

# Life at the Top Chapter 816

The terrifying nine-digit balance had both Dalton and his colleague's hearts skipping a beat.

Dalton pinched his thigh harshly to confirm that he had read the number right and was not hallucinating.

Frankly speaking, no matter where a person was, a nine-digit balance in someone's bank account was enough to shock anyone.

Dalton felt his throat dry up and his scalp grow numb.

He could claim that the number was fake if Jasper had brought his own machine, but this was a machine Dalton brought from the company and it was made to check the balance in a customer's card. There was no way it would be wrong.

That meant the balance in the card was true!

This was money that he could withdraw at any time!

Looking up at Jasper again, Dalton did not dare to be disrespectful at all. Trembling, Dalton was lost for words.

"Are you done checking?" Jasper asked.

"Ye-Yes." Dalton immediately became alert and quickly replied, politely handing the debit card to Jasper with both hands.

The large change in attitude was because they knew, from the balance in his bank account, that this person of Somer descent was not someone they could afford to offend.

Dalton began to sweat abnormally. While he fumbled for words, Jasper continued to speak.

“I’m a little short on time right now as I have an important meeting in a few minutes, so let’s get the procedures dealt with quick and concisely.”

Dalton was so moved by Jasper’s words he could almost cry. “Thank you for your understanding, Mr. Laine. Let me first introduce the latest G500 to you.

“The G500 is a private plane manufactured precisely for VIPs like you, Mr. Laine.

“It can reach up to a speed of Mach 0.8 airborne, which is 0.8 times the speed of sound. This is the fastest private plane in the world, and it—”

Jasper raised his hand to interrupt Dalton and spoke calmly, “What I meant by quick was to sign the contract right away. I don’t need to know about the details.”

Gulping, Dalton turned to look at his colleague.

Frankly speaking, they had come in contact with quite a few wealthy customers considering they sold private planes.

However, even rich customers tended to ask about the plane’s specifications, like normal people with cars, as this was a purchase of tens of millions of US dollars.

This was the first time Dalton and his colleague had met such a ‘hasty’ customer.

“Is something wrong?” Jasper frowned slightly.

He did not hold it against them for looking down on him, for he had made them wait aimlessly for about five hours. Even the most patient man had his limits and Jasper would not be calculative about this with them.

However, the fact that these two seemed so easily stunned made Jasper wonder if they were reliable salesmen or not.

“No, no problem at all!” Dalton quickly replied, seeing how Jasper was beginning to feel displeased. He quickly pulled out a document and was about to pass it to Jasper when a middle-aged man in his 40s entered the executive lounge.

Doyle found Jasper at first glance when he arrived at the executive lounge. While he had never met the man before, Doyle had certainly seen pictures of Jasper.

Making his way to Jasper right away, Doyle spoke courteously, “Hello, Mr. Laine. I’m Doyle, Mr. Benett’s personal life assistant. We’ve spoken on the phone before?”

Jasper got up and shook Doyle’s hand with a smile. “My apologies, Mr. Doyle, but it seems like I’ll have to make you wait a little longer. I have a contract to sign.”

“Are you Mr. Doyle?” An extremely excited voice sounded beside them.

Doyle turned to see Dalton and his colleague looking at him excitedly.

“Mr. Doyle, I’m Dalton. We’re employees of Gulfstream Aerospace under General Motors. We met once when we went to do maintenance for Mr. Benett’s private plane early last year. How is Mr. Benett doing?”

Dalton’s voice trembled in excitement.

Doyle seemed to be used to such scenes. He gave a small smile and replied politely, “He’s doing quite well. He still drinks a bottle of coke a day and insists on having two beef burgers in the afternoon.”

“That’s great. Are you perhaps here to invite Mr. Laine, Mr. Doyle? He’s our new customer.”

Hearing Dalton, Doyle looked at Jasper in shock and asked, “Are you planning to buy a private plane as well, Mr. Laine?”

Jasper smiled. “I thought that since I’ll be flying a lot in the future, it’d be more convenient to have a private plane of my own.”

“Is there anything I can help with? I’m rather close with Gulfstream Aerospace’s president and Mr. Benett is one of their shareholders. I’m sure Mr. Benett would be glad to help you secure a satisfactory discount.”

