

Life at the Top Chapter 511

Jasper had his own reasons to bring Henry over from Swallow Capital.

This Young Master Law might not be proficient in much, but he was a master at picking fights and stepping over people.

While Jasper could deal with people like Derick himself, it would be a waste of time.

Jasper was short on time now.

Ian must have acquired help from Gale when he took a trip to Suesville. That was something Dawson had stressed over when he told Jasper the news.

Jasper sincerely agreed.

Which was why he had to speed things up on his end, especially when it came to contacting ICBS' Waterhoof City branch. They had to keep a closer eye on the happenings in Harbor City as well.

People like Derick were most afraid of people like Henry, trust fund babies with huge familial support who were unafraid and brash. People like him were very ready to screw someone's entire family over at the slightest offense.

Not to mention that Henry was the most powerful of all trust fund babies.

Thus, Henry was the best person Jasper could get to deal with Derick.

Henry was very excited too.

“Hell yeah! I’m always wary when I cause trouble outside in case my family gets wind of it, but it’s all different now! This time, I’m being asked to screw people over!”

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The following morning, Ian walked out of the airport with a stuffy head and reddened eyes.

He felt his old bones were about to fall apart with how hectic the night had been.

Suesville and Waterhoof City were very close, so only special domestic airlines were willing to fly between the two cities.

The flight itself took less than half an hour, meaning before the plane reached its highest altitude, it was already time to prepare for landing.

When Ian arrived at the airport, he could only purchase the earliest flight since he had not booked a ticket beforehand.

As such, he ended up waiting three whole hours in the airport before he boarded the plane.

Then the flight got delayed.

What should have been a two-hour car ride resulted in an entire night of torment for Ian.

The sky was showing the first signs of dawn when he exited Waterhoof City’s airport.

“Motherf*cker! Just you wait, Jasper!”

Furious, Ian shifted all the blame to Jasper.

However, today was not without any good news for Ian.

It was because the three billion in funds Gale promised had already been sent to his account!

This amount would turn into one of Ian's important weapons against Jasper. The existence of this three billion had thus helped Ian temporarily ignore the problem happening in Harbor City.

As far as he was concerned, all of this was Jasper's fault. As long as he dealt with Jasper here in the Mainland, then whatever was happening over in Harbor City would resolve itself as well.

In addition, a few of his seniors under Gale had also called him and expressed their support for him.

With all the gambling chips he had asked from Gale in his hands, Ian was no longer as irritable as before.

Taking a deep breath, Ian scoffed as he stared at the sky where the sun was rising from the east.

"Just wait, Jasper! The show is about to begin in a few hours! I wonder, would your tricks be faster, or would my weapons be deadlier?"

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With all his gambling chips in hand, Ian took his seat at the figurative gambling table and began to set up his trap.

Jasper did not waste any time either.

Jasper arrived at ICBS' Waterhoof City branch early in the morning.

With Vita's help, Jasper had a very joyful negotiation with the Waterhoof City branch.

At noon, Jasper paid the 300 million in cash and signed a land transfer agreement with ICBS.

Jasper then had his capital verified by the ICBS, which received a joint guarantee agreement issued by Schuler Group in the Southeast Province. He obtained a commercial loan credit for a maximum of 12 billion right off the bat.

Walking out of the branch's doors, Jasper shot Vita a smile. "That's one hell of an ambitious bank you work at."

While he only needed eight billion funds to kickstart his plan, the ICBS seemed to have more in plan for a 'cash cow' like him. They signed him the maximum amount of commercial loan credit the Waterhoof City branch was capable of—12 billion Somer Dollars.

Vita understood what Jasper intended to say and smiled. "It's mainly because we believe that Mr. Laine has the best assets and is worthy of our trust. Not to mention that with Schuler Group's joint guarantee agreement, we would easily provide a commercial loan of 20 billion if not for the matter of our limit.

"We would need the approval from the headquarters if that's the case, and it's a waste of time."

