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Life at The Top – Chapter 1705 - 1708

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“This is last week. After I officially accepted your entrustment, I started arranging funds and account entry.”

“Since I was the one who personally arranged it, the entire set of operating procedures were implemented with the highest standard of security while the level of confidentiality was also maintained at the highest level. At this price, we have successfully absorbed about 7% of the available stocks.”

“But just look at yesterday.” Celine zoomed in on the candlestick chart and said, “There is a fund that hasn’t been known until now, and it has begun to absorb Nokia’s chips in sweeping amounts. In addition to that, it is doing so hard and fast.

“After the follow up and observation of the whole trading day, our analysis team have only deduced that these are funds from the mainland from Somerland for the time being, and it’s preventing you from acquiring Nokia.”

Jasper frowned and said, “Mainland? But almost no one in the mainland knows my plan. This is not logical.”

“That’s why you’re the only one who can figure this out.”

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Celine stretched and threw the laptop that was full of company secrets directly into Jasper's arms. She said, "I'll rest my eyes for a while. You can read through it slowly. Don't disturb me until we arrive. I need to have my beauty sleep."

Jasper ignored her. Instead, he carefully started to check the market data.

The vehicle drove for an hour and a half before finally reaching the entrance of the hotel.

Jasper closed the laptop and rubbed his eyes and neck that were a little sore. After waking Celine, Jasper got out of the car first.

"Something's indeed wrong." Jasper said as soon as he arrived at the suite that had been reserved for Celine.

"Of course there is a problem. If not, why would I come all the way here?"

Celine curled up on the sofa and said lazily, "You'd better quickly find out who are those people who want to take action against you and what is their purpose. Otherwise, it'll be very hard to win this fight if you're in the light but your enemy is hiding in the dark"

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“The number of people who want me to die in Somerland is no less than the ones abroad, but there are really not many people who can put this idea into action.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly. He went through all the forces in his mind and then shook his head and said, “No clue, but we can come up with something. My acquisition of Nokia is very secretive. Not many people by my side even know about it.”

“As for the acquisition of stocks from the financial market, I have always contacted you personally and I have not dealt with anyone else.”

“But even so, the other party knew about it and immediately blocked it. It can be seen that the other party’s power and background are comparable to mine. It is possible that they’re even stronger than me.”

“If this assumption is true, won’t it be meaningless even if I find out who it is?”

“Why would it be meaningless?”

Celine laughed after being enraged by Jasper.

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“You don’t even know who the enemy is, so how are you going to fight back? You can fight back only if you know this, while its also possible they want something else. You can only decide if you want to fight or talk to them when you know who the enemy is.”

Chapter 1706

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“You also said that knowing who the other party is nothing more than deciding what to do next.”

“But since the other party’s power will only be higher and not lower than mine, there is no possibility of discussing this matter now that they have taken action.”

Jasper pondered, “The most important thing is that I don’t have the time and energy to wrestle with such a group of people now.”

“I will acquire Nokia regardless of whether they want me to or not. I have already given so much in the early stages. Now, no one can stop me from continuing to accomplish this no matter what method they use on me.”

“How many shares have you bought for me?”

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Celine replied, "About 9% in total."

Jasper frowned and said, "Now I have 23.1% of the shares on hand, it's only 32.1% after adding this 9%. It's not enough, far from enough."

Celine said, "The only thing you can get right now is the 22% of the shares owned by the Finland National Social Security Fund. Once you take these shares, your shareholding ratio will reach 51% or more and you will complete the holding."

"But the majority is more than two-thirds of the equity, which is 67%. There are only two ways to achieve this."

Celine immediately replied, "Either you increase equity after completing the holding or you continue to acquire shares in the stock market, but by doing this, you will undoubtedly collide with the people who are fighting against you."

"Now JW Foundation's funds are trapped in a temporarily locked account and you can't touch it. Even if you can, the consequences will be too great. After all, it is likely to accelerate the death of JW Foundation in advance."

Jasper said with a solemn expression, "Then we can only choose to increase equity after completing the holding."

