

Life at The Top – Chapter 1266

“The agent you chose was actually your relative. How much rebates did you enjoy, hmm? All I got was a small taste of the benefits! It would’ve been fine if no one found out, but now that the cat’s out of the bag, you definitely will have to suffer more consequences since you took the lion’s share of the profits!”

Hannibal clenched his jaw angrily. “I only helped you because I pitied you, b*tch! That’s why I gave you a chance!”

“Enough!”

Jasper said, interrupting the two’s fight.

June and Hannibal immediately fell silent, and they did not dare to say anything more.

“Chad, how do you think this incident should be resolved?” Jasper asked indifferently.

Chad glared at the duo harshly and replied, “Strictly, and according to the law. We should investigate the incident and then sue these two!”

“Go ahead, then,” Jasper waved his hand.

As far as Jasper was concerned, what mattered most was to understand the truth of the situation. How the situation should be dealt with was a small matter.

June and Hannibal were just first line managers, G4 administrative employees. No matter how much trouble they caused, it was not worth Jasper's headache.

What truly posed a problem to Jasper was that if June and Hannibal could enjoy rebates over purchasing cars today, then another pair of July and Lectors could gain similar rebates over something else somewhere down the line.

Agents were not stupid, and there was no way they would give benefits out for free.

These benefits would naturally be earned back from JW Company.

Therefore, in the end, their corrupt behavior still interfered with the company's interests.

It was impossible for Jasper to completely prevent corruption. All he could do was try to minimize the possibility of it happening through strict regulations while rectifying the nature of his employees.

He did this by greatly increasing the cost of committing these acts. If the price to pay for breaking regulations was too huge, they would then be deterred from committing the crime.

It was unrealistic for Jasper to request that every employee treat the company as their own home.

Both June and Hannibal were horrified when they heard Jasper and Chad.

“Mr. Laine, I really only made the wrong decision because I was tempted by money! Please, considering how long we’ve worked with you, please forgive me this once!”

“Yes, Mr. Laine! I’m willing to return all the money I took! Please just forgive me this once! I promise! I will never, ever do this again!”

The duo’s pleas were extremely pitiful and their voices were filled with fright and remorse as they begged Jasper for mercy.

They were both well aware that once they were sued, they would lose this widely envied job and be forced to go to prison.

The other four deputy managers could not help but feel pity as they took in the sight before them. More than pity, they also felt relieved.

Their mistake today might lose them their job at most, but at least they did not break the law and would not have to be thrown into prison.

Unfortunately, Jasper was not in the mood to think about those four.

He got up and walked toward the meeting room door.

“Mr. Laine, how should I deal with these four?” Chad chased after and asked.

Jasper replied calmly, “Give them one last chance. This is also my last act of tolerance. But both Hannibal and June have to be dealt with sternly. Make this matter widely known within the company. I want all the employees within the company to know about what happened to them.

“I hope this deters the others from following in their footsteps.”

Chad replied courteously, “I understand, Mr. Laine.”

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As far as Chad was concerned, all he had to think of was how to best carry out Jasper's instructions.

However, as the highest-ranking member of his business, there was no one to tell Jasper what to do.

Because of this, it was unreasonable for Jasper to personally handle every single problem or matter within the company.

Instead, he needed to find the source of the problem and get rid of it at its roots.

Coincidentally, this was also what made this situation so difficult. The source of this problem was human greed, something impossible to get rid of altogether. "You're being stubborn, Jasper."

Sitting in front of a mountain painting, Dawson told his confused future son-in-law in his large Schuler Group office with a crescent eyed smile.

JW Company's overall ability had long surpassed the Schuler Group.

Thanks to the memory Jasper had of his past life as well as his extreme talent for management, the man was capable of pushing JW to even higher heights.

However, Jasper had to admit that Dawson's experience from a lifetime in this business world was something Jasper could not match right now.

