

Life at the Top Chapter 881

Money poured out like a steady stream of water. Even so, Jasper had never been frugal when it came to events like these.

If morning was said to be the time for financial and daily reports to shine, then nighttime events were heaven on earth for entertainment news reporters.

There were celebrities everywhere. Three out of Harbor City's four richest families led the way, accompanied by many important and powerful people from the Southeast Province's and its surroundings. Furthermore, eight bigshots out of the dozen or so state-owned real estate enterprises within the country were also present.

Superstars were aplenty as well. Beautiful ladies, all of Harbor City's four main Superstars, and multiple Miss Harbor City's fighting over who got to appear first. The gala had gathered almost all of Harbor City's and the Mainland's top-notch celebrities.

A simple thank you banquet had now turned into an extremely classy gala.

Female stars were dolled up and looking beautiful as they walked the red carpet into the hotel.

Reporters could take a photo at random here and they would probably have a shot of rich sons with beautiful celebrities or models in tow. An abundance of people who tended to be the center of scandalous rumors were present, and the reporters grinned so wide that their smiles stretched from ear to ear.

Wendy did not like such events, and the past two days had indeed tired her out, so she opted to stay home that day.

However, Jasper felt that it would be rather embarrassing to appear alone in such situations, so he asked Scarlet to join him.

This action alone did not mean much, but then rumors started to circulate about Jasper waiting for Scarlet to arrive by the entrance.

Goddess Scarlet Seemingly Dating the New Billionaire Jasper Laine!

Scarlet Blooms into a Smile with the Youngest Billionaire by Her Side!

Harbor City's Goddess Stolen by Mainland Billionaire!

Similar headlines instantly began to appear in the reporters' minds.

Just as Scarlet reached out to take Jasper's arm, the dark night lit up like the afternoon sun with camera flashes.

The group of reporters no longer held back as they rushed over to interview them, but a group of bodyguards quickly held them back.

Jasper ignored them as he ushered Scarlet into the hotel.

"There's a lot of people," Scarlet commented with her arm looped around Jasper's.

"I didn't know celebrities feared crowds," Jasper spoke with a smile.

"But these aren't normal people," Scarlet replied.

"How are they not normal? All of them have a head resting on their shoulders. There's nothing special about them."

Scarlet pursed her lips and smiled, her gaze sparkling with a certain allure as she turned to Jasper. "You're the most special one out of them all."

Jasper turned to look at Scarlet and chuckled, "You know, I'm sort of a fan of your films."

"Oh?" Scarlet looked at Jasper in shock, then she pouted, "Isn't this the line that rich playboys use to deceive female celebrities?"

"I've watched A Somer Odyssey at least ten times," Jasper exclaimed softly.

He was technically speaking the truth, but he had watched it during his past life.

No one could stay back from Purple Fairy.

"Tell me just one of my lines and I'll believe you." Scarlet realized that Jasper was a down-to-earth person that did not seem to keep his nose in the air, so she mustered up the courage to joke with him.

"Do you see that man? He looks like a dog," Jasper softly recited a classic line from Scarlet's film.

Coincidentally, at that moment, Zane had turned around and spotted Scarlet, so he and was running over in surprise when Jasper said this. Hence, he happened to hear the quote as well.

"Who the f*ck are you calling a dog?!" Zane roared.

Jasper turned to look at Zane and frowned. "I never realized that there were people so proud to be called a dog that they'd run all the way over to accept the title."

When he said this, Scarlet could not hold back and immediately burst into a melodic laugh, causing her body to shudder slightly.

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Zane felt his dignity crumble when he saw how happy Scarlet was while laughing.

He had always liked Scarlet.

He liked her differently from how he liked the other female celebrities that he had by now tired of fooling around with.

Those female stars were willing to sleep with anyone for the sake of a bit of money and status.

Scarlet was not like that.

Scarlet was the kind who would rather die than let anyone force themselves onto her.

Such purity and will were extremely rare in such a day and age.

Despite this, Scarlet was precisely that.

Zane had been trying all sorts of tactics to get close to her, but he was never given the chance.

Now that he finally had the chance to see Scarlet tonight, he was just about to seize the opportunity to get close to her when he suddenly earned himself the title of a dog.

