

# Life at the Top Chapter 841

“In recent years, we’ve dispatched more than a dozen exploration teams to search for new minerals, spending at least ten million annually. Aside from national mining enterprises, the Monty family has spent the most money among other private enterprises.

“Our hard work finally paid off. In the mountains of Hill County, we located this aluminum mine. In the preliminary exploration, we found at least ten million tons of aluminum ores, sufficient for continuous mining for ten years according to the annual mining volume of one million tons. Its value is no less than 90 billion.”

At that point, Conrad’s blank face revealed a rare excitement.

“Therefore, I plan to partner up with you to do this business.”

When Jasper was done listening, he raised his eyebrows slightly and said, “If that’s what you’re saying, Mr. Monty, then you can easily make a fortune from this aluminum mine yourself. Why would you want to share it with me?”

Conrad was not the slightest surprised by Jasper’s question. He replied, “Funds.”

“Like I said, Hill County is extremely poor. In order to develop a mine, the first thing you will need to do is build a road that leads directly to the mine so that heavy machinery can go in and out using the road.

“Judging from the current situation in Hill County, at least one billion Somer Dollars in investments is required to construct the road. Another tricky thing is that the minerals are located in the territory of provincial natural resources reserves. According to regulations, the vegetation and trees destroyed from building a mine will have to be replanted.

“That will be at least another billion in expenditure.

“Also, Hill County’s government once stated their conditions to me, saying that if I build a mine, the mining workers must be recruited from Hill County itself. That’s fine with me since building a mine requires workers, after all. But the problem here is the second condition. We must supply electricity and water to the towns and villages wherever the road passes.

“The expenditure is slightly lesser here, about 300 million Somer Dollars.

“In other words, excluding capital investment such as mining equipment and large amounts of employee safety equipment, as well as other funds, the additional expenditure required in the initial period to construct this aluminum mine is 2.3 billion Somer Dollars. In addition to that, we need at least three billion Somer Dollars in investment when the mining begin, and at least 500 million Somer Dollars for maintenance and operational costs in subsequent years.

“Although the mine is capable of making profits once operations and maintenance begins, during the initial period, including the additional expenditure of 2.3 billion, a total of 5.3 billion Somer Dollars is needed.”

After saying those words, Conrad spread his arms open and said nonchalantly, “If it weren’t for these funding issues, do you think I would want to split this juicy piece of meat with anyone? I would have kept it a secret. Why would I take the initiative to let you know and even invite you to partner up with me?”

“5.3 billion.” Jasper tapped his fingers gently on the armrest of the couch and said calmly, “That’s not a small sum.”

“The Monty family can take out three billion. The remaining 2.3 billion can be converted into shares. The approximate ratio is 60:40. I can give you the 40%.” Conrad put forward his condition for the partnership.

Jasper laughed. “Not everyone can take out so much money at a time even if it’s just 2.3 billion. You think too highly of me, Mr. Monty.”

“Others may not be able to do it, but I believe you can. Don’t tell me that you didn’t even earn two billion when you went to the United States to get Sena listed?” Conrad said indifferently.

Jasper chuckled and said, “Looks like you know a lot about me, Mr. Monty. That’s far too much concern on your side, don’t you think?”

“Let’s cut to the chase. I will give you two days to think about it. If you don’t want to do it, then I will find someone else.” Conrad stood up and walked to the door after finishing his sentence.

“Sure, I’ll give you an answer two days later,” Jasper said.

Conrad had just left when Jasper said to Dawson with a chuckle, “Did you smell it, Uncle Dawson?”

“Smell what?” Dawson frowned, still thinking about the aluminum mine.

“The smell of conspiracy.”

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Dawson asked with a frown, "Are you saying that he's lying to you? But you can't lie about a mine that has been explored. We can easily send someone over to investigate. Why would he use such a lousy trick?"

Jasper said knowingly, "Some simple tricks can play a key role in crucial times. It doesn't necessarily need to be a scam. Half-truths are always the most difficult to expose."

"Are you going to decline, then?" Dawson asked.

Jasper pondered and said, "If we don't destroy the Monty family, then they will remain a thorn in our sides or a fish bone stuck in our throats. He wants to destroy me, and I want to use this opportunity to remove the seeds of future troubles."

"I'm afraid this is not going to be easy to deal with. If Conrad wants to set us up, he will leave plenty of ways out for himself when so much money is involved."

Dawson frowned slightly as he continued, "Besides, the Monty family has deep roots and a firm foundation. We may be able to deal with Conrad, but let's not forget that he has a backer, and that person is the hardest to deal with."

