Winston Benett himself was standing in front of them.

Which one of the bosses or stakeholders from those agencies was not a big shot that were in the top 500 of the world when it came to power?

Fabian was mighty in Harbor City and his family was powerful indeed.

However, if he was thrown into the Nasdaq's battlefield, the Atticus family was just a squire from a small town. It would be impossible to make those establishments halt their attack.

Thus, a smokeless financial massacre immediately skipped the mild prelude and leaped into the most exciting bit in which people suffered terrible financial losses.

They were competing to find out who had among them had the most money and most power.

"Mr. Atticus, this is too much, We can't hold on any longer!"

“Mr. Atticus, we have to come up with a plan soon! If Jasper was the only one hitting us, we might have been able to hold out, but the problem is that the entire market trend is plunging too violently.”

“Jasper keeps attacking us with such great fanfare and he has attracted at least six other organizations to encircle us. We won’t be able to hold on!”

“Mr. Atticus, the warning line of the position funds continues to fall below the critical value. If this continues, our funds won’t be able to take it!”

Fabian felt his head aching when he heard the panicked exclams of his subordinates.

“Alright, quiet! Shut up!”

Fabian roared, causing the noisy room to fall into an eerie silence.

What was left was muffled and rapid breathing.

“How much funds do we have left now?” Fabian asked through gritted teeth.

“About 1 billion US Dollars.” One of Fabian’s subordinates reported carefully.

“How long has it been since trading commenced? It’s only been 10 minutes and you lost 300 million US Dollars?” Fabian bellowed.

The subordinate that answered him just now did not dare to speak anymore.

At this moment, another subordinate said in a low voice, “Mr. Atticus, you can’t blame us. Jasper is too despicable. He purposely does this with great fanfare hoping to attract those organizations scrounging for a free meal to come attack us.”

“Atticus, let’s back away a little.”

At this moment, Morrison stood up from his desk. His expression was stern.

“As things stand, at least 6 agencies looking for free meals all over the world are taking aim at us. Their combined funds exceed 6 billion US Dollars. If this continues, all of our money will be gone in under 30 minutes unless we back away.”

“Damn it!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1386

Fabian was livid as he kicked the wooden sofa by his side.

The heavy and sturdy sofa did not budge. However, Fabian's face turned red before it went dark.

His toes hit the hard wood. Anyone would know how that would feel.

Fabian was in so much pain he could not speak. When Morrison saw this, he shook his head. He knew Fabian must have been on the verge of an emotional breakdown.

So, he spoke for Fabian, "Forgo the unimportant positions."

One of the subordinates said carefully, "Mr. Morrison, we already let go three positions in a row yesterday, so we are only holding the bigger positions now."

"Start letting go of the ones with the least amount of invested funds!" Morrison replied impatiently.

“The more positions we hold on to, the more funds we will need to cover up and the more pressure we’ll be under. If we spend everything, how are we going to make a comeback in the future?”

The group of elite stock traders did not dare to speak as they looked at Fabian. Fabian was their boss, so if he did not say anything, how would they dare to do anything?

When Morrison noticed this, he frowned slightly as a hint of displeasure flashed across his eyes.

“Atticus, we have to make a decision now.”

Morrison’s words forced Fabian to endure the pain in his toes and the anger in his heart.

“Do it then. Forgo the seven positions with the least amount of invested funds,” Fabian said helplessly.

His statement was filled with humiliation and dissatisfaction.

Everyone around him lowered their heads toward Fabian ever since Fabian finished his education and entered society. When had someone else ever forced his head down and

made him suffer grievances before this? This person was even a Mainlander who came from an ordinary family.

Fabian could not bear this at all.

However, the news he was about to receive would soon cause him to break down.

“Mr. Atticus, the plan to target Advent Entertainment Group is not going too well.”

Conrad came back inside and reported to Fabian with no expression on his face.

As Fabian’s assistant, even though Conrad did not hold any substantial position in Empire Meet, everyone knew Conrad was one of Fabian’s dogs.

Therefore, Conrad was tasked to coordinate and lead everyone in Empire Meet in targeting Advent Entertainment.

Fabian’s face turned icy when he heard this. He said in a deep voice, “How so? Jasper is not in Harbor City, and even if he was, he wouldn’t have the power to fight Empire Meet. How can there be any obstacles to this unchangeable fact? Did the Laws do something?”

Aside from the Laws helping Jasper, Fabian could not think of any other reason for this fight between the two widely disproportionate powers to go wrong.

Conrad shook his head and said, “They didn’t do anything. However, Advent Entertainment made some strategic changes.”

“They are going to give up on all terminated contracts and they did not demand insistently about it. Also, they suddenly signed a series of contracts on endorsement, cinema, distribution, screening, and advertisement with some companies from the mainland today.”

Conrad paused after saying that. When he saw Fabian’s expression turning stagnant, he continued, “They want to leave the market in Harbor City and move to the mainland...”

“Mr. Atticus, please excuse my bluntness. This whole time, Jasper has focused his entertainment business on the mainland. You can see this when he purchased and restructured Advent Entertainment Group before also purchasing Easy Media from Swallow Capital.”

“I think our coercion this time might be playing right into Jasper’s hand. He’s able to use this chance to wipe out all remaining ideas of staying in Harbor City that the management and the artists from Advent Entertainment Group previously held. This way, they’ll be forced to change their mind and start focusing on the mainland.”

“If not for us, he would have needed to convince the management and artist to leave Harbor City, but now, I think he might even thank us.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1387

Smash!

The expensive coffee mug was thrown on the floor, shattering into pieces.

The porcelain pieces and coffee flew everywhere. The strong scent of coffee wafted across the room as this cup of kopi luwak that had cost at least 50 US Dollars was gone just like that.

No one knew how many times Fabian had lost his cool.

“I didn’t expect this at all.”

“When we were targeting Jasper’s conglomerate back then, I thought he was nothing special. I thought he was just good at problem-solving.”

“However, he’s starting to reel back his net now! Hahaha..! This kid made me suffer several serious injuries before. Good. Very good!”

Conrad spoke insipidly, as if he did not see Fabian’s face that was gradually turning sinister and maniacal, “Mr. Atticus, what should we do now? Should we keep going or give up? Everyone’s waiting for you.”

“Continue, of course. Why should we give up?” Fabian said sinisterly.

“So what if Jasper shifts his entertainment business from Harbor City to the mainland? Advent Entertainment Group is still rooted in Harbor City.”

“The artists’ business and resources are all concentrated in Harbor City. Can he move the entire Advent Entertainment in just one night?”

“Even if he moves his business away, can he shift the resources he has based in Harbor City away?”

Fabian’s gaze was malicious. He turned his head to say to Conrad, “Not only are we continuing, but we also have to go in with more force. Isn’t Advent Entertainment Group moving away? Alright then, spread the news!”

“Create all kinds of negative news. I want Advent Entertainment Group to become rats that everyone in Harbor City despises!”

“If their reputation is ruined, people in the mainland will think twice before working with them even if they shifted over there.”

“In short, I’m not scared of paying the price. I just want Jasper to hurt!”

Conrad could hear his ears ring when he heard Fabian saying that he would hurt Jasper even at the cost of his own interest.

“I understand. I’ll get on with it now.”

After Conrad left, Fabian sat on the sofa with a gloomy expression on his face. He settled down from his initial rage and said in a deep voice, “How can Jasper react so quickly?”

At this moment, Morrison walked over.

“Atticus, I’m going back to the United States tonight.”

Fabian lifted his head and looked at Morrison with a frown. "But we need you here."

Morrison said flatly, "You'll be able to handle this. I have to go back. On one hand, I need to report back to the investment bank's headquarters. On the other hand, I need to see my father and talk to him."

"About Jasper?" Fabian asked suddenly.

Morrison looked at Fabian with a half smile on his face. Then, he said calmly, "Atticus, will you tell your elders about this?"

Fabian's face fell.

Naturally, he would not complain about this to his family. He was not those useless second generations. This was a private matter between him and Jasper. If he went back and asked for help, it would be no different than admitting defeat.

"Atticus..."

Morrison patted Fabian's shoulder and said, "From my father's perspective, Jasper is a rather interesting young man whom I'll be able to train my skills with. That's all..."

“I think your family feels the same way too.”

After Morrison said that, he noticed Fabian staying silent, so he changed the topic, “However, I’ll still notify you whenever I see fit. I don’t want to ask my father for help now either. I think that would be no different from admitting defeat to Jasper.”

“I was too impulsive,” Fabian said flatly.

As a person that was respected by all of the first generation in Harbor City, Fabian was powerful in his own way. He hid his true feelings swiftly and admitted his mistakes magnanimously.

“However, I can give you a piece of advice.”

Morrison narrowed his eyes slightly and hid the cruel glint in his eyes.

“You haven’t utilized the advantage you have in Harbor City. We already know that it’s pointless to fight someone like Jasper from a business perspective. At the very least, we know it’s less than ideal.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1388

“Why don’t you use all of your connections and power to force Jasper’s business in Harbor City to close down?”

Fabian lifted his brow when he heard that.

He was a very smart man. If not, he would not be able to attack a formidable character like Kayden back then. Therefore, when Morrison reminded him of this now, he immediately understood.

“You mean...”

“Atticus, you know what I mean. Alright, I have to go now. Damn, I’ll have to get tortured with the long hours in the air and that damned jet lag. I always feel so horrible for a few days after. I hope the next time we meet it will be at a celebratory party.”

After Morrison left, Fabian sat in his room for a very long time.

By midnight, he had already made numerous calls.

“Hello, Mr. Ryder Lawrence, we’re agents from the Commercial Crime Bureau. We received a report and we also have concrete evidence proving that your company has committed huge business fraud. Furthermore, you’re involved in tax evasion.”

“Because of this, we have to sequester your company now and take away your computers for investigation. Please cooperate with us.”

Ryder looked angrily at the men in suits with serious expressions on their faces. He said coldly, “Let me see your warrant. ”

The agent who spoke just now took out the document immediately before handing it to Ryder.

Ryder glanced at it and he knew immediately that this document was genuine.

“What a good strategy.”

Ryder threw the document back at the agents after chuckling coldly.

“Mr. Ryder Lawrence, please get up. We have to take your computer away too,” the agent said strictly as per the rules.

Ryder got up with no expression and did not attempt to stop them.

He knew these agents were just carrying out orders. Or perhaps, they had no idea what the truth was.

It was meaningless to talk to these people.

However, Ryder was surprised by Fabian's power in Harbor City. Fabian was able to create so much falsify evidence to make it seem that he had committed a crime. Fabian was even able to make the government officials say something as incriminating as 'concrete evidence'.

It seemed that there were some bad apples in Advent Entertainment Group, and this was a simultaneous attack from both inside and outside the company.

When the agent saw Ryder cooperating, he let out a sigh of relief. Then, he waved his hand and asked his subordinates to dismantle the CPU from Ryder's computer.

After this, the agents grabbed the CPU and left immediately.

When Ryder came out of his office, he saw that the entire company was a mess.

The employees had been forced to one side and the agents from the Commercial Crime Bureau were everywhere. Some of them were dismantling the computers while some of them were questioning the employees.

When Ryder saw this, the corner of his eyes twitched. He called a manager over and told him, "Tell everyone to cooperate with the agents and please trust the company."

"The company never did anything illegal. This groundless claims is just a trick that can't be brought to the court. This matter will resolve itself after a few days."

The manager nodded like a chick eating grain and did not dare to say anything else. After that, he quickly left to spread the message.

Soon, Jasper heard about the incident. He hung up the phone after he said 'okay'.

Ryder understood what he meant, and he knew what to do.

After he hung up, Jasper turned his head and spoke to Jake, who was on a video call with him.

"Expose all of Fabian's heavy stocks."

“Also, take out 500 million US Dollars. I’ll trade it myself.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1389

Right now, the last thing Jasper lacked was money.

The mighty Mr. Laine, who was scared to live in poverty again, had never experienced this feeling for a very long time.

Even as he was making more and more money, his industries were rapidly expanded at the same time.

It was just like when normal people could not understand how those people with hundreds of millions of assets would be able to finish spending their money. However, what they did not know was that the people with hundreds of millions of assets would spend or invest millions of dollars in one go.

Right now, Jasper was easily using a hundred million as his unit of measure.

500 million US Dollars was transferred to his account a minute after he gave his order.

After pulling out of Nasdaq, Jasper set his eyes on international futures.

As international futures were traded, rubber had become an important manufacturing good. Therefore, it naturally became one of the traded goods.

Meanwhile, the Atticus Family was one of the kings of rubber in the Golden Peninsula.

In the context of globalization, the crash of the stock market in the United States influenced the normal operations of the other financial systems too.

For example, the futures market has been greatly disturbed.

The crash over these past few days caused the price of rubber futures to break the barrier of 1200 US Dollars.

Moreover, according to market trends, it could be clearly seen that the Atticus family, whose wealth depended on their rubber industry, had been desperately investing money in an attempt to raise the price of rubber futures.

Jasper did not hesitate. He immediately put 200 million US Dollars into the market and created a short-selling order.

The lukewarm rubber futures started to plummet drastically like a flaming barrel of gasoline after the tiger that was Jasper entered the market.

In every trading situation that followed the market's natural laws, there would always be dealers present who controlled the market regardless of it was rising or falling.

Today, Jasper was the dealer.

A short sale of 200 million US Dollars immediately made the price of rubber futures plunge.

The unit price of 1200 US Dollars fell to 1150 US Dollars within a few seconds.

When Jasper saw this, he injected another 100 million US Dollars into the market.

The price dropped to 1120 US Dollars.

This scene was directly transmitted to the computers of the countless buyers and sellers of rubber futures around the world.

Hence, countless people began to sell their rubber futures in horror.

They believed that rubber futures were likely to be buried along with the United States stock market. This violent decline caused many people to liquidate their positions.

Similarly, the Atticus family also heard this piece of news.

As one of the main producers of rubber in the world, the Atticus family's sensitivity to the price of rubber futures was well beyond what one could imagine.

Fabian's phone rang five minutes after Fabian entered the market.

"Father..."

Fabian held his phone and greeted solemnly.

"It seems that someone is attacking the rubber futures."

A voice that sounded as if it had been through the mill came from the other end of the line.

Fabian lifted his eyebrows.

“Is it Jasper?”

Fabian’s father, Sawyer Atticus, said, “You should back off.”

Even though Sawyer did not directly answer Fabian’s question, he had implicitly given him an answer. Fabian was furious after he heard that. He snapped, “Who does Jasper think he is? How can he ask the Atticus family to bow down to him?”

“You fool!”

Sawyer growled.

“Who is Jasper anyway? How can he have the power to shift the price of futures all over the world?”

“However, you have to know what the situation is right now. Something unexpected happened in the United States, and since yesterday, it has caused the United States to lose trillions of dollars.”

“Any small power would be able to cause a frantic dumping storm anywhere in this never-before-seen crash.”

“Just now, Jasper put in 300 million US Dollars, but do you know how many sell orders appeared after that? Tens of billions!”

“300 million moved the lever of tens of billions. This has never happened before. However, in this special situation, no one can stop the destruction of confidence toward the market. Once the plunge of the rubber futures causes an avalanche, who’s going to bear our losses?”

Fabian said through gritted teeth, “Father, I’m unconvinced.”

“You’re too irritable. You can’t be irritable if you want to do something big,” Sawyer said.

“You should calm down and think of another plan. I’ve asked someone to stabilize the price of the rubber futures. This was decided by the elders of the family. You have to follow it.”

Even though Fabian was angry and humiliated, his father had already given the order, so it would be meaningless if he continued to resist.

“I understand.”

Fabian took a deep breath and said.

“You should talk to Jasper personally about this.”

After Sawyer said that, he hung up the phone.

Fabian felt humiliated as he gripped his new phone tightly.

Jasper slapped him across the face, yet he still needed to beg the man for peace?

However, the will of a family was above everything else, and this rule was no different within the Atticus family. Fabian suppressed the anger in his chest and called the number that had contacted him back then.

Soon, the call went through.

“Jasper, our issues are between us. Aren’t you scared of infuriating the Atticus family by starting an attack on my family?”

Before Jasper could say anything, Fabian asked him coldly.

However, a chuckle was soon heard from the other end of the line.

Then... Beep beep beep.

Fabian growled when he looked at the call that had been hung up in disbelief.

Outside, Fabian’s stock traders heard Fabian’s growls and sounds of things smashing coming from inside the room. They did not even dare to breathe too loudly.

Back then, Mr. Atticus would have a neutral expression on his face no matter what happened. However, over these few days, he was like a mad dog with rabies. He would blow up whenever something did not go his way.

No one would dare to poke this hornet’s nest at this critical moment.

‘Just smash it. You’ll be fine after you smash something, you have money to pay back for it anyway.’

Even though Fabian wanted to jump into the phone and skin Jasper alive, after he vented, he still called Jasper again while feeling extremely aggrieved.

“Don’t hang up!”

This time, Fabian was smart. He did not say any meaningless threats to Jasper.

“I’ll stop all activities targeting Advent Entertainment Group, so you should stop too.”

Jasper said insipidly, “Mr. Atticus, you’re so calculative. All of Advent Entertainment Group’s prestige was lost and news about the investigation also broke out. Do you think you can end it with just one word?”

Fabian gritted his teeth and said, “What do you want?”

Jasper replied calmly, “Is this how you sue for peace?”

Crack.

That was the sound of a pen breaking after Fabian clenched it too hard.

“The Atticus family will raise the price of the rubber futures to 1400 US Dollars, and you will be able to earn at least 100 million US Dollars. Will that be enough?”

“1600,” Jasper answered insipidly.

“Jasper, don’t be too greedy!” Fabian roared.

Beep beep beep...

Fabian was dazzled once again when Jasper hung up on him. He only registered what had happened more than ten seconds later. He could not control himself from roaring hysterically and then, a loud smash could be heard.

This new phone could not escape its fate as it was thrown against the wall and smashed into pieces.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1390

The Atticus family kept their promise.

Half an hour after Jasper hung up on Fabian, a large sum of money suddenly appeared. Not only did it stabilize the plummeting rubber futures price, but the good news that accompanied the injection was also announced. With this, the rubber futures price started to rise slowly.

At this moment, Jasper was cunningly earning more money from this.

Hence, Jasper directly injected 200 million US Dollars. After Jasper put in the 200 million US Dollars to buy into the market, the huge amount of inflowing funds noticeably paused.

It seemed to be shocked by Jasper's shamelessness. However, soon enough, this fund ignored the greedy Jasper and started executing its own plan.

The rubber futures price stabilized at 1600 US Dollars very soon.

In conclusion, Jasper sold 300 million US Dollars when it was at 1200 US Dollars. Then, when the rubber futures price dropped to 1030 US Dollars, he closed the position. The price was subsequently increased from 1030 US Dollars to 1600 US Dollars.

This was the second time Jasper closed the position and this time, he completely withdrew from the market.

Even though the Atticus family was scared that Jasper would do something at this critical moment and crash the price of the rubber futures, there was still a limit to everything.

Furthermore, Jasper was not only touching the profits of the Atticus family, he was also touching the general market of the rubber futures around the world. If he went overboard, he was worried that it would backfire. Hence, he decided to stop before he went too far.

His idea of 'too far' took the form 370 million US Dollars in profit.

Even though he was happy, Jasper knew he could only do this seemingly impossible feat during this special occasion.

Normally, this fund of 500 million US Dollars would only cause a small rise in the rubber futures prices at most, and not have any huge influence.

Moreover, the Atticus family would be able to kill him with just a flick of their wrist.

When Jasper transferred the funds from the international futures market to the account Jake was controlling, Jake was dumbfounded.

“Mr. Laine, what did you do just now?”

Even though Jake was Jasper’s subordinate, he knew it was inappropriate to talk to the boss like this, but he could not help himself.

How long had it been since they withdrew the 500 million US Dollars?

It was less than 2 hours and it had transformed into 870 million US Dollars.

Jake did not think that Jasper had sourced some financing. Back then when Jasper asked Jake to withdraw the money, he had said he would trade himself.

“I took a spin in the futures market,” Jasper said with a grin.

“What a badass.”

Jake was genuinely impressed.

Even if the account Jake controlled held a large number of Dow Jones index short-selling orders and huge profits were being generated with every passing minute, Jake knew none of it was by his hand.

He was just executing Jasper's orders.

Jasper had started this portfolio a few months ago.

In other words, Jake only needed a pair of ears and a pair of hands to do his work.

However, after Jasper completed the portfolio comprising of funds from the Dow Jones Index, he made a 70% profit after he went to take a spin in the futures market for 2 hours with just 500 million in capital. No one would believe the speed at which Jasper made money even if he were to say it aloud.

Jasper received Ryder's call after talking to Jake for a while.

"Mr. Laine, we received an anonymous letter, and the evidence inside was enough to prove that we're innocent. Also, it named the traitors who faked the false evidence,

“We presented the concrete evidence and handed the list of those people to the agents from the Commercial Crime Bureau. They lifted the sequester order of our company and also returned the equipment they took away just now.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1391

Ryder sounded very excited over the phone.

Jasper said lightly, "That's good."

"The company will operate as usual. Just do whatever you need to do and comfort the employees so that they will not be affected by this incident. Similar things will not happen again in the future."

After hearing what Jasper said, Ryder asked hesitantly, "Mr. Laine, have you reached an agreement with the Atticus family?"

"Well, an agreement was reached, but the most important thing is to hurt them elsewhere so that they will be willing to come to the table and have a proper discussion."

Jasper's words sounded nonchalant, but Ryder could detect the shocking news hidden behind them.

Mr. Laine had a way to make the Atticus family bow down to him and he could even force them to come to the negotiation table?

One had to understand that the Atticus family was a properly established wealthy family in Harbor City. Although they were not one of the four rich families, everyone in Harbor City knew that they were not inferior to any of the four families.

While suppressing the shock that surged in his heart, Ryder's attitude subconsciously became more respectful.

"Mr. Laine, I'm going back to work. Don't worry, there will be no internal problems within the company."

Jasper laughed and said, "I can solve the external factors, but the internal is your responsibility, so this is your job. I'll leave them to you."

"Yes, Mr. Laine."

As soon as Jasper put down the phone, Henry rushed over.

"Just now my dad and I were on the phone, and he was called away suddenly. It seems that something major has happened. He asked me to tell you to watch the international news."

Henry showed a rare solemn expression. Jasper did not dilly-dally when he saw this, and he immediately turned on the television before switching to the United States live news channel connected via satellite.

A thin old man with gray hair appeared on the television screen.

He was standing on the podium while giving a speech. Jasper could recognize the old man without looking at the subtitles below.

Everyone who was involved in economics and finance around the world would know him.

Greenspaner.

The world's top economist and one of the founders of modern macroeconomics.

Compared to his academic title, the most terrifying thing about him was his job.

He was the economic czar, and the chair of the United States Federal Reserve.

Jasper, who was reborn, knew that the thin and humble old man in front of him would remain as the chair of the Federal Reserve System until 2006. He was the longest-serving chair of the Federal Reserve in the history of the United States, maintaining his position through six different presidencies.

It could be said that this thin old man had established the dominance of the dollar and set the stage for dollar such that it could not be challenged for at least the next 50 years.

Similarly, he was also the core builder of the United States economic empire.

He was the uncrowned king of the economic field.

At this moment, Greenspaner, who represented the economic hegemony of the United States, stepped up to give a public speech. The United States must have decided on a series of economic policies.

It was not unrealistic to say that all of the hot money from institutions scattered throughout the world were paying attention to this public address at the same time.

However, Greenspaner's expression looked solemn and grim.

“After a joint meeting, we have reached a consensus. We can’t just sit by and watch the United States’ accumulated wealth over the years evaporate into thin air.”

“Any person or institution that attempts to short the United States stock market in this trying time will be viewed as an attempt to provoke us.”

“And we will deliver the most painful counterattack to any such provocations!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1392

Jasper was very thankful.

Fortunately, Henry came in just in time to remind him of this. It allowed him to avoid a long series of platitudes, and capture only the important information.

“The United States is going to do a market rescue?”

Henry turned his head and asked Jasper.

When it came to economics, Henry knew that he would not be as good as even a single hair on Jasper's head even if a hundred of him were stacked together, so he did not even think about it before asking the question.

"This is a very strong indication, and he seemed firm about it."

Jasper narrowed his eyes and looked serious.

He knew that the United States officials would surely do a market rescue.

However, his memories regarding how and when the United States did this in the past life were a little vague. So what Greenspaner was about to say next would be very important.

Therefore, "Let's wait and see, he should announce the plans soon."

Sure enough, Greenspaner did not let Jasper and Henry wait too long before he directly announced a series of plans.

The tax relief and fee preferential policies to stimulate physical enterprises had little to do with Jasper. Therefore, he did not pay much attention to it. What really got Jasper's attention were the following two actions.

“We will improve the United States stock market’s review standards and requirements for foreign personnel and institutions entering the market.”

“Also, we’ll comprehensively reduce the benchmark lending rate and the statutory reserve requirement ratio by 0.3 basis points each.”

Although Henry did not know much about macroeconomics, he was aware of the importance of these two policies in the current situation.

“What is that old man saying?”

Henry maintained the good tradition of asking questions whenever he did not understand something. He immediately turned his head and stared at Jasper before asking.

Seeing that Greenspaner was now talking about some irrelevant policies whereby it seemed that there was nothing important, Jasper let out a sigh of relief as well.

“It’s ok, it’s not as aggressive as expected.”

After he said that, Jasper turned to explain to Henry when he saw that Henry appeared worried.

“The literal meaning is easy to understand. The first is to start controlling the amount of foreign capital entering the United States stock market. This was inevitable. Although the methods are rather extreme, it is understandable to use extraordinary methods in such extraordinary times.”

“As for the second one, it is to reduce loan and deposit interest, particularly the latter. This is to release social deposits. When people find that there is no nothing to be gained by holding money in the banks, they will naturally seek new investment channels. The stock market will be their best choice.”

“However, it’s a bit ruthless to reduce 0.5 basis points in just one go.”

Jasper remembered that in his previous life, the reason why this incident did not have a significant impact on the United States’ economy was that a series of rescue plans were very stable and timely.

However, they still caused some ripples.

For example, the United States Federal Reserve mistakenly underestimated the impact of this incident on the United States economy in the beginning, so the storm lasted nearly a week before they came up with a more effective rescue plan.

They then used the national reserves to enter the market.

However, Jasper had already forgotten the specific amount they used and what channeled they had entered from.

It seemed that this life was no different.

“Will it affect us?” Henry was most concerned about this.

“For sure...”

Jasper’s answer made Henry’s face fall suddenly.

“But it’s not that serious. It’ll just make us a little less efficient. We’ll know for sure when trading commences tomorrow.” Jasper comforted Henry.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1393

The sky became bright again. By then, Jasper had not rested his eyes for nearly 70 hours after staying up for two consecutive nights.

After sending Henry away, Jasper could not stand it anymore. Hence, he got 11p and went to sleep in the lounge.

Wendy dropped by halfway, but when she saw Jasper asleep, she immediately walked out quietly. Then, she told the people outside to not disturb Jasper's rest no matter who showed up.

While Jasper was sleeping, there was another person who had not closed his eyes for a few days but still could not sleep.

"Damn, that's it?"

Fabian looked malicious. He was staring angrily at the television that had ended the live report.

Why did he endure the torment over the past few days? He was holding on until the United States' market rescue plan was announced.

However, the market rescue plan was announced, but it was not as great as he expected. At this moment, he was a little restless.

It might have been because he had not slept for several days, but as things stood, Fabian had become very irritable, especially now that the market was not looking good. This made him even more irritable.

After contemplating for a while, Fabian suppressed his anxiety and called his father, Sawyer.

“Father, what’s going on in the United States? Do you have any updates?” Fabian asked straightaway.

“Hasn’t the rescue plan been announced?” Sawyer asked lightly.

“But what’s the use of such strength?” Fabian asked, dissatisfied.

“The officials have their reasons for doing things. They have to look at the big picture when making their decisions. It is impossible to make a plan that caters just to you, understand?” Sawyer said in a deep voice.

Fabian was still a little unwilling. He said, “But this kind of rescue plan will only serve to alleviate the current situation at best. It can’t do much.”

“You have to know that no matter how strong the United States is, it is impossible for them to fight the whole world. There is a basic rule to follow when it comes to exchanges between countries, and the same goes for exchanges between two individuals.”

“Raising the entry barrier for foreign investment is already a very risky move. For example, it is likely to cause a series of diplomatic backlashes... You don't need to know much about these things. In short, such a plan is just right for this current situation.”

Fabian gritted his teeth. His face was dark.

In this silence, Sawyer suddenly asked, “How much have you lost in your fight with Jasper?”

Fabian was surprised, and said hurriedly, “N-not much...”

“When was the last time you answered my question in such a panic?” Sawyer asked coldly.

Fabian sighed and replied honestly. “Currently, it is estimated to be about 1.2 billion US Dollars. This is only my personal loss.”

Sawyer was also breathing heavily at this moment. "You've disappointed me."

After a long time, Sawyer's voice could be heard.

"Father, I'm not to blame. I was about to destroy Jasper completely, but God helped him. Honestly, I was wondering if Jasper was colluding with those terrorists to plan this!" Fabian said in anger.

"You fool!" Sawyer yelled.

"If you lose, you lose. Is it meaningful to hunt around for reasons? Can it change the fact that you lost?"

Fabian refused to accept this, "I haven't lost yet! I'm only at a disadvantage for the time being!"

"Then do what you think you should do. Don't cry to me like a kid who lost a fight. The Atticus family doesn't need such a disappointing descendant," Sawyer said coldly.

Fabian gritted his teeth and asked coldly, "Any means?"

“In this world, the legality of your means will always be dictated by the winner.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1394

In the dim study, Conrad stood quietly at his desk. Fabian sat across from him and said nothing.

Fabian had been silent throughout the more than ten minutes since Conrad was called into the office.

There were several documents in front of him. Fabian’s gaze was focused on the documents as if he was making a major decision. His face changed with uncertainty from time to time.

“Look at this.”

Fabian finally broke the silence and threw a document toward Conrad.

Conrad took the document and looked at it, and his face changed.

Surprisingly, this document contained the breakdown of losses Fabian's funds suffered over the past few days.

Conrad had long known of Fabian's losses, but when he looked at the shocking numbers in black and white, he could not help but feel shocked.

"The total invested capital is 3.2 billion US Dollars. The current holdings are 1.1 billion US Dollars, and the loss is 2.1 billion US Dollars. It is estimated that over the next three days, we will continue to lose 700 million US Dollars, with the total loss ratio predicted to be as high as 90%."

This scalp-numbing information was conveyed in just a few sentences.

"What you're looking at is the situation I'm in."

Fabian looked up at Conrad blankly and continued, "In other words, if we hadn't raised funds from the members of Empire Meet before, we would be broke by now."

"The previous investment of more than one billion US Dollars and more than 10 billion Harbor Dollars are all gone."

After taking a deep breath, Conrad said, “Mr. Atticus, after the release of the first phase of the market rescue in the US, a lot of members have already asked about the profitability of the funds.”

“Make a report to them and say that the current expected loss is 10%,” Fabian said with no expression on his face.

Conrad said with a frown, “Mr. Atticus, it’s easy to make a fake report, but I’m afraid it won’t withstand an investigation.”

Indeed, the members of Empire Meet were not fools, and they all had channels and resources backing them up.

At present, the funds had been invested, and it would be fine if they did not release a statement yet, but once they did, these members could verify the authenticity after launching a small investigation.

After all, the market transaction data was there, and no one could steal it or fake it.

“I will promise them 30% of the final profit. As for the authenticity, does it matter?” Fabian sneered and said confidently.

Conrad shrugged upon hearing this.

Indeed, what if someone realized that Fabian was faking it?

As long as Fabian was shameless, no one would dare to risk their lives to expose him. Fabian was too powerful. At least within Empire Meet, no one would dare to challenge Fabian's authority. Conrad, who had always represented Fabian in handling the affairs of Empire Meet, had the most say.

"Don't worry about the matters at Empire Meet for now, I will arrange for someone else to take your place," Fabian said suddenly.

Conrad did not have the slightest expression on his face, but his heart skipped a beat.

He thought of the old man in disguise that Fabian had arranged to monitor him back then. It was just surveillance last time, but this time, he had straightforwardly let Conrad go.

Could Fabian have discovered something? The thought made Conrad very nervous.

He knew what Fabian was like. This was Harbor City, and he was not Jasper.

If Fabian found out that he was secretly colluding with Jasper, Fabian might really try to drown him in the ocean.

Meanwhile, his family's power in the Southeast Province was nothing to Fabian's.

"Tomorrow, I will fight Jasper, but at the same time, I need to visit an important figure. I can't go there myself, so I can only let you go and leave on the very same night," Fabian said suddenly.

These words made Conrad breathe a sigh of relief.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1395

At least for now, Fabian was not suspicious of him.

"Okay," Conrad replied calmly.

He did not ask where he was going, who he was meeting, and what they would talk about. Instead, he just agreed.

This also satisfied Fabian a lot. What he disliked the most was subordinates with a lot of questions.

This was also the reason why he gradually grew to like working with Conrad ever since he got Conrad to join.

“You’ll go to this address tomorrow. ”

Fabian handed Conrad a note and a plane ticket

“Sunrise Land?”

Conrad was surprised when he took the note.

“Yes, go meet Echo Welch.”

Fabian’s eyes flashed with a cold light. He pointed to the seat in front of him and said, “Sit down, I will tell you about your mission this time.”

When Jasper woke up, he felt refreshed.

It was great to be young. Even after he stayed up for a few nights, at least he could still make up for it with a night's sleep.

Jasper washed up and walked out of the lounge, but by this time it was already early evening.

Looking at the time, Jasper realized that he had actually slept for more than ten hours.

Jasper looked in the next room and found that the rascal, Henry, was playing games with headphones on.

"F*ck, you scum! How can you get blown up just like that? Get my boys to hack them to death now!"

"Everyone, gather at the alliance. Daddy's Dragon Slaying Sword is already hungry and thirsty!"

As he watched Henry playing excitedly, Jasper smiled and shook his head before leaving the room.

Some time ago, Jasper heard that Henry's game ID was already well-known on the Internet. Jasper wondered how many people were curious about this rich fella who had invested tens of millions into United Legends.

They certainly would not know that this rich kid was playing this game next door to his boss' office.

After sitting back down in front of the computer, Jasper answered the call for the virtual meeting with Jake.

Seeing Jake with red eyes and a greasy face on the screen, Jasper frowned and asked, "You haven't rested?"

Jake shook his head and said, "Before the Federal Reserve released the first phase of the market rescue plan, we had to immediately collect the important information and analyze the impact of this plan on the market. There was no time to sleep."

"Alright..."

Jasper did not say something pretentious like asking him to rest more. He also did not ask Jake to go to sleep.

Now, Jake was his direct link to the team of stock traders in Harbor City, and trading was about to commence. At this critical moment, he could not ask Jake, who had cooperated with him for a long time, to leave.

After the two exchanged some opinions on the possible impact of the market rescue plan, they finally came to the conclusion that while there would be some impact, it would not be large enough to stop the market from falling back to its initial inflection point.

During this discussion, the US stock market commenced trading.

“Mr. Laine, it’s starting.”

One minute later.

“Mr. Laine, is Fabian opening a position?”

When Jasper heard this, he immediately pulled out the relevant data.

Seeing the extremely conspicuous position opening data in the dense data stream, Jasper frowned.

“Fabian stopped covering short positions for self-protection as he did a few days ago at this critical moment. He even started to build positions against the trend. What does this mean?”

Jake’s bewildered voice came from the speaker.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1396

“Let’s not care about what his objective is.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly.

“We’ll figure it out when it blows up.”

Jasper gave an order, and Jake immediately began to command the stock trader team to attack.

Before this, when Fabian was faced with Jasper’s several attacks, he was defeated as his defensive line retreated again and again.

This time, Fabian seemed to be determined to fight a decisive battle, so instead of retreating, he moved forward.

“Mr. Laine, the impact of the first phase of the market rescue plan has begun to take place. The decline in the market has slowed down, and it is gradually stabilizing.”

Since they were a mature and professional team, Jake's team included stock traders and analysts.

With such a huge war chest, it was only natural that they had multiple teams of specialist.

While Jasper and Jake were facing Fabian on the battlefield, the analysts were busy gathering and analyzing the data from the first hour of trading before sending it to Jake.

Upon hearing Jake's report, Jasper was already observing the trend of the market.

Currently, the Dow Jones Index was at 8100 points, and it had resisted breaking below 8000 points.

Meanwhile, the trading curve in the last 20 minutes showed that it was not plummeting anymore. Instead, it had begun to fluctuate sharply.

This was a signal that the market was changing.

"Mr. Laine, according to what we discussed before, such a situation was bound to occur. On one hand, the market rescue plan has indeed stimulated market confidence and has also released a large amount of capital into the stock market.

“Another part of the reason is that some investors believe that the stock market has reached an all-time low, and they have begun bottom fishing.

“Now that the trading volume continues to increase, there’s an intense fight for capital between the long and short sides. What are we going to do?”

Jake did not dare to call the shots without authorization in this kind of situation. Hence, he decided to consult Jasper.

Jasper said, “According to what we discussed earlier, the market will continue to fall as the market’s confidence will not be restored so easily. Did you not notice that the institutions are still waiting and watching?”

“Take down Fabian.”

Jasper’s three sentences determined the direction of the billions of dollars in Jake’s hands.

Jasper did not hold back anymore. Although Fabian’s abnormal behavior gave him a bad feeling, all he could do now was drain all of Fabian’s funds in the shortest time.

Now that the general trend was still on his side, time would not wait for him. If he wanted to kill the enemy, he needed to do it as soon as possible. Jasper's action on this front instantly put tremendous pressure on Fabian.

Not to mention that the current market was still generally pessimistic. Although the Dow Jones Index was volatile, it was slowly falling amidst the turbulence, and it did not show any signs of an upward trend.

Fabian was doomed to fall in the face of Jasper's attack due to the huge difference in the funds between the two of them.

"Mr. Atticus, the position has liquidated!"

Fabian did not know how many times he had heard this sentence from his subordinates.

Fabian was angry at the beginning, then, he became calm and finally. At this point, he was numb. He did not even want to say anything.

"Liquidated, liquidated, do you know how to say anything other than liquidation?"

Fabian's voice made all the stock traders under him feel a little ashamed.

“Mr. Atticus, the funds are not enough. If we continue to fight like this, we will lose too much.”

Finally, a stock trader endured his deep fear and anxiety, and said a sentence without mentioning the word ‘liquidation’.

Fabian inhaled sharply and felt that his vision turn dark.

Although he had decided to fight Jasper today, the speed of his defeat was beyond his imagination. Right now, he had no choice but to show his hand. When he thought about this, Fabian picked up the phone and dialed a number.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1397

A middle-aged man’s unsentimental voice could be heard on the other end of the phone, “Someone from the company will go to you to sign off on the mortgage agreement, Mr. Atticus.”

Fabian said angrily, “Are you afraid that I’ll renege on a debt?”

The middle aged man was still indifferent. He replied robotically, “Everyone will be treated the same. This is the company’s rules.”

“Hehe... Okay... We’ll increase the transaction value then. I’ll mortgage all the houses, cars, stocks, and funds under my name in Harbor City. How much can I get?”

“500 million US Dollars.” The middle aged man on the other end of the phone answered meticulously.

“What about 100% of Empire Meet’s stock right?” Fabian asked coldly.

This time, there was a moment of silence on the other end of the phone.

“Mr. Atticus, please wait a moment. We have not evaluated this asset for the time being. I will ask for further instructions immediately.”

“I’ll wait for you,” Fabian said with a cold smile.

The man did not hang up the phone. Three minutes later, there was the sound of the phone being picked up.

Then, Fabian heard the voice of the middle-aged man.

“This item can be valued at another 500 million US Dollars.”

“This is daylight robbery! The Empire Meet is only worth 500 million? Ask those people above you how strong the connections and resources of the Empire Meet are. Without me, how else will you find another Empire Meet?”

On the other end of the phone, the middle aged man replied without any emotion, “The value of Empire Meet will shrink significantly when you’re not in it, so that’s why it’s only worth 500 million US Dollars. Not to mention, it’s just a mortgage. As long as you pay back the principal amount and interest on time, everything will still belong to you, Mr. Atticus.”

Fabian’s face was dark and he gritted his teeth as he considered the offer for a moment.

“Deal! Send your people over right away! Once the contract is signed, I want to see the money immediately!”

“Mr. Atticus, rest assured that as long as the contract is signed and we hear back from the people we send over, I will arrange the payment immediately.”

Half an hour later, three men came to the door of the secret villa where Fabian was residing.

The three men were wearing black suits, and one of them was carrying a box that was password protected. The box would only open after three people entered their passwords. Therefore, the security of this box could be described as extremely rigorous.

After the box was opened, Fabian reviewed the documents and then signed it.

After they retrieved the documents, the three men immediately left the villa.

They never said a word to each other from beginning to the end.

As soon as the three of them left, Fabian received a transfer of 1 billion US Dollars.

After that, Fabian transferred the money directly into the securities account without saying another word.

“Get him. If Jasper wants to beat me, he has to be prepared to lose a piece of his flesh in the process,” Fabian said coldly.

Meanwhile, the team of stock traders under him did not dare to ask about the source of the money. They immediately acted out Fabian’s instructions.

Hence, the United States Dow Jones Index market began surging again.

The purchase order of 1 billion US Dollars was very conspicuous in this market where everything was declining. Moreover, it had a great rallying effect.

Many copycats, who had still been hesitating, saw this huge purchasing order and immediately gritted their teeth and chose to put in a portion of their funds to keep up with the trend.

Some brave entities followed suit as a show of force.

In short, the 1 billion spurred more money from the bottom fishers, causing the transaction data to surge in the blink of an eye. Ultimately, the entire Dow Jones index unexpectedly moved up by 3 points.

Even though these 3 points meant nothing in the scale of the overall stock market. However, it was a godsend for this particular market. Because this was the only index increase in the past few days since the incident occurred.

Even if it was only 3 points, it still evoked the greed of countless people.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1398

Everyone who traded stocks hoped that they could bottom fish and sell at the highest price.

It meant to buy at the cheapest cost at the lowest position and sell at the highest price at the highest position.

In theory, this was the ideal way to maximize profit. However, the stock market was unpredictable. Even Winston Benett dared not say that he could do it.

The number of people who wanted to bottom fish but ended up halfway up the mountain were unknown. Then, they would watch the stock price plummet as they were trapped in a high position, doomed to be played for suckers.

Even so, there would never be a shortage of adventurous and bold people in this world.

The 3 point rise had made people like this from all over the world restless.

Huge amounts of funds poured into the United States stock market instantly. The competition between the short side and the long side instantly became more intense.

“Mr. Laine, Fabian is adding to his positions!” Jake shouted.

Jasper stared at the computer screen. Wendy, who had shown up beside him without him realizing, was so nervous that she did not dare to breathe too loudly.

Although she did not know much about the stock market operations, she had heard Jake’s report just now.

So Wendy also knew that every decision Jasper made would affect the direction of at least 7 billion US Dollars. That was right. Over the past few days, Jasper’s total operable assets had doubled, reaching a terrifying volume of 7 billion US Dollars. Such a large amount was enough to fight a normal medium-sized agency on Wall Street.

And after this 7 billion US Dollars expanded to the overall index, other follow-up funds influenced by it would amount to at least 40 billion US Dollars.

If it was converted into Somer Dollars, that would be 320 billion!

In the previous year of 2000, such a large amount would be ranked 12th among the GDP of the 31 provinces and autonomous regions across the country. Even the 56 billion Somer Dollars under Jasper’s direct control would rank 29th. This was the comparison between the funds controlled by one person and the GDP of the province!

It was simply appalling.

Moreover, at this moment, this kind of terrifying amount could set off a huge wave in the world's largest stock market on the other side of the Pacific Ocean with just a single word from Jasper.

“Proceed as planned. You don't have to think about anything else now that we're at this stage. Even if more agencies begin staring at us, we must completely suppress Fabian.” Jasper made up his mind and ordered decisively.

“Roger!”

Sunrise Land.

Conrad ran into Echo at the headquarters of Softwin Investments.

“Mr. Welch, you're glowing.” The repeated trips and irregular schedules did not make Conrad look any worse for wear. On the contrary, he was still full of energy.

In the spacious and bright office, Echo smiled calmly and said, “Is Mr. Monty making fun of me?”

Even the blind could see that Echo looked pretty off-color.

Fabian led the plan to defeat Jasper, so he had also joined forces.

Although they worked in investment banks, Echo did not have a good father like Morrison. Therefore, he did not dare to embezzle public funds from investment banks and invest privately in Fabian.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1399

Therefore, Echo persuaded Softwin Investments to procure a large sum of money. He planned to personally trade with this money and would use it to snipe Jasper. The headquarters did not ask Echo what he would do with the money, but since it was public money, it had to be profitable.

Even if you lose, you could not lose too much.

However, the situation right now was very clear. Fabian almost spent all of his family’s money, so how much better could Echo fair.

When Jasper was being attacked left and right when he was down, Echo was very energetic, and he even felt confident as he walked into meetings. However, right now, Echo did not even want to see anyone. He almost lost all the money the investment bank gave him. He would be held responsible for it when it was time to submit the final report.

“Mr. Welch, you misunderstood. I really think you’re glowing.” Conrad ignored Echo’s eccentricity and said with a smile.

“If you weren’t Fabian’s man, I would have thrown you out of the office by now,” Echo said while feeling extremely unhappy.

He hated Fabian now. If it were not for Fabian’s instigation, he would not have fallen to this point.

With a slight smile, Conrad sat down calmly and said to Echo, “Everyone is very passive in the current situation, and that is why I came here today. Mr. Atticus asked me to talk about cooperating with you again. If we succeed, the current dilemma will be nothing.”

Echo sneered, “Cooperation? The cooperation this time has caused me to lose the 800 million US Dollars given to me by the investment bank. Not only will I lose my job, but I might also even go to jail! If I cooperate with Fabian again, will he take my life too?”

Conrad shook his head slightly and said, “Mr. Welch, Mr. Atticus told me before I came that you will lose your temper and I can bear with you twice, but if there is a third time, I am allowed to stand up and leave straight away.”

Conrad’s words made Echo narrow his eyes suddenly.

“Fella from Somer, do you know where you are and who you are talking to?”

Conrad laughed and said, “I’m sitting in the largest investment bank in Sunrise Land and I’m here to give you hope, Mr. Welch. Is there anything wrong with that?”

After staring at Conrad gloomily for a long time, Echo smiled and said, “Are people from Somer so difficult to deal with? Jasper is like this, and so are you.”

After he finished talking, he continued without waiting for Conrad to reply, “It seems that Fabian is lucky to have a good dog like you. Come, let’s talk about your plan.”

“The first step of Mr. Atticus’ plan is to let you take the initiative to report the loss of this operation to the higher-ups of the investment bank.”

Conrad’s words made Echo’s brow twitch fiercely.

After forcibly resisting the urge to throw Conrad out, Echo suppressed his irritation and asked, "And then?"

"Then, make every effort to promote the investment bank's determination to recover the loss from Jasper."

Conrad smiled.

Echo sneered and said, "What kind of plan is this? Are we little kids playing house?"

Conrad smiled slightly as if he was not surprised at Echo's reaction.

He said faintly, "At the same time, Mr. Atticus will contact Mr. Morrison and use all his connections to persuade most of the agencies on Wall Street into realizing that there is a man from Somer who is stealing the wealth of the west. He will inform them that Jasper is that robber."

The expression on Echo's face became extremely blissful as soon as he heard this.

"Use the power of the entire Wall Street to doom Jasper to eternal damnation? Hahaha, good! This plan is vicious, I like it!"

Conrad said calmly, “There is an important concept in this. We have to hide Jasper’s brilliance as much as possible, so that institutional decision-makers, including the higher-ups of Softwin Investments, will be convinced.”

“As well as the power behind Jasper that represents Somer’s domestic capital, so that they too will pay more attention to this.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1400

“Escalate this to a dispute between the East and the West?” The smile on Echo’s face dissipated and was replaced with a solemn expression.

Echo was not a fool, and that was why he was able to get to his current position. Such a huge thing would involve too many people. He could not involve himself in this.

Therefore, Echo’s primary consideration at this time was his personal safety if he raised this significant matter to the higher-ups.

He pondered for a long time. Suddenly, he smiled and said, “Interesting.”

Looking at Conrad, Echo said, “Do you know what will happen if Fabian does this?”

Conrad said calmly after nodding, "Of course, once the plan is successful, we will make Wall Street hate Jasper. Then, Jasper will inevitably be crushed into fine powder in the first wave of retaliatory attacks from Wall Street."

"No matter how powerful Jasper is, it is impossible to counter the strength of the entirety Wall Street. This power is enough to defeat any country in the world, let alone an individual."

"Well, Wall Street will not be satisfied with a nobody like Jasper. So, what do you think they will do later?"

Upon hearing these words, Echo narrowed his eyes slightly and he was silent for a long time. Suddenly, he laughed, "You've seen this through. The anger of Wall Street will spread to the entire East. We can benefit from such a huge capital confrontation."

"But you must also be aware that Fabian doesn't care about this. He has never considered himself as someone from Somer anyway."

"However, you are a native of Somer's mainland and your family is also residing in the Southeast Province in Somer. Are you willing to turn traitor?"

Conrad said with a blank expression on his face, "Mr. Welch, we're not in World War II 60 or 70 years ago. The global economy is now integrated and all of us must look forward. I'm just standing on the winner's side."

“Interesting, hahaha! Okay, you go back and tell Fabian that once he starts to act, I will follow up immediately. I accept this collaboration!”

Conrad smiled and said, “Now, I will discuss the specific process with Mr. Welch...”

An hour later, Conrad left the headquarters of Softwin Investments with a smile on his face.

While standing by the window of the office in the headquarters of Softwin Investments, Echo had his arms across his chest and a sneer on his face as he watched Conrad’s figure getting into a car after he left the building.

“Hehe, Somer descents. As expected, there is no shortage of such traitors in Somer at any time.”

At this moment, inside the car that was driving towards the airport, the smile on Conrad’s face disappeared and was replaced by a venomous coldness.

Valentine was driving the car after having snuck here. As Conrad’s most trusted, and only, confidant now, Valentine knew everything Conrad had done. Hence, naturally, he also knew the purpose of Conrad’s trip.

He noticed Conrad's icy face and the anger that was suppressed underneath his coldness. Currently, he looked like an iceberg on top of a volcano.

Valentine sighed.

"Mr. Monty, should we tell Jasper about this?"

Unexpectedly, Conrad shook his head and said, "No, at least not now."

Valentine was taken aback and subconsciously said, "But what Fabian is doing now is too vicious. He is willing to bury so many people just to destroy Jasper."

"Jasper is fine. Once the war spreads across the country, who will we become?"

"You're also scared that I'll become a traitor, right?" Conrad asked all of a sudden.

Valentine had a bitter look on his face, and he shook his head. He answered, "I didn't mean that."