Not to mention, Scarlet had watched the scene unfurl. This was not something Zane could accept.

“What did you say, you country bumpkin!” Zane grit his teeth.

Already harboring a deep hatred for Jasper, this incident only added to the resentment. Now that Mitch was not here to hold him back, Zane was about to lose his mind.

“Ridiculous.”

Jasper pulled Scarlet away after coldly commenting on Zane’s behavior.

He was the host tonight, and he could not lower himself by causing a commotion with Zane. This would only make Jasper look bad in front of everyone.

“Wait!”

Zane called out to stop them.

He stared at Scarlet’s hand that was wrapped around Jasper’s with envy and resentment. Zane’s anger skyrocketed as he could acutely see how Jasper’s arm would subtly brush past Scarlet’s chest while he walked.

“Scarlet is mine! You better watch yourself!” Zane spoke coldly.

“Does she look like some property you can own?” Jasper asked.

Zane scoffed and replied, “Stop acting like you’re some f*cking sh*t. She’s just a woman! I’ll get whoever I want, property or not!”

“See? This is the difference between us.”

Jasper shook his head disappointedly. ‘Zane’s got to be one of the most moronic trust-fund children around.

‘Scarlet’s paled expression clearly shows what she thinks of his statement.

'Yet, he's trying to flirt with girls like that?

'What woman's going to love him if not for the power and money his family provides?

'Truly father like son.'

As he brought Scarlet away, Jasper asked, "Do you know him?"

Scarlet seemed terrified that Jasper would misunderstand, so she quickly replied, "It's not like that, he just won't leave me alone."

Jasper nodded and spoke calmly, "I'll put in a word to the group later. Try to angle your work toward the Mainland in the future. People like him will do just about anything to get what they want."

Scarlet asked softly, "Won't that be too much trouble?"

"Trouble? All I have to do is say a single word," Jasper replied with a smile.

"Don't worry about losing out. Harbor City's entertainment industry might be more developed than the Mainland's right now, but the Mainland is the future. All of Harbor City's celebrities will come over to start competing for stardom when that happens, so it'll be good for you if you come now and make a name for yourself."

"Okay, I'll listen to you then," Scarlet replied gently.

Jasper's brow twitched slightly. 'Did she misunderstand?'

Jasper was thinking about how to explain himself when Henry suddenly walked over with a bounce in his steps.

“Good, I’ve finally found you. My dad wants you to come over, the main table’s waiting for you. You better get there, you host, before I become a f*cking microphone,” Henry spoke in irritation.

“Alright, I’m going. Help me watch over her; don’t let Zane harass her,” Jasper told Henry.

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Henry glanced at Scarlet and chuckled. “Yo, if it isn’t Scarlet.”

“Hello, Mr. Law,” Scarlet greeted softly, slightly afraid in the face of Harbor City’s most formidable Young Master.

“I didn’t know you liked such soft and gentle women. Then why would you fancy someone as terrifying as my younger sister?” Henry grinned at Jasper evilly.

“Cut the nonsense,” Jasper glared at Henry.

Bidding Scarlet goodbye, Jasper made a beeline for the main table.

Scarlet watched Jasper walk toward the main table that was filled with extremely distinguished people and sighed. ‘I’ll never be qualified to stand there, will I?’

“Stop looking there. Where’s that stupid f*cker? Where’s Zane?” Henry’s voice jolted Scarlet out of her thoughts.

“Ah, he was there just now.” Scarlet pointed in the general direction behind her. “Are you going over?”

“Your boss asked me to take care of you and not let that f*cker harass you, no?”

Henry grinned evilly.

“The best way to protect someone is to get rid of their enemies first.”

Henry then happily went over to screw with Zane.

Unfortunately, Henry was doomed for disappointment.

This was because Bob had gotten to Zane first.

“Did you start something with Jasper again just now?” Bob asked angrily.

Zane replied irritably, “Motherf*cker. That country bumpkin stole my woman! I’m going to kill him!”

Slap!

Bob smacked Zane across the face in front of everyone.

“Dad! What the hell, why are you hitting me?!” Zane shouted as he cupped his cheek.

“F*cking Hell, you’d have gone and gotten yourself killed if I didn’t slap you!”

