

Life at the Top Chapter 931

Zachary had gained full control of the situation.

By setting an example, Zachary had shown Henry how a top-notch hedonistic son of the rich could use words and might to intimidate the other party, eventually achieving his goal.

Bob looked exceedingly sullen.

When Bob learned about the things Zane did today, he knew that this was going to be a tricky problem to solve.

Bob knew better than younger generations like Zane that the Laws were the ones they should never mess with.

Three other rich families were just ordinary business families who made their fortune by taking advantage of Harbor City's unique status and the rapid development of society in the early years.

Later, even as their family status grew and they embarked on the journey of business and held government positions, they were still businessmen at heart.

The Laws were different.

Old Master Law started off with minor achievements in turbulent times and carved out a niche for himself.

The four richest families knew each other through and through. Why did the three other richest families not take the initiative to provoke the Laws even when they were keeping such a low profile?

That was because they knew that they could not afford to provoke the Laws.

At least when Old Master Law was still alive, no one would lay a finger on the Laws.

Since the handover, the help that Old Master Law had extended to the Mainland had earned him supreme status today. This was something that was becoming increasingly prominent.

Seeing that Zachary had no plans of overcoming this matter, Bob gritted his teeth and decided to endure the humiliation first.

He turned around and slapped Zane hard across the face.

Zane screamed. Already battered to begin with, Zane was wounded further, which made him look extremely dreadful and miserable.

Bob did not go easy on his strike, splitting open Zane's wounds that had just recovered. Blood came flowing in torrents.

"Now that things have come to this point, Zachary, nothing I say can change anything. In any case, my unfilial son has lost his head and committed this mistake. You'll decide how you want to punish him and I'll agree to it without a single frown," Bob said in a deep voice.

He sounded extremely sincere, or at least it sounded that way.

Zachary slapped Bob, and Bob then slapped his son.

Jasper and Henry watched with fascination at the constant plot shift.

Zachary sneered and said, "You're inflicting injury on your son to gain my sympathy, huh?"

Bob let out a wry smile. “Zachary, I’m not trying to gain your sympathy. I’m offering my sincerest apology. Seriously. You can do anything to this unfilial son and I won’t say a thing about it.”

Bob had made plans of his own. Zachary would never kill his son, right? At least he would still be alive and this would all be over soon.

As for his reputation, Bob already knew that it was impossible to secure his reputation when he noticed Zachary’s stance. He had received a slap in the face for nothing.

It did not matter anyway. There were only so few of them in the ward. When he stepped out of this door, he, Bob Lancaster, would remain as Harbor City’s magnate.

However, Bob, who was busy hatching a plot, had underestimated Zachary’s power.

“Sure, if that’s what you say.”

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Zachary pointed at the window of the ward and said, "Ask your son to jump out of there and I'll let this matter drop."

Bob and his son's expressions changed with great shock.

Jump out of there?!

Zane glanced with horror at the window that was ten stories above and then at his father Bob. Despair and pleas filled his eyes.

Bob looked beyond awkward as he was unable to back out now.

He was not going to allow his son to jump out the window no matter what.

"Motherf*cker, are you trying to play tricks with me? You're leaving the decision to me because you think that I wouldn't argue with a junior and would just scold and beat him. All would be fine since he's not going to die anyway, right? As long as he doesn't die, this will all pass, right?"

Zachary sneered, "Well, I insist on not doing things your way today. C'mon then. Didn't you say that I can punish him any way that I want? Well, I'm not going to kill or harm your son. I just want him to jump out of the window. Are you going to jump out or not?"

Bob's expression changed constantly. Ultimately, he said between clenched teeth, "Tell me what you want. Just don't cross the line. I admit that I was wrong."

Zachary let out a satisfied smile and said mildly, "I want 30% of the artificial canals in Southeast Alexandria that you're involved in developing."

Bob's expression changed abruptly as he responded subconsciously, "No way! That's my core asset. I will never allow anyone to touch it, let alone 30%!"

"It's fine if you don't want to. I'm sure you can give me a share of the natural gas contract you signed earlier, then?"

Bob looked like he had seen a ghost when he heard Zachary's words. "You're spying on me?! Only a few people know about that. The public has no knowledge about that at all!"

"Bob, you're so used to a smooth sailing life all these years that you have no idea about the dangers in the business world, huh?"

"Why do you think you were able to sign that contract so easily? I was just waiting for someone to clear the obstacles for me before I went over to pick the peaches."

Zachary's expression turned cold as he spoke, "This is my final limit. I will not touch the canals since that's so crucial to your survival, but if you refuse to give me the natural gas contract, then let's go back and fight it out."

Bob gritted his teeth hard and said with much difficulty, "Fine! But you'll let this matter drop."

"Get lost," Zachary said coldly.

After a period of time, Bob led Zane out of the ward.

When Bob saw his son staggering, looking absolutely battered, he was so furious that he raised his hand to hit him.

Zane looked absolutely miserable at the moment as he shrieked subconsciously, raising his hands to shield his head. He was shuddering constantly.