Jasper chuckled and stood up, saying, "No matter what happens, we'll see how things progress first!"

Two days was neither too long nor too short.

In the midst of his hectic life, two days went by in the blink of an eye.

In the past two days, Jasper and Dawson worked together to prepare for Southface River Project's topping-out ceremony.

On the other hand, Jack planned to officially launch the online point card payment system, a joint partnership between Sena and Terizone. There were many tasks involved that required frequent communication with Terizone and Commercial Bank.

Plus, Sena was now a proper listed company and currently the most popular foreign-listed internet company in the domestic internet industry. Therefore, he planned to hold an annual meeting in Waterhoof City.

Jack's intentions were clear when he reported this to Jasper. He wanted Jasper to attend it.

Jasper did not decline. After deciding on a time with Jack, they waited for Sena's annual meeting next week.

The topping-out ceremony for the Southface River Project would be held immediately after Sena's annual meeting.

There were many complicated affairs to handle, and when Jasper was done handling them one by one, two days had already gone by.

Today, Conrad showed up at his doorsteps.

He was not alone. He brought with him Valentine Estrada, a man Jasper once had dealings with.

The two of them brought a stack of information and went straight to Jasper's office.

"If I hadn't heard about it in advance, I wouldn't believe that your parent company is squeezed into such a tiny villa." Conrad sat across from Jasper with a smile.

Jasper asked the clerk to prepare two cups of coffee and laughed.

“When Southface River officially opens, my company will then shift over. We can only do what we can at the moment. We have no choice. The company is less than a year old and is still very weak. It’s best to take things slow.”

“Why do I feel like you’re mocking old companies like us?” Conrad said meaningfully.

“Are you here to have idle talks with me today, Mr. Monty?” Jasper said with a grin.

Conrad motioned to Valentine and the latter immediately pulled out a stack of documents. Conrad said, “Two days are up. I’m here to ask if you have an answer? This is all the information regarding the aluminum mine.

“You will find verifications from the county, city, and province mining departments, as well as detailed and official certification of the surrounding environment of the reserves and mineral resources. I can’t fake these things nor am I allowed to fake these things. Just take a close look at them and you’ll know what I mean,” Conrad said.

Jasper carefully read the documents in his hands without a word.

Conrad picked up his cup of coffee and took a sip in an unruffled manner, turning around to study Jasper’s office. The competitive aura that emitted from within him when he faced Jasper in the past was non-existent now.

Honestly, Jasper knew nothing about the mining industry. The jargon and data shown in this thick stack of information made his head hurt. It was all Greek to him.

Jasper could at least tell a private document and an official document apart.

Among them were a few official documents with clear-written words to prove that the aluminum mine that Conrad mentioned did exist.

No one would fake things like that because, on the one hand, one could make a call to the department to know if this was fake. It would be too easily exposed.

On the other hand, once exposed, one would have to pay a huge price for forging official documents.

“I don’t understand the data and statistics, but I know this is probably real,” Jasper said bluntly while putting down the papers.

Conrad, who was studying Jasper’s office, withdrew his gaze and said mildly, “It’s alright if you don’t understand the data and statistics. You can find any undergraduate with a degree in mineral exploration and he’ll give you a clear calculation.

“If you’ve confirmed that it’s genuine, can you give me an answer now? Do you want this partnership or not?”

After pointing at the large stack of papers on the table, Jasper said with a grin, “Look, I don’t know about these things. Even if I find a professional to go through it, it’ll still take some time. Why don’t you give me two more days?”

Frowning slightly, Conrad looked at Jasper and said, “I’ll give you one more day at most. With every delay, I’m wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars. No one can bear this cost for too long. If you don’t want to, then I can just find other partners.”

“Okay, one day it is then,” Jasper said with a smile.

“Don’t worry, I’ll definitely give you an answer tomorrow at this time.”

Conrad stood up and said, “Hopefully.”





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After bidding an insincere farewell to Jasper, Conrad and Valentine left the villa.

Upon getting into the car, he lifted his head and said, "Cancel all the plans we prepared previously."

"Mr. Monty, we spent a lot of money and effort to prepare those plans. Are we... cancelling all of them?"

Sitting at the front passenger seat, Valentine turned around and asked.

"Cancel it all. Use a new plan."

Conrad added mildly, "Starting from the day Jasper built up his fortune, I can recite every piece of information I found about him backwards.

"From those pieces of information that can almost be written into a novel, I can tell that Jasper is an extremely conceited person. He's distrusting to his core and only believes in his own judgment.