“I know you didn’t.” Conrad thought long and hard before continuing, “Val, you don’t understand. I feel so helpless now.”

“I think Fabian’s plan will be succeed.”

Conrad looked at the View of street that was flying past at high speed and said, “Jasper doesn’t realize this. He’s doing too much and he’s too arrogant.”

“It’s fine if he was just starting because his capital was not as huge back then. He attracted so much attention because of his early performance. Coincidentally, this huge thing that shocked the world happened at the most critical time. Everything’s too coincidental.”

“However, back then, nobody would listen to Jasper. What effect would such a small sum of money have?”

“Now, how much money has Jasper earned? I don’t know if that money belongs to him, but at least he’s truly in control of it.”

“It’s such a huge volume and it was enough to attract some real attention. I can promise you that there must be information surrounding him on the desks of the big shots on Wall Street, the Federal Reserve, and even on the desks of the top officials of the United States.”

“Meanwhile, what does the United States lack right now? An opportunity and excuse to shift the people’s attention and grief away from this terrorist attack, and at the same time. to vent their anger.”

“What Fabian is doing right now is handing them this very reason they are looking for.”

“This is also the reason why I am afraid of Fabian’s foresight. Jasper and I underestimated Fabian.”

“At this point, Fabian’s foresight is more far reaching than any of ours.”

“The moment he provides this reason, Wall Street, the Federal Reserve, or even the United States government will easily start this war.”

While listening to Conrad’s voice, Valentine felt his body gradually turning cold. A great terror struck him, and he felt as if he was falling into an frigid cellar.

“M-Mr. Monty, you mean, this capital war cannot be avoided?”

Valentine did not even realize that his voice was shaking.

Conrad answered calmly, "It's meaningless to think too deeply about this. However, what I can be sure of is that if Fabian really does this, then his plan will surely succeed."

"Why can't we tell Jasper as soon as possible?"

Valentine said, aghast.

A cold smile appeared on Conrad's lips. "What's the use of telling him? Can he stop this?"

"Val, I told Echo something just now that is not against my conscience. I am just standing on the side of the winner. If this plan succeeds, Jasper can't win."

Conrad's words made Valentine feel as if he was suffocating.

"What should we do then?"

Conrad said calmly, "We wait."

“For what?”

This was the first time Valentine felt that he was not smart enough. Furthermore, he realized that he could not figure out what Conrad was thinking anymore.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1401

“Wait for an outcome between Jasper and Fabian before we decide.”

Conrad’s words confused Valentine even more.

“Didn’t you say that Fabian’s plan is bound to succeed and Jasper can’t stop it? Then why should we wait? Is Jasper definitely going to die?”

Conrad glanced at Valentine. Then, he reluctantly shook his head and said, “Val, your foresight is still too short. Look further.

“In Fabian’s plan, he used himself as an opening to ignite Wall Street Capital’s anger against Jasper and Somer’s capitalist. This plan cannot be stopped by Jasper and it is impossible to win against Wall Street. However, why didn’t Fabian use it earlier and only take this step now that he’s reached a dead end?”

Valentine frowned and thought deeply.

Without giving Valentine too much time, Conrad replied to his own question, “Because Fabian is a very arrogant person. He understands that if he does this, he would be admitting defeat to Jasper.

“Because when that happens, it doesn’t matter whether Jasper is crushed into fine powder or ashes, does it have anything to do with Fabian? He just opened the floodgates. After he ignited the anger of Wall Street, Fabian won’t be needed anymore.

“So at that time, Jasper will lose to Wall Street, not Fabian.

“When I come here, Fabian is ready to throw down and fight his last battle with Jasper. This is a fight to the death between Jasper and Fabian.”

After hearing Conrad’s words, Valentine suddenly came to a realization.

“I see!”

Conrad chuckled. “Val, people like us have to look at the big picture when we judge someone or do something. I didn’t understand this before, but the more I thought about it, the more I thought it was because I was too naive and young before. The reason I lost to Jasper so many times was that I didn’t have a good enough plan and nothing else.”

Valentine said sincerely, “Mr. Monty, I think you are no worse than anyone now.”

“Really?” Conrad chuckled. He turned his head to look out the window and said flatly, “That’s because I can’t afford to lose.”

“Mr. Monty, I still have a question that I can’t figure out,” Valentine said.

Conrad said lightly, “Go on.”

“Why are we waiting for the outcome of the battle between Jasper and Fabian before telling Jasper?”

“Who said I have to tell Jasper?”

Conrad answered rhetorically and Valentine almost drove the car into the ditch.

“Are we not?”

Conrad said faintly, “It’s not up to me whether to tell him or not, but it’s on the outcome of the battle between Jasper and Fabian.”

“If Fabian won and he didn’t die this time, naturally he won’t use the follow up plan. So, everything will be fine.”

“If Jasper won, Fabian would lose everything. He would go mad and someone like him would not allow other people to defeat him. So, he will execute his plan.”

“When that happens, we’ll be able to sell our information at a good price.”

Conrad narrowed his eyes slightly and said coldly, “So-called feelings do not exist in my eyes. Only interests matter.”

“I’m a businessman, an ordinary businessman who survives between Jasper and Fabian and I can’t even save my future. So do you think I will still be in the mood to talk about feelings?”

“We are not Fabian’s people, nor Jasper’s dog. I can sell this information to anyone as long as the price is right. I think when the time comes, Jasper will be willing to pay a certain price to exchange this information with me.”

“Mr. Laine, bad news.”

Jake's solemn voice came from the speaker of the computer.

"According to our analysis, Fabian's funds should be used up by now but until now, it doesn't seem that his funds are running out. He kept putting in more funds and we can't figure out how much he still has."

Jasper frowned slightly.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1402

While Jake was reporting this, he also watched the fierce battle between the two sides.

Indeed, according to Jake's analysis and Jasper's prediction, Fabian should have spent all the money he had by now.

However, from the perspective of the market, not only Fabian's capital chain was not broken, but on the contrary, it had become fiercer.

"He probably got a sum of money from the sidelines."

Jasper said in a deep voice, “We can’t judge right now because we have too little information. Do what we should do, no matter how many shows of hands Fabian has, it will still be used up.”

Following Jasper’s orders, 7 billion US Dollars began to launch a fierce attack.

This made the already fragile and congested market completely lose its ground and the Dow Jones Index began to fall further.

Once such a downward trend occurred, it would undoubtedly completely defeat the fragile psychological defenses of investors.

Panic selling reappeared.

It drove the Dow Jones Index to fall sharply downward like an avalanche.

“Mr. Atticus, this is bad. I can’t hold it anymore!”

“We are battling nearly the entire market now. Jasper is leading the attack and his capital is enough to influence the market trend.

“What’s more, now that market confidence is fragile, once it looks like it’s going to fall, stockholders will follow the trend. The more they follow the trend, the more it’ll fall, and the more it falls, the more will follow.”

“Mr. Atticus, the market has entered a vicious circle. If we continue like this, no amount of funds will be enough for the market...”

Fabian’s face was as dark as ink as he listened to the stock trader’s anxious report.

“Hold on first!”

Fabian said and picked up his third new phone.

“Have you found them?”

There was an unflustered voice on the other end of the phone.

“Yes. Should we take action now?”

Fabian grinned evilly and said, "Go ahead and kick them out of Harbor City!"

"Roger."

The call ended. In a villa on the outskirts of Harbor City, Jake and his team were busy operating. There were more than 20 people in total.

This was the base camp that Jasper arranged for Jake and the team in Harbor City.

All twenty-odd people lived in this villa and they did everything here. Hence, it was only right if there was someone to take care of their daily lives. No one thought that this villa under the name of the Laws would one day be suddenly broken into.

With a bang, the door was kicked open from the outside.

"Nobody move!"

A large group of men in suits rushed out and they immediately cut off the power and network ports of all computers.

Suddenly, amidst the noise, all the stock traders' computer screens went black.

Jake stood up angrily, and roared, "Who are you guys? Do you know where this is?"

The man in the lead walked up to Jake arrogantly. Then, he slapped Jake and sneered. "Heh, you are not qualified to know who I am. I only know that all of you have to come with me now."

Jake widened his eyes and roared, "F*ck you! You guys are playing dirty!"

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"You idiot."

The young man sneered, leaned closer to Jake's face, and said in a low voice, "Yes, I am playing dirty. What are you going to do about it?"

"You want to fight Mr. Atticus? Why don't you look at how many lives you have?"

Jake suddenly felt as if he had plunged into an icy lake. Sure enough, Fabian was driven to desperate action. Since he could not beat the rules, he directly used the underground power in Harbor City to begin to break the rules.

Jake calmed down when he thought this through. He wiped the blood on the corner of his mouth after he was slapped and said coldly, "I'll remember you. When my boss knows about the situation here, be careful because you won't hear the end of this!"

Panic flashed across the young man's eyes, but then there was firmness and rancor. He raised his hand and slapped Jake again. With a slap, Jake's head snapped to one side and his cheek swelled up.

The stock traders under Jake had good relationships with him. Seeing that Jake had been slapped twice in a row, two young men could not control themselves and they wanted to rush forward.

"What? Do you guys want to have a taste too?"

The young man shouted.

"Nobody move!"

Jake quickly stopped them too.

Fabian was obviously ignoring the rules right now. Hence, he started playing dirty.

Jake was not an idiot and he knew this was not the time to be impulsive. It was clear that they could not win against the men. Only idiots would allow someone to beat them up for no reason.

“All of you, stand over there. Just let them do whatever they want.”

Jake looked at the young man coldly and said to his team.

“Hehe, you’re pretty smart” The young man waved his hand and ordered. “Take all of them away.”

“I can cooperate but I have to make a call first,” Jake said suddenly.

The young man said in an icy tone, “Do you think you are qualified to talk terms with me?”

Jake replied emotionlessly, "You're just working for someone and we know this very well. So, you don't need to go overboard in some cases. If not, my boss will not forgive you."

"You have to think clearly. If Fabian is hiring you guys, it means that my boss is strong enough to take him down. When that happens do you think Fabian will save you?"

"Now, you're just Fabian's dog. After a dog goes out to bite someone, the victim will only go to the dog's owner and not the dog. However, if you go overboard in this, then I guess you might have to suffer the consequences."

The young man's face fell.

He wanted to slap Jake again.

However, when he looked at Jake's icy gaze, he gave up. He knew that Jake was right.

He narrowed his eyes and pondered for a few seconds. Then, the young man said frigidly, "I'll only give you one minute."

Jake let out a sigh of relief and immediately called Jasper.

“What happened? Why did the video call drop all of a sudden?” Jasper asked while frowning.

Jake did not have time to explain. He said immediately, “Mr. Laine, Fabian was driven to desperate action. He called a group of random thugs to take us away. We’ll be fine, but you have to immediately get someone to take over for me, Mr. Laine...”

Before Jake could finish, the young man grabbed Jake’s phone and hung up.

“Time’s up,” the young man said coldly.

Jake looked at him coldly after sneering. He said, “Okay, you’re taking us away, right? We’ll go with you.”

“Smart guy.”

Jasper had a dark expression on his face after he put down his phone that was hung up.

He took a deep breath and suppressed the anger and irritation in his heart. He grabbed the office's landline and made a call.

This call was directly connected to Baz, who had just established a firm foothold in Tefa City and was steadily developing his financial investment business.

"This is Jasper Laine."

After Jasper finished speaking, instead of waiting for the surprise and politeness of Baz on the other end of the phone, he said directly, "Assemble the most elite group of your people immediately. There is a very important task to be handed over to you temporarily. Leave the other businesses aside for now."

Although Baz was confused, he understood the seriousness of the matter from Jasper's tone and words. He immediately replied, "I'll be ready in ten minutes."

"Very good." Jasper was very pleased. At the critical moment, Baz did not let him down.

In fact, when something happened on Jake's side, all Jasper could use now is Baz and the team he just formed, otherwise he would have to do this himself.

However, the number of funds was too large and he would need to operate more than 10 accounts at the same time. He was not an octopus and it was impossible for one person to do the work of an entire team.

“In 10 minutes, I will start a video call conference with you.”

After speaking, Jasper hung up the phone. Then, he called Henry, who was playing the game happily.

“What? I’m cutting through the whole server alone. Why did you get me here in such a hurry?” Henry asked in dissatisfaction.

“My team in Harbor City was abducted by Fabian.”

Jasper told Henry what happened at Jake’s side with a dark expression on his face.

Jake and his team had always been very loyal to Jasper and they were extremely good. Hence, according to reasons and their relationship, it would be impossible for Jasper to abandon them.

However, Harbor City was beyond reach. The only person Jasper could use now was Henry.

When Henry heard this, he looked as if he was a stick of dynamite that had been ignored.

“Damn it to hell! That b*tch Fabian even knows how to play dirty? Damn, didn’t you teach him a lesson in the futures market and made the Atticus family more docile?”

“That’s not the same.”

Jasper shook his head and explained. “He used the Atticus family’s power to cause trouble for the entertainment group, so my counterattack hit the Atticus family directly. The Atticus family has already compromised once.

“This time, Fabian used his contacts to play dirty. So, we can only deal with him, not the entire Atticus family, otherwise, it will cause a backlash from the entire Atticus family.”

“So what? F*ck it, does he think the Laws are pushovers?” Henry said while feeling pissed.

“You can help me with this matter.” Jasper looked at Henry and said seriously.

Henry froze for a moment and said seriously, “Tell me. What do you need me to do?”

Jasper chuckled and asked ruminatively, “Do you have any friends in Harbor City that ordinary people cannot afford to offend?”

Henry’s eyes lit up and he said quickly, “I don’t have a lot but I do have a lot of friends. What do you need me to do exactly? Tell me and I’ll do it now.”

“Okay, I’ll tell you. Note this down. I don’t have much time and I only have 10 minutes at most... I only have 8 minutes now. Remember this.”

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“Not just your friends, but the most important thing is that you have to personally go there in person. I will take you there by my plane so you can arrive in the shortest time. Then, cause as big of a scene as you can. It’s fine if you make such a fuss that the sky falls.”

Jasper’s words excited Henry completely.

“Damn, how long has it been? I finally waited for such an opportunity. Tell me what you want me to do, I can’t wait any longer.”

Causing trouble was Young Master Law’s talent. He had never been afraid of it.

“You should...”

Eight minutes later, Henry slipped out of Jasper’s office with a smirk. Then he ran all the way down the office building. Downstairs, Julian was already waiting in his car. After Henry got in the car, the car headed straight to

the airport.

Henry needed to take Jasper’s Gulfstream plane to get to Harbor City in the shortest time.

Still, that was nothing. As soon as he got in the car, Henry had already started to call people frantically.

At this time, Jasper had already started the video connection with Baz.

At the same time, Jasper sent the account numbers and transaction passwords of more than a dozen accounts to Baz.

“Ask your team to immediately log in to these numbers in batches. The last account is the main account and you’ll be logging into that one.”

Baz, who was called up urgently, immediately began to operate according to Jasper's orders. Baz logged into the foreign market trading software proficiently. When the account was successfully logged in, Baz suddenly widened his eyes when he saw the total amount of funds held in the position.

He was not the only one. Although the other stock traders only saw the accounts they operated and could not see the main accounts, the terrifying numbers on the accounts they were assigned to have caused them to make a series of exclamations.

How many people who did financial transactions in the mainland had seen such terrifying numbers before?

"H-how much are there?"

Baz could only feel his scalp turning numb. A total of 7 billion US Dollars in total holdings.

Even the stock trading simulation software did not have so many numbers.

Furthermore, it was in f*cking US Dollars!

If it was converted into Somer Dollars, 56 billion!

It would not be too hard to drown their entire group of people with that much money.

Baz felt his heart almost jumping out of his chest. Then there was incomparable excitement. As someone in the financial industry, which stock trader did not want to easily have billions of dollars at their disposal?

Even if it did not belong to Baz, it would be enough to experience it once in a lifetime. The number of funds at this moment was far beyond his imagination. Before this, Baz's biggest dream was to conduct a 1 billion capital trade.

Now, he directly doubled his dream 56 times.

"The account you see now is the largest short seller account in the entire United States on the Dow Jones Index," Jasper said lightly.

"M-Mr. Laine, you... what on earth did you do..." Baz stammered.

After Jasper waved his hand, he said, "I will explain this to you later. Now, immediately track the data of the following accounts."

Jasper posted Fabian's account that Jake had investigated before.

“The opponent’s name is Fabian Attic us. Ten minutes ago, we suddenly disconnected so that we couldn’t follow up with the operations. Now report to me how the situation is.”

Baz suppressed his excitement and immediately asked his team to analyze the data.

However, their efficiency was not comparable to Jake’s team.

After waiting for several minutes and still not getting the report, Jasper sighed.

Sure enough, Baz and the team still needed a lot of training.

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Now that they were operating such a large external fund, it was really beyond the scope of their ability.

Baz obviously also understood that Jasper was examining their abilities. He was very anxious and he kept urging his team. Finally, they got the result.

“Mr. Laine, we have the data. Within the last 20 minutes, all of our accounts could not be actively managed. The Dow Jones Index continued to fall, but our profits have begun to shrink. The account of Fabian, our opponent, has been constantly trading, causing us to lose out quite a lot.

“We predict that we’ve lost 300 million US Dollars in these 20 minutes!”

Baz’s scalp was tingling.

Losing 300 million US Dollars in 20 minutes, which was 1.8 billion Somer Dollars.

If this happened in the country, it would be enough to directly bankrupt a leading enterprise in the province. However, right here, it only caused a small wave in a 20 minutes fierce battle.

“Integrate the transaction data of each sub-account and prepare to fight back,” Jasper said blankly.

“Fight back!?” Baz was surprised.

Were they going to fight for real now?

Neither he nor his team was ready yet.

“Baz, do what I said!” Jasper was dissatisfied.

“Financial transactions are the same as the battlefield. It even requires a higher efficiency in the implementation of orders. Because of the delays, the loss might accumulate into tens of millions of dollars!”

“Yes!” Baz’s heart beat wildly and he roared.

This time, Jasper did not hold back.

Fabian’s crazy counterattack and rule-breaking made him very angry. However, at the same time, he also saw the hope of victory.

Had Fabian not been driven to a dead end, he would not have made such a choice.

All funds were fully mobilized and they began to launch the most ferocious attack on all of Fabian’s funds at any cost.

“26 minutes. Just delay them for 26 minutes!”

Harbor City. Fabian looked at the data displayed on the computer with a gloomy expression. He was feeling unconvinced.

He really underestimated Jasper.

Initially, Fabian thought he would be able to disconnect Jasper for at least 3 hours but the actual effect was less than 30 minutes.

“Mr. Atticus, it’s different.” Suddenly, one of Fabian’s subordinates raised his head and said.

“Although Jasper’s attack is fierce and he is very determined, we can clearly feel that the pressure is much less. This group of traders has very little experience, and they’re making mistakes everywhere.”

“It seems that we will have a chance in this situation.”

After a few days, Fabian finally heard some good news.

“Very good. It seems that Jasper is also pushing someone to do something way beyond their ability. Okay, let’s fight to our deaths!”

Fabian’s eyes shone maniacally.

“Put in all the reserve funds and start spreading the news. Tell them that the Federal Reserve intends to directly fund a bailout and mess up the market completely. This time, I want Jasper to vomit blood!”

A storm was brewing in the capitalist market. Several days had passed since the attack, but the impact was far from over.

At least in the United State’s capital market, not only did it not calm down, but it became even more chaotic. The battle between the bears and the bulls vaguely formed two big groups headed by Jasper and Fabian.

The two groups had invested more than tens of billions of US Dollars in total, and they were driving their own follow up funds to start frantically fighting each other. The volume directly broke the record.

Everyone was paying attention to the index trend of the Dow Jones market. They knew that there would be a winner between these two maniacs soon.

In this stalemate, huge amounts of funds were evaporating and being consumed every minute and every second.

Just when countless people were clutching at their hearts to observe the situation, a Gulfstream plane landed at Harbor City Airport.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1406

Hong Kong International Airport.

Henry Law wore a trench coat with sunglasses. As he got off the plane, he let out a yawn and stretched languidly.

There were already two groups of people waiting on the tarmac.

Looking down at those people below, Henry was reminded of Jasper's orders before he left. The thought of that made him curve the corners of his mouth, giving out a gleeful expression.

Coming down from the escalator, a few young people dressed in luxurious clothing that exuded the arrogance of a second-generation villain in novels, came and greeted with a smile.

“Brother Henry, the brothers are all here, so let's talk about it first. This time you said you wanted to have some fun with your brothers. It's the middle of the night now. I even abandoned that young model at the bed to come for this. No matter what, if this isn't major and exciting, I won't listen to your deceiving words next time.”

Henry squinted at the young man and said, "If the fun isn't big and exciting enough, why would I call up you bunch of useless trash who can do nothing except cause trouble?"

"Each one of you, wait here. Let me have a chat with Charlie."

As he was talking, Henry left the group of young men who were bursting into peals of laughter and walked over to the other side.

There were only two black-suited bodyguards and an old man with gray hair standing beside the car. Surprisingly, the car was the Rolls Royce assigned to Zachary Law, head of the Law clan.

Everyone in Hong Kong knew that.

"Uncle Zhao, I haven't seen you in a few days and you already have more gray hair."

Henry smiled and greeted the old man who had his hands folded and placed in front of his lower abdomen.

The old man gave a kind smile and more his wrinkles could be seen.

He looked at Henry with indelible respect in his affection and said, “Young Master, don’t make a joke out of me. A man of my age, all my hair turned gray ten years ago.”

Henry casually held onto Charlie’s shoulders and told him, “Uncle, you were supposed to retire early but you wouldn’t listen.”

“Your son, grandson, daughter-in-law, granddaughter-in-law, so many of them are working for the Law clan. There’s no need for you to drag your old bones and work hard anymore. Outsiders will look at this and think that we’re treating you harshly.”

Charlie chuckled and said, “Alright then. I shall report to the old master and retire in a few years.”

“Now that’s what I’m talking about Look at how smart you are. My old man just started taking over a business but he immediately let go of the work to retire. Looking back, you were always fishing and having tea sessions with my grandpa. Wasn’t that great?”

Henry had quite a casual attitude toward this old man Charlie, but it was also this casualness that gained him a special status in the Law clan.

The old man seemed to just be a servant of the Law clan, but when you know him, barely anyone in the entire city dared to mess with him as he walked out of the door.

Let alone Henry Law. He was practically raised by Charlie.

The old master had bombs wrapped around his waist and a grenade strapped under his belt while carrying a gun back in the days. It was even during that era of flaming war when Charlie followed the old master.

For decades, almost every path the old master walked led to death, and only Charlie remained.

Henry was extremely naughty when he was a child. He once beat up the ship king's grandson until he was hospitalized. Back then Charlie was so furious that he almost killed Henry.

The old master was not home at the time. It was Charlie who stood before Henry and settled everything. Zachary did not make a mistake trusting Charlie.

It can be seen how high of a status Charlie held in the Law family.

It was not about how great and powerful the old man was, it was about how he was by the old master's side for all his life. The family had a lot of companies under them.

Charlie did not have a single job. He was merely an ordinary servant in the Law clan's household. He was not even paid any type of salary. Even so, each one of Charlie's descendants, young and old, lived a comfortable life and attended elite schools with all expenses borne by the Law family.

With such treatment, they were no different from the actual blood-related members of the Law family.

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Moreover, the Law clan showed much respect to old man Charlie who shielded the old master from bullets several times.

Henry chuckled, leaned toward Charlie's head, and said, "Uncle Zhao, where's my old man?"

Charlie smiled and replied, "Mr. Law has gone to Auma City. It will be a few days until he's back."

Henry rubbed his chin and said, "This is not going to be easy. My old man is quite sensitive, you know that. If I made this task too big of a deal, he'd come for rue. What would I do then?"

Charlie was able to read Henry's thoughts at a glance and said, "But the old master is back."

Henry's eyes lit up and his face was full of surprise. "Grandpa is back?"

"The old master arrived not long ago and he's resting at the courtyard. He told me to let you know that you don't have to go and see him. Just do what you're required to."

Charlie gestured to the Law clan's exclusive car next to him and said, "The old master is in charge. This car was brought over here, so if you need it, it is at your disposal for the next few days."

Those words immediately gave Henry great confidence. It was not just a normal car.

Even if it was a Rolls Royce, it was not that huge of a deal here considering it was Hong Kong, a place densely filled with the wealthy. However, the Rolls Royce was no ordinary car. It was a representation of the Law clan's status and symbolized their authority and reputation. It can be considered as such.

Whenever Henry headed out, everyone would know that he was the young master of the Law clan and their powerful heir. Truth be told he was merely a successor.

However, if Henry rode in the car, he would be a representative for most of the Law clan. He was the Law clan.

“Damn, grandpa sure is supportive. Unlike my dad who’s always holding everything back. He doesn’t exhibit how prestigious our Law clan is, and he’s always afraid of doing little things worrying it’ll affect this or that. So not domineering.”

Upon hearing this rant, Charlie patted Henry lightly on his shoulder and said, “Don’t say that about Mr. Law. He’s got more things on his mind than you.”

Henry snickered while he looked at the majestic black Rolls Royce, thought for a moment, and said, “Forget it, Uncle Zhao. You can take the car back first. As long as grandpa is around, there’s no need for the car.”

“Besides, I’m going out to settle these things on my behalf. There’s no need for me to invoke the level of the Law clan.”

“Well, I can’t oppose that. I’ll tell the old master right away.”

Henry’s words made Charlie smile. There was comfort in his smile.

“Young Master, you’ve grown a lot.”

As someone who had watched Henry grow up since he was a child, Charlie knew him all too well.

The old Henry would never let go of an opportunity like that to show off his prestige. Instead, he now knew how to weigh out the pros and cons.

At the same time, Charlie was also mourning for the other second generations in Harbor City.

An arrogant and boastful second-generation was not as terrible as a second-generation that was arrogant yet smart. This was not an easy thing to take on.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1408

“Can a person still be like a child and not know anything? I have to say I know quite a lot now.”

Henry said straightforwardly.

He subtly skipped mentioning the many things that Jasper told him before he came here, including the point made here.

Charlie gave a little smile and said, “Well then, young master, you should settle your business. I will head back first.”

“All right, Uncle Zhao. Do be careful. Walking too much is no good for you at this age. Take it easy on your way back”, Henry said with a smile.

Charlie bowed slightly to Henry, thanked him, and turned to get into the car.

Of course not in the exclusive Rolls Royce, but in one of the other cars that followed behind. No matter how high of a status Charlie possessed in the eyes of the Law clan, it was still impossible for him to ride in it alone.

The moment the motorcade drifted off, Henry had his hands put in his pants pockets and subconsciously put a cigarette in his mouth. With the cigarette dangling out of his mouth and his hands in the pockets, Henry squinted as he sauntered toward the group of young men.

“I have obtained the imperial decree from the old man in my family. Now it’s up to you guys whether you have the guts for it.”

Henry’s words stunned them.

“Brother Henry, what’s all this about? Even your old man was brought out? Are you going to head to the Harbor City government?”

The question made Henry lift his hand and struck the back of the man’s head. He cursed at him and said, “You pinhead! Do you think I’ve gone crazy enough to go to the Harbor City government? If I were to do that, my old man is gonna hang me somewhere and cut me into pieces. Let alone the others.”

These young people were the best of the best of the second-generation in Harbor City.

Although they did not have a status regarded as prestigious as the Law clan, they were the first few lines of descendants to some huge family names.

Besides, the Law clan had principles of family interests tied deeply among them. The bonds of family interests between them existed and relationships between the elders were naturally mutual. The situation was similar for the later generations where Henry was born in. Everyone generally was on good terms.

Many usually followed behind Henry’s footsteps. They caused trouble every day, always bullying and beating others. They were certainly a notorious bunch.

After Henry started working for Jasper, the notorious gang became extremely idle to a point where they got dragged by Henry to the United Legends and made a massive perpetual income for Jasper.

“Come on, Brother Henry, just tell us about it. Whatever it is, your old man approved of it. Surely there is nothing wrong with it. There’s no need to worry about no one supporting us if we get into trouble.”

The young man who was slapped by Henry said as he grinned.

Even though he was smiling in Henry’s face and doing fine after he got struck hard behind the head, everyone out there knew that Alex Jean, the young master of the Jean clan, was famous for his violence in Harbor City.

There was once because of a disrespect directed toward him, Alex beat the person up badly until he was admitted to the intensive care unit. The Jean family had to go to huge lengths to settle this case.

“Come here, my brothers. I’ll tell you what’s going on first, and what we’re going to do later.” Henry scanned across the group as he announced.

When everyone gathered around, Henry spoke, “First of all, let’s go scout some people.”

Henry had barely uttered the words and Alex quickly exclaimed, “Brother Henry, you said this wasn’t a big deal, but to scout for people? Are we gonna do that at Stanley Prison?”

As Alex was talking, a tall and burly man among these people immediately turned to leave and opened a car door and he took a massive knife out of there.

His height was over 6 foot 2 which made him look like a majestic gorilla. The size of his body put him extraordinarily out of place compared to the others.

“Stupid!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1409

Henry gave Alex a cold stare.

At that moment, a sense of superiority of intelligence emerged spontaneously.

These later-generation descendants were all stupid and did not have brains.

Henry came to realize for a moment that he was similar to them too. He felt somewhat ashamed.

“Howard, put that knife down.”

Henry sighed and he felt it was now more difficult to lead this younger brother.

Howard Branson was the worst person to stir up things with.

Alex was only bad-tempered and at least his family was doing serious legitimate businesses.

Howard, however, came from a family background of gangsters where his father, Morrie Branson, was their original gang leader. He stepped into Harbor City becoming the top ruthless man in the streets.

After the Handover, they were initially the first groups of people who were targeted to be wiped out. Fortunately, Morrie was smart enough to start anew and dived back into legal businesses two years before it happened.

Morrie later made a discreet deal with Zachary behind closed doors which needed a few discussions with the mainland. The deal turned him into a businessman who provided public safety to society.

However, no matter how much they tried to flip things around, their dark roots were still present.

Howard was the best fighter in the whole of Harbor City and was also the worst person to talk things out with. Perhaps it was because of their family matters or fate that made him and Henry have the best connection with each other. He was always the one ready to charge with a knife and shed blood for Henry.

Howard glanced at Henry, nodded, and quietly placed the knife back into the car.

“Damn it, guys, don’t interrupt me. My brother-in-law has a few important people under him. Now they’ve been taken by some people of dubious backgrounds.”

“We’ll go get him today. I don’t even care if God came down from heaven to stop us.”

“Not just that. We have to stir things up there to the best that we could. These people are just simply looking for trouble when they forcibly seized those who were helping to search for the items. They surely won’t dare to fight us head-on.”

“But speaking of it, these are Fabian’s people. The real reason we’re heading there today is to have a showdown with Fabian.”

Henry had not even finished his point and these men were already showing a change of mood in their facial expressions.

Despite Howard maintaining a straight face, Alex frowned with a solemn look.

Fabian was always like a huge mountain holding down this younger generation of Harbor City's sons.

They were more than their usual arrogant selves. The more arrogant a generation was, the more obvious that they were not the people for anyone to mess with.

Comparatively, Fabian was even more capable than them. Someone like him was enough to make everyone scoot and hide their balls away.

This second- generation had always been as one preying on the weak but feared the strong.

Between these men, everyone denied the fact that they were cowardly. Without the four major clans' background history, it was hard for them to even protect their own lives, not to mention provoking Fabian.

When he noticed their troubled faces, Henry sneered and said, "We're all friends here and we know each other through and through. Don't say I forced y'all into this."

“Think through this before you guys get on with it. After all, we’re fighting Fabian this time. If any of you don’t voice out your concerns or when things get out of hand later, it’s not gonna look pretty if our families get affected.”

“That’s why I’m giving you guys the chance to think about it. Whoever wants to back out, now’s the time. We would still be friends, I won’t bother about it, but once we’re out there and you’re not committed to it, don’t blame me for turning my back on you.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1410

“Bro... Brother Henry, I think I might have to discuss this matter with my family first.”

All these young men standing in front of Henry lowered their heads and murmured underneath their breaths. Saying this, the man did not even dare look at the eyes of the other people, and he was even more afraid to look at Henry’s expression. He was even prepared to get severely beaten up.

Surprisingly, their expectation of Henry’s thunderous cursing rage did not happen. Instead, he talked calmly and peacefully.

“Discuss? You’re right. This is such a huge matter, too big to even make your own decisions. It’s only right that you go home and talk it out with your mommy and daddy!”

Henry smiled at him and caringly said, "You better go back and discuss this right away. What's wrong? Haven't started the car? You need me to call you a ride?"

A thrill came into the man's body and his face was wild with joy.

He instantly shook his head and said, "It's fine, Brother Henry, it's fine. I drove here myself, I can go back myself too."

"Well, then. I won't hold you any longer. You can leave first, we'll have a drink some other day."

"Yes, yes, yes. Thank you, Brother Henry. Let me be the host the next time we drink."

This young man thanked Henry a million times and scurried on his way.

Following the sound of the roaring engine from the car, he disappeared from the tarmac along with the smoke. With his leadership and seeing how Henry did not even get furious, a handful of them started pulling out one by one.

At this point, their excuses were absolutely pointless, even saying that their girlfriends were about to go into labor was an acceptable reason. They gave all sorts of excuses.

Nobody cared if your reason was completely valid. Henry was convinced all the way. He did not hold back anyone who voiced out to retreat but instead sent each of them off.

It was up until the end where everyone was gone except for the two who have left behind: Howard the expressionless one and Alex the conflicted one.

The initial seven people were now left with only two. Nevertheless, Henry was not angry. He turned toward Alex.

“Hey there, Mr. Jean. You’re not leaving?”

“Why do you look so constipated with all that confliction in you? If you wanna leave, you can. They all left. Losing you wouldn’t be of much difference.”

Up on hearing this, Alex spat on the ground, gritted his teeth, and shouted, “Damn it! If I must die then it’s meant to be. I’m not scared of anything. I’m doing it!”

Those words had Howard take a good look at Alex, he grinned at his fierceness and muttered, “Not bad. He’s a man.”

Alex put on a sour face and said, “Come on, that’s Fabian we’re talking about. Whatever it takes, I’m ready to put my life on the line for this fight.”

Henry grinned and put his arms around Howard and Alex's shoulders, only to realize his height was a bit of a self insult to Li Wenwu who was 6 feet tall and famous for this gesture. He then let go of them.

"Those who left are unfortunate. What's wrong with Fabian? Would I abandon you guys to him if you followed me on this task? I doubt he'd kill me if he could."

Henry let out a sinister laugh as he said, "My old man is already in Harbor City. Would Fabian dare do anything to me?"

Alex forced out a wry smile as he spoke, "Brother Henry, Fabian's old man is also in Harbor City."

"His old man? Would his dad dare speak loudly in front of my grandpa?" Henry said resoundingly with a stare.

Alex's eyes widened and exclaimed, "Brother Henry, the old man you're referring to is the Old Master Law and not your dad?"

"Damn, I was talking about my grandpa all along."

Henry laughed.

Alex was immediately relieved. He smiled comfortably and said, "If the Old Master Law gave his approval to this matter then surely we're in safe hands."

After saying this, Alex smirked and spoke, "I knew those bunch of idiots weren't one with us, I could see it in them. They won't even know how to regret this after walking away like that."

Alex was indeed speaking some truth in that. The second-generation descendants were particularly haggling over every penny.

'If you honor me today, I will surely repay you tomorrow!'

Life at The Top – Chapter 1411

'However, if you were the one who disrespected me first, don't blame me for knocking you down, stepping on you, and spitting on your face.'

These children of wealthy families were originally Henry's good buddies. However, after trying out this touchstone tonight, great, their closeness was exposed immediately.

In Harbor City, Fabian was powerful and everyone was afraid of him. However, these children of wealthy families were the only ones who were afraid of him.

After all, everyone had elders. Therefore, Fabian would always to consider something an elder said. After all, the Atticus family was not invincible.

If their level was as sky-high as Old Master Law, then Fabian would really be rather insignificant. These descendants would also need to read the room before causing any trouble.

If they provoked someone powerful, not only would they get slapped across the face, they might get punished by their parents after they went home. However, if it was something the parents accepted tacitly, then it did not matter what you did, they would shoulder the punishment with you.

These were two drastically different outcomes.

This time, the person who ran away had lost the chance to join Henry. Unfortunately, he would never get such an opportunity ever again. One could imagine that when Henry took over in the future, Alex and Howard would become his closest associates.

“That’s their choice, so I can’t say anything, but I’ll remember all of them,” Henry smirked.

He said he would not split hairs about this, but was that really possible?

Who else in Harbor City did not know that Mr. Law was the pettiest person alive—a person who liked to bicker about the smallest things?

He would have all the time in the world to teach them lessons in the future.

“Alright, it’s about time. Let’s go and get them.”

Henry opened the car door as he said that. The car rumbled for a while before heading straight to the place where Jake was trapped.

The sky was already dark and there was no more traffic on the road.

Inside a dimly lit house, Jake was sitting on a chair as he glanced at the cameras around him. He looked exhausted and numb.

It had been six hours since he was brought here.

During these six hours, a group of people took turns to pressure him. Their goal was to make him admit to doing something illegal.

This way, they would have evidence to report and take action against Jake. This would in turn be a devastating blow to Jasper.

“As I said, all my actions are reasonable and legal. There are records and approvals for everything. There is no irregularity throughout my operations.”

Even though his voice was weak, his tone was very firm.

“Don’t try to use these dirty tricks to make me succumb!”

A man in a suit opposite Jake scoffed coldly. He had a cup of hot coffee in his hand and he lifted his hand to splash the boiling hot coffee on Jake's face.

The hot liquid caused Jake to scream in agony.

The young man grabbed Jake's hair and said sinisterly, "Jake, don't think we won't have a way to make you talk just because you're stubborn. You will only suffer more by keeping up this attitude."

"We're not from the police department, so we don't have to follow the rules regarding interrogation and torture. We have all kinds of ways to make you suffer."

Jake stared coldly at the young man. He opened his mouth and the coffee flowed into his mouth after trickling down his dry lips. Then, he spat some saliva that was mixed with coffee onto the man's face.

"Come at me if you have the balls!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1412

"F *ck you!"

The young man who was spat on flew into a rage. He lifted his hand and punched Jake in the face. Immediately, Jake fell to the ground whilst still tied to the chair.

Then, Jake struggled to get up from the ground. He touched his swollen and red cheek with his tongue and then spat out some saliva that was mixed with blood before staring coldly at the young man.

“Kill me if you have the guts.”

It felt as if the young man was insulted as he faced Jake’s smirk. Hence, he lifted his leg to kick Jake’s head. If he managed to kick Jake, Jake would be seriously injured.

However, the young man was stopped and pulled away by his colleague.

“Don’t be so impulsive. If we kill him, you and I will be in trouble.”

The colleague’s intervention soothed the young man’s anger.

The young man pointed at Jake and said with a scoff, “Don’t be so f*cking pleased with yourself!”

“There is all the time in the world later. I promise that if you don’t cooperate with us, the remaining time will be the most torturous period of your life. You will never forget this for the rest of your life.”

Jake looked at him frigidly and did not say anything.

The young man pulled the chair back and sat down. Then, he slammed his hand down the table and roared, “Jake Cullen, tell us!”

“Did someone tell you to perform illegal financial transactions abroad? Do you know that such a huge amount is enough to make you spend the rest of your life behind bars?”

Jake chuckled coldly and said, “I told you, everything I did was legal. I have records of all the procedures so the illegal transaction you mentioned doesn’t exist.”

Now, the young man’s colleague came out to act as the good cop. He lifted Jake’s chair and helped him sit properly. He even placed a lit cigarette next to Jake’s lips.

“Jake, you have to know that you’re just working for someone else. Why are you holding on for him?”

“If cooperate with us, everything can be discussed. I promise you won’t need to suffer anymore and you’ll be escorted out of here by us comfortably. Why don’t you consider our offer?”

Jake took a drag of the cigarette with no trace of politeness and exhaled the smoke. Then, he scoffed, “Huh? You’re using a good cop on me after the bad cop tactic failed?”

“I’m still going to tell you the same thing. Everything I did was legal. Not only are you falsely imprisoning me, you even planted false evidence against me to claim that I broke the law.”

“Aren’t you scared that they’ll settle the score with you after this?”

“When you’re not useful anymore, do you think Fabian will protect you?”

Jake’s words caused their faces to fall.

“You were given a choice whether to do it the easy way or the hard way, but it looks like we have to do it the hard way!”

The young man who beat Jake up stood up. His eyes were cold and savage.

Jake was fearless. He replied calmly, "I'll still tell you the same thing. Come at me if you have the balls."

"Damn you to hell!"

The young man was livid. He lifted the chair to throw it at Jake.

At this critical moment, some noises came from outside. Then, there was a loud crash and the door was kicked open from outside. The sudden change caused the three men in the house to become startled.

The young man with the chair turned his head to look at the subconsciously. Unfortunately, he saw Henry striding in alongside Alex and Howard. Of course, he did not know these three top young masters from Harbor City.

"Who are you people? How dare you barge in here?" The young man roared.

Henry grinned and walked leisurely to the young man with his hands in his pockets. Then, he tilted his head and smiled.

"Oh, it's been such a long time since someone talked to me like that. I kind of miss this."

After he finished saying that with a grin, Henry's face instantly darkened. Then, he lifted his hand to slap the young man across the face.

Slap!

The slap was powerful, and it made let out a crisp sound.

The young man stumbled backward after getting slapped.

Henry was not forgiving now that he was the dominant one. He grabbed the chair in the young man's hand and slammed it down on the latter.

"You son of a b*tch, where in Harbor City can I not enter? Who the f*ck do you think you are? How dare you yell at me like this? Do you know who the Laws are?"

As Henry said that, he repeatedly lifted the chair before slamming it down on the young man.

Slam slam slam!

The chair made a muffled sound when it hit the young man. With a final thud, the chair broke into pieces.

The man lied on the ground while struggling to breathe.

“The Laws?”

Everyone was stunned. Henry started hitting him out of the blue and caught everyone off guard. When they heard ‘the Laws’, everyone in the house shuddered. Who else had this grandeur and this hedonistic vigor? One could figure it out with half a brain.

One of them saw that their partner was now unconscious after being beaten up by Henry. The pool of blood on the floor caused his pupils to contract and he started screaming in terror.

Henry threw away the chair that was now only a piece of wood now in his hand. He clapped his hand and stuck out his lips to Howard.

Howard chuckled and lifted the collar of the poor remaining guy. Then, with a roar, he tensed his arms that were as thick as a normal person’s thighs. With that, he lifted the man and threw him out the door while the poor guy screamed in terror.

Immediately, the human canon flew out and accurately hit the group of people who had run over. They were now in a pitiful state, and the scene looked extremely lively and sorry.

On the side, Alex swallowed his saliva as he fidgeted nervously. Even so, he looked more excited than anxious.

He walked to the door and stood in front of the people who were knocked down just when they were about to barge in. Then, he leaned against the doorframe and giggled, "I'm going to stand here and see which of you fools dare to take a step forward. I'll applaud any one of you who dares to get too close for having balls of steel, then I'll kill your whole family as a reward."

At this moment, Henry had walked in front of Jake. They had met before, so Jake knew Henry. However, how would Henry remember a nobody like Jake?

"Are you Jake Cullen?" Henry asked.

Jake said emotionally, "Mr. Law, it's me. Did Mr. Laine ask you to come?"

Henry chuckled and said, "That's right. Your wounds..."

“I’m fine. I was bitten by some dogs,” Jake said to raise his spirits.

“I knew Mr. Laine wouldn’t leave me to die.”

“Nonsense! I came here on his private plane. He’s shown you so much respect.”

Henry grinned and said, “If you’re fine, hold on for a little longer. I’ll settle this before sending you to the hospital.”

“Okay, Mr. Law. I want to watch how you teach these sons of b*tches a lesson.”

“Watch properly.” Henry laughed while feeling pleased with himself.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1413

While they were talking, the leader came over as well.

Matt Carlton was the leader of this gang. His family dabbled in some shady business and Fabian had contacted him this time to rough Jake up.

It was just some minor business, so Matt thought it would be an easy job that would earn him Fabian's respect. This reward would be truly valuable. However, he gradually realized that something was not right.

That guy named Jake Cullen was too tough. They were not able to make him say a word no matter what methods they used.

This was especially true when he learned that Fabian had a billion US Dollars in the account this man controlled. When he heard this, Matt understood that he had become involved in a matter that he could not afford to screw up.

Would a person that was able to fight with Fabian and even force Fabian to use dishonorable tricks because he was at a dead-end be so easy to handle?

While Matt was busy regretting his carelessness, the news his men delivered to him almost caused him to piss his pants.

Henry Law was here?!

Matt quickly hurried over. When he saw Alex and Howard at the door, his heart skipped a beat.

He was very familiar with these two young masters who were infamous in the upper-class circle in Harbor City.

“M-Mr. Law?” Matt looked at Henry, who was standing amongst the crowd, and said.

Henry peered at Matt and asked lazily, “Not bad. You know me?”

Matt quickly plastered a smile on his face and said, “Who doesn’t know you, Mr. Law? Mr. Law, is there a misunderstanding?”

“No!”

Henry pointed at the people who were beaten badly behind Matt and also at the young man who was lying in a puddle of blood. He said, “I beat up your men and that dead dog lying over there.”

“You have cameras here, right? So many people saw me beating them up as well, so how can this be a misunderstanding?”

Henry’s words caused Matt’s face to turn as unpleasant as if he had just eaten dog excrement. He realized this matter was not as simple as it first appeared. Also, Henry definitely came here because he was confident that he had support.

Innocent people would get into trouble on account of rich people's business.

Matt sighed and waved his hand to ask his men to back off. Then, he smiled bitterly at Henry. "Mr. Law, we are jus nobodies do not have the balls to interfere in the business of a person like you."

"I can only say that I have my own hardships as well."

Henry replied lazily, "What do I have to do with your hardship?"

As he said that, Henry's finger almost touched Matt's nose as he pointed at him. He scolded, "If you know that you're a nobody, then why the f*ck do you have the balls to interfere in this?! Now that you're in this, you have to be prepared to pay the price. If not, do you think I won't split hairs with you just because you're a nobody after you've gone around acting like a poser?"

"Are you f*cking stupid? Recently, I've been busy on the mainland and I didn't have the time to handle business in Harbor City. Did all of you forget that I am petty, vengeful, and love to splits hair? Huh?"

The corners of Matt's lips twitched after he was scolded by Henry while Henry pointed at his nose. He suppressed the anger in his heart and said, "Mr. Law, I don't dare to lie to you. Mr. Atticus asked us to do this, so what choice did I have?"

“What does your limited choices have to do with me?”

Henry tilted his head and scolded.

“Since you’ve done this and I am also here, let’s just go all the way. Do you want to cuff me too?”

Matt quickly replied in embarrassment, “I would never dare to do such a thing.”

“Do you not dare to, or do you not want to?” Henry asked with a smirk.

Matt said through gritted teeth, “Mr. Law, please don’t split hairs with a nobody like me. What could I do after Mr. Atticus requested for me to do this?”

“Alright, since you want to kiss that Atticus guy’s *ss so much, I don’t want to bother with you anymore. Now that I’m here, can I take my man away?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1414

Matt thought about it. Now that he had completely offended Henry, if he still allowed Henry to leave with Jake, his respect from his subordinates would vanish. Most importantly, he would also offend Fabian.

He would offend both sides, which would be the stupidest thing in the world. So, Matt made up his mind quickly.

“Mr. Law, do you think you can talk to Mr. Atticus? Ask for his permission and if he nods, I’ll definitely be okay with letting him go immediately.”

Henry stared at Matt coldly and did not say anything. However, this cold gaze caused Matt to become extremely anxious.

Suddenly, Henry laughed. Even though he was laughing, his eyes were growing colder and colder.

“Oh, I get it. If Atticus doesn’t nod his head, I won’t be able to take Jake away, huh?”

Henry seemed to be throwing a tantrum, but he was satisfied.

Jasper asked him to come to cause a commotion, and even his grandpa approved of this. One of the reasons he came today was to save Jake, but that was not his only objective.

Most importantly, he had to cause a huge commotion. If Matt admitted defeat and let him take Jake away, then he would not be able to carry out his performance. However, this was good. This idiot was very cooperative. In order to reward this idiot, Henry slapped him across the face.

Slap!

This slap caused Matt to spin two and a half times on the spot. Finally, he fell to the ground on his bottom.

“Who do you f*cking think you are, you son of a b*tch? How dare you request that I ask Atticus for permission? Even if someone were to call him, it’d be you asking Atticus to talk to me!”

Matt’s ears were buzzing and his vision went black. Suddenly, he felt warmth in his nose as blood started flowing out. Matt decided to go all out after he was slapped silly.

“Henry Law, don’t go overboard! Do you think you’re ballsy for slapping me? Go and be arrogant in front of Mr. Atticus if you really have the balls!”

Henry squatted in front of Matt, who was sitting on the ground. He looked at Matt and grinned evilly, "Are you treating Atticus as your daddy now? Time's changed and Atticus can't even save himself. Do you think you can scare me with him?"

After Henry said that, he stood up and asked Jake, "Can you walk?"

Jake stood up and said, "Yes."

Henry nodded in satisfaction and glared at Matt, who looked fearful as he sat on the ground. Then, he said to Alex and Howard, "Bring this idiot too. We had the appetizer and now, it's time for the main course."

Howard walked up and grabbed Matt like he was grabbing a chick. Then, with Alex lifting Matt's other side, they carried Matt out of the house.

Matt struggled in terror, but Howard's hands were like pliers such that he could not move an inch.

"Where are you guys taking me?" Matt screamed in terror.

"To Empire Meet, to find your master," Henry said with a cold chuckle.

Henry had already thought this through. They were just a bunch of thugs who carried out shady business. Therefore, they were not worth his effort coming all the way here. The main purpose of this trip was to rescue Jake.

Even if they killed Matt right here, Fabian would not even frown. Instead, he would be delighted.

Thus, if he wanted to cause a commotion, he had to go directly to Fabian to stir up trouble.

The children of wealthy families in Harbor City were terrified of Fabian, as though he were a tiger. Back then, Fabian was scared of him, while he would also be reluctant to provoke Fabian.

However, right now, Henry wanted to see if he could skin Fabian alive and make him into a throw cushion.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1415

On the outskirts of Harbor City. There was no such thing as a cheap real estate in a place like Harbor City where land was extremely expensive.

This area with beautiful scenery that was next to the mountains and the sea was a good place for the rich to hide their mistresses.

This particular hidden villa was the residence of Empire Meet.

Although the outside world found the location mysterious, it was nothing in the eyes of Henry.

At this moment, it was already dark. Alex asked excitedly when they were at the entrance of Empire Meet, "Are we really going to barge in just like this?"

Henry ridiculed him, "Do you have an alternative? Do you think we need to send a greeting card and wait for Fabian to open the door for you?"

"Haha!" Alex laughed and took the initiative to say, "Let me call for someone to open the door then."

"Okay, go." Henry agreed without thinking.

