

Life at the Top Chapter 1031

“Our proposal for this project has already been approved by the headquarters half a year ago.

“And the arrangement for the demolition compensation?” Jasper asked.

Currey was even more confused as he replied, “That is decided according to the documents the local officials gave us. As a real estate business, all we have to do is compensate the people affected in accordance with the statement provided by the officials. Is there something wrong?”

Jasper scoffed and replied, “This Robust Demolitions you partnered with is only paying half the standard demolition fee!”

Currey’s expression immediately changed and he hastily replied, “The real estate company knows nothing of this, Mr. Laine.

“I’ll have someone investigate your involvement in this. Bring them out of here now now, I don’t want to see them.

“And contact all households that signed the demolition contract. Find out how many families Ronald had forced to sign the release and ensure that you pay them the standard compensation package.

“We’re demolishing people’s homes, so it’s only right we pay them exactly how much we owe. JW Real Estates will not profit from immorally-made money.”

Currey quickly replied, “Yes, Mr. Laine. I’ll get to it right away.”

Jasper waved his hand and did not speak anymore.

Currey glared at Ronald and shouted, "What are you waiting for? Come with me! Or do you want to continue being Mr. Laine's eyesore?"

Ronald got up despondently and followed Currey out with a blank expression on his face. Archer left with them, his complexion pale and his head drooped down.

Archer was in despair now that he was fired; He knew that he was screwed.

Still, his situation was slightly better than Ronald's.

After all, all he lost was a job, and it would not be too difficult for Archer to find another job. Ronald had lost his entire company, so he was the one with nothing left.

Ronald grabbed Currey once they walked out the door.

As far as Currey was concerned, Ronald was like the plague, and he did not want to come in contact with the latter. Currey quickly shouted, "Let go! What're you holding on to me for?"

Ronald let go of him and pleaded sorrowfully, "I'm not even asking for your help, Mr. Abbott. But please, seeing as how we used to be partners, just tell me. Who is Jasper Laine?"

"What for? So you can take revenge?" Currey could tell what Ronald was thinking by the latter's expression.

"As you said, because we used to be partners, so I'll do you one better. I suggest you give up on the idea of taking revenge.

"Mr. Laine isn't like the people you used to deal with. You can't threaten or scare Mr. Laine off with a few thugs.

“This is JW we’re talking about. JW! Think about it properly, what do you think those two letters represent?”

Ronald looked deep in thought when he heard Currey say this.

Beside them, Archer reacted first and gasped, “JW, that’s Jasper’s and Wendy’s initials together isn’t it?”

Currey scoffed and answered, “So you’re not too stupid, brat. Now, do you know who Mr. Laine is?”

“He’s the owner of JW! And not just JW Real Estates. The real estate company is only one of Mr. Laine’s many subsidiaries. Each of them is just as powerful, if not more so than the real estate company. Who do you think you’re offending here?”

“No one in Southeast Province would dare to disrespect Mr. Laine, let alone the two of you.”

Life at the Top Chapter 1032

Both Ronald and Archer were in despair when they heard Currey.

It was only then that they finally understood who they had offended.

This was especially true for Archer.

He had bullied and looked down on Jasper because he believed that Jasper could not be someone outstanding, considering he was a poor fellow back when they were studying together. Had he not done so, Archer imagined that he would be living a life of riches now as Jasper's ex-classmate.

Therefore, Archer was immediately filled with regret.

He knew it was impossible, but Archer still felt the urge to rush back to kneel and beg for Jasper's forgiveness.

However, the tightly closed door had cut off any possibility of this.

"Oh my God." Ronald swayed before leaning against the wall limply. He wanted to cry but had no tears to shed.

"What now?"

Ronald suddenly turned to Archer, grabbed his hand, and shouted, "You two used to be classmates, right? Go beg for forgiveness! Maybe he'll give us another chance seeing as how you used to be classmates!"

Archer flung off Ronald's hand distastefully and replied, "I wouldn't have offended him if not for you! You want me to beg his forgiveness now? You think he'll give me the time of day?"