"No matter how outrageous a judgment may seem to outsiders, he will execute his plan once he has made his decision. He has never cared about what outsiders think or say.

"Most terrifyingly... his outrageous judgments have all succeeded. The more outrageous it is, the more benefits he gets. It's precisely because of this that he's able to accumulate so much wealth in just one year's time.

"Ever since Sena was listed, there are not many people in Somerland who can compare to him in terms of wealth and fortune. No more than three digits.

“Just how arrogant and conceited can this man be? He isn’t afraid of schemes and tricks. He believes that he can solve everything.”

At this point, Conrad’s lips were curled into a strange arc.

“A conceited man like him will still eat the poisonous cake we sent him despite knowing that it’s poisonous because he believes that he can handle the poison to get rid of us.

“He covets the gains in front of him without being aware of the danger behind him. Jasper covets the gains yet has no idea that I’m the danger lurking behind him, pointing a sniper at his head.”

After hearing what he said, Valentine could not help but gasp in admiration.

Conrad had lost to Jasper twice, suffering tremendous losses. Moreover, Jasper was always able to leave with a bunch of benefits each time.

Valentine was not around the first time, but he had heard about it.

He experienced it himself the second time.

This was the third time.

Valentine had observed how terrifyingly fast Conrad had grown during this time. Conrad had been reviewing his defeat almost every day, carefully thinking about what went wrong that caused his defeat and Jasper’s victory.

In Valentine’s opinion, Conrad had completely transformed now. It would not make any sense if he did not win this time.

More importantly, Valentine had met Conrad’s father, Steven Monty, recently.

After meeting that man, Valentine realized what a true upright and indomitable man in Southeast Province actually looked like. With a man like him as Conrad's father and to have him back him up, how could Conrad possibly lose?

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"They sure are willing to fork out so much money for this bait."

In the evening. In Jasper's office, Henry yawned constantly while Jasper studied an encrypted document that had been sent urgently from Harbor City. He tutted non-stop.

He rested his legs on the armrest of the couch, lying flawlessly on the couch. Henry picked a comfortable posture to lie down and said with disdain.

"That idiot Mitch didn't even have the guts to dig a hole and bury someone on the mountains previously but now he's bold enough to transport hundreds of tons of aluminum ores to the mountain and hide them, pretending like it's a new mine that has just been explored? He's pretty smart, isn't he?"

"Have you actually buried someone before?" Jasper asked.

"No."

Henry waved his hands.

"It's not what you think it is. We just beat up the idiots we don't like and drag them to the mountain, dig a pit, strip them bare, and throw their clothes into it. Then we bury them up to their chests. This way, no one dies and we can also teach them a good lesson. That's it, basically."

Having said that, Henry smirked and said, "Do you remember Bon Lancaster's son, Zane Lancaster? He's currently the one who has been buried the most among other trust fund babies in Harbor City. Hahahaha."

“Can you guess who made it to the top of the list for burying the most people? I’ll give you a hint. You know this person very well,” Henry said while winking his eyes.

“It’s not you, is it?” Jasper hissed.

Although he was talking to Henry, his eyes were fixed on the document that came from Harbor City. He was searching his brain for all the clues he already had, reassembling and restoring them as he tried to play out the scenes in his head.

“Hehehe, I knew you’d say that. You got it wrong this time. It’s my sister.” Henry laughed.

Jasper withdrew his gaze from the documents upon hearing his words and shifted it to Henry, asking dubiously, “Anna? I don’t believe you.”

“You don’t believe me? Although my sister doesn’t hang out with us, she has a reputation for teaching all the trust fund babies in Harbor City a lesson. Only Kayden, Fabian, and those who are much older than her had not been bashed up by her before.

“In the years before we met you, if she found any trust fund babies in Harbor City unpleasant to look at, or if they pissed her off, none of them would end well.

“When she was done crippling them, I would bury them. But she’s still the initiator, after all, so those idiots would shudder in fright whenever they see her now!”

Jasper recalled Anna’s matchless beauty and chuckled. “I can’t tell at all.”

“She changed after meeting you. She’s way quieter now,” Henry said with a sigh.

When he finally put down the document that was three to five pages, Jasper ignored Henry’s sighs and said, “I’m afraid Mitch won’t be able to handle something this big…”

“Sneaking hundreds of tons of aluminum ores through customs, burying them, and disguising them as a fake mine so flawlessly that it could even fool the most experienced veterans in the industry... This scam alone would cost them hundreds of millions of dollars, right?”

“They sure are willing.”

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“What’s the situation now?”

