

# Life at the Top Chapter 946

“Grandson, even if you beg in front of me now, everything will still depend on my mood!”

Magnus said smugly as Jasper approached him.

“I’ve taken all the legal procedures and everything is compliant with the regulations for my restaurant. Furthermore, it has always been properly operated. What right do you have to close down my restaurant?”

Jasper said calmly as he glanced at the people from the self-regulatory council standing around Magnus.

Magnus stared at Jasper like he was looking like an idiot. “Are you a fool?” he asked, bursting out into laughter.

“You’re asking me what right I have to do so?”

“Alright, I’ll tell you, then. I can do so because my father is the chairman of the self-regulatory committee of the food and beverage industry in Nauritus City! If he says that your restaurant has a problem, that’s it for your business!”

Magnus guffawed maniacally. The people surrounding him sneered as well. They all looked at Jasper with ridicule in their gazes.

“Young man, were you the one who hit my son?”

Right then, a plump, middle-aged man showed himself. He sneered at Jasper while he pinned an icy gaze on him.

As the chairman of the self-regulatory committee of the food and beverage industry in Nauritus City, Jerome Canne was one of the first restaurant bosses to have made a fortune in Nauritus City.

As of now, Jerome currently ran eight hotpot chain restaurants that were distributed throughout various parts of Nauritus City. Due to these hotpot restaurants, he earned a lot of money every day, which allowed him to hold onto the position as chairman.

However, he was extremely sensitive toward new hotpot restaurants as his main income came from operating a hotpot restaurant chain.

He treated those within the same industry as enemies. Furthermore, Hello Hotpot was a hotpot restaurant as well.

However, Jerome could not find a suitable excuse to attack them.

When Jerome found out that his son had gotten beaten up by someone from Hello Hotpot tonight, he was beyond overjoyed.

He immediately sent people to head over to the restaurant. He was determined to take advantage of this opportunity to exterminate this competitor that posed a potential threat to his hotpot chain's business.

Jasper looked at Jerome and said, "Since you're not doing a good job at educating your son, I have no choice but to help you do so.

"However, now it seems like the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. It seems like you intend to support your son by using your power for personal gain."

Jerome sneered. He should have obliterated Hello Hotpot a long time ago.

If he went against another restaurant without any reason, the other members of the council would think that he was getting rid of everyone in the same industry as him. In that case, he would lose his position as chairman in the next election.

However, if the other council members found it reasonable for him to do so, they could not say much about it. As a father, he could not sit back and do nothing when his son had gotten beaten up, right?

“Young man, didn’t your parents teach you not to mess with the wrong people before you left your house?”

“If you want to blame someone, blame it on them for not teaching you well. Consider this loss as some tuition fees.”

Jerome said coldly. He then told the people around him, “Jot this down now. Hello Hotpot’s hygiene is unsatisfactory. The ingredients they’re using have all gone past the expiry dates and are of subpar quality. Furthermore, they’ve added prohibited chemical flavorings into their sauces. Everything is illegal.

“In accordance with the rules and regulations, the self-regulatory council will now officially issue a notice of cessation of business for rectification. When the rectification is complete, you can resume business again.”

The people around him showed understanding smiles.

Everyone knew that rectification was equivalent to an indefinite suspension of one’s business. No matter how much the hotpot restaurant changed, it would be impossible to meet their requirements.

After giving his orders, Jerome received a rectification notice of closure from one of the people around him. He flung it toward Jasper and sneered, “Close down your restaurant now. Do it immediately!” he shouted.

Jasper glanced at the notice by his feet and chuckled. “The self-regulatory council is just an unofficial organization managed by the industry. The notice you issue has no legal effect on me. I can make an appeal to the official department any time to request for the removal of any of your notices,” he said.

“Oh, it seems like you know a little of the law,” Magnus drawled sarcastically. He then continued smugly, “In that case, go on and lodge an official complaint. Go right now. I’m begging you to file a complaint. Let’s see if anyone will bother to deal with you?” he added.

“Do you really think that you’re someone important? If a fool like you lodges an official complaint, they’ll just treat you like an idiot! Darned fools!”

The expressions on Darrel and Jonas’ faces were extremely unpleasant.