Doyle spoke enthusiastically.

Jasper smiled. “It’s alright, I’m already signing the contract anyway.”

One had to take a look at the time, place, and from who when it came to taking favors.

Jasper did not believe owing Winston Benett a favor over a bit of money was a worthy trade.

Not to mention that Jasper did not care much about a discount.

He could have bought a Falcon 2000 with Henry if he wanted something cheap.

Plus, there was an invisible yet real price to pay for securing a discount through Winston Benett’s name.

It was an overall loss.

As he spoke, Jasper directly took the contract from Dalton and signed his name.

“I’ll transfer the deposit into your company’s account today and I’ll pay the rest in full when you hand over ownership of the plane. I would prefer it if you completed the procedures as fast as possible as I’m planning to return to my home country shortly,” Jasper spoke.

Dalton had nothing but utter respect for Jasper, a man who could enjoy afternoon tea with Winston Benett. He did not dare to harbor any other thoughts as he quickly replied.

“Of course, Mr. Laine. We’ll go through all the procedures for you so that you can proudly return to your country on your own private plane, the world’s first Gulfstream G500.”

“Thank you. You have quite the way with words” Jasper smiled.

After dealing with the purchase of the private plane, Jasper did not linger and followed Doyle out of the hotel.

A Maybach was waiting for them at the door.

Doyle personally opened the car door for Jasper and only got in after Jasper was settled inside. Only then did the car slowly drive off.

This was a scene that quite a few reporters waiting outside the hotel had managed to take pictures of. Instantly, the relationship between Sena’s owner, Jasper, and Winston Benett became another hot topic among the public.

## Life at the Top Chapter 817

As the globally recognized stock god, Winston Benett had already made a name for himself in the 1990s’ financial industry around the world.

While the financial industry was considered one of the more sophisticated and closed-off ones, the man truly made his name known among ordinary folk when he started to auction his lunch for charity in the year 2000.

Jasper still remembered that this year in 2001, Winston Benett's lunch would be auctioned off at 18,000 US dollars, which was the cheapest in history.

In the year 2020 in his past life, Jasper had reincarnated before the auction that year. The latest he remembered was 2019. One might ask how much his lunch was auctioned off at.

4.56 million US dollars, which was 31.54 million Somer Dollars according to the exchange rate at that time.

Jasper had always thought that Winston Benett had made a great move by doing so.

For it had gotten him fame and actual benefits.

While it was done in the name of charity, Jasper's keen eyes and understanding of things had greatly exceeded those of ordinary people. He was well aware that Winston Benett auctioning his lunch was a much more complicated and wise business skill.

Ordinary people would never understand why someone would spend tens of millions for a plate of steak that Winston Benett had eaten before, but the increase in reputation was much worth the price paid.

The Maybach quietly drove past New York's streets and boulevards before it finally arrived at a seemingly normal restaurant by the streets.

Jasper realized that a white old man seemed to have been standing at the restaurant's entrance for quite some time.

That man was the legendary Winston Benett, an old man with a kind smile that never left his face.

Jasper had already stepped down from the car before Doyle could open the doors for him, and he made his way toward an approaching Winston Benett.

“Hello, Mr. Benett, it’s an honor to receive an invitation to join you for afternoon tea. I’m sure our conversation today will be immensely joyful,” Jasper spoke first.

Winston shook Jasper’s hand and spoke gently, “Mr. Jasper, while this is the first time we’ve met, I must say that I’m greatly impressed by your achievements. I’m also very glad to see such an outstanding talent emerge from the mysterious Somerland in the East.”

“My country has one of the oldest civilizations in the history of mankind. It’s also the only one of the four ancient civilizations that have continued into the present...”

“I believe all we lack back home are opportunities. Now that opportunities have arisen, I’m sure that there will only be more people like me making a name for ourselves outside the country for the world to know.”

Jasper was neither too humble nor arrogant when he spoke, and his confidence in his own ethnic race was rewarded with Winston’s admiration.

A man’s success would be limited if he did not even love his country and its people.

The two chatted happily as they entered the restaurant.

