

Life at the Top Chapter 1026

Jasper frowned slightly.

The staff building of Faith County's number one high school had only been demolished after 2010 in his past life because it was too old.

So why was it being demolished now?

Jasper could not help but feel that there was more to the situation.

Just then, two familiar voices sounded at the door.

Shockingly, it was Archer and Ronald.

"Mr. Nicholls, you swore that you were going to persuade the old woman. That's why I let you come here first.

"See, I even got the signatures of the last family on the sixth floor, and you're telling me you can't even handle one old woman?"

Ronald sounded displeased.

The important business he referred to moments ago was to sign contracts on behalf of the demolition company.

He thought that Archer would be able to handle this old Tiana woman, but he did not expect Archer to come back empty-handed.

Ronald began to feel impatient when he thought about the pressure the real estate company was giving him.

It was rare that such a profitable piece of business fell at his feet, and Ronald desperately wanted to show his capabilities to the client. That way, all new demolition businesses in Faith County would be given to him.

However, if he could not carry out the first bit of business well, then there was no future to speak of.

Ronald's expression darkened and he pushed open the room doors.

Ronald snickered when he entered and realized that both Jasper and Wendy were there. "F*cking Hell, why are you everywhere, you stupid f*cker?"

Ronald then turned to Ms. Tiana, who was sitting on the bed, and spat arrogantly, "My name is Ronald, Madam. I'm the person in charge of Robust Demolitions.

"I'm sure my subordinates and your student Archer already told you about the demolition. So, I won't waste my time. I've brought the contract, so sign it and the demolition compensation will be banked into your account in the afternoon."

"Get out! I will not sign your papers!" Ms. Tiana shouted with newfound strength.

Ronald sneered and spoke, "I already gave you respect, you old woman! I've seen old b*tches like you before, you just want to squeeze me of my money, don't you? Well, I'm telling you, there's no way in hell I'll let you scam me of my money!

"Everyone's already signed it and you're the only one left. You're going to sign this paper whether you want to or not. Either you sign it by yourself and I'll still pay you the demolition fee, or you watch yourself before I kill you!"

Jasper looked at Ronald indifferently as he spoke up, "So you're going to resort to violence, then?"

Ronald scoffed and replied, "Who are you to join the conversation, you stupid f*cker?"

“I’m only letting you be because you’re not worth my time, you brat. Don’t take it for granted. Or do you want to die too?”

“Go out and open your ears. Do you even know who I am in Faith County? Who do you think you are? What gave you the right to raise your voice at me? Had this been any other day, I’d have slapped you across the face long ago. F*cking idiot!”

Ronald then pulled out a contract from his briefcase and tossed it on the bed with a sneer. “Be a good student and persuade this old woman to stop being so stubborn.

“Otherwise, by the time the lights go off and she’s too old to run, an old woman might get buried here when my bulldozer comes to wreak the building.”

This was a blatant threat.

Even Ramona, who had been watching everything happen from the outside, was looking at Ronald furiously, much less Jasper and Wendy.

Archer was the only one with a matter-of-fact expression on his face.

“I suggest you sign the papers, Ms. Tiana. You’re already an old woman, what do you even need so much money for anyway?”

“It’s not like Ronald isn’t giving you money. Don’t think that just because you’re educated you can base everything on the official statement. Did the official statement consider Ronald’s situation?”

“Do you know how many people Ronald has in his demolition company? If he follows the official statements every day, then Ronald and his employees might as well not take home a salary at all!”

“So just sign the paper. This is for your sake. Didn’t you say you don’t care about money or fame and only had your students’ best interests in mind? In that case, why are you being so stubborn now? Just take the money for your retirement.”

Ms. Tiana paled in anger as she seethed, “Do you think I’m doing this for myself? I’m doing this for justice and equality! This house is mine! Do you think you can decide how much to pay me for demolition compensation?”

“I’m still sponsoring the tuition and living costs of more than ten children in poor families! I’m arguing for their sake!”

When she said this, everyone in the room was stunned.

“Ms. Tiana, you’re sponsoring more than ten students?” Wendy gasped.