Darrel was poor and did not come from a prominent family background. He did not have many connections either.

Although Jonas was slightly more active in the industry, he was from a foreign country. He did not fare any better than Darrel in Nauritus City.

They both panicked due to the evident oppression they were being subject to because of Jerome and his son’s power. Other than closing down the restaurant, there was no other way for them to resolve this problem.

Both of them turned around to look at Jasper at the same time. They hoped that Jasper could resolve this huge problem.

Meanwhile, Jasper did not say anything. He took out his phone, went through his contact list, and dialed one of the numbers.

The call went through immediately.

“Secretary Lee, it’s me. Jasper Laine.”

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Secretary Lee, the first secretary of the Nauritus City Government, was shocked to be receiving a call from Jasper Laine.

After receiving the call from Jasper, he walked to an isolated corner and picked up the call. “Mr. Laine? Haha, you’re a busy man. Why did you call me?” he asked politely.

“Don’t worry, I’ll definitely help you out as long as it doesn’t violate the law.”

Despite Secretary Lee’s status and position, it was evident how much he valued Jasper’s call from the courteous way he spoke to him.

Jasper was now extremely popular among the provincial officials. Secretary Lee had heard that one of the middle-ranking executives from ICBS had gotten scouted by Agricultural Bank just because he was close to Jasper. He had even gotten appointed as the vice president of the provincial branch.

Something like this was the envy of everyone working in the Nauritus City Government.

Jasper could sense Secretary Lee’s well-concealed diligence. He chuckled and said, “It’s actually nothing much. I invested in a hotpot restaurant started by my cousin and his friend.

“Today is the opening day of the restaurant. I wanted to invite you over for a meal, but just as I was about to do so, a bunch of people from the self-regulatory council from the food and beverage industry ordered my restaurant to close down for rectification without a valid reason. I’m flabbergasted by their actions.

“Let’s not talk about how excellent the restaurant is, but I wouldn’t invest in a restaurant that violates the law in the first place. All the approval procedures are legal as well.

“The government has given me a business license that allows me to do business, but this self-regulatory council is capable of closing it down just like that?”

Jasper’s words were not harsh in nature, but Secretary Lee was alarmed after he registered his words.

A stern expression formed on his face as he said, “Mr. Laine, the self-regulatory councils of each respective industry have the authority to supervise and manage businesses within the industry, but the government still has authority over the final review of their decision.

“Also, if their judgment is wrong, any business is allowed to file a complaint to the government. After all, they’re a non-governmental organization... What about this? Tell me your current location. I’ll head over to take a look at the situation. How about that?”

“Alright, I’m at the intersection of Manhattan Road and Avenue Road. You’ll see when you get there.”

“Alright, it’s not far from the city hall. I’ll be there in a few minutes.”

After ending the call, Secretary Lee made another call with a heavy expression on his face.

He no longer sounded as polite and courteous as he did when he was talking to Jasper just now. Conversely, he started reprimanding the person on the other end of the call once it went through.

“Director Sund, what the hell are you doing?!”

“During the past few meetings with the municipal senior officials, we have repeatedly stressed the fact that as the direct supervisors of the self-regulatory council, you must manage the behaviors of the councils in each respective industry. They shouldn’t be bullying others just because of the little authority they have. How have you been doing your work?!”

“What’s wrong?! Why are you still asking me that? I’m not taking out my anger on you right now. You’re lucky that Mr. Laine called me to notify me about this incident today. It seems like he doesn’t intend to cause a ruckus.

“If he had called the higher-ups of the municipal government, you’d be called in for a review and dismissed from your position tomorrow!”

“Which Mr. Laine? There’s only one Mr. Laine in Nauritus City!”

“Head over to the intersection of Manhattan Road and Avenue Road and look for a restaurant called Hello Hotpot right now. A bunch of people from the self-regulatory council of the food and beverage industry has issued a notice to Mr. Laine and ordered the closure of his restaurant! If we don’t handle this issue well, we’ll both be in trouble!”

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Meanwhile, at the entrance of Hello Hotpot.

Jonas walked over to Jasper’s side cautiously after noticing that he had ended his phone call. “Mr. Laine, is the person you called reliable?” he asked.