It was a normal restaurant and there did not seem to be anything special inside.

Considering the time now, the restaurant was rather empty. There were only two waiters with Jasper and Winston as the only customers.

Winston must be a regular here, for the waiters did not seem too excited at the sight of the man. They merely greeted him and asked if he wanted the usual.

Winston turned to look at Jasper and introduced, "I love the food at this restaurant so I chose to meet you here. Is there something you'd like to eat, Laine? I personally quite like their beef Wellington. It's very authentic."

"Alright then, I'll have a beef Wellington with a fruit salad and a cup of tea please." While Jasper was not used to eating Western food, he had no other choice but to go with the host.

Jasper was really hungry considering he had not eaten anything since he woke up hungover, so the large portion of beef Wellington actually tasted delicious.

"I must thank you for the statement you released on the first day Sena went public, Mr. Benett. Had it not been for you, I don't think Sena's share prices would've managed to reach 122 US dollars," Jasper told Winston after finishing half his food.

Winston smiled and replied, "It's what I usually do, releasing a statement after I've purchased a certain percentage of shares. It's nothing to thank me for. Plus, even if I didn't release any statement, I'm sure someone will manage to find out from the published data sooner or later."

"But there will be different implications to the public if they were to realize it themselves and if you were to release a statement about it yourself. Its effects and time taken are different too," Jasper spoke seriously.

Winston smiled and slowly said, "Laine. I actually invited you today because I'd like to discuss business with you."

"Business?"

Jasper put down his cutlery and looked at Winston intently, waiting for the other to elaborate.



As expected, Winston did not make Jasper wait too long and quickly spoke, “Laine, you own a company called Terizone Inc back in Somerland, correct?”

That sentence immediately raised Jasper’s defenses.

After a moment of thought, Jasper replied calmly, “I wouldn’t say I own it. Terizone has a group of founders and I’ve agreed that while I do own a majority of shares, I will not interfere with the company’s day-to-day operations.”

Winston smiled as if he had seen through all of Jasper’s thoughts.

“I understand. We play quite the same role most times, looking for promising companies and investing in them to earn profits in the end.

“But the difference is that the companies you’ve invested in as of late are all companies with unlimited potential. Your foresight is something no one can compare to and this Terizone Inc is one of the most outstanding of them all.”

Winston’s gaze shone with great interest. “From what I can tell, Terizone will one day become an entity so large it’ll stun everyone. It’ll become a topic everyone talks about in the internet era, but it’s a shame that you were a step ahead of me.”

In all honesty, if not for the fact that it was impossible, Jasper might seriously suspect Winston to be another reincarnated man.

This old man’s foresight was too accurate.

Terizone had already shown its strengths, but it still had a long way before it became a household name.

Especially the base of Terizone’s business, the instant messaging domain, which would be known as the social networking domain when the concept expanded in the future.

As of that moment, in the year 2001, no one in the world had any idea how socializing on the internet would completely change the way people socialized.

Yet Winston Bennett had already realized it.

“Are you interested in Terizone Inc, Mr. Bennett?” Jasper had to ask.

“I am!”

Winston replied straightforwardly and frankly.

“If possible, I’m even willing to invest one billion US dollars to buy all the Terizone shares you have.”

## Life at the Top Chapter 818

Jasper smiled at Winston’s words.

One billion US dollars.

That was still an astronomical amount in the year 2001 when all currencies were severely depreciated.

Such money was enough to make an utterly poor man into the top 1% of the world’s richest people.

People slaved away for a better quality of life, yet how many people could ever make so much money their entire lives?

This was certainly a convincing price.

“That’s a very appealing price you’re offering, Mr. Benett,” Jasper commented.

Winston shook his head regretfully at Jasper’s response. “Yet I feel like you won’t agree to this business proposal.”

“Indeed.”

Jasper admitted without hesitation.

“Terizone is very important to me. It’s a major part of my plans for my business career that I cannot afford to lose. So unless you’re proposing to buy my entire future, I apologize as I cannot sell it to you.”

Winston laughed along with Jasper’s words. “That’s a very interesting way of speaking. You managed to reject me without making it too awkward. So, Laine, how much for your future?”

