

Life at The Top – Chapter 1101

Alban glanced at Jasper coldly when he put the call on loudspeaker. His gaze was filled with mockery.

Alban was not the only one. Excluding Jasper and Henry, it seemed like everyone else was siding against Jasper and waiting to see him be made a fool of.

It seemed as if this was a definite outcome.

Everyone held their breaths as they waited for the person on the other end of the call to speak.

A second later, a man's voice echoed from the speakers. However, instead of the excitement and glee people imagined, the man's voice was filled with fright and disbelief.

“Mr. Ball, we handed the report in, but it didn't go as we planned!”

Alban's heart skipped a beat, but before he could say anything, the man on call continued.

“The city government said that the World Financial Center’s entire design and construction process had strictly followed the proper procedures and was approved by both professional teams in Waterhoof City’s and the National Design Institue in Swallow Capital. He said that there was no way anything could go wrong with such a huge project...”

Alban’s heart began to beat erratically and he raged.

“No way! If nothing else but for prudence sake, a report from such an authoritative architectural and design office such as ours should still have caused

construction to be temporarily halted and fully investigated even if its initial process had been supervised!”

“That’s what I said too, but the city government, they said... they said...”

While the person talking was not physically present, everyone could tell from his tone that he was terrified. Alban was enraged when his subordinate started to stutter at such a crucial time. “What’re you stammering on about? Get straight to the point! What did the city government say?”

“The city government thanks you for your enthusiasm, Mr. Ball, and they will communicate with JW Real Estates to bring together a group of experts to review the building’s design and construction plan. However, the construction will continue during this review process.”

When he heard this, Alban was close to spitting blood out in infuriation-especially when he heard him say 'thanks you for your enthusiasm.'

He had been in the business world for more than forty years and he had partaken in commercial battles of all sizes. Alban, who had always come out victorious before this, now felt lightheaded.

He panted heavily and glared at Jasper. He did not know where went wrong for the entire situation to play out so differently.

Alban was not the only one. Everyone else was dumbfounded.

"How can this be? This makes no sense no matter how I think about it!" Said the man who was certain that Jasper's construction site would be put to stop with a stunned expression.

"Just what huge benefit did Jasper give the city government? To the point that they're willing to continue construction even in such a situation?"

"Watch your words! Don't simply say things like that. Jasper must've somehow lied to the city government!"

“Exactly! That’s the only explanation!”

“After all, it’ll be a huge mess if something was wrong with this building. This is also a report from a worldwide renowned architectural office! But instead of stopping construction, the city government even thanked Mr. Ball for his enthusiasm! This... it’s so infuriating!”

“What do you do now, Mr. Ball?” The man asked on the other end of the line, his tone sorrowful, exasperated, and indignant.

“Nothing! What else?”

Alban hung up the phone with a roar, feeling completely embarrassed now.

Henry could barely keep his glee under control and he told Alban, “You know, I think Waterhoof City City Government should really award you with an Enthusiastic Citizen award, old man.”

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“All that effort monkeying and jumping around, yet they don’t even spare you the time of day. Hahaha. Absolutely hilarious.”

Alban's face twitched and he looked at Henry. He understood what was happening as he looked at Jasper coldly, "The Law family?!"

Jasper spoke calmly, "I wonder if you're still interested in my MP5 patented technology, Mr. Ball."

Alban clenched his jaw. He was infuriated and had the urge to rip Jasper to shreds.

"You think you're so powerful, Jasper? So what if you had the Law family's help to get through this, huh? I dare you to hide behind the Law family forever!"

Jasper chuckled, "Here's what I don't understand, Mr. Ball. If there are enemies in business, what's wrong with having friends? Even the Allied Powers in WW2 aimed to combine their strength. If you can team up with Gale to set me up, then what's wrong with me asking someone else for help?"

Alban chuckled icily and said, "Fine, then, you little brat. You win this time, but we've got plenty of time. I'd like to see if you're still so lucky next time."

"I don't think you understand, Mr. Ball." Jasper walked over to Alban lazily and leaned forward into his personal space.