Seeing how useless Zane was, Bob put down his hands angrily and roared, “You unfilial son! Do you know how much money we’ve lost because of your impulsiveness?! The natural gas contract could’ve given us at least a billion in profits!”

Zane was too frightened to speak. Until now, the news that Jasper exposed had yet reached Bob’s ears. He dared not imagine how furious Bob would be if he learned about the news.

“Please send me abroad, Dad. I’d like to go abroad to further my studies for two years,” Zane muttered under his breath.

Stunned, Bob stared at Zane and said, “You didn’t want to no matter how I persuaded you in the past but you’ve finally changed your mind now?”

Zane hastened to say, “Yes, I’ve thought it through. This was a huge lesson for me and I would like to go out and have some time alone to think about my future.”

“That’s more like it. You’ve finally grown up. Looks like this punishment was well worth it.”

Feeling rather relieved, Bob turned around and said, “Let’s go back to Harbor City immediately. I will arrange for you to go abroad as soon as possible.”

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“You let them off easy, Dad.”

In the ward, Henry thought it was a pity.

It was the perfect opportunity to take down both Lancaster father and son, yet Zachary had chosen to let them off just like that?

Although they did get some benefits, Henry did not care about those benefits at all. The Laws were a big family that owned major industries. They received plenty of benefits that losing a few was not enough to starve them to death.

In Henry’s opinion, he could give up on this bit of benefit and use this opportunity to trample the Lancaster father and son to the ground.

“Know when to stop. Some things are not that simple. Do you really think Bob is that easy to deal with?”

Zachary replied, though it was clear that he had no plans of making further explanations about this as it involved the power struggle of the upper class in Harbor City. It was too complicated.

Jasper, however, took the hint and said with a smile, “When two giants fight, it’ll be difficult to bring each other down unless it involves life and death.

“The giants will not start a war so easily because of their sizes as the impact will be too great and the consequences too heavy. Hence, most of the time, both parties will take turns in suffering losses and sharing benefits.

“In the long run, after a few more wins and as one rises and another one falls, the gap between the giants will be pulled apart. When that happens, you’ll get to decide what you want to do with the other party.”

Zachary nodded and said, “Yup, that’s how it is. It’s similar to two countries engaging in a conflict. Almost all of them fight with words.

“It is extremely rare to see fights that involve weapons and firearms. After all, there are simply too many factors to consider—the country’s power, the other party’s strength, and the covetous eyes of neighboring countries. Who knows, many people would start fanning the flames, sit around, and watch the fight. When both sides are exhausted, they’ll come to reap the spoils.”

Henry was even more confused as he listened to their conversation. He waved his hands in irritation and said, “I don’t understand. Whatever it is, was I injured this time for nothing?”

“If getting an injury could earn me hundreds of millions of dollars of profit each time, then remember to invite me next time,” Jasper said with a grin.

Having said that, he turned around to look at Zachary, asking, “Can I ask you a question, Uncle Law? Is that the natural gas contract for Marina, the capital of Filopo?”

Zachary was astounded. “How did you know that?”

Jasper chuckled. How could he not know?

Following the rapid economic development of Filopo’s capital city Marina, a series of construction projects were to be carried out for the modernization of the city. Congress had made the decision for 80% of the city to have access to natural gas facilities.

At the time, everyone thought this was a great business opportunity and countless neighboring countries swarmed in.

Though surprisingly, even though this was a multi-billion dollar contract, the companies in Filopo did not seem to be interested at all.

According to Jasper's memory from his past life, the contract was eventually given to a company in Harbor City along with another natural gas company abroad.

Now it seemed that the Harbor City company that Jasper had heard of back then when he was still a commoner was probably Bob's company.

He had a deep impression of this incident because Jasper, who still had his memories after reincarnation, knew that this was a huge trap.

In the upcoming construction works, the entire construction process would be a difficult one. Then, there was the protest of the locals which caused huge problems for the contractors. Filopo thwarted their plan, using all sorts of means to rip off these two companies.

In the end, both sides completely fell out and the contract was breached. The two companies and Filopo's international lawsuit lasted for seven to eight long years. Even when Jasper was reincarnated, there was still no result.

At the thought of this, Jasper said to Zachary.

"Uncle Zachary, I received news from a friend that this is no simple contract. Filopo might change their mind. Disregarding everything else, why are there so few of Filopo's domestic companies fighting for this opportunity? You must be careful because this isn't normal at all."

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“If it’s possible, I suggest converting Bob’s benefits to cash. It’s still worth it even if it’s slightly less.”

Yes, this was a huge trap alright, but it was also important to note who was going to step into it.

In Jasper’s opinion, if Zachary stepped into it, then this would be a trap.

If Bob and the rest stepped into it, then this would be good news.

Zachary was shocked by the things Jasper said. He pondered for a moment, having no intention to ask Jasper who his friend was. Everyone would have their own channels by now and inquiring about it was obviously an unwise move to make no matter how close they were.

Therefore, Zachary did not ask but instead began considering this matter.

This saved Jasper from finding an excuse. Of course, he did not have a friend who received news from Filopo. All he had were his memories from before reincarnation. However, this was Jasper’s deepest secret—one that he must never share with anyone.