As a person who had lived two lives, Jasper was well aware of why these people completed the procedure in record time. Jasper chuckled. "I'm pretty sure you were afraid that I'd be tempted by the other banks, no? A 12 billion Somer Dollar loan, at the lowest interest rate possible, will still cost me 150 million. Let alone a 20 billion loan."

Vita laughed loudly. “The bank doesn’t have much of a choice. The competition is too strong.”

Jasper smiled but did not comment on it.

That was how banks worked. They would stuff your pockets full of money when you needed funds but would turn their backs on you when you needed to borrow money for emergency’s sake.

Jasper was well aware that every industry had its own unspoken rules. This was just one of the bank industry’s rules.

“Oh, right, Mr. Laine. There are still a few properties on that piece of land, mainly a few old commercial buildings. According to the contract, the property rights to those commercial buildings now belong to you, but there are a few tenants there. If you want to get rid of them, I’d suggest you do it as soon as possible.”

Vita’s words had spoken precisely of the main reason why Jasper wanted that plot of land.

“I’ve done some digging and I think there’s a G.S. Trading Export Limited Company there? I heard they signed a ten-year lease in one go,” Jasper asked, seemingly casually.

“They did. This business is actually one of our clients too. They borrowed two billion in funds from us for business operations. Their president, Ian, is an old acquaintance of mine. Quite the gloomy man, and I wouldn’t say that we’re close friends,” Vita explained.

Jasper furrowed his brows slightly.

It was a pleasant surprise to know that the Hull family had borrowed a two billion Somer Dollar loan from the ICBS’ Waterhoof City branch.

“I consider us friends, Mr. Layne, so I’ll let you in on something I found out. Lest your branch ends up suffering a loss,” Jasper suddenly piped up.

Vita was stunned. He had been present when they verified and investigated Jasper’s capital, so Vita was well aware of the horrifying wealth Jasper held in his hands.

Any news from such a young billionaire must be thundering.

As such, Vita immediately brightened up and spoke seriously, “Do tell, Mr. Laine. If your words ring true, then this is a favor I and the branch will hold dear and remember.”

Jasper smiled and waved his hand dismissively. “You’re too kind. I’m just telling you because I can’t bear to watch a friend get dragged into such matters.

“I heard that G.S. Trading Export Limited Company had two of their cargo ships, worth a total of 600 million, get detained at Harbor City. I think they’re suspected of smuggling.”

Jasper clapped Vita’s shoulder as he spoke. The latter was dazed by the news. Jasper continued to speak intently, “Their company has been keeping quiet about this and they’re trying their hardest to mediate the situation. But you know how it is with smuggling, it’s a big deal.”

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“I’d suggest your bank be extremely cautious when it comes to giving them loans because this isn’t a small amount. You’ll get in trouble too if they end up being investigated and the loans lead back to you.”

Vita forced his erratically thumping heart to calm and replied, "And I was the one who managed this transaction too! Forget everything else you've done for me, Mr. Laine, but if what you say turns out to be true, you've just saved my life!"

This was an astronomical loan of two billion Somer Dollars.

The ICBS would track down those accountable if anything happened.

As the manager, he would be the first one to be caught and would have to take the brunt of the blame.

Vita instantly broke into a cold sweat. He was exceptionally relieved, and he was also immensely grateful to Jasper.

"If you'll excuse me, Mr. Laine, I should report this to the higher-ups right now."

Jasper smiled. "Don't worry about it. We're friends, aren't we? There's no way I'd just stand and watch you suffer a loss when I've already got wind of such news. Go do what you must, I have my work to do too."

After professing his thanks, Vita rushed back into the branch building. Evidently, this matter would pan out in the shortest amount of time.

With the ICBS' capabilities, it would not take too long before they finished investigating the situation. By then, the ICBS would be the first to cause Ian trouble.

It would save him some work.

Jasper was pleased with this surprise reward.

However, that pleasure did not last for too long.

It was because both Dawson and Jack Tanner called him one after another.