Alban was currently expressionless and his face was ice cold.

“I, Jasper Laine, have never been someone who doesn’t fight back after getting hit. Perhaps you should think about how to defend yourself against my revenge, Mr. Ball.”

Alban’s expression twitched and he chuckled furiously at the taunt. “You think you’re capable just because the Law family’s saved you once? Are you even capable enough to take revenge on me?”

“I’m sure you’ll find the answer to that very soon, Mr. Ball.”

Jasper said calmly. He glanced at the report in Alban’s hand and smiled subtly, “Something’s got to be wrong for this office to suddenly come up with a nonsensical so-called evaluative report. Let’s start from there, then.”

With that, Jasper gave Grant a call.

“Oh, Laine! My old friend. It must be nighttime over at Somerland, is something the matter?” Grant’s joyful tone sounded over the phone.

Having earned 100 million US Dollars from Jasper, Grant’s influence in his team had also increased exponentially.

Grant's fame would also be known all over the world once the World Financial Center was built in the future, so he treated Jasper with the utmost respect.

"I come with a business proposal. Are you interested in Harbor City's architectural and design market?" Jasper asked calmly.

"Very much so! But this industry of ours is very territorial. If I'm right, Harbor City falls under GenAll Office's territory and they're a group of very sinister people. They're willing to do anything for the sake of money, so I can't be the first to break the rules," Grant replied.

"That's fine. From what I know, the biggest type of scandal in this architectural and design industry of yours is slandering others' designs for money, right?"

"Waterhoof City Coty Government has just received a report from GenAll Office claiming that there's a huge fault in the World Financial Center's design which might cause the main building to collapse. Here, I just gave you a reason." Jasper said calmly.

Grant was stunned, then he fumed, "Is that how arrogant the people at GenAll are getting now? They're just ranked seven in the world! I want evidence, Laine!"

"I'll email evidence to you as quick as I can, and I'll have people at Harbor City cooperate with you as well," Jasper said calmly as he watched Alban's extremely sour expression.

“Haha, Laine. I’ll send you a great gift if this is a success!”

Jasper raised the corner of his lips after he hung up the phone and asked Alban, “Do you know how I made my first sum of cash?”

Alban remained sinisterly silent.

Jasper replied slowly, as if he had asked a rhetoric question, “The stock market.”

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“Are you threatening me-the Seatresures Group, Jasper?!” Alban scoffed and said.

“You’re absolutely ignorant! The Seatresures Group had just been listed on Harbor Stocks two years ago and its share price was twice its issuance price by the end of the first day. It’s always been the most powerful comprehensive, mainland, publicly-listed group on Harbor Stocks.

“You think you’re powerful enough to affect Seatresures?! ”

Jasper's words from earlier had more or less seized control of the situation.

Since no one had imagined him to be able to avoid the trap Alban had carefully laid out for him so easily. However, when Jasper revealed that he intended to target Seatreasures Group, everyone began to look at Jasper in slight disappointment.

“He is too young, after all. The Seatreasures Group is more than he can handle. ”

“Exactly. Seatreasures Group had more than 40 billion in turnover last year and it's one of the most profitable privately-owned mainland enterprises on Harbor Stocks. Jasper must be crazy if he thinks he can attack Seatreasures Group.”

“Haha, didn't he say he first made his money through the stock market? Of course, he'd take revenge through the stock market as well. Unfortunately, all his effort will be futile.”

Jasper did not seem to hear any of the comments around him.

Henry was irked, though, and he glared at the people who gave out the harshest comments. Henry said icily, “Are you busybodies done blabbering? Everyone here has a mouth, but do you see them going on and on noisily?”

“Keep yapping and I will smack that month off your face!”

Those people felt furious from this humiliation after they got brutally scolded, but the previous cases deterred them from acting out no matter how angry they were.

Hence, all of them consoled themselves by repeating internally that they were a dignified person in the upper-class society and that they did not need to be calculative with insolent living- incarnations of devils.

Meanwhile, Alban continued staring at Jasper.