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“But if you want to be the majority shareholder, you have to buy 22% of the shares held by the Finland National Social Security Fund. We have already evaluated this matter. Do you want to know the conclusion we got to?”

Celine looked at Jasper with a faint smile and without waiting for him to speak, she replied, “It’s 0.”

The corners of Jasper’s mouth twitched.

Although he knew that the probability of this was very low, after Celine gave him an official evaluation on behalf of Colossal Investments, he still felt his heart turning cold.

As the world’s number one investment bank, it could be said that as long as you could provide the money, Colossal Investments’ scope of business was almost unlimited.

Meanwhile, their biggest business was procurement. For example, helping companies from all over the world to float in various trading centers around the world or, for example, Jasper putting forward a demand right now for Colossal Investments to use their resources to help him find sellers or people who could otherwise resolve his problems.

For such an investment bank, its internal risk assessment team was undoubtedly the best in the world. Jasper knew this very well. JW Capital would not be able to catch up

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to Colossal Investments for another 20 years. This had nothing to do with money. It was entirely the accumulation of systems and talent reserves over the years.

Now that Celine had given him this judgment, normal people would just declare the matter hopeless.

Yet, for Jasper...

“I still have a way.”

Jasper took out the business card that he had not used much since he got it. There was only one title, one name, and one phone number on the card.

Grey Van Hallen, the hereditary Viscount of Finland.

Jasper thought for a while and dialed the number on the business card.

Celine also got up from the sofa curiously and leaned in. She wanted to know what Jasper would do to solve this problem.

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The call went through quickly.

“Hello, this is the residence of Viscount Grey.”

Fluent English came from the other end of the phone.

“I’m looking for Viscount Grey.”

Jasper said. After thinking about it, he guessed that such a rich nobleman might have forgotten himself, so he added, “If the Viscount asks who I am, please tell him that his friend from the beach at Coreana half a month ago wants his help.”

“Okay, please wait a moment.”

While waiting, Celine widened her eyes and asked curiously, “Viscount? There aren’t many nobles left in Finland. Who do you know?”

Jasper said after he covered the microphone, “Grey Van Hallen, do you know him?”

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“It’s him!”

Celine did know him.

She said with a weird expression, “I don’t know this guy, but I have heard of him. How should I say this? Some people think he is very difficult to get along with, but others think he is a very loyal person.”

“Let’s see if you’re his type, but since he gave you his business card, I don’t think he has a bad impression of you.”

“Finland is a very special country. There were nobles in the past, but after so long, not many remain.”

“Although the remaining nobles are very low key, they hold the invisible power of Finland. If he is willing to help you, then you might really have a chance in this.”

After listening to Celine, Jasper looked at her suspiciously and said, “How do you know him?”

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“There are still a few hereditary nobles left. Except for the United Kingdom, there are only 180 left in the world and you can count the Finnish ones on one hand. When it comes to the more high profile ones, you’ll eventually hear about them so long as their statuses are slightly higher.”

As soon as Celine finished speaking, a voice came from the phone in Jasper’s hand.

“Haha! Are you my friend, Jasper?”

Listening to Grey’s enthusiastic voice on the phone, Jasper also breathed a sigh of relief. He said, “I am in Finland now and I wonder if there is a chance for me to visit your residence?”

Grey answered, “The door of my place is always open for friends. Where are you staying? I will send someone to pick you up.”

After telling Grey the location and name of the hotel where he was staying, Jasper and Grey exchanged courtesies before hanging up.

Jasper thought that Grey would pick him up in an extravagant convoy at most. However, if he knew in advance that Grey would send a helicopter formation for him, he figured he would turn it down.

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“Didn’t you say that the nobles in Finland are very low key? You call this low key?”

On the helipad on the hotel’s rooftop, Jasper pointed to the slowly descending helicopter and loudly asked Celine, who was next to him while facing the strong wind and loud noise.

Celine covered her mouth and smiled, but the noise at the scene was too loud so she did not speak loudly like Jasper. After all, this was not lady-like at all.