Alex was also someone who was not afraid of causing trouble, but although his family background was strong, it was not really among the absolute elite. This severely limited him in his attempts to cause trouble.

Now, he finally had the chance to show his worth, so how would Alex let this chance to win success and recognition go to waste?

If he broke down the doors of Empire Meet and rumors of this spread throughout the circle of the descendants of wealthy families in Harbor City, Alex would be shot to fame overnight.

When he thought about this, Alex was so excited he did not even hesitate. He immediately slammed down on the accelerator.

Boom!

The sports car that cost over one million dollars crashed directly into the iron gates.

A villa with this level of extravagance only had a gate as decoration. After all, where was one going to find blind burglars who would try to dig their own graves at this place?

Since the start, they never considered the actual security of the front gate. They just wanted it to look pleasant to the eyes.

Now that a sports car had crashed into it, it immediately collapsed with a loud bang. Soon, the sports car drove straight into the premise of the villa with a low rumble.

Immediately, the lights of the villa were turned on as a huge group of bodyguards rushed out.

“Damn it, who dares to knock the gate down? Do you know where you are?”

One of the bodyguards roared at the sports car that had stopped at the entrance of the villa while feeling flustered and exasperated.

When he looked at the unrecognizable gate on the floor that had been crashed into and run over, the bodyguard’s heart began bleeding.

Mr. Atticus was in a bad mood over these past few days and now this had happened. The bodyguard figured that he would be in trouble once his boss got news of this.

The door of the sports car opened. After that, a brightly polished leather shoe stepped out onto the ground, before a black sock and black pants appeared.

Immediately after, Henry’s figure emerged in front of the bodyguards as he got out of the car.

“It’s me. What’s wrong? Am I not allowed to run over the gate of Empire Meet?”

Henry's statement immediately put pressure on everyone at the scene.

The security guards who looked so overbearing as if they were going to crush the car and the people in it a second ago immediately felt conflicted when they saw Henry.

Henry was well-known for being fierce in Harbor City. Hence, as Fabian's bodyguards, it would be impossible for them to not know who Henry was.

Soon, Alex and Howard appeared, causing the faces of the bodyguards to turn even more unpleasant.

Henry came prepared.

After the bodyguards realized that they could not handle this themselves, one of them quickly ran inside to inform Fabian.

At this moment, Fabian had just fallen asleep. The sound of the crash woke him up, and moments later, he heard the report from the bodyguard.

Fabian immediately put on his pajamas and walked out with a dark face.

The door of the villa opened and Fabian spotted Henry and the gang who were smoking by the car. They were completely ignoring the dozens of bodyguards.

“Henry Law, do you want to die?”

Fabian had not slept for a few days, and he had been tense this whole time. Hence, Fabian, who had already been quite off-color, looked even worse right now. His face was dark as he asked in a hoarse voice.

When Alex saw Fabian, he was a little scared. Thus, he turned his head to look at Henry.

However, he saw Henry chuckling coldly before saying, “Atticus, is this your dog?”

After he said that, he eyed Howard.

Howard turned around and pulled Matt out of the car. He was disheveled and his face was swollen and bruised. It was clear that he had been taught a painful lesson.

Then, Howard threw Matt on the ground as if he was a dead dog before walking back toward Henry.

Fabian's pupils contracted when he saw Matt gasping for air on the ground. Matt was also calling out to Fabian for help while tears and snot ran down his face.

"What is the meaning of this?" Fabian asked coldly.

Henry guffawed and said, "What is the meaning of this? Aren't you a bad*ss? You're the number one figure among the second generations of Harbor City. What an impressive title. I'm so envious and I want to have it too."

With a scoff, Fabian replied, "I never claimed to be number one. You can have it if you're interested. Is that all?"

"Are you stupid?" Henry tilted his head to look at Fabian as if he was looking at a buffoon.

"Do you think it's fun pretending to be ignorant? I'm not Jasper, so don't try to talk sh*t with me. I don't like it and I won't play along with your act."

"Your beef with Jasper has come to this point, and I'm obviously siding with Jasper. I came here tonight looking for trouble, so why are you being so eccentric?"

Fabian said calmly, "Henry, think things through. You will suffer the consequences if you provoke me."

"Oh, you really think you're the king just because you caused Kayden to suffer a bit, huh?" Henry laughed coyly.

Then, he strutted forward.

His action caused the bodyguards around them to become extremely nervous.

They were scared that this fiend in human form would impulsively do something to Fabian.

Fabian's eyes were calm and he called out, "Stay where you are. Do you think he has the balls to touch me?"

Henry giggled and said, "Yeah, everyone knows who Mr. Atticus is, so how would I have the courage to do so?"

While Henry said that, he had already walked beside Matt.

He lifted his leg to step on Matt's body. The latter yelled and laid on the ground. Right now, he could only cry and scream.

“Your dog is so lamentable. He's beaten up so badly and you didn't even speak up for him. Mr. Atticus, aren't you very f*cking powerful? What's wrong? I'm stepping on your dog in front of you and you don't even dare to breathe too loudly. Is this really the number one figure among the second generation of Harbor City?”

Even if Fabian was very sophisticated and wise, he was infuriated after hearing these taunts.

Henry was extremely arrogant and right now. He looked even more evil than any of the villains typically shown in movies.

Fabian looked frigidly at Henry and threatened, “Henry, you better use your brain before you speak. Don't think that no one will be able to touch you just because you're a Law. The Laws are not without equal in this world.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1416

“Yes, the Laws are not unequaled, but does it mean that the Atticus family is?”

Henry looked at Fabian from the corners of his eyes and scoffed. He looked extremely arrogant.

“Atticus, I’ve disliked you for a very long time. You always look so peculiar. Who are you putting on this show for?”

“Do you think you’re all that because you know how to plot and scheme? You’re always behaving like God’s number one and you’re number two. Why? Did those losers from the second generation circle in Harbor City flatter you so much that you’ve grown to have an exaggerated opinion of your own abilities?”

Henry’s words caused Fabian’s face to turn extremely dark. No one dared to speak to him this way throughout his entire life.

However, Fabian soon turned his anger into laughter and said while pointing at Henry, “Alright Very good, Henry. You’re ballsy. I hope you won’t regret saying those things!”

“Idiot!”

Henry scoffed and cursed.

“Do you think I came all the way here to talk sh*t with you?”

“Well, I want to see what else you’ll do,” Fabian replied.

“Look how thick-skinned you are. You really think you’re all that, huh?”

Henry smiled evilly and turned his head to look at Alex. He said, “Do you dare to have a go at him?”

Alex swallowed his saliva as his eyes filled with fear and excitement.

“Of course! Damn, we’re here anyway. It’ll be the same no matter if I have a go at him or not, no? I’ll be able to do whatever I want in the second generation circle in Harbor City if I win, and if I don’t, then I guess I’ll spend the rest of my life in bed.”

After Alex said that, he turned around and took out a container of gasoline from the trunk of the sport’s car.

“What are you doing?” Fabian asked coldly as he narrowed his eyes and stared at the container of gasoline in Alex’s hands.

“What are we doing?”

Henry laughed and said arrogantly, “I am not happy with Empire Meet, so I want to burn it to the ground.”

After Henry said that, Alex cried out and opened the lid of the container to splash the gasoline onto the villa grounds.

“Stop him!” Fabian yelled angrily.

Immediately, more than ten bodyguards surrounded Alex.

Fabian had a lot of loyal people under him. Therefore, when they saw Alex carrying the container, about to splash it, some of them who were brave even used their bodies to block the liquid.

Even the Fabian’s bodyguards knew that if Henry and Alex set fire to Empire Meet today, Fabian would not be able to show his face in the second generation circle in Harbor City anymore.

He would become a laughing stock.

Fabian was such a proud person. How was he supposed to endure this kind of humiliation?

He stared straight at Henry and said coldly, “Henry, I don’t have any beef with you. I only have grievances with Jasper so do you really need to stick your neck out like this?!”

“Do you think you can protect him just by doing this? You’re too childish.”

Henry grinned and said, “Protect him? You’re overthinking things.”

“You’re always plotting and scheming. I think you must have damaged your brain after doing all that, huh?”

“How much f*cking money did you lose to Jasper over the past few days? You’re even about to sell your underwear, right? Yet, you say I want to protect him when you’re in this state?”

“Let’s be honest, I genuinely think you’re a tough one to handle, but from the looks of things now, you’re not really anything special.”

“You won’t be able to win against Jasper when it comes to strategy. Now that I’m standing right in front of you, you’re telling me that there’s no need for me to stick my neck out like this.”

“Me. Atticus, if you’re scared, you can apologize to me. If I’m in a good mood, I might let you off the hook.”

Fabian looked at Henry as his eyes turned from angry to calm.

After Henry finished saying that, his eyes turned completely icy.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1417

“Alright, it’s just an apology. Mr. Law, I, Fabian Atticus, have made a mistake. I hope you can forgive me.”

What Fabian said felt like a bolt from the blue.

Fabian’s bodyguards at the scene looked at him in disbelief. Then, they a look of grief and indignation spread over their faces. It seemed as if they were willing to lose their lives for their humiliated master.

Alex was also stunned.

Meanwhile, Henry had an alarmed look on his face as well, much less Alex.

Henry was just fooling around and decided to ask Fabian to apologize spontaneously.

He never expected Fabian to actually do as he was told. However, who would have expected Fabian to admit defeat so quickly.

After spacing out for a while, Henry laughed and said, “Mr. Atticus, you’re really something else. Are you really going to throw away your entire image and all your prestige?”

Fabian replied flatly, “Image and prestige are usually the most worthless things.”

Even though he said that, Fabian was simultaneously hiding the anger in the deepest part of his eyes very well.

It was just like a volcano that was about to erupt, but Fabian used his strong self-control to stop it by sheer force.

If this was any other day, Fabian would have shed all pretense of cordiality with Henry.

Fabian was above everyone in the second-generation circle in Harbor City, and this was not by chance. Fabian's ability was far superior to his peers.

When Kayden suffered greatly that day and decided to let it slide, Fabian's ability was put on display for everyone to see.

However, that was then. Things were different now. Fabian pumped all of the resources and assets under his name into the United States stock market. After his dispute with Jasper over the past few days, he did not have much left.

At this critical moment, Henry came to him looking for trouble. It was as if they had based their fangs while he was at his weakest.

Therefore, Fabian could only suffer this grievance and endure it

The time was not right. Even if he wanted to avenge himself, he would have to wait until this difficult period was over.

Once he took care of Jasper, Henry would be nothing. After Fabian thought of this, he decided to admit defeat and apologize decisively.

In other words, he was scared!

However, he was not scared of Henry. He was scared to be affected by Henry, causing him to lose to Jasper completely during the main battle. It was clear which one was the priority now.

“I’ve given you the apology and respect you want. If you still feel that it’s not enough, you can do whatever you want with the dog under your foot I won’t have any objections.”

Fabian did not even look at Matt when he said that. Matt felt as if he had plunged into an icy cave after he looked at Fabian, who was being so cruel and heartless.

Fabian was his last shred of hope. He did not expect Fabian to abandon him when they were in trouble.

“Mr. Atticus, you can’t do this. I’ve been loyal to you and I’ve done everything you asked me to. If you abandon me right now, who else would dare to work for you in the future?”

Matt did not care about his fear toward Fabian during this critical moment, hence he started yelling.

“What did I ask you to do? Why am I not aware of it?”

Fabian looked at Matt frigidly and said, “Think before you speak. If not, you’ll not be the only one dead. Your family will be implicated too. Do you understand what I mean?”

After Fabian said that, Matt felt like a duck that was being grabbed by the throat. He could not utter a single word.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1418

His face changed.

Finally, Matt collapsed on the ground limply as if someone had removed his spine. He did not say anything, and he did not dare to blame Fabian for abandoning him. He knew that if he kept spewing nonsense, his family would be in trouble too.

Thus, Matt could only submit to his fate when he was faced with such firm threats. This was because Matt did not have the slightest capital to fight back against Henry or Fabian.

This was the sorrow of the weak. There was no right or wrong between the weak and the strong.

Matt, who was already on the ground, curled himself up like a dead dog. His body started shaking gently as he sobbed silently.

He was a man, and he was a man with some power, yet, he was reduced to this state when he faced with Fabian and Henry.

However, no one at the scene felt that this was inappropriate.

This was the reality of society!

“Is this enough?” Fabian said while looking at Henry.

“Yes, you’re so sincere.”

Henry smiled brightly.

It was not easy to make Fabian bow his head. However, after the smile, Henry’s face suddenly became cold.

“However, I still decided to do what I initially intended.”

Fabian flew into a rage after he heard that.

“Henry, don’t go overboard!”

Henry looked at Fabian with a cold smile. He taunted Fabian, “Why? I told you I might let you off the hook if I’m in a good mood after you apologize. However, I feel that I’m still in a bad mood!”

When Fabian heard that, he pushed the bodyguard in front of him away and walked straight to Henry.

He walked over slowly such that Alex, who was standing next to Henry, felt the hair on his body standing up.

It felt as if a primitive beast on the verge of killing its prey was walking toward them rather than a human. Alex, who was timid, took a step back subconsciously. However, he immediately bumped into Howard.

Alex was startled and he turned his head to see Howard’s disdainful gaze looking down on him.

Howard's gaze hurt Alex, the latter of which had only just been dreaming about shooting to fame overnight.

Alex soon spat on the ground, it seemed that he was also mad at himself for being such a disappointment. Thus, Alex lifted his head and puffed his chest out before standing his ground. A moment later, he grabbed the gasoline and stared straight at Fabian.

However, Fabian was not bothered by him at all. He did not even look at Alex as he walked toward Henry.

When he stood still in front of Henry, Fabian said faintly, "Henry, respect is very important if you want to stay in the circle."

"Tonight, you're the one who barged through my door. I've shown you the respect and recognition you wanted. However, if you insist on pursuing this matter further, don't blame me for having a fall-out with you."

Henry smirked and said, "Oh, Mr. Atticus is still not convinced, huh?"

As he said that, Henry got close to Fabian and said coldly, "Why don't you show me how you'll have a fall out with me?"

“I’ve seen an idiot fall flat on his face but I’ve never seen a fall-out before. Why don’t you teach me something new today?”

As he said that, Henry straightened his back and chuckled coldly while he looked at Fabian. He continued, “Stop being such a poser. Everyone knows who you are and who I am, so why are we still doing this?”

“If you genuinely decide to fight me to death, you wouldn’t have said that cowardly statement just now. Right, Mr. Atticus?”

Fabian looked at Henry and laughed suddenly.

“Back then, I only saw you as a brainless second generation, the kind that I could kill easy as pie. However, I guess I’ve underestimated you. Similar to Kayden, you’re one of the descendants of the four rich families.”

Henry was slightly stunned and then he laughed and replied, “You place regard me so highly, Mr. Atticus. “I’m just a normal lad. You need to thank the people around me for setting me up.”

After Henry said that, he tilted his head. “Alex, why are you still standing there? Go light the place up!”

“Splash the gasoline all over the villa. If anyone wants to stop you, let him. We’ll see who genuinely will risk their lives for Mr. Atticus when you light the fire. At the same time, we will be the good guys and help Mr. Atticus see which of his dogs are the most loyal.”

After Henry said that, Fabian looked at Alex suddenly. His gaze was as cold as a blade.

Alex kept swallowing his saliva. He wanted to move, but the container in his hand felt as if it weighed a ton. It was so heavy it was making it a little difficult for him to move his fingers.

To be honest, Alex was really scared. This was Empire Meet!

Before today, Alex would never imagine that he would bring a container of gasoline to this place to light Empire Meet on fire in front of Fabian.

A few seconds ago, he was still very vigorous as he was immersed in the beautiful dream of shooting to fame overnight. However, now that it was time to take action, he was a little scared.

Meanwhile, Henry was scolding this good-for-nothing for being a huge disappointment when he sensed Alex’s fear.

Right now, they were doing this because they were mad. If he was still mad, his awe-inspiring authority would be able to defeat Fabian.

However, if he was not mad anymore, he would revert back to his old self. Fabian would not need to do anything and he would get the upper hand.

Why did Henry drag this dead dog along today?

He wanted to criticize Fabian violently and pressure him while they were still riding that high.

From the looks of it now, the effect was pretty good.

Fabian did not have anything on hand to fight back, and that was why he was not so confident right now.

Regardless, now that it had come to this, neither Henry nor Fabian could turn back now.

However, Alex started to feel scared at this critical moment, which might screw everything up. This made Henry have the urge to go over and slap Alex heavily across the face.

Fabian started to display a cold smile on the corners of his lips.

He knew that Alex was terrified, and that this would be the key for him to turn the situation around.

However, at this moment, another hand pulled the container away from Alex's hand.

"Henry, if this coward doesn't dare to do it, let me."

At this critical moment, Howard stepped forward. After Howard said that, he did not wait for Henry's reply. He carried the container and strode toward the villa.

After he moved. All of the bodyguards started to move as well.

It was as if Howard could not see them. He grabbed the container and threw away the lid before splashing the gasoline around furiously.

A few of the bodyguards wanted to go snatch the container away from Howard in a moment of desperation. However, with Howard's figure, he was able to send two to three bodyguards flying with just a wave of his arm.

“Back away!”

Fabian roared and stopped his bodyguards who were starting to get restless and increasingly desperate to take action.

While Fabian said that, he was staring straight at Henry.

“I’m going to stand here today. I want to see who has the balls to light Empire Meet on fire!”

After he said that, Fabian turned around and walked to the door of the villa. He stepped on the gasoline that had flowed to his feet and looked at Henry coldly. Then, he curled his lips into a mocking grin.

“Henry Law, aren’t you the devil incarnate who’s not afraid of anything? Come, I’m standing here right now. Light me up!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1419

Fabian’s action caused the expression on Henry’s face to freeze for the first time tonight.

This was beyond Henry's expectations.

At this moment, he wanted badly to press pause and call Jasper to ask him what he should do.

Before he departed, Jasper told him so many things, including what he needed to do and say. Jasper instructed him on what he should do in all kinds of different situations.

Even though Jasper had not met Matt or Fabian, he predicted what their reactions would be.

That was why Henry was able to handle this matter so skillfully and easily.

Even though Henry's growth during this period also played a huge role in this, the key factor was Jasper's accurate predictions. It seemed that he had perfectly predicted how Fabian would react in every situation.

How was Fabian supposed to win in this kind of setting?

However, Fabian still did the unexpected after they managed to predict everything before this to a tea.

He stood in front of the villa and bet on the fact that Henry would not dare to light the fire.

If Henry lit the fire, Fabian would die right here.

Even if Henry had an impressive background and amazing abilities, he would need to suffer the consequences for this crime.

The Laws were powerful, but the Atticus family were no pushovers.

This would easily become a battle where the two families fought to the death. No one would be able to do anything to stop them.

The Laws would definitely protect Henry, but if the Atticus family lost Fabian, how would they be willing to just let this go?

Therefore, at this moment, his decision might just escalate to a battle of death between two rich families that would send the entirety of Harbor City into chaos.

As such, Henry was stunned. At the same time, he was impressed by Fabian.

This sudden action was indeed impressive.

Meanwhile, Fabian spotted all of Henry's expressions. As he stood in front of the villa with his feet in the puddle of gasoline, Fabian said calmly, "Henry, either you light me up along with this villa, or you get the hell out!"

Henry narrowed his eyes and did not say anything.

To be honest, he genuinely wanted to turn around and leave.

So what if it was embarrassing? The shame would not be that bad considering he managed to force Fabian into this state.

He had revealed the true form of this poser, and in this situation, no one would laugh at him if he turned around and left. Moreover, Henry believed that if Jasper were here, he would do the same too.

They would not go all the way if they were trying to do something. This was the hidden rule in the circle of the second generation.

None of the families would be able to bear it if they accidentally killed someone. They could argue and fight, but there was still a limit when it came to conducting their business.

Coincidentally, Henry had been a devil incarnate for so many years that he knew his limits very well. He would make people hate him, but they would not dare to risk everything to seek revenge against him because they were scared of the Laws' power. Even the before him worm did not retaliate, so what more those families?

However, so many years had passed as the number of second generations that Henry had bullied were numerous enough form a union. Even so, Henry was still fine.

This was not just because the Laws were powerful, but also because Henry knew his limits.

He never truly caused anything irreversible.

“Henry, why don't we just leave it at that?”

At this moment, Alex was terrified and felt remorseful.

Just a small spark would be able to cause a fire that would devour this villa and the entirety of Harbor City.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1420

He said to Henry carefully, “We’ve already won tonight. Who would have expected Fabian to act so shamelessly and take the bullet himself? We’ll applaud him for being ballsy, but we still didn’t lose. It’s not worth causing something major over this.”

After Alex said that, Henry’s face became dark, and he did not say anything.

However, Henry internally agreed with what Alex said, “Indeed, it would not be worth it.”

However, what Fabian said next caused Henry to stop in his tracks just as he was about to walk away.

“So what if you’re a Law? Old Master Law is a formidable character indeed. Everyone in Harbor City and even Somerland respects and admires him, me included. Even so, Henry, you still have a long way to go.”

“So what if he’s Jasper Laine? He’s just a nouveau riche with a little bit of power. He might be able to defeat me for now, but can he defeat me forever? Soon, he’ll kneel in front of me and beg for my mercy.”

“I heard that the Laws value Jasper a lot, and I heard your sister, Anna, has a special relationship with him? Haha, too bad, you got the wrong person.”

Fabian stared at Henry as he vented all of the dismay and anger he had accumulated in his heart over the past few days without restraint.

“Today, I can make you f*ck off. Tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, in ten years, or in twenty years, you will have to bow your head in front of me. Henry, if you have the balls, you’d light the fire. If you do, I’ll applaud you for having balls of steel.”

“If you don’t have the balls to do it, then don’t be so arrogant and don’t end up regretting it. You will only have one chance to do this in your life!”

“Do you really think you’re all that because you’ve grown? You’re just like Jasper, destined to be a loser under me!”

After Fabian said all of that, he felt much better.

Yet, Henry’s face was extremely dark.

It never crossed Fabian’s mind that he should not speak to Henry in such a disrespectful tone.

A young master like Henry was fearless when he wanted to be. He would even flip off God if he was blinded by rage. There was no expression on Henry's face; He looked so cold it was horrifying.

Alex could only feel a buzzing in his head right now.

At this moment, he really wanted to take out a piece of feces from the base of his pants to stuff into Fabian's mouth.

Other people might not understand Henry, but as his friend who grew up with him, Alex knew the man too well.

Whenever Mr. Law displayed this expression, it would mean something major was about to happen.

The last time Henry wore this expression was when a blind and foolish second-generation assailed Anna with Obscenities after she had just come back from studying abroad.

After Henry learned about this, he drove to that second-generation's home in the middle of the night and dragged him out of bed. Then, he beat that guy so badly that he became a paraplegic.

If Anna did not say anything that time, Henry might have even beat that wealthy second-generation to death.

Henry was severely punished by Zachary for two days straight after that incident, and he was also grounded for half a year.

Henry suffered a lot of beatings in his life, but at that time, he did not make a sound nor beg for mercy. He endured everything head on.

“H-Henry, don’t listen to him. Let’s go, okay? Please?” Alex sounded as if he was about to cry.

Henry looked at Alex coldly and said, “If you want to leave, you can leave yourself.”

After Henry said that, he pushed the dumbfounded Alex away and extended his hand toward Fabian.

Then, he slowly raised his thumb.

“Fabian, you’re such a badass.”

Unfortunately, something unexpected had happened as Henry was about to deliver a cool one-liner.

While he was knitting his eyebrows together, Henry slowly took out a cigarette and put it between his lips. As he was looking for the lighter, a large hand with a lit lighter approached him from one side.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1421

Henry had the cigarette between his lips as he looked at Howard.

Howard chuckled at Henry and said, “Henry, the wind’s pretty strong. Use mine...”

Henry nodded and said while feeling deeply moved, “From now on, you’ll be my second brother.”

One did not need to think to know who the first one was. Henry moved over to light the cigarette before taking a long drag. He had the cigarette between his fingers as he tilted his head to look at Fabian.

“Atticus, you’re such a badass, but are you afraid of death?”

Fabian’s heart skipped a beat when Henry looked at him. He immediately felt that something was not right. The matter did not develop as he had expected.

Before Fabian could think it through, Henry flicked the lit cigarette butt in his hand away.

The orange and red cigarette butt flew in the cold wind of the night. Then, it spun and flew toward the villa. The entrance of the villa was covered with the doused gasoline.

At this moment, Fabian's pupils contracted to become tiny dots.

He roared with fear and remorse that he had never felt in the past thirty years of his life, "Henry, how dare you?!"

Henry placed his hands in his pockets and smirked, "I am a brainless second-generation and I'm a simple hedonist. I can't do anything well but I am the best at causing outrage!"

"But so what? I can afford to do this!"

"I am proud of my name, and I stand by my actions. My name is Henry Law! Today, I will stand here and see if you are scared of death or not, Fabian Atticus!"

Fabian could not hear what Henry was saying anymore. His attention was on that cigarette butt that had fallen on the ground. It landed on the gasoline, and immediately, a deep blue flame that had tongues of orange and red started spreading toward him.

It was too fast.

It was so fast that Fabian did not even have time to run away.

He wanted to run but his legs felt as if they were filled with lead. He could not move them no matter what.

Then, numerous figures started charging toward him regardless of the danger.

“Mr. Atticus, run!”

He could only hear his bodyguards’ screams of terror. Fabian felt as if he had been hit by a truck. He suddenly flew backward.

While he was in mid-air, Fabian saw a glimpse of Henry’s maniacal face. A thought suddenly popped into his head.

His legs were not filled with lead, but he was so scared that he was unable to move.

Then, Fabian felt his head hit something hard. With a thud, his vision went dark. It was as if the lights in his world had been switched off as he lost consciousness.

The fire soon burned the villa to the ground.

The huge fire not only devoured the villa that represented Empire Meet, but also ignited a violent situation within Harbor City.

When Jasper received the call, it was already daybreak he was already seeing the first glimmers of sunlight. Meanwhile, Jasper was sleeping soundly.

However, the ringtone of the phone sounded abnormally urgent, and what the person on the other end of the line said got rid of all traces of Jasper's sleepiness.

A few minutes later, Jasper hung up the phone.

He called Wendy without any hesitation. Then, he woke Julian up and headed straight to the airport.

"Jasper, did something happen in Harbor City?"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1422

Julian asked as he drove.

He knew Jasper had been working on anything major these days, so he would not leave Nauritus City if it was not anything urgent.

Yet, he was suddenly asking to go to the airport to fly to Harbor City in the middle of the night. Something astronomical must have happened.

Judging from Jasper's expression, Julian, who had been his partner for a very long time realized this matter was not as simple as he initially thought.

"Something bad happened..."

Jasper let out a sigh and said while feeling annoyed, "I dragged Henry into this. If I don't handle this well, we'll be in huge trouble."

Julian was silent for a while before he said, "Jasper, it'll be fine. You can solve every problem that comes your way."

“I hope so...” Jasper shook his head and said, “Julian, ask the airport whether the plane is back from Harbor City or not.”

That was right. One hour ago, Jasper’s Gulfstream plane had already departed from Harbor City to come back to Nauritus City’s airport just to ferry Jasper over.

“Okay.”

Julian did not ask or say anything more. He immediately called the airport.

Half an hour later, the Bentley stopped in the parking lot of Nauritus City International Airport. Then, Jasper and Julian headed to the aircraft parking ground through the special VIP lane. They did not even have time to pack a single suitcase. A moment later, they got onto the plane that had been refueled and headed to Harbor City while zooming into the clouds with a loud rumble.

When Jasper’s plane took off, most of normal people were sound asleep. Meanwhile, the upper-class circle in Harbor City was in chaos.

The Law Manor.

Zachary, who rushed back from Auma City sat on the sofa in the middle of the room with no expression on his face. He was slowly smoking a cigar in his hand.

Meanwhile, two men were sitting next to him.

One of them was Alex's father, the head of the Jeans, Alex Jean.

Another burly man with an imposing manner and white hair on his temples was the current head and boss of Star Group, Merrie Branson. He had a domineering and powerful presence even though he was just sitting quietly in place.

"Mr. Law, Henry, Alex, and Howard are currently being detained by the police. I just contacted them, and I couldn't see them at all. The Atticus family must be involved in this, so we have to quickly think of a plan. If not, I'm worried those three kids will be doomed."

Phil lost his cool and broke the silence.

Zachary looked at Phil and said, "I called Sawyer just now."

"What did he say?" Phil asked quickly.

Zachary flicked the ashes of his cigar away and said faintly, "An eye for an eye."

The corners of Phil's lips twitched, and he said through gritted teeth, "Fabian is in the hospital and he's under so much protection. However, from what we could tell, the incident was not so serious that it would cost him his life. He only suffered some flesh wounds so how is he going to give them a taste of their own medicine?"

"The Atticus family got dirt against us now."

Morrie, who had stayed silent the whole time, finally said quietly.

Since Morrie came from the underworld, he was used to fighting and scheming against the others in the dark. The methods those dark entities employed were way worse than what the outside world were aware of, so he clearly understood what the Atticus family was thinking. He immediately knew what they wanted.

"So what? Should we just watch our children get locked up and suffer hardships? Everyone knows that the police chief is Sawyer's best buddy. Now that the three of them are locked up, how much are they are going to suffer?" Phil said angrily.

Zachary waved his hand and answered, "What are you so scared of? So what if the police chief was raised by Sawyer? Does he dare to kill my son?"

After Zachary said that, Phil did not say anything anymore.

At the same time, he let out a sigh of relief in his heart. The reason he deliberately behaved so restless back then was to make Zachary say that.

As long as Henry was fine, his son, Alex, would be safe and sound too.

This was how the big shots communicated. Their fights would be hidden in every small detail of conversation.

“Let’s just wait,” Zachary said suddenly.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1423

“What are we waiting for?” Phil asked subconsciously. Then, he immediately thought of something. He asked in a surprised and expectant tone, “Is the old master coming?”

Of course, the old master he was referring to was Old Master Law.

After Phil said that, Howard also looked over.

Obviously, even though this matter was very intractable, as long as Old Master Law came out to say a few words, there wouldn't be any major repercussions.

Zachary waved his hand and said, "I talked to my father before I came here. He said he doesn't want to get involved in this."

Phil started laughing in anger when he heard this. However, since he was fearful of the Laws, he could not show his dissatisfaction.

After he thought about it, Phil said sullenly, "The three kids burnt Empire Meet and we can excuse that, but they almost set Fabian on fire. There were two bodyguards severely injured and six lightly injured. Also, Fabian suffered a concussion, so I don't think they'll get away with this."

"It's like they're stepping on the Atticus family's crest as they slapped them across the face. Is the old master not going to intervene in such a huge matter?"

"The old master has his own factors to consider."

Zachary looked at Phil with a warning gaze. Then, he continued calmly, "Think about it. If the old master shows up to handle this, wouldn't that signal that the Atticus family can instantly raise their demands?"

Phil's expression froze and he could not utter a single word.

"It'll be good to let them suffer a little," Zachary said with a dark face.

"Those brats are getting more and more courageous. How dare they commit murder and arson? How are we going to control them if we don't teach them a lesson?"

Morrie laughed and said, "They're pretty brave. At least they're better than cowards who don't dare to do anything. Besides, Mr. Law, they only committed arson, not murder."

Zachary peered at Morrie and said bluntly, "You're so old, yet you also want to fool around with them?"

Morrie shrugged and said indifferently, "The Bransons got to this point because we dabble in illegal business. Big families like the Atticus family never have any respect for us. What's done is done, so what else can they do?"

"I can get some assassins for hire from Southeast Terra and then I'll use all of my family assets to kill off half of the Atticus family. After that, I'll run away without a care in the world. What can they do to me then?"

Phil chuckled bitterly and said, "You're all very powerful people."

“However, Mr. Law, since we’re not waiting for the old master, what are we waiting for?”

Zachary replied faintly, “That rascal caused all of this behind our backs and he still wants to live comfortably? No way! I’ve asked him to come over here and clean up this mess.”

Phil and Morrie exchanged a glance. They had simultaneously captured some key information from Zachary’s statement.

First, it was Zachary’s tone.

His tone when he said ‘rascal’ was similar to when an elder would affectionately refer to their juniors. Not everyone was qualified to be addressed by Zachary in that way.

Secondly, ‘caused all of this behind our backs’.

Did someone ask Zachary and the gang to do this?

Such a thought was simply too outrageous in Phil’s mind.

He knew Henry very well. He was not afraid of anything, and he was truly a fiend in human form.

Who had the power to tell him what to do?

Life at The Top – Chapter 1424

The scariest thing was that Zachary and even the Laws seemed to know this person was, and were even tacitly agreeing to this matter.

Even though Henry was a disappointment, he was still the successor of the Laws. Would they really allow Henry to be instructed by someone else?

While Phil and Morrie were racking their brains to figure out who this was, Jasper arrived at Law Manor.

Right now, the sky was just beginning to shine brightly.

After he pushed the door open, Jasper walked in with a cool breeze blowing behind him along with the first rays of morning sun.

Phil and Morrie lifted their heads to look over and were met with Jasper's exhausted yet confident and unflustered face. What Phil and Morrie focused on the most were Jasper's bright eyes that seemed to contain the entire galaxy.

His eyes were clear and did not look so special at the first glance, however, the more one looked at them, the more breathtaking they appeared.

Phil and Merrie were old foxes who had a wealth of experience. With just one glance, they knew this young man was not as simple as he looked.

"Uncle Law, I'm sorry for being late."

After Jasper walked in, he scrutinized Phil and Morrie without them noticing. Then, he walked in front of Zachary and said in a soft voice.

"That's good." Zachary finally had a smile on his face.

"This time, that rascal caused such a huge commotion."

Jasper nodded and said, "Uncle Law, we didn't talk in detail over the phone. Can you tell me what's the situation now?"

Zachary nodded but he did not immediately tell Jasper the situation. Instead, he pointed at Phil and Morrie at his side. He introduced them, “This is the chairman of Jean Corporation and the head of the Jeans, Phil Jean. He’s also Alex Jean’s father. The other man is the chairman of Star Group, Howard Branson’s father, Morrie Branson.”

“Alex and Howard are that brat’s best friends, and they grew up together. The three of them did this together last night”

When Jasper heard that, he turned and greeted Phil and Morrie, “Mr. Jean, Mr. Branson. Hello...”

“Essentially, this matter is between me and Fabian. However, Fabian used some tricks that did not follow the rules and took action against my men. Therefore, I asked Henry to come to Harbor City to teach Fabian a lesson.”

“I initially wanted Henry to waste Fabian’s energy so that over the next two days, I could take Fabian down myself.

“However, I didn’t expect this issue to blow up, nor did I expect your sons to be dragged into this. No matter what, this is my fault and I must apologize to you, sirs.”

Jasper humbled himself but Phil was not too happy about this.

Jasper was the one who masterminded all these shenanigans. It was fine if he asked Henry to do such dangerous things, but now Jasper had even dragged his son into this.

Now, not only his son, but the entire Jean family was going to end up being hated by the Atticus family.

It was not a joyous thing to be hated by the Atticus family in Harbor City.

Therefore, Phil did not care how much the Law valued Jasper. To him, Jasper was just a junior. He wanted to lecture, but Morrie was one step ahead of him.

Morrie started laughing and he got up to grab Jasper who was about to bow down. He said candidly, "You're Jasper, huh? I heard about you a long time ago, but this is the first time I'm meeting you in person. You're not bad at all. You're pretty eloquent and you have the look of a successful person."

Morrie's reaction caused Phil's jaw to almost drop.

He had known Morrie for more than ten years and this was the first time he had seen him praising a junior so much.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1425

To be honest, even Jasper was a little astonished, let alone Phil. However, the astonishment lasted less than a second. Then, Jasper immediately showed the respect and reverence a junior should have toward his elders.

“You speak too highly of me, Mr. Branson. I’m just lucky. There are a lot of people out there who are better than me. I don’t dare to look down on everyone in the world.”

Morrie chuckled and replied, “It’s good to have a fearful heart, but you don’t have to be too humble. If not, you’ll look like a hypocrite.”

Jasper nodded and chuckled. “Thank you, Mr. Branson. I learn something new every day.”

“Stop calling me Mr. Branson. I’m almost the same age as Mr. Law. Why don’t we refer to ourselves as uncle and nephew?” Morrie laughed and said.

Naturally, Jasper would not embarrass Morrie at this moment. After all, he was the boss of the underworld. Jasper would not be losing anything by being regarded as his nephew.

“Uncle Branson, it’d be an honor,” Jasper said with a slight bow.

Morrie guffawed and patted Jasper's arm. Then, he said affectionately, "Alright, let's talk about the situation at hand now."

After he asked Jasper to sit, Morrie turned to look at Phil.

Phil frowned.

'Damn it. This is such a critical moment, yet you're not worried about your son's safety. You even adopted a nephew first. Now that you're done and it's finally time for business, you're asking me to speak because you're too lazy to do it?'

Even though Phil was not happy, Zachary was sitting with them, and it was clear that he was allowing this, so Phil did not dare to object.

"Those rascals caused such a huge ruckus, and Fabian is still in the hospital. Even though we think Fabian is not hurt too badly, from the situation of the scene, he at least has a concussion.

"This is the first time the Atticus family has suffered such a huge loss after they suddenly rose to power. I'm sure they won't let this go so easily."

"Judging from their reactions, it seems that they do not intend to just let this go."

“Before you get here, Mr. Law called the head of the Atticus family, which is Fabian’s father, Sawyer Atticus. Let’s just say it didn’t go well.”

“The Atticus family plans to seek revenge. After that happened, the three rascals were taken away immediately. From the way things look, the other party has the upper hand so we cannot do anything. Right now, we don’t have an opportunity to see the three of them, and we don’t know how they are.”

“The only thing helping us is the fact that they are not ordinary people and we’re also all here. Therefore, they won’t dare to do anything over the line.”

Phil paused when he said that. Then, he looked at Zachary.

When he saw Zachary nodding, he smiled. After this, the way he looked at Jasper changed.

He had heard that Jasper was valued by Zachary and also Old Master Law. However, after what he experienced tonight, Phil knew those were not just rumors and that the truth was actually even more unbelievable. If he could tell Jasper what he was about to say next, it meant that the Laws had no secrets with Jasper.

“This is only what we can see on the surface. There is also something that we can’t see, or rather, something only people at a certain level can see it.”

“The Laws and the Atticus family are already locked in a conflict, and it’s a huge one.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1426

“Back then the Atticus family got rich from trading rubber when they were still in the Golden Peninsula. Their first business in Harbor City was stolen from the Laws.

“It happened back during the first year that Mr. Law took over the family. He was not familiar with the family business yet when he succeeded the first head of the family. That was why the Atticus family was able to take advantage of this.

“Of course, Mr. Law thought of a way to seek revenge against them after that. There was a lot of back and forth as this issue grew bigger and bigger. The worst one was about six years ago I think, right, Mr. Law? Sawyer worked with Kennedy Langdon to take down the Laws.”

Zachary nodded and replied faintly, “That’s right. Six years ago...”

“Back then, my father suddenly fell sick very and he was unconscious in the hospital for half a month. The hospital had given us a very thick stack of notices stating his critical illness. Back then, everyone in Harbor City including myself thought that the old master wouldn’t make it.”

Phil smiled and said, “Yeah, back then, while Mr. Law was worried about the old master’s condition, he still had to handle the attack from the Atticus family and the Langdons. He was so anxious and worried.”

“However, the old master was bold and good-natured, so he left a lot of good karma behind. Back then, the other two rich families sided with the Laws...”

“Jasper, what do you think happened back then?”

Phil asked this to purposely test Jasper.

Jasper answered insipidly, “The upper class in Harbor City formed two opposing sides surrounding the Laws and the Atticus family.”

“Very good.”

Phil nodded and praised.

“That’s what happened back then. When their conflict reached its peak, Mr. Law was ready to send Henry and Anna abroad. It was very courageous of him to fight to the death alongside the Laws.”

Zachary waved his hand and chuckled. He said, “Stop praising me. As the head of the family, I’ve taken over this responsibility from my father. If I lost the family, what dignity would I have left to continue living? I needed Henry and Anna to continue the bloodline of the Laws.”

Phil's eyes were shining as he relived the battle back then. He said slowly, "I can only say that there is providence in everything."

"During the most critical moment, Mr. Law battled courageously with the Langdons and the Atticus family. If any of them made a call, Harbor City wouldn't be the Harbor City you see today."

"The upper-class in Harbor City was split into two sides. The neutral ones were almost wiped out. Once everyone decided to join the fight, no god from heaven would have been able to stop them until one side was defeated."

Jasper nodded understandingly and said, "Yes, it's just like the two armies fighting each other. Once the commander gives the order and the soldiers start fighting, they can't withdraw the troops."

"Yes, that's exactly it," Phil said ruefully. "So, I guess it's providence. At that moment, the old master woke up."

"If he woke up, the battle would not continue. The Atticus family and the Langdons knew this. As long as the old master was still around, the Laws were here to stay."

"However, the outcome of the battle was unknown, so the grievances remained. All these years, we've lost track of how many public and private fights have sprung up between them."

Jasper said with a frown, “Does it also mean that in the worst-case scenario, the Atticus family might use this chance as a pretext to make a fuss, reigniting the confrontation between the two sides?”

“It’s not very likely, but we have to take this possibility into consideration.” Zachary answered.

He looked at Jasper and said, “Therefore, right now we can only communicate with the higher-ups for you. However, you will be the one deciding how to settle this matter. Furthermore, you have to do it with your power and not escalate it.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1427

Jasper frowned and then he said slowly, “Uncle Law, I caused this so I should take care of it since it’s my unshirkable responsibility. However, I am worried that if the Atticus family has some other motives, this might be very tricky.”

Indeed, if the Atticus family went mad and decided to start a family war that would mess up the entirety of Harbor city, then it whatever Jasper said would be meaningless.

Zachary smiled when he heard that. He said, “You don’t have to worry too much about this. You just have to do it. The Laws won’t be afraid even if the Atticus family wants to go there.”

“We still don’t know who the victor will be...”

“Most importantly, you shouldn’t forget.”

Zachary smiled at Jasper and continued, “The old master is still here.”

Jasper sighed in relief. He was indeed envious of the Laws for having an elder in the family. The old master was like a treasure to them.

Moreover, with the increased interaction between Harbor City and the mainland, Old Master Law, who the big shots in Swallow Capital regarded as having given outstanding service to the country during the Handover, would only gradually attain a higher position.

Indeed, with the old master around, the Laws were as safe as houses.

The Atticus family knew about this as well.

“Okay, I’ll take action now,” Jasper said after getting up.

“Wait, you already know what to do?” Phil asked in astonishment.

As he said that, Phil laughed and said profoundly, “Young man, it’s very complicated right now.”

“First of all, we tried to go over to see those rascals, but we couldn’t. So it’ll be meaningless if you go over as well. Or perhaps, do you intend to head to the Atticus family to personally see Sawyer?”

Jasper shook his head and said, “It’s meaningless to meet Sawyer. Aside from him refusing to see a nobody like me, even if he did see me, what would he tell me? I’m guessing that if he wants to say something, he’d say it to all of you.”

“Then what else do you have in mind?”

Phil thought Jasper was just being impulsive and wanted to act rashly before thinking things through. As he was about to advise him, he realized Jasper had already weighed the decisions out in his mind. Hence, he started questioning Jasper after his interest piqued.

He secretly knew he would not have any good ideas on how to handle this if he was in Jasper’s position.

“I’ll go see Fabian.”

While Phil was putting himself in Jasper’s shoes, Jasper’s statement sparked an idea in Phil’s head.

Indeed, all of this started because of the beef between Jasper and Fabian. Since Jasper was in Harbor City right now, it would be best if Jasper went to see Fabian.

Only Fabian would be able to solve this mess involving the Atticus Family and the three rascals that had been locked up.

“Good idea!” Phil praised.

“However, are you sure that Fabian will want to see you?” Phil asked.

Jasper smiled and answered, “He will.”

“Oh..? How confident,” Phil said mockingly. He felt that Jasper was being a little boastful right now.

Currently, Fabian was being guarded by heavy security in the hospital. It would be impossible for Jasper to barge inside forcefully. Thus, he could only make Fabian agree to see him voluntarily.

However, this was very challenging.

“Yes, because Fabian even dreams of defeating me.”

Jasper’s flat tone was filled with extreme confidence. Furthermore, the statement itself was incredibly overbearing.

A guy that Fabian, someone the elders speak very highly of, dreamt of defeating would not be able to say something like this if he did not have a certain level of conceit and ability.

“Okay...”

Morrie beamed and nodded. He looked at Jasper and said, “You should go soon then.”

Jasper gave him a brief reply, and after bidding farewell to Zachary, Phil, and Morrie, he left the villa politely.

Phil was sat speechless in his chair for a long time after Jasper left.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1428

“T-That brat...”

Phil pointed in the direction of the door from which Jasper had left and said without knowing whether to laugh or cry, “Back then I thought Kayden was the steadiest and Fabian was the most maniacal among the younger generation in Harbor City. From the looks of it now, this kid might defeat both of them.”

“The moment I saw him, I thought of something,” Morrie said.

All the people of their generation trusted Morrie’s judgment. He never made a mistake when it came to judging one’s character.

“This feels like the plot of Lolita.” Morrie let out a sigh gently and said softly.

Upon hearing that, Zachary stared blankly at Morrie before guffawing.

While he was laughing, his face was filled with the same sort of gratification and complacency that one would feel when his peers finally acknowledged the junior he had his set sights on.

Zachary's love for this young man was not to be outdone by his love for his biological son.

Phil shook his head. Although he was shocked by Jasper's finesse and wisdom, he felt Morrie was exaggerating when he said that.

The plot of Lolita?

Did this mean that Jasper was Humbert and all of the younger generations in Harbor City were Lolita?

What a joke.

Harbor City Sacred Heart Hospital.

Since this was the best private hospital in Harbor City, every patient here was either rich or famous.

Even in Harbor City, which ranked among the top in the world in income per capita, not everyone could afford to pay 3000 Harbor Dollars for a 15-minute consultation with a doctor.

However, the high price provided meticulous care. They had the top medical team in Harbor City. If they could not cure your disease, they would contact the top experts in various fields around the world for a co-consultation.

The officials and nobles in this land cherished their lives the most. Because on this, Sacred Heart Hospital always had the foundation to take root in Harbor City. Meanwhile, its majority shareholder was the Atticus family.

Therefore, when Fabian was hospitalized, he was naturally assigned the best care.

At this moment, Fabian was warded in the best VIP room. His head was wrapped in gauze, but some blood was still seeping out from it. It made Fabian's face look very pale.

"How's the situation?" Fabian closed his eyes and lay in bed as he asked faintly.

“Those three were subdued and the Laws called your father a few hours ago. However, he doesn’t have much to say to Zachary Law.”

“He asked me to tell you to focus on recuperating.”

A man in his fifties said softly.

Fabian slowly opened his eyes and replied coldly, “This is a chance that’s hard to come by. I want to call my father. No matter what, I want to make the Laws pay a painful price.”

“Your father is taking care of this so please don’t worry too much,” the old man said comfortingly.

“Does he think I won’t be able to handle this because I suffered so badly before this?” Fabian growled.

The old man immediately stopped talking.

At this moment, the door to the room opened.

The bodyguard in black said respectfully, “Mr. Atticus, there’s someone here to see you.”

Fabian roared, “Is it a mediator for the Laws? How ridiculous. Do they not see that I am recuperating? I don’t want to see anyone!”

The bodyguard answered awkwardly, “He said his name is Jasper Laine and he said you’ll want to see him after I tell you his name.”

Fabian eyes widened immediately.

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Because he was overwhelmed with emotion, Fabian started coughing before he said anything.

“Mr. Fabian...?”

The man in his fifties came over quickly to pat Fabian’s back.

After he finally started breathing normally again, Fabian took a few deep breaths. Then, he leaned back on his bed and laughed. He said, "Jasper is here? How great! How amazing!"

"He's indeed the rival that forced me into a dead end. I thought he would hide and stay away from all the quarrels in Harbor City. However, he has bigger balls than I imagined."

"Mr. Atticus, you don't have to see someone like him," the old man said.

Fabian smirked and replied, "I'm seeing him. Of course, I am. I've never lost ever since I was born. However, I lost to him. How can I not meet such an interesting rival?"

When the old man heard that, he frowned slightly. However, he did not retort. Instead, he said, "If that's the case, let me welcome this Mr. Laine, okay?"

Fabian waved his hand and said, "Fine. Thank you, Waterson."

"It's my duty." Waterson bowed slightly to Fabian and then turned around to leave the room.

After a while, Jasper spotted Waterson from where he stood at the end of the corridor.

“Are you Jasper Laine?” Waterson asked with no expression on his face.

Jasper nodded and replied, “Did Fabian agree to see me?”

“Mr. Fabian agreed. However, before that, I have to tell you something,” Waterson said.

“Mr. Fabian is the successor of the Atticus family, so his safety is our priority. So after you go in, please watch your words. Don’t make him angry and don’t purposely trigger him.”

“Also, even though you caused him to suffer some disadvantages in some aspects, you have to remember that Mr. Fabian’s future encompasses the entire Atticus family. His support is unimaginable.”

“He was just fooling around. I hope you don’t feel proud because of some small achievements. This was merely child’s play to Mr. Fabian and the Atticus family.”

“Lastly, you can go in, but the person behind you can’t.”

Waterson’s last sentence was obviously aimed at Julian, who was standing behind Jasper.

Jasper scoffed and looked at Waterson. He said calmly, "Sir, I have a question for you..."

Waterson replied faintly with a frown, "Since you're pretty polite, you can ask, but I might not answer you."

"May I know how the Atticus family built such a huge business when they had someone like you around?" Jasper's statement caused Waterson to lift his eyebrows instantly.

"You punk!"

Waterson roared and lifted his hand to grab Jasper.

Jasper looked at Waterson calmly and stood his ground.

Meanwhile, a gust of wind appeared from behind him. It was Julian.

Their arms touched a few times about 60 centimeters in front of Jasper. However, in the blink of an eye, they retracted their hands.

“I was wondering why a snotty kid like you would dare to come here. It seems that you have an expert with you.”

Waterson looked at Julian in shock as he said to Jasper. Only people in the same industry would know whether the other party was truly skilled.

After the small fight just now, Waterson was shocked by Julian’s ability.

Reality is not a novel and there were not so many fortuitous meetings. Therefore, the short fight just now was not enough to display any physical capability. Yet, Waterson was surprised. He had trained for decades and yet, he was not confident in besting Julian.

“Kickboxing from the Dragon’s Palm and the Twelve Road palm. Young man, who is Sid Welles from Pegasus City in the mainland to you?” Waterson asked Julian in a serious tone.

“He’s one of my masters,” Julian answered insipidly.

“Also, you’re using the Waterson style boxing. Mr. Bart Waterson is also one of my masters. I heard him saying that he had a cousin back then and he was kicked out of the family when he was young. After the cousin went to Harbor City, they lost all contact with him.”