“Do you really want me to make an estimate, Mr. Benett?” Jasper asked.

“Haha.” Winston laughed out loud and spoke, “I hope we’ll have more chances to work together in the future.”

“I’m sure we will,” Jasper affirmed.

Jasper had begun testing online payment, be it for online shopping or for socializing online.

These were the main features that would change the rules the world played by, and Jasper would make sure all of the technology spread across the world.

Winston had made a huge name for himself in the United States and even the majority of the West, so he was one of the most important candidates for future partnership.

That was why Jasper believed that there would certainly be opportunities for them to work together.

“Then let us toast to our future.”

Winston, a great fan of coke, raised his cup of it which Jasper toasted with a cup of coffee instead of alcohol.

It was already evening when Jasper got back into the Maybach Winston had prepared for his return to the hotel.

While the two had not solidified any future partnerships, the conversation today had left the two with a chance for happy meetings in the future.

Both of them anticipated the day they would get to work together in the future.

Upon returning to the hotel, Jasper received a notification from General Motors.

Winston had indeed helped him secure a few advantages when he found out that Jasper had bought a Gulfstream G500.

Gulfstream had prepared a professional crew that would fly Jasper back to Somerland. This team would then stay to help Jasper train his own team of flight crew and teach them how to fly the world's most advanced private plane.

This alone had saved Jasper 500,000 US dollars.

In addition, Gulfstream would also gift Jasper three years of free maintenance service, which would save Jasper at least two million US dollars.

This was an advantage of making more friends. Of course, Jasper could always purchase such services with money, but it would not be as convenient or attentive.

It had to be known that Winston was a shareholder of both General Motors and Gulfstream Aerospace, so his words were just as powerful as the chairman of Gulfstream.

With his own plane dealt with, Jasper thought of Henry and immediately called the other. He then found out that Henry had left to pick up his own Falcon 2000.

To quote Henry, he 'could not wait to show off anymore.'

The man had taken dozens of pictures of his new plane, and half of Harbor City's circle of trust fund babies now knew that Young Master Law had bought a private plane with his own money. If not for the fact that WeTalk Memories had yet to be a thing, the man would have been trending throughout the country.

Now that all this was dealt with, Jasper was left with one last issue.

One last and most important issue of all.

The meeting with Google's founders.

Google!

It was one of the greatest companies in the 21st century! One could only imagine how powerful this company was.

Due to political reasons, ordinary people in Somerland might not know much about this company's influence.

Yet outside of Somerland, Google's influence was sensational.

It was a company that started off through search engines and its status in the search engine domain around the world was comparable to Terizone's status in Somerland's social networking domain.

Moreover, Google would soon play an active role in highly advanced industries such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and biotechnology.

It was as if Google excelled in every industry it dabbled in and had never failed before.

For example, Google had also decided to venture into mobile phone operating systems and the product they came up with was widely used.

The operating system went by 'Andriod'.

87% of the world's mobile phones in the market used this operating system.

If not for Apple's Steve Jobs being quite the man himself, Android would have taken over the world.

Thanks to Todd, Jasper had contacted two of Google's founders, Page and Brin. Both parties had agreed to meet in Hilton Hotel three hours later.

Jasper was confused about this.

'I clearly remember that Google's first office was actually one of their female classmate's garage. They only got an actual company with offices after they received enough funding half a year later.

'Yet the two claimed they'd arrive at the hotel in three hours, meaning they're in New York.

'What are they doing in New York, then?'

...

At the same time, in a luxurious office in another corner of New York City.

A young Westerner in a white suit and leather shoes sat behind his office table. The man's features were laced heavily with arrogance and indifference as he stared at the uneasy young man in front of him.

"My father is Rogers, the president of Quantum Fund, and I'm the senior investment manager at Layman Investments. How dare you reject me and turn to cooperate with a Somer businessman?"

## Life at the Top Chapter 819

Morrison's overwhelming force had Page and Brin looking embarrassed and afraid.

While the three of them were of similar age, Morrison had grown up in a wealthy family and received the best education available. When he graduated, he got a job in the world-class Layman Investment Bank's middle management.

As for Page and Brin...