Bob growled and glanced at the main table where Jasper and Kennedy were engaged in a very happy conversation at that moment. The two did not look like enemies at all.

“Look at Jasper. He and your Uncle Kennedy want nothing more than to rip each other apart, yet here they are talking happily like friends when they meet. Look at you, f*cking useless! How’d I even give birth to something like you?”

“Look around and think about who the host tonight is before you act!”

Bob glared at Zane one more time before he continued angrily, “I have to go over there as well, so do not cause any more trouble for me! Otherwise, I’ll have you return to Harbor City immediately, and teach you a lesson when I get back!”

Zane cupped his cheek as he watched his father leave. At that moment, Jasper was currently raising his glass to toast everyone, causing Zane's eyes to drip with resentment at the sight.

"Stop looking, he won't die no matter how much you glare at him."

Mitch's voice was suddenly heard beside Zane.

Startled, Zane turned to look at Mitch and asked, "Where've you been? I almost died from an anger-derived heart attack!"

"What's there to be angry about?" Mitch sneered.

"I went to contact one of the spies I hid here. There's no way we can screw Jasper over in this kind of event."

"How'd the talk go?" Zane asked in surprise.

Zane was willing to die early if it meant that he could get rid of Jasper.

As they stood in the crowd, Mitch glared at Jasper darkly before turning to Zane, who had a similar expression on his face. "Let's not talk about this now. Come on, we're leaving!"

"Where are we going?" Zane asked.

"F*cker, we're going to look for the person that can get rid of Jasper! I won't let him step all over me! I'll let anyone do it, anybody but him!" Mitch seethed.

Zane's eyes shone in excitement. "Nice! Let's go now, then!"

The two figures vanished into the crowd while Julian, who had already received Jasper's cue long ago, secretly weaved through the crowd and followed them.

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After toasting the main table and giving them his thanks, Jasper realized that Julian had vanished, which meant that the latter had gone to work.

With a small smile, Jasper took the napkin Scarlet handed him to wipe his mouth. Then, he said, "Let's go, I still have twenty to thirty tables to toast and thank. How's your alcohol tolerance, by the way? Do you want to come with me?"

"It's not too bad," Scarlet replied softly, sneaking a glance at Jasper's expression. It was as if she was worried that Jasper would get upset upon finding out that she drank.

It was evident that Scarlet was overthinking as, instead of being upset, Jasper replied with satisfaction, "Great. Let's drink a bit and hold them off."

"..."

Half of Scarlet's gentlemanly image of Jasper immediately shattered when she heard the words 'hold them off'.

However, the man's kind and caring reputation still held firm in her mind.

The banquet lasted for at least another two hours.

Despite calling it a gala, it was essentially an event for the upper class to socialize.

Everyone seemed to understand the modus operandi as they chatted aimlessly with each other. Everyone was friends regardless of whether they were acquainted or not, almost like how men who sat at the same table in bars became sworn brothers.

Julian only rushed back when the gala was about to end. He whispered in Jasper's ear for a bit as the latter nodded before he continued to send the guests off.

It was only right that Jasper sent people like Kayden and Kennedy off in person.

After watching them get into their cars and driving away, Jasper said calmly, "Go dig a little further and find out whose villa they went to. We might find something. Who knows?"

Julian nodded understandingly.

"Let's go, Jasper." Zachary arrived a little late. His complexion was flushed, and the man seemed to have drunk a bit too much, but he was in a great mood.

Jasper definitely had to send Zachary back to the hotel himself.

"You don't need to come with me, Jul, I'll leave by myself later. Send Scarlet back to her hotel then go back and rest," Jasper instructed Julian.

Julian glanced at Scarlet, then nodded and turned to start the car.

"Go back first, see you next time," Jasper told Scarlet.

Despite her reluctance, Scarlet nodded obediently and bid him farewell, "Alright. I'll get going then."

Scarlet did not forget to bid Zachary, the extremely distinguished figure, goodbye as well.

"I'll be leaving, Mr. Law."

"Hmm."

Zachary nodded faintly.

While the tone was indifferent, Scarlet still let out a sigh of relief.

She knew that no celebrity in harbor City's entertainment industry could illicit such a response from Zachary.

