

# Life at the Top Chapter 556

It stopped less than an inch away from his feet.

Jeremy was so shocked he took several steps backward before he roared, "Can't you see that there's someone here? Are you trying to kill me?"

Then, he saw the make of the car. It was a Bentley!

Only the richest of the rich could drive such luxurious cars worth several million Somer Dollars.

Cowardice immediately took over Jeremy as he took several instinctive steps backward.

When everyone who was with Wendy saw the Bentley, a smile appeared on their faces.

They knew that Jasper had arrived.

When the Bentley pulled to a stop, Jasper got out of the car and walked straight toward Jeremy with a nonchalant expression. He turned to Julian and asked, "Julian, is he the one who insulted my mom and Wendy?"

Julian nodded.

Jeremy had a confused expression on his face and was just about to speak when he got slapped.

Jasper's calm voice rang out after he slapped him. "So, you insulted my mom?"

Slap!

A second slap.

“You want to take my woman away from me?”

Slap!

A third slap.

“You said you would give me tens of thousands if I f\*cked off?”

Slap!

A fourth slap.

“You think that you’re invincible after you managed to get a sub-project in the Southface River project through the backdoor?”

Four consecutive slaps were enough to slap Jeremy silly. As he backed away, he tried to use his hand to shield himself, but he could not stop Jasper from slapping him again and again.

Jeremy’s face swelled like a pig’s face after getting slapped four times in a row.

He no longer cared if Jasper had gotten out of a Bentley.

“What the f\*ck, how dare you slap me?! Do you know who I am?!”

Jeremy roared as blood dribbled from his mouth. His eyes were bloodshot, and he seemed ready to eat Jasper alive.

“Slap you? That’s child’s play.”

Jasper laughed coolly and took out his phone. He dialed a number.

The call was answered after a second.

“Mr. Laine, it’s so late. What do you—”

Sean thought Jasper needed him to do something upon receiving such a sudden call. However, he did not have time to finish speaking before Jasper yelled, “Sean Tucker, are you having too much fun being the vice president? Would you like to move your ass a little? If that’s the case, you can go stand guard for me at the construction site tomorrow!”

Sean, who was back at the province, was so shocked he immediately sat upright on his bed and said humbly, “Mr. Laine, I don’t understand what you mean?”

“The project for the pedestrian greenway. Who’s in charge of it? How did those people become in charge of it?” Jasper asked.

Sean had a confused expression on his face. He was an executive who was in charge of the larger issues. How would he be able to pay attention to the tiny details? Thus, he could only say nervously, “Well, I’ll have to make some inquiries...”

“No need for that. I don’t care who’s in charge. We’re terminating our contract. Besides, whoever was in charge of sealing the deal will have to be fired tomorrow. From tomorrow onward, your most important task will be to conduct an office-wide investigation to see if anyone received bribes or kept the benefits of the contract for themselves!”

As he spoke, Jasper narrowed his eyes and looked at Jeremy who had already lost all color from his face. He said, “I don’t care who it is. If they’re discovered, throw them into jail using the evidence. I’ll throw you into jail too if you dare step out of line!”

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That one phone call was enough to knock Jeremy into an abyss.

He could not figure out how someone who had appeared out of nowhere could tear apart the project he had gotten for himself.

Such a person was either a lunatic who was really good at acting, or they were actually legit.

Jeremy glanced at the Bentley parked behind Jasper and gulped. He felt chills running across his entire body.

Could a lunatic afford to drive a Bentley?

Moreover, based on what had just happened, it was clear that this man was Wendy's current boyfriend and the son of the farmer woman he had just laughed at!

Jeremy was incredibly decisive when he realized he was in deep trouble. He immediately knelt before Jasper and said, "I'm sorry, I failed to recognize your talent. I looked down on you because of my own twisted views!

"I have a mouth too big for my own appetite!

"But that project is our family's lifeline. None of us went through any backdoors, everything was done properly through bidding. Please forgive me this one time..."

Jeremy spoke desperately, the sincerity and look of apology on his face were not faked at all.

Jasper watched Jeremy's performance calmly and waited for him to finish before he said, "Very well. I shall investigate if you got this project legally through a bid or not.

"If you did get this project through a bid, I won't hold anything against you. However, if bribery was involved, not only will the person who accepted the bribe face time in jail, but you will also suffer consequences as the person who initiated the bribe."

The expression on Jeremy's face changed when he heard what Jasper said.

"Who the hell are you?" Jeremy asked dazedly as he raised his head to gaze at Jasper.

"You have no right to know who I am yet." When Jasper finished that sentence, he ignored Jeremy and turned to walk to Sally. He asked, "Mom, are you alright?"