Hence, he decided to go to the Schuler Group in the afternoon to ask Dawson for advice.

"I've never thought of myself as perfect and peerless. I have my weaknesses too and there are problems that I don't know how to deal with. But an elder will always have more experience than me, which is why I come to ask you for help."

Jasper told Dawson sincerely.

Dawson waved his hand and got up to pass Jasper a cup of tea.

"I've met a similar issue a few years ago, too.

"You should know that the Schuler Group's main business is the supermarket industry. Supermarkets have many constantly-changing supply channels, from daily products, to

snacks, to electronic appliances. It ranges from the cheapest products worth a few cents to the expensive ones costing thousands.

“Because of how big, famous, and recognized Schuler Supermarkets are, many commercial products will try their hardest to get a contract with us.

“But when it comes to the same product, take potato chips, for example, I’ll only sign contracts with two to three brands at most. No more than that.”

“I used to supervise this myself, but with the increasing number of outlets as well as range of products, I had no other choice but to let go of this control.”

“By doing so, I was also giving the opportunity for people to exploit loopholes.”

“Bigger problems might involve choosing suppliers while smaller issues could involve missing payment settlement deadlines. During the most severe period of Schuler Group’s corruption, a mere shop owner of a small area made me lose 100 thousand in a year.”

“This was 100 thousand during the nineties.”

Dawson told jasper matter of factly, his tone gentle and calm.

“I was furious when I discovered this, and I ordered for a complete internal inspection to smoke out all the ongoing corruption within the group. Can you guess how that ended?”

Jasper smiled and replied, “You must’ve caught countless mice and dealt with them strictly.”

Dawson smiled and said, “You’re half right.”

“I did indeed catch many mice, but I only dealt with a small portion of them.”

Jasper was stunned for a moment before he frowned in deep thought.

“Yes. Because I realized that there were too many mice. Getting rid of them all meant losing at least half of the Schuler Group’s employees.”

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“The group was growing then. It shouldn’t matter if people left since there would be more trying to get employed.”

Dawson then clapped Jasper’s shoulder and said meaningfully, “But so what?”

“The fright from completely cleaning the business might last a few years at most before the same situation occurred again. Am I supposed to get rid of half my employees every year? The group will crash after I do this a few times.”

“I didn’t know what to do at that point, but Wendy’s mom gave me an idea.”

“Half a month later, the group set up a tidiness department. The department worked with the government to advertise the common law, mainly to induce fear and to increase the psychological cost of committing the crime.”

“I let them know that they would be safe if the group did not catch them, but would be in huge trouble if they did.”

“Then I got rid of the most severe cases and left the rest alone.”

“From then on, this tidiness department would catch and punish a few cases every year, but would turn a blind eye toward the majority.”

“Up until now, even as we talk, I’m confident that there are still people gaining rebates and being bribed within the Schuler Group. This seems to have become a publicly known secret within the group.”

“If I know it, then they must know it as well. We have a tacit understanding that small cases are write offs, but anyone who does anything that might severely interfere with the group’s interests will be in great trouble.”

Dawson did not say anymore after this. He knew that with Jasper’s intellect, the man only needed a small nudge and he would understand everything by himself.

“So, Jasper. As someone of higher status, what we need to do is control the balance and not the actions of our employees. Give them a baseline and let them know where the boundaries lie. Whoever oversteps this will face dire consequences.”

“If you want to control everything your subordinates to, then not only will an owner like you die from exhaustion, but you’ll end up alone as well.”

“No one will want to stay when you’re too controlling. As people of higher ranks, we have to remember to punish only those who cause bigger issues and forgive those who make smaller mistakes when we deal with internal conflicts. Our forefathers say that ruling with both kindness and ferocity is the way to go. There must be a reason why ‘kindness’ comes first.”

Jasper fell silent for a long while before he slowly nodded. “I understand what to do, then.”

“That’s good. So, are you two coming home for dinner tonight?” Dawson changed the subject to a lighter and homely one.

