

Life at The Top – Chapter 1091

“So your target was me all along, Mr. Ball?” Jasper said calmly.

Alban smiled and replied, “I’m a businessman, and I make decisions that benefit me the most I’m sure you understand, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes and asked, “Then what role does Old Master Hulbutt play in all this?”

Alban had finally shown his true intentions. The man’s goal was not the Haddock Chamber of Commerce but rather Jasper’s MP5 patents.

Jasper refused to believe that Gale was uninvolved when the man had invited him to attend the forum as the vice president of Haddock’s 5 Chamber of Commerce’s Waterhoof City branch.

Right now, it seemed more like a sinister setup against him.

Jasper had no idea what dirty plan Alban and Gale had plotted out

However, the truth now was that Gale had come up with an excuse to cooperate with Alban and corner him. Meanwhile, Alban had finally shown his true intentions and was about to make a move.

Jasper had only come to this forum conference in return for an asset in the form of Gale’s favor. However, only now did he realize that the old and sly man was backstabbing him.

“We’re talking about a deal between us, Mr. Laine,” Alban sneered and said, ignoring Jasper’s question.

“Deal between us? Is there even a deal to be made? The MP5 patent rights, was it? Sure, 1 billion US Dollars, and I’ll give it to you when you hand me the money. I can give you all my production lines and my factory area too if you want,” Jasper said calmly.

Alban’s smile slowly vanished and he replied forcefully, “It would do you no good to be so temperamental, young man. Being emotional will do you no good, Mr. Laine.”

“Being setup is only normal in the business world and there’s nothing wrong with getting caught. At the very least, it shows you that you’re worth being targeted. It’s truly tragic for people who aren’t even worth the effort for us to scheme against.”

“So I should thank you then, for deeming me valuable?” Jasper commented calmly.

Alban smiled and said, “I understand that you’re unhappy, but I have a way to calm you down.”

With that, Alban waved a hand to gesture to someone behind him. That person approached with a document in hand, which he handed to Jasper immediately.

Jasper calmed down and took the document to take a good look at it.

He knew that this was something important if Alban was so certain it would make him surrender.

As expected, Jasper frowned slightly at the contents of the first page.

“This is the risk evaluation I commissioned Harbor City’s most powerful architectural office to do on the World Financial Center’s main building. We realized that according to your design, the building has a huge construction risk.

“Then again, this is just an evaluation, and this is just some risk. Nothing is certain.”

“The building might collapse before you’re done with construction, perhaps after it is complete, or perhaps it’ll never collapse at all. ”

Alban’s soft voice sounded by Jasper’s ear.

“But who knows and who cares?”

“I’m sure you’re very well aware, Mr. Laine, that if I release this statement today, the Waterhoof City City Government will surely call for construction of the World Financial Center to stop. Be it out of precaution, or consideration of actual risk factors.

“After all, it would be great news if this huge construction was a success, but also a huge problem if anything goes wrong. Do you think they’ll let you risk it?”

Jasper looked up at Alban calmly and asked, “What can this document alone prove?”

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“Nothing much, but it’s enough to stall your construction for at least half a year. You’ll have to pay for to undergo new evaluations every day and those expenses alone are enough to render any real estate comp any bankrupt.

“You have to know that this isn’t the only issue your real estate company is facing. I heard that an overseas investment bank is supporting many other competitors in Southeast Province to launch a comprehensive attack on JW Real Estates too.

“At such a time, the tallest building in the world, the World Financial Center is JW Real Estates’ most important project. Even if you manage to continue construction half a year later, times would’ve changed. Can JW Real Estate even survive that long?”

Alban had a confident smile on his face as he patted Jasper’s shoulder and said gently, “Rising up comes with a price, young man.

“While the country’s market is huge, there are only so many pieces of the pie. You and your JW are rising too fast and you’re interfering with too many people’s interests. People don’t want another greedy businessman on the already saturated market.

“This is only the first lesson I’m teaching you, so you understand the most important rule in the business world.

“Be humble and keep a low profile when it comes to business. Being too arrogant will only result in everyone working together to get rid of you.”

Jasper looked at Alban quietly and asked, “I’d like to know who this ‘everyone’ refers to, Mr. Ball.”

Alban laughed out loud and said, "Is that what's important? No. What's important now is whether you agree to this trade or not."

Jasper's expression was solemn.

This was the biggest trap he found himself in ever since he started his business, excluding the loss he made when Harbor City and Quantum Funds had a conflict. This was also the first time he had made an error in his calculations, which was mainly because Gale's setup had caught him off guard.