Sally shook her head and said, "I'm alright."

Jasper took Wendy's hand and escorted Sally back to the car. Julian, who was behind them, stood in front of Jeremy with a stony expression on his face as he said, "Didn't you say it was an impressive feat that you had managed to secure a contract in the Southface River project?"

"He's in charge of the Southface River project."

Julian did not give Jeremy's colorless face another look before he turned and left.

Jeremy could not stand even after the Bentley had driven off. He had a sullen expression on his face when he thought about how his world was going to collapse around him.

Soon, two vans pulled to a stop in front of Jeremy and several men jumped out from them. The leader ran over to Jeremy and was shocked when he saw the state Jeremy was in.

“Mr. Morris, what happened to you? Where’s the person who hit you? Don’t worry, I’ve brought all my men along with me. I’ll make sure justice is on your side.”

Jeremy was not in the mood to explain anything to these thugs and could only mumble, “Sh\*t, I’m done for. My entire family is done for. What should I do?”

The man who was the leader of the thugs was confused, but he could more or less guess what had happened from what Jeremy said.

Could it be that Jeremy had angered the wrong person today?

This immediately caused the man to go on high alert. The way he looked at Jeremy immediately became less friendly as he asked probingly, “Young Master Morris, should we also leave now that they’ve left too?”

“Look, my men all abandoned whatever they were working on to come here. Do you think we can get some compensation?”

Jeremy shuddered and seemed to come back to his senses as he glared at the man. He roared, “What compensation? I let you eat and drink all you f\*cking want but you’re asking me for payment now even though you didn’t do anything when I was in trouble? Do you think my money grows on trees?”

“F\*ck all of you freeloaders! Would I be in this mess today if you weren’t circling me and dragging me into messes? F\*ck off! All of you f\*ck off!”

The expression on the man’s face grew ugly as he was berated in front of his men. He glared at Jeremy as he said, “Morris, I’m showing you respect by calling you Mr. Morris today. If I don’t feel like doing so, will you believe me if I say I’ll cut you to death?”

“You have to pay for us traveling out here today whether you want to or not! Or else, don’t blame me for not being courteous.”

Jeremy stared at the man in front of him and at his men who were staring greedily at him. He felt his vision go black.

...

Jeremy's issue was insignificant to Jasper.

However, this prompted him to sense that there was a major hidden problem in the real estate agency.

Just like how a problem had been discovered in the investment company back when he was battling the Hull family. However, the problem that was discovered in the real estate agency seemed to be even more serious.

"Jasp, what are you thinking about?" Wendy was sitting on a chair after she returned home, and she saw Jasper sitting at his desk with a dark expression on his face.

He had been maintaining that posture for almost half an hour ever since they returned from the supermarket.

"I'm thinking if the problem in the real estate agency is a major one or not," Jasper replied.

Wendy frowned when she heard that. "You mean Jeremy's case of bribing employees and getting hold of projects through the backdoor might not be an isolated one?"

"Isolated case?"

Jasper smiled.

Jasper had been reincarnated with his memories from his past life. He had seen too many cases of people taking advantage of loopholes and cases of corruption within a company.

When corruption happened, it was probably a whole nest of cases—the kind where you only needed to discover one case before you discovered the rest of them.

“The real estate agency might be a brand new company, but most of the middle and top managers were transferred over from Schuler Group. This brand new company would be the perfect place for these experienced people to get up to no good.”

Jasper said calmly, “After all, your dad has run Schuler Group for more than ten years. There’ll be far fewer loopholes there. But the real estate agency is different. A new business requires a new set of rules. The sly ones would easily be able to spot loopholes that benefit them.”

Wendy frowned as she said angrily, “My father only transferred those he trusted over to the real estate agency. They...”

Jasper replied calmly, “Take higher-ups like Sean Tucker, for example. He wouldn’t get involved in such matters for such measly benefits, but what about those in the middle level of management? You need to understand that mid-level management is what truly makes up the foundation of a company.

“If anything goes wrong there, it would be much more difficult to deal with than if one or two higher-ups got into trouble.”

“So what do you plan to do?” Wendy asked.

“We can’t be soft when dealing with corruption within the company. No compromising or indecisiveness is allowed. We have to deal with matters the way they present themselves.” Jasper massaged his temples as he smiled at Wendy



and said, “But tomorrow’s the last day of work. Everyone will be on winter break starting tomorrow. Let’s talk about this after New Year’s.”

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The end of the year was soon approaching. Jasper’s family had three important meals that they would always have at this time of the year.

The first one was on the 24th, Christmas Eve dinner.