“Yeah. I’ll go fetch Wendy then go home,” Jasper replied with a smile.

“Okay. Go then, I still have a meeting. I’ll go home right after it’s done.”

Jasper left the Schuler Group and was about to fetch Wendy when he found out that she had headed to the company.

Wendy stood in the company with a frosty look on her face.

“You found out already?” Jasper asked with a smile when he walked in and saw her icy expression.

Wendy replied angrily, “They’re going too far! How could they work for outsiders?”

“I wouldn’t call this working for outsiders, per se. This is just the result of human greed.” Jasper waved his hand, acting much more open minded than Wendy was.

“We have to catch all of them and deal with them strictly!”

Wendy had always been a black and white person. There was even less of a reason to tolerate these people when they were harming the company's interests.

"I plan to establish an independent supervision department in the future. This department will be independent of the administrative body and report to me and me alone. What do you think?" Jasper sat down and asked.

Wendy agreed, "I think that's a pretty good idea. It's just... it's very important who you choose to take charge of this department. Do you have any candidates yet?"

Jasper rubbed his temple and replied, "No one in the company right now is suited for this kind of work, so I don't plan to transfer existing employees but instead bring in somebody from outside. That way, I'd be able to avoid any ongoing connections they have with other company personnel."

Wendy sighed and said guiltily, "Maybe I shouldn't have rejected the proposal for allocating cars so forcefully. The entire situation could have been avoided."

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Jasper walked over to Wendy when he heard her blame herself.

Jasper ruffled Wendy's hair and said, "What are you talking about, I haven't even thanked you for helping me bring this issue to light yet.

“From the way things look now, various issues have already occurred within the company since a long time back. I just didn’t realize them before. It’s great that we discovered them this early since it means we can deal with them early too.

“It’d be too late if the situation was already unsalvageable once we found out.”

That afternoon, Jasper took time out to call Jack, who was far away in Swallow Capital.

As Weresoff’s ex-senior executive, Jack was very experienced in this field.

To the point where Jasper was initially inclined to appoint Jack as the person in charge of this supervision department.

After all, Jack was the company’s most senior executive. He was the first senior executive Jasper invited and employed at the early start up stages.

Both Jack’s experience and prestige qualified him to keep people in line.

However, Jasper considered how Jack still played a role in Sena’s current smooth operations and had no other choice but to give up that thought.

Despite this, Jack agreed with the introduction of this supervision department.

However, he had a question about it.

“Mr. Laine, will this supervision department be part of the parent company itself or will it manage JW Capital and its subsidiaries?”

This was a very important question.

When it came to the large subsidiaries like Terizone, Abbylon, and even Sena, Jasper had promised not to interfere with the specific operations of the company.

Still, even though there was nothing wrong with suddenly introducing a supervision department right now, Hudson and the rest would certainly have some reservations about them.

Thus, after a short moment of pondering, Jasper replied, “The supervision department will only manage the investment, electronics, and the real estate development company for now. When it comes to Terizone, Abbylone, Sena, and the entertainment companies, I’ll leave it up to you guys to deal with it yourselves.”

Jack exhaled in relief when he heard Jasper.

“Alright. I’ll comb through Sena first.”

Jasper waved to dismiss him. “Don’t make too big of a deal about it either. After all, problems like this are still less prominent in Internet companies. It’s mainly physical companies where these problems easily arise. You have relevant experience, so I’m sure you know what to do.”

Jack nodded and suddenly asked, “Mr. Laine, do you have any particular person in mind to head this supervision department?”

“Do you have recommendations?” Jasper arched his brow slightly and asked.

Jack smiled and replied, “Of course not.”

Jack was not stupid. He knew that this supervision department was something extremely sensitive. It might not have been officially established yet, but this department would surely turn into a sharp weapon Jasper wielded in the future.

For a position as crucial as this, Jasper would still be wary no matter how much the man entrusted him.