Ms. Tiana sighed deeply and turned to Wendy, “In the second drawer by my bedside table is a canvas bag. Take it out.”

Wendy followed and pulled out an old canvas bag.

Ms. Tiana took the bag and pulled out a thick pile of envelopes. There were new and old ones, spanning over at least a decade.

Ms. Tiana took these envelopes and said, “You can read the letters if you don’t believe me. These are all written by children I’ve sponsored, and inside them are their pictures.”

After this, Ms. Tiana sighed deeply and continued, “As you said, I’m already old and I don’t even know how many more days alive I have left. I don’t need so much money, but any extra amount will go to another child in need. These children are too pitiful.

“I don’t even want more, just what the rules say. I just want what I am entitled to, is that too much to ask for?”

At that moment, even Ronald felt his cheeks burn in humiliation, let alone Archer.

Jasper glanced at the letters that were filled with innocent words of gratefulness directed at Ms. Tiana. These words and feelings could not be replicated.

Jasper took a deep breath and turned to Ms. Tiana. “Don’t worry, Ms. Tiana. I’m sure heaven sees everything that’s happening here. If you’re willing to demolish this place, then you will not get a Somer Dollar less than you deserve.

“If you don’t want to demolish the house, then God himself can come down here and he still wouldn’t be able to touch a single brick!”

Life at the Top Chapter 1027

Archer was the first to laugh when Jasper said this.

“Would you stop acting like you’re some bigshot, Jasper? Don’t you feel ashamed at all?”

“Seriously, I’m starting to think you’re living backward while all of us are moving on with the times. You were still smart back in school, not daring to interfere with anything or spout any nonsense. It’s only been a few years since we graduated, so why did you start acting pretentious all of a sudden, huh?”

“At least look around before you start acting. Does this look like something you can control?”

Ronald scoffed at Archer’s words and continued, “Who knows, maybe he’s outstanding now? Maybe he’s a boss of some company.”

“Hahaha, as if his company would be more formidable than yours, Ronald. Your demolition company makes at least a million each year.”

“Poor fellows like him only got to eat white bread and vegetables every day. His clothes were always torn and sewn back together, and even his shoes had holes in them. You think he’s ever seen so much money before in his life?”

Archer chortled loudly.

Ronald scoffed when he heard that.

“So, that’s the kind of person he is? And to think that he was so aggressive to me downstairs. If not for you, I’d have taught him a lesson long ago.”

Archer glared at Jasper before turning to Ronald and saying, “You let it go on my behalf, Ronald, I only asked because we used to be classmates.

“However, if he’s going to continue acting so stubborn, then there’s no need to leave him alone for my sake anymore. Hit, slap, do what you have to. Ignorant people like him won’t understand the concept of respect without a harsh beating from society.”

Archer then warned Jasper, “This is my last warning to you, Laine. Ronald isn’t someone you can afford to offend. His demolition company is the biggest in Faith County, and there are dozens of people under him.

“Most of them are ex-convicts, and Ronald’s bent so many of them to his will.

“Ronald’s also working with JW Real Estates. Have you even heard of JW Real Estates? It’s the biggest real estate company in Southeast Province! Do you know about the Southface River Project? Poor fellows like you will never get a chance to encounter such a thing, huh?

“But that’s okay, you can look for yourself. The south bank of Nauritus City’s southface river doesn’t charge admission fees. You’ll understand once you go there that there are tons more powerful people and companies in society. Who do you think you are?”

Jasper looked at Ronald and asked calmly, “JW Real Estates commissioned you to demolish this building?”

Ronald scoffed and replied, “Yeah, so what? Why do you sound like you don’t care about JW Real Estates, hmm?”

“You can’t blame an ignorant person for not understanding fear, Ronald. How can he be afraid when he doesn’t even know how big JW Real Estates is? Haha.”

Ronald laughed out loud at Archer’s words.

Just then, Ms. Tiana turned to Jasper and sighed. “Thank you for your kind intentions, Jasper, but there’s no need for you two to interfere with this. These people are all rascals and they’re willing to do anything to achieve their own goals. I refuse to believe that they would dare to bury an old woman like me here!”