Waterson smirked, "So you're that old beast's disciple." After Waterson finished talking, he did not care about seniority anymore. He started to brazenly throw punches again.

Once again, his target was Jasper.

A look of rage flashed across Julian's eyes as he lifted his hand to block Waterson.

After more than ten rounds, the outcome was evident.

Waterson stumbled three steps backward and was breathing heavily. Right now, he was gasping for air.

On the contrary, Julian's face was slightly red and he looked as if he had just finished warming up.

"It seems that you can't stop me," Julian said faintly.

"How arrogant!" Waterson growled. He wanted to charge at Julian again as he felt that he had embarrassed himself. However, a bodyguard ran over to them from Fabian's room that was at the end of the corridor.

“Waterson, Mr. Fabian said to stop immediately,” the bodyguard said fearfully.

When Waterson heard that, his expression changed. Finally, he forced himself to stop.

His expression made it seem as if he was unhappy that he had just been robbed of a victory. However, he let out a sigh of relief in his heart.

As they were fighting, he understood he was not Julian’s rival.

If they continued, he would be asking to be humiliated. Therefore, this escape path from such an embarrassing situation could not have come at a better time.

“Since Mr. Fabian said so, you guys should go in now,” Waterson said harshly.

“Julian,” Jasper called out faintly.

“Jasper,” replied Julian.

“You said he’s the traitor of your master and he even called your master a beast. You should be grateful to your teacher as if they were your parents. Teach him a lesson on behalf of your master.”

After Jasper said that, he did not look at the change of expression on Waterson’s face as he walked straight into the room.

Julian looked at Waterson frigidly before an extremely arrogant smile appeared on his lips.

Jasper ignored the sounds of the fight and Waterson’s grunts of pain behind him.

It would be fine so long as Julian was not disadvantaged. He knew nothing about boxing but he could tell that Julian was able to defeat Waterson.

As for those bodyguards, Julian was not worried at all. Julian was even better at fighting off a group.

On the contrary, Jasper’s meeting with Fabian might not be so easy.

While pondering, he had already lifted his hand to push open the door of the room.

After he walked into the room, he found that not only did the air not smell like disinfectant, it smelled faintly of flowers instead.

It was not like a hospital room at all. Instead, it was more like a luxurious suite.

However, there was only one bed in the middle of the room.

Fabian was looking at him icily from the bed.

Jasper and Fabian had fought numerous times. It was already clear who the winner was, but this was the first time the two of them had actually met each other.

“Jasper, you’re so courageous.”

This was the first thing Fabian said to Jasper after they met.

When he said the second sentence, his tone sounded more malevolent.

“Are you not scared that I’ll make you stay in Harbor City forever?”

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“Of course I’m scared.”

Even though Jasper said that, he did not look scared at all.

“Why don’t you do it now, Mr. Atticus? You have so many people out there. You only need to say a word and then I’ll die on the spot.”

Fabian looked at Jasper and smirked, “Interesting.”

Jasper strode to a chair beside the bed and sat down. Then, he took out an apple and started peeling it naturally.

He was like a normal caretaker as he lowered his head to look at the spinning apple and the apple skin that was growing longer and longer. Then, he said slowly, “Since you’re hurt, you have to rest more. You have to eat more fruits to replenish your vitamins. It’s good for the recovery of your wounds.”

Fabian frowned and looked at Jasper suspiciously. He started to look more impatient as well.

“Jasper, what are you trying to say?”

Jasper chuckled and said, “Are you getting impatient? This is not the Mr. Atticus I know.”

“What is your impression of me?” Fabian scoffed.

“I won’t say as steady as a mountain, but you wouldn’t be so easily frustrated. However, there’s no difference. You’re still someone I defeated.”

Jasper’s words clearly infuriated Fabian.

“Do you think you’ve won?” Fabian looked at Jasper with a mocking look.

“Judging from the timing of events, the time the fire started last night was also the same time I took down all of your positions on the Dow Jones Index.

“In other words, once you see your capital account when the Dow Jones market commences tonight, you will find a few red zeroes.”

When Jasper said this, he handed the peeled apple to Fabian. Then, he continued while grinning, “Fortunately, the index futures market will forcefully liquidate your assets if you don’t have any funds left. If you’re allowed to go into debt, you’d probably be a billion dollars in debt now, Mr. Atticus.”

The corners of Fabian’s lips twitched.

After he looked at Jasper grimly, he looked at the apple in Jasper’s hand.

An ordinary person would fly into a rage by now, but Fabian was not an ordinary person.

He laughed and then took the apple from Jasper. After he took a bite, he said, “If that’s not my apple, I wouldn’t dare to eat it.”

“If you won’t call your men to shoot me to death here, then I won’t be so stupid as to have the thought of poisoning you here,” Jasper shrugged and said.

As Fabian chomped down on the apple, he said profoundly, “Not bad. This apple tastes so refreshing.”

“Jasper, as things stand, I’ve lost half of all my funds to you.”

Jasper lifted his eyes and said, "So are you saying that there's more to come?"

"Of course." Fabian smiled coyly again. Then, he lifted his finger to point at the outside of the window. He said, "Henry is still locked up over there. What are you willing to risk to get him out?"

"He doesn't need me to risk anything to save him," Jasper shook his head and said.

Fabian scoffed and said faintly, "Jasper, you're too confident."

"Mr. Atticus, imagine if a normal person with a normal intelligence had two buttons in front of them. One could make someone else lose 1 million bucks while the other button could make themselves earn 500 thousand bucks, what do you think the average person would choose?"

"The 500 thousand button of course," Fabian said insipidly.

"That's right. This will reflect upon our negotiation."

Jasper clapped his hands and said with a grin, "Free Henry, Alex, and Howard and the Dow Jones Index won't change tonight. Even though you won't be able to get back

everything you lost, you can preserve half of the one billion US Dollars you put in yesterday.”

Fabian immediately understood what Jasper was implying.

This was a blatant threat.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1431

It was either Fabian let Henry and the gang go or he would be left with nothing.

Jasper was confident because he knew that even if Fabian did not agree to let them go, Henry would still be safe. He would just need to suffer a few more days of hardship.

After all, the Laws were still around, and the Atticus family was not prepared to have a complete fall out with the former. Moreover, if they really fell out with the Laws, the Laws would go mad if Fabian targeted Henry. This would force the old master to show his face. This would bring no benefits to the Atticus family.

Hence, what was in front of Fabian right now was a deal. Jasper was willing to use 500 million US Dollars in exchange for Henry's early release.

It seemed that Jasper would suffer a huge loss from this, but this bold yet foolish behavior made Fabian feel extremely humiliated. Because this 500 million should belong to him! He even got this loan after he mortgaged 100% of Empire Meet's stock rights. Right now, Jasper was using his own money to bargain for Henry!

"Jasper, you're so calculative. This money should be mine! You don't even need to spend a dime and yet you want to take Henry away from me?" Fabian said coldly.

Jasper shook his head and said, “Mr. Atticus, firstly, you have to know that in this situation, if I say the money is yours, then it’s yours. If I say it’s not, then it’s not.”

This statement felt like a huge kick to Fabian’s ribs. He immediately exploded. “How dare you come to Harbor City and strut around in front of me?”

“I have the ability to do so.” Jasper shrugged and placed the fruit knife down slowly. He smiled softly at Fabian and continued, “If you’re the one who wins, I guess you’ll be even more nefarious than me, right?”

“Good! Amazing! Jasper, I lost so much money and I don’t care about this last 500 million US Dollars. Worse comes to worst, I don’t want any of it!”

Jasper grinned and replied, “Of course, you have the right to choose...”

“However, you’re no stranger to this thing, right, Mr. Atticus?”

As Jasper said that, he took out an agreement.

When Fabian saw the header of this contract, his eyes contracted.

'Mortgage Agreement'. And below that was his signature!

With just one look, Fabian was sure that this was the agreement he signed when he mortgaged 100% of Empire Meet's stock right to loan 500 million US Dollars.

"How did you get that?" This was the first time in this meeting that Fabian failed to control his expression.

Fabian had been deliberately showing Jasper when he was mad, or when he was mocking him, or when he was being calm.

When one got to this stage of life, no one would be so stupid as to show their true emotions on their faces. However, at this moment, Fabian could hold himself back anymore.

He could not imagine that the loan he got from the underground money firm would end up in Jasper's hands.

Jasper chuckled lightly. He recalled how when he got off the plane, he ran into Kayden's people. Kayden's present really helped him a lot.

That was why he dared to come here. It was because he understood Fabian's true condition from this agreement.

If Fabian did not use his family's power, he would have nothing.

This was exactly the confidence Jasper needed to pin Fabian down on the negotiation table.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1432

Jasper did not care how Kayden obtained this agreement. However, this did not stop Jasper from getting to know Kayden once again.

Indeed, the good guy with a smile always on his face was not a good person.

The Langdon father and son duo had almost the same temper. In order to seek revenge, he was able to suffer in silence for so many years.

Jasper also had reason to believe that Kayden had planted a lot of spies around Fabian.

He even had a bolder suspicion. He suspected that the ambition and preparation the Langdon father and son had poured into Harbor City was far beyond anyone's imagination. If not, how would one explain why Kayden's people had been waiting at the airport before Jasper even got off the plane?

The Langdon father and son were horrifying.

However, they shared the same enemy, so it was not the time to think of such a thing.

"Mr. Atticus, you have to know that all the lender needs is to recover the principal sum and interest on time. However, if someone is willing to pay a higher price to buy the mortgage, they would naturally be willing to trade," Jasper said flatly.

"You bastard!" Fabian was immediately infuriated.

"I know those heartless scoundrels from the underground money firm were god for nothings. For the sake of money, they'll even kneel and call a dog their father!"

Fabian had a malevolent look on his face and he did not realize he had just exposed another secret to Jasper.

He borrowed his money from the underground money firm.

After remembering this information, Jasper said, "To the Atticus family, it doesn't matter if it's 500 million US Dollars or even a billion US Dollars, those are all small numbers. They can accept it, no?"

"If you were to tell everyone about this, I think you'd be able to settle all of your finance problems, right?"

Fabian turned around and looked sinisterly at Jasper. He said, "Are you threatening me?"

Jasper shrugged and replied calmly, "I'm talking about a business deal with you, Mr. Atticus. I'm just analyzing the current situation for you right now."

"Do you think I need you to analyze this for me?" Fabian said with a cold chuckle.

"Perhaps not. So, Mr. Atticus, are you going to make the decision, or am I going to make it for you?" Jasper asked.

Fabian's expression was bone-chilling. He was looking at Jasper like he was going to eat him alive.

However, he did not reject Jasper's offer immediately. His family was loaded, so why did he put up collateral at the underground money firm?

Even if he used his name to put up collateral or ask for a loan in the bank, he would be able to get the money within the shortest time possible along with the lowest interest rate.

Do not think that rich people did not care about interest. With a loan of 1 billion US Dollars, the daily interest would be an astronomical figure. The rich were just smarter and more meticulous in planning and accounting than the poor.

If they could avoid any unnecessary expenditure, they would not spend a penny more.

However, the reason Fabian did such a thing was so that he would not become the talk of the town.

He was very famous and there were so many people looking at him.

If he took money from his family, then getting defeated by Jasper and losing a billion US Dollars would serve as the catalyst for the other families to attack him and his father.

Both he and his father, Sawyer, did not want to face a situation like this.

Meanwhile, it would be the same if he asked for a loan from the bank. There were no secrets in banking. Fabian knew if he put up collateral at the bank, everyone in Harbor City would know he was facing bankruptcy. If he handed the documents in the morning, his dirty laundry would be aired for everyone to see before lunchtime.

Now, Jasper was using this to threaten him.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1433

It was a blatant conspiracy. Fabian had to agree no matter what.

The helplessness and the humiliation caused Fabian to despise Jasper.

As Fabian looked at Jasper, he said, “So what if you get Henry and the gang out? Of course they have to pay the price after they did something like that.”

“Even if I agree to let them go free, do you think my family and I will forgive them?”

Jasper replied insipidly, “If you touch them, I will take action. If your family wants to touch them, the Laws will seek revenge. This is what’s going to happen.”

“I don’t expect us to completely eradicate our shared hatred with this trade alone. It’s not realistic. There’s no way that we’ll shake hands and be friends.”

“However, a long-term hostility shouldn’t affect our small collaboration this time. Also, this collaboration will be like swapping our chess pieces on a chessboard.”

“You’ll get back some of your losses so the damage won’t be so bad. Meanwhile, I’ll get what I want. It’s a win-win situation, no?”

Fabian looked at Jasper and burst out laughing all of a sudden.

“You abandoned the chance to easily defeat me just because you want to get Henry out of mere sooner.”

“You and I both know that if you expose the information you have in your hand, all of my positions on the Dow Jones Index will be liquidated. I will also become a laughing stock in Harbor City. I’ll also be put under huge pressure by my family.

“It’s such a useful card and you want to use this to get Henry out sooner, is it really worth it?”

“Some thing’s value can’t be measured on paper,” Jasper said calmly.

Henry caused such a huge kerfuffle, and this outcome aside, even if Henry did not come to Harbor City under his instruction, Jasper would still do everything to get Henry out after he was caught up in so much trouble. This was not something he could place a value on.

“How touching.”

Fabian chuckled coldly, but obviously, he did not believe Jasper.

In his opinion, either Jasper was stupid for doing this, or he was trying to use this chance to get on the Laws' good side.

Fabian was someone who simply would not do something that would not bring any benefit to him. Furthermore, he would also harm others to benefit himself. Hence, this was possibility not totally unimaginable to him.

And could Jasper, someone who would be able to defeat him, really be so stupid?

Even if Jasper was conceited, he would not have this thought right now.

Therefore, he immediately suspected that Jasper merely wanted to get something from the Laws.

Judging from Fabian's expression, Jasper knew what he was thinking. However, it did not matter. What Fabian had in mind was none of Jasper's concern.

As he said back then, they were enemies, so even if they worked together this one time, their rivalry on the chessboard would not change. Therefore, Jasper did not care about what Fabian thought.

Fabian did not say anything and Jasper did not urge him.

At this moment, the atmosphere was tense.

"This matter touched upon the family's profits. I can't let him go just because I want to."

After a long while, Fabian said slowly. Even though he did not agree immediately, he was more lenient now.

"That's your business to handle."

"If you agree, then I can give you some time to fix this. Perhaps three to five hours. I would think, Mr. Atticus, that this would be enough time to convince your family."

Fabian said indignantly, “Just a few hours? What do you think I am? Even if I’m the head of the family, I still have to consider how the elders and other family members feel. How is so little time enough?”

After he said that, the door of the room burst open. A body covered in blood crashed through the door and flew into the room alongside a cloud of sawdust.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1434

The sudden change surprised Jasper and Fabian.

The two of them turned around to see what was going on. Then, they saw Julian walking through the door that had crashed open while stepping on the sawdust.

At this moment, Julian’s entire body was hot. His skin was glowing abnormally red as if he had been burnt.

After they looked closely, they could see that his head was also steaming slightly.

However, Julian looked as if he was in great condition. He was breathing normally and his eyes were shining. Furthermore, he did not look like he was injured.

On the contrary, the person on the floor was almost unrecognizable. His body was covered in blood. The tastefully chosen clothes on his body had been ripped into pieces and were now hanging from his body.

His two arms were twisted in bizarre angles. They were like two knots by his side. He wanted to get up but the severe internal injuries and the wound on his arms prevented him from doing so. Hence, he could only turn his body and cough out blood while lying on the ground.

This person was Waterson, who had been accompanying Fabian.

The outcome was clear after the two of them fought.

Fabian narrowed his eyes, he was feeling extremely shocked.

Waterson had worked with the Atticus family for many years and been with them through many things. Fabian was even kidnapped by some kidnappers when he was in senior high.

However, at that moment, Waterson saved him while defeating six ferocious heavily armed desperados single-handedly.

Fabian had also seen Waterson severely injure an adult man who had constantly trained.

Because of all this, in Fabian's eye, Waterson was without equal. He knew Waterson was good with his fists.

Now that Fabian had gotten into trouble, the Atticus family asked Waterson to come here to protect him. However, Fabian did not expect that the unequalled Waterson would be beaten to the ground one day.

He lifted his eyes to glance outside the room. Even though he could not see the entire corridor, he could see the upper body of his bodyguard lying on the floor near the door.

There was no doubt about it, more than ten bodyguards outside had all been defeated.

Fabian's face turned dark and he said frigidly, "Jasper, is this one of the tokens of your discussion with me?"

Jasper shook his head and laughed, "No. Even if I were stupid, I wouldn't use force to threaten you in Harbor City. I still want to leave Harbor City alive."

“Stop talking nonsense. The Laws are so close to you. If my family or I want to touch you, we’d have to be prepared to start a battle with the Laws. We’re all smart people so stop pretending to be dumb.”

Fabian’s angry roars caused the smile on Jasper’s smile to become more radiant.

He looked at the time and said, “Mr. Atticus, we’re busy people so let’s not waste time.”

The corners of Fabian’s lips twitched. This was the first time he had felt so helpless. At this moment, even if he had a lot of tricks up his sleeves, he could not do anything.

It was obvious that Jasper would not stop until he reached his goal. Yet, Fabian could not say no to the terms he offered.

After taking a deep breath, Fabian said calmly, “Three hours. I need three hours.”

Jasper got up after he heard that. He said, “Then I shall wait for your good news.”

After he said that, Jasper turned around and walked to the door.

Julian did not hesitate and he immediately followed Jasper out.

Fabian looked at Waterson on the floor and said coldly, "I will remember this."

Jasper did not turn around and immediately walked out the door.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1435

After Jasper left, Fabian's furious roars came from the hospital room.

"Damn it!"

Fabian grabbed a vase from the side of the bed and smashed it against the television that was hanging on the wall opposite the bed. With a loud crash, the vase and the television both broke.

At this moment, Waterson struggled to get up from the puddle of blood on the floor. He lowered his head and said to Fabian, "Mr. Fabian, it's my fault."

Even though Fabian was furious, he hated that he could not kick this useless old thing to death. After he took a deep breath and suppressed the impatience and anger in his heart, he flashed a stiff smile.

Then, he said, "That punk is so wily and mischievous. He has someone powerful with him too, so how can I blame you, Waterson? You're so badly injured. Let me ask the doctor to come look at you. You have to recuperate now."

Anyone would be touched if they were cared for and not criticized after a serious failure.

After Waterson heard that, he was even more remorseful. He said, "Thank you for your forgiveness, Mr. Fabian."

'What a good-for-nothing!'

After Fabian cursed in his heart, he said faintly, "Waterson, you've worked in the Atticus family for so many years. Even if weren't able to contribute this time, you've worked hard for us. Therefore, this small failure means nothing. Jasper will surely regret this in the future. Waterson, you should go get someone to take a look at your wounds."

After he watched Waterson walking away with a limp, Fabian murmured coldly. "If I didn't feel that you're useful to the family, you won't be able to suppress my anger even if you died a hundred times."

After a while, Fabian picked up the phone and called a number.

“Father, it’s me. Jasper came over just now.”

There was silence on the other end of the phone.

“Let Henry and the gang go,” Fabian continued.

After a long while, Sawyer finally said, “It’s easy to let them go, but it’ll be difficult to get such a good chance again in the future.”

“Father, a lot of the elders in the family don’t agree with us starting a battle with the Laws, right?” Fabian said calmly.

“Until that old thing from the Laws doesn’t die, those good-for-nothings won’t dare to do anything... However, we have to make the Laws pay.”

Fabian said coldly, “It’s of paramount importance that we fight the Laws. We still need some time to prepare for this. However, this is not the best time.”

“Even so, I can’t wait a second more to defeat Jasper!”

Sawyer was silent for a while, then he said, “This is your affair to handle. You’re not a child anymore so you have to make your own decisions. If you think this action will be more beneficial, then I’ll entertain you.”

“However, you have to be aware that your previous failure has led to the others in the family holding different opinions about you. “If you get defeated by the same person twice, then it’ll make us look very passive.”

Fabian thought about the price he had to pay and then the corners of his lips twitched.

“Dad, I don’t have another way out.”

Sawyer asked with a deep voice, “How much did you lose?”

“All of the assets under my name.”

Fabian’s answer caused Sawyer to start breathing heavily on the other side of the phone.

As Fabian's father and the head of the Atticus family, naturally, Sawyer knew how much money that was. However, what shocked him the most was not the money. The loss of this money was nothing to the Atticus family and Sawyer.

What truly shocked him was the fact that Fabian had lost everything this time. This had never happened before!

Life at The Top – Chapter 1436

For Sawyer, even though Fabian had lost everything, the money really did not matter. Rather, it was the fact that his son, who had never failed before throughout his whole life, was completely defeated when he faced Jasper.

“What is wrong with you? You were so amazing when you faced Jasper. Even the elders in the family had nothing to say about you. And that was the time you and I had completely established your position and strength in the family. How did you lose everything this time?”

It was only reasonable for Sawyer to be mad.

As the old saying went, these rich and famous families emphasized the honor the parents received when their children’s position rose. Even though they were not in a feudalistic era now, within the family, the performance of one’s offspring could affect the elders’ opinions of their parents to a certain extent. This was an age-old fact.

If Fabian was useless, then Sawyer might not get his position as head of the family.

After all, the previous head should not only consider the issue of the transfer of power to the next generation during the handover, but also the issue the third generation would have a hundred years later.

If Fabian was useless, and if Sawyer forcefully handed down the position of the head to his son upon growing older, he might cause turmoil. This was something that a wise head of a big family would never do.

When Sawyer criticized him, Fabian replied grimly, "I lost and there's nothing to justify the result. However, I didn't completely lose. I still have some cards in my hand. Once I play them, Jasper will die for sure."

"Are you confident?"

"I am confident!"

Sawyer thought about this for a very long while and then chose to believe in Fabian once again.

"Alright, what do you need me to do?" Sawyer asked in a deep voice.

"Continue to take action against the Laws. Even though we let Henry go, this doesn't mean we'll let this issue rest. Otherwise, it'll be hard to explain to the family."

"I need the family to distract the Laws for me. If not, it's going to be difficult for me to do this with the Laws helping Jasper unconditionally."

“Aside from that, I don’t need anything else. I can handle it myself.”

Sawyer said calmly, “As a descendant of a rich family, your starting point is a finishing line that a lot of people won’t be able to reach even in a few lifetimes. And because of this, you don’t have a lot of chances to make mistakes.”

“If you make even the slightest mistake, a lot of people will place you under a microscope. Therefore, you should consider the advantages and disadvantages of this carefully.”

“As for what you asked me to do, I will do it well.”

After Sawyer said that, he hung up the phone.

Fabian closed his eyes and thought for a long time after he put the phone down. When he slowly opened his eyes, his gaze was extremely icy. He knew what his father said just now was more like a warning than a reminder. He could not lose again. If he lost again, his biological father would abandon him, let alone his family.

Power was always more important than relationships in a family.

Besides, if he and his father let go of their power, what else would they use to maintain their relationship? Those elders in the family were not easy to deal with.

“How can I lose this time? Jasper, tell me, how are you going to win?”

Fabian’s icy gaze was filled with venom as he murmured to himself.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1437

Fabian was a man of his word. He said three hours, so Jasper saw Henry and the gang getting escorted out of the detention center not a minute more or a minute less.

Henry was grumbling as he strutted out of there. As he walked, he was boasting to Alex who looked very off-color.

“What did I say? So what if he’s Fabian Atticus? Does he have an extra ball hanging between his legs? Even if I f*ck him up, what can he do to me? He’ll still let us out obediently in the end.”

While he was being detained, Henry knew no one would dare to do anything to him. On the other hand, Howard’s hot temper and impressive body ensured the latter did not suffer much.

On the contrary, Alex, who was weaker and did not have a powerful family, suffered quite a lot. Therefore, he became the target for them to vent their anger. Those people were obviously venting the anger they accumulated from Henry and Howard onto Alex. Thus, Alex's face was swollen and bruised. He was even walking with a limp.

However, fortunately, he only suffered some flesh wounds. Even though Alex did not have a strong family like the Atticus Family or the Laws, he was still someone well-known and reputable in Harbor City. Even though those people listened to the Atticus family, they did not dare to go overboard with this.

“Mr. Law, you're fine, but I'm not. ”

Alex clutched his face and said with a sob.

However, after he said that, he did not hear Henry's response for a very long time. He lifted his head and saw Henry running toward a man on the opposite of the road while screaming on top of his lungs.

“F*ck me! I knew you wouldn't leave me to die!”

Henry ran toward Jasper and pulled him into a tight hug.

This action stunned Alex and Howard. Everyone knew Henry's temper and behavior, so who was worthy of being treated like that by him?

As Henry's two best friends, Alex and Howard never experienced this kind of affection before, even though they had gone through thick and thin with him. Alex started to feel a little jealous inside.

Meanwhile, Howard stared at Jasper while looking pensive.

After patting Henry's back heavily, Jasper said, "How are you? Did you suffer in there?"

Henry said cockily, "They wouldn't dare to even if you gave them balls of steel."

Jasper nodded and said, "This is my fault. I didn't think this through."

Henry grinned and said, "What does it have to do with you? I let it go to my head back then. I can't stand seeing that idiot Fabian looking pleased and arrogant. That's why I decided to stir sh*t up."

"Well, your father put all important matters aside and is waiting for you to go back home now," Jasper said.

Henry's expression changed and he said, "Damn, straight out of the pan and into the fire, huh? I can't go home now, if I do, that old thing will kill me."

"Don't worry, I'll be with you," Jasper said with a soft smile.

At this moment, Alex and Howard walked over.

"Let me introduce you guys, this idiot with the swollen and bruised face is Alex Jean, and that's Howard Branson."

Henry pointed at the two of them and said, "This is the boss. He's my brother-in-law, Jasper Laine."

When Alex heard Jasper's name, his eyes lit up. Not a lot of people knew what Jasper looked like in the circle of young masters in Harbor City. However, almost everyone had heard of him.

News of his work from the previous market rescue to the direct monopoly of half of the entertainment industry in Harbor City that almost disabled Mitch and the others had spread like wildfire.

Moreover, they knew that Henry was causing trouble for Fabian for Jasper's sake.

“Hello, boss!” Alex had no limits. He immediately went and greeted Jasper to try to suck up to him.

On the other hand, Howard merely nodded at Jasper and said stiffly, “Hello.”

Jasper had a good feeling about these two men who were willing to risk everything for Henry. Hence, he smiled and said, “Thank you both. I owe you one.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1438

Alex chuckled. His eyes were filled with happiness. Even though the second generations looked as if they were simple-minded and they did not need to consider anything other than thinking about how to have fun and cause trouble, in reality, they were all very stressed.

They were at the age where the burden of the task of succession had begun to subtly affect all aspects of their lives.

For example, Alex was the only son of the Jeans. Therefore, there would be no pressure for him to fight over the family property. Meanwhile, Phil was still healthy so he could still work for a few more years. However, Phil was not getting any younger, and Alex could not always be a second-generation who only knew extravagance.

Therefore, his instinct drove him to draw up a relationship with Henry and also win Jasper's favor.

Even though from the looks of it now, Jasper did not have any foundation in Harbor City, which made this feel like an empty promise.

However, smart people would know that it was only a matter of time before Jasper rose now that he had long list of glorious past achievements and also the unconditional support of the Laws in Harbor City.

Right now, if the families in Harbor City wanted to expand their business to the mainland, they would only have to do half the work to reap twice the reward if they had Jasper's help.

One would know this if they just looked at the Laws' huge investment in the mainland over the past year. One would have more ways out if one had more friends. Jasper was a young man with the Laws as support and he also had a lot of resources in the mainland.

This was a golden blue-chip stock.

"I hope I can use this favor now."

Howard suddenly spoke up. Henry, Alex, and Jasper were all stunned.

Soon, they came back to their senses. Jasper smiled and asked Howard, "Okay, what can I do for you? However, I might not have as much advantage as you guys in Harbor City, so I might not be able to help you with things that are too difficult."

Howard shook his head and said seriously, "You can definitely help me with this."

As he said that, Howard pointed at Julian, who was standing behind Jasper. He had an intense desire to battle shooting from his eyes. He said, "I want to learn from your bodyguard."

Jasper turned his head to look at Julian dumbfoundedly. Then, he answered Howard, "He's not my bodyguard but a brother of mine. If you want to learn from him, you can ask him yourself. If he's unwilling, I won't force him."

Julian's expression changed slightly upon hearing that. Then, the corners of his lips turned upward.

Henry chimed in happily, "Julian is kind of like my master. So, Howie, you're not strong enough to fight him yet!"

Howard ignored Henry as he looked heatedly at Julian. He said, "My friend, I can feel a power from you that makes me tremble. I want to fight you with everything I have."

Julian did not say anything. Instead, he just looked at Jasper silently.

Jasper shook his head. He had never seen such an odd request before. This guy was willing to get beat up voluntarily.

"Julian, you can decide for yourself. If you're interested, you can accept his offer," Jasper said.

Julian shrugged and said to Howard, "I won't go easy on anyone."

"That's good. If you are being cautious not to overdo it, it'll end up being a performance and not a fight which you can learn from. Only true men fight properly!"

Howard yelled in excitement. He was a man standing 1.9 meter tall, looking very much like a bear in human form. His entire body emanated a desire to fight.

"This place is not suitable. Come with me," Julian said flatly.

When the two of them disappeared from the corner of the road, Jasper smiled at Henry and said, "Your friend is pretty interesting."

"He's a sucker for kickboxing. He's on the brink of madness after so much training." Henry shrugged. Even though he was saying that, he had a look of admiration in his eyes.

"The bodyguards in my family and my father's private bodyguard fought with him before. Whenever he sees someone strong, he won't be able to hold himself back. However, those bodyguards said that kid is such a genius with his fists. If he started training ten years earlier, he might be a master."

Alex pressed his lips together and said, "I wonder why he doesn't want to enjoy his life and instead constantly hangs out with dumbbells. He either stays in the gym or the boxing ring. What's so fun about a life like that?"

"Everyone has their own interest," Jasper said insipidly.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1439

While they were talking, Julian returned.

His breathing was steady, and there was no indication that he had done any exercised.

Howard followed him with a limp. He looked quite embarrassed. However, Howard had a strange grin on his face. He looked as if Julian had beaten him stupid.

“Wow, that was f*cking amazing!”

Howard yelled. When he opened his mouth, Jasper and the others could see that Howard had lost half of his front tooth. Howard looked a little goofy like that.

“Can I still ask you for a fight next time?”

Howard looked heatedly at Julian. It was as if Julian was his first love that he simply could not forget.

Julian ignored him and stood behind Jasper silently.

Howard was a little disappointed when he saw this. He scratched his head and said, "I guess I am still too weak. When I become stronger, I will definitely look for you."

As he said that, Howard planned to return to Henry.

"Your physical stamina is still okay. I can see that you have been trained to use certain skills, but the way you exert force is weak and you don't have enough foundation in the bottom half of your body. If you want to make greater progress over a short period, I suggest you train the bottom half of your body more.

"Don't think about any fancy moves-you are only suited to using your fists. Stand on a stump and do the horse stance for at least five hours a day. Then, you can gradually increase the intensity."

Julian's sudden statement excited Howard.

He bowed deeply to Julian and said sincerely, "I'm learning every day. Thank you for your advice."

With a wave of his hand, Julian gestured at Howard to stop being so courteous. Then, he stopped talking. Jasper and Henry smiled at each other.

“Your elders are still waiting for you to go back to Law Manor. You should show your faces to them first,” Jasper said.

Henry was surprised. “Aren’t you going back together with us?”

“I’ll go to the hospital first. I’ll meet Uncle Law later,” Jasper said.

Henry instantly knew that Jasper was going to go visit his employees, so he did not say much. He nodded at the two of them and left directly after that.

Howard was very grateful to Julian when he left. Judging from his posture, it looked as if he wished he could ask Julian to take him as a disciple.

Jasper turned around and went back to the car. Then, Jasper smiled at Julian, who was currently driving. “It’s rare for you to take the initiative to advise someone.”

“He is not bad.”

Julian said, “It’s just that he did not have much innate talent. However, he has perseverance.”

Did not have much innate talent...

Jasper recalled how Henry once said that Zachary's private bodyguard praised Howard for being a genius with his fist, but to Julian, Howard was reduced to someone with not much innate talent. Jasper could not help but feel a little curious. Just how talented was Julian when it came to fighting?

However, this was all gossip. Right now, Jasper should go to visit Jake as soon as possible.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1440

Harbor City Heavenly Hospital.

This was a high-end private hospital in Harbor City. Only the rich in Harbor City could stay here.

When Jasper arrived at Jake's room, Jake was attached to the IV while he watched television.

"You're so dedicated to your job. You should rest since you're hurt. You should recuperate before you think about work."

Jasper pushed the door open to walk in. He said this when he saw that the television on the wall was showing the financial news of the United States.

When Jake saw Jasper, he started panicking. However, Jasper pressed him down on the bed right before he could do so.

“Don’t move. I’ve asked the doctor and he said you have a slight concussion. You can’t move too much as you need to rest well.”

Jake said emotionally, “Mr. Laine, why are you in Harbor City?”

“You’ve been abducted, so as your boss, how can I not come to rescue you? If not, who would want to work for me?” Jasper chuckled and replied.

Jake said shamefully, “Mr. Laine, I’m sorry for being too careless. If I had known about this, I would have moved our workplace to a more secluded place. Perhaps we won’t have run into this issue if I did that.”

Jasper shook his head and said, “This has nothing to do with you. Your previous workplace was a secluded villa provided by the Laws who found you that place. Where else can you go if you intend to hide again?”

If Fabian wanted to find someone, he would be able to unless that person was not in Harbor City. Moreover, Jake had so many people in his team, and they had been doing transactions in the Dow Jones market this whole time. As long as someone got the IP address of their system from the securities regulatory commission, they would not be able to hide.

“Mr. Laine, is it over?” Jake asked.

“Half of it,” Jasper replied faintly.

He had nothing to hide from Jake, so he straightforwardly told Jake what had happened afterward.

When he heard that Henry had wanted to burn Empire Meet to the ground, he was dumbfounded.

However, when he heard that Jasper had reached a deal with Fabian, he could not control himself and said, “Actually, we can completely crush Fabian this time.”

Jasper smiled and said, “It’s not like that.

“You’re only thinking about it from a financial angle. You forgot that Fabian still has his family behind him. Now, Fabian doesn’t want things to escalate to an unconcealable level, so he will still cling onto his last card. He is also willing to pay a price for this.”

“However, if we forcefully removed his last card, Fabian will totally embarrass himself in front of everyone. However, this will also give his family a reason to brazenly intercept and put their foot into this matter.”

“At the end of the day, the thing that people of our level need to do is compromise and exchange terms. If we were to completely crush Fabian, he wouldn’t die unless we could also get rid of his family’s power in one go.”

After hearing what Jasper said, Jake nodded thoughtfully.

Jasper wanted to remind Jake of this as well.

After all, he still needed Jake to stay in Harbor City to take charge for him. Jake needed to look at an even bigger picture if he were to stay in this position. After all, he would not just be a financial agent Jasper had appointed to stay in Harbor City.

“Mr. Laine, does that mean we are giving up the chance to completely take down Fabian?” Jake asked reluctantly.

“He only has half a life left. It’ll be the same whether we finish him or not. He only has 500 million US Dollars, which will be just enough to pay for his funeral. What damage could he possibly cause?” Jasper said flatly.

Jake frowned and said, “Mr. Laine, I heard a lot of rumors back then. It seems that Fabian still has more tricks up his sleeve. Also, looking at his performance on the Dow Jones Market toward the end, I still see a lot of abnormal behavior.”

“It’s abnormal indeed. Now that we’ve relented on our assault, based on common sense, he should rush to flee the market. Yet, he’s not moving at all.”

Jasper said as he narrowed his eyes and recalled what Baz told him while he was on the way here.

“No, there must be more to this. Does Fabian not want to give up yet?” Jake answered immediately.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1441

“Give up? How would a person like that give up so easily? You overestimate us and underestimate Fabian,” Fabian said calmly. ‘

While he was talking, his phone rang.

“Are you in Harbor City?”

Celine’s calm voice came from the other end of the line.

Jasper smiled and said, “You’re so well-informed. I am indeed in Harbor City.”

“Do you know you’ve caused a lot of trouble?” Celine asked.

Jasper was not worried. When he heard Celine’s calm voice, he knew this issue would not be as huge as he imagined.

“Aren’t I always causing trouble?”

Celine sighed and continued, "This time it's not the same. I'll be waiting for you in Gambino's Noodle on Queen Road. You better hurry up, I only have two hours."

After she said that, she hung up before Jasper could say a word.

After he placed the phone down, Jasper seemed to be lost in thought.

It seemed that Celine had something important to tell him. She could not say it through the phone, so she had to tell him in person.

Moreover, this had to be something sensitive, otherwise they would not meet in a noodle shop.

Was Celine hiding from someone?

"You should rest. Don't think about work for now. I'll manage it myself."

Jasper did not have the mood to stick around any longer. So, he got up and told Jake.

The matter was not over yet. However, Fabian and his team would not dare to do anything to Jake right now. If they wanted to target someone, they would target Jasper. Hence, he was not worried about Jake's safety at this point in time.

"Alright, I'll go back to my post as soon as possible," Jake said, raising his spirits.

Jasper smiled and nodded. "Rest well. Perhaps you'll be useful in other ways."

He said this spontaneously to comfort the man, but Jasper did not expect this to come true.

After he left the hospital, he asked Julian to drive.

Queen Road was easy to find, but Gambino's Noodle was not.

Julian was not familiar with the roads in Harbor City, and right now, there was no GPS on one's phone so it was not as convenient to find a hidden shop. Thus, an hour passed before Jasper finally found the place.

Gambino's Noodle was hidden in an alleyway next to Queen Road. The place was not big and it looked aged. The moment Jasper entered the shop, he heard Celine's familiar voice.

“F*ck off, I don’t have time to entertain you right now!”

“You!”

Two cheeky thugs were standing next to Celine’s table. They grinned and said to Celine, “Why are you so hot tempered, sweet cheeks? We’re with Machino, so if you’re willing to play with us, you can do anything you want on this street.”

Jasper frowned.

This was the first time he had run into the local specialty of Harbor City thugs.

Even though it had been many years since the Handover, scum like this would always exist where there were people and society.

“Julian, throw those two scumbags outside.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1442

“Damn, are you trying to be a hero?”

The two thugs turned their heads to look at Jasper as they cursed.

“Do you know that we’re with Machino? Watch out or we’ll call our friends to come and kill you!”

After the thugs said that, Julian, who received Jasper’s orders, walked over.

One knew what would happen if Julian decided to teach those thugs a lesson.

After just a few moves, the two grumbling thugs had fallen to the floor before Julian even exerted any force. Julian then lifted the two of them as if they were chickens.

“Just you wait! I’ll call the guys over to kill you all!” One of the thugs had blood all over his face as he cursed and scolded continuously.

Julian tilted his head and smashed the thug’s face against the stairway railing.

Bright red blood and pearly white teeth flew all over the place as the thug cried out in immense pain.

About half of his teeth flew out from his mouth after this.

Then, Julian dragged the other thug who had fallen silent out of the noodle shop.

At this moment, Jasper walked to Celine.

“If you were a few seconds later, they might have abducted me to become their boss’ wife,” Celine grumbled.

Jasper smiled and said, “I should have delayed myself a bit then. I’ve never seen such a beautiful boss lady before.”

Celine glared at Jasper and said, “The noodles here are good. Do you want some?”

While Celine said that, she did not give Jasper a choice. She immediately called the terrified shop owner over and ordered a bowl of noodles.

To a mainlander like Jasper, noodles were just something akin to spaghetti and pasta.

However, Jasper was not a picky eater. He was able to accept everything except for cilantro.

His experience proven that this place, which was particularly favored by Celine, did have its own unique features. The noodles were fragrant and tender, and the broth was also delicious, which made the noodles very good.

“You said I’ve caused a big issue, yet you invited me here to eat noodles with you?”
After Jasper took two bites, he asked before drinking the broth.

Celine picked up some tissue to wipe the corner of her mouth. She said, “Since it’s something big, we can only talk about this slowly after we’re full.”

“I feel relieved after seeing you taking your time. It doesn’t seem like a major issue,”
Jasper said.

Celine glared at Jasper and replied bluntly, “It’s such a big issue that it’ll be meaningless even if we’re anxious about it now.”

Jasper frowned and waited for Celine to continue.

At this moment, Celine had no intention of keeping Jasper waiting. She sighed and said, "I took a big risk coming out to inform you this time. If the investment bank catches me, I'm afraid that not only will I lose my job, I might also be prosecuted for leaking trade secrets."

"What the hell is going on?" Jasper asked.

"Layman Investment Bank, Quantum Fund, and Softwin Investments held an emergency consultation with the Federal Reserve regarding the current economic situation of the United States three hours ago."

"Two hours ago, the top leaders of Colossal Investments, Morgan Financial Group, and six other top financial institutions on Wall Street were convened at the same time for a meeting. This meeting was hosted by Greenspaner, the chairman of the Federal Reserve."

"After President Paulson ended the video meeting, he spoke to the presidents of investment banks all over the world, including myself. Do you know what was the first thing Greenspaner said during the meeting with the Federal Reserve?"

Every name uttered from Celine's red and beautiful lips belonged to titans in the global financial world. Their names alone were enough to scare most people. The combination of these consortia and investment banks was enough to overturn the global economy. If these giants were sitting together in a meeting, then something was definitely amiss.

Jasper frowned and was in deep thought. He looked at Celine and said nothing.

Celine sighed again. Knowing that Jasper had no intention of entertaining her riddles, she said directly, “Now, there are despicable enemies lurking in the dark trying to take advantage of this terrorist attack to steal the economic achievements of the United States gained over the past hundreds of years. They are first starting with the economy as they provoke the majesty of the United States!”

These words carried a lot of weight.

“They also came from Greenspaner, who laid the foundation for the modern economic system of the United States. This could almost be regarded as a speech before the declaration of war. However, this battlefield was the financial battlefield, not one of blood and gunpowder.”

“He’s treating this as a matter of principle right? They’re borrowing prestige to scare others,” Jasper said lightly.

Celine looked at Jasper deeply and said, “You are now their primary target.”

“Is it because I was the earliest to plan my moves? That when the whole world treated me as a fool, it was soon revealed that I was the biggest winner of this attack?” Jasper asked.

Celine said with a nod, "Yes, but this is only one of the reasons."

"Although you made a lot of money, this money isn't even a splash in their eyes. The real problem is that someone is consciously guiding everyone to focus on you."

"Layman, Quantum Fund, and Softwin have beef with me. Hehe," Jasper said with a cold chuckle.

"It's good that you're aware."

Celine showed an extremely solemn expression on her face and said, "You must pay attention to this matter."

"How? Do you want me to spit out the money?" Jasper said.

Celine felt resentful towards Jasper for failing to meet her expectations. Then, she said, "How can you be so stubborn? Your personal strength is insignificant to the United States. Even if you were Bennett, even if you were a stack of ten Bennetts, it would not be enough for them to ignore the prestige they have as a first world country and ignore you."

“Moreover, the person who secretly wants to deal with you is employing a very simple method. It is to paint you as a target and make the people of the United States believe that you are the leader who’s going to lead the East to start a financial war against the United States!”

“And that Sorner will be behind you!”

“Once this consensus is reached, you will be doomed!”

Celine’s voice lingered in his ears, and Jasper closed his eyes slightly.

Morrison from Layman Investment Bank, Echo Welch from Softwin Investments, and Rogers from Quantum Fund.

However, these people did not have enough power to fight him so brazenly.

These three looked completely unrelated to one another, but there was one common trait that they all shared.

A relationship with Fabian from the Atticus Family. Everything was clear now. He understood what Fabian was planning to do.

When Jasper opened his eyes, he said sincerely, “How cruel. How heartless. How savage!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1443

Ever since he lost the game with Rogers from Quantum Fund by half a stroke in the Harbor City stock market, Jasper repeatedly reminded himself not to underestimate any enemy. He could not rely on the advantage of his reincarnation to treat everyone else as sub-human.

In this world, there were two kinds of people who were the most indispensable. One was an extremely clever genius, while one was the fool who thought he was extremely clever.

However, after learning about Fabian's entire plan, Jasper realized that he had still underestimated and underrated Fabian. That guy did not show his most vicious side in the previous match with him on the Dow Jones Index. Even when he fought to the point where his net worth vanished, he did not show it.

He chose to bare his fangs only after. At this moment, he was also at his deadliest.

Since Jasper had invested everything that he could, his assets could not be withdrawn in the short term.

It could be seen that Fabian had used himself as bait. It would have been good if he was able to get rid of Jasper in the first stage, but if he could not, this counterattack would surely doom him to eternal damnation.

“What do you mean?”

Celine did not know that Jasper had figured out so many things in just a few short seconds. She frowned and asked inexplicably when he said something so vague.

“Nothing...” Jasper shook his head. It was not that he did not want to explain to Celine, but that the matter was too complicated and would simply take too long a time to explain.

“Fabian should be the one behind all of these...”

Celine raised her eyebrows and said in disbelief, “The entire Atticus family might not be able to do such a huge thing. You must know that Layman, Softwin, and Quantum Fund, are much larger than the Atticus family. Could he really make these three investment banks act for him so obediently?”

“In many cases, as long as there is interest, a transaction can be facilitated. This is largely irrelevant to the status of both parties-it work as long as they have common interests,” Jasper said lightly.

Celine frowned and said, “It doesn’t matter whether it’s Fabian or someone else, the most important thing now is how to deal with this problem. Is it too late for you to get out now?”

Jasper glanced at Celine and shook his head.

Was she kidding? This was not like storing a few hundred bucks in the bank and withdrawing it when you needed to.

It was almost impossible to withdraw such a large amount of funds.

“How much money do you have in the Dow Jones Index now?” Celine asked in a frightened voice.

“It’s not just the Dow Jones Index. I am shorting the Dow Jones while still longing on gold. Now the overall invested capital has reached 8.5 billion US Dollars.”

That was right, since Jasper handed over all accounts to the Baz’s team to operate, under Jasper’s command, he had earned another 1.5 billion US dollars from the original investment of 7 billion US Dollars.

Jasper’s words made Celine, the president of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments who had long been accustomed to treating money as nothing more than a series of numbers, feel a numb sensation on her scalp.

The funds approved by Celine every day were at least one billion US Dollars.

However, the money came from investment banks and investors, so it came and went frequently. Although the cash flow was large, the overall capital was nothing excessive.

Throughout the entirety of the previous year, the performance of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments had an effective transaction revenue of 10 billion US Dollars. However, what was the profit? Less than 1.8 billion.

Even so, the performance of the Terra region was already the largest and most profitable region for Colossal Investments aside from the headquarters in the United States.

Despite all this, it paled in comparison to Jasper's profit from a single investment.

Jasper's profits this time were so big that the entire Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments would need to work for three or four years to achieve it.

It could even be said that because of the losses incurred by this financial crisis, Jasper's profits might have exceeded the total annual profit of Colossal Investments as a whole.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1444

What a joke! Colossal Investments was the world's largest investment bank.

“Y-You are crazy!” Celine said in shock.

Jasper did not feel proud at all.

He had memories from his past life. Even if he was a pig, he would dare to mortgage himself in the slaughterhouse to easily make this money. It was just a matter of the size of one's balls and the size of capital that could be leveraged.

“The 8.5 billion US Dollars is enough for the whole of Wall Street to be jealous. I now know why the three investment banks and even the Federal Reserve want to target you now.” Celine sighed.

“What about Colossal's attitude regarding this matter?” Jasper asked.

Celine shook her head and said, “You have to know that in the eyes of capitalists, there are only interests. Since you obviously cannot show them any hope of winning in this case, Colossal Investments may be inclined to side with the Federal Reserve.”

“When that happens, it will not only be Colossal, other investment banks and financial institutions in the United States will come to attack you.”

Jasper sneered.

“During this financial crisis, the retail investors in the United States were hit the hardest, followed by these financial institutions and investment banks that had heavily invested in the United States stock market.”

“They suffered heavy losses and naturally want to make it back. Therefore, it would be right up their alley if they destroy me and blame the economic system of the country for it after.”

Celine said, “It’s good that you understand this truth. Now, what are you going to do?”

“Hmm, by the way, are you able to withdraw all the funds within three days?”

Celine’s sudden question stunned Jasper.

Then, he smiled and said, “Based on what you just said, are you saying that you can hold down the entire Federal Reserve for three days?”

Celine gritted her teeth. “My family has a certain strength in the northern part of the United States. I can persuade my family and make them come forward to lobby the presidium of the Federal Reserve.”

“I can even communicate with some veteran congressmen if necessary, but you can’t take too long. If you can withdraw everything within three days, I will find a way to make it happen.”

Jasper was really surprised this time.

The ability to hold down the entire Federal Reserve for three days was impossible even for the Laws, let alone himself. It seemed that the status of Celine’s family in the United States was no lower than that of the Laws in Harbor City.

However, Jasper shook his head at the proposal.

“No...”

Celine was stunned. “Is three days not enough?”

“It’s not that three days are not enough, but I don’t plan to withdraw.”

Jasper's expression calmed down as he continued, "The Federal Reserve wants to work with Wall Street to take action. Their actions won't be affected regardless of whether I withdraw or not. If I am still there, they will take care of me first, but if I run away, who will they vent their anger on? Who will they seek out to bear their losses?"

Celine frowned and said nothing.

Jasper proactively continued, "They will look for Somer."

"The domestic economy has just begun to develop, and we can't afford such a heavy blow." Jasper's tone was calm.

Celine said angrily, "So you're going to paint yourself as a target? Is your meaningless sacrifice necessary? Will anyone even be grateful toward you?"

"Jasper, I always thought you were a sane person. I didn't expect you to go mad!"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1445

“I’m not being a target.”

Jasper frowned slightly, refuting Celine’s words.

“On the contrary, staying will be the best choice.”

“If I retreat, let’s not even consider whether or not the United States Federal Reserve will let me leave with so much money, let’s just look at the stock market that has been in operation for the past few years since Somer was established. It can’t organize an effective resistance in such a short period. At that time, how much will you lose?”

“Once the national economy collapses, will my JW enterprises still have the possibility of survival? With the skin gone, to what can the hair attach itself?”

“There is another question. I am doing this and don’t expect anyone to thank me, but it will not be a meaningless sacrifice.”

Celine was speechless by what Jasper said.

She knew very well that what Jasper said was the truth. However, she was still unconvinced.

“Even so, do you have to bet everything you have on this? Even if you stand in front, can you stop the assault from all of Wall Street’s capitalists? When the time comes, you’ll have no room for resistance at all.”

“Who said that?” Jasper said lightly.

Celine looked at Jasper in astonishment and slowly asked, “What can you do?”

When she thought about this problem from Jasper’s perspective, Celine really could not think of any possibility of winning the game.

“The Wall Street capitalists are the combined force of many financial giants and even oligarchs. No one can fight the world’s most modern and mature financial coalition today alone. Only another equally powerful coalition can fight it.”

Jasper’s clear words made Celine understand Jasper’s plan.

