

Life at The Top – Chapter 1291

However, this advantage meant nothing to Jasper.

Scott's expression changed and he suddenly took a deep breath to say, "Look, Jasper. I admit that I shouldn't have hurt your men. Now we're even."

"I came here to talk business with you. How about we negotiate, hmm?"

Jasper replied calmly, "Business? I've never seen anyone who claims to be here for business start beating people up once they walk through the doors."

"Jasper!"

Scott raised his voice.

"You might be rich and JW Company might be powerful, but you spent 100 million to acquire Downstream Investment Company in Tefa City! You'll gain nothing from making an enemy out of me! Don't you at least know that?"

Jasper arched his brow.

Scott's mind was racing right now.

It seemed like he was not a complete newbie.

"Sure, then. How do you want to do business?" Jasper asked calmly.

Scott's expression turned excited when he saw that Jasper willing to negotiate.

"Simple. I want half of Downstream Investment Company's shares. Then I'll make sure that Downstream's business goes smoothly here in Tefa City and no one will dare to cause us any trouble."

Jasper chuckled when he heard Scott.

Scott felt his heart quake in fear at Jasper's chuckle and asked darkly, "What are you laughing at? What is the meaning of this?"

“I’m laughing at how unrealistic your dream is.” Jasper had never planned to partner with Scott since the beginning.

He understood trust-fund children like Scott too well. All these people thought of all day was how to lie and scam. The only reason they succeeded was that the people they negotiated with before were terrified of their familial background and strength. As time passed and the number of businesses under their control grew, these trust-fund children began to take their success for granted.

However, this act was useless in front of Jasper.

“I spent 100 million to acquire that company and you’re just going to ask me for half the shares just like that? Who do you think you are?”

Scott’s expression grew cold when he heard Jasper’s sentence.

“Jasper, don’t forget that Tefa City still belongs to my Covington family. If my family disagrees, do you think you’ll be able to do business here as you wish?”

Jasper chuckled and replied coldly, “That’s an easy problem to solve. If you disagree, then I’ll get rid of you. If the Covington family disagrees, then I’ll get rid of them. Won’t all my problems be solved then?”

Scott widened his eyes at what he heard.

“Are you f*cking crazy, Jasper? Who do you think you are? Do you really think you’re some kind of god?”

“I’m not God, just a normal businessman.” Jasper stared at Scott and said firmly and strongly. “A businessman that refuses to be exploited by you!”

“As I said just now, I’ve already acquired the company and I will start doing business. There’s no way I’d give you half of the shares just because you asked. Go ahead and show me what other tricks you have then, I’ll be waiting!”

Scott raised his hand angrily and pointed at Jasper, “Fine! Fine, then! You win this time!”

“But I’ll tell you too. I won’t let that stupid company of yours do business here in Tefa City, otherwise I might as well f*cking die!”

Jasper narrowed his eyes and looked at Scott icily before he said calmly, “Alright, then. Let’s fight.”

“From what I remember, the Covingtons are in the real estate business, right? Half of Tefa City’s buildings were constructed by you. Good, I also have business in the real estate industry and I have a few buildings here in Tefa City.”

Jasper then pulled out his phone to call Sean, the person in charge of the real estate company.

“Check all our real estate yet to be sold in Tefa City. Any customer willing to purchase housing contracts will be gifted renovation worth 10% of their housing price, it can be used as a discount off the base housing price or redeemed for free renovation and electrical appliances.”

“And if our customers coming to buy our real estate come with their contracts with the Covington family’s real estate company, pay their compensation fee and raise the renovation bonus to 20%.”

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Sean was stunned for a moment when he heard Jasper’s instructions.

However, Sean was a smart man and he knew one thing. The company was Jasper’s, so the man had complete say over what happened within it.

After understanding that, Sean immediately replied. “I understand, Mr. Laine! I’ll get to it immediately!”

After hanging up the phone, Jasper then turned to look at Scott’s wretched expression and said calmly, “The Covington family doesn’t only do real estate, right? It’s also one of the top three suppliers of non-staple foods in Southeast Province, hmm?”

Then, Jasper made another call. This time to Dawson.

“Uncle Schuler, please take all non-staple food provided by the Covington family off the shelves in the group’s supermarkets.”

Far in Nauritus City, Dawson was in a meeting when he received the call and smiled as he replied, “Alright. I’ll send word immediately.”

As the largest chain supermarket brand, Schuler Supermarkets had way too many suppliers begging for a partnership.

It had gotten to the point where any product of an enterprise would surely be profitable the moment it was sold on Schuler Supermarkets’ shelves.

Hence, it was no problem to pull one brand of non-staple food off the shelves.

Jasper put the phone down and looked at Scott, the man's face devoid of color. Jasper demanded calmly, "Tell me what other industries this dominating Covington family in Tefa City is involved in."

