

Life at the Top Chapter 971

“You have to believe me, Mr. Laine! This only happened because I gave in to temptations once, that’s it. I’d never dare scheme against your shipyard if not for this, Mr. Laine. This was all the Wellington family’s plan. They were the ones who tempted me to join them. This was all their idea!”

Baxter had completely sold the Wellington family out.

“Bullsh*t!”

Shaun’s mother shrieked, her expression harsh and sinister. “The Wellington family is a prominent entity here in Brac County, we would never do something so shameful! And what do you mean Mary stayed the night with you? You’ll pay for defaming my daughter’s name with your nonsense!”

Baxter let go of his inhibitions as well and spared her a glance before sneering.

“Where’d you even come from, old woman? Your daughter knows very well whether she stayed the night with me or not. And your son, her brother Shaun, sent her to my room himself. Why would I lie about that?”

“How about this, then? Your daughter has a red birthmark on her left buttock, correct?”

Mary was mortified and Shaun’s complexion paled. Meanwhile, their mother’s eyes grew wide and the blood drained from her face.

“Looks like it’s very clear now, then,” Jasper’s calm words cut through the silence like a hot knife through butter.

“Lucas,” Jasper called out.

Lucas immediately stepped forward and replied courteously, “Yes, Mr. Laine.”

“Have the shipyard inform all of the Wellington family’s raw material suppliers that no matter what price the Wellington family are offering, our shipyard is willing to pay 20% more to buy their raw materials; machine tools, steel, and the like.

“The only condition is that they are not allowed to supply the Wellington family a single gram of material. Contact Eastwind Shipyard’s employees and offer to hire with higher salaries. If they’re willing to join us, we’ll pay them an extra 30%.

“I’ll talk to other companies like Open Sea Shipping. From today onwards, the Wellington family will not be able to buy any raw materials or receive any orders.”

Jasper looked at the three despondent Wellingtons and spoke calmly, “This is what I’m capable of.”

Shaun felt a full-body shiver course through him and he roared at Jasper with reddened eyes. “Why?! Why did you have to destroy us?”

“Because you need to be taught a lesson,” Jasper replied.

Mary blinked in realization, as if waking up from a dream, and she pounced on Greg who had remained silent the entire time. She wailed.

“Greg, Greg, he’s your childhood friend, isn’t he? Aren’t the two of you best friends? Please, help me beg him! The Wellington family cannot end like this! Please! Think about the years we’ve spent as husband and wife.

“I’m sorry, I should’ve been better ever since the beginning. Give me a chance to make it up to you. I’ll be good to you in the future, I’ll listen to whatever you say. I won’t go out and cause trouble anymore. Please help me just this once, help me beg your friend for mercy.”

Greg stared coldly at the wailing and sobbing woman with makeup running down her face. Even so, his heart remained unfazed.

He thought that he would be thrilled at the prospect of taking revenge.

Yet, here he was, completely unfazed.

If anything, he felt tired, exhausted.

“Your family did this to yourselves, Mary. This has nothing to do with me, nor can I help you with it. I’m sorry.”

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Mary was in despair when she heard Greg's words.

"Do you have to be so heartless, Greg?"

Mary pointed at Greg, the pleading look on her face had now turned into one of disgust and resentment.

"You really are an ungrateful b*stard. I've kept you alive and well in my house all these years, I gave you a roof over your head and clothes to wear. But now you're just going to leave with someone just because they're stronger and more powerful?"

"No wonder you're so determined to sever ties with my family. You're a horrible excuse for a human being!"

The more Mary spoke, the angrier she became. "You really are a dog! Calling whoever gives you better sh*t your master!"

Greg sneered at Mary and replied expressionlessly, "So you admit that you've been giving me sh*t, huh? How long have you forced me to smell it?"

Mary's expression froze and she shrieked, "What are you saying, Greg?!"

"Those were your words, not mine. All I did was agree. That's what you wanted all this while, no? So why? What's so different today?" Greg spoke icily.