Jasper was not a god, and there would always be situations when the unexpected arose.

Still, he had to make a decision now.

Alban would not give him the time and chance to think it through.

Ever since Jasper stepped foot into this asset forum conference, he walked himself into a huge net made just for him.

At the same time, Henry was currently smoking under the non-smoking sign and ignoring the exasperated gazes of the servers around him. He looked over at Jasper and frowned slightly.

'Did something go wrong for my infidel brother-in-law?'

'Did something happen that he can't quite handle?'

Henry pondered. This was the first time he was seeing such a dark expression on Jasper's face. In contrast, there was a silly smile on Alban's face as he sat next to Jasper and talked to the other. The more Henry looked at that smile, the angrier Young Master Law felt.

Just then, Jasper's gaze fell on him.

Henry did not know how, but something clicked in his mind when the two locked eyes. His mind suddenly cleared and he instantly understood.

It was as if a voice was telling him that his infidel brother-in-law needed him!

Young Master Law tossed his cigarette away and snuffed it out with his foot, ignoring the small black burnt hole on the expensive carpet underneath his feet. Then, Henry walked over to the panel on stage.

Young Master Law was in an extremely good mood as he ignored the hopeless look of the few servers behind him as they stared at the carpet.

'The day has come, where I become my infidel brother-in-law's savior!'

'I'll show you today how cool your brother-in-law can be!'

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"Excuse me, sir. This is the platform, you can't simply come up here."

A bodyguard stood in front of Henry and said expressionlessly.

Henry grinned joyfully, "F*ck you. As if there's anywhere I can't go. Move out of my way!"

The bodyguard frowned slightly. Henry's arrogance told him that this was a man none of the bodyguards around the venue could afford to offend, so he replied patiently, "My apologies, sir. Please do not make it difficult for me."

"Who the hell are you? You think you're worth my effort to trouble?"

Henry felt extremely irritated whenever he saw someone from Seatreasures International, so he said this with a dark look on his face. When he realized that the bodyguard did not move, Henry was immediately pissed off.

Considering Henry's status, a mere bodyguard was not worth his anger.

Hence, Henry looked up at the platform and Alban staring back at him with a wary expression. He grinned as he said darkly, "Oi, Ball. Are you sure you want your dogs to hold me back?"

"Either let me come up or I'll turn and leave now."

Henry's words were simple and direct, but also very effective.

Alban's expression darkened and he waved his hand. "Let him up."

The bodyguard let out a sigh of relief. Despite how Henry talked to his boss, the man in question did not get angry. Because of this, this bodyguard knew that this young man was not someone he could afford to anger. It was great news that he could escape the scene now.

Henry walked up onto the stage as if he owned the place and chuckled at Alban. "Not bad, so you oldies do know your limits. Just think of how troublesome it'd be if I had to call my dad so late at night."

Alban's expression was extremely stormy.

He was a huge businessman who presided over many large provinces in the southeast region. People both his age and younger treated him with the utmost respect. Yet, before Henry, he had none of the dignity and power of a bigshot.

Was Henry dignified?

No!

Did he have a plan?

Also no. At least not right now.

Also no. At least not right now.

However, Henry's threat to call his dad was enough to keep Alban in his place and unable to make a move.

To be honest, all enterprises listed on Harbor Stocks survived by pleasing the four richest families. This was especially true for the Law family, the one with the deepest roots and the best relationship with the mainland.

Henry looked at Jasper and scratched his head.

He could tell that Jasper needed him to come over, but he had no idea what exactly he should do.

Even so, Henry was smart enough not to ask Jasper this in front of Alban.

“My dad’s looking for you!”

Hence, Henry had no other option but to use his dad, the man far away in Harbor City.

As far as Henry was concerned, the first thing he had to do was get rid of Alban. If he could not be gotten rid of, then Henry would create the opportunity to speak to Jasper alone.

His simple mindset was precisely what Jasper needed right now.

“Right now?” Jasper asked, intentionally sounding confused.

“Of course!” Henry felt prideful when he saw the praise in Jasper’s eyes.

Jasper sighed and stood up, turning to Alban. “Mr. Law’s looking for me, Mr. Ball, so could I leave and call him back? Perhaps give me some time to consider your proposal as well.”

Alban’s expression was icy and the corner of his lips twitched.

Even an idiot could tell that Jasper and Henry were acting, but there was nothing Alban could do about it.

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“What’s the point in delaying this by a few minutes, Jasper? I can tell you right now that if you disagree, I’ll release what I have on hand no matter who comes over!”