Ronald’s expression grew cold and he shouted at Ms. Tiana, “Take the kindness I’m extending you now, old woman. I already gave offered you my respect when I first negotiated with you, but piss me off and I’ll immediately have my bulldozer come over and run this building to the ground!”

By now, Wendy was absolutely furious.

“You two are going too far!”

Instead of feeling uncomfortable, Wendy’s words only caused Ronald to laugh maddeningly. “A pretty lady is just different. You look so beautiful even when you’re angry and you scolding me only makes me feel better. Hahaha.

“So what if I’m going too far, pretty? After all, I have the qualifications for it.”

Archer piped up in agreement. “You’re too naive, Wendy. This society runs on strength, not reason.

“Ronald’s power is beyond your imagination. Attacking him is a suicide mission, so don’t do anything stupid. With your looks, Ronald and I can still help you enjoy a life in the upper-class.”

“Life in the upper-class?” Jasper asked meaningfully.

“You think that you’ve made it in life because you’re considered powerful in a small place like Faith County?”

Archer scoffed. “I really pity you, Jasper. What are you trying to say? That the world is huge?”

“Yeah, Faith County is small and the world is huge. There’s also a ton of much more powerful people outside, but are you one of them? No! You’re nothing more than a pitiful pest.

“It’ll take us no effort to crush you!”

“Mark your words.” Jasper gave Archer and Ronald one last glance before he turned to Wendy and asked, “Do you know who the person-in-charge of Faith County is?”

Wendy naturally knew who Jasper was referring to and nodded. “He’s in the company’s contacts list. We can reach him at anytime.”

“He has ten minutes to come over,” Jasper said coldly.

Wendy gave her acknowledgment and then made a call.

Archer and Ronald were confused by Jasper’s actions.

“Did you go crazy or what?” Ronald sneered at Jasper and scoffed.

“Person-in-charge? What person-in-charge? Considering that you know him, I’d say it’s got to be the person in charge of sweeping the streets, hmm? Oh, I’m so scared.”

Archer laughed loudly too. “Who knows, Ronald. Maybe he’ll call JW Real Estates’ person-in-charge over? After all, everything’s possible when you live in a dream.

“But why would you put on this act with him, Wendy? Aren’t you just lowering yourself by doing so?”

Archer snickered and continued speaking to Wendy, “People say you start imitating the people you spend time around, Wendy. I suggest you leave this poor and stupid f*cker Jasper lest your intelligence gets dragged down as well. Come follow me and Ronald. It’ll be much better for you.”

Jasper smiled faintly when he heard Archer. After Wendy made a call, so did he.

Jasper then called the general manager of Southface River Properties.

The general manager was many ranks below Jasper, so he immediately greeted the man frightfully when he picked up the phone.

Jasper only said one thing.

“What kind of people are you employing? What use is being a general manager if you can’t even employ the right people?”

“I want you to reflect on your issues, and I don’t want to see the name Archer Nicholls in the list of employees under my companies!”

“Understood?!”

Jasper hung up the phone right after saying this.

Archer was about to laugh and mock Jasper when his phone rang.

Seeing that it was a call from his general manager, Archer’s smile froze and an ominous feeling filled his chest.

Life at the Top Chapter 1028

No matter what, Archer did not dare to leave a call from his superior unanswered, so he accepted it hesitantly. Before Archer could speak, his general manager shouted through the phone.

“Archer, I don’t care how you want to f*ck yourself over, but don’t involve me in your mistakes! Listen to me closely, you’re fired!”

Archer’s heart raced and his expression paled.

He felt the urge to explain himself quickly, but he had only just opened his mouth when the general manager hung up the phone.

Archer gaped at Jasper with widened eyes and he felt his throat tighten as if clogged with cotton. Countless words formed at the tip of his tongue but he could not say a thing.

Conflicting emotions of agitation, shock, disbelief, and confusion swarmed Archer and engulfed him.

The entire house fell silent for a moment.

“What happened?” Ronald asked, seeing how the color had drained from Archer’s face.

Ronald was confused at the strange situation.

Before Archer could reply, hasty knocks were heard at the door.

It had only been eight to nine minutes since Wendy’s call.