“Did you hear them, Jasper? What they said was only because of Seatreasures Group’s full strength. You wouldn’t dare attack Seatreasures Group!”

“Haha. You can try, but if you end up screwing yourself over, then don’t blame a senior like me for not warning you beforehand.”

In all honesty, the Seatreasures Group was very strong at the time.

Their market value might not be the highest, but their roots were thick and expansive.

As a comprehensive group that dealt with physical businesses, the Seatreasures Group was extremely capable business-wise, while their progress in other relevant industries

was nothing to scoff at either. Shares of such a business were what investors called blue-chip stocks, and were worth holding on to.

Since the company had a substantial performance history, the share price of such a company would not usually drop. Even if it did, any oscillations would follow the larger market trend, and it would not lose enough money to require them to pull out of the market. It was extremely difficult destroying a company like that.

Yet, Jasper was confident that he could do it.

This was thanks to his unique advantage of having memories of his past life.

Jasper could clearly remember that in the year 2001, the country government finally had enough of all the shady business that went on in the pharmaceutical industry. These pharmaceutical sales representatives would hide amongst the hospital's medical staff, causing medicine

bought in hospitals to be at least twice as expensive as the same medication in normal pharmacies outside. Some doctors without professional ethics would even prescribe patients with high commission rebate medication, completely disregarding their treatment effect.

Thus, a policy had been issued, hitting the medical system in the country like a windstorm. This windstorm eventually swept away 80% of the country's pharmaceutical enterprises.

Seatreasures Group had started their business through pharmaceuticals, and up until now, this industry remained their main source of income.

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The pharmaceutical sector of the class A shares had plummeted by 50% back then!

While Seatreaures Group was badly hit on Harbor Stocks, business took a turn for the worse for them afterward as they stayed rather dormant even up until Jasper's reincarnation.

Now that the timing was right and Jasper had happened to be in this bad situation, he was determined to use this chance to get rid of Seatreaures Group.

"If you're so confident, Mr. Ball, then I guess we'll just have to see the full extent of my abilities," Jasper said coldly.

Alban snorted and raised his hand to poke Jasper. "Don't think that you're above the law just because you've got someone supporting you, young man."

"How about we make a bet? If you manage to make my Seatreaures drop by 20%, on your own and without the Law family's support, then you win."

“As a wager, I’ll give you something you can hold over Gale’s head if you win. How’s that sound?”

Jasper raised his brows and said calmly, “How curt of you to sell your teammate out even in public, Mr. Ball.”

“Teammate my foot.”

Alban scoffed. “I’m from the Teo Chamber of Commerce while Gale’s from Haddock’s. We’ve always been enemies on opposing ends. We only worked together for a common goal.

“To get rid of you, for example. He benefits, while my life becomes easier. That’s it. More to the point, it’s not like I think you’ll be able to get your hands on this intel either.

“However, the same rule goes for you. If you lose, you’ll transfer the technical research of the MP5 to me for free!”

Now, Alban finally showed his greed.

He had never given up on his desire for the MP5 patented technology.

“Deal.” Jasper nodded calmly.

“I’ll be waiting,” Alban sneered.

Jasper did not respond. He gave Henry a look and the two turned to leave.

Everyone in the room was looking at Alban now.

The man was exceptionally prideful.

As far as he was concerned, there was no way Jasper would be able to lower Seatreasures Group’s share price by 20%.

Even if he could, it would be with the Law family’s help.

Alban had no idea how much the Law family valued Jasper. However, them stepping in to prevent the delay in construction was already a very dangerous warning sign.

Hence, Alban planned to provoke Jasper as the man could not seek the Law family for help. As far as Alban was concerned, if he did this, then Jasper was dead meat and the man's future would be wrapped around his pinky.

"Haha, Jasper. There's no escaping this now!" Alban muttered to himself.

At the same time, Jasper and Henry arrived downstairs.

"Are you really just going to..." Henry was about to say something when he turned to see that Jasper was calling someone. Thus, he quickly closed his mouth.

The call connected in no time.