For those celebrities did not even have the right to greet Zachary.

After Scarlet left, Jasper got into the car with Zachary and Henry.

"Uncle Law, what's the situation with the Boyle family?"

Now that they were finally alone, Jasper immediately asked about the situation with the Boyle family.

"What do you think?"

Zachary scoffed. "The Boyle family got into big trouble with some business over in Southeast Terra, and Kennedy just so happened to be able to help. The two families have been contacting each other very frequently lately."

Jasper nodded and chuckled. "Looks like the two families have reached an agreement."

"Ignore him. Boyle won't be able to cause any major issues," Zachary stated domineeringly.

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“Now that I think about it, you’ve done very well on the Southface River project. If possible, I think we can work together to spread it across the country.”

Zachary had been very excited throughout the drive since he had witnessed first-hand the overall effect of the Southface River project’s topping-out ceremony. Thus, he had been thinking about expanding the domestic real estate market alongside Jasper.

“It’s a great idea, Uncle Law, but it won’t be easy to execute,” Jasper smiled wryly.

While the Southface River project was completed quickly, and its effects were almost immediate, this was partly due to the fact that they were the first to accomplish such a feat. Coupled with the fact that the Southeast Province was Jasper and Dawson’s Territory, and that they had the support of the officials, the overall project was not very challenging.

It would be a different story to take on such a huge project in a foreign city. Merely coming to agreements with the official departments would be a major headache.

After all, every city has its own set of interests, and if you wanted to make money there, paying the toll was unavoidable.

Zachary naturally understood what Jasper was saying, and he smiled meaningfully, “That’s okay. Business isn’t always smooth-sailing everywhere we go.”

The car pulled up at the hotel lobby as the two spoke, and Henry was about to slip out of the car secretly when Zachary grabbed ahold of him and frowned. “Where are you going?”

“I... I’m not staying here.”

“Don’t worry. I checked Uncle Law into a suite, there are multiple rooms.” Jasper smiled with crescent-eyes as he helped Zachary attack Henry.

“Perfect. You’re coming with me tonight. There’s something I need to talk to you about,” Zachary spoke sternly.

“Come on, Dad, I’m not a child anymore, what’s there to talk about? Moreover, I’ve got a room of my own on the other side of town. It’ll be a waste of money if I stay here with you.” Henry was in despair.

“So now you want to be frugal? I don’t need you to be frugal with this sum of money. I’d buy ten hotels and it’d still be worth it if you’re willing to turn your personality around and actually focus on business instead of playing all day.

“Cut the nonsense and come with me.”

Jasper chuckled as Zachary dragged a wailing Henry away. He was about to ask Julian to send him back when he received a call from Celine.

“Where are you?”

Celine’s voice was drawled out as usual and laced with the magnetism and charm that other women could never imitate.

“Hotel. I’m about to go back though,” Jasper replied.

“Hotel? Yo, I’ve never heard a man tell a woman that they’ve just stepped out of a hotel, let alone so unashamedly,” Celine teased.

“Enough, why are you calling so late at night? Did something happen?” Jasper asked.

“Don’t go back, come straight to mine.”

Jasper furrowed his brows slightly, “It’s late. Is something wrong?”

“As much as I want to tease you a little more, we’re a little short on time right now. So to prevent you from scolding me, I’ll get straight to the point. They’re going to make a move tonight.”

Jasper’s brows froze mid-furrow and he replied grimly, “I’m on my way.”

...

Celine sat in the hotel room, curled lazily over the sofa. Her laptop was on her knees and there was a glass of red wine in her left hand. On her right was a pile of snacks.

This was the scene that Jasper was met with when he hastily rushed over.

Jasper almost suspected this woman was watching a movie on her laptop instead.

Or how could she look so at ease?

Jasper had already contacted Jake on the way over, but Jake could not detect any abnormalities. Instead, he claimed that the other party was still fighting them for shares as per usual.

Coupled with Celine’s laid-back posture, Jasper immediately began to doubt her statement.

“You’re going to be in very big trouble if you tricked me into coming over,” Jasper said.

Celine harrumphed softly and pushed the laptop onto the coffee table as she spoke, “Take a look for yourself, then.”