She stared at Jasper in disbelief and blurted out, “You’re delusional. In the face of such a terrifying opponent, no one will stand by your side to help you.”

Even the very powerful Colossal Investments whom she represented did not hesitate to abandon Jasper when the senior investment bank executives noticed the entire Wall Street and even the Federal Reserve's intention to take action against Jasper.

History already showed him the proof of this, so how could Jasper believe that he could find an ally to help him?

Celine felt that Jasper was simplifying the problem.

"Why don't you understand?"

Jasper smiled and said, "We have analyzed this before, Wall Street or the Federal Reserve just need a suitable target to vent on, such as Somer. However, I'm just one of the reasons why they're able to brazenly take action against the country."

"It's something very simple. Even you and I can understand it, but you don't think Somer can?"

"As I said before, with the skin gone, to what can the hair attach itself? There are always smart people in the country who see it clearer than you and me."

"Besides, what about the United States? It's not like they've never been defeated by our country before."

“It’s just that it’s a different battlefield this time, but do they think the people of Somer are pushovers?”

Celine looked at Jasper and did not say anything.

Even though they were not close, they knew they were the same kind of people. Once they made a decision, they would not change their mind unless something major happened. This stubbornness was able to give you success, but it could also make you lose everything.

However, Celine knew it would be impossible to convince Jasper today no matter what.

“Whatever. Just do as you like.” Celine sighed. “After all, you won’t be losing your life even if you lose all the money you have. Besides, they’re not interested in your life anyway.”

“Don’ t be so pessimistic. Are you so sure that I’ll lose?”

Jasper lifted the bowl and drank some broth after he said helplessly.

“That much is obvious. Everyone can see it clearly except yourself. What else can I do if you insist on running into the wall?”

After listening to Celine's resentful words, Jasper smiled and said, "No matter what happens, thank you..."

Jasper understood how much risk Celine had taken to deliver this news to him. In other words, if news of this spread to Wall Street, Colossal Investments would not necessarily protect her.

In the modern financial battlefield, intelligence was even more important than on the real battlefield.

If Jasper did not know anything about it, he would not react until Wall Street reached a consensus and began to launch an overwhelming attack. By then, it would be too late.

At that time, even if Jasper could fly, he could only admit his fate.

Thus, it could be said that Celine had saved Jasper's life this time, taking a huge risk in order to do so.

Celine was unbothered. "What's the use of me taking this risk when you're still stubbornly insisting to give up your life?"

"At least I know what to do, instead of just waiting stupidly for the other person to come attack me."

Jasper grinned and got up. He said, "I'll pay for this as a way to express my gratitude."

"I've never seen someone so stingy! How much does it cost for two bowls of noodles?" Celine was annoyed.

Since she was young, she always had a continuous supply of the opposite sex surrounding her. Because of her charm and familial power, the opposite sex around her could be described as elite. Even so, none of them were as shameless as Jasper.

Yet, the shamelessness of this guy always interested her...

Just as Celine was wondering if he was being cheap, Jasper handed some Harbor dollars to the boss.

"Keep the change," Jasper said.

When the two walked out, they saw about twenty to thirty thugs standing in front of the small shop entrance. They were carrying knives and they had cigarettes dangling from their lips. They were all looking at the shop with hostility.

Meanwhile, Julian stood expressionlessly at the door with several thugs already lying beneath his feet.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1446

“Damn, they’re out!”

The appearance of Jasper and Celine caused a commotion among the thugs who were embarrassed by Julian but still did not dare to rush up to him.

The thugs were very arrogant when they first came, but right now, they were embarrassed. The most embarrassed one among them was their boss, Machino.

He thought that since his men had been beaten, the matter would just lead to an ordinary gang fight. Machino would easily take care of this kind of small problem. As usual, he immediately called all his men who could come over. In the end, more than twenty of them arrived.

Under normal circumstances, after so many people arrived at the scene and the bosses of the two parties negotiated, the matter would be resolved after they agreed to pay some medical fees and get some benefits.

However, when he brought his men to the scene, he only saw Julian.

Machino naturally did not think that such a person was his opponent, so he immediately asked his men to do something.

After this, the situation developed to become what Jasper saw when he walked Celine out.

“Are you his boss?” Machino stood several meters away from Julian. Obviously, he was quite afraid of Julian’s strength.

Even so, he still spoke harshly to Jasper.

“Boss?”

This was the first time someone gave him such a title.

Jasper glanced at Julian with a smile, and then said to Machino, “I guess so.”

“Are you also the boss of those thugs behind you?”

Proper behavior was dependent on reciprocity. Hence, Jasper asked back.

Machino suddenly became proud and said, "Yes, I am in charge of this street. You can call me Machino. You look very foreign. Are you from Sharp Promenade or Causeway Bay?"

"I'm from the Mainland," Jasper said with a smile.

"Mainland?" Machine's eyes lit up. He thought Jasper was also in a gang, but he did not expect him to just be a mainlander.

"Your guy hurt my men. Based on the rules of the gang, do you want to solve this civilly or with fists?"

"What do you mean by civilly or with fists?" Jasper asked curiously.

"You're indeed a mainlander. You don't even understand this."

Machino sneered and said more confidently, "If you want to solve this civilly, then it'll be the medical expenses of my men plus the cost of lost work and recuperation. It'll be fifty thousand bucks per person. But if you want to solve this by fist, then I'll pay you back double what you did to them."

“Sounds fair.” Jasper nodded.

Machino immediately became excited when he heard this.

This guy from the mainland did not understand the market at all. In normal fights like this, everyone would get a compensation of a few thousand bucks, and if their injury was severe, it would be about ten thousand bucks. After all, they were all thugs and they were very lowly.

As long as they did not lose their limbs or were severely injured, they did not even need to go to the hospital. They would be fine after buying some medicine.

When Machino thought about this, he rolled his eyes and smiled gloomily at Jasper. “Seeing that you are someone who plays by the rules, this will be easy. You only need to pay for the medical expenses of my men and I will forget this matter. If I report this to my boss, you will be in big trouble.”

“In this case, you should report to your boss,” Jasper said seriously.

Celine next to him burst out laughing.

Machino was stunned.

This was not right.

How come this guy from the mainland who had previously looked so gullible suddenly became so firm?

Life at The Top – Chapter 1447

Without giving him a chance to react, Jasper turned to Julian and said, “I will wait for you in the car.”

After speaking, Jasper left the scene with Celine.

“Hey! How dare you leave? You f*cking mainlander...”

Before Machino finished swearing, Julian’s big hand came down on him with an earth-shattering blow.

A cool man would never look back at an explosion. Jasper had never encountered an explosion before, but he would not look back at the cruel and bloody scene of Julian bullying these thugs.

It did not matter if it was Machino or a literal machine, for Jasper, they were not even qualified to occupy his time.

There was no reason other than the fact that they were in totally different social classes.

Even if the lion on the grassland wanted to have fun, it would go to the tiger in the jungle. It would be impossible for a lion to play with ants next to the ant hill.

This was the same concept.

After walking out of the alley, Jasper was about to speak when Celine shook the car key hanging on her finger. She said, "I will go back by myself. You don't have to send me."

"Is it inconvenient?" Jasper asked.

At this point, even if someone saw Celine with him, it would probably have negative repercussions on Celine.

Celine glared at Jasper and said bluntly, "I just don't want to have anything to do with a stubborn guy who is about to become a penniless fool!"

After speaking, Celine turned to walk toward a Porsche parked on the side of the road.

Well, this fitted action Celine's temperament very well. Jasper smiled bitterly and shook his head, knowing that he still could not make Celine understand his choice.

When she reached the car door, Celine pulled the door open and suddenly said to Jasper, "I will buy you as much time as possible. Just do what you have to as soon as possible."

After speaking, Celine did not wait for Jasper to answer and got straight into the car. After hearing the roar of the accelerator, only the two tail lights were left swaying in the darkening night.

Jasper breathed out softly. He figured that he would owe Celine a huge favor since she had confided the news to him and then tried her best to buy him time.

After he got in the car, it did not take long for Julian to walk out of the alley carefreely.

"Let's go back to Law Manor," Jasper said.

Julian responded and drove off.

As for the fate of Machino and his men, Jasper did not ask and Julian did not seem like he wanted to tell Jasper about it.

It was still the same concept their social classes were too different. Even if they wanted to seek revenge, it would be impossible for them to seek revenge against Jasper.

Inside the car, Jasper made consecutive calls to two important figures in the mainland and then tried to dial the number Conrad used to contact him privately.

As expected, it did not go through.

The corners of his mouth raised slightly. Jasper was smiling, but his eyes were a little gloomy.

He did not believe that Conrad would be unaware about this matter.

He learned that Conrad had left the country two days ago from the Laws' information source. In addition to that, it seemed that his destination was Sunrise Land.

However, Jasper was currently facing huge pressure and he had no time to care about what role Conrad played in this matter.

What he really needed to consider was how to deal with the situation over the next few days. If it was handled well, Conrad would not be a problem. If it was not handled well, everything would come to a sudden stop.

While he was thinking about this, the car steadily pulled to a stop at the entrance of Law Manor.

After getting out of the car, Jasper greeted Henry who was approaching him, and then said, "Please make the necessary arrangements. I want to see your father and your grandfather right away."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1448

Jasper's words made Henry realize that something was not right. Normally, Jasper would only talk to his father. If he proposed meeting with the old master and his father, it meant that something major had happened.

Suddenly, Henry wiped the grin off his face and stopped his buffoonery. He said, "Come with me."

Jasper did not see Alex and others, so he asked, "Are the Jeans and the Bransons gone?"

Henry was stunned. “What’s the matter? Do you want to call them along too? If it’s really something that needs the old master’s attention, then Branson will be fine, but I don’t think the Jeans will have the balls to interfere.”

Jasper shook his head and said, “I’m just asking. It would not be right for them to participate anyway.”

That sentence sounded a little cheap, but Jasper was too embarrassed to say it out loud.

Henry took Jasper to the backyard and came to a stop in front of an ordinary bungalow.

While knocking on the door, Henry explained to Jasper, “The old master usually doesn’t live at home.

“He’s old, so it’s a little inconvenient for him to live in the house because of his legs. He doesn’t like going up the stairs, so we built a house specifically for him. It was built based on the old master’s preference. He’s old now, so he’s nostalgic.”

Jasper smiled and nodded.

Moments after knocking on the door, the old master's old yet vigorous voice came from inside.

"Is that you, Jasper? Come in and talk."

Henry opened the door and brought Jasper in. Then, he said unhappily, "Old master, I'm your grandson, why did you ask if it's Jasper and not me when I knocked on the door?"

Old Master Law happily got up and said, "Do you think I don't know you? If nothing is going on, would you dare to come and loiter around in front of me?"

Henry was quite embarrassed.

Although the old master was kind, this depended on the timing.

He had always been very strict, unreasonable even, when it came to educating his descendants. Therefore, Henry had been most afraid of the old master instead of Zachary since he was a child.

Since he was more mature now that he was grown, Henry understood that the old master was doing this for his own good. Even so, how could one just get rid of childhood traumas so easily?

“You should talk, I’ll get my father.” Henry found an excuse to escape.

Zachary was not here yet, so Jasper did not rush into discussion. Instead, he greeted the old master and exchanged courtesies with him, “Old Master, I’m so happy that you’re still so healthy and strong.”

“I can still light the way for you youngsters for a few more years. After some years, I might not have the energy for that even if I wanted to. I guess I have to admit that I’m getting old.”

“When I met you the first time earlier last year, I could still do some farm work, but now, I can’t do that anymore.”

Old Master Law was very open-minded about birth, old age, sickness, and death. After Jasper sat down, he said with a smile.

“You’re going to live a hundred years, Old Master. Otherwise, I don’t know how many trouble will occur, ” Jasper said after sitting down.

“No one can escape death, and no one can really live to a few hundred years old. I am so old now, and if it is not for youngsters, it would be worth it to just close my eyes right now.” Old Master Law laughed.

Jasper and Old Master Law would always chat like this.

Jasper did not say why he needed to visit the old master so late at night, and the old master did not ask either. They simply waited for Zachary's arrival in tacit understanding.

Zachary did not make them wait too long. Within ten minutes, he arrived in the small bungalow.

“What's the matter? Is it very important?”

Compared to the old master, Zachary was much more straightforward.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1449

He was still busy with work. Although Henry was out, the Atticus family would not let this matter go so easily. In fact, the fight between the two families had not stopped until today.

In a fight of this level, it did not matter how small the impact would be to the two sides, it might even have just been an argument between two small companies that did not care about each other, but it would still be immediately conveyed to the respective heads.

After all, although the matters were small, they were greatly symbolic. In such a situation, there were currently too many things that Zachary needed to deal with in person.

“I have reliable information that Wall Street and the Federal Reserve want to take action against me.”

Jasper’s words were concise as he went straight to the point.

As soon as he said this, Zachary’s expression changed.

Meanwhile, the old master also frowned.

“Jasper, you can’t joke around about this.” Zachary frowned.

Frankly speaking, if Jasper were not the one sitting here and saying this, Zachary would have turned around and left.

What a joke! That was Wall Street and the Federal Reserve. They were the two cores of the world’s most developed economy.

The economic policy of the Federal Reserve was the official economic policy of the United States, and even a single decimal point deviation in a report would affect the global economy.

Would such a godlike entity take action against an individual?

This was as funny and nonsensical as hitting a mosquito with a missile.

“Since I’m saying it now, I am 100% sure.”

“Of course, I am the cause of it this time. The first target is me, but they certainly won’t muster large forces to take care of just me. I’d be dead the moment Wall Street or the Federal Reserve makes an announcement. They don’t even need to lift a finger.

However, their real motive is to carry out a devastating attack on Somer's domestic finance through their attack on me."

Jasper sounded calm but it sounded as if he was using the mildest and calmest tone to say the most terrifying part.

Zachary's expression changed.

The old master also had an abnormal expression on his face.

"Jasper, speak slowly," the old master said.

Jasper nodded. Then, he told them his beef with Fabian and his fight with Fabian on the Dow Jones Index back then.

"Originally, the winner of this round was already determined. Fabian is already powerless to fight back, but what I didn't expect was that he would overturn the chessboard and take out a bomb directly from under his bottom to drag me to hell with him."

"Based on the information I have so far, Fabian instigated this incident."

“He worked with Layman, Colossal, and Quantum Fund, which all have beef with me, and united them. Then, they handed a butcher’s knife to the United States together. Coincidentally, the United States is desperate to find something to divert the attention of their people from the panic caused by the terrorist attack.”

After a pause, Jasper sighed, “Fabian’s meticulous thoughts, savage methods, and unique vision have indeed caused me huge trouble. I underestimated him.”

“The Atticus family birthed a formidable character indeed,” Zachary said in a deep voice.

Jasper nodded and continued, “This wouldn’t have worked if it happened at any other time. After all, no one on Earth could convince Wall Street and the Federal Reserve to do this, let alone the Atticus family.”

“It just so happened that Fabian was given this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity just as the United States needed an excuse to divert the attention of its people.”

“Hence, Fabian is taking advantage of the global climate, while I have to bear the punishment.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1450

Zachary paced back and forth in the living room with his hands behind his back. This had become a habit of his whenever he needed to figure out something.

“This is difficult...”

After thinking for some time, Zachary turned his head to say to Jasper, “Because of our mutual ideology, it is difficult for the Easterners to penetrate the West, let alone the United States.”

“Although the Laws know a few members, they are all members of the senate. However, this is ultimately a matter for Congress, and they will be the ones who have any say. I am afraid it will be difficult for the Laws to do anything.”

Jasper smiled and said, “Uncle Law, I never wanted to avoid this catastrophe through lobbying.”

“It is possible that no amount of lobbying will work for this matter, especially since this is right up the United States’s alley. Even the stupid politicians won’t betray the majority to choose this very small profit that we’re able to provide.”

“What are you planning to do then?” Zachary lifted his eyebrow and asked.

Jasper turned his head to look at the old master.

Zachary was stunned. When he looked over to where Jasper was looking, he realized the old master was looking at him with a displeased look on his face.

Even though Zachary was already in his forties and near fifties and though he had taken charge of the Laws for many years, he would still feel like a guilty child who had made a mistake when the old master looked at him in dissatisfaction.

“Dad, why are you looking at me like that?”

The old master said angrily, “I regret handing the family to such a disappointment like you!”

“So what if they were from the United States? So what if they’re Wall Street? So what if they’re the Federal Reserve? They only have more brains and hands. Why are you being so cowardly after hearing their names?” Zachary felt ashamed when the old master criticized him.

“Dad, can’t you wait to scold me after? Jasper is still here. How am I going to get away from this embarrassing situation?” Zachary smiled bitterly and pleaded.

Zachary was only acting like this because he did not treat Jasper as an outsider anymore.

If it were somebody else, Zachary might consider killing them to preserve his prestige and image.

“You have to remember that you’re a descendant of the Law family. The others can surrender and run away when they’re faced with a powerful enemy, but you can’t!” The old master said in a deep voice.

Zachary lowered his head and said, “Yes, I understand.”

With a scoff, the old master continued, “The market crash of Harbor City is not even over yet, yet you’ve already forgotten your lesson. Why don’t you think about who caused the crash?”

“Even if we didn’t lose, we have to remember that we haven’t won yet!”

“As long as the enemy is still here and they’re still determined, we’ll have to defend against them. Defending is important, but if we have a chance, why don’t we break their hand and give them a lesson that they’ll never forget so that they won’t do it again?”

Zachary was stunned when he heard that. He was not enlightened with perfect wisdom. Instead, he simply felt that the old master’s age was getting to him.

They were talking about Wall Street and the Federal Reserve. This meant that anyone who was on the opposite side would have to face the raw power of the world's largest force, the United States.

This was like a three-year-old fighting a strong and burly man who was covered in muscles. Was he insane? When the old master saw Zachary's reaction, he knew what he was thinking.

"You fool!"

The old master scolded Zachary for failing to meet his expectations. Then, he added, "No wonder Henry is still a disappointment even though he's an adult now. How can the son achieve anything great when he has such a useless father?"

Zachary said angrily, "Dad, I'm also your son. If we're to look at things according to your logic, what does that make you?"

Life at The Top – Chapter 1451

Old Master Law was indignant. He grabbed his cane and handed it to Jasper. “Boy, I’m old so I can’t move as freely as I could back then. Take this and smack him as hard as you can for me. If he dares to fight back, I’ll kick him out of the family!”

Jasper chuckled bitterly and pressed down the old master’s hand that was holding the cane. What a joke. How could he do this?

“Old Master, Uncle Law, I know you’re just trying to reduce my stress, but it’s fine. Even though I feel very stressed out now, I’m still able to breathe.”

Old Master Law laughed when he heard that. Then, he placed his cane down.

“Sit down. You’re making me dizzy with all the pacing.”

The old master said in annoyance after glaring at Zachary.

Zachary then sat down with a bitter smile on his face. “Say, what are you going to do now?” The old master looked at Jasper with an amiable smile.

“We’ll do a vertical and horizontal alliance.”

Jasper looked serious. He said, “I’ll gather all the forces I can. This is not my fight, but a fight for Somerland’s fragile economic system.

“If we lose this fight, the capitalists from the West will march in. The achievements of our national economy over the years would be at their mercy.”

“However, if we win, Somerland might be able to develop steadily for at least the next ten years. At the same time, all of us will enjoy a decade of vigorous and rapid development!”

Jasper’s words caused Old Master Law and Zachary to stay silent.

They understood Jasper needed to do this.

The domestic market was behind them in this battle, so there was no way out. Sunrise Land that signed the Plaza Accord 20 years ago would serve as a bloody example of what would happen should they fail.

At that time, the entire domestic market would become a dumping ground for Western companies. All of their companies would be destroyed by the subsidiary companies from the West, at which point they could only close down or sell their company.

The fruits of everyone in Somerland's efforts over the past few decades had suddenly become something that the West could harvest.

When the time came, the entire country's economy would be destroyed. What development was there to discuss? What money was there to be made?

Everyone would become dogs of the Western capitalists. They would give you something to eat if they were in a good mood, but if they were in a bad mood, they would kill you with one shot.

This was especially true for Old Master Law, who grew up in that special period.

"I don't know about the others, but the Laws will support you unconditionally."

Old Master Law broke the silence.

His aged yet clear eyes looked at Jasper. His gaze was peaceful, like an elder looking at a junior who had a lot of achievements.

"Jasper, just do it. It's best if you can win, but if you can't, just admit the defeat. Back then, we were able to get through that era even whilst facing so many hardships, so there's no reason to let down our guards now."

“In short, a Somer descent will never be a slave to anyone.”

Jasper said excitedly, “Old Master, my greatest confidence comes from having a senior like you.”

As he was saying that, Jasper got up and bowed respectfully to Old Master Law.

These old people were the real backbones of Somerland.

“Don’t worry, although a lot of the old farts in Somerland are very itching to have an internal dispute, they still prefer to fight the outside world. I will help you contact some of those old farts. You should take care of the more pressing issues.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1452

It was late at night when Jasper came out of the old master’s bungalow.

Zachary was still discussing the matter with the old master, but Jasper had achieved his goals, so he would leave first.

As soon as he left the bungalow, Jasper saw Henry sneaking around not far away.

“Why do I feel like you are a thief in your own house?” Jasper caught Henry and asked.

Henry said frustratedly, “I just got into trouble so I’m feeling nervous.”

“Okay, I don’t think your dad will have much energy and effort to punish you later. He will be very busy, so relax.” Jasper laughed.

Henry lowered his voice and said to Jasper, “What are you guys planning this time? I’m telling you now, don’t forget to tell me if there’s anything exciting coming.”

“I won’t,” Jasper said with a smile.

“Just wait, you will be needed soon.”

Henry was excited when he heard those words.

“Damn, just now my dad told me to not cause any trouble in Harbor City during this period. It’s best if I go back to the mainland with you as soon as possible. I am in misery.”

“That’s good. You can also give yourself a few days off. Is Jill back?” Jasper asked casually.

Henry’s face changed when he heard that and he replied stiffly, “I don’t know.”

Jasper gave Henry a curious look, and when he saw that Henry did not intend to say anything more, Jasper did not prod him. After all, this was Henry’s relationship. No matter how good the relationship between Jasper and him, there were always things that were not easy to talk about.

“If you have any problems, just talk to me. I may not be able to solve it for you, but at least I can provide you some ideas.” Jasper patted Henry on the shoulder and said.

Henry replied lazily, “I got it”

Seeing that Henry was listless, Jasper thought for a while and said, “I’m going to see Kayden tomorrow. Do you want to come with me?”

Henry raised his eyelids. “Why are you meeting that old freak? We’re not on the same level. I’m disinterested every time I meet him. He is so old-fashioned, and I think he might even be older than my dad.”

“Just tell me whether you’re going or not?”

“Of course I am, it’s better than being bored at home. If you didn’t take me, I don’t think the old man would even let me go out to refuel the car.”

The next day, Jasper and Henry stepped out of Law Manor and went straight to the Excelsior Hotel.

As the famous gathering place of rich people in Harbor City, the Excelsior Hotel was naturally not a place for ordinary folk.

Henry learned that Alex and Howard were nearby while they were on the way, so he planned to walk over and say hello to them. Jasper naturally had no objection. As soon as he got out of the car at the entrance of the hotel, Jasper met an old acquaintance.

“Jasper Laine, how dare you come to Harbor City!”

Mitch looked at Jasper with malevolence. At the same time, he looked pleased and savage.

“Where’s that b*tch Henry? Why isn’t he with you? Oh, right, he’s so savage now. He burned Empire Meet to the ground, so I guess he’s being tortured to high heaven by Mr. Atticus, huh?”

Jasper had a weird look on his face when he heard what Mitch said.

It seemed that the Atticus family was very good at keeping secrets. Even Mitch had no idea that Fabian had reached an agreement with Jasper. After all, Henry was already free now.

“You looked pleased and happy.” Jasper said calmly.

“Hahaha!”

Mitch guffawed and said while feeling pleased with himself, “You’re here to beg Mr. Atticus, right?”

“Jasper, do you finally get it now? There are too many ways for the upper-class circle to get rid of you. So what if you have a little knowledge about finance? When reality struck,

you fell on your face and still have to come to Mr. Atticus obediently to kneel and beg for mercy.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1453

Jasper looked at Mitch with a half smile and said, “Don’t say that. I did take a lot of your money with my little financial knowledge.”

Mitch’s face darkened upon hearing that.

Jasper was his enemy for life. Jasper was able to strike him right in the heart with just one sentence.

“F*ck you! Stop being so cocky, you mainlander!”

Mitch dropped the act and showed his true self.

He looked at Jasper sinisterly and said, “Still, I don’t know what you fed that dumb*ss Henry. How could he do something so stupid as burning down Empire Meet?”

“However, since he’s done it, he has to pay the price. So what if he’s the young master of the Law family? Do you think the Atticus family are cowards?”

“This time, you and Henry are in big trouble!”

Jasper looked at Mitch calmly and replied, “I already knew that we’d offend Fabian after we burned Empire Meet. Even if we have to suffer the consequences, and even if we’ll be in huge trouble, it’ll be our business to deal with. This has nothing to do with you, so what are you so happy about?”

Mitch’s expression changed as his eyes filled with humiliation.

Jasper’s statement was filled with mocking and ridicule, and yet, he did not include even a single cuss word in his sentence. This made him extremely uncomfortable.

He wanted to refute, but he could not find a way to do so.

After all, what Jasper said was the truth.

“Therefore, in this case, I will say it softly. There are people coming and going around all here. If someone overhears it, they will think that Mitch Langdon is such a badass now

that he's stepping on Henry to put pressure on Jasper. They will even wonder if Harbor City belongs to him now."

"If this was the case, won't I look incompetent?"

Jasper's ridicule made Mitch's face darken even more. Meanwhile, Jasper's next action and sentence caused Mitch's defense to immediately break.

Jasper took a step back and said calmly, "Also, we are not that close. You better not talk to me. Otherwise, everyone will misunderstand and think that we have a good relationship. Everyone will doubt my taste in friends if that were to happen."

"You son of a b*tch!"

Mitch was more furious.

Even if he was not as good as the top two second-generations like Henry and Fabian, he was still one of the strongest second-generations in Harbor City.

No matter where he went, he would be honored, and everyone would respectfully call him Mr. Langdon. When did anyone ever say such disgusting and disdainful words to him?

He felt that his self-esteem had been broken, crushed, and stomped upon by Jasper's feet. The soul-striking humiliation caused Mitch to throw away his gentlemanly disguise and yell at Jasper.

However, after he said that, Jasper slapped him hard across the face.

The slap was loud and clear.

They were in the lobby of Excelsior Hotel.

Since the rich and famous of Harbor City frequented this place, a lot of celebrities and big shots would come for tea here as well. Since a lot of VIPs were gathered here, a lot of paparazzi with nothing to do would often wait and keep watch here. They wanted to try their luck at changing their gate.

What were they waiting for and watching out for?

Huge news!

When Mitch was slapped in public, it was enough to shock everyone in Harbor City.

After numerous clicking sounds and flashes, Mitch heard Jasper's icy voice.

"Watch your mouth. Use your brain before you speak. Think about whether your master is truly reliable."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1454

PART PROGRESS

0% Complete

For a second-generation like Mitch, who was born with a noble background and grew up in constant praise and respect, his dignity was more valuable than his life. Had he ever thought that he would be slapped in the face in front of everyone in public?

Fabian would not do something like this to him, let alone Jasper.

Mitch's eyes instantly became red and he stared at Jasper. He looked so bitter that he looked like he could almost swallow Jasper alive.

"Jasper, you're asking to die!"

Mitch roared. He wanted to rush forward to rip that b*stard to pieces.

However, at this moment, a carefree figure walked over from the other side of the lobby. Mitch was so shocked that he froze in his tracks.

Mitch would never forget those carefree footsteps, those hands in the pockets, that head that was slightly tilted to the side, that arrogant aura, and that figure that looked even more thuggish than a gangster.

Henry!

Henry who would not appear in this place.

When he saw Henry, Mitch had to make sure that he was not hallucinating. When he was sure of what he saw, he almost let out a scream.

“What’s wrong? Are you surprised? ” Henry walked leisurely next to Jasper and tilted his head. He smiled brightly at Mitch and mocked him.

“W-what are you doing here?”

Mitch yelled as if he had seen a ghost.

“Where should I be if not here?” Henry’s eyes were dark, and they also oozed with excitement. He looked as though he had found an interesting toy while he was bored out of his mind.

“Do you think that Fabian should have locked me up?” Henry answered his own question and chuckled.

Mitch swallowed his saliva continuously. He did not know whether it was because of fear or shock, but his entire body was shaking.

He looked at Jasper subconsciously.

His instinct told him that if Henry could still be fine after doing such a huge thing, then the matter had to be related to Jasper.

When he thought about what Jasper said just now, an indescribable fear started surging from within his heart, spreading all over his body.

“What did you do to force Mr. Atticus to compromise on?” Mitch stared at Jasper and yelled hysterically.

“Why are you screaming?”

Henry scoffed. "Look at how stupid you look. Are you really treating your Daddy Atticus as a god? So what if we stepped on him? Harbor City is so small, yet you tiny brained idiots really think you're at the center of the world? How hilarious and lamentable."

He lifted his arm to put it around Mitch's neck. He then forcefully pulled Mitch next to him and pinched his chin to force him to look at the sky outside the hotel's lobby. Henry chuckled and said, "If you have time, go out to see the world. The world is huge."

After he said that, Henry let go of him and patted Mitch's cheek. He continued, "Stop staying here and thinking that you've seen the entire world, understand?"

Mitch's entire body shook.

He felt that Jasper and Henry's murderous ability was simply invincible.

However, he had no time to worry about these things. What he wanted to know most was what exactly Jasper did to make Fabian bow down to him.

And if Fabian bowed, then were the money and benefits he had previously given Fabian all in vain?

While he was thinking of this, Mitch's eyes turned horrified and desperate.

He could not bear to face the truth.

“Go and check your bank balance, maybe you are a pauper now,” Jasper said lightly.

After he said that, he gave Henry a look that said ‘do whatever you want’ before he turned and left. A nobody like Mitch was no longer important to him. Now that it was nearly the time that he and Kayden agreed to meet, naturally, Jasper was not going to be late.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1455

After receiving Jasper’s hint, Henry was about to crack his knuckles when he suddenly felt his arm sink Mitch, who had previously been wrapped under his arm, fell softly to the ground.

“Damn, are you trying to scam me?”

“I didn’t touch you, so don’t try this with ruel!”

Henry yelled at Mitch, who was lying on the ground and trembling. As he stared blankly at the ceiling, Mitch muttered, “It’s over, it’s over. Everything I own is gone.”

Upstairs, Jasper walked into the luxurious private room and saw Kayden, who was wearing a pair of round-framed glasses that made him look refined and cultured. The man smiled and greeted Jasper.

The two shook hands and Kayden said emotionally, "I knew you would not let me down."

"Mr. Atticus gave me such a big gift, so of course, I will use it well. Speaking of which, my business is much easier now thanks to this big gift." Jasper laughed.

Kayden chuckled. "A good sword is a gift to the hero. No matter how good or sharp the knife is, it will just be a dead weight if there are no pair of skillful hands that can utilize it."

"Mr. Atticus really keeps his own council for producing such a good sword."

After a brief exchange of pleasantries, the two looked at each other and guffawed.

"Come, Jasper, sit down."

Kayden guided Jasper to sit down in front of a dining table after that

“The A5 Wagyu beef here is the most authentic in Asia. It’s so fine that every piece of beef will have its unique identification code.”

“After being carefully prepared by the executive chef of Excelsior Hotel, it can be regarded as an unforgettable delicacy. Since it’s so rare, they will only get a portion of this size every year.”

Jasper glanced at the juicy, plump, and beautiful steak in front of him. He had naturally heard this before. Different from the extremely popular M9 and M10 Wagyu beef of the later generations, the top A5 wagyu represented the most traditional, and purest, beef in Sunrise Land.

It was decadent to the point that every cow would lead a luxurious life from birth until it was eventually slaughtered.

This was all for the plump and tender taste.

This level of Wagyu beef costs hundreds of US Dollars per gram.

However, this price tag was nothing to Jasper and Kayden, who had reached an unbelievable level of wealth.

“I’m so lucky to chance upon fine food today,” Jasper said. Then, he used his hand to directly pick up the Wagyu before stuffing it into his mouth.

He only took a bite when the juice exploded in his mouth. The beef melted on his tongue, forcing him to acknowledge it as a truly a top-notch feast.

“Are you not using the fork and knife?”

When Kayden saw Jasper eating so barbarically, he asked in shock.

He knew that Jasper was aware that he needed a fork and knife to eat a steak.

“It doesn’t matter how or what I eat. What matters is whether or not I enjoyed the meal,” Jasper said profoundly.

Kayden sighed slightly and said, “Jasper, I wanted to reminisce about the past with you.”

Jasper placed his steak and said with a grin, “Time waits for no man. I don’t have much time to do that.”

“Alright, tell me. What do you need me to do?” Kayden asked seriously.

“I don’t need you to do anything. Instead, I want you, and even your entire family, to mutually benefit,” Jasper answered.

Kayden lifted his eyebrows and said with a half- smile, “Jasper, I think you are unaware that my father and I don’t like to interfere in the fights between the wealthy families in Harbor City.”

“Do you think that I am asking for the Langdons and the Laws to team up and fight the Atticus family?”

Jasper asked.

“Are you not?” Kayden shrugged, looking confident.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1456

Facing the confident Kayden, Jasper chuckled lightly.

“What are you laughing at?” Kayden asked, frowning slightly.

From the beginning of the meeting, he could feel that the one in control of the conversation was not himself. This made Kayden a little unsure, since he liked to be the one in control whenever he was talking to anyone. This was what his father, Half-the-Harbor Langdon, taught him for decades. One could say less, but every sentence had to be said straight to the point so that they could always remain in control.

However, the tricky thing now was that Kayden did not even know what Jasper wanted to say, so even if he wanted to get to the point, he would not know where to start.

“Mr. Langdon, you and I are sensible people, so I won’t talk nonsense. The United States stock market contains one of the biggest business opportunities in decades. If you seize it, it will put the Langdons at least 20 years ahead. Are you willing to miss out on this chance?”

Jasper’s words caused Kayden’s eyes to light up.

He was not a fledgling newcomer in the business world, so naturally, he would not be tempted by Jasper's words.

"It's true that the United States stock market plummeted because of the terrorist attack a few days ago, and even now there is no sign that the dip is ending. However, people all over the world knew this, so there won't be any way to profit if one were to attempt a short sale."

Kayden had good foresight and he immediately pointed out the core problem of the question.

Everyone knew that the United States stock market had plummeted, but so what?

"The entire market was full of short-sale orders. Even if you entered the market, if no one reciprocated your order, you would not be able to profit."

"In the current situation, with the exception of a few lucky people, you are the biggest beneficiary, right, Mr. Langdon?"

"You didn't think of me when there was such a good chance earlier, but now that the opportunity is gone, you approach me and tell me that such an opportunity was previously available to us? You're so insincere."

Kayden shook his head and smiled.

“What if I tell you, Wall Street and the Federal Reserve are going to join forces to rescue the market?” Jasper said suddenly.

Kayden narrowed his eyes as soon as he heard this. He knew that Jasper was not lying to him.

The simple truth was that it was impossible for the officials of any country to simply watch on as its stock market plummeted.

The stock market was facing a massive dip, which in turn was indicative of the overall economic downturn of the country. This would eventually lead to a series of social problems such as struggling businesses, bankruptcy, unemployment, and economic depression. Therefore, the United States officials were bound to want to rescue the market.

Even so, the United States was always the one forcing other countries to find a way to save the market, but this time, the United States was going to save itself. Everyone knew this. The problem was that no one knew when and how the United States would do this.

If someone knew of this in advance, it would indeed be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Kayden suddenly smiled as he stared closely at Jasper.

“Mr. Laine, I’m afraid it won’t be that simple, right?”

“Let me think, the United States wants to rescue the market so this will of course be the top priority, but even if it is a market rescue plan, it will only stop the stock market from falling, while the losses will inevitably arouse dissatisfaction among the civilian population.”

“Another important thing is that the accident this time was caused by a terrorist attack which caused heavy casualties. Now, the United States is facing a lot of domestic anger, and they’ve also become the laughing stock of the world, so they will definitely fight back.

“One objective is to divert the attention of the people, and the other is to show their strength to the world and tell everyone that the United States is still the same entity as before and that they are still the world’s largest country.”

Kayden tapped his fingers on the surface of the table. He was speaking more confidently and faster.

“This would definitely happen. It involves international politics and the upcoming election in the United States, so no one can stop it from happening.”

“Because of all this, they’ll need to find a scapegoat... Mr. Laine, should I admire you for your ability, or should I mourn you for being so unlucky?”

“Unfortunately, it seems that you are sacrificial lamb. This is not a good thing.”

“You make a lot of money, but that doesn’t attract the attention of the United States government. Now, are you planning ahead for the purpose of self protection, or do you want to get more people to die with you?”

Jasper admired Kayden’s foresight immensely. He could already guess what was going on with so little information.

It was impossible for him to know that the source of this incident was that Fabian had gotten two investment banks and a series of other forces to target himself.

Jasper definitely would not tell Kayden about this.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1457

Otherwise, Kayden, who knew how to protect himself, might have just stood up and left without turning his head.

“Businessmen have only interest in their eyes. They do not care about life or death.”

Jasper took a sip from his teacup. The hot tea entered his throat as the fragrance filled his nose.

“The level of risk has always been in direct proportion to the profit. If you dare not fight, why are you still doing business?”

Kayden’s expression was as still as stagnant water while his fingers slowly tapped on the surface of the table without saying a word.

Jasper glanced at the time and smiled, “Mr. Langdon, there is not much time.”

“How confident are you?” Kayden asked, raising his head and looking at Jasper with a burning gaze.

“How confident am I?” Jasper laughed involuntarily. “Of course, I’m not.”

When Kayden heard this, he widened his eyes and almost cried out.

“If I’m confident, Mr. Langdon, why would I ask you to join me? This is certainly an opportunity to make a lot of money, but if I could do it myself, why bother to share it with you?”

Jasper’s next statement caused Kayden to swallow his words.

“Hahaha! How interesting!” Kayden burst out laughing.

“Contact me when you start to take action.”

After getting this answer, Jasper finally got up with satisfaction and extended his hand toward Kayden, “Well then, let’s hope for a joyous partnership.”

Kayden also got up and shook Jasper’s hand. Kayden suddenly sighed. “You are growing too fast.”

“What do you mean?” Jasper asked with interest.

“To be honest, making friends with you in the past meant investing in your future to a certain extent I genuinely felt from the bottom of my heart that you would not climb to my level,” Kayden said.

“That’s not very nice, but it’s very pertinent.” Jasper nodded.

Who was Kayden?

The designated successor of Half-the-Harbor Langdon.

Meanwhile, J. Langdon Corporation would be the richest in Terra in the future. Moreover, they held the position of the world’s richest Somer descendant for a long time during their peak. It could be said that, in terms of history, the J. Langdons were nothing compared to the Laws within the four richest families in Harbor City.

However, in terms of wealth, the wealth of the J. Langdons would equal the sum of the bottom two families among the four in just ten year’s time. Even the Laws could not compare to them.

In a way, Kayden could be regarded as the number one young master in Harbor City since he was born into such a family. Therefore, it was only natural that Kayden would look down on him.

“But now, I think I must treat you as equal, otherwise I will suffer,” Kayden said solemnly.

“I love making friends the most.” Jasper smiled.

Seeing that Jasper was preparing to leave after saying this, Kayden could not help but ask, “Are you leaving now?”

“I still have to talk to a lot of people. I’m very busy,” Jasper said without looking back.

Looking at Jasper’s back, Kayden’s brows trembled.

He realized that Jasper was really going to be playing a big game this time.

While he thought about this, Kayden lost the mood to continue enjoying the delicious food. Thus, he got up and called a car. He was going to see his father, Half-the-Harbor Langdon.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1458

As he walked out of the hotel, Jasper thought about the situation.

The Laws were on his side. Needless to say, the Langdons were 50% settled. It was only 50% because Jasper knew Joe and Kayden’s characters too well. Interest would always be their top priority. Thus, if something went wrong, they would definitely be the first to back out.

It could be said that this father and son duo fully represented the role of the businessman more than anyone else.

Merchants would always chase profits. The father and son duo pursued profits until their dying breath. As for feelings for their family and country, they felt it all irrelevant.

This was not Jasper's random guessing. A little more than ten years later, the father and son duo would withdraw tens of billions of capital from the country.

This was the concrete truth.

Hence, Jasper could not count fully on them, and had to consider the half chance that they changed their minds. After some consideration, he realized that there was not much power in Harbor City that he could use anymore.

The remaining family would be the Boyles. They had always been easily swayed and were also the weakest among the four wealthy families. Hence, Jasper was afraid that they would not want to be involved in this matter.

As for the W. Langdons, it was basically hopeless. Mitch was still paralyzed and could not move. He was Fabian's backbone, so they were enemies and could not ally. Naturally, there was no possibility of them cooperating.

“Are you done?” Henry suddenly appeared in front of Jasper with a smile on his face.

“Did you really not want to see Kayden that much?” Jasper smiled.

He knew that Henry did not need much effort to settle Mitch. Therefore, the reason why he did not show up was that he must not have wanted to meet Kayden.

After waving his hand, Henry said nonchalantly, “My family and his family are not the same. So, naturally, he and I have a lot of disagreements. We won’t show any respect to each other so it’s best if we don’t even see each other.”

“How hypocritical.”

Jasper could not help but smile when he thought of the later generations’ comments on the J. Langdons.

“It’s fine. The matter has been discussed anyway.”

“Good. My dad called me just now and he recommended that you see someone,” Henry said mysteriously.

“Who?”

Jasper was interested. The person Zachary recommended him had to be someone extraordinary.

“The Godfather.” Henry huffed and pointed in the direction of Auma City as he said that.

Jasper was shocked.

“Okay. I can’t stay long in Harbor City anyway. Let’s go now.”

Henry lay down comfortably on the top deck of a private yacht and sighed.

“This is the life.”

Henry drank his juice with his sunglasses on. He had his legs crossed as he said while enjoying the sea breeze.

“The only people we are lacking are two girls.”

Jasper, who was watching the news on his computer, looked up and asked. "As far as I know, the old master has no relationship with the Godfather. He even said that he will not allow the Godfather to step foot into Harbor City as long as he's alive. Why did your dad ask me to see him?"

Henry replied with a grin, "Benefits, of course. The old master is the old master, my dad is my dad, and you are you. Everyone has different opinions."

"The reason why the old master fought with the Godfather was that the Godfather framed the old master while they partnered on a huge commercial complex."

"They agreed that they wouldn't open a casino in the commercial complex but eventually, the Godfather did it without telling the old master. What the old master hates most in his life are gambling and drugs, so they had a fall-out right there and then."

"I think that the Godfather himself regrets it too, but everyone is sensible. They can't demolish a complex involving an investment of tens of billions of Harbor dollars because of such a matter, so the dispute remained."

"Even though the old master has beef with the Godfather, the Godfather is good at interpersonal communication. He will give us what we deserve according to our assigned dividends, and not a dime less. However, the old master just turned around and donated all the money to the mainland."

Jasper nodded and said pensively, "If that's the case, the Godfather is pretty loyal too."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1459

“Loyal?” Henry lifted his eyebrows and said in disdain, “What else can he do if he’s not loyal? Does he think he’s safe if he just hides in Auma City forever after he crossed the old master?”

“You have to know that during the Handover, he was able to keep his assets and he made Auma City the only place in the country that allows legal gambling. The old master helped him with that, you know?”

“So, at the end of the day, it’s still only about profit.”

While the two of them chatted, a smaller yacht appeared next to theirs.

It was evident that this yacht was the kind that was rented to tourists and guests. The level and the look of the yacht could not be compared to Henry’s private yacht.

However, there were a lot of beautiful ladies on the smaller yacht.

“Wow, that yacht is so beautiful. Did you rent this yacht, handsome?”

A beautiful lady in a bikini on the smaller yacht asked Jasper with a twinkle in her eyes.

Jasper grinned and said, "I'm just a crew member. My job is to steer this thing."

"Oh?" There was a hint of disappointment on the lady's face.

However, she continued, "Can we come over and take some pictures?"

When Jasper was faced with the beautiful ladies' hopeful gazes, he shrugged and said, "I'm just a crew member, I can't make the decision."

"Yeah, Mel... What decision can he make when he's just a crew? Let's not ask him," another beautiful lady said with disappointment

"Sigh, what a nice yacht. My best friends and colleagues will be so jealous if I could go up to take pictures," the lady named Mel said in disappointment.

At this critical moment, Henry got up from the sofa and pointed at the other side. He said, "The Godfather's yacht is here."

Everyone looked over and saw an extremely luxurious yacht cruising over from afar. The word 'Bose' was written in extremely eye-catching detail on the side of the yacht.

"Wow! This is the Boses' yacht! It's the Godfather's private yacht!"

A lady who knew what was what suddenly screamed. Almost everyone knew who the Godfather was.

"Oh my, I wonder if he's on the yacht. I'd do anything to get a chance to go onboard!" Mel had a look of shock on her face.

While they were talking, they noticed the yacht driving over slowly.

"My gosh! The Godfather's yacht is coming over! Is it here for us?" Another lady shrieked in surprise.

Instantly, every woman onboard started panicking and began looking for their makeup bag frantically. They were all making a hasty last-minute effort to freshen up. If the Godfather set his eyes on them, their social status would immediately skyrocket.

While those women were frantically trying to display their most beautiful side, an aged yet handsome old man with a tall figure walked out from the yacht.

Jasper and Henry did not expect the Godfather, who had not left Auma City for a long time, to come to welcome the two at sea.

“Hahaha, Henry, my boy, the last time I saw you, you were still in someone’s arms. You’re so big now,” the Godfather laughed at Henry.

Henry looked ashamed and he said, “Don’t make fun of me, Godfather.”

Even if Henry was a rascal, he would not show that side of him in front of the Godfather. He knew not to do this as, all things considered, judging from their age and seniority, the Godfather was from the same generation as his grandfather.

The Godfather looked at Jasper and praised, “Young hero!”

Jasper smiled and replied, “Thanks for the compliment, Godfather...”

“Come, let’s talk on board,” the Godfather waved his hand and said.

The two of them climb onboard the Godfather’s yacht using the ladder while the women were left dumbfounded.

“The guy who called himself a crew was just invited on board by the Godfather. He looks like the Godfather’s guest too.”

The women were extremely remorseful. This time, they had lost the opportunity to ride someone else’s coattails.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1460

The three of them were in high spirits on the Godfather’s yacht. The weather was nice that day so they decided to sit on the top deck.

“Tch tch, Godfather, your yacht is so amazing. I heard that you spent 60 million US Dollars on this yacht.” Henry envied.

The Godfather looked at Henry with a faint smile and said, “Do you like it? I’ll give it to you.”

Henry hurriedly waved his hand and said, “Forget it, forget it. Even if you give it to me, I can’t afford to maintain it.”

The Godfather laughed loudly and said, “Yes, the Laws have always been traditional and simple, so naturally you did not develop the habit of spending money lavishly.”

Henry said happily, "That's right, Godfather. Why don't you tell my grandpa to give me more pocket money?"

The Godfather shook his head and replied, "Never mind. Mr. Law doesn't like me, so I won't go and poke my head where it doesn't belong."

Henry grinned. There were not many people who could make the Godfather how his head or even grow apprehensive. It just so happened that his grandfather was one of them, so as his grandson, Henry naturally felt proud.

After some chatting, the Godfather looked at Jasper and said, "Zachary told me some of the news. I'm interested."

Jasper lifted his eyebrows slightly.

It seemed that even though the old master and the Godfather had beef, the current head of the family had a pretty good relationship with the Godfather.

"What's wrong? Are you wondering what he told me?" The Godfather asked in rumination.

Jasper answered, "Uncle Law asked me to come to you, Godfather. So, of course, he respects you a lot. There's nothing to hide either. I think he has already told you what needed to be said, I don't need to worry about it."

"How thorough. You're very sly indeed," the Godfather remarked on Jasper's reply.

Jasper smiled bitterly and said, "Don't blame me, Godfather. I'm not as capable as you so I have to be more careful."

"You're not as capable? That is not right. Everyone knows that the Laws are treating you like their second son," the Godfather said pensively.

Jasper did not plan to let the Godfather steer the conversation. Hence, he said straightforwardly, "Godfather, this matter will affect many things, and there are very high risks involved. I have to tell you all this beforehand."

Jasper had completely different attitudes toward the Godfather and Kayden.

One could be friends but not best friends with a fox like Kayden. Whether it was cooperation or otherwise, both sides were always cautiously testing each other, lest they suffered losses.

However, this was not needed with the Godfather. Being honest could actually earn him brownie points. Jasper knew that his wealth was nothing compared to what the Godfather had.

However, he still needed to be careful. After all, the Godfather was not a Law.

“But the benefits are greater, aren’t they?”

The Godfather’s eyes flashed with a complex light. Then, he said in a deep voice, “After Zachary told me about this, I plan to intervene.”

“When the time comes, I’ll support you unconditionally with regards to money and connections. Basically, everything you can think of.”

Jasper’s expression changed upon hearing that.

With his current status and position, the Godfather could not say anything willy-nilly. Once he said something, he would have to keep his word.

“Thank you for being so principled, Godfather,” Jasper said seriously.

The Godfather shook his hand and said, "Don't think of me as such a powerful figure. We've suffered a great loss from those old scoundrels in the past. So this time, you can think of it as me seeking revenge on them because of my personal grievances."

Back then, the Godfather got rich from gambling in Auma City, but one had to remember that the biggest and most famous casino was still in Las Vegas of the United States.

The rise of Auma City made Las Vegas very uncomfortable.

Dirty conflicts between the two sides occurred numerous times over the years. The Godfather had suffered a few big losses, so he always carried this hatred.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1461

“But this time, I have another collaboration I want to talk to you about,” the Godfather said to Jasper.

Jasper said sincerely, “I’m all ears.”

“Operating a gambling industry in Auma City requires a gambling license, do you know that?” the Godfather said deeply.

Jasper nodded and said, “I know, this means that you’ll be an officially recognized legal gambling organization that pays taxes following the official regulations and enjoys legal protection.”

“However, Auma City officials have not issued a new license for more than ten years. I think the most recent license was taken by the Venetians thirteen years ago. The value at that time seemed to be one billion US Dollars, right?”

The Godfather snorted and said, “Now there are three licenses for Auma City. The first one is mine, and the second one is Leesboa Casino which I own 40% of, the Laws own 20%. At the time, I also helped Venetians to get one. They promised they would give me 50% of the shares, but after it was done, they just kicked me aside.”

“I’ve endured this loss for 13 years, and now, the chance to act on it is finally here.”

“In two months, the Auma City government will give out the fourth license. They won’t give out another one in the next ten years, so this will be the only chance until then. Are you interested?”

Jasper was shocked upon hearing what the Godfather said.