"I only lost my job now, but if I truly piss him off, who knows if I'll end up dead because of it!"

Ronald's expression soured. "You're blaming me?"

Archer harrumphed and answered aggrievedly, "Who else am I supposed to blame but you? You're the one that's been acting high and mighty because you're considered strong and have contacts here Faith County. This is karma! It's only a matter of time before something like this happens to people like you!"

Ronald was already greatly agitated to begin with, so when Archer began to look down on him as well, he grew enraged. "What the f*ck did you just say to me?!"

Ronald then swiftly punched Archer across the face.

Unfortunately, Archer was not someone to be offended either. Feeling both regret and the hasty urge to vent, Archer could no longer hold back when Ronald punched him, so he pounced on the man, causing the two to get into a fistfight.

Currey shook his head at the sight of the two intertwined and fighting figures.

No matter how he looked at it, the scene reminded him of a dogfight.

Not that it mattered to him anymore.

In the room, Ms. Tiana was also curious about who exactly Jasper was.

"Are you some owner of a big business now, Jasper?" Ms. Tiana asked.

Jasper sat by the bed and smiled “I wouldn’t call it a big business, but I do own something quaint.”

Despite this, Ms. Tiana shook her head. “Don’t lie to me. I can tell from how that old head of the real estate business treated you with respect that you’re his superior, aren’t you?”

Jasper nodded. “Yeah.”

Ms. Tiana sighed and spoke with relief, “Good, then. Very good. You’re the most successful one out of all my students.”

“Ms. Tiana, it’s still my fault for being too lax with my subordinates. If I wasn’t, this wouldn’t have happened. You heard him just now, so don’t worry. I’ll follow up on this and I’ll make sure the families who signed the demolition contract won’t be cheated of any money,” Jasper spoke gently.

Ms. Tiana replied contentedly, “I know. I have nothing to fear now that I have your promise. As for the demolition contract, I’ll sign it right away once you have your people come over.”

“There’s no rush for that, Ms. Tiana. I plan to bring you over to the hospital in the provincial capital for treatment. Your health is still the most important thing here. Just look, all these children are eagerly waiting for you to get better,” Jasper spoke.

However, Ms. Tiana seemed hesitant. “I didn’t go to the hospital before because I was worried that they’d demolish the building while I was away.

“Even now, when there’s no need to worry about that anymore, going to the hospital is still too expensive. I know my own body, so once the psychological illness is gone, I’ll be return to health in no time at all.”

Jasper glanced at Wendy to signal for her help in persuading Ms. Tiana when he realized that she was unwilling to go to Nauritus City with him.

Thus, Wendy spoke gently as well, “Ms. Tiana, it’s only right we go to the hospital when we’re not feeling well. Don’t worry about the expenses and all. Jasp is doing really well now and the money won’t be a problem.”

Despite this, Ms. Tiana still looked hesitant.

Jasper smiled. “Actually, Ms. Tiana, I was hoping to seek out a charity foundation when I got back. Mainly to sponsor children who are too poor to attend schools.

“But I’m too busy with work most of the time and I can’t do this all on my own. Therefore, I was hoping you could become the first chairwoman of this charity foundation, Ms. Tiana.”

Ms. Tiana flushed in excitement and gasped. “Really?”

Jasper nodded and smiled. “Of course. I’m planning to donate an initial amount of 10 million to the charity foundation. It’s not much, but it should help quite a few children. That’s why you have to take care of yourself, Ms. Tiana. Otherwise, how will you provide them a chance to go to school?”

With that, Ms. Tiana replied excitedly, “Yes, yes, you’re right. This is great, Jasper. You’ve never disappointed me. A successful person should always think of ways to benefit the rest of the world, and you’ve already begun to walk this path.”

“You’re too kind, Ms. Tiana. I’m still far from a successful person, I’m just doing what I can with the little that I have.”