The corner of Scott's mouth twitched. He could not say anything, but cold sweat began to bead over his forehead.

He was just the third generation of the Covington family. His grandfather and his dad still presided over the family.

The person in charge now might be his dad, but even his dad was just a junior in the elder's eyes.

Scott had never imagined he would bring his family so much trouble.

"Mr. Laine, the Covington family also does food and beverages, and they have a few big restaurants and hotels in Tefa City."

Baz suddenly spoke up.

He wanted nothing more than to screw Scott over, so he naturally would not pass this chance up.

Scott shivered when he heard Baz.

He looked at Baz resentfully as if he wanted to rip the man to shreds.

“F&B and hotels, huh? I’m not involved in those two industries.”

Scott felt relieved when he heard Jasper, but this relief had only lasted a few seconds before Jasper continued to talk.

“But I’m close with a few restaurant owners in Nauritus City. It shouldn’t be any problem to invest in them and ask them to start a trade war with the Covington family’s food and beverage enterprise.”

“As for hotels, the person in charge of Hilton Hotels in Southeast Province contacted me a few days ago and asked if I wanted to work together. I planned on declining, but now that I think about it, it doesn’t seem like a bad idea to open a JW Hilton here in Tefa City, wouldn’t you say?”

Scott lost all hope when he heard this.

“You’re crazy, Jasper!” Scott shouted.

“Just what did I do to offend you, to the point that you’re willing to go so far and target the Covington family?! Even if you succeed, you’re still going to end up paying a lot of money!”

Jasper chuckled and asked, “Is this a lot of money?”

“If I manage to completely get rid of the Covington family from Tefa City, then the space you will leave in the market will easily earn me back everything I initially paid.”

Scott’s eyes were filled with fear as he shouted at Jasper, “So you’re going to fight the Covington family to the death over something so insignificant?”

Jasper replied calmly, “You think that this is something insignificant. You also think it’s only right that I give you half of Downstream Investment Company’s shares, don’t you?”

“ ... ”

Scott had nothing to say now. At this moment, Scott’s phone rang.

Seeing his dad’s phone number on the display, Scott shivered as a bad feeling engulfed him.

Scott ignored the strong desire to throw the phone and hide, then mustered the courage to pick up the phone.

“Scott, who the f*ck did you offend?!”

Scott’s dad, Emmet, the current spokesperson of the Covington family, shouted over the line.

Scott’s heart shook and he asked palely, “Dad, how... How did you know?”

“How did I know?! How long more do you plan on hiding this from me? The people below me say that you’ve offended the owner of JW Company, Jasper Laine!”

Scott wailed and replied, “Not just offended. He called his subordinates in front of me just now. Not only is he fighting us in the real estate industry, but he also wants to take our company’s products off the supermarket shelves. He also said he’s going to attack us in F&B and the hotel industry.”

“Dad, he’s trying to uproot the Covington family!”

Emmett immediately roared when he heard Scott.

“You b*stard! I always told you to keep a low profile, didn’t I? Don’t think that because you’re born in the Covington family that it means you’re on top of the world. There are tons of people outside more powerful than the Covington family. Who gave you the courage to offend JW Company?!”

“Do you even know what JW Company controls in the Southeast Province?!”

Scott shivered and replied, “I didn’t think the consequences would be so severe. I was just thinking of gaining some benefits.”

“Where are you now?!” Emmett asked icily.

Scott glanced at Jasper guilty and replied, “I’m in Jasper’s room in Tefa Hotel.”

“You f*cking went to look for him?! How bold of you!”

Emmett wanted to beat Scott up.

“Give Jasper the phone!”

Scott did not dare to take his own sweet time and immediately passed the phone over to Jasper.

Jasper took the phone and said calmly, "This is Jasper Laine."

"Mr. Laine, I'm sure there's got to be a misunderstanding in this," Emmett immediately humbled himself as he spoke.

"I'm Scott's Dad, Emmett Covington. I'll make sure to teach that useless son a lesson for offending you, so please go easy on him."

Jasper replied calmly, "Your son tried to scam me and hit my men twice. Am I supposed to just move on from that?"

Emmett fell silent for a moment before he replied, "Mr. Laine, there are some things that cannot be said clearly over the phone. How about this? I'll set up a feast at my house tonight just for you, Mr. Laine. Our old master is also very interested in talking to a young entrepreneur like you, Mr. Laine. What do you think?"

'You're involving your old master?'

Jasper smiled and replied, "Since you've invited me, Mr. Covington, then it's only right I attend."

Jasper ended the call and tossed the phone back to Scott before saying calmly, "You can leave now. I'll go to your house tonight."

Scott's expression changed and he wanted to threaten Jasper further, but he did not dare to do so after he thought back to how furious his dad was. The man must have wanted to skin him alive.