A gambling license was an amazing thing to possess. If one owned it, they would be in possession of a hen that laid golden eggs. Anyone would be envious when they heard news like this.

One billion US Dollars 13 years ago was now worth at least two billion US Dollars, but even so, the Boses could recoup this cost with only three years of profits. It was evident that the gambling industry was very profitable.

However, in the face of such a huge temptation, Jasper did not immediately agree.

Just like how he tricked Kayden before. The bigger the cake, the more dangerous the hidden trap behind it may be.

Jasper did not believe in free lunches, and the goodwill of the Godfather would not be without good cause.

The Godfather saw Jasper's hesitation at a glance and continued, "Of course, I hope we can work together."

"According to the rules of the Auma City government, anyone and any company can only have one gambling license at a time. They can have the shares to other licenses, but they can't own over 50% of the shares. Therefore, I can support you in taking the license, after which you can distribute 50% of the shares to me."

Jasper gave the Godfather a half smile and said, "The license will be auctioned off. Are you saying that you can meddle with this rule, Godfather?"

The Godfather said faintly, "Since it's the rules, then of course I can't randomly meddle or change it. However, I can promise you that if I don't nod my head, even if others obtain the license, they won't be able to start their business in Auma City."

That statement was so domineering!

Jasper knew the Godfather did indeed have the ability to do this. Unless the other party was a huge business that depended on the United States and the United Kingdom like the Venetians.

“What about the capital for the auction?” Jasper asked the key question.

The Godfather laughed and said, “There’s no free lunch in this world. If I help you take care of the opening of your business, of course you’ll have to bear the capital.”

Jasper lifted his eyebrows.

“Oh...”

No wonder the old master did not like the Godfather. There was a reason for it.

This old fart was so greedy!

Life at The Top – Chapter 1462

The lowest-end valuation of the price of a gambling license was above 2 billion US Dollars.

There was the fact that the Auma City government had not issued a new license for more than ten years. This was accompanied by the fact that they had made it clear that no new licenses would be issued in the next ten years.

This would be the only legal license in a combined period of more than two decades.

The rarer something was, the more valuable it would be. In such a rare situation, this gambling license would inevitably attract the attention of countless related and unrelated capital in the gambling industry.

An auction had always been a way to easily increase the value of an item several times over. Therefore, 2 billion US Dollars was just the starting price.

Meanwhile, the Godfather actually wanted Jasper to spend so much money fighting for this priceless object with nothing more than a vain promise. Moreover, after he got it, the Godfather wanted to take half of the equity.

If this old man in front of him was someone else, Jasper would have cursed right there and then.

“Godfather, if I don’t agree, will it affect what I discussed with you earlier?” Jasper asked.

The Godfather grinned and looked at Jasper. He said, “If you don’t want to work with me, of course, I’ll reconsider working with you.”

“I understand...”

Jasper nodded and got up.

“Henry, let’s go.”

After calling for Henry, Jasper turned his head and walked toward the yacht they came from.

The Godfather narrowed his eyes to look at Jasper’s back. He did not have any intentions of stopping Jasper.

Meanwhile, Jasper was behaving like a hoodlum. He walked very fast and did not have any intention of stopping.

When he walked to the side of the yacht, Jasper jumped up and landed on the connecting deck. Then, he led Henry back to their yacht.

When Henry got there, Jasper lifted his hand to remove the deck connecting the two yachts.

At this moment, the Godfather could not hold it in anymore.

“Young man, deals are made after negotiations. You leave the moment something’s not to your liking. Do you think you can stay in this field for long with this way of doing business?”

Jasper lifted his head to look at the unhappy Godfather and said, “Godfather, I am not a great businessman but at least I have my limits. There are two kinds of business I won’t get involved in.”

After he said that, he lifted two fingers and continued, “First, I won’t do businesses that betrays my conscience.”

“Secondly, I won’t do businesses that’ll make a loss.”

After the Godfather heard what Jasper said, he laughed. “I’ve been in business my whole life and I know some businesses might initially look like they’re unprofitable, but you’ll still have to do it because it’s for the long-term plan.”

“If you first let others gain some advantage over you, you might later find an opportunity to make back everything you lost in the next transaction.”

Jasper smiled and shook his head. “I am not used to placing the profit and loss of my business on the gift or conscience of the opponent, so this kind of argument does not exist in my opinion.”

“Also Godfather, while it is true that you have conducted some similar businesses in your life, but never twice without thrice. Your opponent might not discover their conscience after your repeated compromises. The greater probability is insatiable

greed.”

“I think this is the reason why you only stayed in a small place like Auma City even though you have done business for decades, right?”

After Jasper said that, even Henry widened his eyes to look at Jasper, let alone the Godfather.

‘Damn, he was slapping the Godfather right across the face by saying that!’

Henry started to feel excited after shaking off the initial shock.

Indeed, Jasper the Poser was not satisfied with just being a poser in front of Fabian. Was he shifting his attention to a senior formidable figure like the Godfather now?

Life at The Top – Chapter 1463

Jasper was courting disaster! However, this was so exciting!

Still, one had to pay for acting like a poser.

As such, the smile on the Godfather's face disappeared. His eyes darkened as well.

The Godfather was a legend in this life. He had gone through so many things and so many hardships before he got to where he was today. He was born in an affluent family but then his family suffered a reversal of fortune. What the Godfather had right now had all been slowly forged by his hands during that chaotic and turbulent era.

How could he allow a young junior to scold him like that?

Even though Jasper was very polite when he said this, such a statement was basically a scolding to someone with the position and status of the Godfather.

“Young man, how many things have you experienced? How many people have you met? How can you say Auma City is a small place? Yes, Auma City is not big, but getting to where I am right now was not as easy as you think.”

Jasper said calmly, "I didn't mean to offend you, Godfather."

"But you did."

Jasper looked at the Godfather and said calmly, "Since you think I was being offensive, then I guess I've offended you."

After speaking, Jasper threw the ladder to the deck into the sea, as if he was challenging the Godfather.

After doing that, Jasper did not look at the unpleasant expression of the Godfather and pulled Henry away.

After a while, the yacht began moving further and further away.

The Godfather had a gloomy look on his face as he looked at the yacht that was moving away. Then, he smiled.

He took out his phone and, after he called a number, he said pensively, "Mr. Law, that young man is so interesting..."

Zachary's calm voice came from the other end of the phone, "I told you. Don't treat him the way you treat your disappointing offspring. It's useless. What happened? Did you have the door closed on your face?"

"Not really. However, this young man is very hot-tempered indeed. He should experience more hardships and lessons. No matter how good the jade is, if you don't polish the edges and corners, you will hurt others in the future and you will eventually hurt yourself too."

"Edges?" Zachary asked calmly, "Godfather, some people's edges can't be polished off just like that. Besides, you're so old, yet someone who could pass as your grandson has the ability to infuriate you. Don't you have edges to polish off as well?"

"What are you trying to say, Mr. Law?" The Godfather's tone was cold.

"I'm being literal."

Zachary said impatiently, "It doesn't matter if it's him or me. The reason I contacted you is because I feel that at least you'll have the conscience of a Somer descent since you possess the tanned skin and black hair of a Somer descent."

"What's more important is that people my age know that once Western capitalists invade the mainland, then you and I will have no food to eat. The consequence is not as simple as losing a little money and earning a little less, it's a matter of life and death!"

“But you have to understand that no one is begging you to do anything. To put it bluntly, do whatever you want.”

“You’re using this matter to threaten someone, while this person is willingly acting as a shield for everyone to charge forward and break through enemy lines.”

“If it’s successful, he might not reap a lot of benefits, but if it’s unsuccessful, he’ll be the first one to die. Even so, he still went for it. Don’t you have even a shred of conscience in this kind of situation?”

“That being said, you should consider it for yourself. I wonder how many people will patronize your casino in the future when everyone can’t even afford to eat.”

Beep beep beep.

The corners of the Godfather’s mouth twitched as he listened to the dial tone in the phone with a shocked expression.

In just half an hour, he was taught a lesson by two juniors in a row.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1464

“Are we really going to just leave like this?”

On the yacht, Henry asked Jasper with wide eyes.

“What else are we supposed to do? Go back and kiss that old man’s stinky a*s and tell him that as long as he is willing to join us, we can agree to any conditions?” Jasper said bluntly.

Initially, Jasper thought he would be able to get a powerful force like the Godfather to join him, but now, he was feeling p*ssed.

These old foxes were really difficult to deal with individually. They were all people who would not lift a finger until they saw the benefits.

“I just thought we needed to unite all the forces that we can cooperate with,” Henry said innocently.

“This depends on the situation.”

Jasper sighed.

“The thing we have to do right now, to put it nicely, is to protect our dignity. But in reality, we’re attacking somebody much stronger than us.”

“Unless you yourself were already willing, you would only show up but not put in any effort even if you got onboard reluctantly. Moreover, this will easily lead to internal conflicts, which is even more detrimental to us.”

“Damn, now everyone is guarding their own country’s market. If the market crashed, then nobody will have food to eat. Even I understand such a simple truth, yet they can’t? They still care about gains and losses at this critical moment!” Henry said unhappily.

“Otherwise, how could there be traitors? Most people only know how to talk about patriotism and so on, but they take no action.”

Jasper let out a sigh as if it could somehow relieve the depression and frustration in his heart. With his hands gripping the railing, Jasper looked out at the blue sea and azure sky in the distance. Then, he said, “A storm is coming. I wonder how long I can keep looking at this peaceful view.”

Jasper's time is almost up.

Morrison, who just got off the plane, looked at Fabian in the hospital bed and said with a laugh. "Atticus, if you can drink right now, I will pop some champagne to celebrate with you."

Fabian leaned against his bed and said, "Can I think of this as you mocking me?"

Morrison shrugged and said, "I didn't expect that you'd get attacked in Harbor City. To be honest, I don't think you deal with this well."

"We have a saying in the west. A gentleman won't fight with a barbarian. Meanwhile, there's also a saying in the East. A real man won't stand beside a collapsing wall, right?"

"I didn't expect you to have so much knowledge about the culture in Somerland." Fabian smiled grimly. "It's just a small mishap. This is nothing compared to what Jasper will be facing."

Morrison sat down on a chair and said with a grin, "The investment banks have reached an agreement. We're willing to help the Federal Reserve to stabilize the market of the United States."

“Similarly, the Federal Reserve will also announce a series of announcements and measures for the market rescue in a few days.”

“What about Jasper? He’s what I worry the most about,” Fabian said.

“Don’t worry, my friend…”

Morrison’s gaze was sinister. He said, “Some capital from the other side of the earth is trying to use this terrorist attack to steal the wealth of the people of the United States. The United States will use all means possible to make that capital and the interests behind it pay the price!”

“I am the one who wrote this announcement, and it will appear on the official website of the Federal Reserve in a few days time. Atticus, are you satisfied with it?”

Fabian looked coldly at Morrison, who was looking pleased with himself. He replied, “Actually, you guys are more interested in invading and pillaging Somerland’s capital through the guise of defeating Jasper, right?”

“Hahaha, Atticus, don’t think about it that way. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that you gave us. We are friends, aren’t we?” Morrison laughed.

“Friends? I think you guys prefer to call me a traitor, right?” Fabian said coldly.

Morrison said with a shrug, “Atticus, you have to know that capital has no borders. For people like us, only interests are eternal.”

“Who will remember the other things after ten or twenty years? The only thing people will see is the winner.”

“And obviously, this time you and I are the winners.”

Fabian was not affected by Morrison. He said, “Don’t forget the other conditions that you promised before.”

“Don’t worry. We have accepted your terms. After we succeed, Layman’s business in China will be handed over to you. Meanwhile, your family’s rubber exports will enter the United States market without any obstacles.” Morrison smiled and promised.

“Also, all Jasper’s properties will be transferred to me when that happens!” Fabian said.

Morrison raised his eyebrows slightly and said, “Atticus, this was not part of the terms we negotiated before.”

“I just want to see Jasper in pain and regret. What will make him feel more pain than taking everything from him?”

“But according to our assessment, Jasper’s assets are rare and valuable. Moreover, the companies he has shares in have bright futures and prospects...”

“I don’t care about that.” Fabian interrupted Morrison’s chatter in a cold voice. “Morrison, you are the best at dealing with problems that others find difficult, aren’t you?”

Morrison looked at Fabian, only to find that Fabian was staring straight back at him.

The two looked at each other for more than ten seconds before Morrison suddenly laughed. He shrugged and said, “Atticus, now you are a patient, and what you need most is rest...”

“As for what you said, I will help you to contact the other party. I will try my best to satisfy your wishes, how about that?”

“Very good...”

Fabian nodded. He was not putting too much pressure on Morris on as he said calmly, "This is the attitude that a collaborator should have. Well then, I'll be eagerly awaiting your good news."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1465

Over the past two days, the United States stock market, which was turbulent and rocked by a major disaster, suddenly fell silent.

This silence made people feel as though an avalanche or tsunami that was bound to happen had suddenly stopped at its peak.

It was weird and very unusual.

The financial policy institutions of most countries in the world, as well as the financial think tanks of major companies, and the professors and students of economic schools were all paying close attention to the strange stillness of the United States stock market. They knew this calm would not last long, and that it might soon be broken.

Once it broke, there would inevitably be the biggest change in the history of finance.

This would not only affect the development of the global economy, it would also be a landmark event in the history of modern human economics. Many top professionals felt extremely excited and nervous about being able to personally experience it.

What changed this situation was an announcement jointly issued by the United States' highest department of finance and the Federal Reserve.

“In view of the current irrational turbulence in the stock market, the United States stock market is closed for 3 working days.”

The short sentence directly caused FTSE from the United Kingdom, the Nikkei Index from Sunrise Land, and DAX from Germany to plummet.

Three working days and a weekend in which no trading is done, which meant it would be 5 more days before any trading could happen. The fiercest war would come after a peaceful ending.

“They are trying to lock me in the United States stock market. In other words, it is impossible for me to admit defeat and exit the market now.”

Inside a private holiday villa on the outskirts of Waterhoof City, Jasper sipped his strong-smelling coffee and turned his head to the little prince who was lying next to him on a lounge chair as he sunbathed.

The little prince opened his eyelids lazily and snorted before saying, “Lock all your funds in the stock market? Since the market is closed, you can’t leave even if you want to sell for cash and pull out. Once five days are up, it won’t be so easy for you to leave.”

“Not me...”

Jasper shook his head, pointed at the little prince, and said happily, "It's us."

The little prince sneered and said, "I haven't agreed to cooperate with you yet. Why? Are you threatening me with the money I invested before this?"

"This is just an obvious fact. Not to mention that the West is threatening all of us. How exactly am I threatening you?" Jasper said.

The little prince said while feeling displeased, "I just made 10 billion from the initial 5 billion investment. It is really unfortunate that so many things happened before I even had time to celebrate."

"Well, how can it be enough to just double the investment?" Jasper turned his head and smiled at the little prince.

The little prince's eye twitched as he looked at Jasper. He said, "Sometimes I wonder if you are a hillbilly or a lunatic."

"I am most annoyed by the academics. They like to act like they're so knowledgeable after reading a few books, as though it makes them better than everyone."

“For example, some capitalists would dare to risk their lives when they see 100% profit return, but is that how reality really plays out? Marx is turning in his grave now.”

“Furthermore, even if this was the case and it is obviously a death trap, the capitalists are very clever and mischievous. Just you wait and see who among them dares to go and risk their lives. To spend your money, you must still be alive in the first place.”

Jasper shrugged and said, “Little prince, this doesn’t sound like something you’d normally say.”

“Something I’d say? What would I say?” The little prince scoffed and pointed at Jasper’s nose before yelling, “You maniac! Who do you think you are? How dare you fight against the United States and the entire Wall Street?!”

“Were you confused because you got a little achievement? Who gives you the courage to do such a thing?”

“You can just go ahead if you want to die. Yet, you still want to drag me along to serve as your sacrificial victim! Do you think I’m insane?”

Jasper was not mad when he was faced with the little prince’s rare temper.

He only replied in a calm voice, "It's 2001 now. Do you know what the land beneath our feet was called 80 years ago?"

"The settlement!"

Before the little prince could answer, Jasper answered, his voice powerful and resonating.

"What is a settlement? It's opening up an extra-judicial land in Somerland, making it a country within a country.

"People of Somer descent are the lower-class in the settlement. The laws of Somerland don't apply here. Over here, those foreigners are king. To them, people of Somer descent are just maggots who look like humans. We're their slaves."

"We've gone through so many hardships over those 80 years, and now, Harbor City has returned to the sovereignty of the mainland. Despite this, there are still people dreaming about slaughtering people of Somer descent like we are animals."

"You're the little prince and you're a Royal, but so what if you're the king in Waterhoof City? You can only make the people in Somerland fear you. If you have the balls and real ability to back it up, you'll make those foreigners who ruled this world for hundreds of years fear you!"

“Our ancestors and elders did this decades ago, but now you’re scared?”

After hearing what Jasper said, the little prince did not interrupt him. Instead, he just looked straight at Jasper. He was looking at Jasper as if he had just seen some rare animal.

After some time, the little prince started chuckling softly. His chuckle was not disdainful or sarcastic. It sounded as if it was just a normally amused chuckle.

After he shook his head, the little prince was no longer as emotional as before. His rage was replaced with a calmness and steadiness that was more akin to his true self.

“Oh, Jasper, I think you’ve gone mad...”

“I understand the patriotic intent, but I understand the facts in front of me better. If you want to talk to me, you have to use the method of negotiation between businessmen. I will gain nothing from all the talk about history. You won’t gain anything from it either.”

Jasper laughed after he heard that.

Who said the top second-generations of the nation like the second prince were all hedonists?

Who said the righteousness of the nation was a useless argument?

The difference in attitude before and after had shown that the little prince had changed his mind. It was a good thing that there was a change.

Now, Jasper was confident he could pull the little prince firmly back down onto the chair that he was about to leave just moments ago.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1466

Was the little prince worried about the current situation?

He would be lying if he said he was not worried.

If he agreed right after Jasper said something about the righteousness of the nation like a hothead, then the Royals from Waterhoof City would be done for when it was time for the little prince to take over.

None of those people who were at the top of society were ordinary folks.

This was true for both individuals and families. Even the little prince, as the successor who was carefully cultivated by the top family, the Royals, received the most elite education from an early age.

When ordinary children were still learning mathematics, physics, and chemistry in their five years of senior-year exam modules, he had already begun to receive the most comprehensive tactical education.

With the environment and resources provided by the Royals, even a common dog could be educated into an elite canine with a Ph.D.

What more for someone like the little prince who was already extremely smart. These were the reasons why the little prince was more aware of the risks and benefits surrounding this matter.

If it was done well, not only would they make a lot of money, they would also get on Swallow Capital's good side. This intangible benefit was very important for the little prince.

Being able to show the right ability at the right time was what the little prince had long been seeking to do. However, this argument was based on the premise that this strategy was executed well.

If they messed this up and the money was gone, they would have to bear the consequences.

The consequences of this were not just monetary loss. Therefore, the little prince had made plans to pull out. This was why he was so annoyed when he learned that the United States stock market was closed, which made him unable to withdraw even if he wanted to.

It was not so much a tantrum at Jasper, but a tantrum at the unscrupulous and shameless ways of the United States.

"If you want a negotiation between businessmen, then it will be much easier."

Jasper stared at the little prince with a heated gaze.

“Nothing changes when it comes to the funds. I will do what I need to do. What I need is your full support when things heat up.”

The little prince looked over coldly, and Jasper seemed to know what he wanted to ask. Hence, he proactively continued, “Including, but not limited to, all-around support from financial contacts and public opinion.”

“Tch.” The little prince chuckled and said, “What wishful thinking. No way...”

As they were talking, the little prince frowned slightly and glanced at Jasper. Then, he said in a friendlier tone, “This is not the first time you have encountered a family like us, so you understand the way we work.

“I’ll tell you directly now. I’m not the one rejecting you, but right now, I can’t mobilize so much of the family’s resources to help you. Even my old man wouldn’t do this.”

“There are a lot of rules in a family and we Royals have even more of them. If not, the Royals would be finished.”

“I understand.” Jasper nodded. He did not think that the little prince was lying to him.

There was no need to do so.

The little prince was proud and he did not need to lie about such a matter and lower himself.

“It’s good that you can understand.”

The little prince nodded. He felt relieved.

He did not realize that ever since Jasper made 10 billion from his 5 billion investment, and after he saw how the United States stock market was feeling helpless against Jasper, he could no longer look down on Jasper anymore.

Now, he started to care about Jasper’s opinion and views because this would directly affect their collaboration.

In other words, Jasper had used his performance that shocked the world on the United States stock market for the right to speak as equals with the little prince.

“If I use my resources, we can settle some normal problems, but they’re useless in the face of huge matters like this.”

The little prince shrugged and continued to say shamelessly, “I don’t think I can give you any aid other than money. Besides this, I also have a request.”

“Please tell me,” Jasper said.

The little prince was a little embarrassed now. He did not give the aid he was asked for, but now he was making a request. This was not right at all. Most importantly, this did not fit his image.

However, one should always talk business in a business setting, so could he value his image over real tangible profits.

“I’ll manage the funds myself.”

Jasper looked over immediately upon hearing what the little prince said.

The little prince continued with no expression while Jasper was looking at him, “It does seem like I’m getting rid of you once you’ve ceased to be useful, however, the nature and influence of this matter are too large.”

“I can promise that I’ll cooperate with your moves unconditionally, but I want authority to dispose of the funds.”

“You won’t be the only one asking this, right? I met get the same request if I contact Lord Alvarado.” Jasper asked.

The little prince was truly surprised now. He said, “How could you guess this?”

“Aside from your families coming from different places, the situation with you guys is almost the same. So, you guys contacted each other privately and reached an agreement. This is something normal.” Jasper’s tone was mild, and he did not seem to want to fly into a rage at this moment.

The little prince sighed and got up to pat Jasper’s shoulder. He said, “This is a favor I’ll owe you.”

They earned 5 billion because of Jasper, but after they’re faced with this problem, they wanted to pull out with their profits in tow. Even though the little prince promised he would cooperate with Jasper’s plan, this action alone made it seem as if he wanted to get rid of Jasper once he ceased to be useful.

If this were someone else, the little prince would not be so bothered. Someone like the little prince would not normally talk to others, much less make them a promise or owe them favors. However, this was not anyone else, this was Jasper. This was Jasper, who had earned the right to stand on the same level as him.

Thus, the little prince had to mind Jasper’s feelings.

“Fine, I accept,” Jasper replied suddenly.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1467

Jasper agreed quite readily and decisively.

This caught the little prince off guard.

“Did you agree?” The little prince asked subconsciously.

Jasper said lightly, “The money is yours. Whether it is the 5 billion principal or the additional 5 billion profit, it is the benefit that the little prince should get after investing with me.”

“Now that you intend to take the money back, how can I refuse?”

The little prince frowned and looked at Jasper carefully. He said, “I was the one who didn’t do this properly. If you have any grievances, you can tell me now.”

With a wave of his hand, Jasper replied, “What is there to complain about? The reason for this is very simple. “I can’t stop you from taking away your money, right? That’ll be wrong of me.”

The calmer Jasper was, the more the little prince felt that he did not handle this properly.

The little prince thought for a while and said, "You don't need to say anything to Lionel. I will do it for you. I can even tell you on his behalf that we will support you in whatever you want to do in the follow-up of this matter."

"That's good."

Jasper stood up, held out his hand to the little prince, and said, "Then it's settled."

As he looked at Jasper with scorching eyes, the little prince smiled suddenly and took Jasper's hand. He said, "It's a deal!"

After discussing business affairs, Jasper and the little prince chatted for a while before leaving.

Perhaps it was because of his sudden withdrawal of funds, but the little prince treated Jasper very politely. Not only did he not stop Jasper, but he even personally walked Jasper to the door of the holiday villa and watched him get in the car before he left.

After Jasper's car disappeared from the end of the mountain road, Coffey appeared beside the little prince and said softly, "Little prince, the master is still at home waiting for your news. We should go back now."

The little prince's gaze stayed fixed on the direction in which Jasper's car had disappeared and he chuckled softly. "Waiting for my news? What's there to wait for?"

"Jasper exceeded me, the family, and everyone's expectations."

Coffey was taken aback. He was a little confused. However, his decades of habit as a subordinate told him that he did need to understand many things, let alone get to the bottom of it.

Only this time, the little prince was in good spirits. So, he continued, "The growth of that guy is really terrifying..."

"In this situation, I am indeed inferior to him. Perhaps the Royals' power is too strong, so I don't need to face any choices that are not conducive to me..."

"This time, I also decided to support Jasper. I believe him. Even if I can't win, I won't lose."

Wouldn't he lose if he did not win? Coffey was even more confused now. However, he did not probe further, he simply bowed slightly and said softly, "Yes."

After coming out of the little prince's private and exclusive villa, Jasper was expressionless.

"Jasper, did the negotiation fail?"

Julian, who was driving, looked at Jasper's expression in the rearview mirror and asked. Julian, who rarely saw Jasper with this expression, was a little upset. He knew that this meeting between Jasper and the little prince must not have been pleasant.

This caused a murderous look to appear in Julian's eyes.

If Jasper gave him a word at this moment, he could immediately turn back and singlehandedly twist the head off the head of the little prince to hand it to Jasper.

Julian would not consider how big and powerful the little prince's background was.

“No...”

Jasper shook his head and looked out the window. He said faintly, “I just suddenly realized I can’t underestimate these successors of top families no matter what.”

To be honest, Jasper was not worried that the little prince and Lord Alvarado would back out on their collaboration with him at this moment. Their status and family status predetermined that they would not be able to put their own safety before matters

of principle.

Their roots were in the country. Their status, wealth, and prestige were built on the foundation of Somerland.

If Somerland’s economy crashed and was played for suckers by the Western capitalists, not only would the citizens suffer. At the same time, the families that were rooted in the land of Somerland would suffer as well. Anything they did at this moment was being closely monitored by the big shots in Swallow Capital.

Therefore, at this moment, they would not dare to play the tricks up their sleeves even if they had balls of steel.

That was why Jasper was not worried that the little prince would give up on his collaboration with him. However, the problem was that he did not expect that the little prince and Lord Alvarado to withdraw their capital and gain back control of the funds.

Although he said that he would respect the decision, this move fully showed the greed and cautious nature of these people.

To put it awkwardly, this was a clear example of saving one's own bottom during a disaster.

That was why the little prince felt guilty at that time.

That was why Jasper's face was as calm as stagnant water.

With a sigh, Jasper closed his eyes and said, "I need to meet a lot of people after this. I don't have the time to worry too much about this. Let's go back to Southeast Province first."

Looking at the tired Jasper through the rearview mirror, Julian said softly, "Jasper, no matter how big the issue is, you still have to rest."

“I don’t know much about major principles, but I know that the body is the primary resource for a revolution. If you collapse now, everything will be done for.”

Jasper opened his eyes to look at Julian, and he chuckled before saying, “Don’t worry, I won’t.”

Julian grinned and asked, “Julian, who are we seeing next?”

Jasper thought for a while and replied, “We’ll need to see Lord Alvarado next. I’ll contact him and try to ask him to come to the Southeast Province.”

After he finished saying that, Jasper’s phone rang. He was stunned when he saw the phone number.

It was his childhood friend whom he had not talked to for a very long time, Greg.

Jasper did not hesitate before answering.

“Jasper, this is bad. I’ve been sued!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1468

Greg's call surprised Jasper.

When Jasper asked Greg to start a mobile phone manufacturing company, it was in preparation of the rise of smartphones in the next two to three years.

Mobile phone manufacturing was not an easy task even in 2020, so Jasper did not expect Greg to do much.

The important thing was to make arrangements in the relevant supply chains first, which was commonly known as carving out a position.

The mobile phone industry was an industry that Jasper attached great importance to in the future. Its importance was second only to the two companies, Abbylon and Terizone, and in Jasper's heart, its priority was even higher than that of his real estate companies.

After all, the real estate industry was too policy-oriented and his memory of his past life already proved that the government could not always support the development of the real estate industry.

Therefore, Jasper not only asked Greg to set up a mobile phone manufacturing company, but also run an electronic equipment manufacturing company that had always been working on related projects.

The only issue was that this was not an easy task Therefore, apart from providing the capital, Jasper did not help Greg too much.

However, now Greg was being sued?

“What happened?” Jasper asked with a frown.

“It’s because I was too careless.” Greg gave a wry smile and explained the whole story.

“Half a year ago, I found a team with the funds you gave me and invited them to join the company. The leader of this team was Eric Whitman. He was originally a chief designer in Fliegen, the first domestic company that manufactured mobile phones in Nim City.”

“After he joined the company, he led the team to overcome several challenges in a row. Our prototype was successfully developed last week.”

“But I didn’t expect the news of this to get leaked. Fliegen knew about this, and they said that our mobile phones used their patented technology and they wanted to take us to court.”

When Jasper heard this, he lifted his brows.

He knew Fliegen, this company was not foreign to him. When Nokia was dominating the mobile phone markets all over the world, there were still some individual companies in the country that occupied half of the market. Fliegen was one of them. when they were at their peak, they dominated 30% of the mobile phone market in the country.

In an era where Nokia was worshipped, this was almost a miracle.

Meanwhile, Fliegen started the era of counterfeiting domestic mobile phones with another company named Goldie.

Most people might not know that the draw marquee-LED Banner was first developed by Fliegen.

At least in the current domestic mobile phone industry, Fliegen could be regarded as a giant. It was definitely not comparable to the new company that Greg had just established. In that case, why did Fliegen target Greg?

“Did we really commit patent infringement?”

Jasper asked a crucial question.

This was also a matter of principle. If they really did this, then no matter how much the loss was, Jasper could only make Greg pay the compensation fee and stop the infringement.

“Absolutely not!”

Greg’s tone was firm and angry.

“You know me, I would never do this kind of thing. After the incident, Eric and I studied with his team for a long time. We found that the infringed patent Fliegen mentioned was originally a personal patent owned by Eric himself. It has nothing to do with Fliegen at all.”

“Eric also told me that Fliegen’s boss, Vinny Goldman, has always been very dissatisfied with his resignation. He once even said that any company in Somerland that dared to hire Eric was intentionally going against him “I think this is Fliegen’s boss, Vinny’s, revenge against me and Eric.”

Jasper's face turned dark and he said, "Where are you now?"

"In Nim City. I plan to come over and talk to Vinny today to see if this matter can be resolved peacefully."

Greg sighed slightly and said, "Fliegen is not afraid of litigation, but we can't afford it. The previous investment in research and development was heavy, and now the company is already very short of funds."

"We finally got the first batch of products and unless we can get products into the market and start making money, it will be difficult for the company to continue operating."

"Moreover, we were almost done with the investment in the advertisement. If this lawsuit with Fliegen is not resolved, we will not be able to bring the product to the market."

"When that happens, even the money invested in the advertisement will be in vain and we'll be burdened with a lot of breaches of contracts. I think Vinny knows this, so he chose to take action at this critical moment."

Nim City was not far from Waterhoof City. It was only an hour plus drive from Waterhoof City via the highway.

According to Jasper's plans, he was only due to meet the next important person the next day. Hence, Jasper said directly, "You should go talk with them first. I happen to be in Waterhoof City now. You should be done by the time I get to Nim City. We will talk about the specifics when we meet."

Greg replied excitedly, "You're coming over? That's great. We'll talk when you get here."

After he hung up the phone, Jasper asked Julian to turn around to head down the highway toward Nim City. After thinking about it, he called Wendy in Nauritus City again and asked her to use the company's resources to investigate Fliegen and its boss, Vinny Goldman.

When Jasper's Bentley first joined the highway, Nim City was more than ninety kilometers away.

Standing at the entrance of Fliegen's factory that occupied a large and impressive area, Greg said emotionally, "I wonder when our company will grow to this scale."

Eric, who was no stranger to this place, chuckled and said, "Don't worry, you'll have it soon."

"Vinny is not easy to deal with, and he has a horrible temper and domineering personality. Mr. Costa, you must be mentally prepared."

Faced with Eric's reminder, Greg shrugged and said, "We are here to dispel any enmities, not to fight- We may be weak now, but I have no qualms about bowing my head now so that our company will flourish."

"Furthermore, we also brought your personal patent certificate. I dare say that we're being reasonable. We have the upper hand, so no matter how overbearing he is, he won't go over the line."

Looking at the confident Greg, Eric was a little worried. He shook his head and said, "Mr. Costa, you haven't dealt with Vinny. You don't know how he is. If this person were so easy to deal with, I wouldn't have left this company that I worked in for more than ten years."

Greg patted Eric on the shoulder and said boldly, "It doesn't matter if he's good or bad, I still have to see him, no?"

While they were talking, the two entered Fliegen's office building.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1469

In order to avoid attracting the attention of the outside world as much as possible, the mobile phone manufacturing company established by Greg did not use the JW name.

Once it became famous in this industry in the future, Jasper could change it back and integrate it into his group. However, right now, this mobile phone manufacturing company, which was founded less than half a year ago, was still named Blau Mobiles as per Greg's wishes.

Jasper came to the site of Blau Mobiles, a newly developed commercial district in the city center of Nim City.

The overall layout and construction of this place mirrored the Southface River project. In the beginning, the Nim City government also sought advice from JW Real Estates.

There were six to eight floors in the commercial building, and the current office space for Blau Mobiles occupied two whole floors.

The elevator door soon opened, and Jasper came to the front desk after walking down the corridor.

"Hello, I'm Greg Costa's friend, is he back?"

A beautiful young girl was seated at the front desk. When she heard Jasper calling her boss' name, she did not dare to procrastinate.

"Mr. Costa went out and he's not here yet. Can I contact his secretary for you?" The receptionist asked politely.

"Sure," Jasper nodded.

Soon, a secretary who was notified by Greg over the phone hurried over. She was a beautiful woman in her thirties.

"Hello, are you Mr. Laine? I am Mr. Costa's secretary. My name is Veronica Lint."

Although Veronica did not know that Jasper was the boss of the company who was simply sitting behind the scenes, Greg's attitude and tone when he gave her the orders made her realize that this very young Mr. Laine possessed an extraordinary background. This was the reason behind her polite tone and demeanor.

"Hello..."

Jasper smiled and shook her hand.

“I’m Jasper Laine.”

“Mr. Laine, please come with me. Mr. Costa told me that he will come back as soon as he finishes his work. Since you arrived before him, you can take a break in his office,” Veronica said respectfully.

Jasper entered Blau Mobiles with Veronica leading the way.

Yet, he did not immediately go into Greg’s office.

Instead, he walked around the office area first. Although Veronica did not know what Jasper wanted to do, she still stayed by his side vigilantly.

Jasper was clearly examining the condition of everyone and everything in Blau Mobiles that was under Greg’s leadership.

To Jasper’s satisfaction, although most of the employees of Blau Mobiles were young people, they had a rigorous work style. Moreover, the office area was also very tidy. It looked very much like a thriving company.

It seemed that Greg had started to develop his management skills.

After seeing all this, Jasper walked into Greg's office. "Does Mr. Costa work here?"

Jasper asked curiously, looking at the small office simply separated by nothing more than glass that was placed in the corner of the public office area.

Although there were blinds, there was not much privacy since it was surrounded by glass. Moreover, the office was very small and did not look a typical boss' office.

"Mr. Costa said he can see the status of all the employees at a glance from this spot, and it is also easier to communicate with everyone regarding potential problems at any time," Veronica said with a touch of admiration in her eyes.

After nodding, Jasper saw a simple camp bed behind the desk. There were pillows and quilts on it, so obviously someone often slept here.

"Because the company was just founded, there are many things to take care of and the system is not perfect yet. Therefore, most things require Mr. Costa to personally make decisions. Therefore, Mr. Costa chooses to sleep in the company most of the time."

This time, Veronica took the initiative to explain.

"Good." Jasper nodded, silently approving of Greg.

All things considered, a person who could humble himself and endure hardship was worth entrusting many things to, even if his ability was limited.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1470

Jasper's employment philosophy was to look at character before ability.

No matter how good their ability was, if their character was bad, then they were destined to never be able to handle major businesses.

Besides, Greg's ability was not bad.

"You should sit down and rest. I'm going out now. You can call me anytime you need something, as I'll be right next door," Veronica said.

After Jasper waved his hand and dismissed Veronica, Jasper did not bother behaving courteously. He sat directly in Greg's seat before he turned on the computer and started to check the information about Fliegen and Vinny Goldman that Wendy had sent over.

Ring ring. Jasper's phone rang.

Jasper, who was reading the information, picked up the phone.

“Damn, where are you?”

Henry’s angry voice came from the phone.

Jasper patted his forehead and said with a smile, “I almost forgot that I left you in the hotel and neglected you. I’m in Nim City now.”

Last night, Jasper and Henry left Harbor City together. The most important thing right now was to seize the moment to draw in as many active forces as possible before the final battle.

This had to be done by Jasper alone. No one else could replace him.

As for Henry, it was easy to understand that this guy could not stay put in Harbor City at all. Worse still, it was during such an eventful period. As such, Zachary was also worried that Henry would continue to conflict with the Atticus family if he stayed in Harbor City.

After all, Henry setting fire to Empire Meet was still the talk of the town. During this sensitive time, it would be safer for Henry to follow Jasper back to the mainland.

“Damn, are you still a human? I found a business partner for you, yet you abandoned me at the hotel!” Henry said while feeling pissed.

Jasper was surprised. “You found me a partner?”

“Hehe!”

In a relationship as close as Henry and Jasper’s, their complaints were often mindless banter which they would not take to heart at all. Hence, Henry’s attention was immediately diverted.

“A super rich country bumpkin. His family’s money is no less than that of any of the rich families. Even so, they have no prominent social status, so they always long to break into the real upper-class circles.

“This kid showed up just in time. I was thinking that you needed financial support the most right now, right? So I got this kid here just in time.”

Jasper quickly sifted through the big bosses of Harbor City according to the characteristics that Henry had mentioned in his head. However, he realized that many individuals met the described character.

After all, only the four wealthy families were the real upper-class of Harbor City. There were many other nouveau riches too, but it was rare that Henry would acknowledge their wealth.

“Stop guessing. They’re not in Harbor City. They’re from Nawait.”

Henry’s sentence caused Jasper’s eyes to light up.

“The Pullers from Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing?”

This time, Henry was shocked.

“How could you guess? Are you a human or ghost?”

Jasper was in a good mood now. He asked, “Where are you guys?”

“We’re waiting for you in Waterhoof City,” Henry answered.

“Stop waiting. Come to Nim City now. You’ve done a good deed!” Jasper laughed and said.

At the same time, the door of the office opened.

Greg walked in first. The moment Jasper lifted his head to glance at him, the smile on his face disappeared. It was promptly replaced with anger.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1471

“We’ll come right now. I’ll call you when I get to Nim City. Don’t go anywhere this time,” Henry grumbled.

Jasper grunted a reply before hanging up the phone.

He did not need to exchange so many pleasantries with Henry.

Besides, this thing in front of him right now was more important

“Jasper, you’re here. You didn’t wait too long, did you?”

After Greg placed his briefcase down, he smiled and asked.

Jasper looked at Greg and he could see a clear handprint on Greg’s face.

The person who slapped him exerted a lot of force. Not only did it leave a clear print, but it was also swollen. From the looks of it, Jasper knew the slap was very recent.

However, Greg did not say anything so Jasper did not expose Greg's embarrassing mark. Instead, he looked at the person behind Greg.

The person behind Greg was a man in his forties who looked refined and cultured. His face was thin and he looked meticulous. He had on a pair of round-rimmed glasses which made him look like a teacher who was always hungry for knowledge.

However, his expression was stiff.

"Let me introduce you. This is Eric Whitman and he's the current chief technology officer of Blau Mobiles. He's also the reason why we can solve so many technical problems so fast. He is the pillar of Blau Mobiles.

"Eric, this is Mr. Laine. He's the founder of JW. He's also the real boss of Blau Mobiles."

Eric was stunned when he heard what Greg said. He asked dumbfoundedly, "Real boss?"

"Actually, Blau Mobiles is just a subsidiary company under JW." Greg directly told Eric the truth.

"JW had been funding us ever since the company was founded."

Even though Eric was shocked, honestly it did not matter who the boss was because it was still the same to him.

Moreover, now that Blau Mobiles and Greg were in trouble, it would be good to have another bigger boss standing behind them. At least they had someone to support them.

“Hello, Mr. Laine, I’m Eric Whitman.”

Eric extended his hand and said.

Jasper shook Eric’s hand and said, “I’ve heard your name when I was talking about work with Greg. Just as he said, you’re the pillar of Blau Mobiles right now. I have to thank you for that.”

Eric smiled bitterly and said, “What pillar? Mr. Costa’s just flattering me.”

At this moment, the door of the office was opened. When Veronica came into the room, she exclaimed right before she was about to speak, “Mr. Costa, what’s wrong with your face?”

It was obvious that Veronica and Greg did not have a normal relationship between a secretary and a boss.

She walked over anxiously and pitifully. Then, she lifted her hand to touch the handprint on Greg's face. When she touched Greg's wound, he sucked in a deep breath from the pain.

"I'm fine. It's just a minor accident," Greg said through gritted teeth.

Veronica knew she should not say anything more. So, she suppressed her heartbreak and said, "I'll get you some ointment."

After she said that, she hurried out the door.

At this moment, Jasper said faintly, "Tell me, what happened?"

Greg gritted his teeth and said, "Just now, I went to see the boss of Fliegen, Vinny Goldman, with Eric. I figured it would be fine to give them some goodies as long as we could reach a consensus."

"After all, Blau Mobiles is still too small and we're not really Fliegen's rival in the mobile phone industry."

"However, Vinny proposed to buy Blau Mobiles for 5 million. When I rejected him, he slapped me and asked his security guard to kick me out."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1472

What happened was easy to understand but was incredibly insulting.

When Greg said this, he did not react too much. After all, he was used to this level of humiliation. However, was he not still humiliated deep inside?

Now, he was not the good-for-nothing son-in-law living at his wife's parent's house. Back then, anyone could step on his head and bully him, but now, he was the boss of Blau Mobiles. He was in charge of so many people and tens of thousands of dollars in funding.

Even though Jasper was the one who gave him this, Greg discovered his self dignity and confidence during this process. He also found a life with purpose and goals.

However, all of this was almost destroyed by Vinny's slap.

Slam!

The loud voice of a palm on the surface of the desk shocked everyone.

Greg lifted his head to look over and saw Jasper's dark face.

"Is there anyone else doing business like this in this time and age? This is not a business, this is daylight robbery!"

"Does he think he's the boss? 5 million to buy Blau Mobiles? My first investment was 20 million in cash. To this day, I've invested about 38 million in this company in cash alone. I still haven't included the result of the research from a while back. Vinny is such a scheming rat."

Jasper had finally found an opportunity to vent the pressure and anger he had been facing recently. Now, he was going to release all of it.

However, even if this did not happen, Jasper would still slap Vinny back without hesitating after being met with a request like that.

"What's wrong with you?"

Jasper lifted his head and scolded Greg without hesitation.

“He made you come back with just one slap. You’re a man and you’re just going to let him slap you i? If he slapped you once, you should slap him back twice. Did you think he would kill you?”

Greg lowered his head and said timidly, “I was worried that I’d cause trouble for Blau Mobiles.”

“What trouble?”

Jasper’s tone was sterner now.

“Yes, I am the boss of Blau Mobiles, but you’re the person in charge of this company. You built this company with your own blood, sweat, and tears. If you’re so scared of everything, don’t start a business! Just go back home and look after your kids!”

A man like Greg almost burst into tears after being scolded by Jasper. His eyes were red and his head was lowered. His entire body was shaking gently.

It was unknown if he was angry or feeling humiliated. Eric did not even dare to breathe too loudly as he stood to one side.

He finally saw the big boss’ boldness and authority.

Greg was good at managing a team, but he was too soft. It might be because of his past experiences, but he would often make light of everything.

This was not a bad thing, but as the person in charge of a company, he needed to be either authoritative or calm depending on the situation. Unfortunately, Greg only knew how to be the latter and never the former.

After seine time, the employees in Blau Mobile became used to their boss being a yes man.

This was not good for a company's development in the long run.

However, Jasper was different. This statement caused Eric's scalp to turn numb. He felt hot air rising to his brain and he wanted so badly to go out there, grab Vinny, and slap him twice across the face.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1473

“Greg, people will think you’re weak and easy to bully if you’re always compromising and overcautious when it comes to being a man and starting a company. We won’t bully others, but we also won’t allow others to step on us.

“We’ll chop off anyone who reaches their claws over, it doesn’t matter who it is, it doesn’t even matter if it was God himself. You may be asking what might happen next if we did such a thing. Well, at most, we’d start over. You’ve experienced so much, but do you think it will be even worse than what you’ve experienced?”

Jasper’s tone softened as he continued.

Greg gritted his teeth and replied, “I know what I should do now.”

Jasper nodded and said, “A person’s character is developed from the constant changing of their environment. You have to change, but this won’t be something you can do overnight. This time, I’ll take care of it, but since you know what you should do in the future, then I can rest assured it is worth my time.”

Greg’s character was a little problematic, but to Jasper, it was not something that could not be salvaged.

The main thing was that Greg had a very rare personality and ability that was hard to come by.

That was why Jasper was willing to help him and was willing to give him another chance.

If not, he would not be comfortable leaving a huge fund to Greg and not minding it at all, instead simply allowing Greg to do anything he wanted with it.

Even so, disregarding all this fuss, Greg was still his man. Now, a boss who was in the mobile phone business came out to slap Greg, which meant he was disrespecting Jasper as well. Therefore, Jasper had to show his anger.

This was for Greg, and also for the other employees.

“Julian,” Jasper called out.

The door to the office opened and Julian appeared at the entrance.

“Get me Vinny Goldman,” Jasper ordered.

Julian nodded and left without saying a word.

“Jasper, what are you doing?” Greg did not expect Jasper to ask his subordinate to kidnap Vinny. This was against the law, which obviously shocked him.

“He was the one who broke the rules first, so don’t blame us for resorting to extreme measures.

“I have a lot to take care of later so I don’t have the time to waste on this small fry. Didn’t he say he wants to buy Blau Mobiles with 5 million? We’ll just get him to come here to talk to me about it face to face,” Jasper said with a wave of his hand.

Greg chuckled bitterly and saw Eric looking excited at one side. Hence, he did not stop Jasper.

Perhaps Jasper was right.

“Let’s go. We’ll eat first.” Jasper got up and said, “I think he should be here by the time we’re almost done. I have two more friends coming over later too so let’s get to know each other during the meal.”

Of course, this was not a problem. After handling Greg's matter, they quickly confirmed a place. The place they went to was not a fancy place, but a normal noodle shop. This place was also specifically requested by Jasper.

A meal in a luxurious hotel was for clients, and since they were all his people, then it would be a bit inappropriate to go to such a formal place.

Inside the shop, Jasper picked up some of his noodles and mocked Greg, "Your secretary, Veronica, right? What's her relationship with you?"

"She's my secretary, so it's obvious. We're employer and employee," Greg said, feeling embarrassed.

Jasper smiled and said, "I don't oppose office romance."

Of course he would not. After all, Wendy was sitting next to his office. Thus, Jasper was the one person that was most unqualified to oppose office romance.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1474

“I have a pretty good impression of Veronica.”

As Jasper said that, he recalled Veronica’s reaction after she saw Greg being hurt. One could not fake that kind of genuine concern and anxiety.

“However, you have to think about how you’re going to do this yourself. After all, you need to find a stepmother for your kids.”

Greg shook his head and said, “I just want to manage the company properly. I’m not thinking about other things right now.”

“It’s fine as long as you can decide for yourself. However, time waits for no man. If you don’t act now, women will eventually get snatched away by someone else. When that happens, no one will care even if you regret it,” mocked Jasper.

“Blau Mobiles has two offices. One is Cavern City, which we had initially chosen, and the other is in Nim City. Right now, we’re focusing on the R&D center in Cavern City. Eric will be in charge of this place. After the new year, I will move the office in Nim City over to that location,” Greg changed the topic and continued.

Jasper nodded and said, not expressing an opinion, “The company is not big right now, so it’s indeed not suitable to move. You will run into a lot of trouble if you choose to do so.”

“Cavern City is still rapidly developing. In the future, it will be the manufacturing and sales hub of many domestic electronic products. It won’t hurt to go over and make the necessary arrangements for the business there earlier rather than later.”

Greg nodded and sighed lightly. “In the beginning, you suggested that I go to Cavern City, but at that time, Blau Mobiles didn’t have anything, so naturally I couldn’t get any good deals.

“After all, the competition in Cavern City is fierce, and the people in Nim City are very sincere. So that’s why I put the administrative center in Nim City, leaving only one R&D center in Cavern City.

“However, it seems that this move was wrong.”

Jasper put the noodles in his mouth and said, “Not entirely. The geographical conditions of Nim City are not worse than that of Cavern City. It will also serve as the traffic operation center for the entirety of River City. Besides, it’s near the best port and near Waterhoof City as well. There are advantages to both of them, so you should think it through before you make your

decision.”

“Damn, you people started eating before we got here?”

Henry’s voice came from the door. Then, they saw him pushing the door open and striding in. Behind him was an unassuming man in his thirties.

This man was not tall and he looked ordinary. However, his eyes looked very alert. After he walked in, his eyes were fixed on Jasper.

It seemed that he could tell who the person he really wanted to meet was between Jasper and Greg.

“This is Todd Puller. He’s the person I told you about, the young master of Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing.” Henry pointed at the man and said to Jasper.

Then, he picked up his fork to start chowing down some of the noodles. He said to Todd without turning his head, “This is Jasper Laine, my future brother-in-law and the boss of JW.”

“Hello, Mr. Laine. ” Todd was very passionate and courteous. He even looked a little respectful.

Jasper smiled, stood up, and shook his hand with Todd. He said, "I've heard about Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing; Your father is also an exceptional entrepreneur in Nawait. I've been wanting to get to know him. This trip was not made in vain now that I got to see you, Mr. Puller."

Todd said in astonishment, "If my father knows about this, he would be very glad. You're very prestigious now, Mr. Laine, and everyone should learn from you."

"You're too courteous."

The two of them exchanged pleasantries and sat down to eat.

Meanwhile, Greg was stunned as he stood to one side. Anyone in the mobile phone industry or, more precisely, anyone in the electronic equipment industry would know about Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing.

It could be said that under the restrictions of Western technology monopoly, Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing was the only advanced semiconductor manufacturer that domestic electronics manufacturers could connect with.

Semiconductors and organic molecule chips were inseparable, especially when it came to things like mobile phones.

For example, the two largest domestic mobile phone manufacturers in the country, Fliegen and Goldie, were almost entirely dependent on the semiconductor equipment provided by Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing.

It could be said that Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing decided the fate of most domestic mobile phone manufacturers.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1475

Greg had been in the domestic mobile phone manufacturing industry for almost half a year and he had figured out a lot of the things in this industry.

One had to know that being able to make the prototype meant that one could formally produce mobile phones, at least requiring one to initially integrate both the upstream and downstream of the supply chain.

Even so, Greg was still not qualified to contact companies like Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing.

This was because the other party looked down on small manufacturers like him.