Jasper greeted the person on the other end of the call with a smile, "Old Master Hurlbutt, I hope I didn't disturb your rest by calling so late at night."

Henry's eyes widened when he heard Jasper. This old Hurlbutt person had just set Jasper up, yet here he was greeting him with a smile and respect.

If Henry was in his shoes, going over to this old man's house and punching his dentures out was already the kindest act Henry could do.

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Far away in the study of a huge manor in Suesville, Gale was brooding silently with a telephone handset in his hands. The man had lost all trace of drowsiness since he received the call from Harbor City.

“No, no, not at all. The older people get, the less they sleep. I already had a nap in the evening so I am not sleepy at all now.”

Gale replied with a crescent eyed-smile.

“You should really take good care of your health, Old Master Hurlbutt. Who knows how many people are relying on you to make a living. Not to mention that old seniors of the business are truly valuable treasures to us youths. You must take good care to ensure that nothing goes wrong with your health.”

Jasper’s calm tone sounded over the landline.

Gale furrowed his snow-white brows but his tone was still joyful and relieved when he said, “You’re still the most understanding person out there. Unlike other people who only know to anger me every day. Wouldn’t it have been great if I met you earlier?”

Jasper replied with a smile, “You’re too kind, Old Master Hurlbutt. I can’t even defend myself with the little business I have now. Had I met you earlier, Old Master Hurlbutt, I’m sure I would’ve been devoured whole and alive.”

Gale calmly commented, “Are you angry at me, sly child?”

“I had just gotten out of the forum conference and it’s only right I report to you regardless of how good or bad the outcome is. It would be a lie if I told you that I wasn’t angry. I’m still young after all, so I’m not as well-rounded and generous when it comes to many things.”

Gale suddenly chuckled.

“Haha, well then, sly child. You said that you’re here to report, so how did it go?”

Jasper replied calmly, “To you, Old Master Hurlbutt, it’s bad of course. But to me personally, it’s neither. Still, I’ve got to thank you, Old Master Hurlbutt “You’ve taught me a very valuable lesson, one that I will remember so that I don’t make the same mistakes again.”

Gale’s tone was calm and relaxed. “It’s great that you think that way. Nothing’s completely smooth-sailing in society, so it’s not necessarily a bad thing to make mistakes and lose a few times while you’re still young.”

“You’re right, Old Master Hurlbutt. I’m still young and I can afford to make mistakes. But I don’t think it’s the same for you, Old Master Hurlbutt,” Jasper said calmly.

Gale replied with a subtle smile, “So you’re planning to do something against me, then?”

“Not exactly. And even if I did have something in mind, it wouldn’t make sense for me to tell you in advance so you could prepare yourself, right?”

“Not to mention that the situation within the Haddock Chamber of Commerce is rather complex. No matter how insolent I am, I doubt I’d be arrogant enough to think that I can fight against the whole of Haddock Chamber of Commerce alone right now.”

Gale replied grimly when he heard Jasper’s claim, “So you’ll still remember what happened tonight even after you’ve grown up? Do you not think that I’ll pluck out a potential weed like you from my garden before you manage to overgrow?”

“You keep calling me a sly child, Old Master Hurlbutt, but if you allow me a moment of disrespect, you’re also a sly old man to me. Since we’re both sly, then there’s no need to keep pretending like our intentions are sincere.”

“You wouldn’t believe me if I told you I’d leave the matter be, would you? Nor would I believe you if you told me that you wouldn’t be wary of me.”

“Since neither of us believes the other, then there’s no need for lies and fake pleasantries either.”

“I called tonight for a very simple reason. Firstly, to report that the forum conference has come to an end with an outcome that is unfavorable to you but impartial to me.”

“Secondly to inform you that Alban and I have made a bet. He claimed that he has a weakness of yours I can exploit, which I am very interested in.”

Gale did not react for a long time after Jasper was done. While the latter could not see Gale’s expression from where he was, Jasper could almost guess that the old man was rather pissed now.

“It’s as he said. The Haddock and Teo Chambers of Commerce are opposing parties, and each side hopes for the downfall of the other.”