All of Schuler Group's supermarkets within the Southeast Province were facing the attacks of their competitors at the same time.

In the supermarket industry, any competition was essentially done in the form of concession sales.

Concession sales were a normal activity among supermarkets.

However, it was very strange to see all supermarkets of different brands and sizes targeting Schuler Supermarkets at the same time with the same activity.

The attack had taken Schuler Group off guard, so the turnover for Schuler Supermarkets across the province was reduced by 50% in just one morning.

Such loss would only increase as time passed.

"It's evident that the Hull family is using their link with Haddock Chamber of Commerce to oppress us. We should still be able to deal with this for the time being, but problems will arise with our capital chain in half a month at most."

Dawson's words had Jasper frowning slightly.

"Mr. Laine, the businesses our JW Capital invested in has been subjected to our competitors' malicious tactics. Partners that have already signed contracts with us are breaching them and choosing to partner with other investment companies.

"While we won't lose too much from this, our investment credit will suffer greatly should this carry on.

"Moreover, smaller partnership companies of ours have been discriminated against and it's affecting their business. Any company is targeted the moment they're related to JW in any way."

Jack's report made Jasper reestablish how powerful the businesspeople from Haddock could be as a whole. They were way beyond his imagination.

Not to mention that Jack was still in Swallow Capital to oversee Sena, and he was only managing JW Capital remotely.

Still, the fact that Jack had received notice of this meant that the investment company had met a serious issue.

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Jasper did not have to worry too much about Schuler Group.

While the capital chain was taut, the group had a large market.

As the biggest supermarket business in the country, Schuler Group was only suffering the normal amount a group would when they acquired another company. Once Schuler Group got its cash flow back on track, its true force was something Jasper could never compare to.

Not to mention that Schuler Group had Dawson watching over it.

This incident made Jasper realize that his future father-in-law was the most low-profile and crafty man.

The power he held that was hidden from the public was unimaginable.

After getting rid of the Hanks family, Dawson's prestige and ability in the Southeast Province had long surpassed what he had accomplished in Jasper's past life.

With Dawson here, Schuler Group would surely be alright.

However, Jasper still had to be more cautious at his investment company.

“Stop business in the investment company for now.”

After a moment of deep consideration, Jasper gave Jack an order.

“Maintaining the signed partnerships we have is our main priority. Put all new business transactions on hold, and I’ll bring JW Capital on a path of speedy development after I deal with the root of this problem.”

Far away in Swallow Capital, Jack suddenly asked, “So someone is indeed targeting us then, Mr. Laine?”

Jasper smiled. “Our conflict is coming to an end soon, and it’s only a matter of time before we have to go through such a difficult process. So put all our new transactions on hold first. We won’t lose anything from it anyway.”

Jack nodded. “Alright, I’ll see to it. But Mr. Laine, I’m afraid that those seeking our investment will doubt our credit and ability if we suddenly stop investing in new companies now. It won’t be easy to convince them otherwise once doubt is planted.”

Jasper replied calmly, “There are too many people with plans and ideas to start up their own businesses but are vastly lacking in funding and capital. They’ll still come looking for us in the end.

“Take this situation as a chance for JW Capital to reestablish itself. We’ve been investing in all sorts of companies before, and while there are tens of companies under our name, less than a handful of them are actually meaningful investments.

“The investment company will aim for somewhere higher after this temporary hold in business is over, and we’ll stop investing in companies without much of a

future. I'd rather we have a month of no business than randomly investing in any company that crosses our path."

Jasper had long felt dissatisfied with the investment company, and while Jack was the one overseeing everything, Jasper did not blame him.

After all, Jack had been working in Weresoftware all his life until he came to work for Jasper. Jack was always looking for chances to prove his ability.

Not to mention that he had been working in a foreign business this entire time. It made sense that Jack was unfamiliar with the entrepreneur industry within the country.

So when it came to choosing companies to invest in, Jack was more focused on the short-term results.