Henry managed to lift half of his body from the couch and asked Jasper.

“Mitch, that idiot, colluded with Conrad to transport hundreds of tons of aluminum ores from Harbor City just to trick you?”

Jasper nodded and said, “Something like that.”

“F\*ck!” Henry cursed with displeasure. “Why has no one paid such a huge price to trick me before?”

“It only takes a few women to trick you,” Jasper shot back mercilessly.

“F\*ck, I don’t like to hear that!” Henry roared grumpily.

“Stop shouting. It hurts my head.”

“This is all thanks to the Laws’ great influence. Your family was able to find out about this in just a few hours.

“Since they’ve spent so much effort preparing a good show, it would be such a pity if we don’t go along with their performance, don’t you think?” Jasper said meaningfully.

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The next day, Conrad took the initiative to make a call. This time, Jasper agreed to meet him at a location.

“I think the partnership can go on,” Jasper said with a smile while looking at Conrad who was sitting across the table.

“Before that, though, I have a question.

“Aren’t you afraid that working with me will irk you when you have enmity against me?”

After hearing what Jasper said, Conrad said indifferently, “Enmity and business are two completely different things. If I can’t even draw a clear distinction between them, then why bother doing business at all?”

“Okay.” Jasper nodded, seemingly impressed by this answer.

“How will this partnership work?”

Conrad’s eyes twinkled as he said with a faint smile, “Like what we mentioned earlier, we will establish a company. I’ll hold 60% shares and you 40%. We’ll invest according to the ratio. You will contribute 2.3 billion while I will fork out the remaining three billion.”

“The interests that belong to the company after that will also be divided according to equity.”

Jasper nodded and said, “Not bad. This is a standard and reasonable way to distribute it. However, I don’t know anything about the mineral industry. What about the sales channels?”

“Don’t worry about the sales channels. I’ve already contacted several state-owned mining companies. As soon as the company is established, we can then sign a business contract with them as our suppliers and operate according to the market price.”

“In other words, you’ve done everything from exploration to mining to sales and I only need to fork out money before waiting for my share of profits?” Jasper asked.

Conrad looked at Jasper and asked indifferently, “You’re afraid that I’ll set you up?”

Jasper laughed. “Would you believe me if I say I’m not afraid?”

“I don’t believe you.” Conrad shook his head and raised his brows, saying, “I explained the reason to you earlier. Had it not been for insufficient funds, I wouldn’t have shared this with anyone—let alone you.

“At present, if I want 60% of these benefits, I will have to let someone have the 40%. In addition to that, I don’t have many candidates to choose from. After deliberating for a very long time, I think you’re the most suitable candidate of all.

“If you’re worried, then I can let you handle the aspects of legal representation, management, and even the signing of the sales contracts.”

“In that case, I can kick you out anytime. You’re not afraid of that?” Jasper asked.

“Would you believe me if I say that I’m not afraid?” Conrad replied to Jasper with his own words.

“I don’t believe you.” Jasper laughed.

“I’ll be in charge of setting up collateral,” Conrad said.

“Collateral? We have enough money. Why would you still need to set up collateral?” Jasper asked, raising his eyebrows slightly.



Smiling, Conrad said, “Do you think we can just cash out three billion so casually? I don’t have a listed company to be my backer like you. I need to put up the entire company’s equity as collateral. The loan will be at least 2.5 billion.”

The company was short of funds, and it seemed perfectly normal to apply for bank loans.

Jasper looked unruffled when he listened to Conrad’s words and said, “I thought you’d fork out three billion yourself and inject it into the company, but from what you’re saying right now, I will be the one forking out a large sum of money whereas you won’t have to pay anything?”

Conrad replied calmly, “You can’t say that. Is it not enough that I have put up the entire aluminum mine as collateral? You must know that the only reason why our partnership can work and the bank loans can be approved is that fundamentally, this aluminum mine exists, no?”

Jasper pondered for a moment and said, “I need to do a field trip.”

“Of course.” Conrad agreed readily.

“We can go anytime as long as you’re free.”

“I won’t be there. I won’t understand anything anyway so I’ll be going there for nothing. I’ll send relevant experts, though. I just need a bit of help from you when the time comes, that’s all,” Jasper said.

Conrad replied flatly, “Inform me when you’re done with the arrangements. I’ll be ready at any time to serve your men.”

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Jasper sat unmoving in his seat even after Conrad had left.

Wendy arrived soon after. After he stood and exchanged seats with her, Jasper beckoned to a waiter to order a table's worth of food.

"Conrad has pretty good taste. The food at this restaurant is quite good."