Jasper laughed and said, “I just asked one of my friends to come over to celebrate the opening of your restaurant. We’re a legal business that has done nothing to violate the law. As long as we’ve done nothing wrong, we can do anything.

“Do you think that our restaurant will close down just because of these clowns? Does that even make sense?”

If Darrel was the one who said these words, Jonas would not be surprised at all.

After all, Darrel did not have much practical experience. He was still extremely naive and thought that everything would be alright as long as he did his own part well.

However, Jonas found it extremely odd for Jasper to say something like that.

“That’s what you think, but there are some unreasonable people out there, Mr. Laine. If you don’t look for someone with a high level of authority to support us, I’m afraid that we’ll be in great trouble this time around,” Jonas said despondently.

Jasper cast a brief glance at Jonas and asked, “Are all the procedures operated by the restaurant legal? Are there any problems with the ingredients that we use?”

Jonas immediately thumped his chest and said, “I’m a man with a conscience. I would never do anything like that!”

“That’s great. Let them struggle. Let’s see what they can come up with,” Jasper told him.

“Hahaha, did I hear wrongly? Do such fools exist in the world?” Magnus guffawed loudly.

Jerome scoffed and shook his head. He must have overestimated how much of a threat Jasper would be.

It seemed like Jasper Laine was an idiot. Conversely, Jonas looked like he had some brains.

Just as Jerome was about to say something, two cars came to an emergency brake in front of the road. Three to five people got down from the cars.



The person in the lead was the first secretary of the Nauritus City Government,  
Secretary Lee!

It had been less than ten minutes after his call with Jasper ended.

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Given Jerome's status and position, he was still not qualified to know Secretary Lee personally.

However, he knew Director Sund, who was following Secretary Lee's lead from behind, very well. After all, he was the direct supervisor of the self-regulatory council. He was in charge of managing Jerome's council.

Jerome headed over to greet Director Sund instinctively when he caught sight of him.

However, once he noticed Director Sund, who was usually friendly toward him although they were not particularly close, sending him a harsh glare, he immediately stopped walking toward him.

At the same time, a sense of uneasiness arose within him.

"My apologies for coming late, Mr. Laine."

Secretary Lee made his way in front of Jasper in a hurry. He extended his hand toward him from a distance away and shook Jasper's hand politely, speaking to him with a sincere expression on his face.

Jasper chuckled and said, "You're not late. It's the opening of my restaurant today, but Mr. Canne from the self-regulatory council claims that our restaurant has violated the law. He's ordering us to close down the restaurant for further rectification, so our opening is being delayed."

Secretary Lee smiled awkwardly after detecting the dissatisfaction in Jasper's tone. He turned around and dragged Director Sund in front of him. "Mr. Laine, this is Director Sund. He's the office head who's in charge of managing the office

directors from the self-regulatory councils of various industries within the city,” he said.

Director Sund extended his hand at once. “Mr. Laine, it’s nice to meet you,” he said courteously.

After shaking hands with Director Sund, Jasper said, “It’s great that you’re here. Please check if my restaurant has violated the law in any way,

“If my restaurant has really violated the law, I’ll close it down at once and never get involved in the food and beverage industry ever again without any complaints. However, if nothing’s wrong with my restaurant, we will need to have a long talk about it.”

Director Sund looked at the rectification notice thrown onto the ground by his feet while he registered Jasper’s words. A look of distress formed on his face.

To be honest, he did not have to carry out an investigation to know what the results would be!

Director Sund was not favoring Jasper by using his power for personal gain. There was an extremely simple question instead.

What was Jasper Laine’s current position and social status?

He had invested in one of his cousin’s hotpot restaurants. Would he bother to use low-quality ingredients or artificial additives just to save on some costs?

If news about this broke out, everyone would laugh at it.

Director Sund felt his face heat up. It was as if someone had slapped him right across the face.

He turned around and glared at Jerome. “Mr. Canne, were you the one who issued this rectification notice?!”

While he spoke, Director Sund bent down to pick up the rectification notice and threw it at Jerome’s face.

Even if Jerome was a fool, he knew that things had escalated greatly.

He looked at Jasper and then at Secretary Lee, whose identity was still unknown to him. Finally, he looked at Director Sund while he stuttered. He could not bring himself to say anything.