“That’s precious enough as it is. In that case, I agree, I’ll go to Nauritus City immediately!

“However, there are still a few things I need to pack up, and the children don’t know that I’m going to Nauritus City. I’ve got to tell them first, so I can’t leave today,” Ms. Tiana continued ashamedly.

“Leave it to me.”

Ramona suddenly spoke up, “Jasper, Wendy, you two are busy people so you should go back first. I’ll send Ms. Tiana to Naurtitus City tomorrow or the day after once she’s totally prepared.”

Jasper nodded and replied, “Thank you for your trouble, then. This is my name card, so just contact me then.”

Ramona suppressed her excitement and took Jasper’s name card, then she beamed brightly at Jasper and asked, “If possible, can I help out in the charity foundation too?”

“Of course. The charity foundation’s still in the process of being founded, and it’s in dire need of recruits. I’d be grateful if you wanted to join it,” Jasper answered with a crescent-eyed smile.

Both Jasper and Wendy were in a great mood as they left Ms. Tiana’s house.

After all, they had successfully dealt with Ms. Tiana’s issue.

“Is this charity foundation real?” Wendy asked when she got in the car.

“Of course it is. It’s not like I can go back on my word now that I’ve said it,” Jasper replied while driving. “I’ve been poor before so I know how it feels when you can’t even afford a meal. How is anyone supposed to afford education under circumstances like that?”

“It’s within my capabilities, so I’ll help them as best as I can. It won’t cost us much, but it’ll be a life-changing opportunity for the kids.”

Life at the Top Chapter 1033

As Jasper drove away from Faith County, an Audi approached it from the opposite direction.

Excluding the driver, there was a man and a woman in the car.

“This is your hometown, Miss Hunt? What a great and scenic place. It’s just as I expected.”

The man in a smart outfit spoke with stilted Somerish as he looked out the window.

Beside him was a woman dressed in a feminine suit with light makeup on her face.

This woman was the ‘Miss Hunt’ he was referring to.

Jasper would be shocked if he saw this, for Miss Hunt was none other than Penelope.

With Jasper’s recommendation, Penelope had gotten a job in ICBS thanks to John. However, she resigned two months later and was now completely different.

Not even the people closest to Penelope would believe that the harsh and calculative girl would turn into someone that now oozed with confidence.

“Are you implying something else, Mr. Carr?” Penelope asked calmly.

Leroy smiled and replied, "I was just voicing my genuine thoughts. Oh, right, do you plan to stay for a few days now that you've returned to your hometown, Miss Hunt?"

Penelope replied, "I've only come this time to fetch my mother to Waterhoof City for treatment. It won't take long, so don't worry. I know what my mission is, and I won't add to Mr. Atticus' troubles. I'll return as fast as I can."

Leroy chuckled and said, "Don't worry about it. After all, we are partners. As long as you've done what Mr. Atticus wants of you, he'll give you what you want in return."

Penelope replied indifferently, "If we really are partners, then how would you explain Mr. Atticus having you stay by my side to monitor me?"

Leroy laughed out loud. "You're being too sensitive, Miss Hunt. Mr. Atticus already told me that I'm only by your side to help you deal with issues you cannot handle alone.

"After all, you're still new to the business world. If not for my help, your company would not have been able to develop so smoothly. What use is Mr. Atticus' taking care of you and giving you business orders when you can't even carry them out?"

Penelope's gaze sharpened and she spoke indifferently, "I know exactly what your plans are. Still, it's one thing to act when others are observing you, but aren't you tired of acting even in private?"

Leroy twisted his body and leaned toward Penelope to ask. "Tired? I'm full of energy and vigor."

As he said this, Leroy had already placed a hand on Penelope's thigh before she realized.

Penelope immediately struggled and pushed Leroy's body and hand away as if she were suddenly electrocuted. She spoke icily, "Did Mr. Atticus tell you to do this too, Leroy?"

Leroy's ego was bruised after being pushed away and he replied coldly, "I just wanted to learn more of you. Don't you want to gain more benefits through me?"