Every shipment was calculated in the tens of millions and they would not accept their order if it did not consist of enough stock.

Furthermore, they might not accept Greg's order if the latter did not demonstrate a certain industry strength or market cap even if he were to order tens of millions in parts. If the small factory went bankrupt, this would then affect the brand of Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing.

Almost all major international brands were arrogant. Meanwhile, Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing did indeed possess the qualifications of being so arrogant in the domestic semiconductor industry.

It could be said that Greg was not even qualified to sit down to eat and drink tea in front of Todd right now. However, at this moment, Todd was smiling at Greg. Meanwhile, when he looked at Jasper, his eyes were full of respect.

'How many powerful figures does Jasper know that I am unaware of? Is JW's influence already so great?' Greg could not help but think to himself.

Naturally, it was impossible for him to know that JW was no longer what it used to be.

Terizone dominated the internet and communication in the country.

Abbylon started online shopping.

Sena stood up tall in the domestic internet gaming industry.

JW Real Estates was ranked top three in the overall comparisons list consisting of national real estate companies at the end of the year.

JW Electronics became the leader in the field of domestic electronic product manufacturing.

Advent Entertainment Group completely swapped over to the entertainment industry in the mainland market and had become an industry titan.

Today, JW was already a real behemoth that consisted of diversified companies across various industries.

Their products could be as big as a house or as small as an MP3. It also held the contact information of all of your online friends, a piece of clothing you bought on an online shopping platform, or perhaps a new super weapon you created in United Legends.

These things that were closely related to people's livelihood had been quietly laid out around everyone in Somerland.

You might not use KK, but you would likely play games. Perhaps you did not play games, but you would eventually buy something online. Even if you did not shop online, you would definitely buy a house and start a family.

JW started silently manifesting around everyone in the country. This was the closed-loop ecosystem that the top business tycoons of later generations dreamt of achieving.

As far as Todd was concerned, what was more important was the influence that Jasper had.

The guest of the wealthy Law family in Harbor City was always someone cultured and competent. Moreover, he even received news that Jasper had a cooperative relationship with heirs of top families such as the little prince in the mainland.

This was what the Pullers, that Todd represented, desperately needed right now.

The Pullers owned Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing. Although there were two major shareholders in this company, Flips and the Nawait government, this had become a double-edged sword. Now, the Pullers, who was also the founder and largest private shareholder of Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing, urgently needed to shed their identity of being the Nawait government's spokesperson and were seeking a real path to break into the upper class.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1476

“Did you come to the mainland for work this time, Mr. Puller?” Jasper asked, seemingly without any ulterior motive.

Todd never wanted to hide his intentions. He placed his fork down as a mark of respect and said, “I did come here to work. Mainly, Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing came up with a 1.2-micron chip recently and a lot of manufacturers in the country are very interested in it.”

“What? 1.2-micron?” Greg could not help but exclaim.

Before this, Todd had already noticed Greg, who was sitting next to Jasper. He smiled and said, “Yes, do you know about this, Sir?”

“I know about it very well. Hello, Mr. Puller. I am the manager of Blau Mobiles Manufacturing Company, Greg Costa,” Greg said excitedly.

“Blau Mobiles?” Todd frowned and tried his best to rake his memory, but he could not remember where he had heard this name before.

“A few days ago, our company came up with our first prototype and we’re using the 1.6-micron chip that’s going to be obsolete soon. So, it’s normal if you don’t know me, Mr. Puller,” Greg said in embarrassment.

Jasper smiled and said, “I invested in Blau Mobiles.”

Todd lifted his eyebrows as his expression evidently became more amiable.

“I see, hello, Mr. Costa.”

“You’re still using the 1.6-micron chip? Excuse my bluntness, but that technology has died out in the country. If you’re interested, we can supply you some 1.2-micron chips.”

“Really?” Greg was so surprised that he almost screamed.

Currently, there were no domestic companies that could independently produce micron chips, they were all relying on imports from either Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing or several monopolies in the United States or Germany.

However, the goods that these companies could provide to the country were all technologies that were quickly phasing out, while the prices were more higher than the latest technology products sold in their own countries.

This obviously showed that they were bullying the people of Somerland for not having the technology capability to match them, leaving them easy pickings to be scalped.

Greg had even tried his best to get these 1.6-micron junks that people looked down on through Eric's old friends. If he did not do this, they would not even be able to buy trash.

However, right now Todd was actually providing a batch of 1.2-micron chips from Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing. This was such a surprise to Greg.

"It was originally very difficult. After all, 1.2-microns is the current international gold-standard technical specification, which makes it globally in demand. Not to mention that many domestic manufacturers want to get the goods, so we don't even have too much in our inventory..."

"However, since this is Mr. Laine's company, I can source you a batch no matter how difficult it is."

When Todd said this, he looked at Jasper. It was clear that he was trying to please Jasper.

"You're too kind, Mr. Puller."

One should never hit a smiling person, let alone when they have just given you such a big gift. Hence, Jasper naturally had no reason to reject it.

He had even planned to talk to Todd in private. After all, he had already invested about 100 million into his steppers project. However, he had not yet overcome the difficulties in creating the 1.6-micron chips, let alone the 1.2-micron on a nano-scale.

If Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing was willing to help, this really would be a huge deal.

Todd, who did not know that he had walked right into Jasper's plan, looked happy and was about to speak when the door opened.

A fat man was then thrown inside. The private room that was filled with the smell of noodles was now filled with the smell of blood.

The smile on Jasper's face disappeared. He looked at the man who was shaking uncontrollably on the floor, his eyes looking like they were deep in thought.

At one side, Greg's eyes were shooting flames. He stared at the man in front of him that he knew very well, Vinny Goldman!

Life at The Top – Chapter 1477

“Who are you guys? Who the hell are you guys?”

Vinny got up from the floor while struggling. His face was covered with blood and dirt as he opened his extremely swollen eyes. His vision turned red from his blood so he could not see Greg, Jasper, and the gang, who were sitting not far away from him.

He could only see their silhouettes.

Panic and anger caused Vinny to scream and roar. When Todd saw Vinny, he was also shocked.

One was the young master of Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing and one was the boss of one of the biggest mobile phone manufacturing companies in the country. Thus, it was only natural that they knew each other.

Todd peered at Jasper secretly before he decided to wait and see what was going to happen.

Henry’s legs were crossed. When Jasper was talking to them, he was stuffing his mouth. Right now, he was full and the entertainment seemed to have arrived.

He did not know how Vinny offended Jasper and why Jasper had asked Julian to beat Vinny up before bringing him over. However, this did not prevent Henry from having an interest in him.

“Where did this fatso come from? Why the f*ck are you screaming for?” Henry pressed his lips together and grumbled.

Vinny was furious and roared, “Who the hell are you? Do you know who I am? How dare you kidnap me? Do you want to die?”

“Hell..!”

Henry was amused.

“It’s been such a long time since I heard such an arrogant statement, Who are you? You’re just a f*cking fat*ss!”

“If you don’t watch your mouth, forget kidnapping, best believe that we’ll slice you into pieces and eat you with our noodles later!”

Vinny’s blood-covered face turned White from anger. He opened his eyes forcefully and saw Henry. Then, he saw Jasper and Greg beside him.

“Greg Costa?” Vinny exclaimed.

Then, he scoffed. “So, it’s you. You’re pretty ballsy for asking someone to kidnap me. You better let me go now and then send me out the door while kneeling on the floor respectfully. If not, you won’t be able to bear the consequences.”

“Vinny, you’re so arrogant even when you’re here.”

Greg looked at Vinny coldly and said with a chuckle. Since he had support, he was not scared anymore.

“F*ck you, you dumb*ss!”

Vinny did not show Greg any respect at all. He pointed a this nose and yelled, “I never expected you to play these dirty tricks on me.”

“Very well, fine. Since you want to play, I’ll play with you to the end. I will not leave this place and I want to see what you’re going to do to me, you idiot. I’ll kill you even if you kneel and beg for mercy later!”

“How arrogant.”

Jasper clapped his hand and said with a grin.

Vinny looked at him from the corners of his eyes. From what he knew, Greg was a small businessman with no background and skills. So, what VIP would a person like this know?

Therefore, he did not care about Jasper at all.

“Who are you? Do you think I need you to tell me if I’m being arrogant?” Vinny scolded.

The moment he finished saying that, Henry splashed a bowl of hot soup right on Vinny’s face and body.

The soup was still steaming hot and was very spicy. When it landed on Vinny, white smoke appeared from his body and he started screaming while struggling furiously.

“F*ck you, you son of a b*tch! Do you not understand me when I told you to watch your mouth? F*ck you straight to hell!”

Jasper looked at Greg as the latter looked at Vinny who was wailing in pain while clutching his face. What this look meant was self-evident. Jasper wanted to hand the chance and power to exact revenge back to Greg.

Greg immediately understood what Jasper was planning. A hint of hesitation and struggle appeared in his eyes before he stood up to strode over to Vinny.

Jasper grinned as he watched Greg's back. He was very satisfied.

If a man did not dare to slap back someone who had first slapped them, then he deserved to die.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1478

What could someone like this achieve? Moreover, Jasper was also supporting him.

Greg did not know what Jasper was planning, but at this moment, he was very excited. He lifted his hand and slapped Vinny across the face savagely.

Vinny was the one who bullied him. Greg went to Vinny seeking a compromise while playing it safe, but he ended up being kicked out by Vinny in such a horrendous way.

However, since Jasper was here, he did not want to waste his breath. He did not even explain why they had kidnapped Vinny before he immediately started slapping him after he arrived.

Greg was thrilled at this startling difference. At the same time, he felt that this was how a man should be living.

Slap slap slap!

After a few slaps, Greg felt amazing, while Vinny was shocked stupid.

“This is insane, you’re insane, you’re f*cking... Ah! Stop slapping me!”

Initially, Vinny appeared fierce while actually being cowardly at heart. Now, he was wailing in pain while begging for mercy. This change would make anyone feel sorry for him.

With a thud, Vinny fell to the ground, sobbing. A man was being hit until he cried. When he fell, he fell right under Todd’s feet.

He subconsciously lifted his head and his eyes met Todd’s disdainful gaze.

Vinny was dumbfounded. He did not expect to see Todd here.

“M-Mr. Puller?”

Vinny called out.

Todd frowned and looked away.

“Sorry, I don’t know you.”

Vinny began treating Todd as his savior now. He turned around and held Todd’s legs before wailing, “Mr. Puller, help me. These people are insane. I’m Vinny Goldman, the boss of Fliegen. We worked together many times before. Please save me!”

“Who worked with you many times before?”

Todd was annoyed after he heard that.

He finally gave Jasper a good impression of himself, and he did not want Vinny to ruin it.

“I’m telling you one more time that I don’t know you.”

Todd’s dark eyes were like two sharp knives as they met Vinny’s gaze.

Even if Vinny was stupid, he would still be able to tell that there were people here that he could not afford to offend. Even Todd could not afford to offend the said person.

“W-What’s going on?” Vinny asked timidly.

At this moment, Jasper stood up and said, “I’m full. Let’s go back.”

“I’ll let you handle this, Greg. You can decide what you want to do.”

After he said that, he led the gang out of the private room.

Henry got up as well and looked at Vinny with an icy smile before sauntering away.

Todd was the last one to stand up. He looked coldly at Vinny who was dumbfounded. He scolded, “Do you really think you’re god just because you have a stupid mobile phone company? Look who’s behind the other party next time you want to put on such a stupid act. You’re nothing, yet you dare to offend Mr. Laine?”

“Starting from today, Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing will not provide anymore chips to Fliegen. Not even a single one!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1479

Vinny sat on the ground feeling as though he had been struck by lightning.

The wounds and bloodstains on his body already made him look battered. However, no amount of wounds could compare to the impact of what Todd just said.

For a mobile phone manufacturer, losing touch with the most advanced semiconductor supplier meant death. Especially in Somerland, which was under the condition of Western technology blockade. They simply could not get advanced semiconductor materials from the West.

Even if they could be bought, they were all obsolete products that were out of date. The price was even more expensive than the latest technology semiconductors sold by foreigners to their own people.

Therefore, Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing's supply was the only source of semiconductors Vinny could rely upon. This was the status quo throughout the entire domestic mobile phone manufacturing industry.

Now, Todd had made it clear that he would not supply them again, and his Fliegen would be finished in a few months time.

Vinny's scalp was tingling as he exclaimed, "No, Mr. Puller! Mr. Puller, please give me another chance! I am okay with you increasing the price, any price is fine!"

Yet, at this moment, where was Todd in that private room thick with the smell of noodles. Only Greg was left standing in front of Vinny.

Greg spoke indifferently while he was looking at the pale faced Vinny, "Mr. Goldman, the mighty Mr. Goldman... When you slapped me out of your office today, you didn't expect that the retribution would come so soon, did you?"

"Stop being so f*cking cocky!"

Feeling that his doom was imminent, Vinny had only a deep resentment toward Greg at this moment. He said to Greg bitterly, "You only have a good f*cking master. Your master is the awesome one, but what does it have to do with you? You're still the same mongrel in front of me!"

With a sneer on his face, Greg pulled up a chair and sat down in front of Vinny. Then, he said, "Yes, I just have a good master and good support, are you jealous?"

"If you have the ability to do so, you can also find a master who can make me lie in front of you and call you my daddy. But you can't, right?"

Greg felt very happy when he looked at the unpleasant expression on Vinny's face. Greg did not know how many years it had been since he had last felt like this. He was used to timid and meek, so he had not experienced this feeling of exaltation in many years. He quickly realized that he was too stupid before this. In this society, people like Vinny would always be the majority. If you were afraid of him, he would be even more fierce, forcing you to bow your head and step back, until eventually, you would be backed into a dead-end!

One's weakness and submissiveness would not gain the sympathy of people like Vinny. It would only make them unsatisfied with small gains and hungry for more. Therefore, when it came to people like Vinny, one needed to smash all of their teeth the moment they first start baring their fangs.

"If you can't find one, you should just admit your fate obediently."

After he slapped Vinny's face that was covered in blood and dirt, Greg felt that his attitude and way of thinking had changed greatly. However, he did not oppose this change. Rather, he embraced it wholeheartedly.

He knew if he wanted to survive in this cruel business world that was filled with deception he needed to change!

"Say, I still have to thank you."

Greg bent down and got close to Vinny before he said slowly.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1480

Vinny looked at Greg coldly. His gaze was resentful, but he did not speak. He knew that it was him who was finished now.

Although Mr. Laine, who's background and family Vinny did not know about but was undoubtedly extremely terrifying, was gone, he could squish himself like an ant at any time if he so desired. He also knew that Mr. Laine deliberately kept him here so that Greg could vent his anger on him. As Vinny gritted his teeth and clenched his fists, he felt extremely humiliated and sorrowful, but he did not dare to really provoke Greg.

Seemingly satisfied with Vinny's expression, Greg chuckled slightly and slowly pulled a tablecloth over to wipe his hands. He continued, "The slap in the morning killed the previous Greg. Now, I won't allow anyone to slap me across the face ever again."

The corners of Vinny's mouth twitched. He was a little scared as he looked at Greg who seemed like a madman in front of him. This time, he was not feeling scared of the mysterious and powerful Mr. Laine who was behind Greg, but simply because of Greg himself.

Was this guy crazy?

Just as Vinny started to speculate, Greg's voice was heard again.

“To thank you for helping me complete the transformation, I decided to give you a chance of living.”

“Fliegen is done anyway, so sell it to me. I will give you 8 million.”

Vinny looked at Greg incredulously. After a long time, he furiously said, “You are f*cking crazy!”

As the second largest mobile phone manufacturer in Somerland, Fliegen’s annual net profit was more than 8 million, which Greg had proposed buying it for. This caused Greg to almost explode in anger.

“I’d rather burn Fliegen to the ground than sell it to you for cheap!”

Greg sneered when he saw Vinny roaring. “Yes, when you asked to buy Blau Mobiles for 5 million during the day, I thought so too. But I have options, such as finding support, which you currently lack.”

“If you refuse, fine by me. You have heard what Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing said just now, they will not provide a single semiconductor to Fliegen ever again.”

“Without the materials, are you going to buy foreign garbage with high prices, low performance, and outdated technology? Or are you going to just watch your competitors swallow your market share and then go bankrupt after the suppliers sue you for breach of contract?”

“You do have a third option, which is to burn Fliegen to the ground as you said just now. In that case, believe me, unless you can live to be 200 years old, you won’t be able to get out of prison for the rest of your life. Arson is still a crime even if it is your own company.”

With a sneer, Greg raised his head and looked at the trembling Vinny who’s eyes were filled with fear. Then, he said slowly. “Or, you can be a good boy and take the 8 million that I offered to you to see out a safe and rich existence somewhere no one knows about.”

Vinny looked at Greg in horror and screamed, “Devil! You are a devil!”

Looking at Vinny coldly, Greg replied, “I am indeed a devil because you forced me to be.”

With a thud, Vinny slumped down to the ground, his eyes blank

Greg said calmly, “I’ll give you three minutes to consider whether you want to end all this with 8 million and go enjoy your life, stay in bankruptcy, or rot in prison. You choose then...”

A wave of humiliating anger ignited from deep in his heart. Vinny wished he could punch Greg to death, but he unclenched his fists and seemed to instantly age several decades.

“I regret this so much! I shouldn’t have provoked you!”

Vinny wailed after closing his eyes.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1481

As he looked at Vinny, who was crying and sullen with remorse, Greg felt indifferent.

Had it not been for Jasper, Greg would be the one who was sitting on the ground in agony.

At the end of the day, all of this happened not because Vinny had offended Greg, but because he offended Greg, who had Jasper as his boss. Therefore, Greg knew very well where all this power came from and whom he should thank for it.

Jasper and his gang did not walk far. After all, they had to wait for Greg to finish taking care of things. So, they walked to a café near the restaurant where they found a quiet corner and sat down.

The business on Greg's side had not been finished yet, so even though Jasper and Todd had something to say to each other, they both stopped themselves. Even Todd, who had obviously humbled himself, did not act too eagerly.

This was the rule of negotiation. The party who spoke first usually gave up their advantage.

The illusory initiative in negotiation was a key factor that represented huge interests.

One had to speak sentence by sentence and do things one at a time.

They would have to say something after Greg got here anyway, so Todd was not in a hurry. Hence, he only chatted about nonsense with Jasper to pass the time.

After a while, Greg hurried over from the door.

“Mr. Laine, it’s done.”

Unbeknownst to Greg, he had started to address Jasper as Mr. Laine instead of just his name.

Greg did not notice this small change while Jasper’s smile remained unchanged. However, he let out a huge sigh in his heart.

Now that Greg had started to address him as Mr. Laine, it meant that he had lost another friend and gained another competent subordinate. Only God knew whether he had lost or benefitted from this.

As the saying went, the lonely and widowed man’s status and position would increase day by day. Jasper had a deeper experience and understanding of this sentence.

“That’s good.” Jasper smiled and nodded.

Greg said with a look of excitement, “I bought Fliegen for 8 million!”

Jasper raised his brows.

His original intention today was to make Greg understand the rules of survival in business and society so that it would eventually lead to him making a profit. This was even at the cost of owing Todd a small favor. However, what Greg got from this scenario seemed to be much more than that.

“8 million? He sold it?” Jasper asked.

Greg smiled triumphantly and said, “He had no choice. He had to sell whether he wanted to or not.”

“Interesting.” Todd laughed suddenly.

Everyone at the scene was smart. Even Henry, who was not involved in business, was an expert in the field of bullying. Thus, he naturally understood what Greg was talking about.

Greg saw Todd continuing the topic and immediately took the opportunity to speak, “Mr. Puller, you promised to give me a batch of 1.2-micron chips. Now that Blau Mobiles has purchased Fliegen, you can’t go back on your promise.”

Todd was taken aback. He really did not expect this.

At that moment, he had promised Greg this mainly because of Jasper. After all, Blau Mobiles was Jasper’s company, and if he gave Blau Mobiles this batch of goods that everyone was after, wouldn’t he be indirectly giving this to Jasper too?

However, at that moment, Blau Mobiles was just a small company that was recently founded and had only just created its first prototype. In this case, how many chips would they need? It would be ten thousand phones at the most.

However, now that Blau Mobiles had devoured Fliegen, that figure would be horrifying.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1482

No matter how generous Todd was, there was no reason to simply hand out hundreds of thousands of 1.2-micron semiconductor materials equipped with the most advanced technology.

Todd looked constipated. Then, he turned his head and glanced at Jasper next to him.

However, he saw Master Jasper leaning on the sofa with one arm spread out on the armrest of the sofa while the other hand supported his body. He was even playing with his mobile phone in his palm. Jasper smiled and looked at Todd as if he didn't intend to speak.

Damn it!

What a profiteer!

When Todd made up his mind and was about to speak, Jasper spoke up.

“Greg, you're not being sensible. Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing is not a charity. Mr. Puller is willing to help us, but if we're not satisfied with small gains, then it would mean that we're being insensible.”

Upon hearing this, Todd grinned. Suddenly, he felt that Jasper was kind and someone very easy to talk to. However, everything changed with the next sentence.

“Of course, Mr. Puller is kind and is also a man of his words. Naturally, he won’t lie to you. It’s just that the price of the goods should be based on the market price and not a penny less, understand?”

The smile on Todd’s face froze.

What a joke! Was this a matter of money?

Even if the semiconductors for the 1.2-micron chips were mainstream technology products throughout the world, under the Western technology blockade, it was still difficult to obtain such products in Somerland. Therefore, if Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing were to make it available now, the most important thing was not how much it could sell for, but how many benefits he could exchange it for.

One had to know that there were simply too many domestic manufacturers that needed this kind of semiconductor. Moreover, semiconductors were not just useful for making mobile phones.

Almost all electronic products needed it.

Since there was a high demand but low supply, Todd had to be particular about who got the goods and how much supply they would get.

Therefore, what Todd cared about was not how much it could sell for, but the underlying profits he would derive from selling it.

Todd looked at Jasper with a grin and then looked at Greg with a look of expectation before he snorted.

How come the more he looked at it, the more he felt that these two were plotting against him?

“Hey, Mr. Puller, any other considerations?”

Henry’s abrupt words caused Todd’s brow to jump.

If Jasper could be described as stretching his hand in front of Todd to ask him for benefits with a smile, Henry could be described as reaching his hands directly into Todd’s pocket to take his money.

It sounded like he was joking, but the threat in that sentence was clear.

“Not at all...”

Todd also had a sincere smile on his face when he made his decision.

He shook his head and said firmly, “It’s just goods. How much do you want? Just send a letter to the headquarters of Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing later. I’ll tell my father.”

“Thank you, Mr. Puller.” Greg quickly thanked him.

In any case, they had gained a huge advantage in this matter, and with Jasper’s status, he could not personally thank Todd. This responsibility naturally fell on Greg.

He had great social skills, so after saying a few words of thanks, he left immediately.

“Blau Mobiles is small, and Fliegen is large. If you want to devour Fliegen, it won’t be easy to digest it in such a short time. If you need any help in this matter, tell the headquarters and I will let them help wherever I see fit.”

After Jasper told him that, Greg left with great excitement. For him, this fight was over and it was now time to enjoy the fruits of his victory.

For Jasper and Todd, the confrontation has just begun.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1483

“Mr. Laine, to be honest, I want to be your friend.”

Todd was not a stingy person, and since he was the successor personally trained by Old Master Puller, he had character and was very sophisticated.

Although the previous events made him feel a little dejected and uncomfortable, since he had made a decision, he immediately adjusted his mentality and tried to flatter Jasper so he could achieve his goal.

Jasper nodded and said, “I also like to make friends. It’s better to have more friends like Mr. Puller.”

Gifts blinded the eyes. Since he just got some benefits from Todd, naturally, Jasper would not turn his back on the man, Todd also smiled when he heard this ideal feedback from Jasper.

“Then I will just say it straight, I hope to reach a long-term strategic partnership with Mr. Laine and JW.”

Todd’s eyes were blazing. He continued, “I think JW’s future is very bright, and I have high praise for Mr. Laine’s ability. I think this investment will be most rewarding.”

“You’re too kind, Mr. Puller.”

Jasper chuckled softly and said, “I have Blau Mobiles under my name and I also have an electronics manufacturing company. Both of these two companies have very congenial business relationships with Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing. I think this strategic partnership will be good for both of us.”

“Of course, if we reach a partnership, Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing will aim to supply to all JW companies first. However, in addition to this, we also hope that Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing will become the sole supply agent to all JW companies in Nawait in the future.”

When Todd said this, Jasper narrowed his eyes.

“Mr. Puller, at present, JW has a series of businesses. Except for the cooperation with the entertainment industry in Nawait, we have not expanded our other businesses to Nawait. I’m sure Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing is not in the entertainment industry, right?”

Todd shrugged and said, “Just because we’re not doing it now, it doesn’t mean we won’t do so in the future. Even if you are not in Nawait’s market now, it doesn’t mean you won’t enter sometime the future.”

“The best business is business for the future.”

Jasper changed how he viewed Todd after he said that.

“Mr. Puller, that spoke straight to my heart. I also have another business. I wonder if you’d be interested in that.”

Jasper’s statement caused Todd to feel curious. He said, “Oh? What is it?”

“I plan to start a foundation.”

Jasper smiled and told Todd his plan.

“This foundation can be temporary or long-term, but it currently has only one purpose and that is to snipe the United States stock market.”

What transpired on the United States stock market was no secret nowadays. A lot of people who understood finance and stocks talked about it after dinner.

When it came to someone like Todd such a thing was clear as day.

So, Jasper did not hide anything and told him everything directly.

“The United States stock market is still closed, but after that, there will be some big moves. Any disturbance in the financial market, be it an increase or decrease, is an opportunity for investors to make money. Mr. Puller, are you interested?”

Todd’s eyes were burning with interest. He became aware of what happened some time ago.

Jasper shorting the Dow Jones index with a large sum of money made everyone in the world laugh at him for being a fool who went crazy thinking about money. However, what happened after that slapped everyone in the world across the face.

Not only was he a lunatic, he was a genius who truly could predict the future.

A terrorist attack was a disaster to everyone, but for Jasper, it represented a chance for him to become rich overnight

Jasper seized this opportunity.

Todd got news that Jasper had made at least several billion dollars in the previous crash.

This was an astronomical figure.

It was precisely because of these things that Todd was determined to have a good relationship with Jasper.

“However, I need to tell you beforehand. No one has ever done anything like snipping the United States stock market before.”

“What we have to face are the founders and rule makers of the modern financial system. They have the most experience and a mountain of funds, so the risks are extremely high. Once we fail, we’ll likely to be wiped out.”

Jasper did not brag about how perfect his plan was. After all, the risks were obvious. At this point, it would be better to be honest.

Todd thought for a moment and said, “I can only invest with my name.”

Jasper nodded, “I understand.”

The composition of Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing’s shares was complex, including not only Western giants such as Flips, but also the Nawait government.

Therefore, no matter how bold Todd was, he could not involve Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing in this. He also could not use his family's name.

Although his name and his family name were just a matter of interpretation, in many cases, the semantics would have huge spillover effects.

"How much money do you want?" Todd asked.

"The minimum is 1 billion US Dollars, no maximum."

Jasper's answer caused Todd to draw a deep breath.

"What a large amount."

Jasper said lightly, "Think about what we are going to do. For 10 bucks, you can take the bus ten times, the subway several times, and even take a taxi at the base price, but can you start a war with 10 bucks?"

The corners of Todd's mouth twitched and he changed the question, "How about the risk assessment?"

“The risk is extremely high. This time, there is no bottom line in the investment. You might lose everything or you might make a lot of money. There are only two possibilities and there is no capital protection.”

Jasper’s answer was simple but it reeked of blood. Todd’s expression also became stern.

“Besides me, is there anyone else investing in this foundation?”

Jasper said with a chuckle, “The Laws, the little prince, Lord Alvarado, and Kayden. These people are our partners.”

Todd looked tormented. He raised his head and pressed Jasper. “Last question, will this foundation still be around after this?”

Jasper asked insipidly, “Mr. Puller, do you care about this a lot?”

“Of course!” Todd said abruptly, “Don’t you want to build an organization like Empire Meet, Mr. Laine?”

After Jasper heard this, he narrowed his eyes and grinned. Meanwhile, Henry’s expression changed at one side. Then, he became very joyous.

'Damn, if Jasper decides to call his people to do this, just think of the members of this organization. Myself, the little prince, Kayden, and Lord Lavarado. These people alone are way superior to Empire Meet.

'How exciting would that be?'

As the founder, wouldn't Jasper's mere presence blind everyone whenever he went out?

Life at The Top – Chapter 1484

When Henry, who was originally lukewarm toward Todd, looked at this guy again, he suddenly did not feel that this guy reeked of betel nut anymore. Now, the more he looked at him, the more pleasing Todd was to the eye.

This kid was nice and promising. So, Henry was quite satisfied with such an idea.

However, Henry who was feeling gleeful heard Jasper's words shortly afterward.

"I'm not interested. At least, I'm not interested in it now."

Jasper's words rained on Henry's parade. Then, Young Master Law suddenly became unhappy.

"I think this is a pretty good idea."

"What's so good about it?"

Jasper glared at the fool.

“Fabian founded Empire Meet, but did you not see how we dismantled it just a while ago? Yet, now you want to start one yourself. Do you really think it’s appropriate?”

Henry said nonchalantly, “It’s just a club. A high-end club like this is indeed very useful. Fabian is just a loser to you now, so do you think he has the guts to fight you?”

Shaking his head, Jasper replied, “This is not a matter of him fighting back or not, but at the moment, it’s not the right time to start a club like this. Secondly, I don’t have the time and energy to do it.”

“I see. We’ll talk about this another time then.” Henry rubbed his chin and said in dissatisfaction.

When Todd saw Henry speaking up, he was pretty pleased.

However, Jasper was surprisingly determined, so Henry stopped pushing the matter after asking these two questions.

Where was your arrogance, Young Master Law?

Why did you become a yes man in front of Jasper?

“Mr. Laine, I disagree about the wrong timing. I think since you already plan to start this foundation, I think this is the best chance.”

Todd looked at Jasper passionately and said, “What is a more suitable opportunity for everyone to work together to fight against foreign enemies under the watchful eye of a powerful enemy?”

“At this point in time, Mr. Laine, you are the spokesperson recognized by several wealthy families and you are the one who bears the brunt of the incident. The moment you make a sound, you will easily be able to gather a group of people around you.”

“If there are financial concerns, you can rest assured that I can immediately take out 500 million US Dollars as the preparation cost of the foundation. This is to support the establishment of the foundation and has nothing to do with the previous 1 billion US Dollars investment.”

Jasper looked at Todd, who was extremely enthusiastic, and smiled profoundly.

He asked Jasper to come forward to build a club similar to Empire Meet and was even giving Jasper the money to do it. This was 500 million US Dollars. If all the money was used for this club, Empire Meet would seem like a roadside stall in comparison.

However, one had to wonder why Todd was so enthusiastic. This was 500 million US Dollars, not 5 bucks or 10 bucks.

Jasper never believed in a free lunch, let alone a free lunch of 500 million US Dollars.

In this world, everyone except your parents was the same. You always had to give something in return for what you took. If you nonchalantly take what others offer you, then you cannot blame others when they take away what you have.

Meanwhile, Todd seemed to see through Jasper. He smiled and said, "Mr. Laine, I obviously did not offer to give you free money for no reason.

"My father and I can fully support you and build this foundation, or this club, or organization. The only request is that I want to have no less than 25% of the shares as well as the position of second-in-command."

Life at The Top – Chapter 1485

Oh, he had been waiting.

Jasper remembered Henry said how Todd and his father did everything to squeeze into the real upper class and he suddenly understood what Henry had meant by this.

The five billion US Dollars was their admission ticket.

Jasper looked at Todd with a smile and said, “Mr. Puller, with all due respect, I would like to know the answer to a question. of course, if it is not convenient, Mr. Puller can choose to not answer it.”

Todd vaguely knew what Jasper wanted to ask, but he still nodded. “Go ahead, Mr. Laine. I will definitely not hide what I am able to answer. Even if I can’t answer it, I won’t lie to you.”

Nodded, Jasper said, “Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing has money and resources. It can be said that you guys enjoy market dominance in Nawait.”

“In terms of financial resources and status, companies that can rival Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing are few and far in between, so why is Mr. Puller willing to pay such a high price?”

Todd frowned. Although he did not want to answer this question, he hesitated for a moment before replying anyway, “Since you asked, then I’ll just speak honestly.”

“Yes, my father founded Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing. The right to operate it lies with my father too. However, based on shares alone, we don’t hold all the rights. We had to give some of the shares to Flips for the technology.”

“To survive, we also had to let the Nawait Government take some of our shares.”

Todd’s words were very subtle, but they revealed the embarrassing situation of the Puller father and son duo. He sighed and said, “Some topics are more sensitive, so I won’t continue. It’s not suitable to say more about this. You’re a smart man, Mr. Laine, so you know what I’m talking about, right?”

Seeing Todd’s bitterness, Jasper nodded and said, “I can understand.”

The Puller father and son were indeed the founders of Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing. However, companies like Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing were sensitive. After ceding a large part of their equity for technology and survival, Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing was in a precarious position.

It was no longer a purely commercial company, and in many cases, it also had to enforce a political goal. However, obviously, this was not what the Puller father and son wanted. They were not at all satisfied being reduced to mere ‘interest spokespersons’.

Therefore, they eagerly wanted to enter the upper-class circle and escape the shackles that were the current shareholding system of Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing.

Shaking his head, Jasper spoke directly without thinking too much about this issue, “Thank you very much for your frankness, Mr. Puller, but I will still say the same thing. This is not the time for that proposal. I’m sorry but I can’t explain any further, Mr. Puller.”

Seeing the disappointed look in Todd’s eyes, Jasper reached out and patted him on the shoulder. He continued, “But I can promise you that if I intend to continue with the establishment of such a foundation a long ways into the future, I will consider Mr. Puller’s previous request.”

“Really?” Todd said in surprise.

Jasper was not the Pullers’ only option, but he was their most suitable prospect.

If possible, Todd would love to work with Jasper. So, when he heard that there was still a chance, he was thrilled.

Jasper nodded and smiled, “Stay alive, and then we’ll talk about the rest. Back to what we said about investing in the foundation, what do you think, Mr. Puller?”

“Let’s do it!” Todd gritted his teeth and said.

He knew this was the first step to gaining Jasper’s recognition, and it was also the most important one.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1486

Cooperation was a two-way street.

Jasper had made himself very clear when he said, 'stay alive, and then we'll talk about the rest'.

This fight with the United States and Wall Street was a battle of life and death. Outsiders might view this as a joke but Jasper was truly fighting for his life.

Everything else had to make way for this matter. Therefore, if Todd did not participate in this, why would he still talk about future collaboration, foundations, or clubs? Those were all nonsense in comparison.

At this critical moment, Todd needed to do something if he still wanted to benefit from a relationship Jasper. Todd's analysis was very clear, so the answer he gave was straightforward.

After Jasper got the answer he wanted, the way Jasper looked at Todd became softer.

Jasper spoke after he stood up and shook hands with Todd, "Well then, let's do this for now. I will arrange for someone to contact your subordinates regarding the specifics.

Before we start, I will summon a few important investors from the foundation so that everyone can meet each other.”

Todd’s eyes lit up when he heard this. The first half of the sentence was fine.

Most of the time, after the big shots came up with the framework of the collaboration, the subordinates would take care of the specifics.

For example, how to allocate the funds and where they should transfer the funds to. Then, how the follow-up investors should monitor the specific use of the money and what the profit and loss report would be based on.

The big shots were very busy, so naturally, they would not have the time to run through the specifics one by one, hence they would just leave it to the people under them.

What Todd cared about the most was meeting the other investors. This was the chance to widen Todd’s social circle, which he always dreamed of.

However, who were the important investors?

The Laws were definitely one of them.

The little prince and Lord Alvarado were elites in the mainland. Todd would not have a chance to get to know them even if he wanted to.

At this moment, Jasper was willing to give him this opportunity, so this calmed him down a lot.

“Thank you so much, Mr. Laine. I’ll wait for your good news.”

Jasper grinned when he saw Todd being so excited. After chatting with Todd, they bade each other farewell. Jasper did not plan to stay in Nim City, so after the deed was done, Henry and him went back to Nauritus City with Julian as the driver.

On the way, Henry leaned back against the big plush backseat of the Bentley and said, “I don’t understand Puller. Is it necessary to do so much just to get in? This circle is not as comfy as he thinks.”

“You’re just oblivious because you’ve been in this circle your whole life.” Jasper shook his head and said lightly, “Now the social classes have basically solidified, while the way up will only become narrower and more difficult. From this point of view, at least the Puller father and son are pretty far-sighted.”

“The main reason for their struggle is that their identities are too awkward. If they don’t get out as soon as possible, they will lose their value in the future. Besides, they might also get kicked out of Nawait Semiconductor Manufacturing. If they don’t have the company, what differentiates them from ordinary people?”

“The most pitiful ones are not those who have never endured many hardships but the high-ranking officials who have to suffer after getting a taste of the life of luxury. That is a fate worse than death.”

After he heard what Jasper said, Henry fell deep into thought.

Jasper did not disturb him. Henry would have gained something if he could realize this simple truth. However, after a while, before he could get a reaction from Henry, Jasper turned his head to look over curiously and saw the kid had fallen asleep unbeknownst to him.

“What a disappointment.”

Jasper shook his head and closed his eyes to rest on his seat. After these past few days, he was exhausted.

It was the middle of the night when they arrived in Nauritus City.

Jasper asked Julian to take Henry back to his villa. Then, he went to Dawson’s villa.

Normally, Wendy would bunk up here if he was not around to stay with her father. If Jasper had nothing to do, he would also stay here. Thus, the villa they bought back then would be left vacant.

“You’re back.”

Dawson was still awake when Jasper came back. He looked at Jasper and greeted him. Dawson was holding a teacup while wearing his pajamas.

Jasper nodded and replied, “I just came back from Nim City after finishing some business. Is Wendy asleep?”

Dawson pointed at a room with his lips and said, “That girl is down with a cold so I asked her to take some medication. She’s fast asleep.”

“Is she okay?” Jasper asked.

“What can a cold do? She’s still young and healthy, so she’ll be fine after some medicine and sleep. Come to the study with me. Let’s talk.”

Jasper followed Dawson obediently. After he entered the study, he closed the door behind him. When he saw Dawson picking up a cigarette, he went over to light it up for him. Then, he sat down opposite Dawson obediently.

“Thank you for all your hard work during this period,” Dawson said after exhaling a puff of smoke.

With a wry smile, Jasper said, “I was forced to do this. Many things are beyond my control.”

“You could predict this when you started JW. ” Dawson laughed.

Jasper nodded.

Looking at Jasper, Dawson said warmly, “Your business is getting bigger and bigger now, and your prestige is fast advancing. There is not much that I can help you with any more.”

Upon hearing this, Jasper frowned and was about to speak when Dawson waved his hand to stop him.

“I know what you want to say, but regardless, I only have one daughter and I’ve viewed you as my son for a very long time. You don’t have to be so courteous with me.”

Dawson said this and moved to flick away the ashes. Jasper hurriedly got up and pushed the ashtray in front of Dawson.

Dawson smiled with great satisfaction. A lot of people would want to do things for him with his current status and position, but Jasper was different.

It was not just because of Jasper’s current position and status, but also because Jasper still held his initial resolve. Dawson thought this was something very hard to come by.

“Actually, I thought about retiring entirely before, whereby I’d combine Schuler Corporations with JW. However, after I thought about it for a long time, I decided to continue running this business for a few more years.

“I also want to become a rich old fart who doesn’t need to work so I can do whatever I want to do. However, after I watched your progress over the past two years, I felt I still needed to work for a few more years. You’re too dangerous.”

“Regardless of your valuation, the risk of what you do increases exponentially as your assets grow.”

“When you have 100 bucks, you will dare to do a business worth 1000 bucks. When you have 10000 bucks, you dare to do a business worth 100000 bucks. Therefore, you have always been doing business that could kill you at any given time.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1487

Jasper smiled helplessly and bitterly when he heard what Dawson said.

Frankly, Dawson was giving Jasper a direct assessment of Jasper's entire trajectory throughout his entrepreneurial career.

Jasper indeed rose like this.

Outsiders might not understand this. Jasper already had such a big business, so why would he still take so many risks to make money that might very well leave him with nothing?

However, Jasper knew that the 10 years after the turn of the millennium was the last opportunity for the explosive growth of the domestic economy after the national reform and the economy opening up. After 2010, the number of opportunities would decrease. What more, Jasper also had the advantage of his memory after his reincarnation. He was able to do many adventurous moves that seemed downright crazy to others with complete confidence.

However, he could not tell others this. Dawson was the same. Jasper could not tell him he was reincarnated.

“However, I believe you must have your reason for making those decisions. When I was young, a lot of people also did not understand why I started some convenience stores when I had such a big business.”

Dawson said in a lamenting tone and continued. He looked at Jasper mildly. His eyes were filled with admiration.

“However, I turned the convenience stores into supermarkets. There are a lot of things in the shop and I will sell anything people need. In the end, Schuler Corporations grew from this small business to become the biggest supermarket chain in Southeast Province.”

“Now, Schuler Corporations is the biggest supermarket brand in the country.”

“Thus, I won’t go against whatever you want to do and I will support you even if I don’t understand it.”

After hearing what Dawson said, Jasper replied while feeling touched, “Uncle Schuler...”

He was interrupted by Dawson’s waving hand.

Dawson opened a drawer and took out a folder to hand to Jasper. He said, "Here is all of Schuler Corporation's current cash flow and there's 2.7 billion inside..."

"There's also the property rights agreement of the stores belonging to Schuler Corporations nationwide. They have been notarized and stamped. All of the processes have been completed. The total loan amount is 5.3 billion, of which 8 billion has been collected. Now I'll hand all of it over to you."

Jasper stood up abruptly and exclaimed, "Uncle Schuler, what do you mean by this?"

"You need money right now," Dawson said in a deep voice.

"I need money because I need to get people to fight Wall Street with me. You don't have to give me all of your money," Jasper said sternly.

It was dangerous for Schuler Corporations to take out all of their cash flow. They could only do this because Schuler Corporations was in the supermarket industry, so they did not need much cash flow.

If this was another industry, withdrawing their entire cash flow was lunatic! They would be asking for death. A cash flow to a company was like blood to a human. If someone did not have blood in their body, they would die immediately.

“Since you want to get someone to help you with something, then you have to make clear your priorities.”

It seemed that Dawson had seen through Jasper. He immediately retorted Jasper the moment he opened his mouth.

“Especially when a group of people contributes money in a partnership. Even if you take the lead, and they contribute 50 bucks or 100 bucks when you only have 30. Do you think you can manage them as a leader?”

Jasper smiled bitterly. He wanted to tell Dawson that this matter was not that simple and the partners involved similarly complex. However, after he thought about it, wasn't Dawson telling the truth?

No matter what the matter was and who the people involved were, in the end, if Jasper did not contribute the biggest amount to this foundation, it would really be difficult for him to command the others.

This was especially true for the little prince and Lord Alvarado, who had negotiated with him for a long time. The two were even going to pull out the funds they had previously invested to operate on their own.

Seeing Jasper frowning and thinking about the matter, Dawson smiled. Then, he pushed the folder into Jasper's arms and said, “Just take it. Treat it as Wendy's dowry.”

Jasper frowned and said, "Uncle Schuler, I still can't take this money. Schuler Corporations is your hard work. Now you have given me all your core assets and cash flow. What if something goes wrong?"

"If there is a problem, it is your business to handle. I said a long time ago, sooner or later, this family business will be given to you. If you win, return the capital to me. If you lose, treat it as me giving you a dowry in advance."

Dawson, who had always respected Jasper's opinions, had an indisputable firmness this time.

"But..."

Dawson directly raised his hand to stop Jasper when he saw that Jasper still had something to say. He looked at Jasper and then said softly, "I also have plans. The roots of Schuler Corporations are in Southeast Province, so I didn't touch the shares and assets of the headquarters at all."

"If you lose, at least I left you some capital to give you a chance to make a comeback."

"Since the moment I saw you, I knew that you were a wild child. You have ambitions which seem downright unreasonable to some. At that time, you could not do things to your full potential in Faith County. Similarly, I felt that Southeast Province could not hold you as well."

“Fortunately, I was right about you. I know how much pain you have suffered all this while and how sad you are behind all the glamor and luxury.”

“I also understand very well that even if you lose, you will still stubbornly insist on your own ideas. You are too ambitious. It is a good thing and also a bad thing.”

“As an elder, I can’t help you much now. The only thing I can do is to leave you a little bit of the family business. Even if you fall on your face out there, at least you still have a chance to stand up again after you come back.”

Jasper stared blankly at the nagging Dawson. At this moment, he had been reincarnated twice, so he was used to seeing too many so-called close relatives and friends who would look away in the face of the hypocrisy of the world and money. Right now, Jasper felt that there was a burning fire in his chest which prevented him from uttering a single word.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1488

Dawson had arranged everything for Jasper.

Jasper had never worried about Southeast Province being their base camp. With Wendy inside and Dawson outside, Jasper almost became used to enjoying Dawson supporting him behind his back.

However, right now, Dawson saw Jasper's difficulties and directly gave him the entire Schuler Corporations.

Was Dawson somebody who tried to be on good terms with everyone?

What a joke. How could a person who could make a path out of a bloody storm and unsound laws and regulations become the richest man in Southeast Province in an era when the country was just opening to outsiders try to be on good terms with everyone?

Wendy once told Jasper that Dawson originally planned to gradually hand over Schuler Corporations to her. For this, he played dirty tricks just to kick out all the old employees who followed him in Schuler Corporations.

It was just so that Wendy could take over smoothly. However, Wendy met Jasper and then became very determined to become the female boss of JW. Thus, Dawson got rid of that thought.

It could be said that Dawson was a formidable character in Southeast Province.

If someone like this could do all this for Jasper but Jasper did not react at all, then he would be no different than an animal.

Dawson smiled and said while looking at Jasper, "I told you, I don't have any sons so I've always viewed you as my son."

"Even though I don't place more value on sons than daughters, Wendy is excellent. Initially, she was the most suitable successor, but at the end of the day, a woman will have to spend the rest of her life with her husband."

"Most importantly, Wendy is more suitable to be a manager and not a person-in-charge. She's not savage enough. "So, I am okay with handing this over to you. However, I need you to promise me..."

When Dawson said this, his expression became serious as his tone became firm. The aggressiveness in his eyes started showing vaguely and, at this moment, he was not the future father-in-law who was working his heart out. Instead, he was the formidable man who had shaken the world for the past few decades.

“Please tell me.” Jasper stood up and said with his back straight.

“I don’t care if you’re a powerful multi-millionaire in the future or you are a beggar with nothing, but since my daughter chose you. It’ll be your luck whether you two are rich or poor in the future. Also, I know a man won’t necessarily have just one woman when he reaches a certain level.”

“I don’t care about those things. However, my daughter must be your first wife. I don’t care how powerful the other party is and how capable they are, they cannot snatch this title away from my daughter...”

“If you let her down, I won’t forgive you.”

This was the sternest statement Dawson had even said to Jasper since they had known each other.

Meanwhile, Jasper was looking at Dawson heatedly. He said firmly, “No one can replace Wendy’s status when she’s with me.”

“As for letting her down...”

Jasper chuckled and looked into Dawson's eyes fearlessly. He said, "If it's cold, I'll wish her warmth. If it's early spring, I'll wish that her heart is never cold. I wish she'll always have a light when it's dark and an umbrella whenever it's raining."

"Pledging our undying love for each other is unnecessary and I can't say those big promises about how I'll never wrong her, but I understand that you might be able to complete yourself if you're by yourself, but you'll meet your soulmate if you're with someone. If she is my soulmate, then she'll be my beloved."

Dawson looked at Jasper and then he burst into laughter after staying silent for a while. While he was laughing, his eyes turned red.

He said while nodding, "Okay, if that's the case, I did not disappoint her dead mother."

This time, Jasper did not reject it when he looked at the folder in front of him. He figured if he rejected again, he would be hurting an old man who was wholeheartedly worried about his child.

This was the biggest form of disrespect.

Jasper grabbed the folder voluntarily and took a deep breath. He said, "Uncle Schuler, I will accept your kindness, but trust me, I will bring it back to you in its entirety and return it to you."

“I still want you to work hard for us for a few more years. You can retire when you have grandchildren.”

Wendy was groggy with sleep and was parched. She put on her slippers in her pajamas and walked out of her bedroom. Her eyes narrowed when she went looking for water but she saw that the light of the study was still on. When she walked over, she heard Jasper walking out from the study.

“Oh my, when did you come back?”

Wendy became energetic immediately as if she had recovered from her cold. She ran to him, jumped up, and wrapped her arms around Jasper’s neck. She was now hanging from Jasper.

“I just came back...”

Jasper quickly caught the warm, soft, and sweet-smelling woman in his arms.

Since she had just woken up, there was a warmth to her sweet scent which smelled heavenly.

“Don’t you have a cold? Why are you running around in your pajamas? Go back and lie down. Do you want to drink water? I’ll get it for you,” Jasper said warmly.

“Carry me.”

Wendy whimpered.

Jasper chuckled softly and bent down to lift the back of Wendy’s legs. Then, he picked her up bridal style.

“Oh, you’ve become heavier.”

Wendy was ashamed after Jasper said that. “Nonsense! I just weighed myself yesterday and I even lost 1kg!”

“No way, I can’t carry you anymore.” Jasper shook his head and said, acting as if this was a very serious matter.

“Do you want to die? I said I’m lighter!” Wendy became angry from the humiliation. She wanted so badly to bite Jasper on the neck now.

“Haha!”

With a laugh, Jasper kicked the door of the room open and placed Wendy on the bed. After he put the blanket on her, he said, “I’ll pour some water for you.”

As he said that, Wendy grabbed him as he was about to turn around and exit the room. When he turned around, he saw the ethereal beauty lying horizontally in bed, She looked soft and smelled so sweet.

“D-Don’t you have it over there? Why do you need to pour me some?” Wendy looked at Jasper’s lips and said shyly.

Hiss.

Mr. Laine inhaled sharply.

It had been some time since he had last saw her and she had become such an enchantress.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1489

A short separation was better than being newlyweds.

Perhaps Jasper was gone for too long, so on this night, Wendy was behaving extremely wild.

Since Dawson was still at home, the two of them still had to control themselves while they were having fun. There was always a kind of excitement of doing bad things while other adults were around.

In any case, Wendy was mostly cured of her cold after sweating for most of the night.

The next morning, Jasper snuck out of bed to take his shirt and coat before leaving the room. He was scared of waking Wendy, who was still sleeping among the blankets in the messy bed.

Jasper even woke up slightly earlier to prevent running into Dawson. However, the moment he opened the door, he saw Dawson walk out of his room.

The old man and the young man looked at each other.

“ ... ”

Jasper wanted so badly to turn around and lock himself in the room.

“Go have breakfast.”

Dawson understood Jasper’s embarrassment. After he said that insipidly, he walked downstairs with his hands behind his back.