Another one was on the 25th, Christmas lunch.

The last one was on the 26th, Boxing Day breakfast.

The south had just about the same traditions, but they just had the meals at different times of the day.

There were only a few days left before Christmas. Wendy had to return to the province to accompany Dawson. After all, even though he had not said anything about being left alone in the province, everyone knew he hoped his daughter would accompany him during this special day.

Jasper began preparing this year’s Christmas Eve dinner after he said goodbye to Wendy.

Although the Laine family wasn’t huge, as they were from the village, there were relatives who moved around and they all still kept close contact with each other.

Moreover, because they knew he had made it big this year, the majority of Jasper’s relatives suggested having this year’s Christmas Eve dinner at Tefa City for a multitude of reasons.

Sally and Charlie would not let go of this opportunity to have bragging rights in front of their relatives. Thus, they immediately agreed and expressed that they would pay for everyone's room and board.

Jasper did not mind. It did not matter if they were his relatives or tribespeople. Men could not survive in the world alone.

Jasper was willing to keep in touch with them too, but on the condition that they did not treat him as a cash cow just because he was rich now. If they did that, he would ignore them.

In his past life, he had seen plenty of people who held grudges because their relatives did not share their earnings with them after making it big in the world.

When faced with such relatives, Jasper's only reaction was to ask them to get as far away from him as possible.

"Dad, I know you and Mom want to look good in front of them. I've already booked three tables at Shangri-La Hotel. All you have to do is go over. Moreover, I've arranged for several cars to pick everyone up because there are so many of you guys. Someone will get in touch with you once you're there. I'll arrive slightly later."

Jasper sat in John's office and crossed one of his legs over the other as he talked to his mom, Sally, over the phone.

It was bustling and noisy on Sally's end of the line. A bunch of his relatives must have already arrived at his family's villa.

Once in a while, Jasper could also hear the sounds of a relative marveling and being blown away.

Even Sally's eyes were smiling as she said, "Alright, we'll get going right now. Hey, where did you get those cars from?"

Jasper smiled as he glanced at John and said, "I borrowed them from a friend. You don't need to worry about that. That's all for now."

After he hung up the phone, Jasper said to John, "Thank you so much for your help, John. Else I would never have been able to book that private room at Shangri-La Hotel. And thank you for those six BMWs as well. I would never have been able to procure them myself."

John smiled as he said, "I dare not take credit for this. I turned to Kai after you told me about this last night. That man is a social butterfly and has friends everywhere."

"His social circle has expanded since what happened the last time. He's extremely popular now and is the leader of the circle in Faith County."

Jasper said teasingly, "What about Samuel?"

John said happily, "Do you think Samuel would dare make an appearance while you're here? I heard from someone that he's planning to move to Dusk County."

"I don't have the time for him. He can move wherever he likes," Jasper said calmly.

John's voice was lowered as he said, "Jasper, Kai has been looking for the chance to thank you personally."

"Take this time, for example. The end of the year is right around the corner, and most people have already booked their rooms at hotels several months in advance. He went straight to those people with several million dollars in cash and half-bribed, half-fought them to get these rooms for you."

"The same goes for the cars. He spent the whole night running around before he got them all."

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“These are all insignificant, though. You’re a busy man with no time for these things. It doesn’t matter if we, your friends, help you take care of matters like these.

“But he still put quite a lot of thought into it, so how about we go visit him after Christmas?”

Jasper gave John a meaningful look and smiled as he said, “John, you’re playing mind games with me as well now. Kai doesn’t have such a simple purpose behind wanting to meet me, does he?”

John knew he could not fool Jasper and decided to say honestly, “Well, his main reason is to thank you. His other reason is that he would like to take Faith County’s resources once Samuel is gone.”

Jasper thought to himself for a moment. No matter how he advanced, Faith County and Tefa City would be his home base for a long time.

At the very least, his parents would retire here. They would not go anywhere else.

The company’s headquarters was in Waterhoof City. The amount of time they needed to spend there would be calculated in years. They would not be able to move away anytime soon.

Thus, it would be much better to have someone on his side take care of things than to have someone like Hugh or Samuel.

“Alright, just let me know in advance,” Jasper said.

John smiled when he heard Jasper's answer and said cheerfully, "Alright, I'll let him know he can come over for a visit."

...

While Jasper and John were chatting in the office, in the villa.

Sally and Charlie were happily leading a team of relatives out of their villa.

"Ah, Charlie, Jasper really has outdone himself. This is such a huge villa and in such a beautiful area! I wouldn't even dare dream to have this."

A woman turned to speak to Charlie, her envy evident on her face.