Page's family could still be considered slightly powerful, but Brin had come from an ordinary family.

Not to mention that Page's family background was nothing in comparison to Morrison's.

"We have no intention of offending you, Mr. Morrison, but you understand that cooperation has to be done on common grounds, at least. And we believe that you..."

"I mean that Layman Investment Bank's conditions are too harsh. By purchasing 80% of our shares with 60 million as well as accepting you as our operational supervisor, we would then lose all initiative."

Page glanced at his partner and spoke with difficulty.

“We cannot possibly accept such harsh conditions.”

Morrison scoffed and leaned back against the chair as he spoke coldly, “You need to know that there are at least 8,000 to 10,000 start-up companies like yours in the United States. Do you know what makes you different from them?”

“The only difference is that I like you and I’m willing to invest. Yet you’re criticizing me for having harsh conditions?”

“What makes you think that a small company like yours will still find other sources of investment after rejecting Layman Investments, huh?”

Page clenched his jaw at Morrison’s words and replied, “There are other people interested in our company, at least.”

“That man of Somer descent?” Morrison’s expression grew even more mocking.

“Somerland is nothing but a poor, underdeveloped, and feudal country. The only people you’ll find there are scammers and ruffians! Do they even know what the internet is? Or what a technology company is?”

“You’re people of the United States, and yet you lower yourself just so you can work with the lowly people of Somer descent? How shameless!”

Page frowned heavily at that and was about to speak when Brin tugged on his hand to stop him.

After stopping Page, Brin then gave Morrison an apologetic smile. “We’re merely getting in touch with them, Mr. Morrison. After all, this is someone Mr. Todd has introduced. He bought 27% of Google’s shares from Mr. Todd.”



“Even if not to discuss the terms of cooperation with him, it’s only right we meet him considering he’s one of our shareholders.”

“So you’re using Todd’s name to shut me up, then?” Morrison scoffed.

“Who the hell is Todd in comparison to my father?”

“Yes, yes, of course.” Brin smiled, much more tolerant than Page.

“But we aren’t you, Mr. Morrison. You have a powerful family supporting you and you’re the senior investment manager of Layman Investments. We’re but the founders of a small start-up company. We don’t have any power at all so we don’t really have a choice when it comes to a lot of things.”

Brin’s extremely humble attitude slightly brightened Morrison’s dark expression.

“Hmm, not bad. At least, you’re respectful when you speak.

“Go if you must, then. But remember that my conditions are here. You’d better decide quickly because if I change my mind, I won’t entertain you even if you come begging at my door.”

“Yes, yes, of course. We’ll definitely think it through and give you a satisfactory reply, Mr. Morrison.”

Brin spoke and dragged an upset Page out of the room.

After they left, a beautiful and lithe secretary strutted into the room.

Morrison slapped her on the butt.

“Have someone find out who that person of Somer descent in touch with Google is. Google’s a very promising company and investing in them will help me fight for the position as president of the Terra regional branch. There’s no way I’m going to let some stink\*ss person from Somerland screw my plans over.”

“Very promising company?” the secretary asked.

“Yahoo has already agreed to use Google’s search engine technology. That’s what my dad said. No one knows about this yet, not even Google themselves have been informed.

“Google’s market price will immediately skyrocket by the time news gets out. Only idiots will think that Google’s an ordinary start-up!”

...

Page and Brin arrived at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel one and a half hours after they left Morrison’s office.

They were shocked to see Jasper standing by the entrance to greet them.

Sitting in the car, Page, who had been wearing a dark expression on his face because of Morrison the entire ride over, suddenly turned to Brin when he saw Jasper standing by the entrance from afar. “Brin, I would prefer accepting this person of Somer descent’s investment if his conditions aren’t too harsh.”

“Why?” Brin asked.

“Take a look.”

Page pointed at Jasper’s silhouette that was getting clearer as the car drove toward him and said, “We’ve been smiling as we begged others to invest in us all this while, yet who has ever come out to greet us before? It’s been a very long time since I’ve been treated with such courtesy. He makes me feel respected.”

Brin’s gaze burned into Jasper as he pursed his lips silently.

# Life at the Top Chapter 820

“It’s nice to get to meet you two.”