Penelope sneered. "You're just one of Mr. Atticus' dogs, so what benefits can you offer me? I suggest you show some respect!"

Leroy harrumphed and stared at Penelope. "Stupid b*tch! Don't take my kindness for granted. Who do you think you are? You're nothing more than a lowly b*tch in front of Mr. Atticus!"

"Had it not been for your relationship with Jasper and the fact that you're useful to us, Mr. Atticus would never spare a b*tch like you a glance!"

Penelope stared at Leroy frigidly and answered, "Even if I'm just a b*tch, you aren't any more dignified than I am! My deal with Mr. Atticus is between him and me. It has nothing to do with a servant like you merely standing by Mr. Atticus' side!"

Penelope ignored Leroy's wretched expression and continued to speak, "I already told you. Either show some respect, or I'll notify Mr. Atticus immediately!"

"It's just like you said. I'm still useful to Mr. Atticus, so do you think he'll get rid of me or you?"

When he heard this, Leroy's expression changed slightly.

Penelope was no more than a facet for him to vent out his sexual frustrations, but it was not worth it to anger Mr. Atticus over such a thing.

As Mr. Atticus's lackey, Leroy knew better than most that the last thing he should do was anger Mr. Atticus. If he did, he would face a fate more tragic than he could ever imagine.

Penelope harrumphed when she saw that she had deterred Leroy, and said, "I can pretend that nothing happened earlier, but I don't want it to happen again.

"Mr. Atticus had you monitor me, so do your job honestly. I'll also complete what I promised Mr. Atticus, but this process has nothing to do with a servant like you. Don't even think about touching me again or I'll make you pay for it!"

Leroy narrowed his eyes and bore his gaze into Penelope.

He had first seen this woman in Mr. Atticus's office. She was terrified, akin to a newborn chick, and she had an air of an insignificant townspeople. She was an extremely ordinary woman of the lowest rank.

However, this woman was easily adaptable and it had only taken a few months before she changed completely. Now, a couple of curt sentences from her had Leroy admitting defeat.

Leroy harrumphed after weighing his options. Then, he temporarily dismissed his lustful desires.

After all, this woman would become a stray dog after she stopped being of use to Mr. Atticus. 'When that happens, I'll get to do whatever I want to her.'

When he thought of this, Leroy felt his body heat up.

'Just you wait. You may be prideful now, but I'd like to see how you die once Mr. Atticus' plan succeeds!'

In the car, Leroy's expression jumped between prideful and wretched as his mind raced through these thoughts. Meanwhile, Penelope remained expressionless.

The hand hidden by her side curled into a fist as Penelope took a deep breath, her gaze sharpening.

She knew that both Leroy beside her and Mr. Atticus far away in Harbor City saw her as nothing more than a pawn to deal with Jasper. Not that she cared, for she was using them at the same time too.

“How have you been lately, Jasper?”

Penelope muttered internally as she stared at the familiar bustling street outside the window.

Life at the Top Chapter 1034

Jasper had no idea of the two special guests that arrived in Faith County after him.

At the same time, the man was currently discussing the charity foundation with Wendy.

“This charity foundation will aim to sponsor poor children so they can have a chance to pursue their education. This is also all it will do. From what I know, international charity foundations tend to invest donations in insured financial products and do charitable transactions with the returns as they’re non-profit organizations.

“Some larger charity foundation even have their own investment department.

“JW Company is this charity foundation’s only shareholder, so we won’t do public fundraising. It’s also not time for that yet.

“I’ll have Jake represent me to invest the 10 million from Harbor City when the time comes, and I intend to have an annualized rate of return for this. Say that we set a rate of return of 10%. If it exceeds, then all is well, but if it doesn’t, then I’ll top it up with my own money.”

Wendy frowned when she heard that, “Won’t you make a huge loss if you’re coming up with the principal and also covering the shortage?”

Jasper smiled and replied, “We’re doing charity. In comparison to the money we make, this isn’t much. But this seemingly small sum of money is enough to help a lot of children.