"Forget it, what's the use of all this noise? The Wellington family has no one to blame but your own misconduct. You think that just because you're somewhat rich and powerful that you get to stand above everyone? There'll only be richer

and more powerful people in the outside world. A few calls were all it took for Jasper to crush you. What use is regretting it now?"

Mary's mom suddenly wailed, "God has forsaken us! What is this karma, why does something like this have to happen to us?"

Shaun asked sourly, "Is there no room for negotiation?"

"Did you give me room to negotiate back then?" Greg sneered.

Then, he turned to Jasper and said, "Let's go, Jasper.

"There's nothing worth staying for anymore."

Jasper nodded and prepared to leave.

Jasper's eyes fell on Mary and her despondent expression, and he suddenly halted.

"Do you agree to the divorce?"

Mary was stunned for a moment after hearing Jasper's question. She was about to say something instinctively but Shaun cut her off. "We agree!"

Shaun walked in front of Mary and spoke to Jasper politely and flatteringly, "They'll get divorced right now. No matter the conditions, as long as Greg asks for it, we'll agree to the terms."

"What if I want to change my son's surname to Costa?" Greg suddenly asked.

Shaun clenched his jaw and nodded. "Of course. You're his father, it's only right the child takes your surname."

“Are... are you crazy, Shaun? This ungrateful b*stard’s caused us so much grief and you’re still agreeing to his conditions?” Mary shouted.

Shaun glared at Mary and snapped frostily, “Shut up! Don’t talk if you don’t know what’s going on!”

“Disagree? What do you think is going to happen if we disagree? Did you forget what happened to the Zion family? They were much more powerful than our Wellington family when they were still in Brac County, but what about now? Do you see the Zions anywhere?”

Mary suddenly came to this realization, and she looked at Jasper in fear. She no longer dared to make a sound.

Looking at Greg, who was Jasper’s best friend, Mary felt true regret for the first time in her life.

Had she treated Greg better over the past few years, or at least treated him with basic respect, the sentimental man might never have suggested a divorce. With a best friend like Jasper, Mary would have been able to make a fortune as Greg’s wife.

The thought of this agonized Mary.

Jasper gave Lucas a look that signaled for the latter to wrap things up as he left the house alongside Greg.

Walking out of the estate, Greg suddenly stood in place blankly.

Jasper did not rush him either, as he waited silently by the side.

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Greg carried his son in one hand while he pulled out a box of cigarettes and passed a stick to Jasper.

With that, the two grown men smoked by the entrance of the estate while one of them carried a child in their arms. It was a weird sight.

“So, what’s next?” Jasper asked.

Greg smiled wryly and replied, “I haven’t thought about that much yet. All I want to do now is say goodbye to the past now that it’s finally over.

“As for what comes next... I’m not sure yet.”

Jasper glanced at the heavily asleep child in Greg’s arms and replied, “Pull yourself together, do it for you or the child in your arms.”

“Don’t worry, I won’t keep wallowing about,” Greg looked at the child in his arms adoringly. “He’s my source of hope now. For him, I’m going to work hard and live my best life.”

“That’s good.” Jasper nodded.

He could very well give Greg millions of Somer Dollars and promise the man a comfortable life until he died.

However, this was not how Jasper liked to do things.

More often than not, the path to self-destruction began when someone suddenly received a large sum of money.

Greg had just come out into the light after several years living in the shadows; Now, he needed some time to get used to it.

“You’re rich, aren’t you? Greg turned to look at Jasper.

Jasper smiled and replied, “I’m comfortable.”

“Now that I look at it, that’s your car, no?” Greg pointed at the Bentley Julian drove over that was now parked not too far away.

“I remember laughing at you for looking at luxury cars.”

Jasper smiled. “That is my car.”

Despite his prior suspicion, Greg still gasped when Jasper admitted it.

The Wellington family was considered the wealthiest family Greg knew. Yet, not even they could afford a Bentley.

Perhaps they could afford one, but they might have had to sell two houses to fund it, and their cash flow would be tight after the purchase.

Luxury cars that ordinary people dare not dream about and the Wellington family could not even afford seemed like nothing to Jasper.