The first helicopter landed, and there were two more hovering nearby. Jasper raised his head to take a look and realized that... Oh damn, those were armed helicopters with weapons dangling from them.

Jasper then lowered his head against the strong wind while he grabbed Celine with his other hand and ran toward the helicopter without hesitation.

Chapter 1707

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Jasper did not know exactly where Grey’s residence was, but he flew in the helicopter for at least an hour before he felt it descend.

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When Jasper looked down from the window with Celine, he saw a large stretch of snow capped mountains in the distance as well as a forest and a lake nearby. The sight in front of them was like a fantasy. Right below the helicopter, a manor that covered an area so large that it even accommodated a part of the forest appeared in their vision.

“This area should be calculated in hectares...”

Even Celine, who was a Maynard in North America, sighed.

Jasper was about to make a joke when he heard what she said.

“It’s almost half the size of my house.”

“ ... ”

Jasper turned his head and cursed at this disgusting world for being so hateful.

After the helicopter landed, Jasper and Celine got off the helicopter together. What they saw was a row of male and female servants standing on both sides while Grey and the woman whom Jasper rescued stood in the middle while holding the child.

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“My friend!”

Grey laughed and opened his hands to greet him. Then, he gave Jasper a warm hug.

“You are the savior of my wife and child so I must treat you well... Oh, is this beautiful woman your girlfriend?”

The sentence at the end was clearly a question directed at Celine.

Celine stood there and replied to Grey with a smile on her face, “Viscount Grey, it’s nice to meet you. My last name is Maynard and I am a Maynard from North America.”

This sentence stunned Grey. Obviously, he was no stranger to the Maynards from North America.

“I see. Although I have not been in contact with your family, I know that your family has a lot of prestige in North America... Well, Jasper, are you from the same family as well?”

Celine was not someone who liked to show off her identity. She actively mentioned her identity to make Jasper look more important in front of Grey.

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Obviously, this worked.

Judging from the changes in Grey's eyes and tone, one would know that even in Finland, the Maynards from North America were well respected.

The more high end a circle was, the smaller the restrictions between regions. This was because everyone knew that with their power, it was very easy to start cross-border cooperation or cross-border fall-out.

"I'm not," Jasper replied directly.

Grey nodded seemingly and then smiled, "Doesn't matter. Jasper, you are the benefactor of my wife and child, so I brought them here to thank you."

After Grey said that, the woman from Sunrise Land walked over sweetly with the child in her arms. She bowed to Jasper respectfully and said, "Thank you, Mr. Laine."

Jasper smiled and said, "It's nothing. It was just a slight effort..."

As Jasper said that, he pinched the cheek of the child that was lying in his mother's arms. He said with a grin, "How adorable."

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The little guy grinned at Jasper and then a big bubble blew out of his nose.

After everyone greeted each other, Grey led Jasper into his manor. To be precise, they went to the building he most often used to receive guests among the manor's countless buildings.

"I have prepared dinner for the two of you, but there is still some time before it is ready. Jasper, you said before that you need my help, we can talk about it now."

After sitting down in the reception room, Grey went straight to the topic and spoke directly.

Jasper liked how Grey was so straightforward. After all, he did not come here for a dinner party.

"I want to acquire Nokia."

Jasper's first sentence caused Grey to raise his eyebrows.

"My friend, this is very difficult," Grey shook his head and said.

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“I have acquired a total of 23.9% of the shares, including the ones from the Workers’ Union and Finland National Telecommunications Group. Even if it is extremely difficult, I have already accomplished a quarter of it.”

Jasper’s words surprised Grey. He looked at Jasper and then smiled. “My friend, it seems that you really intend to do this, but this is not enough.”

“That’s why I hope with your help, I can take 22% of the shares in the Finland National Social Security Fund and complete the holding.” Jasper went straight to the point.

Grey frowned and said, “You have to know that the account of the Social Security Fund is controlled by the Finnish government. No one can use this money, including its assets, except for the bill made by the top executive and the parliament.”