Jasper smiled at Alban’s words and said, “I’ll see you in a bit.”

Jasper then left the stage with Henry in tow. Henry glared at Alban from the corner of his eye before he left and said, “You think I lied when I told you that my dad’s looking for Jasper, don’t you, old man?”

“How dare you think that I’m lying. If he wants to, my dad can fly here overnight and beat the sh*t out of you! Look at your stupid f*cking face, thinking you’re so powerful.”

With that, Henry followed Jasper off the stage bossily Without sparing Alban, who was shaking in anger, another glance.

Alban ground his molars together, his gaze horrifyingly dark. The man slammed his fist on the table as his legs twitched in infuriation.

The plan was flawless, and Jasper was supposed to be defenseless.

Yet, no one had expected the most volatile variable, Henry, to suddenly appear.

In terms of tricks, Henry could hardly win against the group of crafty men in this scenario. However, Alban could do nothing since Henry had a powerful dad and an even more powerful grandfather supporting him. Hence, Alban had no other choice but to concede while facing him, albeit very angrily.

“I’d like to see what you can come up with in these few minutes, Jasper! You can’t run from this!” Alban growled wretchedly.

Henry followed Jasper into one of the conference hall's lounges. He had just entered when he saw Jasper's frigid expression.

"Holy sh*t, what's wrong? Something really happened, didn't it? You look like you want to kill someone." Henry said.

Jasper took a deep breath, and in one brief moment, he broke down everything that happened.

Gale had sold him out, which was something he definitely would take revenge on.

The most troublesome matter now was Alban and the document on hand.

Jasper was confident that there was nothing wrong with the World Financial Center's design since he had multiple specialized companies check it for him. This was an investment of tens of billions, after all, and Jasper was not such an idiot to act without making precautions.

He had already spent 100 million on design, and a few chief engineers from Waterhoof City Design Institute had spent more than a month reviewing it. Jasper even invited the top-notch design team in the industry from Swallow Capital to review it once more to ensure that no problems would arise.

The most difficult to deal with now was this document. It was an evaluation by the most powerful architectural office in Harbor City, so even if it was filled with nonsense, the power behind this office's statement was just as Alban had stated. Releasing it would surely invoke doubt.

Waterhoof City City Government would request JW Real Estates to pause construction just to be cautious.

Moreover, it would be difficult to pick up construction once again after it was halted.

Throughout this lengthy period, Jasper would have to invest maddening amounts of money every day.

This would easily and directly cause the downfall of an already pressured JW Real Estates.

"This is hard," Jasper said after a long period of silence.

Henry did not understand what was going on and he snickered, "I didn't know there were things you found hard. Don't worry

and just do it. If we can't handle it, then I'll go back and ask my dad for help."

Jasper paced around before he exhaled and said, "We might just have to ask your dad for help about this."

Henry's eyes widened in disbelief. "We're really asking him? We haven't even tried yet, so how'd you know we can't do it?"

"You're right." Jasper nodded as if agreeing with Henry.

Henry looked joyful and he answered excitedly, "Then let's go and screw them over. If we can't, then we'll call Dad."

"No, we'll call Old Master Law immediately."

Jasper's words were serious, and Henry gaped in shock.

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Henry already thought that it was shameless to ask his father for help.

Because of this, he did not expect Jasper to go straight for the ultimate move. However, having spent so long with Jasper, Henry knew that the man had his own reason behind everything he did.

Thus, Henry did not waste any time and immediately pulled out his phone. After dialing his grandfather's private number, he tossed his phone to Jasper.

It was late at night, but the phone was connected in no time.

"Is this Henry?" The old master's voice sounded from the other end of the line. Jasper replied softly, "It's me, Jasper, Old Master Law. I'm sorry for disrupting your rest so late at night."

Old Master Law's laughter echoed through the line and his tone turned even more gentle. "It's alright. Go ahead and tell me what's wrong."

Old Master Law knew that Jasper would not seek him out lightly without a good reason. Something troublesome must have arisen if Jasper was looking for him.

With that, Jasper recounted the essentials of the whole situation.

Old Master Law muttered softly after Jasper was done, "It's quite troublesome indeed. How do you want me to help?"

Jasper replied grimly, "I can't give in, Old Master Law. If I do, then I'll be placed in a completely passive stance after this."

The old master agreed with Jasper and he said, "You're right. Standing firm now means you'll still be able to turn this game around. If you give in, then they will have control over whether you live or die."

"The construction of the World Financial Center cannot be halted if this report gets released to the public, Old Master Law," Jasper said.