“I’m asking you a question. Did you issue this notice?!” Director Sund roared in anger.

His yell shocked Jerome, causing him to tremble in fear.

Right then, Magnus, who was yet to get a grasp of the situation, joined in the exchange. “My father was the one who issued it. Is there a problem with that? My father is the chairman of the self-regulatory council. He has the authority to close down any shop he wants to!” he exclaimed.

Director Sund sneered and said, “Hah, it seems like you have an immense amount of authority!”

He pointed a finger at Jerome, who was as pale as a sheet, while he spoke. “Mr. Canne, you were elected as the chairman by the council members. Is this how you intend to use your authority? Huh?!” he questioned him.

The situation seemed to be worsening. Jerome was just about to put in a nice word when Magus interjected their conversation. He could not resist it anymore. “What do you mean by that? How dare you speak to my father like that, you b\*stard? Do you know that I can put your life to an end?” he blurted out.

As soon as Magnus finished speaking, Jerome raised his hand and slapped him across the face harshly. Magnus cried out in pain and fell to the ground.

“Shut up, you unfilial son!”

Jerome shouted out loud.

He did not spare Magnus, who was completely stunned, another glance after that. He turned around and smiled at Director Sund. “Director Sund, there must be a misunderstanding. It’s all a misunderstanding!” he exclaimed.

“A misunderstanding?” Director Sund questioned with an impassive expression on his face. “However, from your son’s attitude and the notice you issued, I don’t think it’s as simple as a misunderstanding,” he added.

Jerome felt like bursting out into tears. He knew now that Jasper was leading the entire situation. He rushed in front of Jasper and begged him. “Mr. Laine, Mr. Laine, I was wrong to do so!” he pleaded.

“I shouldn’t have offended you. I was being thoughtless. Please be generous and let me go just this once. I assure you that this will never happen ever again.”

A moment ago, Jerome had been trampling all over Jasper in a haughty manner. Right now, he was begging for mercy in front of him like a pitiful loser. Everyone was dumbfounded by the theatrical scene unfolding before their eyes.

Jonas was especially stunned. He looked at Jasper like he was a deity.

Not long ago, he was still wondering if Jasper was in his right mind. He now knew the difference between Jasper and himself.

Jasper could easily crush someone like Jerome Canne by making use of some of his connections.

He had gotten worried for nothing.

Of course, Jasper did not know about the change in thoughts in Jonas' mind.

“Don't say that. As the chairman of the self-regulatory council of the food and beverage industry, you have so much power and authority, Mr. Canne. I'm an ordinary businessman. I would never dare to misunderstand you,” he said calmly.

“Since you claim that my hotpot restaurant has violated the law, let's do this instead. Director Sund, please inform the relevant departments and ask them to carry out a thorough investigation of the restaurant. How's that?”

Director Sund smiled bitterly. He would never dare to agree to a request like that. He cast a pleading glance at Secretary Lee.

Secretary Lee broke out into cold sweat as he pondered upon it. After a while, he said, “Why don't we do this, Director Sund? Let your men carry out a thorough investigation of the restaurant in accordance with the regular procedures and see if there are any problems. Let's continue talking after the investigation. How about that?”

“That sounds like a good idea,” Jasper said in an even tone.

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“No, no, no. There’s no need to do so. There’s really no need to do that.”

Jerome was the most anxious person among everyone right now. He rushed forward and pleaded with all his might, “There isn’t a problem with this restaurant. I didn’t carry out an investigation just now. I made a mistake by issuing this notice. You don’t have to carry out an investigation!” he begged.

Jasper looked at Jerome and said in a calm tone, “Oh? Mr. Canne, you were the one who claimed that there’s a problem with my restaurant just a moment ago. Now, you’re the one who’s saying that there’s no problem as well. Can you tell me if there’s a problem with my restaurant or not?”

“No! I guarantee that there isn’t a problem with it!” Jerome cried out in a state of panic. He was so desperate that he was close to bursting out into tears.

Jasper’s expression hardened. “Since there isn’t a problem, how do you explain this notice?” he questioned.

Jerome stared at the notice in regret. “It’s all a misunderstanding...” he said listlessly.