“Alright. I’ll send someone to investigate. If there’s something fishy about this, we’ll do as you say.”

Jasper breathed a sigh of relief after hearing what Zachary said. From how Zachary behaved, he knew that Zachary had taken his words seriously.

Judging from the Laws’ capabilities, whenever they noticed something amiss and began investigating, there were rarely things that could go unnoticed.

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While Jasper and Zachary talked in the ward, somewhere in the heavily guarded part of Nauritus City.

A car was parked at the door, and a tall, sturdy man stood by it. He kept looking at the locked gate as if he was waiting for something.

Soon, there was a clanging sound of metal and the door pulled open with a creak. A battered young man staggered outside.

It was Conrad.

When he saw how dejected and soulless Conrad looked, the tall and sturdy middle-aged man frowned slightly. He stopped Conrad from trying to speak, saying, "Let's go. We'll talk when we get back."

Conrad nodded and climbed into the car with his father, Steven.

The car's engine revved up and began driving steadily on the road. Hardly any tremors could be felt.

Despite that, Conrad's heart was surging like the waves.

He was feeling regret for his blunder, sorry for his father, and hatred for Jasper.

"I've settled this matter for you, paid a price, and made some promises. No one will ask you anything about that loan again," Steven said to Conrad, his calm voice sounding in the car.

Conrad clenched his fists slowly, saying unwillingly, "This is Jasper's scheme, Dad! He colluded with those people in order to put me—"

"Watch what you say!"

Steven hissed, staring at Conrad and saying, "Don't you know what you can say and what you can't say?"

"Who do you think Jasper is? Do you not know where you just walked out from? How could they have possibly colluded with Jasper?"

"How could they have arrested you if you didn't leave traces behind? Everything was done according to the law. You're the one who's confused here!"

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Realizing that he had said the wrong thing, Conrad sighed deeply and leaned back in the soft car seat with his eyes closed. He muttered under his breath, "I said the wrong thing. I'm sorry."

"You're my son. You don't need to apologize to me."

Steven sighed as well.

"I thought you were mature enough to step in and handle the family business for me, but now it seems you're still a little too inexperienced. You're too obsessed when it comes to dealing with Jasper."

Conrad opened his eyes and asked, "What do you mean? Are you saying that I shouldn't go against him, Dad?"

Steven put his hands behind his back and said in a deep voice, "Think about it. Would you have had a conflict with Jasper if the guys from Harbor City hadn't persuaded you to form an ally with them for some benefits?"

"You wouldn't have! Now, the Lancasters and Langdons are gone, leaving this mess behind. They've returned to Harbor City while you continue to suffer crushing defeats over and over again. Can you even calculate the losses you've suffered?"

After hearing what Steven said, Conrad said unwillingly, "I can't afford to lose to Jasper!"

"That's why I said you're obsessed."

Steven shook his head, looking even more disappointed.

“You must know that the Monty family does business. We’re businessmen and so is Jasper. The greatest taboo in the business field is letting your emotions affect your decision.

“When you can finally talk and laugh with Jasper, perhaps even sit down and discuss a business partnership with him, that’s when you have truly matured.”

Conrad said angrily, “No way! I will trample Jasper to the ground!”

“I’m not saying that you’re wrong to think that way. There are no absolute friends or absolute enemies in the business field. Wherever profit is involved, partnerships and enemies can be formed. You, however, have failed in this respect.

“If there’s a partnership right now that you and Jasper can do together that’ll potentially earn you lots of benefits, then from my understanding of your character, you’d rather give up on those benefits than let Jasper have them, right?”

After hearing the question, Conrad opened his mouth to retort but eventually replied dejectedly, “Yeah.”

Conrad’s innermost thoughts would always be exposed in front of his father.

His father’s words were exactly his thoughts and also what he would do.

“That’s why I say you’re immature. Remember what Jasper did last time when you approached him with the fake partnership? He merely suspected your motives but did not reject your partnership. Instead, he went and investigated the matter. If it turned out to be genuine, he was not going to refuse.

“This is why you’ve repeatedly lost to Jasper. You’re not worse than Jasper, you were just born into the wrong family.”

Conrad said in disdain, “What do you mean by that, Dad? I’m your son. Jasper is nothing but a poor man born into an ordinary family of farmers yet you’re saying that I was born into the wrong family?”

Steven shook his head. “You’re my son, hence everything has been smooth sailing for you. You grew up having everything that you wanted. Even though you work hard unlike other hedonistic sons of wealthy families, you don’t need to grind and rarely get knocked down by society. These are all things that the Monty family can’t offer you.

“Look at Jasper. He grew up in an environment where he was surrounded by malicious people. If he wanted to rise, then he would need to understand the intentions of everyone who came knocking at his door. You never need to worry about these things.

“That’s because you know that those people won’t harm you or lie to you, hence you’ve grown accustomed to being praised and to the label of the so-called genius that only appears once every 50 years. These are all your shackles.

“Maybe it’s not usually that noticeable, but once you face someone like Jasper, he’ll be your jinx and you’ll suffer a crushing defeat.”