Jasper had thought of it when he transferred Jack to help Terizone back then and stay with Sena as of now.

Jack was more suited in business management as compared to venture capital.

It was due to this understanding of the inner works that Jasper did not place the blame on Jack.

After all, Jack was not the only one at fault for the issue happening with the investment company; Jasper had been busy too and he had neglected its management.

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Moreover, while Jack had invested in many projects, most of them were profitable. There were only a few insignificant losses in comparison to the profits made.

“Alright, I understand.”

Jack replied embarrassedly when he heard the displeasure in Jasper’s tone.

Jasper sighed. “Most results aren’t caused by a single reason or person, Jack. Both you and I have our own shortcomings, and it isn’t too late for us to adjust with this opportunity.

“Don’t think too much about this. I’m well aware of how capable you are. And now that you’ve been given a platform where you can go all out and excel, I’m sure you’ll do great.”

Despite being a man in his 40s, Jack still felt his heart thrum in his chest at the words and replied sincerely, “Don’t worry, Mr. Laine. I’ll do my part well.”

Once he returned to the hotel, Jasper was met with a surprised, though expected, ‘guest’. Ian Hull.

In the same rooftop bar, Ian sat facing the river and raised his wine glass at Jasper who was walking over. He smiled sinisterly and began, “This was where you sat when you threatened me, huh, Jasper?”

Jasper plopped down on the seat opposite Ian and replied, “Threatened? I don’t think I understand what you’re saying. How could you accuse me of threatening when all I did was speak the truth?”

“Though I must say that I’m impressed, Mr. Hull. You managed to find me so quickly. I suppose your roots run deep here in Waterhoof City after doing business here for so long.”

Ian scoffed. “The Southeast Province is your territory, so I accept my defeat. But this time, you’re handing yourself over to Waterhoof City on a silver platter!”

Jasper shrugged calmly. “And you’re so certain that you’ll manage to devour everything I have?”

Ian guffawed. “You must’ve received news already, hmm? Let me tell you, I’m not the one attacking you this time. It’s the better half of the Haddock Chamber of Commerce that wants to get rid of you and your sly old man!

“Dawson should already feel the pressure by now. Did he tell you that he’s facing more than just competition from other supermarkets? Most of his customers are also buying expired goods and products without a manufacturing date, qualification certificate, and manufacturing company stated. They’re all complaining now.

“And your investment company too. You’ll receive the news very soon of someone reporting your investment company using investment as a guise when you’re actually using it to evade taxes. You’ll be investigated immediately!”

Seeing Ian’s proud and arrogant face before his eyes, Jasper replied calmly, “Schuler Supermarkets always abides by the industry regulations when it comes to the products they sell. There’s no way there would be expired goods or products without a manufacturing date, qualification certificate, and manufacturing company stated.

“As for my investment company, well that’s even more simple. Every Somer Dollar I own has its tax paid for.

“I’ve done nothing wrong, so there’s nothing I need to be afraid of. You can’t possibly think that this is all it’ll take to deal with me, can you?”

Ian scoffed. The smile still stayed on his face, but his gaze grew cold. “Are you actually stupid or are you just pretending to be stupid? Just because you didn’t do it doesn’t mean you don’t have to take responsibility here.

“After the investigations, even if the supermarkets are found to be following industry regulations and your investment company is proven not to be evading taxes, what would other people think?

“Reputation isn’t easy to build up, but it’ll only take a few days for everything to come crashing down.”

Ian tilted his head to take a sip of red wine and spoke leisurely, “I don’t need to use these tricks to end the both of you. Customers just need to know that Schuler Supermarkets have been investigated before for selling goods against industry regulations.

“And entrepreneurs seeking investments just need to know that your company has been investigated for using investment as a guise to evade taxes.

“These two rumors are enough to completely destroy your business credit.”

Ian leaned over to stare at Jasper as he spoke and smiled wretchedly, “So what if I’m blatantly framing you? What’re you going to do about it?”