“Secretary Lee and Director Sund, do as you wish,” Jasper said coldly.

His words wielded the power to determine Jerome Canne’s fate.

After determining Jerome’s fate, Jasper did not bother to spare him another glance. He invited Secretary Lee into the restaurant for a meal.

As for Director Sund... He would be staying behind to deal with the aftermath of the incident. Besides, he was not qualified to have a meal at the same table as Jasper.

Director Sund stared at Jerome, who was as pale as a sheet, with a cold look. "Jerome Canne, submit a resignation letter to me when you're back. I'll organize an election for the new chairman of the self-regulatory council of the food and beverage industry tomorrow," he said in a stiff tone.

After speaking, Director Sund turned around and left without sparing another glance at Jerome and Magnus whose expressions were full of despondence and disbelief.

Through this incident, Director Sund realized that there were many internal problems within the self-regulatory councils. Furthermore, the self-regulatory council of the food and beverage industry was not the only council in Nauritus City. There were plenty of different councils in each industry.

Therefore, Director Sund intended to think carefully and devise a plan to increase the positive impacts brought about by these self-regulatory councils in order to reduce the mess caused by idiots like Jerome and Magnus Canne.

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The farce ended just like that. After that, Jasper and Secretary Lee did not mention this incident again.

After all, in the eyes of both Jasper and Secretary Lee, Jerome and Magnus were nobodies who did not deserve to be mentioned. There was no need to bring them up again.

They knew that it was unlikely for Jerome and Magnus to appear before them ever again.



“Mr. Laine, this hotpot restaurant of yours is rather exquisite,” Secretary Lee remarked as he admired the interior furnishing of Hello Hotpot. Besides, the waiters spoke to the customers passionately and provided extremely meticulous service.

Jasper chuckled and said, “This is one of the reasons why I decided to invest in this restaurant. Come on, Secretary Lee. Let’s make a toast. Make sure to frequent this restaurant in the future. I won’t let you eat for free, but I’ll give you a discount since we’re friends.”

Secretary Lee guffawed loudly as he made a toast with Jasper. They both downed the contents of their glasses in one go.

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It was ten o’clock at night after they finished their meal.

Secretary Lee repeatedly told Jasper he did not need to send him off at the entrance of the restaurant. He then turned around and left.

Darrel and Jonas made their way toward Jasper excitedly.

“How is it? How’s the turnover today?” Jasper asked.

“Although the customers declined in between due to the commotion caused by Magnus and the others, we still did pretty well today,” Darrel said happily.

“We had a turnover of more than 80,000 dollars tonight. It has exceeded our expectations by quite a lot. This was mainly due to the good feedback from customers. Some of the customers also suggested their recommendations for areas of improvement. We’ve collected all of their feedback and we can review them later on.”

Jasper nodded and said, “Not bad. This is a very good start. Let’s continue to work hard.”

As Jasper spoke, he turned around to look at Tiffany who was standing anxiously beside him. She seemed like she was at a loss of what to do. He chuckled and asked her, "Where do you live? Do you need me to send you home?"

Tiffany blushed and hid behind Wendy instinctively. Wendy was the person she trusted the most right now. Conversely, she felt slightly aversive toward Jasper for reasons that were unclear to her as well.

"I... I'm not off work yet."

"You're off work now! You can go home right now! You're free to go now, Tiffany!" Jonas exclaimed immediately. He was a natural prankster.

Tiffany gasped and stared at her boss in a stunned manner. "But, didn't you say that we're supposed to operate the restaurant till half-past two in the early morning?" she asked in a daze.

The corners of Jonas' lips twitched. He was at a loss for words.

How could there be such a silly girl in the world?

Wendy could not help but chuckle. "Your boss is giving you a special holiday today. You can get off work in advance," she told her.

"Will... Will my salary be deducted?" Tiffany asked in confusion.

Jonas turned his head around silently. He was afraid he would not be able to resist cursing in front of her.

Every word that came out of this young girl's mouth made him look at this young, sweet, and silly girl in a different light.

"No, it won't," Wendy said patiently.

“Tell me. Where do you live? We’ll send you back. Otherwise, I’d worry if you went home alone,” Wendy said.