“I’ll open the door!”

Ramona volunteered bravely.

It seemed like she was the only one suitable for the role.

She had watched everything transpire with her own eyes just now, including the phone call from which Archer was fired. The other party was too loud, so everyone in the room, including Ramona, had heard the contents of the call even without the speakers being turned on.

Ramona was not stupid, so she knew that Jasper currently had a magnificent status and identity.

Excited, Ramona opened the doors.

On the other side of the door stood a middle-aged man panting and sweating in place. The man was currently using an expensive suit jacket to wipe the sweat from his face.

Ramona could tell that this was a man who stayed in a luxurious environment most of the time. It must have been difficult for such a person to run up five floors of stairs in one go.

Nobody knew how this man had rushed over.

“You...”

The man interrupted Ramona before she finished speaking.

“Sorry. My name is Currey Abbott, I’m JW Real Estate’s Faith County branch’s person-in-charge. Is Mr. Laine here?”

Ramona sucked in a cold breath at how polite Currey was.

JW Real Estates was the number one real estate enterprise in the whole of Southeast Province. As the person in charge of the county, this man was someone a normal salaryperson like Ramona could never approach.

“Jasper Laine?” Ramona asked bravely.

“Yes.” Currey nodded vigorously.

“He’s inside, follow me.”

Ramona answered before bringing Currey inside.

“Yes, please. Thank you.”

Ramona marveled over how weird the world was when she heard Currey speak.

She could never meet people like Currey normally. Even if she did, Currey would certainly be very arrogant throughout the meeting and might not even spare her a word, let alone speak to her so politely now.

Upon entering the bedroom, the atmosphere in the room turned exceptionally strange.

Archer’s complexion was still devoid of color as his lips started to quiver.

Ronald had also realized what had happened. The man now looked at Jasper warily. He looked like there was a lot he wanted to say but decided to bite his tongue.

Life at the Top Chapter 1029

Jasper and Wendy were the only ones unaffected as they took care of the weak Ms. Tiana.

“I’m here, Mr. Laine,” Currey greeted courteously once he saw Jasper and rushed over.

Jasper hummed in acknowledgment as he held a cup of hot water in his hands. With Wendy’s help, he slowly fed Ms. Tiana the water.

Currey stood rigidly in place and did not dare say another word. He stood there like a guilty student awaiting his teacher’s punishment.

Ronald’s expression also changed when he saw Currey.

He knew who Currey was.

Ronald had put in a lot of effort to become Currey’s friend.

His relationship with Currey was finally going somewhere, but... Ronald’s expression soured greatly when he thought back to how Currey had addressed Jasper.

Mr. Laine!

Not anyone could be referred to so courteously.

Archer had only pretended to be the president of a company purely for the sake of fooling others and showing off.

However, when Currey referred to Jasper as Mr. Laine.

It meant that Ronald had completely screwed himself over.

Jasper only turned to meet Currey after Ms. Tiana had drank her water.

“Is this our first time meeting?” Jasper asked.

Currey quickly replied, “I’ve only been in Faith County for one and a half months. I was working in the headquarters in Nauritus City before, and I was fortunate enough to meet you during the Southface River topping-out ceremony, Mr. Laine.”

Jasper nodded. Be it the real estate company, his other subsidiaries, or even JW Capital the parent company itself, the number of employees under him was ever-growing as his enterprise continued to develop. Hence, he could no longer remember every single employee.

“Do you recognize this person? Is he a partner?” Jasper pointed at Ronald and asked.

Currey turned his head to look. The look in his eyes had terrified Ronald.

“No, that’s not the case, Jasper. Oh, wait, Mr. Laine. Mr. Laine, it’s a misunderstanding, Mr. Laine.”

Ronald no longer held the same air of arrogance about him now as he stumbled about to explain with a pale face, “This really is a misunderstanding. I didn’t know about your noble status before this, Mr. Laine.”

“Noble?” Jasper smiled and spoke calmly, “I don’t think there’s anything noble about my identity though. I’m just a normal man that’s doing business to make a living. How does having a larger business suddenly make me someone noble?”