Nor could Jack willy-nilly suggest a candidate to take charge of such an important department. It would not be worth it to attract Jasper's suspicion for no reason.

Jack knew that Jasper was not someone who doubted people easily, but at the end of the day, they were still superior and subordinate before anything else. As an experienced man, Jack would not do anything to garner unnecessary suspicion.

"But I do suggest that you employ someone who has experience in the government judicial branch. That would be best."

Jasper nodded when he heard this suggestion and replied, "I'll give it some thought."

After ending the call with Jack, Jasper contacted Zachary next.

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Jasper did not have too great candidates for this position so the best solution now was to see if the Law family could help.

Jasper did not expect Zachary to actually provide him an exceptional individual.

“I have a junior who resigned from the Anti-Corruption Bureau as first deputy director half a year ago. He’s in his early forties, and the best age to start his career in a company.”

“After half a year of rest, he’s been planning to start his new career lately. I could introduce you two if you’d like?”

Jasper’s eyes lit up.

From an experience perspective, this man who had just resigned from being the first deputy director of the Anti-Corruption Bureau was the perfect candidate.

“He’s got a great future ahead of him if he became the first deputy director in his forties. Why did he resign?” Jasper asked.

Zachary replied slightly wistfully, “He was a sacrificial lamb in political fights. The judicial system wasn’t the place for him. Just keep this to yourself, but he’s definitely got a clean background.”

With Zachary’s guarantee, Jasper nodded and replied, “That’s great, then. I’d like to see him as soon as possible if I could.”

“Alright. I’ll send you two each other’s contact information and you two talk it out amongst yourselves.”

With the head of this supervision department now identified, the most important factor behind the setting up of this department was settled as well.

Jasper let out a sigh of relief once he had completed this first step.

Clocking out that afternoon, Jasper then brought Wendy back to the Schuler villa for dinner. Since there was nothing for him to do, Jasper stayed over at the Schuler villa that night as well.

His parents were both working at the shipyard in Brac County, so Jasper normally would not think to return to the empty house. Instead, he opted to stay at the Schuler villa, which was less quiet.

After dinner, Jasper received a call from Harbor City.

“Hello, is this Mr. Jasper Laine?”

A middle aged man’s gentle voice sounded over the phone.

There was a very strong Harbor City accent in the man's tone. Thankfully, Jasper had known Henry for a long time, or he might not have understood this accent at all.

"I am. Is this Mr. Mortimer Higgins, whom Uncle Schuler had introduced?"

Mortimer replied on the other end of the line, "That is correct. I heard that you have plans to employ someone to be the person in charge of the supervision department. I'd like to try for the position."

Jasper chuckled and replied, "It's not very convenient doing this over the phone, Mr. Higgins. Perhaps you could come to Nauritus City over the next few days? We could talk in person. Regardless of how our discussion ends, I'll pay for your traveling expenses."

Jasper's detailed and cautious behavior gained the favor of Mortimer, who normally dealt with judicial work. The latter quickly replied.

"Sure. I'll take an early flight tomorrow morning and we can talk in person... Coincidentally, I also received an invitation to a Legal Exchange Conference in Nauritus City as well. So I might be a little late."

"That's alright. I'll await your grand arrival tomorrow, Mr. Higgins."

Wendy walked over with a cup of tea from behind Jasper as the latter ended the call.

“Was that a candidate to lead your new supervision department?”

Jasper nodded and replied, “He’ll be here tomorrow. Then we can both interview this ex-first deputy director of Harbor City’s Anti-Corruption Bureau.”

“Is he someone of such high status? That status is almost equivalent to the Deputy Attorney General’s of the Supreme Procuratorate! Would he want to work in our company?” Wendy was shocked.

Jasper chuckled and replied, “Don’t underestimate our company either. We’re very strong too, so who says we aren’t worthy to have someone so powerful work for us?”