The people beside her all nodded in agreement and turned to gaze reluctantly at the villa they had just left.

Most of them had been born on farms. At most, they only managed to start a small business in Faith County. They were all your average families and had never been in such a luxurious neighborhood before. Thus, it was only natural they seemed like country mice on their first visit to a town.

Charlie felt extremely proud and was already inwardly rejoicing. However, he put on a calm expression as he said, "It's not much. It's just that our boy knows what he's doing. He's a big spender though, and I can't get him to stop no matter how I try."

"I wonder how Jasper is doing now? He must have still been in elementary school the last time I saw him, right? The years have just flown by. I remember saying he was a smart kid who would definitely make it big in the future. And look! I'm right, aren't I?"

"Exactly. I used to think Jasper was different from other children as well. He didn't talk much, but he was smart and always knew what to do."

“You don’t say, I remember when he was younger...”

Charlie and Sally exchanged helpless looks with each other as they listened to their relatives talk about how special, smart, and gifted their son was when he was younger.

Toadying to the rich and bullying the poor was man’s instinct.

Back then, their son had never been popular among the relatives. They had all said he was clueless and did not have it in him to make it big in the future.

However, they all seemed to have forgotten that now and were praising Jasper.

A young man standing on the edge of the crowd pursed his lips. Contempt was written all across his face.

‘What a bunch of ignorant hags they are! What’s so special about Jasper? My brother has already signed an agreement with a CEO and he’ll be opening multiple hotpot restaurants in the entire province next year! My brother will also be a CEO then! Let’s see if Jasper will still be smiling when the time comes!’

Terence’s disdain for Jasper increased as he thought that to himself.

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“You silly boy, what are you thinking about? I’ve already called out to you multiple times!”

Startled by that voice, Terence hurriedly turned to his dad and asked, “Dad, what’s wrong?”

Jasper's uncle glared at Terence as he said, "When will you grow up? Let's not talk about your cousin, Jasper. But even your brother has his own business now. Can't you learn from them?"

Terence said impatiently, "What do you know? I'm friends with... Never mind, you wouldn't know even if I told you. What did you need me for?"

Jasper's uncle said, "Did you bring the mountain ginseng as I asked you to?"

Terence hoisted the large box in his arms as he said, "Yes, I did."

Then, the expression on Terence's face darkened as he said reluctantly, "Dad, are you really going to give this heirloom to Jasper Laine's family? Is this necessary? This is our family's heirloom and can't be bought on the market no matter how much money you have. It's 200-year-old mountain ginseng—"

Jasper's uncle interrupted Terence and said, "Don't call him by his full name. Your cousin is older than you are, so what right do you have to call him by his full name?"

"You're a child who knows nothing. Just give it to Jasper once he arrives at the hotel."

Terence whined, "Can we give him something else? I want to give this mountain ginseng to an important figure I know."

"What kind of important figures could you know?!"

"I don't care even if you know God himself. You have no say when it comes to this mountain ginseng. Do as I say, or you'll face my wrath when we get back home!"

As he watched his father turn away from him and sidle over to Charlie, Terence hugged the box tightly. He lowered his head to mask the dark look in his eyes.

As everyone walked out of the villa and walked to the gate, they saw six shining BMWs parked by the road. Each car had its driver standing respectfully beside it.

The leader jogged over to Charlie and Sally once he spotted them, saying respectfully, "Sir, Ma'am, the cars have been prepared. Everyone only needs to get in now."

"Woah, a BMW! The mayor's son in the next town loaned one when he got married. It was such a rare sight then, and we weren't even allowed to touch it. Now, we get to sit in one."

A relative gasped in surprise beside Sally.

Everyone's eyes shone as they looked at the row of BMWs. Back then, it was already a considerable feat to own a car. Needless to say, they had never seen a scene as grand in front of their eyes before. There were six identical BMWs parked in front of them!

"Ah, what a wonderful son you have. I'm so jealous." Jasper's uncle sighed to Charlie.

Charlie smiled as he said, "Darrel is doing well too. You'll have the same opportunities in the future."

Always intent on maintaining his dignity, Charlie was extremely pleased with Jasper's arrangements. The smile did not leave Charlie's face as he gazed at the expressions on his relatives' faces.

There were a lot of people present, but six BMWs were just enough for everyone to fit in.

Terence got into the last BMW while clutching the box. He shook as he sat in the soft seat.

On what grounds?!



Back then, Jasper had not been as good as him in academics and did not have a silver tongue like him either. He had been the receiver of everyone's praises while no one even bothered to ask about Jasper.

Thus, even though Jasper was older than he was, Terence had never once respected Jasper.