Ronald looked like he had been made to swallow a fly. He nodded vigorously. “Yes, yes, of course, Mr. Laine. You’re right, you aren’t noble... no, that’s not what I meant.”

With a ‘pfft’, Ramona burst into laughter as she listened to Ronald stammering.

Ramona would never dare to laugh out loud if this was any other time, but she was elated right now.

Contrary to how arrogant Ronald and Archer were earlier, the two were now terrified and humiliated.

Ramona was extremely thrilled to see the large contrast in the two’s behaviors, especially when the two were acting so vile and abominable just moments ago.

Just then, Currey spoke.

“He’s Ronald Malone, Mr. Laine, the owner of Robust Demolitions. We do share a few business partnerships.

Jasper nodded and looked at Currey to ask, “Is the partnership process normal?”

Corruption was a potential risk to any company.

The larger JW got, the more likely problems of this kind were to arise in the lower ranks.

Currey from the county branch, for example, had full control over which demolition company he chose to partner with. There had to be a reason why he set out to partner with a specific company—be it Ronald, McDonald, or otherwise.

That was why Jasper had asked this.

Life at the Top Chapter 1030

The situation suddenly became more serious when Currey heard him ask this.

“I can guarantee this with my life, Mr. Laine. There’s no problem with the process at all.

“I chose Robust because I thought that it would be better to choose a local demolition company considering how demolition is extremely complicated and troublesome work. Robust happens to be the best demolition company in Faith County as well, so we decided to commission them.”

Jasper smiled when he heard Currey’s explanation and replied, “Don’t worry, I was just asking.

“But you have to remember that our partner’s strength shouldn’t be JW’s only metric when looking for a partner. The company owner’s personality is also very important.

“What kind of partnership benefits can we expect from a company that would hurt civilians for their personal interests? We should be satisfied as long as the partnership doesn’t come back to bite us in the bud.”

Jasper pointed at Ronald who was shivering and pale as he continued, “Take him, for example. He threatened a retired and severely ill teacher who was living alone. He claimed that he’d use a bulldozer and bury her under the building if she didn’t sign the demolition contract.

“Regardless of whether he was just threatening or if he actually planned to do so, JW should never partner with such people. Understood?”

Currey fully understood Jasper's lecture and immediately replied, "I understand, Mr. Laine. I'll go back and immediately announce the cancellation of all partnership with Robust Demolitions.

"We won't partner with them again in the future, and we'll also do some digging on this aspect when we choose our future partners."

"Very good." Jasper nodded.

Jasper then turned to Ronald who looked desperate and asked calmly, "Do you two remember what you said just now?"

"The world is huge and there's also a ton of much more powerful people outside. I might not be the most powerful person out there, but I am more powerful than you."

Jasper spoke slowly, and there was no hint of glee in his voice from oppressing them with his status and power. There was no sign of arrogance either—Jasper was calm, as if he had just done something insignificant.

"You had claimed that strength is more important than reason in this society, but what about now?"

"I fired Archer and ensured that your Robust Demolitions would never receive another deal from us. This is my strength. Even so, I believe that without enough reason, a little bit of strength will get you nowhere."

Ronald's entire body shivered as he looked at Jasper in despair. "Who, who are you?"

Jasper chuckled and replied, "Does it matter who I am?"

Thud.

It was the sound of Ronald falling to his knees.

He wailed as he begged Jasper, "Please, Mr. Laine, please. Forgive me, I'm sorry, I won't bully people like this anymore. Please, let me live, I don't want to go bankrupt!"

"Is it my fault whether you go bankrupt or not?" Jasper asked coldly.

Ronald frantically replied, "If you don't dissolve our partnership, then I'll spend the rest of my life as your lackey, Mr. Laine. I'll never be disloyal."

"Forget it, not with how you'd readily bury people with your bulldozers. I'm not brave enough to hire you."

Jasper averted his gaze from Ronald. It would only sully Jasper's business to have someone like Ronald work under him.

Jasper looked at Currey again and asked, "What's with the demolition of this staff building?"

Currey immediately replied, "We're planning to build a small district here and we've already demolished the surrounding area. All that's left is this building. The company's ready to start construction once that's done."