“Besides, it’s not like we’ll definitely making a loss. Charity foundations come with many tax incentives. The main reason why so many enterprises abroad are passionate about doing charity is that it helps reduce the amount of tax one has to pay. For every 1 million we donate, we pay 800 thousand less for tax, meaning we only pay a net amount of 200 thousand. At the same time, we win both the officials’ and society’s favor.

“Our country also has systems like this in place to encourage the development of the charity industry. A certain amount of donations from an enterprise can result in a 100% tax deduction. When this happens, we don’t have to pay a buck, since our tax money will be considered to have gone to charitable donations.

“The most important thing is that the charity foundation is an asset, which benefits us, the society, and the officials.”

Since she worked in finance, Wendy immediately understood what Jasper meant. Soon, her expression became one of keen interest.

“I’ll have someone follow up on this immediately once we get back, so we can go through the procedures as soon as possible.”

Jasper smiled. “Alright. But remember that the point of this is to do charity within our capabilities, so keep things low-profile. There’s no need to broadcast it to the world or it’ll lose its original meaning.

“Find professionals to manage it when the time comes, and we’ll try to distance it as far away from JW Capital and its subsidiaries as possible.”

“Okay,” Wendy replied.

Jasper had almost no time to rest once they returned to Nauritus City as he joined Wendy in submerging himself in work.

The larger JW Capital’s subsidiaries became, the more decisions the parent company had to make.

The team of decision-makers and senior executives grew as well, and while they did help share quite a bit of Jasper's and Wendy's burdens, Jasper still had to oversee and approve important decisions and proposals.

"The research and development of a stepper?"

Jasper looked up from the report in his hands to Lance and Chad, who sat in front of him, and asked with a smile, "You two have given me a very tricky question here."

Chad smiled wryly and replied, "I couldn't decide when Lance handed the report to me, so I thought that it'd be best if you made the decision, Mr. Laine. After all, a few hundred million a year for research is just too much.

"If I'm right, this research expense of a few hundred million has already gone through multiple rounds of restructuring, hasn't it?" Jasper asked Lance.

Lance nodded embarrassedly and replied, "That's true, Mr. Laine. But this was something Professor McGee had strongly requested.

"They said that our country's technical field is currently empty, and future electronics will all rely on technical development of the integrated circuit. Relying on imported goods will one day become a weakness others can exploit."

Jasper nodded but did not make a sound.

He was well aware of this.

In the year 2020 of his past life, Warwick was the leading figure in the private technology manufacturing industry within the country. Despite this, the company had been cornered and stunted by its competitors due to their inability to compete technically when it came to integrated circuits.

There were two main components in electronic equipment: the operating system software, and the integrated circuit hardware.

Huge western technology companies also had a tight grip of these two components.

For the operating system, Google was already one of Jasper's subsidiaries. One of the advantages of his reincarnation was that Jasper understood the importance of operating systems before everyone else did, as well as the fact that the creator of Android would also hail from Google.

When it came to hardware, however... the West had almost a century's worth of technological advancement over them, and it would not be so easy to surpass them.

"This few hundred million won't be enough," Jasper put his report down and answered.

Lance and Chad shared a look as they did not understand what Jasper meant.

"I know about steppers, and the integrated system is the most important component of it all. A research fund of a few hundred billion a year isn't enough to develop something like this and I don't remember Professor McGee being someone so unreliable."

Chad smiled wryly at Jasper's words and turned to Lance. "I told you, didn't I? Don't even think about trying to deceive Mr. Laine. Just tell him your requests as it is."

Lance then answered with an embarrassed expression, "There really isn't hiding anything from you, Mr. Laine. Indeed, a few hundred million is only enough for the initial stages of research and development.

"Once research actually begins, Professor McGee and his team estimate funding of at least 5 billion a year if he hopes to produce any results. After all, we're short of a decade's worth of technological prowess, and are lacking the research normally carried out by hundreds of national experts."