“That’s why only Viscount Grey can help me with this matter,” Jasper said sincerely.

Grey did not say a word. The reception room fell into silence for a while.

“This matter is still difficult to handle.”

After a long time, Grey shook his head. He was rejecting Jasper tactfully.

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“The problem is that the current situation in Finland is relatively delicate. Many forces are vying for each other’s interests. I don’t want to get involved in this critical moment, but if I help you persuade this matter, then I must fight and compromise for the interests of those forces...”

“Never mind anything else. This involves two sensitive points in the form of the Social Security Fund and Nokia. Disturbance to either one may cause turbulence, do you know what I mean?”

Jasper replied, “Viscount Grey, I don’t think there is anything that can’t be done in this world, it’s only a matter of whether the benefits are enough to incentivize it.”

Grey laughed and said, “I know a little bit about your current situation. How many benefits do you think you can produce to move me?”

“Are you going to rely on the fact that you’re my savior?”

Grey’s words were unpleasant to the ears, but they were realistic.

If Jasper was an ordinary person and he was asking Grey for money, Grey would not even bat an eyelid even if it was one hundred million or two hundred million. The favor of a viscount was far beyond the value of this small amount. However, no matter how high the value was, there would be a cap.

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Obviously, to Grey, what Jasper was asking him to do now exceeded the value of his promise. Which noblemen truly needed their reputation?

They would throw it away if they needed to.

“What about gratitude from the Maynards from North America?”

Celine, who had been silent this whole time, spoke at this moment.

Grey looked over immediately.

“Miss Maynard, I wonder if you’re... ”

“The second heir,” Celine said flatly.

Grey lifted his eyebrows.

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“Viscount Grey, as far as I know, your iron ore property in Aurea is currently being investigated by the Aurea government and international environmental organizations. The root cause is that they suspect it of major tax issues, right?”

“My uncle happens to be in charge of some of the Maynards’ work in Aurea, maybe I can help you convince my uncle.”

Grey furrowed his brows and his eyes shifted between Celine and Jasper. Suddenly, he said, “Give me two days.”

Chapter 1708

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The atmosphere was lively at the dinner party. A group of people with unknown origins, all of whom were rich or expensive, were all invited by Grey to attend this dinner.

As the guest of honor, Jasper was warmly welcomed by these Finnish big shots.

Regardless of how much Jasper respected Grey, he did not care about this. He would exchange a few words with the guests and consider himself familiar with them.

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Meanwhile, Celine had undoubtedly become the most beautiful woman at the scene. Regardless of her appearance or her temperament, she was always the most exceptional wherever she went.

This time was no exception.

Although everyone knew that Celine was the female companion of the guest of honor, Jasper, she was still surrounded by a group of young talents.

However, compared to Jasper's sleekness in conversing, Miss Celine would not treat them with such a good attitude.

If they were passable, Celine would exchange a few words with them, but if they were not, Celine would not even want to talk to them.

Regardless of her identity as the president of the Terra regional branch of Colossal Investments or the second ranked heir to the Maynards in North America, she had enough confidence to do so.

"This is so boring, and the food is not nice."

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Celine complained to Jasper during the party.

“I will take you to a Somerland restaurant to eat good food later,” Jasper said with a smile.

Celine finally grinned happily.

“How many times have you helped me?”

Jasper asked, “The thing you promised Grey before is actually pretty challenging, right?”

Even a fool could figure this out if they thought with their knees. The benefit that would make Grey change his mind would certainly not be anything smaller than asking him to help Jasper handle the Social Security Fund to take down Nokia.

“It’s okay. You should know there’s nothing like having a man on the spot to smooth the way. It just so happens that my uncle has a good relationship with the supervisor in this area and it depends on how much I am willing to do for him.”

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Celine did not seem to care, and she rolled her eyes at Jasper in a charming manner, “You know that I have helped you so many times, so aren’t you going to repay me?”

“Tell me how you want to be repaid.” Jasper said seriously.