“I want an opportunity, Jasper.”

Jasper replied when he caught sight of the burning passion in Greg’s eyes, “I’ve been waiting for that. So, how can I help you?”

“I don’t need cash, nor do I need any high-ranking position. Let me work my way up from the most basic ranks in your company.

“Be it door-to-door advertising or sales, I’ll do anything there is. All I want is a platform, an opportunity! You know how difficult it is for people with a high-school diploma like me to seek out work in big companies.”

Jasper frowned slightly and said, “It’s not easy in the sales industry, though. There’s a lot of pressure and it’s tough work.”

Greg chuckled and replied, “What I’ve been through over the past few years was tough. Everything else pales in comparison.”

Jasper nodded. He was pleased by Greg’s clear cognition of reality and himself.

“Alright, then. You can seek me out at anytime in Nauritus City, and I’ll find you a job. I’ll say it now, I can lend you money if you ask, but everyone is equal when it comes to work. I’m not going to treat you differently just because you’re my friend.”

Greg laughed out loud. “Don’t worry. I’m not going to tell other people that my boss is my best friend even if I end up working at your company. I’ll prove my own capabilities!”

Greg’s smile was lighthearted and refreshing, like a rainbow after the storm. It was a touching sight.

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Jasper pulled Greg, now free from his emotional turmoil, into the Bentley.

“I’ll be leaving for Nauritus tomorrow. Are you coming with me?” Jasper asked.

Greg gave it some thought and said, “I still have a few things to deal with, so you can go back first. I’m not planning to go straight to Nauritus either, but instead head back home for a bit. Thought I’d go pay my parent’s graves my respect, you know?”

“I’m ashamed now that I think about it. It’s only a few hundred kilometers away, but I’ve never gone back ever since I came to Brac County.

“I’ll start anew in Nauritus City once I’ve wrapped everything up here.”

“Alright. Contact me when you arrive, then.” Jasper pushed his name card into Greg’s hand.

“I will. Where are we going now?” Greg asked curiously.

“To visit my parents,” Jasper said with a smile.

Once they returned to the shipyard, Charlie and Sally chatted with Greg when they saw him.

The two were childhood friends, after all, and the Laines was close with the Costas. Not to mention that Charlie and Sally sympathized with Greg after he had lost his father at a young age.

Thus, it was only natural that they engaged in small talk when they met again. Sally soon asked Greg how he had been lately.

Greg did not say much, but he explained that he had gotten married and divorced when he realized that the relationship was not working out. Therefore, it was just him and his son now.

The topic once again evoked Sally's sympathy.

However, Jasper was acutely aware that his parents especially loved Greg's son.

"Oh, look at his little face. He looks just like Greg when he was a child. Look at his small hand and his soft cheeks. So adorable."

"He even smiled at me." A rare smile appeared on Charlie's face where he stood by the side.

Greg smiled. "Have Jasper give you a chubby little grandchild while it's still early, then."

"Exactly my thoughts. Wouldn't it be great if he let me take care of his children now while I can still move about? But you know what he told me? He told me he's still young and he doesn't want kids yet."

Sally must have been bottling this up for some time as she began to vent the instant Greg brought up the topic.

At that moment, Sally looked at Jasper, who had an awkward expression on his face. "You're not so young anymore, you can't possibly make Wendy follow you around aimlessly like this. Think of her, at least. I've talked to your dad about this, so if you two are ready, just confirm your relationship and get it over with.

"Wendy's dad's an understanding man so I'm sure he'll get it. You can have a child first if you don't plan to get married so soon. That's what's popular among you youths nowadays, is it not?"

Jasper felt extremely lightheaded.

He had not even thought about marriage yet, let alone having children.

Considering the current situation, Jasper was not planning to have children anytime soon.

His business was still fresh and there was no strict schedule for when he had to fly internationally. He would have to leave the country a lot in the future, and if he had a child, it would feel like he was torn between two worlds.

“How old do you think I am, Mom? Moreover, the two of you are still young, so it’s far too early to have those kinds of thoughts. Give it at least another two years,” Jasper said exasperatedly.