“I don’t have a place to live in. Before coming over to work, the shop owner told me that I can sleep in the extra space in the storeroom. I brought my sheets over as well,” Tiffany said embarrassedly.

As soon as she finished speaking, everyone was overcome with a sense of pity.

Jonas was stunned as well. He then started to consider if they should rent a dormitory for their employees.

However, Jasper suggested it first, “Darrel and Jonas, rent out an apartment unit nearby so that employees who don’t have a place to live can reside there. Include the fees in the operating costs of the store. We can cut our costs in terms of other aspects, but we cannot mistreat our employees,” he said.

Both of them nodded in response. Jasper was about to suggest that Wendy could bring Tiffany home so that she could spend the night at her place when Wendy said, “Tiff, do you want to follow me home tonight? You can sleep in my room.”

# Life at the Top Chapter 950

“Bis Sis Schuler, that wouldn’t be appropriate. I can stay at the dormitory...”  
Tiffany said in a flustered tone.

“It’s alright. Don’t be afraid. I’m lonely when I’m home alone. You can keep me company at home.”

A sincere smile flashed across Wendy’s face.

Jasper and Dawson were way too busy nowadays. She had nobody to keep her company when she arrived home. She had nobody to rant to.

After all, she was a woman. Furthermore, she had such a heavy workload. She wished to have a true friend who could accompany her as well. She hoped that she had someone to talk to whenever she was tired.

Tiffany had left a pretty good first impression on her. She had already begun to treat her as her own younger sister.

“Tiff, listen to Wendy! It isn’t easy for you to live outside on your own,” Jasper said.

“In that case...”

“It’s decided, then. You can stay with us. It wouldn’t be safe for a young girl like you to live outside on your own.”

Tiffany nodded in a daze due to Jasper and Wendy’s persistent persuasion.

Tiffany followed Jasper and Wendy back home after they left Hello Hotpot.

She was beyond shocked the moment she arrived at Wendy's house.

"Oh my God! Big Sis Schuler, you have such a big house!"

Standing at the door, Tiffany looked at the wide central living room. The magnificent house was a villa that consisted of two separate floors.

A huge crystal chandelier that shone brighter than the shiniest treasure from Tiffany's dreams hung from the ceiling in the center of the room. Everything was beyond her imagination.

"Why are you standing at the door? Come in," Wendy told her with a cheery smile on her face.

"I... I've never seen such a big house in my life. Everything is way too pretty. I'm afraid that I'll dirty the furniture," Tiffany said in embarrassment, her cheeks beginning to blush.

"The cleaners will tidy up and clean the place every day."

Immediately, Wendy pulled Tiffany into the house.

Although Wendy wanted to treat Tiffany well, she knew how to take care of a young girl's self-esteem as well. Wendy was a wise woman.

"You don't have to worry about anything when you're staying here. However, you'll be staying in one of the guest rooms and you'll have to clean up the room yourself."

Tiffany nodded heavily and said, "Alright, Big Sis Schuler. I'll make sure to pay attention to the cleanliness of the room."

Wendy chuckled and said, "Come on, I'll bring you to your room."

Jasper's mood was lifted when he saw both of them walking upstairs while happily chatting.

Putting aside the complicated fate of Tiffany's past and present lives, Wendy really needed someone she could talk to.

Wendy's life usually revolved around her home and the office. In the office, she would be swamped with work.

Back at home, Dawson was getting busier and busier with his own work, so he was rarely at home. Wendy did not have anyone to talk to except for her unreliable bodyguard, Fallon Murray.

Now with Tiffany at home, it would be a good thing for Wendy.

After taking a shower upstairs, Jasper sat down in his study. He was just about to handle some business matters when he received a phone call from Brac County.

"Mr. Laine, this is Lucas Wadler."

"Lucas? Why are you calling me so late at night? Did anything happen?" Jasper asked with a slight frown.

Lucas was a talented senior manager in the shipbuilding industry whom Jasper had hired from Harbor City through his connections with the Laws.

His parents did not know how to operate and manage the shipyard in Brac County, which was the reason why he hired Lucas to lead the team working in the shipyard.

"Mr. Laine, I'm calling you because a situation has arisen over here. I thought about it for some time and I think that I should report it to you."