Old Master Law chuckled and replied, "Don't worry. Do as you wish."

Jasper let out a sigh of relief when he heard the old master's assurance. Jasper then said rather remorsefully, "I'm really sorry I have to trouble you for help all the time, Old Master Law."

"I'm growing old and I can't fight these battles anymore. The future will belong to you youths, so until you've fully grown up, isn't it our responsibility as your elders to watch out for and protect you while we're still alive?"

"There's no need to worry about. Do as you wish, I'll keep you safe."

At that, Jasper glanced at Henry, who was yawning beside him.

In all honesty, Jasper did get envious of Henry sometimes. He wondered if Henry had saved the universe in his last life to be blessed with such a great life in this.

"I understand. I won't disturb your rest any longer, Old Master Law. I'll get to work now," Jasper said.

Jasper hung up the phone and handed it back to Henry, his entire aura completely different now.

It was as if the confident Jasper had walked out of the difficult situation and finally returned.

"How'd it go? Do we have permission to show off?" Henry took the phone and asked excitedly.

The corner of Jasper's lips lifted up as he said, "Let's go!"

At the same time, Old Master Law had also put his phone down in his hilltop villa located in Harbor City.

After a moment of thought, Old Master Law lifted the phone and said unhappily, "Connect me to Swallow Capital's specialized line."

More than ten minutes later, Old Master Law made another call.

It took a long time before this call was connected.

On the other end was Gale's rather exhausted voice.

"It is late, Old Tom. Is something wrong?"

Old Master Law replied calmly, "Gale, Jasper's a youth I value deeply. If you're going to be so shameless so as to target my youngster personally, then I'll come down and play with you too, hmm?"

Gale was stunned for a moment before he quickly said, "Where is this coming from, Old Tom? Perhaps there has been a misunderstanding."

"You know better than I do whether there's been a misunderstanding or not. You're the one among our generation that likes to jump around and ignore the fact that you're old. But since that's your personal issue, I won't interfere.

"But don't you dare extend your slimy hands onto my people. I beat and left you crippled once back then, and I can beat and leave you crippled again. Don't test me.

"I already put in a word with the people in Swallow Capital. If Waterhoof City truly has any apprehension about Jasper's World Financial Center, then I'll tell Jasper and he can move his tallest building in the world over to Harbor City! Waterhoof City can be a coward who is constantly afraid of the seizing once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, but Harbor City will not be the same!

"I won't waste time asking you which questionable people you've been in contact with despite already being so old, but I stand by what I said. Know your limits, or I won't be blamed for turning against you at such an old age."

Gale's snow-white brows twitched and he replied slowly, "Is it worth turning against me over a youngster's small matters, Old Tom? There's nothing wrong with putting a young man through more training and difficulty."

"I will train my own youngsters. I don't need old men with ulterior motives like you to point fingers."

"Everyone in Harbor City knows that Jasper's the man in his generation whom I value most. Those old men know better to make a move themselves, so they had their children and grandchildren look for you

instead. Your eyesight must've gotten worse with age, since you're being used and you still don't know it."

"As I said before, this issue ends here." Gale replied grimly, "I'm afraid that Jasper of yours won't back down without revenge. It wouldn't be enough for him if I just stopped here, would it?"

"You're the one who sold him out first and now you're forbidding a young man from having a temper? So what if he comes for you if he's angry? So, you're angry? Come for me then!"

With that, Old Master Law hung up the phone.

Gale heard the static of a disconnected line on the other end of the call and ground his molars as he roared, "None of you are sensible! Who are you to talk about me, old man? Why don't you take a look at how biased you're being!"

After the second call, Old Master Law then slowly pulled out a tobacco pipe and smoked for a long time.

The study doors were pushed open to reveal a personal care worker who said caringly, "Old Master Law, the doctor said you can't smoke."

"Okay, okay, I'll stop," Old Master Law laughed aloud like a child, but he was still reluctant to put the pipe down.

"Could you please leave for a moment? I still need to make a call," Old Master Law said.

The personal care worker nodded and reminded, "I'll be back in half an hour. Don't let me catch you smoking then, okay?"

Old Master Law put the pipe down once the study doors closed, and he picked up the phone again.

This time Old Master Law only said one sentence to the person on the other end of the line.

"You're going too far."

The line was quiet for a moment before a voice rang out.

"I understand."

Old Master Law hung up the phone afterward.

It was a conversation of no more than six words, but the fate of the situation was already decided.

Old Master Law smacked his lips as he smoked from his pipe. His gaze was deep as he stared out at the colorful mountain View outside.