“What do you mean how old? You’re in your twenties! I won’t compare you to random strangers, but look at Greg! He’s the same age as you and his child is already this big! You’re telling me you’re not in a rush?” Sally said impatiently.

“Okay, okay, fine. But this isn’t just about me, I’ll talk to Wendy about it when I get back, okay?” Jasper decided to placate them for the time being.

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Sally's expression brightened at Jasper's reply. "That's more like it."

With that, Sally then looked down and continue to play with the child in Greg's arms. A smile immediately bloomed on her face. "Oh, the more I look at his small face the more I like him. Come on, smile for grandma."

"Stay for dinner, Greg. Sally and I are going out to get groceries later, and we three men can have a few drinks tonight," Charlie told Greg.

Greg replied happily, "Sure, sounds good."

As the older couple entertained the child, Greg walked over to speak to Jasper.

"When they said Wendy... it couldn't have been the Wendy Schuler, right?! The Queen Bee from high school, the prettiest student in our county's number one senior high?" Greg asked Jasper impatiently.

"Hehe," Was all Jasper replied with.

"That's so cool, dude!" Greg nudged Jasper. "You've succeeded in both love and business. Not bad to have succeeded in convincing Wendy to be your girlfriend. Our ex-classmates jaws would drop if they found out about this."

"We can all get together for a reunion after you arrive in Nauritus, then," Jasper said gleefully.

"Sure. I don't know her too well, but she's left quite a good impression on me.

“I was the only one in the entire school who talked to you back then, but she treated everyone the same. She didn’t look down on you because you were poor and that alone is enough for me to support your relationship,” Greg spoke.

“On the topic of Wendy, I think she’s told me once that she hates people like you the most,” Jasper taunted gleefully when he was reminded of the funny incident.

“Hate me? Why? I didn’t even talk to her throughout the three years in senior high. How can she hate me?” Greg was speechless.

“Probably because you’re handsome and there were tons of girls following you every day. She said playboys like you aren’t serious with anyone.” Jasper laughed out loud.

“She was right about the handsome part, though.” Greg touched his nose. Seeing Jasper laugh out loud, he suddenly joined in.

Having a handsome face paid off when they were young and dumb, but now that everyone had grown up and experienced the ruthlessness and tribulations of society, they understood that a man’s appearance did not matter.

Jasper was relatively handsome, with an introverted and gentlemanly character that gave him a unique charm.

Coupled with his successful career, he walked with the air of confidence and maturity that gorgeous but unsuccessful men could not hold a candle to.

If a woman had to choose between Greg and Jasper, they would most likely opt for the latter.

“There are wonderful girls all over the world. You can always slowly reenter the market once you’ve moved past this experience. Your son will need a motherly figure, and there’s no reason for you to spend the rest of your life alone,” Jasper spoke seriously.

“Maybe another time. I don’t think I can consider dating for the time being.” Having just walked out from Mary’s shadow, Greg did not want anything to do with relationships at that moment.

Charlie and his wife filled the table with food that night. Sally truly loved the child, so she only had a few bites of food before she went off to spend time and take care of him. This left Charlie, Jasper, and Greg to drink and chat about the past. It lasted late until around eleven o’clock.

After sending a tipsy Greg to the lobby of a nearby hotel, Jasper decided that he would return to spend the night with his parents and leave the day after. However, he received a call and was forced to return to Nauritus City overnight.

It was a call from Wendy.

She said that an average-looking man had come to the company for investment because he wanted to create the largest sourcing website in the world.

A website that would allow all the enterprises in the world to source goods directly through the website instead of commissioning salesmen. The website would also allow enterprises to contact their suppliers directly and thus completely change the way people did business.

Wendy first wondered if she was speaking to a madman, but then she realized the potential in the man’s plan. Not to mention, Jasper had once told her to contact him right away if a rather ugly man with such an idea and the surname Marlon ever came knocking at their doors.

That night, Jasper’s wait, both for this phone call and man in question, finally paid off.