“So you two decided to come up with this plan to placate Elbert while deterring me at the same time?” Jasper asked.

Lance quickly replied, “We didn’t think too much about it. A research fund of a few hundred million is already a huge deal to any enterprise within the country.

“Therefore, you’d have realized that something was wrong after a detailed investigation of the market, Mr. Laine, and we suspected that you’d decline the proposal. I’m sure Professor McGee would also have been deterred by this.”

After saying this, Lance sighed. “All these technicians know is how to ask for money, but they don’t know how difficult it is to make money to begin with. Who can possibly support R&D that cost billions every year?”

Jasper fell silent for a long moment to think about it before he finally spoke up, “Still, not every expense can be cut down.”

Life at the Top Chapter 1035

Jasper's words stunned both Chad and Lance.

"So you're actually going to invest the amount, Mr. Laine?" Lance asked in shock.

Chad was a higher-ranked employee, after all, so he had a more comprehensive view of issues. Chad frowned and replied, "Mr. Laine, I don't think such a large investment is a good idea."

"I'm sure you two are aware of the basics of the company's current financial situation." Jasper leaned back against his office chair and sipped his tea with a crescent-eyed smile.

"We aren't exactly at risk of a capital chain rupture, but that's only because all our companies are developing exponentially. The money we're making is almost completely rechanneled back into the company.

"Our electronics company produces the most profits out of all the subsidiaries, but it only gave the parent company 80 million worth of profit last month. Do you think the parent company can afford to allocate them billions to fund research?"

Lance replied in embarrassment. "It's mainly because construction of the new factory area has already wrapped up over in Reed City. Therefore, we invested a little more to add a few production lines over there."

Jasper waved him off and replied, "The company needs to develop, so it will need money. I'm not blaming you for the small profit, but telling you instead that the JW Capital's cash flow is tight, and it can't afford such expensive research."

"If that's the case, then what did you mean when you said that not every expense can be cut down, Mr. Laine?" Chad asked.

“Exactly what you think I mean.”

Jasper placed the report into his drawer and continued.

“For every enterprise that relies on advanced technology, research funding is an expense they cannot afford to reduce. Take a look at the top advanced technology companies around the world and observe how many of them have research funds that represent at least 50% of their operating costs.

“To a technology company, technology is their lifeforce. A monopoly on technology can lead to endless wealth and a worldwide market to reap from.

“All of JW Capital’s subsidiaries aim to reach the pinnacle of their respective industries. Not just within the province or country, but within Terra or even the entire world.

“Which is why we’re not aiming to be labor-intensive enterprises, but rather profitable technological giants with plenty of influence.”

Jasper smiled as he looked at Lance and Chad who were inexplicably excited. He continued.

“Go back and tell Professor McGee that I already know about his request. Tell him to give me a moment and I’ll talk to him personally soon. He has my vow that he’ll get to research this project.”

“Alright, Mr. Laine. I’ll make sure he is notified of this,” Lance replied.

Jasper waved his hand and spoke, “Leave everything else to me from here on. I’ll take a trip to Waterhoof City to negotiate this, then I’ll update you on the results afterward.”

‘Waterhoof City to negotiate?’

'There are stepper technicians or companies to negotiate with in Waterhoof City?'

Lance and Chad exchange a look, but were smart enough not to ask questions. Now that the matter was settled, the two of them left the room.

Jasper sat in the office for a moment as he thought about the stepper.

A few minutes later, he picked up his phone and called Zachary.

"Hi, Uncle Law. I remember that Old Master Law had donated a stepper to a few years ago, right?"

Jasper continued after hearing the response from the other end of the line.

"Haha, I know that it's an old device from decades ago. But the old master had the ability and contacts to get a stepper into the country. That's something that most people can only dream of.

"I know that the west has a technology blockade on the stepper, so I wasn't planning to look for a stepper manufacturer outside the country. Instead, I was thinking that perhaps Hoofmorn University might have some results after researching the stepper for so many years."