"Then I'll wait for you at home!"

Scott said before running away without looking back.

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After Scott left, Jasper brought Baz to the hospital.

Baz felt despondent, having gone to the hospital two days in a row.

Thank goodness that a checkup revealed that there was not too big a problem.

“Don’t try to take the hit head on if it happens again in the future. Protecting yourself is the most important thing here,” Jasper reminded.

Baz smiled wryly and replied, “I didn’t know that Scott would have his people start attacking me the moment he walked through the door. He caught me off guard.”

Jasper frowned slightly and said, “I’ll do my best to get rid of the problem with the Covington family so that you will have a good environment to work in.”

Baz was stunned for a moment before he quickly replied, “Mr. Laine, do you want me to stay in Tefa City?”

“Why? Do you not dare to do so?” Jasper smiled.

Baz frantically replied, “It’s not that I don’t dare. I’m not afraid of anything, except screwing this up.”

“You were the one who found out about Downstream Investment Company and you’re the one who acquired the company. Now that I’ve bought it, I’m not going to let you run away so easily.”

Jasper joked, then told Baz about what he had been thinking these days.

“I plan to hand Downstream Investment Company over to you for management.”

Despite already guessing that this was the case, Baz still instinctively rejected Jasper when he heard the man’s proposition.

“No can do, Mr. Laine. I don’t have enough experience and I’m just a normal employee at the company. I won’t be able to suddenly manage a whole company.”

Jasper might not have trusted anyone else, but Baz was different.

In his past life, Baz had completely transformed Downstream Investment Company into something big on his own with no one else to guide him.

Not to mention that throughout this period of observation, Jasper had also asked Chad and the investment department what they thought about Baz’s performances. Jasper was certain that Baz had the potential to be successful again.

“Don’t worry, I’ll transfer some people over to help you to manage the company. Talk to whoever you need to bring over from the investment department. As long as they’re willing then they can immediately come to work here.

“As for experience, no one is born with the knowledge on how to manage a company. This is something you have to slowly familiarize yourself with.

“I can give you money.”

“I can give you manpower.”

“I can also give you time.”

Jasper then patted Baz’s shoulder and said, “But confidence is something I cannot give. Confidence is something you need to develop on your own. I trust that you can do well, but you have to trust yourself too.”

Baz looked at Jasper excitedly. He opened his mouth, and after much hesitation, finally asked the question he held in his heart.

“Mr. Laine, why do you value me so much?”

Baz knew he was not some genius. In fact, he had been on the receiving end of harsh words since he was young, and he was not someone who was loved by all.

However, everything changed after he met Jasper. Jasper seemed to value him more than others. Not only did Jasper give him, someone with no capability, experience, or academics, the best job opportunity, but Jasper was also handing a company he acquired with 100 million over to him to manage.

Jasper's act of kindness was so great that Baz could not help but doubt. 'Why?'

'I'm just a normal person, what about me is so worthy of Jasper's admiration?'

In response to this question, Jasper narrowed his eyes and replied with a fleeting tone that Baz did not quite understand, "There's no specific reason, actually. If I had to come up with one, then I can only say that it's fate."

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When Jasper lost hope due to his poverty, after he fought with Penelope and was left in disdain and humiliated, or forced to desperation because of his debtors in his past life, it was always Baz who helped him financially and physically.

He had previously asked Baz about he did this as well. To which Baz answered, 'because of fate'.

Jasper could not confirm if it was truly fate, but he knew that as a person, he had to repay this kindness. Even if it was kindness from his past life.

It still had to be repaid.

“Alright Rest well and go back to the hospital after you finish both bags of saline drips. Remember to eat dinner, I can’t eat with you since I’m going to the Covington family,” Jasper looked at the time and got up to say.

Baz immediately looked up and said, “Are you really going to the Covington family house, Mr. Laine? They’ve got a bad reputation.”

“It’s not like they can hold me hostage there.”

Jasper pointed at Julian gleefully and said, “Don’t forget that even if they choose to fight, there’s no one in Tefa City who can hold Julian back.”

With Baz settled, Jasper left the hospital and immediately had Julian drive them to the Covington family residence.

Rose Garden, Tefa City's largest community for the wealthy, also belonged to the Covington family. The Covington family had taken out a large portion from the best area of land in Rose Garden and left it for themselves.

Jasper had just arrived at the villa entrance and gotten out of the car when he saw a middle-aged man waiting with Scott at the door.

"Mr. Laine, I've heard a lot about you."

With frays of white hair around his temple, Emmett looked authoritative. He wore a cashmere sweater over his shirt and looked like an experienced middle-aged businessman.

Emmett walked over with a large smile, reached out to shake Jasper's hand, and engaged in small talk.

Seeing how polite Emmett was, Jasper did not put on a dark expression nor act arrogant in front of him. With a gentle smile, Jasper greeted, "It's nice to meet you, Mr. Covington."