Every time Celine helped him, it would be something huge. Jasper knew very well that if it had not been for Celine’s help in several critical moments, his journey would not have been so smooth.

“I haven’t thought about it yet.”

Celine said with an alluring smile, “I will tell you when I think about it. When the time comes, you can’t refuse.”

“Of course.” Jasper laughed.

The dinner party lasted three to four hours.

They were all people with reputations, and they understood the rules. After they exchanged greetings, they would leave after showing their faces.

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As the host, Grey was nowhere to be seen after showing up at the beginning and end of the party to say a few words to Jasper alone.

However, before Jasper and Celine left, Grey came to speak to them.

“I’ve called them for you and this matter can be done, but you must be mentally prepared for the price.”

Grey’s words made Jasper frown, “I can negotiate any price.”

“Good...” Grey nodded and said, “Then you should go back first and wait for my message.”

Jasper left with Celine and, naturally, it was by helicopter transfer.

Back at the hotel, Jasper did not go back on his promise. He took Celine to eat at the Somerland restaurant that he and Greg had visited many times.

“Do you still have money?”

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While they were eating, Celine suddenly asked this question.

“The entire acquisition plan will cost at least 20 billion US Dollars. Can you still get so much money now?”

The market value of Nokia was around 30 billion. If Jasper wanted to acquire 51% of the shares like he was currently doing now, in addition to the premiums and various expenses, the 20 billion US Dollars Celine mentioned would not be enough.

She was very aware of Jasper’s current situation. Whether it was Jasper’s own money or the money drawn from JW Capital, all of it was trapped in JW Foundation such that he could not touch it at all.

Hence she was very curious about Jasper’s confidence to succeed in this acquisition of the century that would shake the world once it was exposed.

“I don’t have money.”

Jasper’s brief and decisive words dumbfounded Celine.

“So are you only issuing IOUs now?”

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Celine thought that Jasper was completely insane.

Now that everything was almost done, they would just wait for the actual implementation, but if Jasper could not get the money, then his name and goodwill would be destroyed and the compensation fee for breach of contract would be sky high.

“Just because I have no money now, it doesn’t mean that I will have no money in the future.”

Jasper smiled and took a piece of dessert for Celine. Then, he said, “Before the establishment of the JW Foundation, the SBS Bank had approached me. If I want to borrow funds from them now, I think I can get 50 billion US Dollars at least”

Celine obviously knew what SBS Bank meant. She frowned and said, “However, the SBS Bank must want you to use the funds they lent to you on JW Foundation.”

“The entire JW Foundation is mine, so what does it matter?” Jasper asked rhetorically.

Celine said angrily, “You know what I mean. The SBS Bank in the mainland gave you this money in the hopes that you would use it to fight Wall Street, but you used it to buy Nokia for yourself. Do you think the higher-ups will forgive you?”

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“So what if they don’t?”

Jasper chuckled. Celine’s logic was correct in any country except Somerland. In Somerland, it was not quite wrong, but it was also not so correct. This was because the thinking of the people in Somerland was very simple, I wanted you to do things and I gave you resources. I would not care whether you used the resources or how you used them. Everyone would be happy as long as things were done.

“The mainland hopes that I can withstand Wall Street capital, but everyone has seen the actual situation now. In JW Foundation’s current situation, we might not be able to win against them even if I emptied the SBS Bank while facing the limitless capital pressure of Wall Street.”

“But what if I use a small amount of money to achieve what they want me to in disguise?”

Celine bit her fork, frowned, and said, “I always feel that you are walking a tightrope. You will be finished if there is a slight mistake.”

“When have I ever not been on the tightrope throughout this whole journey?”

Jasper asked lightly, causing Celine to fall into silence. Inexplicably, Celine felt a little distressed looking at the man eating peacefully in front of her.

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Outsiders only knew that Jasper was as powerful as a king and as cunning as a fox, and his rapid rise even made people doubt whether he was the illegitimate child of a big shot in the government.

However, at this moment, Celine saw the sadness and difficulty that this man was hiding under his glamor.

“If you need help, you can tell me at any time.”

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