As Jasper spoke to Wendy, he ladled a helping of her favorite chicken onto her plate.

Wendy blinked as she gazed at Jasper, asking, "How did the discussion go?"

Jasper smiled and said, "It went just as I expected it to, but there were also some surprises."

He did not keep anything hidden from Wendy as he relayed the details about the conversation he had with Conrad, making sure to emphasize the request Conrad brought up.

Wendy had a solemn expression on her face as she nodded and said, "The request for a loan must not be agreed to!"

"After all, no matter who is responsible for applying for the loan, the bank will have to assess the company's assets regardless. Once the loan is approved and becomes an overdue loan, the bank will seek out the lender and legal representative, which would be you and the new company.

"Both parties need to repay the loan, but Conrad Monty would not have to shoulder even an ounce of responsibility."

“That’s right,” Jasper said calmly as he spat out a bone. “This is where Conrad’s schemes came into play.

“It might seem as if he’s given me all the power, but with great power comes great responsibility. By becoming the legal representative, I’ll be able to manage the company.

“However, I’ll also be the first to be blamed if anything were to happen to the company. If he takes out a loan of 2.5 billion dollars and fails to make the repayments, the bank will come looking for me instead of him.”

Wendy said angrily, “What a despicable person he is! We must not make any promises to him.”

“I didn’t reject him. I told him I needed to send some professionals over to conduct some field research and he said he would take good care of them,” Jasper said with a smile.

Wendy said angrily, “How could you have made a blunder at such a critical stage? If he’s already made that many preparations, there’s no way your experts can find anything when they arrive at the scene. They’ll tell you that everything is perfectly fine.”

Jasper shrugged and said, “I know, but I’m only doing this to placate him.”

Wendy stared confusedly at Jasper as she frowned and asked, “What are you planning to do?”

Jasper chuckled and said, “Conrad’s plans are about to be revealed at this point.

“He first obtained fake aluminum ore, which he’s using to swindle my funds from me. Everything will seem fine at first when I’ve invested enough money to set up the new company. We’ll even be making huge profits.

“However, as time goes on, I’ll suddenly discover that the mine has run out of ore to be mined. Thus, that would cause a breach of contract, and the state-owned enterprises who have already signed contracts with us will file a lawsuit against us. Then, the bank will also file a lawsuit when the loan repayments are overdue.

“When that happens, I either have to swallow the bitter truth of having to pay the state-owned enterprises for breach of contract and the bank interest on the loan principal, or I can deny everything and fight a lengthy legal battle with both parties. However, I will be on the losing side no matter which option I choose.

“As for Conrad, he’ll end up becoming the winner with the 2.5 billion dollars he loaned.”

Wendy gritted her teeth as she listened to Jasper. “How can such despicable people exist in the world?! Jasp, we should ignore him and make his plans fail!”

“I won’t cough up a single cent, but this scheme...”

Jasper had a meaningful look on his face as he placed a drumstick on Wendy’s plate. Smiling, he said, “We’ll take things one step at a time.”

At that very moment, Conrad had already arrived home.

He was sitting in the study and having a video call with Kennedy who was in Harbor City.

“Things are about 80% complete at this point.”

A look of delight appeared on Kennedy’s face when he heard what Conrad said.

“Not bad. I knew things would go well with you in charge.”

However, Conrad shook his head when he heard the praises and said, “Mr. Kennedy, we can’t get too excited just yet. We must wait for Jasper’s funds to be processed.”

Kennedy nodded and said, “Alright. One must not be impatient if one wants to achieve big things. I’ll be accompanying my father to America in two days. Thus, you’ll be reporting any updates regarding this matter to Mitch.”

Conrad frowned slightly as he said, “Maybe I should report directly to you instead, Mr. Kennedy?”

Kennedy said softly, “Conrad, Mitch has made progress since the last time. We’ve already planned everything out, so all he needs to do is follow the instructions I’ve given him. Nothing will happen. Get in touch with me if you need any difficult decisions made.”

When Conrad heard that, he sighed softly and said, “Alright, I understand.”

After hanging up, the corners of Conrad’s lips curled upward into a cold smile as he muttered to himself, “Stupid. The dad is just as stupid as his son.”

Then, Conrad took his phone and dialed another number.

“Start buying out Sena’s shares now, and remember to take each step carefully. This time, I’m going to turn on Jasper and cause him to suffer his most major loss yet!

“Who cares about the W. Langdon family? They’re just bait for me to tempt Jasper Laine with. Everyone will only realize they’ve been fooled by me when I reveal everything!”