Jasper quickly put on his shirt and coat before he cleaned himself up. When he went to the dining room downstairs, Dawson was already done and was reading the newspaper.

A glass of warm milk, a bowl of noodles, two hotdog buns, and a sunny side up were Jasper’s very interesting breakfast.

“What are you going to do next?”

Dawson broke the silence.

Jasper swallowed his milk and said, "I need to go to Suesville in the afternoon."

Dawson nodded and did not say anything.

When Jasper saw that Dawson had no intention of continuing to speak, he picked up the bowl to drink some soup. He used this opportunity to lower his head and hide his embarrassment.

After all, he had worked Dawson's daughter hard last night.

When Dawson saw that Jasper was almost done, he finally spoke again.

"Wendy doesn't need to go to work this morning, right?"

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After all, he had worked Dawson's daughter hard last night.

When Dawson saw that Jasper was almost done, he finally spoke again.

“Wendy doesn’t need to go to work this morning, right?”

Jasper replied in embarrassment, “I think so. She’s not recovered yet so she’ll rest a little more.”

Jasper was too embarrassed to say that the two of them only stopped at 3 in the morning. By the time they fell asleep, it was almost 4.

Dawson said, seemingly spontaneously, “You have to take care. Don’t overwork yourself.”

“ ... ”

The corners of Jasper’s mouth twitched and he nodded quickly.

“You should go to work too.”

Dawson’s words felt like a pardon to Jasper. He immediately stood up and said, “Okay, I’ll go to the office now.”

When he had just gotten up to leave, he heard Dawson say, “After you’re done, you should stay home and rest for a while. You guys are not using any protection, right?”

Jasper froze in his tracks. Normally, Jasper was able to chat carefreely with all the top-notch big shots but now, he was stammering.

Dawson said with a straight face and he waved his hand, “You’re already at this stage, so why are you feeling embarrassed? I think you can just ignore the protection. It’s almost time to give me a grandchild.”

It seemed that Dawson was waiting for this.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1490

Jasper smiled and said, “Okay, I’ll discuss this with Wendy.”

A smile appeared on Dawson’s face and he nodded.

However, to Jasper, that smile looked as if a heavy burden had been lifted from Dawson’s shoulders. It seemed that his future father-in-law was also feeling awkward about this topic and did not know how to say it.

“I’ll go back to the company now,” Jasper said.

“Go ahead.”

This time, Dawson let him leave.

When Dawson saw Jasper leaving, his eyes landed on the newspaper. He saw an advertisement for baby products. The model was a chubby and adorable baby.

“A grandchild. My chubby grandchild.”

Dawson murmured to himself and suddenly burst out laughing. His eyes were filled with expectation and longing.

When Jasper got to the office, Malcolm showed up.

“Anything I can help you with, Malcolm?” Jasper asked curiously.

Malcolm had worked in JW for so long that his English was getting more fluent. He chuckled and said, “Nothing, I’m just here to kiss your *ss.”

“Oh, your English has improved,” Jasper smiled.

“When in Rome, do as the Romans do. Since I’m working in Somerland, I have to understand the culture and the language of Somer. That way, not only will I be able to get a job easier, I will also understand what the people of Somerland think.”

“Alas, Somerland’s culture is so charming. My wife and I are both intrigued,” Malcolm said.

After chatting for a while, Malcolm told Jasper his true purpose.

JW was getting bigger and bigger and they were accepting more and more jobs. Of course, Malcolm was not here to suck up to Jasper. Moreover, everyone knew Jasper did not need to be sucked up to like that.

“The company is not doing so great recently,” Malcolm said with a frown.

Jasper turned on his computer and asked, “The company? Not so great? Malcolm, just spit it out.”

With a sigh, Malcolm shrugged and said, “This is normal as well. It’s because there are a lot of rumors out there.”

“You know most of the employee’s confidence comes from the boss and now there are a lot of rumors about you out there. Some say you lost a lot of money on the United States stock market and some say you made a lot of money but you can’t get it back.”

“Furthermore, you almost withdrew all of the company’s cash flow, so there’s negative emotions brewing within the company. Based on the management theory of the west, this negative emotion will lead to a lot of consequences, one of which is a rise in resignations.”

“As for some of our partners, they were also keeping an eye out for this. Some of our collaborative projects are now in a deadlock because of this.”

Jasper smiled after he heard what Malcolm said. He replied, “Basically, everyone is worried that I’ll become bankrupt all of a sudden. They’re worried that I won’t be able to pay them their salaries and for their goods, right?”

Malcolm nodded and said seriously to Jasper, “Mr. Laine, this is not a small problem. I hope you can take it seriously.”

“I know. This is a test for me and also for JW, but I don’t plan to do anything.”

Jasper’s words stumped Malcolm.

Malcolm thought Jasper had not realized the severity of this issue, so he frantically tried to explain further, but Jasper simply waved his hand to stop him.

“Malcolm, I know what you’re thinking, but there’s no choice. No matter how big of a problem it is, we can only place it to one side for now.”

“Because these problems that I encounter inside or outside the company are essentially caused by my own current dilemma. As long as I solve my own problems, these problems will no longer exist.”

“In other words, if I can’t solve it and I am instead defeated by it, then what is the point of dealing with the company’s problems?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1491

Jasper's words caused Malcolm to fall silent.

After a long while, Malcolm nodded slowly and said, "I have to admit that you're right."

"Mr. Laine, you should know about this. Back then, I worked in Proctor and Gamble, so I have some channels and connections. I know something about the situation you're in. I hope you can properly assess the risk of this scenario."

Jasper nodded and smiled. He said, "I got it. Thank you, Malcolm."

"So, about the company's problem..." Malcolm said.

Jasper said expressionlessly, "Leave it. To those who left, and those who chose not to cooperate with us because of this, it may turn out to be a wise and far-sighted choice for them. Or perhaps it might be a stupid choice. Who knows?"

"I told you, this is a test for me and for JW."

“After this blows over, I will reorganize JW completely. We’ll just treat this as the inevitable pain before the reorganization. It’s good that I don’t have to get rid of those people and systems by myself when it happens.”

Malcolm’s eyes lit up when he heard what Jasper said. Since Malcolm was the second-in-command of JW, Jasper would discuss a lot of things with him.

What more, the reorganization of the entire company was a huge deal. Even if Jasper had the absolute power to rule, he could not ignore the abilities and ideas of people like Malcolm.

Hence, Malcolm knew that Jasper had plans surrounding this for a long time.

“What is the direction of the reorganization?” Malcolm asked.

Jasper smiled and said, “If I can get through this safely, then JW will have completed the most primitive accumulation.”

JW Company was currently regarded as a large-scale private comprehensive company in Somerland, but in Jasper’s opinion, the company was just a child who had not even completed the early stage funding. This was the difference between Jasper’s 20 years’ worth of reincarnation memory and the strategic vision of people in this age.

“Whether it is for the company’s future development or overall plan, such a reorganization is imperative.

“But I am encountering great difficulties right now. If we can’t get through this, everything will stop just like what you’re worried about. If we manage to get through this, I plan to reorganize JW Investment Company and establish JW Holding Group.

“The headquarter will no longer be responsible for any specific business. The holding group will be the core it will have jurisdiction over all of JW’s subsidiaries. That day will be the day we announce JW to the world officially.”

Jasper’s words made Malcolm nod his head vigorously.

“Yes, such a reorganization should have taken place long ago! In this case, I will make relevant plans and submit them to you as soon as possible.”

“Okay, coincidentally, I lack experience in this area.” Jasper was also very pleased.

Malcolm got up and left after they talked a little about work.

Jasper took care of some business in his office when he received a phone call from Wendy.

Wendy wanted to come to work but Jasper stopped her and asked her to rest at home. After that, he also agreed he would stay with her after he finished his work. Then, Jasper had lunch in the company's cafeteria before he brought Julian and Henry to Suesville.

When the car reached the highway, Jasper received an unexpected but pleasant phone call.

“Lord Alvarado, if you call me even though you're very busy, then something urgent must have happened.”

Jasper's sentence caused Henry, who was just boasting how amazing he was in Harbor City after he burned Empire Meet, to shut up and listen.

“I've placed 5 billion with you and I'm worried that you'll run away with the money, so I don't think it's that bad to check up on you, right?”

Lord Alvarado sounded like he was in a good mood from the other end of the phone.

Jasper narrowed his eyes and smiled. “Didn't the little prince tell you? That money has become 10 billion now.”

“That’s what he said. Our money was with you this whole time. If I don’t see the money, I won’t feel secure,” Lord Alvarado chuckled lightly.

Jasper tapped the surface of the table gently and said, “Don’t worry, Lord Alvarado, if need it, I’ll transfer it back to you after the United States stock market becomes stable.”

“Is the money still at the equivalent position?” Lord Alvarado asked.

Jasper replied insipidly, “That depends on your choice.”

“Haha!”

Lord Alvarado laughed and said, “The little prince told me about it, so I won’t say too much about this. At this critical moment, I can’t help you with anything, but at the very least, I won’t hit you while you’re down.”

“However, this is not a small matter. The little prince wants to take his right to rule back and I want to take mine back too. Will that be a problem?”

“It’s your money, so of course, there won’t be any issues,” Jasper said calmly.

“Okay, I’ll discuss this with the little prince. We won’t let you work in vain. We’ll take 9 billion each and the rest will be your commission, what do you think?”

Jasper narrowed his eyes as a profound glint appeared in his eyes. He said lightly, “You think too highly of me. I made 2 billion just from this. What a good deal.”

“If it’s a good deal, then I’ll just assume you agree to this.”

Lord Alvarado paused and sighed. “Don’t think that our future is bright, we have our hardships that we can’t tell you about as well. This time, we’re really the bad people.”

“It must indeed be difficult for you to say something like this, Lord Alvarado.”

“Stop acting so weirdly. Just think of this as me owing you a favor.”

“However, my stance remains unchanged. The decision-making power is yours while the final say is mine. This is the bottom line.”

“As long as you two don’t regret it, ” Jasper said.

“Why would I regret a decision I myself make?”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1492

After Jasper hung up the phone, Jasper looked a little off-color. Although he already knew that the little prince and Lord Alvarado wanted to take away their money, Lord Alvarado was so impatient, and them abandoning their benefactor pissed Jasper off a lot.

“What did he say? Did you fail?” Henry asked hurriedly when he saw that Jasper’s expression looked unpleasant.

Shaking his head, Jasper said, “Not really, but everyone has their own behavior in the face of risks.”

“They are not good people,” Henry sneered. Then, he said, “When there are some goodies, everyone will pounce on it like mad dogs, but if something happens, they will run away faster than anyone else.”

“You can’t say that, at least they are still on my side in terms of their position.”

Jasper exhaled, releasing the depression in his chest before he said with a smile, “Besides, who knows what’s going to happen next. If they want to handle it themselves, let them do it by themselves. If they listen to me about everything, then it’ll be the same no matter who controls the money. At the end of the day, it’s their money anyway.”

“Still, it’s not a big deal even if they don’t listen to me. At the end of the day, it is up to them whether they earn more or less. At the very least, they can’t stand on the side of Wall Street.”

“No way.” Henry shook his head and said, “Their roots are in the country. Back then, I heard my grandpa say that Swallow Capital had started to take note of this thing and that they’re preparing something secretly. They will only betray you in this situation if they’ve gone mad.”

“They will be betraying themselves if they betray you. So what if they have a big family and a big business? Their family is nothing compared to the nation’s will. They will get destroyed if they anger the government on a small issue, let alone a very controversial problem that causes so much anger among the people.”

“What’s Swallow Capital doing?” Jasper asked.

“How would I know?”

Henry spread his hands and smiled bitterly, “I know that my grandpa made a few calls to Swallow Capital after he talked to you. That’s when I learned that the government of Swallow Capital noticed when you shorted the US market.”

“Please, don’t look down on the brains of Swallow Capital. They’re all extremely sly and witty foxes.”

“In this case, everyone knows that Wall Street is targeting Somerland by targeting you. Do you think those old foxes wouldn’t realize it?”

“There will be a way out, but it has nothing to do with us. We just have to do our part. Swallow Capital won’t let us die during the critical moments.”

Jasper nodded, feeling very relieved.

Even though he was contacting so many people and powers, this was essentially out of fear of the United States’ power. One had to understand that this was the world’s largest country and the founder of modern economic rules for mankind.

Even if Jasper was mad, he would never even dream of fighting with the United States government.

One only had to look at the closing of the market this time. When they truly infuriated the United States, the United States immediately closed the market and, even more shamelessly, froze all of Jasper’s assets in the country.

Stocks and securities were illiquid assets.

So, even when Jasper made a dime at that moment, he would not be able to take it out, let alone his entire deposit.

Hence, how could an individual fight against the will of the nation?

Let alone the United States.

However, after doing so much back then, Jasper was sure that he had backing behind him.

Jasper shook his head and shook those negative thoughts away. Then, he said, "The only thing I can do now is do my best to contact the real powers in this country."

"A contest between capitalists will still depend on funds. If they are shameless, we cannot do anything about it, but naturally, there will still be a power that can defeat them."

Gale's manor in Suesville.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1493

Although he had been here several times before, Jasper still felt impressed every time he stood in front of the manor that covered such an expansive area. This old man was so damn extravagant. Only God knew how much money this old man had.

In an unprecedented act, Gale actually appeared at the door this time. It seemed that he was here to welcome Jasper.

“Old Master Hurlbutt, please be careful. I don’t deserve you coming out to receive me.” Jasper walked up to meet him quickly. He said as he bent over slightly and humbled himself.

No matter how annoying the old man was, or even if there was beef between the two of them, this was a business matter.

If you did not know how to put up a façade while you were conducting business, then your business would not grow no matter how long you ran it.

Gale replied with a chuckle, “You sly child, I know you wish for me to be bed-ridden forever, right?”

Jasper chuckled and said, "I don't have the guts to do that Old Master Hurlbutt, you're my senior so how would I dare to have that thought as your junior?"

"Do you not have the guts, or do you not yet have the guts?" Gale asked.

Jasper laughed and pointed at a pair of stone lions at the entrance. He said, "These lions looked oddly formidable. These two were not here when I came last time, right?"

"The ones you saw last time were fake while these are real. When Napoleon was still in power, these were placed in front of his home. Back then, the museum wanted to display them so I borrowed them. After the exhibition was over, they returned them to me. See, I just put them back in their original places."

Gale grinned and said carefreely, but what he said was indeed terrifying.

The statues should be at least a few centuries old if it came from Napoleon's estate. It would be regarded as an amazing artifact no matter where it was placed. However, when it was with Gale, it was just placed casually at the entrance to his home. If the experts saw this, they would be heartbroken.

"Old Master Hurlbutt, you're so impressive," Jasper praised.

“A stone lion is just a stone lion even if it is old. Its purpose is still to watch over a house. So, I am using them to their full potential by placing them here. Each of them is a few hundred kilograms anyway so I am not afraid of people stealing them,” Gale said as he guffawed.

After he said that, Gale looked at Henry who had no expression as he stood next to Jasper.

“Kid, do you still remember me?” Gale asked with a grin.

Henry did not become unbridled and impudent in front of this 80-year-old man. After all, he was a Law, so as a junior, he still knew how to respect his elders no matter what.

“Hello, Old Master Hurlbutt. I’ve long since forgotten you.”

Gale laughed and said, “Of course. When I last saw you, you still had to be carried. How is your grandfather?”

Henry nodded and said, “Thank you for your concern, Old Master Hurlbutt. My grandpa is in good health. He’s always talking about how he misses his old friends when he was young. He wonders when he can see them again.”

“No, thank you.” Gale waved his hand, “Your grandfather is too great, and I still owe him a favor, so it will be best if I do not see him.”

After chatting, Gale led the two into the courtyard. They went straight into Gale’s study without any delay.

The study was not small. It was not so much a study room as it was a library. Except for a large antique red sandalwood desk, the rest of the room were mostly filled with rows of bookshelves.

There were new books, old books, and even thread-bound books. The whole room was filled with the unique scent of paper and ink.

Ignoring everything else, just from the sheer quantity of these books, one could see that Gale was indeed different from ordinary people.

Jasper looked up and saw the calligraphy hanging behind the desk in the study.

‘Even though there were a lot of things happening around me, I am fearless as I have power. My life is carefree too, so I can spend time in my garden reading.’

Life at The Top – Chapter 1494

“What good calligraphy.”

When Galeheard Jasper’s praise, he grinned and asked, “Do you know where it came from?”

“It was written by a famous calligrapher in the 15th century. While it looks like something you came up with at a snap of a finger, it seems to be describing a calmness that one has in the face of a catastrophe. Moreover, it also gives me this feeling of one watching over the fluctuating affairs of life indifferently. that’s why it made such an impression on me.”

Jasper felt fortunate.

Before his reincarnation, one of his clients liked this piece of calligraphy the most. He spent 6 million bidding for this original work but unfortunately he failed. At that time, the 6 million was transferred from the stock account that Jasper held for him, so Jasper remembered this incident very well.

If it were not for coincidence, he would have made a fool of himself.

Gale had a genuine smile on his face and said, “Yes, this calligraphy is the one hanging in the study of its creator. There are thousands of calligraphy pieces and there are many absolutely wonderful pieces that are simply amazing, but I like this one the most.”

Jasper glanced at the painting and felt a little strange.

If this one in Gale’s study was the authentic one, what about the one his client bid on during the auction in his previous life?

Although, judging from the timeline, there were still six or seven years before the auction was to take place. Despite this, upon looking at Gale’s current estate, he would not be reduced to selling his properties in six or seven years even if he spent lavishly.

It could only be described as a mystery.

After chatting for a bit, Gale sat down on his chair and asked Jasper and Henry to sit opposite him. Then, Gale spoke.

“I know why you are here.”

Gale went straight to the point.

“In principle, I agree to support you. After all, this is a question of principle. When it comes to this matter, any private thoughts and opinions must be put aside. I am well aware of this.”

Jasper nodded and replied, “I am impressed by Old Master Hurlbutt’s noble righteousness.”

After Gale looked at Jasper deeply, he said with a half-smile, “You sly child, stop trying to butter me up. I’m not finished yet.”

Jasper smiled and picked up the earl grey in front of him before taking a sip.

He was gesturing to Gale so that he would continue.

Gale lifted his white eyebrows and caressed the ring on his thumb. Then, he said slowly, “I can give you 2 billion US Dollars.”

Even if Jasper was prepared, his heart still skipped a beat. ‘This old man was so f*cking rich.’

“However, I am not investing this money in you.”

Gale smiled and pointed at Jasper. He continued, "I'm lending you this money, and you need to put up collateral for this."

When Jasper heard this, he did not react. On the contrary, Henry almost exploded with anger.

"What do you mean? We're facing a catastrophe now. If we can't handle this, the market in the country will be finished, yet, you're saying you're just lending us the money at this critical moment?"

Henry's statement caused Gale to reply flatly, "Kid, this is not the place for you to talk."

Henry scoffed as his temper rose immediately.

When he was about to say, 'You old fart, you have the balls to spout bullsh*t with me, but do you have the balls to say the same thing to my grandpa?' Jasper stopped him.

"Old Master Hurlbutt, what do you mean by that?"

"Easy, put up shares of JW Company as collateral for me," Gale said gleefully.

When Jasper heard that, he placed his teacup down with no expression. He got up and said, "Since you're not sincere, then we'll just drop the matter."

Jasper ignored Gale. After he gestured to Henry, he walked out.

Coincidentally, when Jasper was about to push open the door to walk out, the door of the study was pushed open from outside.

A young man stood outside the door. He looked polite and seemed to be a normal university student.

He had a box in his hands and he smiled warmly at Jasper. He said, "My grandpa asked me to bring over his medicinal aroma beads. He said he wanted to give it to you. Why are you leaving so soon?"

The young man's appearance caused the situation to suddenly become less tense.

"You sly child, don't be so hot-tempered. Can't we sit down and talk about this?" Gale said.

Jasper went back to sit down on his seat.

After he sat down, Gale did not mention what had happened. He pointed happily at the young man who was standing next to him respectfully, "This is Dean, my y grandson."

Dean smiled warmly and said softly, "To be precise, I'm his adopted grandson. I was an orphan and grandpa took me in. I only came to help him recently."

Dean was a sight for sore eyes.

He looked refined and he was speaking slowly. In addition to that, when he spoke, he would look at the other party. His gaze did not feel invasive, which was because he was showing respect to the person he was talking to.

Jasper suddenly remembered something when he looked at Dean who was smiling at him.

A nobleman's manner and character would be as light as water.

"Hello." Jasper nodded at the other party in a friendly manner.

"You are Mr. Laine from JW Company, right? I always hear grandpa talking about you. He said that if I am half as talented as you, he wouldn't be so worried about me," Dean said warmly.

Jasper lifted his hand and said, "Old Master Hurlbutt spoke so highly of me."

Gale grinned and took a sip of his tea. He looked at Dean and said, "You youngsters should talk. I'm old and I can't follow along anymore."

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly and instinctively became vigilant.

Gale valued this nobleman named Dean that was as light as water so much.

He was even asking Dean to discuss such a huge matter for him.

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“Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. Grandpa is right here and I’m just speaking on his behalf.

“If I say anything wrong, Grandpa will correct me. If he doesn’t then you can take it as me completely representing my grandpa.”

When Dean saw Jasper looking at him, he bowed slightly and said with a smile.

Jasper grinned when he looked at the refined Dean. He said, “Let’s start then. However, I don’t have much time so it’s best if we hurry up.”

Dean nodded and said softly, “Of course, I’ll get straight to the point then. First, I need to know how confident you are, Mr. Laine.”

“Of course, I am very confident.”

Jasper shook his hand and said carefreely, “It’s just a fight on the stock market. I never lost and the other party is just some irrelevant rat.”

Dean was slightly stunned. Then, he shook his head and said with a chuckle, “You’re joking, Mr. Laine.”

“You’re the one who started joking with me first.”

Jasper said calmly, “This time, our enemy is the entirety of Wall Street and the Federal Reserve, yet you’re asking if I’m confident? Aren’t you joking with me?!”

Pfft.

Henry could not hold in his laughter.

Dean shook his head and chuckled. He was not mad at all. At least, it was clear that Dean’s self-restraint was admirable.

“It’s indeed my mistake.”

Dean smiled apologetically. Then, he said to Jasper, “This is not about whether you’re confident. Mr. Laine, everyone clearly understands the situation right now and it’s still the same as what grandpa said just now.”

“I can take out the money at any time, but I can’t invest this in you, I can only lend it to you.”

“It’s not a problem, but asking me to put my company as collateral is unrealistic,” Jasper said.

Dean was still warm as always. He said softly, “Well, this is not a small amount There’s a risk to taking the money out too. If we don’ t have any collateral, how can we lend it to you?”

“Actually, I have two proposals, so please choose, Mr. Laine.”

When Jasper heard that Dean was finally being realistic, he sat up straight and put on a serious expression.

“The first one is what my grandpa proposed, which is putting up JW as collateral. However, since you’ve rejected that option, let’s not talk about that.”

“The second option is that we can lend the money to you free of interest with a time limit of three months. Of course, in order to make sure the funds are safe, I will have the right to know about the flow of the funds at any given time...”

“Also, if you can’t pay us back in three months, then JW Company will use 50% of its annual profit to pay back this debt for the next 10 years.”

Dean smiled harmlessly at Jasper when he said this. Then, he continued, “What do you think about the second proposal?”

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly and said, “Okay.”

Jasper’s decisiveness caused Gale and Dean to have surprised looks on their faces.

They thought Jasper would need some time to think or would try to negotiate some better terms. However, Jasper did not do anything before agreeing with it decisively.

This was out of the two’s expectations.

“I told you, there will be a lot of things going on next, so I have to handle this as soon as possible,” Jasper said.

Dean smiled and nodded, “Mr. Laine is a straightforward person who will do big things. If that’s the case, we won’t waste your time. We’ll draft a contract right away. After it’s notarized, the money will immediately be transferred to your account.”

“Great.” Jasper nodded and smiled.

Soon, Dean personally drafted an agreement.

There was no doubt about the professionalism of this agreement. Jasper took it and looked through it. Then, he faxed it back to Nauritus City to let the professional legal team of JW Company evaluate it so they could confirm that there were no problems with the agreement. After that, he immediately signed it.

After he did all of this, Jasper got up and bade his farewell. By then, it was already evening. However, Jasper did not stay for dinner nor did Gale invite him.

Everyone was busy, so if they could forgo these irrelevant and unnecessary social niceties, they would do so.

Gale was old, so after Jasper signed the contract, he went back to rest. Meanwhile, Dean was responsible for sending Jasper and his gang to the door of the manor. “Mr. Laine, please be careful on your way back.”

“Dean, please hold on.”

The two of them looked at each other and smiled softly.

“I think this will be a joyous collaboration,” Dean said sincerely.

“Hopefully...”

Jasper turned around and got into the car after he said that

After Dean watched the car leave, he turned and went back to the manor.

Inside one of the rooms, Gale was lying on an interesting and appealing bamboo couch as he rested his eyes.

This room was semi-opened. When one lay on the bamboo couch, they could see the garden. The fake mountain babbled with running water as the green of the leaves accentuated the colors of the flowers. The view was spectacular.

After Dean entered the room, he walked to Gale’s side. When he saw the blanket sliding down Gale’s body, he tiptoed over to pick up the blanket for Gale.

Even though he was doing it softly, he still woke Gale.

“You are back.” After Gale noticed Dean, he half-closed his eyes and relaxed before he said slowly.

“Yes, they’re gone. Sorry for disturbing your rest,” Dean said warmly.

Gale lifted his hand that was resting next to his body and waved it slightly. Then, he said lazily, “It’s fine. I’m old so my sleep will be light... What do you think?”

Even though this question seemed to come out of nowhere, Dean immediately understood what Gale meant.

He hesitated and said, “It seems a little weird, but looking at the big picture, it’s still in accordance with our plan.”

“Weird?” Gale opened his eyes and said with a half-smile, “Are you referring to when he chose the second option so quickly after you proposed two options for him without even hesitating or negotiating terms?”

Dean nodded and said profoundly, “Yes, based on my assumptions and according to the information I have of him, he shouldn’t have answered me so quickly.”

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When Gale heard what Dean said, he guffawed.

“I was a little surprised too.”

Gale opened his eyes and looked at Dean, who was deep in thought. He said slowly, “However, the most difficult thing to guess in the world is the human heart. It is normal to get the wrong answer, let alone when facing someone like Jasper.”

“If he is so easy to take care of, an old fart like me who has lived 80 more years in this world would not have lost out to him.”

Dean bent down slightly and said while lowering his head, “He’s just pulling some cheap tricks. He’s using Old Master Law to pressure you, so how can you say you lost out to him?”

“On the contrary, he also lost quite a bit when you brought in the business people from Teo. So, frankly speaking, you still won.”

“Stop speaking so highly of me.”

Gale glared at Dean and said, “Ever since I started plotting against that kid, I was always kept in the inferior position. How old is he and how old am I? Now that I am still plotting against him, aren’t I setting a bad example as an elder?”

Dean said respectfully, “I only know that success determines whether you’re a hero, I never heard of age determining the same thing.”

“Haha!”

Gale laughed.

“Never mind. You will be fully responsible for what is going to happen next. After this, I am sure Jasper will do something. If I need to show my face, you should just go on my behalf.”

Dean nodded. Then, he hesitated and asked, “Grandpa, so we’ll...”

Before he even finished, Gale understood what he meant

After a long sigh, Gale said, “Kid, I came from that special era. I watched the other countries bully ours. Back then it was fine, but after twenty to thirty years, those foreigners would still look down on us.

“You too. When I took you home, you were ten. Ten years before that, this country was the one that raised you.

“So, you cannot be too scheming in this matter. Just help wherever you can.”

“I understand,” Dean answered respectfully.

Gale seemed to be tired, so he closed his eyes and waved his hand.

Dean left deferentially. Then, he heard Gale singing to himself lowly as if he was talking in his sleep.

“As I watched them, I was as courageous as a sword, and when I raised my hand, I could not help but sweat. After I caught the thieves, I raised my sword to chop off their heads. Their blood splashed across the country and created a river of red.”

Jasper could not maintain his smile when he sat in the car. He even burst out laughing from time to time.

Henry was creeped out when he saw this.

“Have you gone mad from anger?” Henry asked carefully. Then, his expression became tense, and he said, “Those two are shameless but you don’t have to make yourself sick because of them.”

“Okay, we’ll remember them for this. We’ll seek revenge on them when we have a chance in the future. That kid is named Dean, right? I will remember him.”

Jasper replied, “Gone mad from anger? I have gone mad from happiness, okay?”

“I thought Gale would either not participate or at most he would invest some money as a simple gesture.”

“Now, he even offered to lend me the money. Back when he proposed that I put up collateral, I planned to accept it, but that sly old fox is not easy to handle, so if I agreed too quickly, he might try to push for more. That’s why I put up an act.”

“I was wondering why you looked relieved when Dean appeared at the door. It seems that you were only acting!” Henry came to his realization.

“Life is like a movie.” Jasper laughed and said, “Since he agreed to lend us 2 billion US Dollars free of interest, which will amount to about 16 billion Somer Dollars, so why not just take it?”

“However, we still have to pay him back if we lose. Are you really going to pay him back with 50% of JW’s annual profit for the next ten years?” Henry asked.

Jasper shrugged and said, “If we lose, can JW even survive?”

“Damn! This is no-risk trading!” Henry said while feeling terrified.

Jasper said happily, “You can’t say that. After all, they were the ones proposing this. We just accepted their proposal, so I didn’t set them up.”

“Plus, we don’t know the outcome of this fight. Now that they have given us this investment, they will get the money back if we win, but if we lose, everything will be gone.”

“However, if they don’t lend us the money, everything will still be destroyed if we lose. In the event that we win, they will get no share of the profits.”

“If that’s the case, has Gale gone mad?” Henry asked.

“A loan and an investment are two different things. He might have his own plans,” Jasper said flatly.

“However, that has nothing to do with us anymore. It doesn’t matter what he has planned, he won’t try to be a hindrance to us in such a huge matter. At most, he will just watch as we die. However, since he took out so much money, it means he won’t cause us any trouble at the critical moment.”

Henry nodded as if he understood.

“So, where are we going now?”

Jasper narrowed his eyes and said, “Next, we’ll need to meet the presidents of a few Chambers of Commerce. Also, there are a few appointments we have to attend. In short, we have a lot left to do.”

“However, what I lack most now is time. The market will be closed for three days and, in addition to the weekends, it will be closed for a total of five days. Two days have passed since, so we don’t have much time left.”

Henry glanced at the exhausted-looking Jasper and could not help but say, “We’re at this stage anyway, so we’ll just do this step by step. If the sky falls, we have tall people to stop it from falling on us. It’s useless if you tire yourself out too.”

“Tonight, I’ll make some arrangements for you to relax. We’ll continue tomorrow.”

Jasper said with a smile, “Do you have anything you can arrange for in Suesville?”

Henry chuckled and answered, “I don’t, but I have money. In this world, what can’t be solved with money?”

Jasper laughed and said, “Okay, it’s dinner time anyway. I’ll go with you and we’ll talk about the rest tomorrow.”

“Okay!”

Henry patted Julian’s driver seat happily and said with a grin, “Julian, drive to the city center. Go wherever is liveliest Today, I’ll only be doing one thing and that’s spending money!”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1497

When Henry said he wanted to spend money, he really started throwing money away as if it was water.

They went to the best hotel in Suesville's city center and asked the head chef to cook for them. There was a lot of food on the table and all of it was extremely expensive. The three of them could not eat everything but they still ordered a table full of food. Just the wild yellow-fin tuna from the East Sea was 2000 bucks each. However, this was the most low-profile item on the table. There was also a lobster that was half a meter in length, the lobster was so large it had to be carried to the table by three male servers. That one dish was 60 thousand bucks.

Then, they ordered some soup for each of them that cost 888 bucks each. Basically, it was just cabbage soup. However, the ingredients used to make the soup were decadent. There were abalone, conpoy, sea cucumber, three years old ham, the diaphragm of free range three years old ducks, and the diaphragm of a wild boar inside. These rare items represented just the ingredients used for the consommés of the small cabbage.

After the consommés were out, the ingredients would be thrown away, and in the end, they would be concentrated into these three bowls of soup. Just one sip would cost at least 200 bucks.

The three of them could not eat too much. Even if Julian was someone who was trained to fight and thus had a larger appetite, the group still left half of the food uneaten.

Henry did not care. He paid the bill of 160 thousand bucks and asked the staff of the restaurant to take care of what was left so that there would not be any wastage. The staff's eyes lit up as the manager sent Henry away enthusiastically. After that, they sauntered to the best nightclub in Suesville.

In this time and age, the nightclubs were not as good as the ones in the future. A lot of discos and dancehalls would call themselves nightclubs. Even though they were not wrong, it still lowered their statuses. This nightclub in Suesville was truly very lively.

The boss seemed to have surveyed the market before. Therefore, the location, the decoration, and the atmosphere were not inferior to the ones in Harbor City or Waterhoof City.

Henry booked a booth that required a minimum spend of 88888 bucks. At this point in time, there was still no fancy liquor that would go viral, like Ace of Spades. The nightclubs still had their conscience, so they would not sell Ace of Spades like they were treasures just because some rich second-generation hiked up the price.

The alcohol that was available here was all good alcohol. For example Louis XIII, Martell XO, and Royal Knight. There was none of those fake alcohols that was mixed with low-quality foreign alcohol that the artisan workshops sold for more than ten bucks. These were all authentic.

Aside from that, Henry covered an entire table with the most expensive cocktail in the nightclub. It was named Alluring Fox and was sold for 666 bucks per glass. The whole table looked extremely colorful.

From the looks of this, Henry was the most dazzling guy in the room.

From ancient times to the present, regardless of where in the world you were, there was always only one universal truth. If you had money, you would be the boss.

Jasper's booth was immediately surrounded by a lot of girls in tight skirts.

Even though it was 2001 and not 2020 where people were more unrestrained, the essence of the young ladies' pursuit of true love remained the same. All of them were very hot and behaved unrestrained as they hugged Henry and laughed with him. This made Henry very happy.

Jasper did not have girls in his arms like Henry. Instead, he sat with Julian at one side while drinking some delicious cocktail and eating the fruit platter. He chatted happily with Julian.

A few of the girls came to flirt with them, but Jasper would not reject them, He would still entertain them. However, everyone could tell Henry was the one paying, so after they noticed that Jasper was not that rich, they started to treat Henry like the love of their lives as they flocked over to him.

"We just had a 160 thousand dinner so how much will we spend after this?" Julian was a little speechless.

While Julian worked with Jasper, his annual salary alone was a million bucks. Hence, one could only imagine how much he would get from his other subsidies and bonus. For example, after the high-end condominium developed by JW Real Estates was launched in Nauritus City, Jasper gave Julian a unit.

So, Julian was a wealthy man right now.

His assets were nearing tens of millions in value. However, Julian was poor before, so even though his income was high right now and even though Jasper would be willing to pay for him if something were to happen, Julian was still used to saving some of his money. He was not saving it for himself though. Rather, he would give it to his big sister.

Also, since he was always with Jasper, he did not have much chances to spend money. Sometimes when they went out of town, he would buy some gifts for his sister. However, Jasper would pay for what he bought as well. In any case, this dinner of hundreds of thousands of dollars was way beyond what Julian was used to.

“I think he will have spent 4 to 500 thousand this entire night.” Jasper crossed his legs and said nonchalantly.

Julian widened his eyes and said, “How extravagant.”

“Extravagant? This is what he’s good at. Look at his surname.” Jasper cracked a joke and laughed.

“When this first started, I wouldn’t dare to imagine spending tens of thousands of bucks in one night. Isn’t this insane?”

Jasper said to Julian when he saw that Julian had a look of disbelief on his face.

When Julian heard this, he nodded furiously. He was saying that he agreed that Henry was insane.

“However, after that, I understood. People have social differences. If someone makes only 2000 bucks per month, he would have to think about it if you ask him to spend 100 bucks. This is simply because of the fact that he only makes 2000 bucks per month.

“He has to calculate his expenses like food, rent, social life, transport, phone bills and so on. If he falls sick, he’ll need to buy medicine too. Then, the rest he will keep as savings. After a month, all of this salary would be spent, so how much will he have left?”

“On the contrary, what about someone who makes 2 million a month?”

“The circle he is in will be consuming at that level. He doesn’t have to save up nor does he need to. If he attempts to be frugal, he won’t be able to break into that circle.”

“Even though they say you can’t judge a book by its cover, most people are shallow. People don’t know each other and not everyone’s close with each other, so who are you to ask them to look inside and see what you’re truly good at?”

“They will be looking at what you wear and what you put on. They will also look at what car you drive and your young beautiful secretary. These are all things that people can see at just a glance.”

“If you have these things and they see it, only then will they think that you’ve passed and have fulfilled the basic requirements for in-depth communication. Only then will you be qualified to do business together. “Because of all this, he can’t be stingy. To other people, he’s consuming luxury goods, but to him, it is necessary.”

“When you have different means of making money, are in a different social class, and have different foresight, your thoughts on spending money will be different as well.”

Life at The Top – Chapter 1498

“At the end of the day, there is no limit to a person’s ability to make money, but there is a limit to spending money.”

Speaking of this, Jasper pointed to Henry who was indulging in pleasure and said, “Henry can spend hundreds of thousands tonight easily, but if you ask him to spend 10 million, he won’t have a place to spend it even if he has the money.

“How much can you eat for dinner and how much can you spend as a nouveau riche in a nightclub? If you don’t purchase anything big, this will all be viewed as trivial. Even if you buy something big, most likely you can only think of villas costing tens of millions and cars costing millions.

“Therefore, everyone, including myself, love money and just want to do one thing with it.”

Jasper put a finger up and said seriously to Julian, “No matter what happens in the future, at least I will not do something because of money or even feel embarrassed.”

Julian said in a daze, “Then you can retire early.”

“Do you know how to carry a conversation?”

Jasper glared at Julian who laughed.

“I think Mr. Laine is right.”

In the noisy nightclub, a woman’s light and graceful voice clearly penetrated all the noise and chaos and into Jasper’s ears. This feeling was like a white lotus appearing in the middle of a mud pile.

The contrast made the mud look even dirtier and the white lotus even purer.

Jasper was initially idle and carefree, but when he heard that voice, his entire body tensed up and a bright light burst out from his eyes. There was also an imposing manner in him that Julian rarely saw.

Even though he was chatting with Jasper just now, Julian did not forget that the most important thing to him was to protect Jasper’s safety. Hence, he did not drink any alcohol so that he could stay vigilant in this chaotic and noisy nightclub that was filled with all kinds of people. Even so, he did not notice when the owner of the voice had sashayed over.

What an expert.

An absolute expert!

Julian lifted his head to look at the incomparable, slender, and elegant woman in front of him who was smiling softly. He almost took action against her.

Right now, that woman was standing in front of Jasper and Julian did not detect anything. They were about 3 meters apart.

Moreover, this woman was able to do that without Julian detecting her. If she wanted to do anything to Jasper right now in such close proximity, Julian was not confident that he would be able to stop her.

“Don’t worry, I won’t hurt him, right, Mr. Laine?”

Adele looked at Jasper and said with a smile.

Jasper patted Julian’s shoulder to relax him. Then, he got up and said to Jane with a grin, “I didn’t expect to run into you here, Miss Brown.”

Even though Jasper had only met the boss of Brew Splash Teahouse once, she had made an impression on him.

This time, he also realized that Adele was an expert that could make Julian nervous. This was a rare occurrence.

Adele smiled softly. Her smile outshone all of the girls in the room as it stood out in this noisy and chaotic nightclub.

“I didn’t expect to run into you here too, Mr. Laine. Are you meeting an old friend in another city?”

Jasper laughed and said, “Are you here for business, Miss Brown?”

“I’m here to see someone. Now that I’ve seen them, I can go back now. However, before that, I spotted you, which was a surprise to me. Are you interested in spending some time with me in a quiet place nearby?”

Jasper looked at Henry who was playing games with the girls and nodded. He said, “It’s an honor to be invited by such a beauty.”

Jasper went to notify Henry but the man was having a lot of fun so he ignored Jasper. He waved his hand to say he understood and then went back to the girl’s chest to simper.

Meanwhile, Jasper left the noisy nightclub with Julian and Adele.

In a coffee shop not far away, Adele asked Jasper to take a seat.

Julian did not sit down. He decided to stand at a distance not too far away.

Even a millisecond in the battle with a master was important. This distance and posture made it easier for Julian to deal with any unexpected problems.

“Your friend is very concerned about your safety.” Adele smiled at Jasper.

“I have no choice. Because I’m so hated, I feel a lot less nervous with him around.” Jasper laughed at himself.

Adele chuckled and said, “Mr. Laine, you asked me about my purpose of coming to Suesville, so may I know why you’re here as well?”

“I’m here to meet someone like you, Miss Brown. Similarly, I’ve met the person, and it went pretty smoothly.” Jasper replied.

Adele blinked and asked, “Can I take the liberty to ask who you met?”

Jasper looked at Adele meaningfully and said, “I doubt that you’re so curious, Miss Brown.”

“You’re being stingy, Mr. Laine.”

Adele placed one hand under her chin and showed a red string on her fair wrist. It looked delicate and pretty. The contrast of red and white caused her to look abnormally agile and alluring.

“That’s fine, this won’t stop me from offering you a piece of news, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper was curious. He asked, “A piece of news?”

Adele smiled faintly and said, “Actually, if I didn’t meet you here, I’d still have sought you out when we got back as someone asked me to make an appointment with you.”

“Who?” Jasper asked.

“The secretary of the president of SBS Bank, Mr. Tony Pratt”

Adele said this softly, but it made Jasper lift his eyebrows abruptly.

SBS Bank was also known as Somerland External Development Bank. This bank was state-owned and did not run any savings accounts. Therefore, most people did not know much about it.

However, if someone did a foreign trade business and whose wealth had reached a certain level, or had a large-scale foreign investment project, then they had to deal with this bank. It was because this bank held a lot of authority. All the foreign exchange reserves of the central bank were stored in this bank.

Its main responsibility was to represent the government, make foreign investments, and conduct foreign exchange settlements. It could be said that apart from the inability to issue currency, all SBS Bank branches abroad were equivalent to the Somerland Central Bank itself.

Life at The Top – Chapter 1499

In such a special and critical period, it was self-evident that the core executives of such a significant bank would come to him.

“When shall we meet?” Jasper did not hesitate and immediately agreed.

This meeting represented the first contact between the higher-ups and a civil representative, so naturally, he would not miss it.

He had known long since known in his heart that the higher-ups could not just sit idly during such a big event. However, Jasper was worried because they had not said anything until now. He was worried because he had no idea what the big shots at Swallow Capital were thinking about.

If Swallow Capital had plans, he should have at least talked to a representative of the private capital. They should at least have a communication channel. Now, this communication channel had finally appeared in front of Jasper.

This entity was more important than anyone Jasper had met before.

Adele smiled and said, “He is in Suesville now. He’s here for a meeting today and will leave tomorrow. I originally planned to schedule the meeting for tomorrow or the day

after tomorrow. Since Mr. Laine is here by coincidence, why don't you meet him tonight?"

Jasper smiled and nodded. He said, "Thank you, Miss Brown."

Under Adele's arrangement, half an hour later, Jasper met Tony Pratt, the secretary of the president of SBS Bank, in a four-star hotel.

Although he was appointed as the secretary, the man was more like the official secretary-general. After all, Tony was one of the core senior executives of SBS Bank. Despite being at the bottom of the hierarchy, this position was not any lower than the chief executive of Southeast Province.

After taking Jasper to the location, Adele did not go upstairs, nor did she leave. Instead, she said that she would wait downstairs until after Jasper and Tony were done.

This obviously meant that she had something to tell Jasper. Jasper did not refuse this suggestion. After agreeing with Adele, he went upstairs to meet Tony.

Tony was a middle-aged man in his fifties. He was of average height, while his weight and looks were average as well.

However, if a man was in a high-ranking position, he would naturally have an extraordinary charm to him. Tony was just like this.

If he was able to get to this position at his age, it must have meant that he was a very talented man.

After Tony walked out of the room, he started laughing before he approached Jasper. He reached out his hand from afar and said to Jasper, “Mr. Laine, even though we’ve never officially met, we’re like soul brothers now.”

Jasper had the same smile on his face as he gripped Tony’s hand. He said, “Mr. Pratt, I’m so glad to meet you. It’s such an honor. ”

Tony laughed and said, “Mr. Laine, you’re someone who we should have studied and based our speculations on when it came to the early days of the domestic futures market and the international crude oil market.

“The market rescue in Harbor City was particularly amazing. When the Securities Regulatory Commission and I were communicating with a few old colleagues from the financial department, we were shocked when we talked about Mr. Laine who was not even in his 30s. All of your achievements are extremely impressive.”

Jasper replied hurriedly and modestly, “Mr. Pratt, you speak too highly of me. Those are just small achievements and are nothing to boast about.”

Tony laughed.

Jasper and Tony lauded each other's accomplishments and walked into the reception room prepared by the hotel as they spoke.

"Mr. Laine, we don't have much time, so let's hurry up and get straight into the topic."

After sitting down, Tony said directly.

Jasper nodded and said, "Mr. Pratt, please go ahead. I'm all ears."

Tony waved his hand and said with a grin, "You don't need to be so courteous with me. You're much more renowned than me right now."

After some chit-chatting, Tony's smile faded and he said slowly, "Actually, I asked to see you so I can send you this message from the higher-ups. After that, I'll get your opinion, and then I'll pass it back to them."

"As for the current situation, the higher-ups have been paying attention to it this whole time. In fact, from as early as when you first entered the market, risk reports were already being compiled by the relevant departments."

“Now, what I need to tell you is that first of all, the attitude from above is very clear!”

“We will not allow anyone in Somerland to be bullied, not to mention that this entire situation is on the premise of protecting the domestic economy!”

When Tony said this, he glanced at Jasper with admiration and continued, “This statement was given by one of the big bosses. This statement alone can be said to determine your potential. Such a thing is extremely rare, let alone for someone as young as yourself, Mr. Laine. Your future is boundless.”

Jasper waved his hand and said with a smile, “If I am not wrong, there must still be something behind this, right?”

Tony nodded, his smile disappeared, and he said solemnly, “In the current situation, the influence of external factors exists all the time. Hence, the higher-ups need to consider this matter comprehensively. They can’t lose their propriety because of the gains and losses of one person.”

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“I understand.”

Jasper nodded. “I’ve made this realization before I made this decision.”

Tony nodded and said, “That’s good. However, don’t worry. The higher-ups’ attitude is clear. They’re not doing anything right now because they need to consider the influence on the international community. However, we won’t stay put if things become critical.”

Jasper said, “Please pass on my message to them, Mr. Pratt.”

“Go on,” Tony said seriously.

“The real purpose of the United States’ interference this time is to enter the domestic market by using me as a scapegoat. They want to rob us of the fruits of our reformation and development over the years to make up for the losses they have suffered in the terrorist attack and also to divert the attention of their people.”

With a sigh, Jasper continued, “I am in this position and have no other choice. Even if I am defeated, we can’t let outsiders touch the results of more than one billion people from Somerland’s hard work over so many years.”

“This is my request. So, Mr. Pratt, please convey it on my behalf.”

Tony nodded solemnly. “I will pass it on without missing a word.”

Jasper shook his head. Then, he got up and shook Tony’s hand before saying, “Mr. Pratt has been in a meeting for the entire day, so I won’t bother you anymore.”

Tony walked Jasper to the door and said, “Mr. Laine, please be careful on your way back.

“Mr. Laine, wait.”

Jasper was about to turn around when he heard Tony speak up again, “Mr. Laine...”

Jasper stood his ground and turned around to look at Tony.

Tony paused for a while. He seemed to be thinking about what he should say. Then, he continued, “I shouldn’t say this, but I think I still have to tell you so that you know.”

“SBS Bank will take action when it’s necessary.”

Jasper lifted his eyebrows and displayed the first genuine smile since his meeting with Tony. He nodded and said, “I got it. Thanks.”

Jasper would remember this favor forever.

Tony smiled in return before closing the door.

After he arrived downstairs, Jasper went to the lobby where he saw Adele in the lounge.

Adele waved at Jasper and Jasper walked over to her.

“Are you done?” Adele asked.

“Yeah, it went pretty smoothly,” Jasper answered with a nod. Jasper did not tell her what they talked about, while Adele was smart for not asking.

“I heard you contacted the little prince and Lord Alvarado recently, right?” Adele asked while tilting her head.

Jasper looked at this woman who was breathtakingly beautiful and extremely mysterious.

“Miss Brown, you’re so well-informed...”

Adele smiled and said, “I’ll just take that as a compliment.”

“The Browns from the north, the Royals from the south, and the Alvarados from the north-west. Right now, they’re all low-profile distinguished families in the country. These three families might even be the most powerful in the country, but they only have two similarities.”

Adele suddenly became talkative. She continued, “Firstly, these three families have been around for at least 200 years, so they can be regarded as the only remaining families in the country that have passed through the feudal era and still maintained their inheritance.”

“Secondly, they all have astonishing successors in this generation.”

When Adele said this, she said to Jasper with a smile, “The one from the north has something he wants to tell you, Mr. Laine, and he asked me to pass the message on to you.”

Jasper was truly shocked.

Who was Adele?

The state-owned SBS Bank contacted him through her. Even the crippled Brown wanted to contact him through her. Wait, the crippled Brown and Adele Brown?

There was a subtle change in the way Jasper looked at Adele.

Adele ignored the sudden change in Jasper’s gaze and continued speaking, “He said that after he learned about you, he feels regretful that he can’t meet you sooner.”

“He hopes that there will be a chance for him to meet you in Swallow City in the future. When the time comes, he will have a nice long chat with you and make you his friend.”

Jasper lifted his eyebrows and laughed. He answered, “I’m overwhelmed that Mr. Brown is so courteous toward me.”

Adele smiled faintly and said, "You're too humble, Mr. Laine. Right now, you can be regarded as one of the most amazing people in the country. Of course a lot of people would want to know you."

"Did Mr. Brown say anything aside from this?" Jasper asked.

Adele shook her head and answered, "No."

Jasper nodded and said, "Okay, please tell him that I will definitely go to Swallow City to have a nice long chat with him if I have the chance."

After he was done with work, Jasper got up and said, "Alright, I'll bid my farewell now. My friend is still in the nightclub."

"Mr. Laine, be careful on your way back." Adele got up and sent him off politely.

Jasper turned around and took a few steps. Suddenly, he turned around and asked with a grin, "Miss Brown, may I ask what's your relationship with Mr. Brown since your surname is also Brown?"

"He's my older brother, my biological brother..." Adele bowed slightly and answered.

“ ... ”

Jasper looked dumbfounded and he only came back to his senses after a long while. Then, he nodded and left after turning around.

When he walked out, Julian asked after he got into the car, “Do you want to go to Swallow Capital to talk to the crippled Brown?”

“There’s no need. He has rejected me,” Jasper said calmly as he looked out of the window.