The two shook hands and began to chat among themselves.

From afar, Scott's gaze darkened at the sight. His lips pulled into a disdainful sneer.

He hated these people the most. Despite knowing that they were enemies, these people still smiled and pretended to be friends. How sly.

"The old master isn't young anymore and it's not easy for him to move around, that's why he didn't greet you outside. The wind's strong out here, so perhaps we could talk more inside?" Emmett told Jasper happily.

"Who am I to request an elder to welcome me at the door? It's only right I meet him inside."

Jasper then followed the Covington father-son duo with Julian in tow as he entered the villa.

The villa was decorated luxuriously, with expensive furniture and ornaments everywhere.

Jasper was not the same poor boy he used to be. One glance was all it took for him to get a rough idea of how much everything cost. As expected of Tefa City's wealthiest family, the Covington family's renovation on this villa had to cost at least four to five million. Four to five million during the year 2001.

Emmett brought Jasper into a small tea room. Upon entering, Jasper saw a skinny but energetic old man sitting behind the coffee table.”

“Greetings, Old Master Covington, I am Jasper,” Jasper took the initiative to greet the fellow.

Gerard laughed out loud and pointed at the chair before him, “Come, young man. Come sit and drink tea with this old man.”

Jasper narrowed his eyes slightly at Gerald’s lack of movement before taking a seat opposite him.

At this moment, Emmett gave Scott a look and the two walked out of the tea room together.

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The father-son duo walked out from the tea room together and arrived at the study room upstairs.

“Close the door.”

Emmett's expression now no longer showed any traces of the casual smile he had on when he chatted with Jasper downstairs. Instead, it was dark and sinister now.

Scott felt his heart drop as a bad premonition filled his heart. However, he had no other choice than to muster the courage and close the door.

He had just turned back around after closing the door when a large hand struck his face. Scott did not have the chance to say anything.

Slap!

A clear slap landed square across Scott's face.

Scott was stunned by the slap and cupped his face. Ignoring the ringing in his ear, he shouted angrily, "Dad! What'd you hit me for no reason? Are you crazy?"

Emmett glared at Scott and scolded, "I'm hitting you for no reason?"

"The trouble you brought me is currently sitting downstairs and your grandfather and I have to come out and deal with him for you! We don't even know if we can resolve this issue yet! And you're telling me that I hit you for no reason? Even when you're the one who caused this mess?"

Scott's hand still cupped his face and he said indignantly, "You guys looked fine when you talked, though? How much trouble can it be? Do you have to exaggerate?"

Emmett became even angrier when he heard this, and he wanted to slap his son again.

"Looked fine when we talked? What the hell do you know?"

"JW's subsidiaries have already begun a combined attack on us! I've already received negative reports due to the activities of their real estate projects in targeting us!"

"We've already lost a few dozen customers people were willing to disregard the deposits they had given us and opt to buy property from JW Real Estates instead! A few of them even purposefully put their deposit with us, only to take the contract to JW Real Estates and ask for a discount!"

"Just today, we lost dozens of customers and a few million Somer Dollars! News will begin to spread, and soon, the entirety of Tefa City will know about this too! Who's going to buy our housing then? Everyone's going to run to JW Real Estates!"

"Schuler Supermarkets also sent us a statement saying that they've taken all our products off the shelf in their supermarkets all over the country. They're requesting that we ship our products back within three days, so that's at least another ten million worth of loss!"

“Let me ask you, do you still think that it’s no big deal?!”

Scott was stunned when he heard Emmett.

Scott felt relieved when he saw Jasper make the calls earlier today, since he thought that Jasper was just trying to scare him.

“How... how could that be? He’s losing money too by doing this. Isn’t he afraid that he’ll make a loss?” Scott gasped.

Emmett sneered, “You moron. Who cares about that once the fight truly begins? With Jasper’s wealth, he can afford to attack us at the cost of his own money.”

“How long do you think the Covington family can survive against Jasper in terms of wealth? Less than a week I tell you!”

“That b*stard! And to think that despite how happy go lucky he looks, he’s actually so cruel! How can he even laugh and smile?” Scott clenched his jaw and said.

“This is what a scheming person looks like! Unlike you, who shows every single emotion you feel on your face. You’d only get screwed over once you go outside!”

Emmett glared at Scott harshly. “I told you before to do some business and stop playing around with your idle friends. How capable do you think you are?”

“What are you without the Covington family, your grandfather, or me, your dad? You think those useless friends of yours would still pay any attention to you?”

“Jasper’s almost your age! He’s younger, in fact! But look at him now. He makes a move and, forget me, even your grandfather has to talk to him nicely. This is what a capable person looks like. You bringing your idle friends around and stirring up a ruckus wherever you go is an embarrassment!”