Jasper reached out to shake Page’s and Brin’s hands as he spoke, approaching them once they got out of the car.

Page shook Jasper’s hand and spoke with a smile, “Hello, Mr. Laine. I’m Page and this is Brin, we’re the co-founders of Google. It’s an honor to meet you.”

“I’m honored to meet you as well.”

In truth, Jasper had seen pictures of these two people in his past life.

Page was a shut-in obsessed with technology, a direct and blunt man. While Google was still in its most difficult incubation stage, they had relied mostly on generosity to overcome it.

Brin, on the other hand, was more restrained and had more tact. He was more of a businessman than Page.

When Google grew, Page became the face of Google most of the time but true control of the company still laid in Brin’s hands.

He was a low profile man who had self-restraint.

After quick small talk, Jasper invited the two into the hotel’s restaurant as they enjoyed dinner.

Page and Brin had just sat down when they realized that Jasper had attentively prepared a meal that catered to their Jewish tastes.

“To be honest, Mr. Laine, I’m feeling a warmth from you that I’ve never felt before during this time,” Page told Jasper, feeling touched.

Jasper smiled. “I learned that you two are Jewish from Mr. Todd, so I had the hotel prepare something else instead. It’s nothing much, actually. I just believe that mutual respect is the foundation of mutual trust between people.”

Page and Brin shared a look before nodding.

This alone had earned Jasper brownie points from both of them.

As they ate, Jasper also began to chat aimlessly with Page and Brin.

Jasper had merely been an employee of a small financial company back in Somerland in his past life, so he had only eaten meals outside with his superior a handful of times—let alone top-notch talents like Page and Brin.

Yet here Jasper was, eating dinner with them as the duo spoke politely to Jasper.

Such was life...

After simple small talk, Page first brought up the issue of investment.

“We know that you’ve bought 27% of Google’s shares from Mr. Todd, Mr. Laine. Do you perhaps see a bullish trend in our company’s future?” Page asked excitedly, extremely eager for Jasper’s recognition.

After all, in comparison to them, Jasper had achieved way more. They were both in the dot-com industry, and Jasper’s Sena had already successfully gone public and evoked the enthusiasm of the investors in the United States to invest in the industry. Sena’s share price had also exceeded 150 US dollars in a few days!

“My apologies, I don’t really know Google too well, so I can’t say whether I have a bullish or bearish stand on your company’s future.”

Admiration was one thing, but Jasper was not going to compromise at all when it came to business—even if he was facing future big shots.

Everything Jasper said now would affect the investment and distribution of benefits later, so Jasper made sure he spoke in accordance.

Ignoring the disappointed looks on the duo's faces, Jasper continued, "To be honest with you, I bought 27% of your shares because of my friendship with Todd. Google itself did not play too big a part in my decision.

"I heard that you're lacking in funds?"

With just a few sentences, Jasper managed to put Page and Brin, two future wealthy businessmen, through an emotional rollercoaster. At the same time, he had also grasped the initiative of the negotiation tightly in his hands.

"We are. Our company does indeed need more funds for future development. Not to toot our own horn, but our patent search engine technology is irreplaceable worldwide!

"All we need are funds to expand our company's business. Once we have the funds, I'm certain that we'll be able to further develop in a short amount of time. I promise that you won't make a loss if you invest in us, Mr. Laine."

Page spoke hastily.

After a moment of thought, Brin added, "We've been in contact with Yahoo three months ago, Mr. Laine. And we've proposed a partnership with them. We're willing to provide our search engine technology to them for free.

"The partnership hasn't been approved yet, but once it has, Google's search engine will immediately take up most of the United States' market share and we'll be able to gather a large number of users' data in a short amount of time.

"These are all beneficial to Google's development."

Both Brin and Page felt rather guilty after saying those words.

After all, including themselves, no one would believe that Yahoo would partner with such an insignificant company.

Yahoo was currently the largest web portal in the world and the technology company with the second-highest market price just after Weresoft.

Yahoo and Google were miles apart, so there was no way the former would consider their technology.

Yet Jasper smiled as the two were worried.

Page and Brin were still fresh to the world.